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Bihar District Gazetteers

PALAMAU

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE
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MADRAS

By

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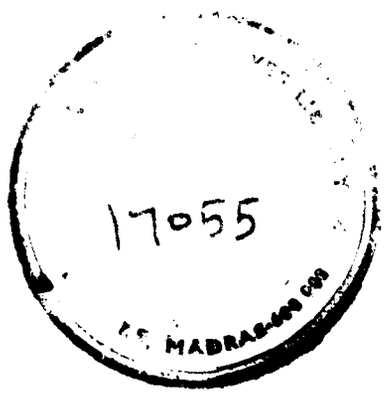

PREFACE.

The first District Gazetteer of Palamau by L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S., was published in 1907 as one of the series of Bengal District Gazetteers. O'Malley in his Preface had mentioned:—"Palamau occupies a somewhat unique position among the districts of Bengal. It is the youngest district in the Province, having been part of the Lohardaga district until 1892; and it has been characterised as the driest and probably the poorest district in both Bengal and Eastern Bengal. Five districts only surpass it in size; on the other hand only three districts have fewer inhabitants, and nowhere, except in Angul, is the density of population so small. Ethnologically, it is a kind of neutral ground between the tracts which still form the home of aboriginal tribes and those inhabited by people of Aryan descent; its people, their manners, customs, and land-tenures are different both from those of Chotanagpur proper and from those of Bihar. Physically, it is a land of hill and jungle interspersed with picturesque valleys and ravines, which to the north merge into a level plain along the banks of the Son. It is one of the most beautiful districts in the Province, and a country which wins the affections of every officer who serves in it."

O'Malley had based the District Gazetteer mainly on W. W. Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal, Volume XVI, the reports on the Settlement of the Government Estate by Mr. L. R. Forbes and Mr. D. H. E. Sunder and from materials supplied by the local officers. His book ran to 171 pages including Index, etc.

P. C. Tallents, I.C.S., published in 1926 a revised edition of this Gazetteer as one of Bihar and Orissa District Gazetteer series. The book ran to 202 pages. Mr. Tallents' Preface had mentioned:—"The first edition of the Palamau District Gazetteer being out of print, and a quantity of fresh information having become available as the result of the survey and settlement and of the two censuses of the population that have taken place since the first edition was issued in 1907, it has been decided to revise as well as reprint the book. The second edition has been prepared on the same lines as the first, but certain statistical information is now given in tables at the end

of the Gazetteer itself which was previously relegated to a separate volume."

The State Government in the Revenue Department have undertaken the work of rewriting and publishing the entire series of Bihar District Gazetteers. The old series of District Gazetteers although replete with facts and brilliantly written were meant to be more an administrator's handbook and had a very limited objective. In the last few decades there had been very many basic changes in the district and the country. With independence in the country, the very character of the State Government has changed. Palamau is no longer the district for *shikar*, forests and tribals only. Palamau is now partially industrialised, very well linked up with communications and is changing very fast. The old District Gazetteer of Tallents even if available would not have served much purpose now.

The Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, New Delhi, have taken up the work of co-ordinating the new District Gazetteers in the States and publishing four Volumes of Central Gazetteers for India. In consultation with the State Editors, the Ministry has drawn up a general plan to be followed as far as possible by the States for their District Gazetteers so that the Gazetteers in India will be of a uniform pattern. The State Government have agreed to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs.

This rewritten District Gazetteer of Palamau is my eighth publication in the new series. The rewritten District Gazetteers for Hazaribagh, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Singhbhum, Saran, Champaran and Monghyr have already been published. The last three District Gazetteers are according to India's pattern.

The work of rewriting the District Gazetteer of Palamau has its own difficulties. There have been no recent Survey and Settlement Operations. No comprehensive socio-economic survey of the district has been undertaken. Till very recently Palamau was commonly regarded as a picturesque minor district noted for wild games. It is peculiar that while the tribals in some other Chotanagpur districts have been studied, the tribals of Palamau district did not attract that amount of attention from the anthropologists. The march of events

since 1947 has been extremely rapid. Officers in key position have their own problems and even if interested in this type of work, they have very little leisure to give any active collaboration. The District Gazetteers of the border districts in other States have not yet been published.

I was, however, fortunate in receiving help from various sources and in some cases they were unexpected. Institutions like National Archives, New Delhi, National Library, Calcutta, and Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, have continued giving me valuable help as before by loaning their old records or replying to my queries very promptly. The Geological Survey of India has kindly given the data for geology of the district. The old records in Palamau Collectorate were looked into. For the later events, I have had help from various published books, census reports, manuscripts and data collected from collaborators and personal investigation.

The general pattern laid down by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs has been generally followed. A special chapter on Forests has, however, been included as forests play a very important role in the economy of the district.

I am grateful to Father M. Topno of St. Stanislaus' College, Hazaribagh, for an appraisal of some of the tribals. I was much profited by personal contacts with Father Schille of Kanjia Roman Catholic Ashram. He has been in this district for about four decades. The Chief Mining Engineer of Messrs. Andrew Yule and Coy., Ltd., has placed me in debt by giving the historical background of Rajhara Colliery. Sri Akhauri Bhola Nath, an old and prominent Advocate of Daltonganj, and Sri Ramdin Pandey, a retired Professor, were very helpful. My gratitude is also due to many known and unknown people from whom I had always tried to draw information in the course of my tours. I have continued receiving valuable suggestions from Sri Binodanand Jha, Chief Minister, who also holds Revenue portfolio.

My thanks are due to the Editor, Gazetteers and his compilers in the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs for some suggestions. My thanks are also due to the Superintendent of the Secretariat Press, Gulzarbagh, and the Deputy Director, Bihar Surveys for their interest in the printing of the book and the maps. For some of the photos I am

indebted to the Archaeological Department, Mid Eastern Circle, Patna, Sri M. Shariff of Bihar Civil Service and Sri J. N. Sinha, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar.

It is only by the pooling of resources, extensive tours, personal contacts, investigations and study that a book of this type could be made ready. My close association with Chotanagpur for three decades was a help. I have tried to provide a book for a very wide range of readers which include administrators, academicians, politicians, tourists, and by no means, least, the interested man in the street. It will be a privilege if the book is of some help to the readers. The joy that I have had in compiling this book is my reward.

PATNA:
The 31st March, 1961.

P. C. ROY CHAUDHURY.

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GAZETTEER OF THE PALAMAU DISTRICT

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL*

General Description.

The district of Palamau, which forms the north-west corner of the Chotanagpur Division, lies between 23°20′ and 24°39′ north latitude and between 83°22′ and 85°00′ east longitude. It contains an area of 4,921 square miles and population, according to the census of 1951, is 9,85,767 persons. The administrative headquarters is Daltonganj situated on the Koil river in 24°3′ north, and 84°4′ east, which has taken its name after Colonel Dalton, Commissioner of Chotanagpur in 1861.

Origin of Name.

The origin of the name Palamau is doubtful. According to one account†, it is derived from the Hindi word *palana*, to flee, and means "a place of refuge". Another suggestion‡ is that the name is combination of *pala* meaning "frost", and *mu*, the patois root for "dead", the whole word meaning "dead from frost", parts of the district being liable during the winter months to severe frosts. Both these explanations however must be regarded as purely speculative. Another suggestion** is that Palamau is a Dravidian name, that it may be a corruption of *pall-amm-u-pall* meaning "tooth", and *amm* (which when combined with another noun assumes the form *am*) meaning "water", while *u* is a kind of genitive or possessive case meaning "village", "country", "fortress", etc. In support of this theory, it may be mentioned that the name is spelt Palamau in the vernacular and was originally applied to the village which was the seat of the Chero chiefs, and in which their forts were built. These

*This text is based on the text of the last District Gazetteer with necessary changes for some sections (P. C. R. C.).

†L. R. Forbes Settlement Report, 1872. This is supported by the fact, mentioned by Mr. Bridge in paragraph 1 of his settlement report that the name of the district is given as "Palayun" in an old *sanad* possessed by the Malik of Lukumkar.

‡D. H. E. Sunder Settlement Report, 1898.

**Rev. F. J. Hahn.

forts overlook the Auranga and the bed of that river for some miles above and beyond the forts is studded with rocks, which, when it is in flood, look like jagged teeth. The name may thus perhaps mean " the place of the fanged river ".

Besides these suggestions, Mr. Amarnath Das, B.E., M.I.E. (Ind.), Indian Service of Engineers, has given his theory in his book " India and Jambu Island " as follows :—

> "It is evidently Bali-Myo and 'Myo' being the Burmese term for a city, it means Bali's city. It will be asked naturally why should this Burmese term be introduced. Major Wilford (Major Wilford in As. Rès. Vol. 9, pages 32 and 43) shows that SAMHE, son of Krishna in order to cure himself of the disease introduced a Colony of Magas from Saka Country who gave the name to the Country of Magadh and that Behar seems to have risen into great note as the capital of Magas from the time of Bali-Putra Rajas from 160 B.C. to 640 A.D. This shows that a section of the Burmese who are known in India as Magas, migrated to Behar at a very early date and that their terming themselves as Bali Putra shows that they traced their descent from Bali, the grandson of Prahlad. Some of these Burmese came to this part and founded Bali-Myo city of Bali which later on began to be called Palamau."

BOUNDARIES.

The district is bounded on the north by the river Son, which separates it from the district of Shahabad, and by the district of Gaya : on the east by the districts of Gaya and Hazaribagh; on the south by the district of Ranchi : and on the west by the erstwhile feudatory state of Sirguja, now in Madhya Pradesh and the district of Mirzapur in the Uttar Pradesh.

CONFIGURATION.

In shape Palamau district is roughly a parallelogram of which the eastern and western are of greater length than the northern and southern sides. The district has a length of 119 miles from north-west to south-east and a breadth of 101 miles from west to east. The district is cut into two approximately equal parts by the river Koil which after flowing from east to west in the south of the district, turns north and eventually enters the Son at the northern boundary of the district. On either side of this river in the northern thanas there are well-defined ranges of hills running from east to west : in the south there is another well-defined range of hills running from east to west through which the Koil forces its way where it turns north at the Kutku gorge; and

the general tendency of the scattered hills that lie between is to range themselves in the same manner. South of the Koil, where it flows from east to west before passing through the gorge, is another range of hills running parallel to it, and beyond that again is the isolated cup-like valley of Chhechhari. The eastern end of this southern range increases in height and turns towards the south where it culminates in the Netarhat plateau. The general system of the district is therefore a series of parallel ranges of hills running east and west through which the river Koil passes as it makes its way northward to join the Son : only the most southern of these ranges is not penetrated by the Koil and that is penetrated by one of its tributaries, the Burhi *naddi*, which drains the Chhechhari valley. Within this framework the most valuable arable land is found between the ranges of hills in the valleys, which vary in size up to 900 square miles, and on the banks of the Koil and the Son. The most fertile land is a strip of alluvial soil on the bank of the Son and the most extensive areas of cultivation are in the valleys of the Koil and of the Amanat, which flows into the Koil from the east a few miles north of Daltonganj. Otherwise the district consists for the most part of hilly, broken country covered with low jungle and cut up in all directions by numerous streams and torrents which dry up during the hot weather and come down in spate during the rains. The average elevation of Palamau above sea level is about 1,200 feet, but some of the loftier hills in the south are over 3,000 feet high. The highest point of the Netarhat, which is also the highest point in the district, is 3,696 feet. The most striking topographical feature is the plateau of Netarhat with its outlying spurs and which on account of its pleasant climate was at one time considered as a site for provincial hill station. This plateau is a northern prolongation of the Pakri Pat plateau in Ranchi district and is separated on the west by the isolated cup-like valley Chhechhari from plateau of similar altitude in Sirguja. On the east it is separated by the valley of North Koil from smaller plateau of about the same altitude situated in Ranchi district. On the north outlying spurs of the plateau slope steeply down to the North Koil river.

NATURAL DIVISIONS.

This district comprises four distinct tracts which are roughly conterminous with the four *parganas* into which it is divided. By far the largest of these is Pargana Palamau which includes the greater portion of the district and all that is essentially typical of it. Pargana Tori in the south-east angle of the parallelogram is an undulating, but in many places a highly cultivated tract with a few large, isolated hills; previously it formed part of Ranchi district and its people, customs and land tenures are distinct from those of the rest of Palamau. The southern portion of Pargana Belaunja, which forms the north-east angle of the parallelogram, resembles Pargana Palamau, but towards

the north it sinks into the narrow strip of alluvial soil on the bank of the Son. Pargana Japla, in the north-east angle of the district is a small tract almost devoid of hills and very similar to the alluvial portion of the district of Gaya. Parganas Japla and Belaunja containing 650 square miles were transferred to this district from the district of Gaya in 1871.

SCENERY.

The scenery of Palamau, except in the south, is generally very varied, often beautiful and occasionally grand owing to the tangled nature of the country. There are level plains and broad expanses of cultivation intermingled with isolated peaks and irregular ranges of rocky, jungle-clad hills. The villages, except in the extreme north of the district, are small and scattered; it is quite possible to pass close to many of them without being aware of their existence. Nor do the many *palas* trees add to the beauty of the scene, except during that all too brief period in the hot weather when their scarlet blossoms give a glorious touch to the whole country-side. In the south of the district the scenery becomes wilder and more picturesque, and the hush of expectancy broods over the jungle. "The Koil", wrote Mr. O'Malley, "is fringed by imposing hills and passes clad with virgin forest, the beauty of which reaches its highest natural perfection when set off by animal life, in the shape, it may be, of a bison, contentedly but suspiciously grazing on the luscious *khas* grass, an antlered stag taking its evening drink, or big peacocks trumpeting their noisy call as they step forth at sundown for their daily parade". "In the South", wrote Mr. Forbes, "the jungle becomes forest, and the hills put on almost a grand appearance. The roads and paths wind about now over the top of a lofty eminence, which enables you to look down upon the valley below and over to the blue hills beyond. Then again you have to descend a steep *ghat* with huge boulders scattered here and there, and some great tree lying fallen and decayed right across your path, and loose stones which seem to require but a slight push to send them rolling to the bottom. On reaching the bottom of the *ghat*, the path will sometimes follow the bank of a brook or watercourse, which emerging from the fastnesses and gorges among the hills, winds in and out till it joins the stream that waters the valley below. These brooks are generally dry very early in the cold weather but in some of the southern *tappas* I have come across them so late as the month of March, regular little babbling streams filled with speckled trout glancing in and out among the stones, and the banks sometimes rocky, sometimes clothed with verdure, and always overhung with trees of all kinds and hues, and great creepers that hang down to the water's edge, the whole forming as charming a picture as one could wish to see". There are indeed places in Palamau about which lingers a charm that can be neither missed nor forgotten. Each to his choice, but to the writer there is nothing more beautiful in Chotanagpur than the view

across the Son in the north to the great cliffs of Rohtas; or the quiet reaches of the Koil and the Auranga where they wind through the forest; or the prospect to east and west from Netarhat across open valleys far below to the wooded hills beyond; or the panorama of range beyond range of blue hills to the south, from Burha Pahar to Kumandih, that can be seen on a clear evening from the Ranchi road. Nature lovers visiting Palamau must see that beautiful scenery of "Bela-pokhar" in Ranka police-station which is almost surrounded by stone wall and where one can see crocodiles. One feels amazed when the famous Kanhar river passes through the high hill making its way forcibly with its bed spreading over a maximum of 20 feet. This place is rightly called *Banhtutti* as if the arm of the hill has been broken. The view from Jorisarna, the highest summit at the Serust Pat in Bhandaria police-station down to the dense forest below cannot escape description. A moon-lit night adds special charm to the view. The word Jorisarna is itself full of meaning. Sukhaldari, Mangardhha, Jharna in Nagaruntari police-station; Datam Patam fall in Balumath police-station, Satbahini fall of Bhawnathpur police-station; Kanti fall in Hesla; Chandwa police-station and Burha or Lodh fall in Mahuadand police-station are worth mention.

HILL SYSTEM.

The general outline of the hill system, consisting of a series of parallel ridges running east and west pierced by the Koil as it flows northward, has been described. The course of the Koil shows great denudation, for it must have been determined when the valleys were still filled to the level of the ridges. But there are many spurs and ridges and outlying peaks, rising from comparatively open country, which stand in no obvious relation to this system: amongst these may be mentioned the metamorphic rocks which form the watershed between the Koil and the Damodar to the west of the Chandwa-Balumath road and which rise into the conspicuous hills Madagir and Chetag. The majority of the spurs and ridges bear no definite names, but the peaks are often called by the names of villages in which they stand or from some peculiarity in their appearance.

Generally the hills are conspicuous for their irregularity of form and occurrence. Their contour depends mainly on the nature of the rocks of which they are composed, but every variety of form and outline is found. The most numerous and ancient are those composed of crystalline and metamorphic rocks, a class represented by a great number of hills and ranges with elevations up to and sometimes beyond 3,000 feet. The outline presented by the hills in the northern half of the district are generally sharply angular, but elsewhere many of the ridges present an almost regular skyline, which continues as a steady elevation for long distances. The second class consists of hills formed of sandstones or conglomerates, either Barakars or Mahadevas. The

sandstones are represented by long ranges east of the Koil, averaging 200 to 300 feet above the surrounding country, but occasionally having peaks which rise about 200 feet higher. The latter are found in groups consisting for the most part of flat-topped ridges, which also average from 200 to 300 feet above the surrounding country. Their faces are scraped and often eroded into grotesque shapes and occasionally there are conical peaks rising to a great height, such as the Latehar peak near the village of that name, which is 910 feet high or 2,051 feet above sea level; Bijka, which rises 1,300 feet above the village of that name or 2,479 feet above sea level; and the conspicuous Khaira hill in the south of Hussainabad, which rising to nearly 1,700 feet looks like an outlying sentinel of the Kaimur hills and forms a landmark for 30 miles round. The third and last class of the Palamau hills includes the *pats* or plateaux in the south, which are formed of crystalline rocks and have their summits capped with sandstone trap or laterite. The principal of these is Netarhat, of which the highest point is 3,696 feet.

These hills in the south are the highest in the district, and the picturesque Chhechhari valley is surrounded by lofty hills on every side. This valley is a complete basin with the scrap of the great tableland of Sirguja on the west, on the south the range that overlooks the Barwe valley in Ranchi district, on the east Netarhat and Pakripat, and on the north the spur crowned by the fort of Tamolgarh and the Burha Pahar, 3,000 feet high, round the foot of which flows the river of the same name, which is the only outlet for the waters of the valley. Netarhat itself is a flat topped hill, about 4 miles long and 2½ miles broad, through the centre of which flows a small stream. The climate is fresh and relatively cool throughout the year and it has become a favourite resort for visitors when the heat is oppressive in the plains below. Other conspicuous hills in this neighbourhood are Kotam (2,791 feet), south of Garu police-station and Kumandih (2,530 feet) between Garu and Latehar.

RIVERS.

The general line of drainage is from south to north towards the Son, which forms part of the northern boundary of the district. The principal rivers are Koil and its tributaries, the Auranga and the Amanat; there are also a host of smaller streams, most of which are mere mountain torrents with rock-strewn beds. The Koil, Auranga and Amanat are similar in this respect, for their upper reaches are characterized by high banks, generally rugged and occasionally precipitous with a rapid stream dashing over boulders and shingle or gliding calmly, except in time of spate, in shallow pools terminated by rocky barriers. Further north these rivers have deep sandy beds, into which the water sinks out of sight in the hot weather, percolating through the soft sand until some outcrop of rock arrests its course and forces it to the surface.

The rapidity with which the country is drained by these rivers and stream may be gathered from the fact that the only river ever known to overflow its banks is the Son. The Koil is the most important river, for it drains the entire district except a tract in the west drained by the Kanhar, which joins the Son in Mirzapur district, a narrow tract along the Son, which drains direct into that river, a tract in the north-east corner which drains into Gaya and a tract in the east of Tori Pargana which drains into the Damodar in Hazaribagh. All the rivers of Palamau are dangerous in the rains, not only on account of the violence of the freshets which come rushing down, but also because of the extremely treacherous quicksands in their beds. The following is a brief description of the principal rivers.

The Son.

The Son forms the northern boundary of the district for about 45 miles, separating it from Shahabad. Flowing eastward from Mirzapur, it first touches Palamau at its north-west corner. Thence it flows due east between steep slopes and precipices of the Kaimur hills and a northern range of hills in Bhaunathpur police-station, till it is joined by the Koil; it then flows in a north-easterly direction, leaving the district nearly opposite Akhbarpur in Shahabad district. At this point of its course it attains a great breadth amounting in places to one or two miles. A peculiarity is the height of the eastern bank, where the strong west winds that prevail before the breaking of the rains heap up the sand to a height of 12 or 14 feet above the level of the country, thus forming a natural embankment for many miles. But the most striking features of the river are its meagre stream of water at ordinary times as compared with the enormous breadth of the river bed, and its violence at times of flood. In the dry season, in April or May, the bed is a wide stretch of drifting, blinding sand with an insignificant stream of water, barely 100 yards wide, meandering from bank to bank and fordable in most places. But in the rainy season and especially after a storm has burst on the plateau of Central India, the river presents an extraordinary contrast. It drains a hill area of 21,300 square miles, the entire rainfall of which requires to find an outlet by its channel and after heavy rain the river rises with incredible rapidity. These heavy floods are however of short duration, seldom lasting more than four days, after which the river sinks to its usual level. One of the worst flood remembered occurred in 1923.

Navigation is intermittent and of little commercial importance. In the rainy season large boats occasionally proceed for a short distance upstream under favourable circumstances of wind and flood, but navigation is rendered dangerous by the extraordinary violence of the floods; during the rest of the year it is impassable for any but boats of light draught owing to the small depth of water. The principal traffic is in bamboos which are floated down, bound into rafts consisting of 10,000

or more lashed together—a tedious process in the dry weather as they are constantly grounding and the many windings of the stream render their progress extremely slow. Below the junction of the Koil a species of small pebbles or agates is found many of which are ornamental and take a good polish; most of them consist of silica, both opaque and diaphanous of a reddish or dark green tinge.

The Kanhar.

The Kanhar river forms part of the south-western boundary of Palamau, dividing it for nearly 50 miles from Sirguja in Madhya Pradesh. It rises in Sirguja, under the western face of Jamira Pat and after running for a short distance parallel with the Koil, turns to the north-west, flows into Mirzapur and eventually enters the Son. Its bed is rocky throughout its course and in places extremely beautiful, it is practically a mountain torrent with rapid and dangerous stream.

The Koil.

The Koil or North Koil, as it is also called, rises in Ranchi district and enters Palamau below Netarhat near Rud. After flowing nearly due west for about twenty miles it turns north at an almost complete right angle through a gorge at Kutku, and flows through the centre of the district till it falls into the Son a few miles north-west of Haidarnagar. On its way it receives the water of many rivers and streams; the principal tributaries are the Auranga and the Amanat, both of which join it from the east, the former at Kechki, 10 miles south and the latter five miles north of Daltonganj.

The bed of the Koil is rocky up to a short distance beyond its confluence with the Auranga; from that point it is composed mainly of sand and until the Son is reached there is only one serious obstacle to navigation consisting of a ridge of gneiss rock that crosses the river below the village of Sigsigi. But the sudden freshets in the river during the rains render navigation dangerous. It has been known to be almost dry in the morning, and three hours later, owing to heavy rain in the south, the water has been 10 feet deep roaring down in huge waves that would swamp any local boat. From its source to its junction with the Son its length is about 160 miles, and since it drains a catchment area of at least 3,500 square miles it naturally contributes a large supply of water to the Son during the rains; at other times the stream is not deep enough to enable cargo boats of even small dimensions to make their way up to Daltonganj. In many places the reaches of this river present scene of great beauty and sometimes even of grandeur, such as the rocky bed and rapids north of Hutar and the gorge at Kutku.

The Auranga.

The Auranga rises near Soheda in a pass, comes down from the Chotanagpur plateau and pursues a winding course in a north-westerly

direction for a distance of about fifty miles, till it flows into the Koil near Kechki 10 miles south of Daltonganj. The river and its feeders water a large valley in the south-east, the southern face of which is formed by the Kumandih hills. Its bed widens rapidly and by the time it reaches the Palamau forts it has attained a considerable size. Where the ruins of these two forts overlook it, the channel is crowded with huge masses of gneiss. Owing to its rocky bed, navigation is impossible in the rains, and at other times the supply of water is insufficient for even the smallest craft. Its principal tributaries are the Sukri and Ghagri.

The Amanat.

The Amanat takes its rise in Hazaribagh district and flows almost due west till it joins the Koil river five miles north of Daltonganj. It flows through a rich, well cultivated valley and is the principal drainage channel of the east of the district. Its tributaries, with the exception of the Jinjoi, Maila and Piri are all small streams.

The Sadabah.

This river with a picturesque name indicating an ever-flowing stream flows in the north of Daltonganj, about 17 miles away and has assumed importance due to the completion of an irrigation scheme, which was completed in the year 1953. The scheme is known as Sadabah scheme and a sum of Rs. 2,51,612 was spent over it. The work was started in the year 1953. The scheme consists of a canal system, length 5 miles, which has been taken out from Sadabah river. The breadth of the canal is 12 feet and the area irrigated by this canal system is over 4,000 acres.

Other Rivers.

Other streams draining important areas are the Sarabdaha, Tahleh, the Banki, which drain the country between Untari and Untari Road Station, the Danro, which flows past Garhwa, and the Karabar, which flows into the Son below its junction with the Koil after draining Pargana Japla.

BOTANY.

The vegetation of Palamau is varied in character. In the alluvial tract to the north, where the land is largely under rice cultivation, the fields abound in marsh and water plants. In the wooded hills and valleys which make up the rest of the district a different class of flora is met with. The surface is occasionally bare and rocky, but the hills are generally clothed with jungle in which the close-set bamboo known as *Dendrocalamus strictus* is often prominent. Forests are so important in this district that a separate chapter has been given to forests. The steeper slopes again are covered with a dense forest mixed

with many climbers; the trees are rarely large, but many of them are economically useful, yielding timber, fruit, oil, etc. *Sal* (*Shorea robusta*) is gregarious, and among other noteworthy species are species of *Buchanania*, *Semecarpus*, *Terminalia*, *Cedrela*, *Cassia*, *Butea*, *Bauhinia*, *Acacia* and *Adina*, which these forests share with similar forests on the lower Himalayan slopes. Mixed with these however are a number of trees and shrubs characteristic of Central India (Madhya Pradesh), such as *Cochlospermum*, *Soymida*, *Boswellia*, *Hardwickia*, and *Bassia*, which do not cross the Gangetic plain. One of the features of the flowering trees is the wealth of scarlet blossom produced in the hot weather by the abundance of *Butea frondosa* and *Butea superba*. A more detailed description of the forest trees and jungle products will be found in a separate chapter under Forests.

FAUNA.

The animals of the district may be divided into two classes, the carnivora and the non-flesh-eating animals. The former comprise the tiger, leopard, bear, hyaena, wild dog, and among the smaller species, jackal. and wild cat. The latter are represented by the *gaur* or bison, *sambar*, spotted deer, *nilgai*, barking deer, Indian gazelle, four-horned antelope, wild pig, the black-faced monkey (*langur*), the common red-faced monkey, Indian fox, *ratel* (an animal of the badger tribe), Indian otter, mouse-deer, porcupine, hare and other smaller animals.

The number of persons killed by tiger and leopards in the last five years is as follows. The number of persons killed by other wild animals is negligible :—

——	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
By tigers ...	1	2	2	4	1
By leopards ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

Tigers (*Felis Tigris*) are fairly common all over the district in the wooded hills. Though there have been instances of tigers becoming man-eaters, chiefly in the north of the district and in the neighbourhood of the Kumandih range of reserved forests in the south, they are as a rule only cattle-lifters; there is indeed little inducement for them to take the man-eating as game in the numerous jungle tracts, both in and around the reserved forests is plentiful. Leopards (*Felis Pardus*) are equally common and in the neighbourhood of villages very often carry off cattle and ponies as well as dogs for which they appear to have a special fancy. Like tigers, they have a wide range, owing to the large area occupied by reserved and protected forests. Cheetah is occasionally met with. Bear (*Ursus Melursus*) are found in most parts of the district, but are most numerous in the south. They do much

damage to the maize fields, but at other seasons of the year can obtain plenty of jungle flowers and fruit such as the fruit of the *mahua* and *gular* fig tree, plums and bulbiferous roots, and also wild honey and white ants. Hyaena (*Hyaena Striata*) are common in almost every jungle and may often be seen prowling round the village homesteads at night. They do not do much damage as a rule, though they have been known to take off goats and sheep; generally they live on carrion, frequently eating the remains of animals killed by tigers or leopards. Wolves are not common and do not appear to do any harm; they are rarely met with in the south and appear to frequent open scrubby tracts. Two species of wild dog are said to be found. The smaller variety has black points, a black muzzle and a tail very nearly all black, the colour deepening towards the end of the tail, while the rest of the body is a dull dark red. The larger variety is the same in colour, except that there is not so much black about the muzzle and tail. The smaller kind is called *muntikoia* and is said to be the fiercer of the two, attacking cattle and deer and even challenging tiger. The larger variety, which is called the *rajkoia* or *barakoia* is said to attack chiefly goats, *sambar*, deer, pig, etc. They hunt in packs of 10 to 15, chiefly haunt thick jungle and are destructive of all games; at times they even chase tigers out from their preserves.

The *gaur* or bison (*Bos gaurus*) is a shy animal, found chiefly in heavy jungle, especially *sal* jungle, from which the herds come to feed morning and evening, wherever deep green grass is to be found; they often travel long distances to quiet spots on some secluded hill side, where they can lie up for the day. They are found both within and outside the reserved forests in the south. They are generally found in herds of 10 to 15. In March, at the commencement of the rutting season, the strongest bull takes possession of the herd, which consists usually of cows and young bulls, driving out the older bulls. The bulls so turned out become solitary bulls, and seem to spend their time in knocking their horns to pieces by butting at trees or any other solid substance they may come across. Bison bulls are occasionally known to charge, and are very savage at bay, but ordinarily they are shy and inoffensive.

Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*) are fairly common. They are shy animals and usually keep to the jungle in the day; they are mostly found in the south in the Baresanr and Ramandag reserved forest blocks, but are also met with towards Ranka and the north-west of the district. Spotted deer (*Cervus axis*) are common in many places and a few black buck (*Antelope cervicarpra*) are to be found in the open country to the north. *Nilgai* (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) are found in certain tracts, but are unknown in the larger reserved forests; four-horned antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) are also rare. Barking deer (*Cervulus muntjac*) are common in most jungles where *sambar* and spotted deer

are found. The *Chinkara* or Indian Gazelle (*Gazella tennetti*), also called the ravine deer frequents open country where the jungle is not heavy and is found chiefly at Muhammadganj and Manatu Forest Ranges as well as in the more open and undulating valleys all over the district. Mouse-deer (*Meminua indica*) are very rare, but are occasionally found in the reserved forests.

Wild pigs (*Sus cristatus*) are numerous in all parts of the district and do an enormous amount of damage to crops, which have to be carefully watched at night to prevent their inroads as well as those of deer. They are often trapped in pits by the villagers. In the south of the district the *langur* (*Semnopithecus entellus*) is found in all the hill ranges in the reserved forests and with the *bandar* or red-faced monkey (*Macacus rhesus*) is fairly common; the latter is often to be seen at Betla and Kechki and along the Koil. The Indian fox (*Canis Bengalensis*) is common in open country. Porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*) are common in the south and elsewhere in the rocky hills, but their numbers are kept down, as they are much sought after by the aboriginal tribes such as the Parhaiyas, Birjias and Oraons, for food. Hares (*Lepus reficaudatus*) are common everywhere; they do much damage at night to the peasants' crops and are largely trapped all over the district; they are eaten freely even by high class Hindus.

AVIFAUNA.

In the Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of the Palamau Government Estate (1898), D. H. E. Sunder, Settlement Officer, mentions :—

"A list of the game birds found in Palamau is given below :—

Serial no.	English name.		Native name.
1	The green pigeon	...	*Haril.*
2	The Blue rock pigeon	...	*Parewa.*
3	The painted sand grouse	...	*Coita titir.*
4	The common sand grouse	...	...
5	The common peacock	...	*Manjur* (male). *Banrar* (female).
6	The red jungle fowl	...	*Jangli murgi.*
7	The black partridge	...	*Kala titur.*
8	The painted partridge	...	*Aseal.*
9	The grey partridge	...	*Gorea titur.*
10	The jungle bush quail	...	*Lawa.*
11	The large grey quail	...	*Teedla.*
12	The larger button quail	...	*Ghagur.*
13	The black-breasted quail	...	*Bateyr.*

Serial no.	English name.		Native name.
14	The button quail	...	*Gudri.*
15	The lesser florikin	...	...
16	The common snipe	...	*Chaha.*
17	The painted snipe	...	...
18	The common wild goose	...	...
19	The cotton teal	...	...
20	The Brahminy duck		...
21	The pintail duck	...	...
22	The blue-winged teal	...	...
23	The red-crested pochard	...	...

Of other birds I am told that over 140 species have been collected in the district. The naturalist will find abundant scope for work here. A variety of doves are found here, and are eaten by Oraons whenever captured or shot. I desire specially to invite attention of Government to some extraordinary cruelty that is practised in the district by Mir Shikars. They set traps on the banks of streams for the common Indian kingfisher (*Alcede bengalensis*), which are netted in large numbers. The birds are skinned as soon as possible. The skins are dried, and at the end of the season are despatched to French traders in Dinapur, whence they are said to be sent on to Paris for ladies' hats and other ornaments. I have seen as many as 160 skins with a single Mir Shikar. The slaughter of this beautiful bird is so great at present that there will probably be no more kingfishers in Palamau district within a short time. I would beg to suggest that the killing of the bird may be stopped altogether. The Indian Oriole (*Oriolus Indicus*) should also be protected."

The present avifauna of the district unfortunately has not been studied very thoroughly. The following species of birds have been observed recently in this district :—

Golden oriole, black-headed oriole, the grackle or hill myna, bank myna, common myna, brahminy or black-headed myna, grey-headed myna, the black-headed bunting, the dusky crag-martin, the large pied wagtail, the white-eye purple sunbird, Tickell's flower-pecker, the golden-backed wood-pecker, the crimson-breasted barbet or coppersmith, the blossom-headed parakeet, the sparrow hawk, the lagger falcon, the kestral, the blue jey, the common bee-eater, the brown fish-owl, the spotted owl, the great Indian

horned owl, the common night-jar, the green-pigeon, the spotted dove, the red turtle dove, peafowl, the red jungle cock, the yellow checked tit, the grey tit, the tree-pie, the chestnut-bellied nuthatch, the jungle babbler, the common babbler, the gold fronted chloropsis, the red-vented bulbul, the white checked bulbul, the white browed bulbul, the red whiskered bulbul, the pied bushchat, the redstart, the shama, tickells, blue flycatcher, the white spotted fantail flycatcher, the rufus-backed shrike, the bay-backed shrike, the scarlet minivet, the small minivet, the large cuckoo-shrike, the black drongo, racket-tailed drongo, white-bellied drongo, the tailor-bird, the Indian robin, the yellow wattled lapwing, the little grey hornbill, the koel, the brain-fever or parasitic cuckoo, the pied-crested cuckoo, the paradise flycatcher, the common grey quail, the jungle bush quail, the red spur-fowl, the black partridge, the grey partrdige, the stone curlew, the Indian courser, the ringed plover, the yellow-throated sparrow, the black-headed bunting, the hoopee, the common fan-tailed snipe, the Indian reef-heron, king vulture, the black-headed vulture, the ring-tailed fishing eagle, white ibis, black ibis.

Game birds.

The game birds of Palamau consist of jungle spur and peafowl, black and grey partridge, rain, button and bush quail and sand grouse. The lesser florican is sometimes met with, but is becoming rare; green and blue rock pigeon and the common snipe were very common but declining. Geese are still to be found in the mornings and evenings during the cold weather by the banks of the Son near Sonpura. Duck and teal are comparatively rare; they usually stay in the Koil and the *bandhs* or irrigation reservoirs near villages and are more common in the north than in the southern tracts. The winter visitors have become very shy on the Son river owing to the indiscriminate shooting of *shikaris* who love slaughter more than sport.

FISH.

D. H. E. Sunder in his Final Report of the Survey and Settlement of the Palamau Government Estate (1898) mentions :—

"Of fish, *mahaseer* are mostly confined to the Kunhar and Son, but small ones are caught during the rains in the Koil and Amanat. The native names of other fish found in streams and tanks in the district are : (1) *rahu*, (2) *nai*, (3) *barsar*, (4) *barar*, (5) *kajar* (6) *tengra*, (7) *modal*, (8) *bonsa*, (9) *rihta*, (10) *godi*, (11) *bagra*, (12) *chipua*, (13) *bochra*, (14) *chethi*, (15) *garri*, (16) *garai*, (17) *bami*, (18) *jhinga*, (19) *anwa*, (20) *hilsa*, (21) *ledher*, (22) *bijar*, (23) *kusuan*, (24) *balla*, (25) *garua*, (26) *nakta*, (27) *punti*, (28) *bhankar*, (29) *dhawai*, (30) *leri*, (31) *papta*, (32) *jansar*, (33) *sinhao*, (34) *luniar*, (35) *serni*, (36) *patasi*, (37) *chethawa*, (38) *ponti*, (39) *dhanha*, (40) *langha*, (41) *goira*, (42) *gochra*, (43) *kaner*, (44) *dori*, (45) *ghogra*.

Fishing implements.—The implements used for fishing are—

(*a*) *Bhanwar jal.*—A net about five cubits long and ten cubits broad, with iron balls called *ghonti* tacked to it all round for the purpose of causing it to sink wherever wanted. Large fishes are caught by it.

(*b*) *Besari jal.*—A net which is nearly square. It is fixed to two bamboos that are tied at right angles to each other, and the net is sunk in the water and drawn upwards. Small fish are obtained in it.

(*c*) *Bhama Jal.*—A net about 25 cubits long and 4 cubits broad, by which fairly large fish are caught in rivers during the rains.

(*d*) *Sorda* or *Kum.*—A bamboo trap, the lower portion of which is shaped like a cone; the upper part is cylindrical. It is placed in channels of small streams, and large as well as small fish are caught in it.

(*e*) *Tap.*—A cone-shaped bamboo trap by which fish of all sizes are caught in still water.

(*f*) *Chilwan.*—A flat bamboo trap by which fish in paddy-fields and small streams are caught.

(*g*) *Gira.*—A small circular net with which small fish are caught in still water.

Poisons for fish.—Fish are poisoned with—

(1) The seeds of the *Beri* tree, which are ground and used in still water.

(2) The bark and leaves of the *Ingun* tree, used in still water.

(3) The bark of *Arar* tree, used in still water.

(4) The milk of the *Sij* tree, used in still water."

Mahaseer are not common now. Palamau has lost a number of fish species mentioned by Sunder. The fish that are commonly found now are *rahu*, *kajar*, *tengra*, *barar*, *chipua*, *jhinga*, *nakta* and *ledha*.

Since the year 1950, Bihar Government have opened a Fry Distribution Centre at Daltonganj, where fry of carps are supplied to tank-owners and to the people interested in pisciculture during rainy season. There are big *bandhs* and tanks in the district, where pisciculture can

be successfully done. The Fishery Staff of Daltonganj have been able to locate spawning ground in the Son near the Portland Cement Factory, Japla in the district of Palamau. The demand of fry is growing day by day and the average supply from this centre is about 2 lacs of fries. There are many Khas Mahal tanks in the district, some of which such as Forbes *Bandh*, Rainy *Bandh*, Sunder's *Bandh*, Banhpura tanks, Amoatikar tanks, etc., have been taken over by the Agricultural Department and fish is cultured there on scientific basis.

The *garial* (*Cavialis gangeticus*) sometimes also called the fish eating crocodile, is said to have been found in the Koil. The snub-nosed alligator or mugger is common in the Son, but elsewhere is rarely met with.

Reptiles.

Sunder mentions the following snakes in his Survey and Settlement Report of Palamau Government Estate (1898) :—

> " The snakes found in the district are : (1) Bahera or amaiter (Russel's Viper), (2) Jora, (3) Phanik (Black cobra), (4) Gohoman (Brown Cobra), (5) Crait, (6) Katkarar, (7) Khairi-bakhar, (8) Sugua (Green tree snake), (9) Dhamin, (10) Donr (Water snake), (11) Harhora (Common grass snake), (12) Petari, (13) Bonra or Bhaisbonra (Common boa), (14) Cheta barwe (Indian python).
>
> Scorpions (*bich*) are common, and frequently sting people. *Khapar-bicha* is a poisonous lizard found in trunks of old trees. Centipedes (*Kangojar*) are also common. A lizard called *goh* is found during the rains, and is eaten by the lower classes ".

Gohs or big lizards are now very scarce. There was a brisk trade some years back in the skin of this species which used to be exported for ladies' bag, shoes, etc. The forests of Palamau still have most of the specimens mentioned by Sunder.

Wild Life and Game Sanctuaries.

Unlike the flora, the fauna of the district is the richest in the State of Bihar. The entire reserved forests of the district abound in all kinds of games, big and small likely to be found in dry deciduous forests. This is probably due to the fact that the forests of the district present optimum conditions for the abode of both carnivora and herbivora.

The district is also rich in avifauna. It is unfortunate that owing to indiscriminate shooting and other reasons the various species of wild life are getting extinct. On the other hand, some species are multiplying and one of them is the wild elephant. The district is ideal for the

establishment of a National Park and Sanctuaries, both for animals and birds.

Tourism.

With the opening of communication through forests and the availability of a series of beautiful camping sites and places of interest and beauty, Palamau district is ideal for the development of tourism particularly for the motorists and the hikers. As a matter of fact, it is possible probably to exploit the wonderful facilities of tourism by organising visits of foreign tourists keen to shoot wild life by gun or camera. Some of the forest bungalows, namely, Netarhat, Kechki, Amjharia, Mahuamillan, etc., offer very good facilities for stay. Netarhat is one of the most famous beauty spots in Bihar. There are also a number of excellent camping sites. There are a series of water-falls in this district which are well worth a visit.

Climate.

The climate of this district is on the whole dry and bracing. The year can be divided into three main seasons : the cold season from November to March, the hot season from March to May and the monsoon season from June to September; October is a transitional month between monsoon and winter seasons.

Rainfall.

Records of rainfall for the district extend from 20 to 60 years over a network of 22 stations. The rainfall statements for the individual stations and for the district as a whole are given in Tables 1 and 2. The average annual rainfall for the district as a whole is 1,335 mms. (52.55 inches). The northern portions of the district get comparatively lesser rain than the southern portions. Hussainabad in the extreme north gets an annual rainfall of 1,079 mms. (42.5″) while Netarhat in the plateau region of the south gets 1,817 mms. (71.5″). The rainy season is from June to September when the district gets 85 per cent of the annual rainfall. From the onset of the monsoon by about the middle of June, rainfall rapidly increases reaching the peak value in August. The variation of rainfall from year to year is not large. During the 50 years period from 1901 to 1950, the highest rainfall in the district amounting to 124 per cent of the normal occurred in 1919 and 1943; the lowest rainfall amounting to 61 per cent of the normal was recorded in 1903. There were only six years when the rainfall was less than 80 per cent of the normal. Two consecutive years of low rainfall occurred only twice during these fifty years. During 40 out of the 50 years the rainfall over the district was between 1,100 and 1,600 mms.

As in the case of rainfall amount, the average number of rainy days in a year (days with rainfall of 2.5 mms.—10 cents or more) is

least in the northern part of the district and increases as we go south. Hussainabad has only 51 days of rain in a year while Netarhat gets rain on 85 days.

The highest rainfall in 24 hours was 364 mms. (14.38″) recorded at Mahuadanr on the 26th June, 1945.

TEMPERATURE.

The only observatory in the district is located at Daltonganj. The meteorological data of this station can be taken as representative for the district. The cold season starts from November and continues till about the middle of March. December and January are the coolest months. In association with cold waves which occasionally pass over the area in the wake of western disturbances, minimum temperatures can go down to the freezing point of water on individual days in January and February. In the southern part of the district in the high plateau, frosts occur in December and January. By March temperature begins to rise steadily. In May and early part of June, the maximum temperature can be as high as 46.7°C (116.1°F) on individual days. The effect of the extreme summer heat is somewhat alleviated by the dryness of the air and the strong breezes that blow in the afternoons. From April till the onset of the monsoon, nights are oppressive, except in the early morning hours, when the temperature drops to a comfortable level. The night temperatures in June are higher than those in May or July. The daily range of temperature is of the order of 16° to 17°C during the winter and summer months, while in the monsoon months it is only 6°C to 8°C.

HUMIDITY.

Relative humidity is generally lower in the afternoons than in the mornings, except in the monsoon months when there is little difference. The summer months are the driest with humidities as low as 20 to 25 per cent in the afternoons.

CLOUDINESS.

During the summer and winter months, sky is generally clear or lightly clouded. In April and May cloudiness increases particularly in the afternoons. During the monsoon months sky is heavily clouded to overcast.

WINDS.

Winds are light to moderate during the winter and summer months, the speed being higher in the afternoons. In association with thunderstorms during March to May and during the monsoon season when depressions pass westward across the central parts of the country, the district may experience strong gusty winds. The directions from which winds blow are variable specially during the monsoon season.

SPECIAL WEATHER PHENOMENA.

Severe thunderstorms occur during the summer months; even during the monsoon, rainfall is often associated with thunder. Duststorms and occasional hailstorms occur during summer. Fog may occur on one or two days in the winter season.

Tables 3, 4 and 5 give data relating to temperature, humidity, wind speed and special weather phenomena in respect of Daltonganj.

CHAPTER II.

GEOLOGY.

Geological Formations.

The geological formations of the Palamau district comprise mainly rocks of Archaean, Vindhyan and Gondwana ages, the last cut by dykes of Deccan trap age. The Archaean rocks include both schists of Dharwar age and gneisses and granites. The schists, mainly hornblendic and biotitic, are the oldest rocks of the area and occur as parallel and lenticular bands in the gneisses. The schists are intruded by epidiorites, amphibolites, and gneisses. Garnetiferous sillimanite-graphite-schists, similar to the Khondalites, also occur near Daltonganj and Latehar. Smaller patches of these rocks are found in the manner of inclusions in the gneissic country everywhere. Among the schists, hornblende schists are the most prevalent and the biotite and sillimanite schists are rare.

Calc-silicate rocks and crystalline limestones of Dharwar age are largely developed in certain areas. The gneisses and granites are, however, the most predominant rocks of the district as in other parts of Chotanagpur. They give rise to prominent groups of hills in the northern and southern parts of the district.

Geologically much of the district is yet unexplored except the areas around Daltonganj and Latehar, the coalfields and other economic deposits such as those of magnetite, limestone and clays, etc.

The Archaean rocks can be grouped under the following heads :—

(1) Crystalline limestone, Marbles and Calc-silicate rocks.

(2) Amphibolites.

(3) Dolerites and Meta-dolerites.

(4) Granites and Granite-gneisses.

Crystalline limestones and marbles have been described from near Latehar where they form a belt from Bhoosor to Narayanpur. The Hundru hill is also made up of this rock. The rock is coarsely crystalline and greyish-white in colour. Serpentinous marble with greenish bands is also found.

In the Latehar region these rocks have been altered by intrusions of basic igneous rocks into different types of granulites. Other areas where Calc-silicate rocks occur are near Daltonganj, e.g., Sua, Chando, Datam and Rerma. At Sua, Datam and Bhusari, there are deposits of magnetite. The rocks vary from pure crystalline marble to tremolite-marble, forsterite-marble, diopside-tremolite-forsterite-marble and serpentine marble. The difference in mineralogical composition is due to differences in composition of the original sediments

which by their metamorphism induced by the surrounding granites have produced the different types. Another area of calc-silicate rocks is near Satbarwa.

The amphibolites are dark grey and black-coloured rocks and are found in many parts of the district including the area near Daltonganj. They are inclusions of older rocks in the gneiss as would appear from the abundance of small stringers of amphibolites in the granite, and the lit-part-lit injection of granite in the amphibolites near their margins which has produced composite-gneiss, and show beautiful ptygmatic folding.

The dolerites occur as dykes and bands and show various degrees of metamorphism. The slightly metamorphosed dolerites are known as meta-dolerites but in some areas the rocks are converted to epidiorites and amphibolites in which hornblende has more or less replaced the pyroxene while in the meta-dolerites, the original ophitic texture characteristic of igneous origin is present though the pyroxene is altered to amphibole. Some varieties contain hypersthene and approach basic charnockite in appearance.

The gneisses and granites show a greater diversity of texture than of mineral composition. The gneisses are generally banded, the banding being made conspicuous by the parallel orientation of the ferromagnesian minerals. With alternating bands of schists and granitic material the gneisses pass into composite gneisses and migmatites. The bands of the composite gneisses are very much contorted giving rise to ptygmatic folding. The schist bands of the migmatites carry sillimanite, garnet, hornblende, sphene, zoisite, diopside and cordierite have also developed locally.

Among the granites the following three varieties can be distinguished which grade into each other: normal pink-coloured alkali granite characterized by pink potash feldspar, in some places gneissose; white-coloured oligoclase granite; and porphyritic granite and augen gneiss with large lenticular porphyroblasts of potash feldspar. The granites are younger than the gneisses and show intrusive relation to the latter.

Pegmatites are common in the granitic and gneissic country, but are also found cutting through mica-schists, crystalline limestone and marble. They are coarse-grained but also merge into finer-grained granitic types. They are common in the country between Daltonganj and Lesliganj (24°2½′; 84°12½′) and also at Kini (24°4′; 84°1′) and Kohri (24°2′; 84°0′) to the east. Although they form irregular veins, thick masses also occur containing considerable amount of muscovite. Workable deposits occur near Lesliganj, Kini and Kohri. On the northern slopes of the hill at Lamba (24°12′; 84°11′) the pegmatites carry large quantities of magnetite crystals. Feldspar and quartz

veins derived from the residual pegmatitic liquids are also found in many places.

In the neighbourhood of Latehar, hornblende peridotite dykes are found in the Khondalites and the genisses and granites.

Mention may be made of two groups of magnetite ore deposits in the Ladi Estate near Daltonganj, one near Gore (23°38′; 83°58′), and the other near Biwabathan (23°55′; 84°3′).

There are five hillocks in the Gore hill area four of which have beds of magnetite associated with a certain amount of haematite on their top. The structure appears to be synclinal with the iron ore at the top of the hills. The magnetite beds are underlain by tremolite-schists some of which contain some magnetite. On the south-western part of the hill limestone and calciphyre are exposed below the tremolite-schists. These are underlain by granite which forms the base and the central part of the hill below the tremolite-schists. Masses of intrusive dolerite are found on the north-western side of the Gore hill.

The deposits have a length of about 1,000 yards and a width of about 850 yards. The length of the main ore body is about 2,000 ft. and the average width is about 90 feet. From surface observations Dr. Auden estimated a reserve between 300,000 and 400,000 tons. The Biwabathan deposit comprises a small elliptical outcrop 65 × 55 ft. in area. The outcrop is strewn over with boulders and fragments of magnetite. The associated rock is probably a mica peridotite but anorthosite has also been reported from the neighbourhood.

Smaller exposures of magnetite-tremolite schists are seen to the south of the railway line at mile 362 on the Daltonganj-Barkakana section associated with dolomitic limestone, and also to the north of Sua about 4 miles south-east of Daltonganj.

The Lower Vindhyan System.

The Lower Vindhyan system of rocks have been divided into the following stages :—

Rhotas Stage—consisting of limestones and shales.

Kheinjua Stage—consisting of glauconite beds, fawn limestone, and olive shales.

Porcellanite Stage—Porcellanites, etc.

Basal Stage—Kajrahat limestone, Basal conglomerate, etc.

South of the Son there are several scattered and narrow outcrops of Vindhyan rocks belonging mainly to the Basal, Porcellanite and Kheinjua stages. The rocks of the Porcellanite group are indurated and silicified volcanic ashes. Towards the north-western part of the

district there is a large outcrop of the Lower Vindhyan strata, south of the Son, which appears to be a part of the main Lower Vindhyan formation of the Rohtas plateau north of the Son. Bhaunathpur is situated in the eastern part of the main outcrop. There is a small outlier about 5 miles south-east of Hussainabad near Japla. The shales and limestones of the Kheinjua group are mostly concealed by alluvium along the bank of the Son. South of this at a distance of two miles is a place called Kalapahar. The Kalapahars are a group of very conspicuous and remarkable dome hills formed of an acid volcanic rock, rhyolitic in composition. Other hills between Japla and Nabinagar are made up of volcanic tuff of varying coarseness and porcellanite which may be bedded.

Felsites and true lavas have been found in one locality between Japla and Kutumba and indicates the proximity of a centre of volcanic eruption.

South of Kutumba (24°37′; 84°17′) trappoids (rhyolitic) and porcellanites rest immediately upon the gneiss, the Basal conglomerates as well as the Kajrahat limestone being absent.

The Gondwana System.

The Gondwana system of rocks as developed in the Palamau district has been classified as follows :—

Mahadeva Series—Upper Gondwana system.

Damuda System	Panchet Series Raniganj Series Barakar Series Talchir Series	Lower Gondwana system.

Coal-bearing Damuda strata occur in three separate areas in the Palamau district, namely, the Auranga, Hutar and Daltonganj coal-fields. Although these areas of Gondwana strata are now isolated from one another, their distribution is such as to suggest 'that they are remnants of a much larger spread of Gondwana strata, and indeed were probably the westward extension of the Gondwanas of the Damodar valley'. The Auranga and Hutar coalfields lie directly in the belt of the Damodar valley coalfields, the Auranga river flowing westward from the watershed between itself and the Damodar. The Daltonganj field is north of this belt along the valley of the North Koel. This northern field has suffered a greater amount of denudation than the other two fields as only the Talchir and the Karharbari stages of the Barakar Series are present. In the Hutar coalfield the Mahadevas lie directly on the Barakars and appear to be conformable to them. This break in the sedimentation of the Lower Gondwana period appears also to be present in the western part of the Auranga field which is nearest to the Hutar field. But both the Raniganj and the Panchet

series between the Barakars and the Mahadevas have been recognised in the Auranga field which lies nearer to the Damodar valley.

This coalfield is named Auranga coalfield after the Auranga river which flowing north-westwards through this coalfield joins the North Koel river about eight miles south-east of Daltonganj. Dr. Ball in 1878 recognised an area of 97 square miles of Gondwana rocks distributed as follows :—

Mahadeva Series—14.8 sq. miles.
Panchet Series—10.3 ,,
Raniganj Series—8.8 ,,
Barakar Series—58.5 ,,
Talchir Series—4.5 ,,

Dr. Dunn on a re-survey of the field in 1927-28, found that the area of Raniganj rocks was probably slightly larger and that of the Panchet rocks slightly smaller than is shown in Ball's map.

The coalfield forms a gently undulating country with a few hills with scarped sides composed of Mahadeva sandstones.

The Barren Measures or the Iron-stone shales between the Barakars and the Raniganj series are missing here but the lower beds of the Raniganj series may represent the former. The Mahadevas lie unconformably on the underlying rocks and directly (unconformably) on the Barakars in the western part of the field.

According to Dr. Dunn there are only a few rare bands of coal and as a producer of coal the field is not likely to have any valuable mining future. The seams observed near Rajbar (23°47′;84°39′), and also near Tubed (23°49′;84°34′ 30″), although up to 40 thick are poor shaly coal and consist largely of carbonaceous shale. Coal is worked at Jegaldaga near Latehar, and much of it is consumed in the brick fields and cement factories.

Hutar Coalfield.

The Hutar coalfield lies in the valley of the Koel river and its eastern boundary is about 12 miles west of the western limit of the Auranga field.

The area of the Hutar coalfield was estimated by Dr. Ball as 78½ square miles, constituted as follows :—

Mahadeva Series—14.1 sq. miles.
Barakar group—57.0 ,,
Talchir group—7.5 ,,

The Barakar series of strata overlap the Talchirs. The Mahadeva series is developed west of the Koel river.

There are intrusions of dolerite, probably of Deccan Trap age, in the Talchir formation between Chamardiha and Barawadih. The Hutar field is traversed by a strong east to west fault through Tatta Balbal (23°45′ 30″; 84°1′), where a hot spring occurs. There are smaller faults along the western and north-western ends of the field.

Dr. Dunn noted five seams of coal and shaly coal along the Deori *nala* which traverses the Barakars in the eastern part of the field. Of the five seams, only two are being worked by Messrs. Martin & Burn, Ltd. at Barichatan which is brought to Barawadih railway station by ropeway and the coal is used at the cement works at Japla.

The coal is of lower grade but one seam, 8 ft. thick, of first grade coal is known. The field has large unknown reserves of coal as Dr. Dunn estimated a reserve of 32,000,000 tons in an area of four square miles between the Deori and the North Koel above Sindharow from two seams.

Daltonganj Coalfield.

This field covers an area of 200 square miles, but much of it is occupied by rocks of the Talchir series.

The Talchirs occupy an elongated, irregular basin of variable depth and rest directly upon the Archaeans. Isolated remnants of the Talchirs outside the main outcrop indicate that they probably occupied a much larger area originally. They do not seem to have suffered from serious faulting or warping, the only fault being the boundary fault north of Lohandi (23°9′; 84°5′).

The coal-bearing Barakar rocks constituting the coalfield occupy a small area of irregular shape of about 32 square miles in the valley of the North Koel river at its junction with the Amanat, Burganti and Sadabaha rivers. The plant fossils indicate an age equivalent to the Karharbari stage for the seams about Rajhara, where a thick seam of 29 feet occurs, which is now correlated with the lower part of the Barakar stage. The rocks are coarse friable sandstone and sandy shale, including coal, carbonaceous shale and fireclay. Results of boring indicate that there are two well-defined seams, besides a few seams of coal.

No younger rocks, except intrusive dolerite dykes, have been found in this field. In the northern part of the field, the intrusive rock occurs and the surrounding sandstones and shales have been burnt to a deep red colour. Coal has been mostly worked about Rajhara (24°10′: 84°3′) and Pandwa (24°10′; 84°4′) and Lohada (24°9′: 84°4′). A boring 450 ft., deep near Rajhara showed 14 seams of coal from six inches to five feet in thickness, but mining has been limited to the Rajhara seam which reaches a thickness of 29 feet locally. The coal is non-coking and is of second grade. According

to one estimate there are about 9 million tons of coal of fair quality in one square mile near Rajhara. The Rajhara seam is about 9 ft. thick on an average but no seams over 7 ft. in thickness were found in the borings made in the large area to the south. No estimate of the reserves of this coalfield can be made ' until a large-scale geological survey and systematic boring over the whole area is undertaken '.

The small plateaus known as *pats* in the southern part of the district near the boundary with the Ranchi district such as near Netarhat and round Mahuadanr are capped by thick masses of laterite and bauxite. It is believed that part of this laterite is formed from the alteration of the Deccan lavas which reached their eastern limit in this region.

Several mineral deposits other than coal occur in different parts of the district and a brief account is given below :—

Bauxite.

Bauxite, an ore of aluminium containing high percentage of alumina with some titanium oxide and a little silica, ferric hydroxide and other impuritites, occurs as lenses, patches and pockets in laterite on the plateau in the southern part of the district. At some places it is also found on the scarps below a few feet of laterite where bauxite is fairly extensive. The bauxite is usually grey, compact or pisolitic in nature and is mainly confined to the three areas, namely, (1) Netarhat plateau, (2) Joradumar Pahar and Garitanr Pahar and (3) Jamira Pat.

Netarhat Plateau.—The best exposures of bauxite are seen near the Government House chalet, on the eastern run of the Daswan Pat (23°31′; 84°16′) and south of Rachang road near upper Rachang (23°31′;84°16′). The deposits are irregular and pockety and it is difficult to estimate the reserves of ore but it is presumed that at least 15,000 tons of good quality bauxite may be available from these areas.

Joradumar and Garitanr Pahars.—Bauxite occurs as small, isolated pockets in the south-east and north-west corner of Joradumar Pahar (23°33′;84°15′) and on the north-east slope of Garitanr Pahar (23°33′;84°16′). The quantity of bauxite, however, may be very small.

Jamira Pat—Jamira Pat, situated west of Chhechhari valley, runs parallel to Pakri Pat and Netarhat plateau and is a potential source of bauxite in Palamau district. The Pat can be divided into three parts—the northern part known as Tamolgarh area (23°32′; 84°02′), the central part known as Chiro-Kukud area (23°27′;84°0′) and the southern part known as Orsa Pat (23°24′;83°59′). In the Tamolgarh area a deposit having a thickness of about 10 feet is exposed in the scarp near Tumbal village and the reserves of good quality bauxite may be about 50,000 tons. In the Chiro-Kukud area bauxite is exposed from a point west of Sisatoli to Kukud-Dudagatoli path on the northern side of the plateau and the reserves of good quality bauxite may be about 1,500,000 tons. Similarly in the Orsa Pat area bauxite is exposed at the head of the *nala* situated south of Ambakonatoli and in the scarps of the Bera *nala*. The reserves from these deposits may be about 150,000 tons.

Iron-ore.

The smelting of iron-ore by ' Agarias ' (aboriginal tribe) is known from olden times in the Palamau district, but the ore used for the purpose is of low grade and of no commercial importance. Important deposits of iron-ore occur at Gore (23°58′;83°59′), Datum (23°57′;84°03′), Biwabathan (23°55′;84″02′) and Sua (24°00′; 84°06′). At Gore, magnetite occurs associated with tremolite schists on a small hillock. The quality of ore is variable, the magnetite schists grading into massive magnetite on the one hand and into poor disseminated ore with quartz on the other. The outcrops of richer ore measure about 2000′ × 90′ and the reserve of good quality magnetite may be about 400,000 tons.

At Datum magnetite occurs in bands, lenses and small pockets in the tremolite schists. Some of the bands are about three to four feet thick and are traceable for 100 to 150 ft., but usually the ore is contaminated with country rock. Several other small occurrences of ore are seen between Datum and Barajharia (23°57′;84°02′), but neither the quality is good nor the quantity large. At Biwabathan there is a small deposit of magnetite associated with micaceous rock said to be lamprophyre and the reserves may be about 100,000 tons. The deposits at Sua though occurring near the railway line are poor in quality and may not be of any commercial use.

Dolomite and Limestone.

Crystalline dolomite and dolomitic-limestone occur at a number of places in this district. The important deposits are at Bakoria (23°53′ 30″;84°18′ 30″), Sadhwadih (23°52′ 30″;84°20′), Chauparia (23°58′;83°57), Banpahar (23°59′;83°59′), Harhipahar (23°56′; 83°57′), Kothila near Latehar railway station and at Olhepat (23°50′; 84°44′), Balumath (23°50′; 84°47′), Pandwa (24°10′; 84°04′) and Majhaulio (24°10′;84°08′). Some of these deposits form prominent hillocks. The dolomites are usually white in colour, but in some places due to the presence of serpentine they are greenish. They usually occur associated with calciphyre or other calcsilicate rocks, but at some places they are in pure and massive form and may be utilised as a flux or refractory. Some of them may prove suitable for statuary purposes.

Limestone occurring in the Lower Vindhyans of the Bhawanathpur (24°23′;83°35′) area may be suitable for the manufacture of portland cement.

GRAPHITE.

Deposits of graphite are known at Sokra (23°58′;84°03′), Khamdih (23°58′;84°13′), Kui (23°51′;84°18′), Ajlatua (23°58′; 84°03′), etc. Graphite is either amorphous or flaky and occurs in thin veins traversing the graphite schists. The quality is generally poor due to contamination with the country rock. It may, however, be improved to some extent by washing. These deposits were worked during the last war, but at present all except the deposit at Khamdih, have been abandoned.

MICA.

Mica has been recorded from near Daltonganj (24°02′;84°04′), Lesliganj (24°02′;84°12′), Kini (24°04′;84°01′). Khorhi (24°02′; 84°00′), Bandua (23°53′;84°24′), etc., but usually the books are small and cracked. The quality is not good for commercial exploitation.

FELSPARS.

Most of the pegmatites traversing the granites and granite gneisses are rich in quartz and felspars, but at some places they are more or less exclusively made up of potash felspars which may be worked for their utilisation in ceramic industry. During the last war some of the deposits near Daltonganj and Latehar, etc., were worked for this purpose, but at present they have been abandoned.

FIRE-CLAYS.

Deposits of fire-clay occur at Rajhara (24°06′;84°08′) on the Daltonganj coalfield and near Latehar (23°44′;84°30′) on the Auranga coalfield. The former is being worked by the Reliance Firebrick and Pottery Company and the latter was worked for sometime during 1942—46, but has since been abandoned.

LEAD.

Weathered fragments of galena have been recorded near Barikhap (23°59′;84°49′), but the mineral was not found *in situ*.

MINERAL WATERS.

There are several springs along the east-west belt of the Auranga and Hutar coalfields. Some of them are in the Gondwanas, e.g., Kokraha (23°45′;84°05′), and some in the Archaeans, e.g., Jaram (23°49′;84°30′). The water is fairly warm and impregnated with sulphurated hydrogen. It has therapeutic properties in curing rheumatism, gout, skin diseases and digestive disorders.

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CHAPTER III.

FORESTS.

General Importance of Forests.

General.—Forests predominate in the district of Palamau. Out of the total area of 4,916 sqr. miles of the district 2,146 sqr. miles are covered with forests which are within demarcation. The economy of the district bears a very intimate correlation with the forests. A part of the total area under forests, viz., 364 sqr. miles is situated on compact blocks with sparse habitation and the remaining area, viz., 1,782 sqr. miles is honey-combed with villages of appreciable population. The figures, therefore, show that major portion of the demarcated area is exposed to biotic factors and the general condition is not encouraging as will be explained in the following paragraphs. However, the percentage of the area under forests when compared to the total area of the district which works out to 43.6 per cent, clearly indicates that importance of forests in this district is paramount.

Biotic factors—its interaction and effect.—The area under forests during last survey settlement when compared to that at the present (1957) shows that there has been a general decline. During the last settlement (1913-20) 3,200 sqr. miles were reported to be under forests and during the period under report only 2,146 sqr. miles are under demarcation. Within a period of 40 years it has, therefore, declined by 33 per cent. The main reason of this rapid rate of destruction of forests and breaking up of the land is the impact of the biotic factors. The increase in the population and the mild policy of the Government followed so far, sometimes in complete disregard of the main principles of forest conservancy, have led to the above results. Not only valuable forest growth had been removed and lands made barren, marginal lands as well, which should not be put under cultivation under the principles of best land use, have been brought under plough. These short sighted activities of the people have resulted in accelerated, soil erosion, desiccation of the area, deterioration of the quality and have ultimately reflected in lowering of water table, shortage of rainfall and wash of the fertile top layers of the soil. All these adverse factors affect the economic status of the population. The agricultural economy has lost its balance completely. The crops and their yield have been upset totally and every now and then shadow of famine conditions make their appearance here and there.

There was an erroneous impression at the time when the last gazetteer was written that due to inaccessibility and vast extension, destruction could not be brought in the forests of Palamau. This idea does no longer hold good. Except in the Government-managed forests extending over 364 sqr. miles which have been worked under regular

working plans, the evils of destruction have made themselves felt all over the forest-bearing tracts of the district. This, however, is always in the inverse ratio to the nearness of population. The forests of Garhwa, Nagar Untari, Bhawnathpur, Lesliganj, Bishrampur, Hussainabad, Chhatarpur and Harihargaj police-stations lying in the north and north-east corner of the district have been reduced to thorny bushes.

Existing Categories of Government Forests.

The Government-owned forests in the district under the management of the Forest Department which, however, at the time of writing of this gazetteer constitutes the entire forest wealth of the district, can be classified as below :—

(*i*) Old Reserved Forests—243 sqr. miles.

(*ii*) Old Protected Forests—40.44 sqr. miles.

(*iii*) Khalaha Reserved Forests—80.12 sqr. miles.

(*iv*) New Protected Forests—1783.05 sqr. miles.

(*i*) *Old Reserved Forests.*—The first and foremost step towards protection of forests was taken in the year 1864 when 178 sqr. miles of the forest in the Government-owned Estate were demarcated and taken over for protection and management. In 1874-75 Mr. Johnston selected 37 blocks of forests aggregating 151 sqr. miles to be gazetted as Reserve Forests. These were gazetted by a notification dated 10th August, 1875. This year Palamau Forest Division was constituted. Subsequent notifications reserving more forests were made in the years 1877, 1879, 1881, 1885, 1920, 1923, 1924, and 1927. These reserved forests were free from all rights and encumbrances.

Subsequently certain protected forests were also constituted into reserved forests which will be described in the next paragraph. The total area of the Reserved Forests is 243 sqr. miles constituted in Latehar, Mahuadanr, Daltonganj revenue police-stations and consists of 23 blocks.

(*ii*) *Old Protected Forests.*—In the year 1892 Government issued a notification declaring all waste lands not used for cultivation or habitation to be Protected Forests. In the year 1894 the notification was amended to apply to forests over which the Government exercised proprietary rights. In the year 1902 the principle was modified so as to allow for the purposes of cultivation an area equal to that already held under cultivation and to make the remainder as Protected Forests. The Protected Forests constituted under this principle covering 81 sqr. miles were gazetted in the year 1902. The principle, however, was defective and the boundaries of the Protected Forests were twice revised during the years 1904 and 1905. The area finally notified as Protected Forests in 1906 totalled to 71 sqr. miles. In the year 1904, however,

11 Protected Forest Blocks or parts thereof were notified as Reserved Forests. The total area of the Old Protected Forests is 40.44 sqr. miles and is situated in Daltonganj, Latehar, Bhandaria and Mahuadanr revenue police-stations and consists of 20 blocks.

(*iii*) *Khalsha Reserved Forests.*—In the year 1902 management of Protected Forests mentioned in the above paragraph was transferred to the Deputy Commissioner as the stringent rules under force and difficulties in grazing caused much discontentment among the villagers. In 1920 the forests were once more transferred to the Forest Department as the denudation of the forests was causing apprehension and it was considered advisable to introduce systematic working with a view to preserve them. The Deputy Commissioner, however, once again raised objections and certain parts of these forests were transferred to him in 1923. At the time of writing of the last gazetteer out of 68 sqr. miles of the Protected Forests 48 sqr. miles were under the management of the Forest Department and 20 sqr. miles under the Deputy Commissioner. These forests were managed by the Khas Mahal Department. In the year 1947 these forests were ultimately transferred to the Forest Department and were constituted as Reserved Forests, hence the name Khalsha Reserved Forests. The total area of the Khalsha Reserved Forests is 80.12 sqr. miles situated in 128 villages in Mahuadanr, Latehar, Daltonganj, Patan and Ranka police-stations.

(*iv*) *New Protected Forests.*—As has been stated above the major part of the area under forests in this district was owned by private individuals. Only a small fraction was Government-owned which was under a scientific management. On account of wanton destruction of forests at a very rapid rate resulting in irretrievable damage to this national property it was considered desirable to take up the management of such forests under the Government. There is a provision under section 38 of the Indian Forest Act according to which private-owned forests can be reserved only with the full agreement of the owners. Efforts made in this district to induce the private owners to execute such agreements proved to be abortive except in a solitary case, viz., Deogan Estate which was reserved in the year 1924 under this section of the Indian Forest Act. With the opening of the Central Indian Coalfield Railways in 1929 (now E. Rly.) the process of forest destruction got undue impetus. The landlords who were interested in ready cash, started cutting and selling their forests at a very rapid rate. Destruction, however, was accelerated on account of a very much inflated demand during the last World War II and the damage done to such forests in meeting the unlimited requirement of the Defence Department was enormous. After independence it was realised that this national asset must be conserved and a special Act called the Bihar Private Forests Act was enacted in 1946-47 under the provision of which

all the private-owned forests came under the management of Government, the ownership however remained intact. It must be stated that the State of Bihar was the pioneer in this direction inasmuch as it was the Union in which the private-owned forests were taken up for management. These Private Protected Forests vested ultimately in the State when the Land Reforms Act of 1950 was legislated, and brought into effect. As soon as the ownership vested in the State, the Bihar Private Forests Act ceased to operate and these forests were notified as Protected Forests under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act of 1927. The total area of the new Protected Forests is 1,783.05 sq. miles which have been constituted in 1,756 villages in Mahuadanr, Latehar, Balumath, Daltonganj, Patan, Chhatarpur, Hussainabad, Garhwa and Ranka police-stations.

ADMINISTRATION.

Palamau Forest Division was created in the year 1875. The forest conservancy actually dates back to 1879 when 179 sq. miles of forests were reserved. The remaining forests were constituted as reserved in the year 1884. Before 1904 these forests formed a separate division. They were then amalgamated with the forests of Hazaribagh Division but were again made a separate charge in 1920. The staff maintained at that time consisted of a Divisional Forest Officer, a Ranger, three Deputy Rangers, three Foresters and forty-one Forest Guards. The division consisted of three Ranges only, viz., Northern, Southern and Latehar Ranges. In the year 1932 the constitution of Ranges, however, was reorganised resulting in four Ranges, viz., Kundri, Northern, Latehar and Southern Ranges with headquarters at Kundri, Betla, Latehar and Garu. The staff consisted of one Divisional Forest Officer, one Forest Ranger, three Deputy Rangers, five Foresters and thirty-seven Forest Guards. The headquarters of Northern Range was shifted from Betla to Chhipadohar in the year 1934 and another Range named Lat was created in the same year. In the event of taking over of private-owned forests under Government management from the year 1946-47, 11 more Ranges were created raising the total to 16. A forest subdivision named the Garhwa Forest Subdivision was created, vide Revenue Department notification no. VIF-4-16/48-602-R., dated 19th March, 1949 consisting of seven Ranges, viz., Garhwa, Bhawanathpur, Ranka, Bhandaria, Chhaterpur, Mohammadganj and Chainpur. Later this subdivision was elevated to the status of an independent division known as Garhwa Forest Division with effect from 1st June, 1952 in Revenue Department notification no. C/PF-7011/52-R-231-R, dated 23rd May, 1952. As the management became more intensive the parent division was once again split with effect from 1st November, 1954 and a separate division, namely, Latehar Forest Division was created under Revenue Department notification no. C/F-10107/54-4199-R, dated the 30th September, 1954 consisting of five Ranges, viz., Latehar, Garu, Chhaterpur and Mohammadganj were transferred from Garhwa Division

to the parent division still known as Palamau Forest Division bringing the total number of territorial Ranges to six, viz., Chhipadohar, Lat, Kundri, Manatu, Chhaterpur and Mohammadganj and one non-territorial Range, viz., Betla Forest Guards' Training School. The present administrative set up of the three divisions (in the year 1957) *is given in the following table :—*

TABLE I.

Name of the division.	Area in sqr. miles.				No. of Range.	No. of Beats.	No. of Sub-beats.
	Old R.F.	Old P.F.	K.R.F.	New P.F.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palamau ..	134	25	20	556	7	17	104
Garhwa ..	..	9.44	2.12	745.02	5	12	106
Latehar ..	109	6	58	482.03	5	15	91

TABLE II.

Name of division.	Number of—						
	D.F.O.	Rangers.	Deputy Rangers.	Foresters.	Forest Guards.	Temporary staff.	Office establishment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palamau ..	1	6	1	23	124	C.M. 8.	Asst. 12.
						D.M. 5.	
						N.G. 14.	I. Amin 1.
						L.C. 12.	Amin 3.
						C.G. 12.	
Latehar ..	1	4	..	17	91	C.M. 13 ..	Asst. 8.
						C.G. 19.	Amin 2.
Garhwa ..	1	3	..	16	106	C.M. 5 ..	Asst. 10.
						D.M. 4.	Amin 1.
						N.G. 3.	I. Amin 1.
						C.F. 5.	

TOPOGRAPHY—FOREST CROP AND ITS DISTRIBUTION.

The elevations on which these forests lie vary from 700′ to 3,819′ (the highest peak of the Sarwat hills), a height second only to that of Parasnath hills in Bihar. The general topography of the terrain is very hilly on the south, hilly on the north with interceptions of level and undulating stretches. In the south of the district specially in the Old Reserved Forests *sal* (*Shorea-robusta*) forms the main crop along with its other associates in major part of the area. *Sal* sometimes constitutes 50 per cent of the crop. It grows very well on the fringes of the *nalas* and lower slopes of the hills. It also occurs in fair abundance in the Old Protected Forests with similar growth wherever the destruction by men has not been conspicuous. In the Khalsa Reserved Forests it does not appear in remote patches but the size and the proportion is low. The New Private Forests which have been taken over for management (after they had been badly hacked by the people specially during the War and the transitional period) contain *sal* only in very remote areas where it forms merely a sprinkle. The sizes also are low, the stems are defective and usually they are small saplings sprouting over old high stumps. The usual associates of *sal* are as follows :—

Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), *Karam* (Adina cordifolia), *Kend* (Diospyros tomentosa), *Guri* (Mitragyna parvifolia), *Kusum* (Scheleichera trijuga), *Galgal* (Cochlospetmum gosaypium), *Keonjhi* (Sterculia Villosa), *Ginjan* (Odina wodier), *Piar* (Buchanania Latifolia), *Siris* (Boswellia serrata) and etc.

The fact that the area could grow good *sal* is exhibited by the few remnants which have put very high growths here and there. In the Barasand Block *sals* of 7′ and 8′ girth are still not uncommon.

The major part of the area in the district, however, is covered with miscellaneous crop with sprinkle of *sal*. They are found distributed almost all over the area and have acquired some economic importance since the introduction of intensive method of forest exploitation. The mixed miscellaneous forests consist of the following species :—

Khair (Acacia catechu), *Asan* (Terminalia tomentosa), *Karam* (Adina cordifolia), *Guri* (Mitragyna parvifolia), *Sidha* (Lagerstroemia parviflora), *Karjali* (Cleistanthus collinus), *Kekar* (Garuga pinnata), *Mahua* (Bassia latifolia), *Paras* (Butea frondosa), *Gamhar* (Gmelina arborea), *Bia* (Petrocarpus marsupium), *Chilbi* (Holoptelea intergrifolia), *Sandhan* (Ougfinia dalbergiades), *Semal* (Bombax Malabaricum), *Medh* (Litsaea semifera), *Rohan* (Soymida Febrifuga), *Piar* (Buchanania latifolia), *Bel* (Aegle marmelos), *Kedar* (Garuga pinnata). *Dhautha* (Anogeissu

latifolia), *Salai* (Boswellia thurifera), *Keonjhi* (Sterculia urens), *Kend* (Diospyros tomentosa), *Bhurhul* (Chloroxylon swietenia), *Papar* (Gardenia latifolia), *Kusum* (Schlfichera trijuga), *Belsai* (Limonia acidissima), *Dhola* (Alangium lamarcki), *Sissam* (Dalbergia latifolia).

Bamboos, however, form the main crop mixed with miscellaneous and also with *sal* in almost the entire forest area of this district leaving only a few exceptions. The species is *Dendrocalamus strictus*. In favourable localities it has acquired girth from 13″ to 15″ at the base and height 32 to 35 ft. The reproduction is satisfactory and the incidence is very heavy. Good bamboos abound in Betla, Maromar, Baresand, Adheya, Dauna, Bhumbhor, Hisra, Joon, Katra, Hosatu, Saneya, Jaubar, Latdag, Mundu, Kekargarh, Lawabar, Tandwa, Garhgaon and many other locations. On account of very great demand of the Paper Mills and the public for house building purposes the bamboo forests of this district have acquired enormous significance. Out of all the districts in the State this district produces the highest yield of bamboos.

Khair is found almost all over Palamau forests in fairly large proportions varying in sizes and density. In the populated areas they have been very badly lopped by the graziers and have failed to put on growth fit for commercial exploitation. Reckless cutting of the past specially in the forests which were not under Government control has at the present moment reduced the number of exploitable trees considerably. Tree in the lower age classes abound which when given proper protection will acquire value. The potentiality, however, of *khair* production is immense and the quality is one of the most reputed in the State and in the neighbouring areas.

Miscellaneous species which have been named above as the associates of *sal* also find market and are mostly exploited. The names of *dhautha* for axlewood, *bija* for furniture and door and window shutters and *asan* for structural purposes are worth mentioning. *Salai* which occurs also in abundance and acquires very large sizes has recently been found of use in manufacture of packing boxes and is being exploited from such parts of the district which are situated near the rail heads.

MANAGEMENT.

In the initial stages when the forests were taken over they were heavily *jhumed* as is recorded in the Working Plan of Mr. J. W. Nicholson (1932). In 1874-75 Mr. Johnston carried out linear valuation survey on the basis of which Dr. Schlich prescribed complete rest to enable the forests to recover from the past ill-treatment. In 1892 Mr. Dandey, the Conservator of Forests, Bengal prepared a Working Plan report and submitted some proposal as the basis of working of these

forests. In 1904 Mr. Haslett, the then Divisional Forest Officer, submitted a Working Plan to the Inspector-General of Forests who, however, considered that the publication of the Working Plan was unjustifiable and only a Plan of Operation for fixed number of years was all that was necessary. Mr. Haslett's proposals consisted of (1) selection felling of *sal* over 5′ in girth and *khair* over 1′8″, (2) non-regulated felling of dead *sal* trees and trees of other species for which demand may be found and (3) improvement fellings. In 1905 one Khair Felling Series of 20 years rotation in Kechki, Saidup, Ramandag and Baresand was approved by the Conservator of Forests which at his instigation was altered in 1907 in which the exploitable size was raised to 2′ and the 20 existing coupes were divided into two felling series worked on ten to fifteen years rotation respectively. Mr. Draper, the then Divisional Forest Officer, drew up a revised scheme of fellings for 15 years rotation. For reasons not known the felling series to be worked out on 10 years rotation was dropped out of picture. In 1908 a separate working scheme for Betla and Kechki was introduced. The fellings, however, were carried regularly in Kechki Block up to 1922-23 and no fellings were undertaken in Betla till 1919-20. This scheme operated till the year 1924-25. In 1909 Mr. Hearl, the Conservator of Forests, Bengal, amended bamboo working scheme and in 1915 Mr. Haines raised felling cycle to six years and constituted felling series in Ramandag Block as well. In 1923 Mr. Mooney submitted revised Working Scheme of Kechki and Betla Blocks but it came into effect from 1924. He prescribed selection-*cum*-improvement fellings with felling cycle of 30 years in the plain working circle and fixed the exploitable size to 3′6″ in girth. In hill working circle he prescribed Coppice with Standards on 60 years rotation and confined the standards to *khair* and Satin wood only. He also extended the scope of Mr. Haines' scheme for bamboos over a part of Baresand forests and prescribed altogether nine felling series to be worked on felling cycle of three years. In 1927 Mr. D. H. Khan drew up a scheme for the Betla Protected Forests in which he prescribed Coppice with Standard under 30 years rotation. In 1932 a comprehensive Working Plan by Mr. Nicholson was introduced for the first time which covered almost all the approachable and workable areas of the forests. Under this Plan the forests of the Division were divided into seven working circles, viz., (1) Selection, (2) Coppice, (3) Village, (4) Teak Plantation, (5) Bamboo, (6) Kath and (7) Miscellaneous. Later during the Second World War one more working circle, namely (8) Salai Working Circle formed for meeting the demands of packing boxes. The most important feature of this Working Plan was the Teak Plantation Working Circle which was aimed at introducing an exotic species in the area which was of immense economic value and is very much in demand. This Working Plan was revised in the year 1950 by Mr. P. Mishra which is still in operation and covers the entire Government

Reserved, Protected and former Khalsa Forests of the district of Palamau. With the introduction of intensive method of management and exploitation this Working Plan has a larger application and covers almost the entire area of the forests. He has also endeavoured to introduce uniform system which was hitherto not applied in the *sal* forests of this district. Under this Plan the forests have been divided into 10 working circles, viz., (1) Sal Conversion, (2) Selection, (3) Coppice, (4) Village, (5) Khalsa, (6) Plantation, (7) Bamboo, (8) Kath, (9) Salai and (10) Miscellaneous. On taking over of Private Protected Forests which ultimately vested in the State under the L. R. Act the Working Plan of the newly acquired area has been prepared by Mr. J. N. Sinha and is in operation since the year 1954-55. Under this Plan the forests have been divided into four working circles, viz. (1) Coppice Working Circle, (2) Khair (overlapping), (3) Bomboo (overlapping) and (4) Semal and Salai (overlapping) Working Circles. In the new Protected Forests the forests of one village or a group of villages have been constituted as Felling Series which is the unit of management and blocks and compartments have not been made so far. These felling series in their turn are divided into as many parts as there are number of years of rotation (40 parts of the rotation is of 40 years) and each part which is called a coupe is set apart for felling in the year when it falls due. Ultimately at the end the felling series will consist of 40 equal patches of forests in a series of age gradations, i.e., varying in age from one to 40 years.

Afforestation and Works of Improvement.

Large stretches of forest lands which were once covered with fine forests have since been completely denuded of all vegetation and stand out as desolate, naked wastes on which not even grass can grow. Large parts of such wastes have been gullied and deap ravines have been formed therein. For rehabilitating such denuded lands and for arresting the accelerated pace of erosion, afforestation schemes have been taken up. Gaya Afforestation Division operates in this district with the above end in view.

Besides the above, efforts are also being made by the local Divisions to afforestate small patches of lands.

Works of improvement in the shape of replacement of inferior species by species of higher value and utility like teak and semal is in progress in Palamau and Latehar Divisions. The target is to plant up 400 acres with semal and 400 acres with teak at a cost of Rs. 40,000 each in each of these two Divisions by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

For raising teak and semal stumps one nursery at Dorami has been established having an area of 5 acres by improving the old nursery which was very small in extent. Two wells have also been dug up which are fitted with pumps worked by electricity. Another nursery of 4 acres for raising teak stumps at Maromar and of 2 acres at Kurumkheta for raising semal stumps has been established.

Another work of improvement which has been taken up in hand in the Second Five-Year Plan is the fencing of derelict areas. Areas having potentiality which cannot show up on account of very heavy incidence of grazing have been fenced with barbed wire to exclude all grazing and it is expected that they will improve in 5 to 10 years' time.

Arboriculture.

The arboricultural work was mostly confined to the Netarhat Plateau. The Government have the idea of transforming this Hill Station into a beauty spot. With this end in view plantation of ornamental exotics was tried on the plateau by the department. The indigenous species namely *tun* and *gamhar* have done well. Plantation of Chir Pino (*Pinus Excelsa*), Eucalyptus Citroodora, Silveroak (*Grievellia Robusta*), Cypress and the Thuja have met with success.

Minor Forest Produce.

There are several minor forest produce which are exploited from the forests of this district. *Kendu* leaves, *mahua* flowers, fodder grass, honey, chope, myrabolam, *sabai* grass, hides and horns and lac are worth mention. *Kendu* leaves which are used in manufacture of *biris*, enjoy a very good reputation in Calcutta market and fetch appreciable revenue sometimes up to the tune of 7 to 8 lakhs of rupees a year. Fodder grass are exploited by the Namkum Military Farm and the Animal Husbandry Department and are also exported. Honey is of very good quality although the quantity in which it is available does not permit its collection on commercial scale. *Mahua* flower is one of the most important minor forest produce which is allowed to be collected by the villagers free of any royalty and is of great value for the poor people and approximately 1.25 lac maunds is exported annually partly raw (30 maunds) and part in form of shellacs (30 maunds equivalent to 75 maunds of raw lac). Major part of this crop however comes from the area which are outside demarcation, mostly from *raiyati* and *gairmazarua* lands and only a small fraction is contributed by the Kundri Lac Orchard which is worked departmentally. This is the only lac orchard in the State which is run by the Forest Department inside the forest demarcation by the assistance of the Lac Research Institute, Namkum. Operations are all done on scientific principles and under the guidance of trained personnels of Namkum Lac Research Institute and it has formed a formidable training ground for the trainees of the Institute who pour in the numerous batches at the different periods of operation to this orchard for their practical training.

Revenue from Forests and Approximate Outturn.

The forests of this district had to be worked for a long time at considerable financial loss, the reasons of which had to be frequently

examined. The precarious financial position necessitated periodic amalgamations of Hazaribagh and Palamau Divisions. Analysis of the past figures shows that the total deficit of Palamau forests from the year of establishment of the Division uptil March, 1932-33 was Rs. 8,12,221. The Division has run on surplus budget from the year 1933-34 onwards. The following table gives the figures of revenue and expenditure quinquennially up to the year 1951-52 and annual figures from 1953-54 up to the year 1956-57.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.		Capital outlay.	Total.	Surplus or deficit.
		A-Conservancy.	B-Establishment.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1933-38 ..	4,91,007	1,05,094	2,31,875	17,195	3,53,473	1,38,592
1938-43 ..	7,39,550	1,53,582	2,28,438	..	3,17,409	4,08,631
1943-48 ..	24,73,341	3,69,010	3,76,080	20,463	13,60,596	17,07,746
1948-53 ..	66,81,135	15,62,388	14,76,774	2,26,040	29,57,724	..
1953-54 ..	19,11,561	5,39,288	2,20,774	2,74,605	6,07,518	..
1954-55 ..	18,48,530	5,94,906	2,47,592	3,22,739	5,56,162	1,38,592
1955-56 ..	22,46,484	6,79,697	2,62,070	2,65,301	11,42,443	..
1956-57 ..	30,77,727	5,45,826	2,90,508	2,96,098	13,42,645	..

The outturn of different types of forest produce could not be collected of the remote past but that of the last 20 years is reproduced below :—

Year.	Timber in thousand Cwt.	Fuel in thousand Cwt.	Bamboos in thousands.	Grass	Other minor forest products in value.
1	2	3	4	5	6
				Rs.	Rs.
1938-38 ..	28,55	28,04	89,54	46,183	34,094
1938-43 ..	15,82	8,71	1,67,22	55,939	59,874
1943-48 ..	16,80	4,95	50,94	1,08,358	1,15,517
1948-53 ..	10,47	14,42	1,37,93	57,740	1,15,517
1953-54 ..	11,72	21,30	58,66	11,405	2,60,526
1954-55 ..	11,20	23,03	80,53	8,774	2,67,950
1955-56 ..	11,64	27,43	31,75	9,488	3,32,938
1956-57 ..	11,8 1	24,24	43,28	5,578	3,40,845

COMMUNICATIONS.

The principal line of export is the Gomoh-Dehri-on-Sone line of the E. Railway. The section from Daltonganj to Barkakana was constructed as part of Central Indian Coalfields Railway and was opened to traffic in 1929. The principal export stations are Mohammadganj, Untari Road, Garhwa Road, Rajhara, Daltonganj, Kechki, Barwadih, Chhipadohar, Kumandih, Latehar, Richughuta and Tori. From Chhipadohar station alone about 30 wagons of forest produce are despatched daily to different towns of U. P., Punjab, Bengal and Bihar. Construction of Katni-Bilaspur line from Barwadih was taken up in 1948-49 and the distance of about 40 miles up to Sarnadih, a village of Surguja district of Madhya Pradesh situated just on the other bank of Kanhar River was opened. Due to financial stringencies construction was abandoned in 1950. When this railway line starts operating most of the forests of Garhwa Forest Division will be within 20 miles of the rail head.

The Forest Department owns 472 miles long roads in the district, viz., 172 miles in Palamau Division, 203 miles in Latehar Division and 97 miles in Garhwa Division. A number of District Board roads are running through the forest tracts and few of them have been transferred recently to the Forest Department. Daltonganj-Mahuadanr road was transferred to the Department from 24th milestone up to Mahuadanr with effect from the 1st April, 1953. The Koel river at Garu had been bridged in the year 1957. This has paved the way for better utilisation for forest produce available on the south of Koel river. With these improvements the present revenue of the district from the forests has swollen to Rs. 30,77,727. This is no less an achievement for the department. However, there is still scope for improvement. The installation of saw-mills at some of the rail heads is another redeeming feature contributing to the rise in revenue. After World War II, motor trucks came into existence in large numbers and became the main means of transport of forest produce rendering the exploitation cost very low. Utilisation at present in no other division of the State is so advanced as it is in Palamau.

CAMPING SITES AND PLACES OF INTEREST AND BEAUTY.

At present there are 28 forest rest houses in the district which are well furnished and maintained. They are reasonably comfortable and have made inspection of forests easier. Names of the forest rest houses are given below divisionwise :—

Palamau—Lat, Mundu, Kerh, Barwadih, Betla, Kechki, Daltonganj, Kundri, Seoti and Karmahi.

Latehar—Aksi, Maromar, Baresand, Rud, Adhey, Amjharia, Mahuamillan, Sarju, Kumandih, Fulsu and Matlong.

Garhwa—Bhandaria, Chainpur, Kutku, Bishrampur, Bhounathpur and Kailan.

Gumla—Netarhat (situated in Palamau district).

Camping grounds.—There are some excellent camping grounds situated inside the forests of this district. Bagechampa occupies the most picturesque site and in the old days it used to be a favourable camping ground of the Forest Officers. The names of Garu, Kutku, and Paraspani are worth mention as excellent camping sites.

Places of interest and beauty.—There are quite a large number of beauty spots. The following however are of importance :—

(1) Lodh fall in Mahuadanr P.-S

(2) Kanti fall in Chandwa P.-S.

(3) Kutku rapids in Barwadih P.-S.

(4) Kanhar gorge in Nagar P.-S.

(5) Kechki-confluence of Orenga and Koel in Barwadih P.-S.

(6) New and old forts of Palamau in Barwadih P.-S.

(7) Netarhat plateau in Mahuadanr P.-S.

Protection.—It might be stated that fire has been the single worst menace in the Palamau forests. Until the measures to combat this evil are made comprehensive serious retrogression will remain impending. The main causes of fire have been the collection of *mahua* flowers, honey, green grass, etc. The annual hunt by the tribal people has also been the cause of forest fires. Fires caused by glowing sparks emitted by the railway engines is not very uncommon. Cases of incendiary fires have also come to light.

Fire protection has been in force since 1881-82 and was given particular attention. The percentage of success was very high. Mr. Nicholson thought rigid fire protection to be difficult and as such experimented with early burning in Palamau forests. Early burning was introduced in 1932 and complete fire protection was aimed at only in plantations and young coppice coupes. This practice also had its own defects. Firstly in many cases such burning was done too late and smouldering stumps within the early burnt areas were suspected to be the cause of subsequent late fires. Secondly, departmental burning operation led the public to assume that the Forest Department had come to view forest fires with equanimity. The practice of early burning had to be suspended under the express orders of the Conservator of Forests, since a lot of complaints about damage were received from the owners of the neighbouring forests. Since 1936 efforts have been made to completely protect the forests from fire. This impetus of fire protection was carried onward till 1945. In 1946 when the management of the Private Forests was taken over, the old tradition was lost in the wake of new problems. The department has been able to consolidate management during the last ten years. Fresh efforts to revive the old tradition in the direction was made since 1954-55 which succeeded in rigidly fire protecting by 94 per cent of the area. The zeal had been kept up in the subsequent years and roughly 94 per cent of the area have been protected annually since then. During the Second Five-Year

Plan a sum of Rs. 2,50,000 has been set apart for fire protection. A truck has been purchased to enable the staff to rush to the place of occurrence immediately for fighting fire. It will be rather a sad commentary to admit that in India we have no advanced means of fire fighting like U. S. A. and the U. K.

Grazing.—No statistical data are available as to the number of cattle that graze in Palamau forests. But there is no shadow of doubt that most of the cattle population of the district depend on the forests. From the areas where forest is sparse, cattle are brought to the reserve areas and the owners camp there with cattle for all the year round. The same area is grazed daily without keeping in view the disaster that may impend. The department in a bid to remove any discontentment among the villagers has not been charging any fees from persons residing in the thana in which the forest is located. Levy of fee used to exercise some control on large-scale grazing. Grazing and feeding are almost uncommon in this district. The usual practice so far has been to close the annual coupes and allow unrestricted grazing elsewhere. Rotational grazing has never been put into operation in practice.

Sheep farming is an important constituent of the rural economy in Bhawanathpur, Nagar Untari, Hussainabad, Chatterpur, Ranka and parts of Garhwa and Sadar thana of the district. Goats are not numerous and generally keep to the village land. Forest grazing by sheep is on increase during the rains with the commencement of the paddy season. The sheep never stay too far away in the forests as they remain in constant fear of wild animals. So long the forests were under the dispensation of the landlords sheep grazing was freely permitted. The sheep do damage to the young seedlings by nibbling the young shoots.

Frost.—Frost causes damage to coppice shoots and young seedlings in sub-mountain tracts and in villages. The damage is more severe in and around abandoned village sites. *Sal* is the principal species which suffers from frost. Retention of large number of standards is the remedy in coppice coupes. The incidence however is low.

Forest offences are rather on the increase everywhere. It is less in the Old Reserved and Protected Forests and more pronounced in the New Private Forests.

There was a wave of encroachment upon the newly acquired Protected Forests. The conditions were created on account of the fact that the demarcation of such large tracts was done in a hurry and within a very short period. In order to rectify some of the mistakes in demarcation some lands here and there were excluded out which ultimately have an impetus to the people to encroach on more lands. Efforts have been made to go over the entire demarcation line in each village excluding all such lands which were on the fringe and were under cultivation. Encroachments which however, were situated in the heart of the forests were viewed with concern and were dealt with rigidly. Wherever the encroachments were illegal the offenders were

prosecuted and ousted from the area and wherever the lands happened to be *raiyati* they were acquired under the provisions of the Land Reforms Act. The state of boundaries in these newly acquired Protected Forests are, therefore, now reaching some stability.

Dealing with the protection part of the forests it will not be out of place to mention that on account of repeated fires, heavy incidence of grazing, lowering of water level which are manifest and also other reasons (viz., attack of fungi or insects or physiological diseases which are not manifest and which have not been investigated so far) a very large number of *sal* trees and also some *asan* have started drying from the top all over the forests of the district. The casual organism or the factors responsible for the driage which commenced only about 4 to 5 years ago and has by now spread over a very large area has not yet been investigated and efforts are being made most seriously to find out the same. Meanwhile the alarming rate of driage has left no alternative but to stop all green fellings at least in nine felling series of the Reserved Forests of this district. Pending investigation into the causal factors there is no other remedy but to fell and remove the dry trees lest they spread the disease or the germs of destruction to the remaining trees. These dry stems after felling naturally do not leave any chance to reproduce as the roots have either already dried or decayed or have become disease infected. Unless of course, such vast tracts are once again covered up by artifical plantations which will not only be very much expensive but also impracticable to a very great extent. The area ultimately may be converted into grassy blanks with no valuable tree growth.

Rights and concessions.—The reserved forests constituted prior to 1923 were gazetted free of rights. Most of those gazetted since that year are burdened with major or minor rights. The Protected Forests and the Khalsa Forests are burdened with general rights prevailing in the forests of Chotanagpur districts.

The general rule regarding admittance of rights is that persons living in the villages situated in the neighbourhood of such forests have been given some kind of right or the other for taking forest produce. The rights, however, in the newly taken over Protected Forests have acquired unmanageable proportions. The rights admitted by the Forest Settlement Officer appointed under the Bihar Protected Forests Act, the settlement order of which could not be finalised as the said Act became defunct after the forests vested in the State under the Land Reforms Act are practically unlimited and are mainly based on the entries made in Khatian Part 2 prepared at the last survey settlement. The Forest Settlement Officers have been appointed to determine the rights and pass fresh settlement orders in respect of the new Protected Forests. The principal rights admitted in such forests are as follows :—

(1) Right to take timber for construction and repair of houses and for agricultural requirements. Taking kitchen as unit each family has been allowed to take 9 cwt. per year.

(2) Right to take firewood. An average family is allowed 168 cft. of stacked firewood.

The above quantities are subject to the capacity of the annual coupes and can be limited or reduced.

(3) Right to graze cattle in the forests except in coupes up to 5 years of age.

The defect in the admission of such rights as stated above has been that they are unlimited and growing while the area of forest has been dwindling many fold since the last cadastral settlement. The population has increased disproportionately. If the rights of the village in any particular forest were mentioned in Khatian Part 2 they have been admitted in toto, subject to the limitation that the quantity of timber and firewood have been arbitrarily fixed. No list of households or rightholders giving the nature and extent of their rights on any particular forest was prepared. The potentiality or otherwise with respect to the capability of the annual coupes to cater the demands of the rightholders as admitted by the Forest Settlement Officer was never assessed. The position therefore, is that in this category of forest, unlimited growing rights have been admitted without any consideration of the productive capacity of the forests.

Besides the above rights a number of concessions have been admitted by executive instructions issued from time to time which are as follows :—

(*i*) Concession to ake head load of dry firewood by the poor and landless people without any payment, for their own use, sale or barter.

(*ii*) Concession to remove "Jhanti Jhuri" of thorny species for "gherawan" purposes.

(*iii*) Concession to remove all edible flowers and fruits free of any royalty.

(*iv*) Concession to take wood for cremation purposes.

The concessions listed in (*i*) and (*ii*) above are acting very adversely to the interest of forest conservancy as the stock of dry and fallen firewood on the forest floor is not unlimited and that people sneak into the forests with axes concealed, fell the saplings anywhere and everywhere they like and let them dry up before they remove the same. Similarly unrestricted removal of thorny species from all over the forests results in exposure of the soil and dessication which ultimately reflects in further retrogression.

Labour Supply.

In the remote past some difficulty was experienced specially in the Reserved Forests in procuring labour and as such forest villages were established at Bijaipur, Gutus, Pandra and Ramandag during the year 1920—23. In 1932 a small forest village was started at Mundar with

the idea of supplying labour for departmental lac operation at Mako and Kurumkheta. The village does not exist now. Recently some more forest villages, viz., Latu, Henar, Khrumkheta and Kujrum have been constituted, settlements in them however have still to be done. The villagers in the forest villages are given land to cultivate free of rent. In exchange, however, they supply labour on daily wages prevalent in the area during the season. The obligation on the part of the villagers is to meet the demand of the Forest Department before engaging themselves on any other type of work. In recent years, however, labour supply does not form any problem and it is available in plentiful almost everywhere. In the newly acquired Protected Forests, Khalsa Reserved Forests and the Old Protected Forests they present no difficulty.

CHAPTER IV.

HISTORY.

EARLY HISTORY.

The early history of Palamau is not authentic but we have legends about it. It is, however, certain that Kharwars, Oraons and Cheros, the three aboriginal races practically ruled over the tract. The Kharwars claim to be Suryavanshi Kshatriyas.[1] They trace their descent from Ajanagara or Ayodhya. Karusa was the sixth son of Manu Vaivasvata and he was assigned the eastern territory. The descendants of Karusa were called Karusas who subsequently came to be known as Karwars or Kharwars. According to tradition they were the rulers of Rohtasgarh. The Kharwars point to the days of Pratapadhaval, one of the line of chiefs who ruled there in the twelfth century A. D., during the time of their greatest prosperity.

The Cheros have been spoken in very high terms in the *Aitareya Aranyaka*[2] along with the Vangas and Magadhas. They did not observe the Vedic sacrifices and still they are termed as revered Cheros '*Cheropadas*'. There is not much evidence to show that the Cheros came to this region from Kumaun as some think.

The Mundas claim descent from Karusas. The *Ramayana* records their flight to the south. Some say that these aboriginals played the band at the time of Rama's coronation at Ayodhya and they were assigned this region in lieu of their meritorious services. The Pandavas killed Jarasandha—an ally of the Mundas. Naturally in the *Mahabharata* War the Mundas sided with the Kauravas and were in the army of Bhisma. Sanjaya[3] says that on the left wing of Bhisma are the Karusas with the Mundas, Vikunja and Kundivarsa. Satyaki[4] compares the Mundas with the demons and boasts that he would put an end to them just as Indra ended the demons. Arjuna is said to have married a Naga princess from this region and Babhruvahana was born of this lady.

LAND OF BUDDHISM.

Amarnath Das[5] propounds a novel theory regarding the course of the river Ganga and the life story of Lord Buddha. According to him the Ganga river flowed through the Vindhyas, passing by Palamau and entered the sea through Mayurbhanja, at some distance to the west of the present outlets. He fixes the head of the Ganga delta at Ramgarh, south of Chaibassa and indicates the alignment of the river connection

1. *Pre-Mauryan History of Bihar* by Dr. D. S. Triveda.
2. *Aitareya Aranyaka* 2—1—1.
3. *Mahabharata Bhisma Parva.*
4. *Mahabharata Bhisma Parva.*
5. *India and Jamboo Island* by Amarnath Das, I.S.E., Book Company, Calcutta, 1931.

from Chaibasa to the Ganga in the valley to the north of the Vindhyas. According to Das, a connection from Varanasi southwards penetrating the Vindhyas was existing. The two rivers North Koel and South Koel coalescing at the same point gave him the key and he thinks that the two Koels were one river at one time but had split into two sections later on. From Ramgarh, the Suvarnarekha channel went up very near the channel of the South Koel where the connection must have existed and then the river entered the Vindhyas, following the course of the South and North Koel and joined the Son river near Rohtasgarh. According to him the name of the river near this locality was known as the Ganga even so late as 1665 A. D. as Tavernier mentions in his travels. As to why Koel should lose its name in the Ganga, it is suggested that Tavernier might have been misled by Pliny's account that the Ganga yielded precious stones and mistook the Son with the Ganga. Son-*cum*-Koel was formerly, according to Das, a section of the Ganga river flowing past Sasaram, Rohtasgarh and on to Rajhara, Garhikhas, 4 miles north of Daltonganj, North Koel bed, ancient town of Netarhat, Chechhari and ancient ruins of Tamolgarh. Obstructed in its course at Daltonganj, it spilled its water eastward passing by the channel of the Amanat up to Ambakara, then through the valley of Chako river passing to the north of Levalong, close to Chatra to its north, and then close to Chauparan to its north, it reached Monghyr.

Amarnath Das had also come out with the bold theory that Gautama Buddha's birth place and travels lay within the Palamau district. He gave reasons and identified the places connected with the life of Buddha as follows :—

Palibothra—Palamau.

Kapilavastu—Rajkheta lying 60 miles south of Palamau.

Kusinagara—Kerava near Paharbul where a neglected tope still exists.

Pava—Paharbul lying 100 miles south-west of Palamau.

Mahabodhi—A place 40 miles south-west of Palamau or 20 miles west of Netarhat.

Varanasinagara—Baravenagar, 20 miles south of Netarhat.

Kotigama—Kutti village on the bank of river Koel.

Vaisali—Vesariya Kalan, 2 miles north-east of Kutti village.

Nadi—Chandika—Chando, between Kutti and Basariya, a distortion of Chandika or Chandikakanana.

Mallakuta—Kutti.

Bhandagama—Bhandaria.

Amdanda—Ambagama or Amargawan.

Hathigama—Hatami.

Bhojnagara—Bhoja on the confluence of Gulafula and Mahan rivers.

Jaluka Mahavana—*Sal* forest of Jaladega.

Hiranyavati—Rehara river.

Saraswati—Sarasotia near Bhandaria.

Savitri—Satabaha.

Bhargava Chyavana's Ashrama—On the confluence of the Son and Koel rivers.

Yastigrahaka or Yastivana—Latehar.

Champanagara—Chanpikallan, 5 miles east of Palamau.

Devadaha—Deorwaha, 30 miles west of Rajkheta.

Sravasti—Saravath, 10 miles north-west of Rajkheta.

Achiravati river or Saravati river—Ajher, a tributary of the Rehara river.

Gridhrakuta—Harilaong hills.

Saptaparni—Satbarwa.

Niranjana river—Buda river.

Kukkutapadagiri—The hill extending from Kukud hill to north-west of Mahuadanr.

Budhavanagiri—Kumandi forest.

Kusagrapura—Rajagriha—Daltonganj.

Nalanda—A site within a radius of 8 miles from Ambabara.

Das identified the road from Yastivana to Kusagrapura as the road from Latehar to Satbarwa which still exists.

The theory advanced by Amarnath Das is rather ingenious and some of the similar names of sites with places well-known in Buddhist history are intriguing. But archæological evidence is against the assumptions and later research and excavations at Vaishali and other places have thrown up a lot of additional evidence. No reliance, therefore, can be put on the theory of Das. But, his researches do show that Palamau had a hoary past and there was at one time clear Buddhist influence on this district. Even now at a village Murtia near Latehar a large number of Buddhist relics could be seen.

We have no positive evidence to prove that the district was under the direct rule of the Mauryas, the Sungas and other imperial dynasties of India ruling at Pataliputra. Palamau, helped by her difficult mountains and terrains, seems to have maintained its independence during the height of imperial glory of Pataliputra. It is just possible that the people owed allegiance to the mighty rulers only when the suzerain power was strong enough to exact tributes from them. But as soon as they left, the mountain chiefs of Palamau re-asserted themselves.

ARCHAEOLOGY.

It is unfortunate that there has not been much of archæological exploration in this district. There are quite a number of sites of archæological importance which might have thrown up important relics

Some of them may be mentioned. The hill called Bahuraj situated in the village Juruahar is said to be the native place of Muchuk Rani of the Kharwars. Chainpur, two miles south-west of Daltonganj and Hussainabad, the present Japla (Sanskrit *Japila*) are other archæological sites. Manatu, 36 miles south-east of Daltonganj, Narainpur at Mankeri Tappa, Ranka, 14 miles south of Garhwa, Untari and Tamolgarh in Mahuadanr police-station have old forts. At village Saguna, P.-S. Paton, 14 miles from Daltonganj, a copper axe-head was found. Hamigarh, P.-S. Mahuadanr, 75 miles from Daltonganj and 9 miles from Mahuadanr has yielded some more copper relics. Belaonja Pargana is a strategic area bounded by Mirzapur, Shahabad and Gaya districts and we have very little knowledge of its antiquarian remains. This portion held out for a long time. As Palamau formed a semi-independent tract both in pre-Muslim times as well as during the Muslim rules, it is quite possible that there may be important relics, inscriptions, etc., in this area. It has to be remembered that during the Muslim rule in India, Palamau formed a part of Kokar or present Chotanagpur and although the small rulers of the area used to pay occasional tributes whenever there was any invasion or a threat, they maintained their independence. It is a pity that history of this area was little known till the beginning of the 16th century. That itself shows that the mountainous nature of the area, the deep forests, the bad communications, the wild animals and the sturdy tribes, experts in guerilla warfare, had kept away the invaders.

Early Settlers.

The Marhattas are one of the early settlers in the area and they appear to have come after the Cheros. Apparently, they formed the portions of the Marhatta army. There is a village known as Marahatiya near Garhwa. According to tradition the Marhattas migrated to Surguja from this area. As there is no trace of them as such in Palamau district now, there could be an interesting investigation as to how the Marhattas have merged into the indigenous population. There is a big open field at Daltonganj known as Shivaji Maidan. The Rakshel Rajputs appear to have come to the district after the Marhattas and they were able to supplant the Marhattas. The Rakshel Rajputs were more of free booters and they retained possession of Palamau until 1613 when they were driven by the Cheros under Bhagawant Rai.

The Cheros.

The Cheros trace their descent from the sage Chyavana. It is not certain as to when the Cheros had invaded Palamau. According to one tradition, the Cheros came in company with the Kharwars while according to other the Kharwars were already there when the Cheros came. There appears to have a mingling of common interest between the Cheros and the Kharwars and their allegiance is said to have numbered 18,000 Kharwars and 12,000 Cheros. Even today the Cheros and the Kharwars speak of themselves belonging to the *Attharah Hazari* or the

Barah Hazari. According to another story the Kharwar chiefs had to give way before their superior Cheros but the Cheros in order to stabilise their position quickly conciliated them and allowed the Kharwars to remain in a position of partial independence in the southern part of the district.

Ramchandra.

The Chero chiefs were the most powerful rulers in South Bihar during the first half of the sixteenth century. Sher Shah, the Sur King, wanted the white elephant named Ramchandra from the possession of the Chero Raja as its possession was considered to be a sign of good luck. But the Chero Raja would not part with it easily. It was only with great difficulty that Khawas Khan, a commandant of Sher Shah, could suppress the Cheros in 1538 and took over the elephant. The Cheros recovered their lost territory, shortly after the death of Sher Shah in 1545.

According to Bradley-Birt it was the recalcitrant attitude of the Chero tribes and the strategic importance of Palamau which forced Sher Shah to invade Palamau. So turbulent did they become under their chief Maharato Chero in the early part of the 16th century, that they held possession of the main road to Lower Bengal and practically blocked all communications. In 1538 Sher Shah sent one of his generals to subdue them and for the re-opening of the road which he rendered safe again for all travellers.

Raja Man Singh.

Palamau felt the weight of the Muslim arms for the first time under Akbar. Raja Man Singh invaded and captured Palamau in 1574. He raided the passes and inflicted heavy losses on the defenders but treated all, who submitted, with consideration. By degrees, he settled his troops over the country. But soon after the death of Akbar in 1605 the Muslims were expelled.

Raja Durjan Sal was a powerful Chero chief but somehow the Mughals entrapped him and imprisoned him in the Gwaliar fort. He, however, secured his freedom after twelve years by his wise discernment between a real and fake diamond by tieing them on the horns of two deer when they fought. The fake one was easily broken.

The Chero Raja Sahabal Ray extended his sway up to Champaran. This conduct provoked the invasion of Emperor Jehangir (1605—1627). Sahabal Ray was defeated and captured in his own fort at Chainpur in Shahabad district. He was taken captive to Delhi. There he died fighting a tiger for the amusement of the Emperor.

Bhagavat Ray (1613—1630).

His son Bhagavat Ray, the next Chero Raja, was a dauntless hero He was not in the least afraid of his father's sad fate. He continued

his predatory raids on the imperial territories. Once he actually plundered a boat containing royal treasures. The imperial forces were forced to take up the command. Bhagavat Ray took help from Deva Shahi of Dhavadanr near Tilothu in Shahabad district. Deva Shahi declared him as his younger brother and to satisfy the Nazim they ate together. Deva Shahi gave him an introductory letter to Man Singh, the Rakshel Raja of Palamau, to keep him in his service. He subsequently occupied the Palamau area—the gateway to Chotanagpur.[1] He brought Puranmalla, the younger son of Deva Shahi, chief at Dhavadanr with him and made him his hereditary minister, i.e., *Diwan*. He ascended the throne of Palamau in 1613 after killing the relatives of Man Singh when the latter was absent in Sarguja for a marriage party. Man Singh did not return and capture the throne.

In 1629 Shahjehan appointed Ahamad Khan as a Subedar of Patna and gave him Palamau as the *Jagir* which included Japla, Belaunja, Deogan, Badam, Sarguja and Sherghati. Ahamad Khan imposed on all this territory an annual tribute of Rs. 1,36,000. This was the customary *peshkash* which Mughal Governors attempted to enforce.

Anant Ray (1630—1661).

Palamau saw many changes during the 31 years of long rule of Anant Ray. During the reign of Shahjehan, the imperial forces attacked Palamau in October, 1641. Shaista Khan, Bihar Governor, marched from Patna on October 12, 1641, at the head of an army of 5,000 horses and 15,000 foot soldiers and entered the territory of the Cheros through the Manatu pass. The march was under Shaista Khan who commanded the centre. Zabardast Khan was in the vanguard; Atash Khan Dhakhni and several other officers commanded the left wing and others commanded the right wing. Sayed Mirza, brother of Mukhtar Khan, with a few other officers commanded the rear.

Wherever Shaista Khan pitched his camp, he had trenches dug, the earth of which was formed into a wall surrounding the whole of the encampment and matchlockmen were placed as guards in the trenches to frustrate night-attackers. A large party was employed to cut down the jungles and make a road wide enough for the armies to advance. All settlements on both sides of the road were plundered and destroyed. The Cheros withdrew on every occasion to the jungles and hills.

By the end of January, 1642, the Mughal army had penetrated as far as Ara, and an advance was then ordered on the fort of Palamau. After a short but successful engagement, the Muslim troops pressed on to the fort, which was surrounded on all sides by thick forest, and here the advance guard was attacked by the Cheros when clearing the jungle for their encampment. Shaista Khan, on hearing of the engagement, sent at once a detachment to their assistance, and together with

1. *Some Sidelight on the Chero Rulers of Palamau*, by B. Verothama, Journal of Historical Research, Vol. I, Part I, Ranchi 1958, pp. 44—46.

Zabardast Khan, took up a position on the bank of river Auranga which flows below the fort of Palamau. The Cheros, covered by the houses outside the fort, fired upon the Muslims. Many men of Shaista Khan were killed. The Mughal army dismounted and occupied the summit of a hill which commands the fort. The firing lasted till evening and large numbers were killed and wounded. In the end, Anant Ray submitted and promised to pay a tribute of Rs. 80,000 and when this sum had been handed over, Shaista Khan left Palamau on February 12, 1642, in consideration of the heat and the approach of the rains.

Second Invasion.

Internal factions had now set in. A conspiracy against Anant Ray was started by his uncles Tej Ray and Durga Ray who secured the approval of Itihad Khan, the successor of Shaista Khan, as Bihar Governor for a project of imprisoning Anant Ray and seizing the *Gaddi* for themselves. In this enterprise Tej Ray, the younger of the two brothers, was successful. But he did not surrender Anant Ray to the Governor and gave no share in the spoil to Durga Ray.

Durga Ray headed another band of conspirators. They were disappointed with the new regime. They wanted to hand over the fort of Deogan if the Bihar Governor supported them with an army against Tej Ray. This undertaking was faithfully carried out. The fort was surrendered to the Muslim force in October, 1643. Zabardast Khan, the Muslim commander, proceeded at once to prepare the way for a forward movement by cutting the jungle and widening the road to Palamau. Tej Ray set up an army of 660 horses and 7,000 foot to oppose his advance. This force was defeated in an engagement a few miles from Deogan. Shortly after this, Anant Ray was set at liberty by some of his adherents and put in possession of the Palamau fort.

Tej Ray fled Zabardast Khan, then marched towards Palamau passing through dense jungles and forcing several difficult passes. When he was within six miles of Palamau, Partap Ray, grandson of Anant Ray, seeing the hopelessness of resistance, opened negotiations which ended in his going with Zabardast Khan to Patna. There he agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 1,00,000. On the recommendations of Itihad Khan, Shahjahan conferred on Anant Ray a command (*Mansab*) of 1,000 horses and gave him Palamau as the military chief, its *jama* being fixed at Rs. 2½ lakhs.

Third Invasion.

Up to this time the Muslims had succeeded, in spite of two invasions, in obtaining nothing but promises from the Palamau Chiefs who had practically continued the same policy for two decades. Every year the Muslims demanded their tribute, the Palamau Rajas neglected to pay it and continued their cattle-lifting raids along the frontiers. They encroached upon the imperial lands adjacent to their country. Aurangzeb,

therefore, ordered Daud Khan to invade Palamau early in 1660. Daud Khan, the Governor of Bihar, determined to teach a sharp lesson to the Chero Rajas and to subjugate their country completely.

PALAMAU FORT.

From the *Alamgirnama* we learn that the northern frontier of Palamau was only 50 miles from Patna. Palamau, the seat of the Chero Raja, was something of a City. It was fairly well populated with many *bazars* and protected by two strong forts, one on the summit of neighbouring hill, the other on the plain. There are two extensive forts of brick and stone which are well worth a visit. The walls, which are in fair preservation, are about five feet in thickness, and that the old fort bears marks of canon balls and bullets in many places. The gate leading to the old fort, the court room, temple and *zanana* quarters of the Raja as also the two deep but silted up wells in the old fort, are very interesting. Most interesting of all is the massive and beautifully carved stone gate (the *Nagpuri* gate) in the new fort and a round room, in which a well had been sunk to provide a supply of drinking water in case of a siege. The Auranga River flows close by. There are high hills and dense jungles all round. On the frontier, there were three great forts, viz., Kothi, Kunda and Devagan, and it was against these that Daud Khan proceeded to march.

He left Patna with a strong force on April 3, 1660. He reached Kothi, 6 miles south of Imamganj in the south of Gaya district on May 5, only to find that the enemy had abandoned it. He then moved on to Kunda, a strong hill fort, 14 miles south-south-east, but this short distance took his army just a month to traverse. This shows how the area was covered with dense forests and wild animals. But Daud Khan was determined to advance methodically and to secure a safe line of communication. He set his army to clear the jungle and make a road. On June 3, he reached Kunda and found that this fort also had been evacuated. He razed the fort to the ground, and then he camped his army, as further advance was prevented by the approach of the rains. He fortified the encampments being built at short distances between Kothi and Kunda in each of which he placed a garrison.

On October 25, at the end of the rains, the army 6,400 strong, resumed its march, but the progress was very slow owing to the very cautious tactics of Daud Khan. A large body of pioneers was sent ahead to clear the forest and to make a road. Outposts were established along the line of march. Every evening entrenchments were thrown up round the camp to prevent surprise attacks at night. In nine days the army had only advanced twenty miles, reaching Loharshi near Amanat river on November 3. Here some time was spent in fruitless negotiations but by December 9, Daud Khan had penetrated within two miles of Palamau. The Cheros, advancing from the fort, threw up entrenchments and prepared to make a final stand.

Daud Khan then offered the Chero Raja the final terms of the Emperor, viz., that he should submit, embrace Islam, and hold his State as a tributary chief. Before a reply was received, one of Daud Khan's captains, unable to suppress the eagerness of his soldiers, attacked the enemy's outworks on December 17. Daud Khan, hearing of the engagement, pushed forward with the rest of his force, threw up entrenchments within the enemy's fire, and commenced a bombardment, which lasted till sunset and put an end to the fighting. During the night, the Cheros brought two large canons from the fort, and mounting them on their bastions completely dominated Daud Khan's trenches which were on a lower level. The Muslims were equal to the emergency. They spotted a hill overlooking enemy's position, and dragged their guns up the hill, opened fire and quickly silenced the enemy.

The fighting had now lasted three days, and the Cheros unable to hold their position, retreated to the banks of the river and proceeded to erect breastworks along the line of hills running parallel to them, and to barricade the passes. Daud Khan following the same plan of clearing the country as he advanced, spent two or three days in felling the forest which intervened between him and the enemy, and then ordered a general advance. After a stubborn fight of six hours' duration, the Cheros fled into the fort.

It had been Daud's original plan to occupy the trenches dug by the enemy, and commence a siege. But the Muslim soldiers could not check their fury, and rushing to the river, they crossed it, and attacked the fortifications which surrounded the town at foot of the fort. The Cheros withdrew to the higher fort, where the Raja, who had sent his whole family and valuables away to the jungles, continued the defence. The imperialists, in the meantime, had taken the lower fortifications and stood before the gate of the upper fort, where the fight raged, till the first watch of the evening. Half a watch later, the Raja fled to the jungle, when the whole fort was occupied by Daud's army. The town was cleared of the Hindus, their temples were destroyed and the prayer for Allah's glory filled the place.[1]

The capture of the forts of Palamau in 1661 practically ended the struggle. The Cheros succeeded in maintaining the fort of Devagan for some time longer. But they were quickly expelled by a force sent by Daud Khan. The Muslim conquest was complete. Daud Khan remained for some time fortifying several strongholds and arranging for the administration of the country and then returned to Patna, leaving

1. Mannulal Library in Gaya has a painting on a large canvas indicating the deployment of Daud's army and the Chero army. There are names of the chiefs that had commanded the different sections on either side. Sri Shiu Prasad Mahajan, the public-spirited founder of the library procured this painting from the descendants of Daud Khan at Daudnagar in Gaya district. Sri Mahajan is sure of the authority of the painting which is a rare find.

Palamau in charge of Mankli Khan, a Muslim Fauzdar. The latter was removed in 1666. Palamau was then placed under the direct control of the Viceroy of Bihar, Laskar Khan, the new Bihar Governor. Thus since 1666 Palamau came under the direct control of the Viceroy of the Emperor in Bihar. Muslim historians have made an error in supposing that these invasions were in the time of Pratap Ray instead of Anant Ray. Bradley-Birt also followed the foot-steps of the Muslim historians, as he had also mentioned Pratap Ray and not Anant Ray. The error was due to the fact that Pratap Ray took the leading part in opposing the imperial forces and in offering the *Peshkash* (tribute). During the Muslim rule there was practically no interference. There were only some occasional risings.

Bhupal Ray came to the throne in 1661 only for four months. Many historians have missed him. Nothing untoward appears to have occurred during his short reign.

Medini Ray (1662—1674).

Medini Ray, the just, ruled for 13 years from 1662 to 1674. This Raja is, by far the most famous in the whole Chero line. He extended his sway over South Gaya and large parts of Hazaribagh and Sarguja. He invaded and defeated the Maharaja of Chotanagpur in his capital city of Doisa, now called Navaratragarh, 33 miles from Ranchi. With its spoils, he built one of the Palamau forts (the lower fort) near modern Satbàrwa, which played so important a part in the subsequent history of the district.* Medini Ray's memory has survived more for his justice than for his conquests. A popular Hindi couplet is even now current that "in the reign of Raja Medini Ray, no house was without a churner and butter". This must be attributed to the widely extended economic prosperity during his reign. It is said he moved in disguise from house to house to see if any one was without a cow or a buffalo. The wanting ones were given at least one on behalf of Ràja Medini. He levied no tax on income. Once he thought of exacting at least a shell from each headman as his tribute. Each headman presented him a gold shell instead as he had not demanded anything before. It is a popular story that this was due to the good influence of his queen who bathed on the lotus in the pond and the lotus did not sink due to her sweetness. He loved his subjects as his own children. There was complete peace and prosperity during his reign. There are many stories about his kindness and good rule.

Other Chero Chiefs.

Pratap Ray (1675—1681), the son and successor of Medini Ray, took up the second Palamau fort which was not complete. It remains, as it was left by the workmen, with large heaps of stones piled up in the courtyard, some cut, others just as they came from the quarry—a

*From an inscription in debased Sanskrit on a jamb of the second gateway of the new fort, it appears that the fort was built by Raja Medini Ray in *Sambat* 1619 Maghbadi 5 (8th January, 1634).

fitting monument of the great power of Medini Ray, which after his death was undermined by quarrel and dissensions among his family members. He had a short and uneventful reign.

Pratap Ray was followed by Rudra Ray, his brother, for a very short period only.

Drikpal Ray (1681—1697) was another brother of Pratap Ray. During his reign, Ibrahim Khan succeeded (1688 A. D.) Shaista Khan (1663—1688), Aurangzeb's maternal uncle, as the Subedar of Bengal and Bihar and the *jagir* of Paloon, etc. His Faujdar Biharidas raised the tribute from Rs. 1,36,000 to Rs. 1,40,000 by imposing an additional *Peshkash* of Rs. 4,140 on the *Jagirdars* of Palamau. But the Subedar never succeeded in realising the demand with any regularity. The same difficulty was experienced after 1668 and in 1720. Ibrahim Khan claimed tributes as under in 1668 :—

	Rs.
Sher	18,356
Sherghati	6,046
Japla	3,895
Belaunja	7,738
Devgan	3,553
Currumpur or Cohtee	9,120
Paloon	6,997
Coyra Orissa (Nagpur)	40,555
Sorgotcha (Sarguja)	20,000
Sayer of Paloon	10,963
Duty on hill merchants	4,000
Peshkash from Jagirdars of Paloon ...	4,140
Salami, etc.	5,560

Saheb Ray (1697—1716) was the son of Pratap Ray. Before him the Rajas of Palamau were independent sovereigns owing allegiance to none. During his reign the Delhi Emperor sent Nawab Abdulla Khan (1714) with an army to take possession of Palamau as a royal province. And from this time the Raja paid revenue to the kings of Delhi. Saheb Ray was followed by Ranjit Ray (1716—1722).

The Muslim emperors treated the country as a fief. They did not interfere so long as the tribute was regularly paid. To the south, the Chero Rajas retained their independence but the north was controlled by the Hindu or Muslim nobles.

According to Shitab Rai, nominally the Deputy of the Nawab, but in reality the Governor of Bihar, the rulers were still refusing to pay their tributes during the reign of Muhamad Shah (1719—48), one of the feeble successors of Aurangzeb. Subedar Sarbuland Khan, after

reducing Bhojpur, found it necessary to invade Paloon. This invasion must have coincided in time with the death of Ranjit Ray and the rise to power of the Babuan. It is possible that it was in some degree accountable for these happenings.

Nagbundi Singh of Nagpur, who is stated to have had at that time control over Palamau, Hazaribagh and Ranchi, finally paid Sarbuland Khan a lac of rupees—Rs. 45,000 in cash and the balance Rs. 55,000 in diamonds. Thereby Sarbuland Khan was induced to return with his troops to Patna. During the expedition Sarbuland Khan separated Sherghati and the parts below the ghats from the remainder of the *Jagir* and settled them with Mir Aziz Khan, a Rohilla adventurer, for Rs. 35,000. The succeeding Subedars were unenterprising and failed to realise the *Nazarana* from the hill tribes.

Ranjit Ray with the help of the Ramgarh Raja conquered Tori and held it for three years, probably up to the time of his death at the hands of Jai Krishna Ray. Rival factions had broken out. In 1772 a rebellion broke out in which Raja Ranjit Ray was defeated. He fled away but his place of concealment was quickly discovered by Amar Singh Diwan, by whose orders he was murdered and his place was taken by Jai Krishna Ray, the head of the Babuan, as the members of the younger branches of the ruling Chero family were called.

Jai Krishna Ray (1722—1770).

Jai Krishna Ray's long reign was eventful. It saw the decline of Muslim influence, rise of the Babuans to power, the inroads of the Marhattas and the insidious encroachment of the British power into Palamau.

In 1730, the Bihar Governor marched to Kunda and sent the Rohila renter of Sherghati in advance to Palamau. This force was stopped at the passes by big trees that had been felled. There were guerilla fights as well. The Rohila himself was killed and his son subsequently met a similar fate in a later affray. On hearing of this, Fughyr-ul-Dowlah, the Governor of Bihar, accepted a compromise by which the Palamau people agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 5,000 and the *Ghatwals* of Ramgarh, a tribute of Rs. 12,000 on behalf of the Raja of Nagpur. These revenues were paid for three years only.

In 1734, Alivardi Khan, the new Subedar, after reducing the Zamindari of Tikari and Sonout marched to Kunda, dismantled the Chatra Fort and compelled the Ramgarh and Palamau *Ghatwals* (as they were then called) to renew their engagements. He gave pardon and restored the Rajas of Tikari and Sonout and rented Palamau and Ramgarh to them. These zamindars immediately invaded Ramgarh and captured Vishnu Singh, the *Ghatwal*, whom they compelled to disgorge Rs. 80,000 by way of arrears of revenue. From that time onwards Rs. 12,000 was realised from Ramgarh and Rs. 5,000 from Palamau.

In 1740, in an expedition the Nawab undertook to subdue the chieftains of the hilly country. He was ambitious and thought that the Raja of Ramgarh should be curbed. This Raja was the most powerful of the Hindu Zamindars of the hills, and he had considerable influence. The Governors of the province had no control over him. He was joined in this design by Raja Sundar Singh and Raja Jai Krishna Ray, both zamindars of Palamau country, as well as by some other zamindars of Siris, Kutumba and Sherghati. Supported by such a confederacy, he laid siege to the fortress of Ramgarh and at last took it.

Marhatta Inroad.

Suddenly news was brought that Raghuji Bhonsla had sent his own *Pradhan* at the head of 40,000 horses to conquer Bengal and that in a few days they would pass close to him through the hills on their way to Bengal. He held consultations with his friends as the forces with him, at that time, were hardly equal to the task of barring the passage to the Marhattas. They all advised him to quit the hilly country of Palamau. Accordingly, he got out fast of Palamau. In a few days the Marhattas rushed through it. Palamau, however, seems to have escaped much of the usual ravages from the Marhattas. The Nawab raised troops to support the Emperor Shah Alam in his invasion of Bihar (1759—61). He founded the town of Hussainabad and for many years he lived there quietly until "he was pleased to depart to the merciful mansions of the Omnipotent King and was inhumed in the town which he had founded". On his death, Gulam Hussain Khan shortly went to Murshidabad and there his family *Jagir* was confirmed in his own name (1765).

Diwan Amar Singh died shortly after the murder of Ranjit Ray in 1722. Sanat Singh, grandson of Amar Singh of Ranka, became the Diwan. Sanat Singh fell out with Jai Krishna Ray. Upon this Jai Krishna Ray ordered Gajraj Ray (ancestor of Bishrampur family) to put Sanat Singh to death. Accordingly, Gajraj went to Ranka and under pretence of talking to Sanat Singh, secretly beheaded him with his sword. The Thakurais, incensed at this treacherous murder of Sanat Singh, collected a force. They attacked Jai Krishna Ray, who was shot by a matchlockman in the fight.

Jai Krishna's son, Chhatrapati Ray with his two sons, Gopal Ray and Karuna Ray along with Gajraj and Sugandha Ray, nephew of Jai Krishna, fled towards Sherghati in Bihar and took refuge in the home of Akhauri Udayant Ray, Kanungo.

British Intrusion.

Jainath Singh, a cousin of the murdered Sanat Singh, *Dewan*, placed Chhatrapati Ray on the *gadi* and constituted himself the *Dewan*. In the meantime Udayant Ray, Kanungo went to Patna taking Gopal Ray with him to seek redress at the hands of the British.

Captain Jacob Camac was appointed in 1768 to command the Southern Frontier Detachment, which watched over a stretch of country extending from Kharagpur Haveli (in Monghyr) to the Son River. In 1769, he had to rescue Kharagdiha from the depredations of Ramgarh and in the end of 1770 he was sent to repress the activities of the people who were ravaging the company's territory.

At this time both, Jainath Singh, the Thakurai, who supported Chhatrapati Ray for the Palamau Raj, and Gajraj Ray, on behalf of Gopal Ray, were in negotiations with the Patna Council. The country had been mercilessly ravaged by three years of civil war, during which the Raja's own State extending for nearly 30 *kosas* from the fort almost to Kunda was much devastated and depopulated.

The Patna Council was much troubled by the defaulting zamindars who made a practice of retreating to the hills with their treasure when called upon to pay their revenue. The Council was also unable to realise during the disturbance, the contribution of Rs. 5,000 a year from Palamau. The Council decided that they must, at any rate, obtain and keep the fort for themselves as a guarantee against similar defaults in the future irrespective of the considerations whether they sided with Gopal Ray or Chhatrapati Ray in the family quarrel.

Jainath Singh was not willing to surrender the fort. Consequently in December, 1770 the Council ordered to attack Palamau, if necessary, while Lt. Barland was moved with two companies from Shahabad to Aurangabad. Jainath Singh was negotiating through the Faujdar Gulam Hussain Khan though in Company's service but a secret supporter of Jainath Singh. At length in January, 1771 he wrote boldly that he would not surrender the fort, nor give an estate worth Rs. 6,000 to Gopal Ray, and refused to attend in person at Patna and to give security. But he professed that he could only agree to a revenue of Rs. 4,000 to be fixed in perpetuity. The Council in reply offered to confirm Chhatrapati Ray as Raja and to fix the revenue of Rs. 5,000 for 10 years, but insisted that the fort of Palamau should be surrendered. It was mentioned "having come to Patna and requested our protection shall receive lands to the amount of Rs. 8,000 a year as a rent-free *jagir* on resigning all further claims to the zamindari". An answer was demanded within 10 days. No answer was received (Jan. 21,1771). Captain Camac was ordered to proceed and he marched from Patna to Aurangabad in 22 hours. He met Gajraj on the way. Next day he pushed on and was met by Lt. Barland and Keating and Gopal Ray. Along with them he reached Kunda in two marches. The total strength of his detachment was 10 companies of infantry. Of these, he had to leave four in permanent posts. In addition, he was given one heavy gun. The principal zamindars held back as they did not like that Palamau should be in the Company's hands as it afforded them a good hiding place.

On January 26, 1771 Camac left Kunda and got through the first three passes and arrived before the fort without a shot fired. This he accomplished only by leaving his artillery and supply columns to follow later. The Raja abandoned the upper fort, on the top of a hill, for want of water. Camac occupied it easily. A day or two later, he rescued his first supply column which was being escorted by matchlockman. For the next few days, he could only maintain a blockade, while he awaited the arrival of his heavy gun. During this interval he beat off two night attacks from outside and suffered the loss of the greater part of a column which had gone out under the guidance of Gajraj Ray and Budhan Singh.

Food, however, was running short. When the force left Kunda each man carried food to last for four days only. The first supply column brought in only three days' rations. Gulam Hussain Khan and Narayan Singh of Siris and Kutumba failed to send the promised supplies. Camac discovered that Narayan Singh had actually supplied 400 best fighters to the Thakurais. Ramgarh and Sarguja were also helping them with men and money. The troops had, therefore, to be put on short rations. From February 5, the camp followers and servants received no food at all. On the 7th only one day's ration was left. On the 8th February Camac fell back to Jayanagar where he met Gulam Hussain Khan with a company of sepoys, 20 or 30 horses, 100 matchlockmen, 116 pack bullocks loaded with grain and Camac's own *bazar* cattle. Here Gajraj joined the party.

Next day, Camac's Sergeant Major came in from Sherghati after overcoming the opposition in the passes on his way. He had the heavy gun, two tumbrels, two hackeries, 50 bullocks loaded with ammunitions and over 100 loaded with grains. Meanwhile Camac was negotiating with Jainath Singh who killed a messenger sent to him with a letter, and demanded that the invaders should retire from the country leaving him the fort and the district at the former revenue, to be paid in money and kind.

Fort Captured.

On February 18, 1771, Camac again appeared before the walls of the fort, set up his heavy gun 150 yards from the wall, where it was made of brick and was thinner and more vulnerable than elsewhere. It is said that one Odwant Ray knew about a certain weak spot in one of the walls of the fort. He pointed it out to the British and the guns were directed to the spot. A breach was effected by a bombardment lasting for two days. On the third day storming parties advanced against this breach as well as against the Nagpur gate. The garrison within the fort did not wait for the assault but abandoned the fort in a body with a wild discharge of matchlocks and fled across the river (Auranga) with such a speed that a company stationed only 60 yards away were unable to intercept their retreat. Thus the fort was captured on February 20, 1771. But guerilla warfare followed for

four months. By June 21, the Thakurai quitted the country. Camac established a couple of outposts (thanas) on the Sarguja border to guard against his return.

GOPAL RAY (1771—1776).

Gopal Ray was made the Raja. On July 16, his brother was sent to Patna where a settlement was concluded with Vansittart on a revenue of Rs. 12,000 a year. The term of settlement was three years. It was considered that the country could not pay more on account of its devastated condition. The company retained the fort and supplied three months' reserve provisions.

Mukund Singh of Ramgarh was found making incursions into Bihar and helping the Thakurai and hence in July 1771, Camac proceeded to invade Nagpur. Meanwhile in February, 1772 the Thakurai's emissaries began to stir up troubles in the south-west of Palamau bordering on Sarguja. Camac fell ill and had to go to Patna. A rumour spread that the captain was dead. The whole district was soon in confusion. The Thakurai was strongly supported by Sarguja.

On April 24, 1772, Lt. Thomas Scott moved out two companies against him to the Udayapur *ghat*. After a reverse and obstinate dispute, the British troops broke up. Sergeant Pelvin was killed and Lt. Scott was shot through the leg. Scott retreated to Manatu on the extreme eastern boundary of the district. At Manatu, Scott was reinforced from Sherghati and thence returned to Jayanagar to keep up communications with the fort. In the meantime the Thakurai took Ranka from Gajraj's people. In May, Lt. Bateman joined Scott. They attacked the Thakurai in a strong position near Bishrampur where the Thakurai was pressing his special enemy Gajraj Ray and the Thakurai was routed on June 5. Next day they pressed him as far as Kaparmanda and hence he fled into Sarguja. This meant the exit of Jainath Singh. But he continued his intrigues with Mukund Singh and the Marhattas to attack Captain Camac and his ally. The Marhattas attacked Lt. Scott and Campbell in Palamau but in vain.

In 1773, there was a rising against the Raja and the Thakurai's depredations made it impossible for Raja Gopal to pay his revenue. Camac observed that an increase of revenue was not the object of the expedition but to form a barrier in the province by getting command of the hills and passes and winning over the people to the British. He wanted to secure the rich parganas from finding an asylum there without paying the revenue to the Government. Raja Gopal was hardly a success. Camac deemed it expedient to conciliate the southern Chero chiefs who had grown very powerful though holding aloof from the recent Palamau civil war, and to keep their quota of revenue very low. A revision of the three years' settlement was, therefore, necessary.

In October, 1772, Camac prepared to associate Gajraj Ray and Sugandh Ray with Gopal Ray in the new settlement. The Council gave him full discretion in the matter.

On February 8, 1773, the new *Kabuliat* for a five-year settlement (1180—84 F. S.) was approved. This document describes the country as Poondag alias Palamau and Deogan. The revenue was fixed at Rs. 6,000 for the first year, Rs. 8,000 for the second and Rs. 12,000 for the remaining three years.

In 1775, the Thakurais succeeded in inducing Gopal to summon Kanungo Udayant Ray to join him at his new Chateau at Shahpur, now a picturesque ruin on the west bank of river Koel, opposite Daltonganj, and murdered him brutally. The relatives of Udayant Ray appealed for assistance to the small detachment of British troop at Lesliganj which marched to Shahpur where Gopal was arrested along with his brother Karnapal in 1776. Gopal was tried at Chatra and imprisoned in Patna where he died (1784). Thus the five-year settlement, like the one which preceded it, was not allowed to complete its course.

After Gopal's removal, a veritable scramble for power took place. Gajraj assumed the role of the Manager, but Sugandh Ray and the Thakurai headed by Shiva Prasad Singh resisted him by force. Gajraj called in the Collector of Ramgarh, who arrived with two companies of sepoys. Gajraj was confirmed as Manager and the Collector proposed to make Gajraj zamindar and Raja of Palamau.

At this moment Daljit Ray, brother of Chhatrapati Ray, attempted once more to re-establish the fortunes of the house of Medini Ray. In 1780, the Governor ordered that Basant Ray, the third brother of Gopal Ray, was left as the sole successor to the *gaddi*, to the exclusion of Gajraj and Sugandh. The order was resisted. Major Crawford was sent to Palamau at the head of a military force to restore tranquility. He succeeded in doing so. He captured Gajraj in Belaunja, and drove his sons, along with Sugandh and his family into Singrauli (1781). Sugandh Ray was seen at Mankheri in Palamau. The ravages committed by Sugandh Ray prevented the Raja from sending in his *Diwan* to adjust the settlement. The return of the troops in 1784 induced him to retire to Sarguja.

In 1775, anonymous attacks were made on Captain Camac. It was urged that in order to improve the country and increase the revenue the administration should be transferred to a civilian. Mr. Heatley, the Collector of Pachete (Panchet) was appointed Collector of Ramgarh with Mr. Ramus as his assistant. The Southern Frontier Force continued to be stationed at Hazaribagh. The revenue of these districts

(called Balaghaut) with its headquarters at Ramgarh stood as under in 1775 :—

	Rs.
Ramgarh	30,000
Nagpur	12,000
Palamau	12,000
Kendy	2,000
Total	56,000

The annual cost of the upkeep of Captain Camac's battalion at this time was over Rs. 1,50,000 or nearly three times the revenue.

CIVIL COURT—BASANT RAY.

A Civil Court of judicature was established in 1781 for all these districts at Chatra for the administration of criminal and civil jurisdictions. The officer entrusted with the revenue became the judge in addition to his other work, subject to an injunction to keep his two duties distinct. In the circumstance of the wildness of the country the regulations could not possibly have more than a nominal operation in the interior.

Raja Basant Ray died at the age of 17 in 1783. Although he was too young to manage his own affairs, yet no manager was appointed and matters were left in the hands of the '*Amla*'. This was an opportunity for Shiva Prasad and the Thakurais, of which they took full advantage. The mother of Basant Ray maintained an opposition for three years (1783—86) against them, although her title to do so had practically disappeared with the death of her son and the succession of her step son Churaman Ray. This period is known as "the *amaldari* of *Tikaiteen*".

CHURAMAN RAY (1784—1813 A. D.).

Shiva Prasad Singh, nephew of Jainath Singh not only returned (1780) but succeeded in winning the favour with Gopal. From this time, for nearly 20 years, he was one of the most important persons in the district. In 1786 Mr. Leslie, the Collector, made the Settlement direct with Thakurai Shiva Prasad Singh. There is no mention of Churaman's name in the *sanad* of 1786, but in the terms of Government orders at the time of the Decennial Settlement of 1789, the estate was to continue as heretofore in the management and responsibility of Shiva Prasad Singh on behalf of the minor Raja Churaman Ray.

Shiva Prasad who was pro-British first defied the Collector and took arms against him. The Thakurais recovered all their lost property and added to it. Churaman Ray grew negligent and incompetent.

Matthews Leslie attempted by the terms of the grant to guard against recurrence of some of the misfortunes of the past. Shiva

Prasad bound himself in 1786 to satisfy the *raiyats*, to maintain specified kinds of tenures, to abstain from collecting *Abwabs*, to repair bridges, to police the country and to give rent receipts.

Leslie fixed the amounts of the old jagirdars of Bisrampur and Deogan to be paid to the Raja. He confirmed Deogan to Sugandh Ray, while Gajraj was in prison as an outlaw. Leslie gave his eldest son Chhatrapati Ray, the Bisrampur estate acquired by Gajraj, and the Baraon *jagir* to the second son Dharni Ray. The Thakurais were established in all they had previously held. Ram Bux Singh, son of the defeated Diwan Jagannath, returned from Sarguja and confirmed in the tenure of all the land that he was able to take possession of. The revenue payable to Government by the Raja was Rs. 12,182 after commutation of *sayer* charges, but the Raja had also to pay for the police. Of the total estimated assets of the pargana there is some uncertainty.

In 1789 the settlement stood as under :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Revenue payable by the *jagirdars* ...	9,217	13	5
Revenue payable by the *ijardars* ...	2,659	10	6
Lump sum payable by the tribes for jungle cultivation.	1,585	8	0
Revenue from Koa and Kath ...	1,216	8	3
Value of Khas villages ...	3,942	6	0
Total	18,621	14	2

Raja Churaman Ray came of age in 1793. But before this his Manager, Shiva Prasad Singh of Ranka, had started a policy of commuting a portion of the rents payable by under-tenure-holders to the Raja in return for a lump sum. Seven such transactions took place during the minority, as a result of which the annual assets of the Raja had decreased by over Rs. 400. It was during the time of the minority too that the *jagirdars* had accepted an arrangement by which their services were commuted in return for an enhanced rental equivalent to 3/8th of the gross annual value of their interest. In Palamau these services of the *jagirdars* had become unnecessary after the British occupation. Active military operations were still necessary in Palamau for the suppression of the Pindaris and the defeat of the Marhattas. But most of these military operations were directly caused by the turbulence of the *jagirdars* themselves.

But as Diwan Shiva Prasad Singh and all the head servants of the Raj were themselves the principal *jagirdars*, their interest was at variance with their duty, and each took advantage of the youth of the Raja to reduce the rent of his own lands, and increase their extent, whenever feasible, by placing, in the list of *jagirs*, villages that were held at will.

Personal Rule (1793—1800).

For the first eight years of his personal management Churaman Ray was able to meet his public obligations but not without difficulty. During and after this period he continued the policy of commuting rents for lump sums, until by about 1812 he had reduced his annual rent roll by as much as Rs. 2,564 a sum which represented the greater part of his personal income. Meanwhile he resorted to other devices to keep his coffers full. But here he sometimes found himself restrained by the Courts, which were now for the first time making their powers generally felt. For example, he resumed the Deogan estate in 1797 on the death of Sugandh Ray, and held it for two years, but the Collector compelled him to restore it to the son of Sugandh Ray. Similarly he resumed the Lokeya estate (now known by the various names of Pathara, Lokeya, Narainpur and Narasinghpur). It appears that this property was held in service conditions by the family of Pati Singh, but the Raja had always bestowed it on whomsoever he pleased within the family. The family brought a suit against the Raja and recovered the estate. The resumption of 35 villages, which the Raja himself had previously bestowed upon the Kanungo, Akhouri Shiva Charan, was not allowed by the Court. Such resumptions had been freely made by all the Rajas before Churaman Ray.

In spite of these set-backs the Raja succeeded in resuming estates of his weaker tenants. Between 1789 and 1820 one-third of the Chero *jagirs* had been resumed. The Manatu estate was taken from its former owners on account of the arrears and sold. The greater part of the Nawagarh *jagir* and several other tenures went the same way.

Chero Insurrection, 1800.

The recourse to resume subordinate tenures provoked a general indignation and led directly to the Chero insurrection in 1800. The whole country rose in revolt led by Bhukhan Singh, a Chero. British troops were called into operation against the insurgents under the command of Col. Jones with two battalions. Raja Fateh Narayan Singh of Deo and Shiva Prasad Singh of Ranka helped the British. Col. Jones spent two years campaigning in Palamau and Sarguja, where the insurgents found active support. The two battalions marched into Sarguja to enforce reparation for their outrages. Bhukhan Singh died on the gibbet in 1802. But Lt. Higgot had still to keep a force in Belaunja, to drive out the last of the rebels. When the insurrection had been quelled, things went from bad to worse. The Raja and the administration had been reduced to bankruptcy and disorder.

Sazawal System.

Up to 1799 the British Government followed the system of collecting the revenue through a *Sazawal*. The Raja granted an *imdad* to a *Sazawal* appointed by the Government. The revenue of specified estates and villages in liquidation were assigned. These *Sazawals* exacted as much as they could. The Chero insurrection must be attributed to the proceedings of the *Sazawal*. The system was at once ordered to be discontinued.

It was difficult to make collections from a dissatisfied tenantry. The Raja was debarred from exercising the arbitrary powers of resuming the *jagirs* formerly enjoyed by his predecessors. The country had been cruelly ravaged and the *jagirdars* were both unwilling and unable to pay their quotas. There was a severe famine which added to the misery of the people.

Assistant Collector, 1810.

Palamau which had been previously administered along with Chotanagpur, Ramgarh, Kendi, Chakai, Kharagdiha and Sherghati by the Judge—Magistrate—Collector of Ramgarh was transferred in 1800, along with these places to the revenue jurisdiction of Bihar from the Board at Calcutta. But the Civil and Criminal jurisdiction still remained in the hands of the Magistrate at Ramgarh. The political control was divided between the Collector and the Commandant of the Ramgarh Battalion. The arrangements of 1800 did not prove satisfactory in practice. On 29th July, 1808 with a view to facilitate collection of revenue of the hill and jungle estate on the western frontier of the provinces of Bengal and Bihar, the Government resolved that the Registrar of the Zila Court of Ramgarh shall likewise be Assistant to the Collector of Bihar. R. Walpole accordingly took charge at once. In January, 1810 Walpole was deputed to the Palamau estate to effect the realisation of the arrears but he never reached there.

Parry's Settlement.

Parry succeeded Walpole and reached Palamau in 1811. Parry took from each *jagirdar* and *malgujar* separately a *kistbandi* on stamped paper binding them to pay the amount into the treasury at Chatra assessed on them at the Decennial Settlement. He annulled by proclamation the *sanads* of the Raja and re-established the settlement of Mr. Leslie.

Bikramajit Singh of Chainpur and Chhatrapati Ray of Bisrampur frustrated all his attempts to re-establish the Decennial Settlement. They resisted all orders and process of the Courts. The Raja of Palamau made over to him a portion of the rent equal to the amount of the annual revenue and promised to make over a further portion. The whole sum paid by the Raja amounted to Rs. 16,000 and thus it was thought expedient to reduce the arrears due to Government.

In 1812 very little alterations were made by Mr. Parry in the assessment of 1789. But he annulled all *sanads* granted by Churaman Ray and took over direct collection himself. The Board confirmed Parry's arrangement, whether it was unauthorised or irregular. The Palamau estate was attached. The revenue was collected in accordance

with Leslie's settlement. Only 10 per cent was allowed to the Raja for subsistence.

Captain Roughsedge, Commandant of Ramgarh Battalion and the most influential adviser of Government to political questions affecting this part of the country, was pressing vehemently for the sale of the estate. He complained that the Raja did not provide supplies and transport for Captain Higgot's force operating in the district at the time. Captain Roughsedge insisted on the sale of the Palamau estate granting it to his loyal friend the Raja Fateh Narayan Singh of Deo, who accompanied him on campaigns against the Pindaris as well as against Sambalpur, Nawagarh, Sirguja and Rewa. The Governor-General in Council authorised the sale (14th November 1812) of the pargana of arrears amounting to Rs. 55,000 and sanctioned its purchase on behalf of Government. The intention of Government to buy the pargana was kept a secret. The limit to which bids might be made was fixed at Rs. 1,05,000. The estate was sold and purchased by Government for Rs. 51,000 only.

The following extract regarding this transaction is taken from Hamilton's description of Hindostan (1820) and mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau*, 1926 :—

"In 1814, arrears having accumulated to the amount of Rs. 55,700 owing to the incapacity of the Raja Churaman Rai, and the refractory conduct of the disaffected *jagirdars* the *pargana* was brought to the hammer, and purchased by Government for Rs. 51,000. The general regulations for the public dues and administration of justice had before extended to this estate, in common with the other places dependent on the Bengal Presidency; but in consequence of the wild state of the country, consisting chiefly of hills and forests, and the rude manners of its inhabitants, these regulations could not be said to have more than a nominal operation in the interior. In fact, the realization of the revenue partook more of the nature of voluntary contributions than of that active and punctual enforcement of the rights of Government which was practised in all the other old districts and from which the landholders of Palamau had no peculiar claims to exemption. Besides these reasons, being a frontier station, it became of importance to vest the possession of the *pargana* in a person possessed of sufficient firmness to coerce the *jagirdars*, without oppressing them by illegal exactions or other severities.

"For the accomplishment of these purposes, Raja Fateh Singh was selected, but he died in 1814, while the arrangement was under discussion, and at the recommendation of Captain Edward Roughsedge, then commanding the Ramgarh Battalion, the rights of Government were transferred to his son Raja Ghansham Singh. In effecting this measure, Government made a considerable pecuniary sacrifice; but the objects proposed to be carried into execution were important as, besides rewarding a loyal and meritorious family, it provided for the internal management of the estate, for the realisation of the revenue, and eventually for the general protection of a vulnerable frontier. It was at the same time deemed of primary moment that the rights and immunities of the *jagirdars* should be maintained inviolate, for the furtherance of which object it was ordered that the amount of land-tax payable by each *jagirdar* respectively should be endorsed on the back of the document which transferred the district to Raja Ghansham Singh, in order to prevent future litigation and to give stability to the arrangement. Nor did the prior zamindar, Raja Churaman Rai, sustain any real injury by the sale of his estate. He had long been a mere cipher in its management and nearly an idiot in understanding, dissolute, extravagant and thoughtless, a character which unfortunately applies with two much justice to almost all the jungle zamindars. He was so indolent as wholly to abandon his station and responsibility and was always ready to give *carte blanche* to any person who would undertake to supply with 5 or 6 rupees daily for his personal expense. This miserable chief of a distracted territory had no lineal heirs and the collateral pretender was utterly unfit for the vocation."

Captain Roughsedge recommended a low revenue and summary power to oust the defaulting tenure-holders. The assessment of the State was reduced in 1814 to Rs. 9,000 when granted to Ghansham Singh, son of Fateh Narayan Singh of Deo in Gaya district. It was a reward for services he and his family had rendered on several occasions in quelling the disturbances of the turbulent Cheros and Kharwars.

Rising of 1817.

There was a great rising in which the smaller Chero tenure-holders appeared to take the leading part. But it was really organised by the great *jagirdars*. Thakurai Rambux Singh of Chainpur was perhaps one of the participants, according to some correspondence captured by Major Roughsedge. They invoked the help of Sirguja. The disturbances were put down. The estates of Bikramajit Singh, son of Rambux of Chainpur, Shiva Prasad Singh of Ranka, Chhatradhari Singh (Pathara Narayanpura) of Lokeya, Gajpati Ray of Bisrampur, Jita Singh of Obra, Shiva Raj Singh of Kuraha, Pahalwan Singh and Puran Singh were attached. Jita Singh and Shiva Raj Singh were sentenced as *sardars* of dacoits to life imprisonment in Alipur jail.

Rising of 1832.

In 1824 the Board had expressed apprehension that the *pargana* would never be peaceful until all agrarian questions were set at rest. The people rose in 1832, a year of serious disturbances also in the Ranchi district and the Cheros and Kharwars of Palamau had joined them.

The Kols attacked the Hindus, Muslims and others who were settled in their villages, drove them from the homes and property which were burnt or plundered. Those who fell in their hands were sacrificed.

The Company's troops were checked near Satbarwa where they marched from Lesliganj. Cuthbert and Captain Wilkinson sent four companies of Infantry, a squadron of cavalry and a gun from Ranchi and additional troops moved from Sherghati. Some *jagirdars* and Rana Bahadur Singh, son of Churaman Ray, joined the British. The insurgents were defeated and dispersed near Latehar.

The British rule, in this manner, slowly led to the extinction of Chero Kingship. But the idea based on the past tradition lingered and had a flare up some time later in the insurrections of 1857. Bradley Birt had thought that "the Cheros, deprived of their ancient line of chiefs, were no longer the prime movers". This was not very correct, as Dr. Jagdish Narain Sarkar has observed in his article on Palamau *Jagirdars* in Bihar Research Society Journal, Vol. XLI, Part IV, 1955 : "Indeed, it is not surprising to find that attempts to restore the Chero dynasty would be made in 1857. Further, the traditional Chero-Rajput animosity was fanned not only by this spirit of restoration but by the entente between the British Government and the Rajput Thakurais. Moreover this party alignment was also dictated by feudal agrarian discontent of the *Jagirdars* and their risings in 1800, 1817 and 1832 were but the faint presages of the coming storm a few years later."

Regarding the socio-political organisation of the Kharwars who also joined the 1857 Movement Dr. Jagdish Narain Sarkar mentions in the same article : "unlike the Cheros, the Kharwars had very few *Jagirdars* among them. One section (*gosthi* or clan) of these, the Bhogtahs occupied an unassailable position in the area lying between the lowlands of Palamau and the uplands of Sirguja and possessed almost inaccessible mountain fastness. They were lawless free booters, whose predatory habits were somewhat repressed by the British Government conferring one *jagir* on two brothers, Nilambar and Pitambar Sahi, who shared the headship of the Bhogtah clan after the death of their father, an outlaw."

1857 Movement.

Regarding 1857 Movement, it has been observed by P. C. Roy Choudhari in "1857 in Bihar (Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas)" :—

"But the district that was most severely affected was Palamau. In this district the whole countryside was aflame and it was a real national uprise. The common man and the landed proprietor made a common cause. There was less of the movement from the military but more from the civil population. It was in this district that one of the two causes of a rebellion, namely, a sense of power acted as the main inspiration. The Bhogtahs and the other tribal chiefs realised their helplessness in the present set up and really wanted to throw away the halter round their neck."

The following quotation from the same book "1857 in Bihar (Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas)" will indicate the trends of the

1857 Movement in Palamau district :—

"Regarding the course of the Mutiny the account from the 'Minute of the Lt. Governor on the Mutinies as they affected the Lower Provinces' may be reproduced from the last *District Gazetteer* of Palamau :—

"The population of Palamau district is composed chiefly of two tribes—the Cheros and the Kharwars, with a sprinkling of Kols and other savages, who took little part in the outbreak, and a few Brahmans, Rajputs and others, who were opposed to the insurgents. The Cheros, a spurious family of Rajputs, said to have originally come from Kumaon a few centuries since, dispossessed the original reigning family and established one of their own chieftains in their room. His descendants continued long to hold the chiefship and the representative of the family, the last Raja died within the last few years, leaving no direct heirs. The Cheros having thus established themselves, strengthened their position by conferring *jagirs* on their followers, and number of these *jagirdars*, with impoverished and deeply mortgaged estates, still exist. The Kharwars are also settlers said to have come originally from the hills west of Rohtas. They are divided into several clans, of which the principal are the Bogtahs, with whom alone we are now concerned.

"This tribe, inhabiting an elevated plateau between the high lands of Sirguja and the low country of Palamau, from which they are further separated by a range of hills, of which they hold the passes, and possessing almost inaccessible fastness have been long known as a race of turbulent free-booters, and their late chief died an out-law. On his death it was considered a wise policy to confer this territory in *jagir* on his sons, Nilambar and Pitambar, with a nominal quit-rent, and the policy was long successful in suppressing the natural marauding tendencies of these chiefs. Unfortunately, however, Pitambar was at Ranchi, when the outbreak took place and thinking that here was the end of British rule, and still further confirmed in this opinion by the behaviour of the two companies of the 8th N. I., who passed through Palamau on their way to join Amar Singh, the two brothers determined on declaring their independence, their first efforts being directed against the loyal Rajput *Jagirdars*, Thakurai Raghubar Dayal Singh, and his equally loyal cousin, Thakurai Kishun Dayal Singh, with whom they had long been at feud. Many of the Chero *Jagirdars* were induced to join them, partly on the promise made of placing a Chero chief on the throne, partly, no doubt, in the hope of retrieving their now impoverished and decayed fortunes; and late in October a force of about 500 Bogtahs, with others of the Kharwar clans and a body of Cheros, under the leadership of Nilambar and Pitambar, made an attack on Chaipur, Shahpur and Lesligunj. The attack on Chainpur, by the rebels on October 21, 1857, was directed as has been said against the loyal zamindars. Raghubar Dayal and Kishun Dayal Singh, on account of ancient enmities, was repulsed; but at Lesliganj they succeeded in doing some damage, destroying the public buildings, pillaging the place, and

committing some murders. Lt. Graham, who was at this time officiating as Junior Assistant Commissioner in the district having advanced with a small body of not more than 50 men the Bogtahs retreated into the hills of Sirguja, whither, in consequence of the smallness of his force, he could not pursue them, and he was obliged to await reinforcements at Chainpur.

"By the end of November the whole country appeared to be up in arms, and Lt. Graham, with his small party, was shut up and besieged in the house of Raghubar Dayal, whilst the rebels were plundering in all directions. It had been proposed to send the Shekhawati Battalion into Palamau: but at my urgent request two companies of H. H.'s 13th L. I., which were at this time quartered at Sasaram, directed to proceed under command of Major Cotter to the relief of Lt. Graham. I at the same time called upon the Deo Raja to furnish a contingent for service in the disturbed district. On the 27th November the station of Rajhara had been attacked by a very large body of Bogtahs, and Messrs Grundy and Malzer, who were employed there on the part of the Coal Company, after holding their house as long as possible, at last with some difficulty made their escape.

"Two companies under Major Cotter, with two guns, accompanied by Mr. Baker, the Deputy Magistrate of Sasaram, crossed the Son near Akharpur on the 30th November. Instructions meanwhile had been sent to Lt. Graham that on being relieved he was at once to fall back with the force, advancing again hereafter when he should have the means of doing so. The detachment reached Shahpur on the 8th December, and were joined by Lt. Graham. One of the principal leaders of the insurgents, Debi Baksh Rai, was at this time captured. On the advance of the force, he rebels retreated; but burnt the village of Manika, near Palamau Fort, and destroyed the house of Bhikhari Singh, a zamindar of some influence, who had lent great assistance to Lt. Graham. Major Cotter was ordered to return to Sasaram *via* Sherghati to clear the *ghats* in the direction, and Lt. Graham accompanied him for some distances but the rebel force seemed to be breaking up, the capture of Debi Baksh Rai noted above had the effect of disheartening them, and the Deo Raja having now joined with his contingent of 600 matchlockmen and 100 sowars, I permitted that officer to return, and, advancing towards his former position, he reached Kishunpur on the 22nd December. Patan Ghat, which had been held by the Bogtahs, was abandoned on his approach. The rebels also withdrew from Chainpur, having made an unsuccessful attack on Ranka fort, where they were repulsed by Kishun Dayal.

"By this time Lt. Graham had received a further reinforcement of 600 men, supplied by the Sarbarahkar of Sirguja, and was able not only to maintain his position, but to act on the offensive, and hearing that Premananda, *Ilakadar* of Kunda, was in the neighbourhood, he sent out a party which surprised this chief, the most influential leader of the Kharwar tribe, with four of his principal men and 75 followers. Nilambar Sahi was still collecting men, and had lately plundered two villages; he, however, kept most carefully to the jungles, and allowed no opportunity of attacking him. Sirguja was also invaded by the followers of the Singhrauli Raja, a contumacious dependent of the Rewah Raja, from whom he had no authority for thus acting.

"On the 16th January Captain Dalton himself started for Palamau with 140 men M. N. I. under Major MacDonell, a small party of Ramgarh Cavalry, and a body of matchlockmen under Perganait Jagat Pal Singh, a chief who on this and other occasions displayed very remarkable loyalty and attachment to the Government, and has been rewarded with a title, a *khilat* and pension. He reached Manika on the 21st January, and being joined during the night by Lt. Graham, next morning after a reconnaissance of the Palamau Fort finding that it was held by the enemy, they determined on an immediate attack, and advancing in three columns, against which the enemy for some time kept up a brisk but ill-directed fire, succeeded in dislodging them, when they fled, leaving guns, ammunition, cattle, supplies, and baggage behind them. Ten bodies of the enemy were found; our loss amounted to only one killed and two wounded. Letters to Nilambar and Pitambar Sahi and Haklout Manjhi were found with the baggage, and amongst them communications from Amar Singh, promising immediate assistance from Kuer Singh. Some leading insurgents were captured about this time. Tikait Umrao Singh and his *Dewan* Sheikh Bhikhari were convicted of being concerned in the rebellion, and executed.

"The Commissioner remained at Lesliganj till the 8th February, collecting supplies and making preparations, and he now determined on forcing the passes into the Bogtah country, having with him a force of upwards of 2,000 men, whilst that of Nilambar and Pitambar were said to be much reduced and not to number more than 1,000. Meanwhile, he had issued *parwanas* for the attendance of various *jagirdars*, most of whom readily responded to his call; but the most powerful and influential of them all, Babu Bhawani Baksh Rai, head of the Chero family, did not, for some time, make his appearance, and was said to be collecting a large force to oppose Captain Dalton, and to have entertained a number of the Ramgarh mutineers. On the 3rd of February, however, he too came in, and thus removed a principal obstacle to our onward movement. Having divided his force, Captain Dalton sent one body with Kishun Dayal Singh and others to Shahpur to advance against the Baghmara Ghat, whilst he himself moved to attack on the Tungari Ghat. As he approached this place on the 10th February, he learned that the insurgents, who had held possession of the pass, were plundering the village of Harnamanr in his immediate neighbourhood. Lt. Graham, with a party of sowars, dashed on, and succeeded in intercepting the enemy, and rescuing a band of captives and a herd of cattle which they were in the act of driving off. Three prisoners were also taken, one a leader of some consequence. Two

out of the three were hanged, whilst the third was kept for the sake of information, which he seemed able and willing to communicate.

"No opposition was attempted to their entering the Bogtah country, and on the 13th they reached Chemu, on the banks of the Koel, the principal residence of the insurgent brothers, where they had a fortified house. Captain Dalton crossing the Koel, the rebels did not await his attack in the village but retreated and took up positions behind masked breastworks of stones on the sides and ridge of a hill overhanging the village. These were carried in succession, and the enemy put to flight. A *dafadar* of the Ramgarh Cavalry was killed at the beginning of the flight. The village and the fortified house were afterwards destroyed as was Saneya, another stronghold of the rebels close to Chemu, which was also found deserted. Large quantities of grain were seized, as well as herds of cattle; and several herdsmen, who had been captured by the rebels, were released.

"The Commissioner remained in the Bogtah country till the 23rd of February, but was not successful in capturing the ring leaders, Nilambar and Pitambar. Parties were constantly sent out in all directions, who penetrated to their hill and jungle fastnesses, in some instances, as was evident, just as the fugitives had made their escape. A few influential men were taken; but neither threats nor promises had any effect in inducing them to reveal the hiding-places of their chiefs. A full retaliation was, however, exacted for all the mischief done by them. Their villages were destroyed, their goods and cattle seized, and their estates confiscated to the State; but whilst stern justice was thus meted out to the inciters of this rebellion, every endeavour was made to conciliate their less guilty followers and the inhabitants of the country, which now seemed to be gradually settling down.

"In the Nowagarh hills a body of rebels was collected in the middle of March under Ganpat Rai and Bishunath Sahi. Captain Dalton proceeded to Lohardaga with the intention of attacking them, but falling ill was obliged to depute the duty to Captain Oakes, who with a party consisting of Madras Rifles, Ramgarh Irregular Cavalry, and 160 of the Kol and Santal Levy, under the command of Captain Nation, by a rapid march succeeded in surrounding the enemy, who were so completely surprised that they made no resistance. Bishunath Sahi was captured on the spot, and Ganpat Rai, who succeeded for the time in making his escape, was soon taken and brought in by some zamindars and matchlockmen, who had been sent in pursuit. These rebels were afterwards tried, found guilty, and executed.

"Nothing worthy of being recorded has since happened in the district of Palamau, and the restoration of complete tranquillity and confidence seems now only to be a question of time. Nilambar and Pitambar Sahi are still at large, miserable fugitives deserted by their followers, and the Commissioner is of opinion that no further danger need be apprehended from them. I must not quit the subject without recording my high admiration of the conduct of Lt. Graham, who, without another Englishman near him, surrounded by thousands of the enemy, never thought of retreat, and by maintaining his post, prevented the district from falling entirely into the hands of the insurgents."

To this narrative, the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* by O'Malley (1907) adds :—

> "To the above account it will suffice to add that Nilambar and Pitambar Sahi were eventually captured, tried and hanged; and with their capture the district was tranquilized. Thakurai Raghubar Dayal Singh of Chainpur, Thakurai Kishun Dayal Singh of Ranka and Bhikhari Singh of Manika were granted *jagirs* in recognition of the local services they had rendered".

Troubles in 1858.

This lengthy quotation from the last District Gazetteer has been given to present one side of the picture as the British administrator took the movement to be. It will not be, however, correct to state that the mutiny in Palamau was actually over by the beginning of 1858 with the arrest and execution of Nilambar and Pitambar. There are a number of letters in the Record Room of the Commissioner of Chotanagpur Division, Ranchi, which indicate that "the smouldering fire of the movement continued to be kindled by a favourable breeze". Dr. J. N. Sarkar in his article on "Palamau Jagirdars" already referred to mentions a number of such letters. Some more letters have been discovered and referred to later.

Background of the Revolt.

Apart from the opposition of the Cheros, Bogtahs and the Kharwars there is no doubt that the immediate cause of the movement in Palamau was supplied by the rise in Ranchi and Hazaribagh. Pitambar, as mentioned, actually saw the havoc in Ranchi by the outbreak of the Ramgarh Battalion. On his return to Palamau and taking advantage of the advance of the Hazaribagh Regiment through Palamau towards Rohtas he gave the signal to the Bogtahs. It cannot be doubted that the slipping of the power had been nursed by the hilly tribes with great resentment and they wanted to utilise the opportunity to make a bid for independence. But the signal was not confined to the particular sections of the hilly tribes alone. The movement percolated to the masses. The Chero-Bogta alliance had their first target of attack on Thakurai Raghubar Dayal Singh who was taken as the common enemy and the protege of the British. It is difficult to hold with Captain Dalton that the Cheros and Bogtahs merely wanted to supplant Thakurai for the old grudge. The move was deeper and Thakurai was attacked more as an agent of the British and the symbolic object of attack. The documents that are still available indicate a quick spread into the interior of the Palamau area in spite of the zamindar agents of the British trying

to stem the tide. It is also possible that the economic condition of the Cheros added fuel to the fire. A large number of small Chero *Jagirdars* in the district had come into existence and they had mostly mortgaged their small estates. Dalton held that many proprietors might have joined the insurgents to avoid their incumbrances. This does not seem impossible.

The account to the movement that has been quoted from the last District Gazetteer could be supplemented by the details of the movement as mentioned by Dr. J. N. Sarkar in his article on "Palamau *Jagirdars*". He has divided the details into two sections, one part from October, 1857 to February, 1858 and the other part from February to November, 1858. As the quotation from the District Gazetteer does not refer to the details of the movement in the second part (February to November, 1858) this period will be briefly referred to.

Shahabad and Palamau.

The district of Shahabad, the home of the stormy petrel Kuanr Singh on the border of Palamau had always a great influence on the latter. After the death of Kuanr Singh on the 26th April, 1858, his brother, Amar Singh took up the standard and for some time held out and gave a stiff resistance. The Shahabad mutineers had spread and reached Palamau. The disaffected Bogtahs were contacted by messengers from Shahabad and an attempt was made to bring over the Bogtahs to the help of Amar Singh's army. On 30th September 1858 the Commissioner informed the Lt. Governor of Bengal that the Bogtas and the Shahabad rebels must not be allowed to join up. For this reason the Commissioner wanted the approval of the Lt. Governor for keeping Captain Dale's volunteers in Palamau and also Lt. Reeves to be left with a contingent of Kol and Santal levy. He further wanted that the officers of the detachment of the Ramgarh Battalion on their way back from Sambalpur should be furnished.

In November, 1858 some rebel sepoys from Shahabad had crossed the Sone and reached Majhiaon and were expected to attack Garhwa. This was the signal for a body of 500 insurgent Bogtahs to start plundering again. Captains Davies and Dale were joined by Lt. Graham with reinforcement on the 9th November, 1858 and the insurgents were subdued. The Bhaya of Chechari professed submission. From Lesligunj the British forces were divided for a two-pronged pincer movement. Dr. J. N. Sarkar's description of the later events may be quoted *in extenso* :—

> "While Captain Davies advanced towards Sunya (Saneya) near Chechari, Lt. Graham made a detour southwards *via* Ramkundah. The small guard and armed police of the Burgar thana, apprehending attack by a large body of insurgents, made a planned strategic retreat across the river Kunhar into Sirguja (18th November, 1858). At once the thana building was demolished by a section of the Bogtahs led by Bhoja and Bharat, who also started cutting the crops. The guard escaping to Sirguja across the Kunhar procured two Kols as guides to conduct them by a narrow path through a long great jungle right on the Bogtah marauders". They were surprised and suffered heavy casualties, with 16 killed, 30 wounded, and 3 prisoners. The two leaders were, however, mounted and taken off, only three on the Government side were wounded.

On 24th November, 1858 a part of rebels under Umee Singh (Amar Singh) encamped at Kurondah (Koranda). Amar Singh's name is associated with one Durga Singh and both are remembered in the popular couplet.

अमर सिंह के कमर टुटल दुर्गा सिंह के ढाल।

It is not known who this Durga Singh is. Some allege that he hailed from Belounja. Though the party was not very large, the Commissioner suggested to the Government that reinforcements in the shape of two European companies be sent to Ranchi, either for arresting the advance of the rebels towards Chotanagpur or support Captain Davies, if necessary, and that the Madras infantry at Ranchi might then be sent to Singhbhum.

Up to 30th November, 1858, 1,100 rebels actually entered Palamau under Sedhua Singh (Soadha Singh). Another leader was probably Ram Bahadur Singh of Sunya (Saneya), the residence of the insurgent Bogtahs. 600 out of the above number had sepoys' muskets. Another body of 900 was reported to be converging on Saneya.

In compliance with Lt. Graham's request to the authorities in Bihar, a portion of Brigadier Douglas's force was expected to reinforce Graham at Chainpur in Palamau, where his position was "defensible". Captain Davies at Chechari acted judiciously and correctly on first getting information of the advance of the Shahabad mutineers.

The strategy of the British was this. The rebels could not long remain in Maya hills without getting supplies and if they found the road to Chotanagpur open, they would certainly advance towards it. Captain Davies was holding a very strategic position to check them. He must not attempt to join Lt. Graham. The small Palamau force should, however, be concentrated and interposed to block the escape of the mutineers from Saneya towards Chotanagpur. Hence the Commissioner urged on the Government the expediency of sending troops not only to Palamau but to Chotanagpur as well, and suggested that two companies of H. M. 29th foot expected at Hazaribagh was at once ordered to Ranchi, and another company or two sent to Hazaribagh in their place.

From 11th November to 1st December, 1858, Captain Davies acted judiciously in halting at Akoser (Aksi) village thereby preventing the mutineers from getting supplies therefrom. It also occupied "an excellent position" for his force in co-operation with that of the Rai of Sirguja "to prevent the rebels from proceeding or retreating in southerly or easterly direction".

An army nearly 500 strong (H. Th. 29th Ry-300: Do. 37th-70; 3rd Regular Punjab Cavalry-116) joined Lt. Graham at Chainpur, on 13th November, they took post at Mayapore one march only from the rebel's position. Lt. Graham added to the force 170 sepoys of the Ramgarh Battalion and Kol and Santal Levy.

There are a large number of documents in the National Archives of India which throw a good deal of light on the facts indicated earlier as well as disclose fresh facts. It appears that the strategic importance of Palamau and the internal troubles were fully appreciated by the ruling authorities and they were extremely anxious that Palamau should be kept in hand. The importance of preventing the rebels from entering Palamau after being driven from Shahabad south was repeatedly emphasised in different documents (Public O. C. 1st October, 1858, nos. 31-32 is a document to this effect). In Public O. C., 22nd October, 1858, nos. 26—32, a letter from the Secretary, Government of Bengal, to the Home Secretary, Government of India, dated 12th December, 1858 shows the unprotected state of Bihar and the possibility of an attempt by rebels from Shahabad and Oudh to escape into Palamau. The necessity of more troops being urgently required was emphasised in this letter. In Public O. C., 29th October, 1858, nos. 31—33 the state of affairs in Palamau district was underlined and again the importance of the rebels being prevented at all costs from entering Palamau was emphasised. It was further mentioned in this document that the Bhogtahs were expecting help which will make things worse. An idea was expressed that Kols and Santhals might be recruited for help. Public O. C., 29th October, 1858, nos. 49—51 again repeated that there was every possibility of the rebels from Shahabad escaping into Palamau and this would add to the already existing causes of trouble and anxiety in Palamau.

That the movement among the Bhogtahs[1] had caused a considerable alarm is also disclosed in Military O. C. 29th October, 1858, nos. 163-64 and it was mentioned that Madras troops were still unable to come. The employment of the Madras Rifles for restoring peace in Palamau and Hazaribagh had been previously mentioned in Military O. C., 15th January, 1858, nos. 505-506 where it was emphasised that Palamau should not be abandoned at any cost and the drastic steps suggested were fully approved by the Government of India.

The Palamau was a very big headache to the administrators is quite clear from the repeated mention in several documents (Military O. C.,

1. Also commonly described as Bogtahs.

10th September, 1858, no. 400, Public O. C., 17th December, 1858, nos. 40-41) in which it was clearly mentioned that Palamau and Burhee should not be placed under Brigadier Douglas as he will be unable to defend them. In Public O. C., 10th September, 1858 it was mentioned, by Commissioner Dalton in his letter no. U. U. to A. R. Young, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated the 16th August, 1858 "I would, however, earnestly talk about how important it is that rebels, when driven from Shahabad should be prevented from taking the direction of Palamau which is a country rich enough to support them and strong enough to offer them a revolt against a large force.....".

"The mutineers and other rebels under a Bihar Zamindar Bhaunu Pratap, who gives out that he is Kooer Singh's .....for Palamau are with the Bhogtas at Sooree endeavouring to intimate the Kharwars to join them.....". (Some of the words are now very indistinct and non-decipherable.)

Commissioner Dalton realised the importance of meeting the strategy of the hillmen. That is why he suggested in his letter 1444, dated the 30th September, 1858 that Captain Hale should command the Sikh volunteers in Palamau and that detachment of Kols and Santhals out of the detachment of the Ramgarh Battalion under Lt. Reeves should be retained.

The danger of infiltration of the rebels from Shahabad was indicated as the Deputy Commissioner at Sherghati sent a telegram on the 2nd December, 1858 to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal that 200 rebels had left Odur on the 27th ultimo and had gone to the direction of Palamau.

Commissioner Dalton in his letter dated the 8th December, 1858 preserved in Public O. C., 24th December, nos. 38-39 had reported that "rebels had actually entered Palamau under Sindhua Singh and another leader probably Ram Bahadur Singh had gone to join the Bogtahs. 600 of these rebels had muskets and Lt. Graham's position at Chainpur was a defensible one". Dalton held that the rebels cannot long remain in the Sumuya hills, without obtaining supplies from some quarters and if they find the road open at Chotanagpur they are likely to proceed to that direction. Captain Davies was at Chechari at that time and Davies had already reported that the rebels had increased their number by the addition of a good many Kharwars besides the Bogtahs. Davies had further reported that there was a strong rumour that another large party of rebels was on the road to join up the Bogtahs and the Kharwars.

Captain Dalton was well supported by the Court from the Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision who on the 27th December, 1858 had informed him that 800 rebel sepoys were already in Sirguja and Mirzapur districts. Not less than 300 rebels had come to Palamau. The Magistrate at Korundah had further informed that the rebels were plundering the country at their leisure and a party of 600 of them were marching on for Pratapapur for the purpose of

coercing the Karpardaz Lal Bindeshwari Prasad. The Korundah Magistrate mentioned that without exaggeration he gave report that Sirguja district was in the hands of the rebels. He urgently wanted troops and more troops as the small force of that district could give no assistance to the Sirguja chief. He further mentioned that there was an idea that troops were required elsewhere and could not be deployed for Palamau. From Lesliganj reports had come that 100 sepoy mutineers had plundered a village called Hootie and that their intention was to proceed to Sherghati. There was a further report from the Deputy Commissioner of Sherghati that 700 mutineers from Palamau were in the jungles close to a place Gondra which was about 6 miles south-west of Korundah and were proceeding in northern direction.

The Military Department were convinced of the necessity of sending troops to Palamau as will be apparent from Public O. C., 21st January 1859, nos. 85-86. It was thought that a military force should be posted to Palamau to disperse the rebel party collected in the district.

The military sections fanned out in different directions in Palamau district to suppress the insurrection. Public O. C., 11th February, 1859, a document from Commissioner Dalton to Secretary Young, dated the 25th January, 1859 gives a report on the operations against the rebellions for only one week from 6th to 14th instant. This document covering the operations for one week is adequate to show that from different directions Captain Davies, Sirguja Managar, Rani of Koreah and Raja of Jaspur were operating against the insurgent Bogtahs and others.

Another letter of Commissioner Dalton to Secretary Young, dated the 8th November, 1858 mentions about the movement of the 8th Volunteers, Ramgarh Light Infantry, Ramgarh Irregular Cavalry, in the interior of Palamau to check the rebels. It appears that Lt. Graham was carrying on the operations under the guidance of Brigadier Douglas and the Commissioner of Patna. The towns of Shahpur, Chainpur, Lesliganj and Garhwa had been attacked. Lt. Graham was put in officiating charge of the appointment of Junior Assistant Incharge of the Korundah Subdivision. The Darogah of thana Manika had confirmed the report that the rebels had considerably increased in number to about 5,000.

From a report of Davies, Deputy Commissioner at Sherghati, which has been forwarded by Lt. Graham, it appears that Soonpura Raja and Nawab of Hussainabad and others were implicated in the Palamau disturbance; Lt. Graham was of opinion that Babu Bhawani Bux Rai of Bisrampore in Palamau was also implicated. Lt. Graham in spite of his success was cautioned against entering the fastnesses of the Bogtahs with a small force. This is apparent from Public O. C., 4th December, 1857, no. 33.

The intensity of the movement will be disclosed from Public O. C., 14th January, 1859, nos. 35—38. The Senior Assistant Commissioner

of Lohardaga in the course of a letter to the Commissioner of Chotanagpur, dated the 23rd December, 1858 mentions :— "As you are aware the extent of country occupied by the rebels comprises some 40 miles square of impracticable hills and jungles, so dense that until the approach of the heat season when it becomes practicable to burn the grass, etc., enemy might be within a few hundred yards off the troops without being discovered.

To add to the difficulties of such a country the whole of the inhabitants without exception are, if not openly, on the side of the rebels, who receive every information of our movements, whilst it is with the utmost difficulty we are enabled to trace them and then not perhaps till they have plundered and burnt some villages in their vicinity."

LEADERS.

The restoration of tranquillity in Palamau area is disclosed by Commissioner Dalton's letter no. 59, dated the 14th March, 1859 (Home Department Public Consultation, 1st April, 1859, nos. 15-16). In this letter Dalton reports that the leaders of the insurgents, the brothers Pitambar and Nilambar, son of the latter Kumar Sahai, Sivacharan Manjhi and Ratan Manjhi had either surrendered or had been captured. In another letter from Lt. Graham to Dalton, dated the 6th March, 1859 the name of Bhukha Sah in addition to those mentioned before are mentioned having been put into fetters. Secretary Young in his letter no. 1783, dated the 18th March, 1859, reported to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, that all the principal leaders among the Palamau insurgents either had surrendered or had been captured. Captain Dalton was requested to convey to Thakurai Kishun Dayal and Raghubar Dayal acknowledgement of the Lt. Governor for the assistance rendered by them.

Before some of the letters preserved in the district record room are referred to, it is necessary to refer to the names of some of the persons actively associated with the movement. Among the Chero leaders who defied the British, mention should be made of Bhawani Baksh Rai of Bisrampore. He was almost the head of the Chero group and extremely influential. The Commissioner had considered his removal to Ranchi as "necessary". He was reported to be busy collecting a contingent but later attended the Commissioner's Conference at Lesliganj on the 3rd February, 1858. According to the Commissioner although there was no overt act of treason against him "he must not be allowed to escape the consequence of his not having rendered such assistance to Lt. Graham as he was bound to do".

Ram Baksh Rai of Chukla and his son Hari Baksh Rai had two serious charges against them according to the Commissioner Dalton although the Commissioner thought that they had behaved well. The charges were that they did not give Lt. Graham proper assistance and some of their retainers were associated with the attack on Rajhara Coal Factory.

Devi Baksh Rai of Luckna had openly sided with the Bogtahs. The Commissioner thought that the Bogtahs wished to confer the Raj upon him. Later on he came over to the side of the British.

Bhaya Bhagwan Deo of Untari gave little help to Lt. Graham but after the Commissioner's intervention supplied a body of matchlockmen.

Among the Kharwar and Bogtah leaders the most important were, of course, Nilambar and Pitambar enjoying the *Jagirs* of Chemu and Saneya and S. W. Palamau. Parmanand, the *Ilakadar* of Kunda, an influential leader of Kharwars fully sided with the brothers, Nilambar and Pitambar. Subsequently about November, 1858 the Bogtahs were led by Bhoja and Bharat and about December, 1858 by Ram Bahadur Singh of Saneya.

Naklaut Manjhi, who was also a Kharwar gave a lot of troubles to the British. Raja Singh of Hamir was ultimately arrested and executed. His *Jagir* consisting of 5 villages was confiscated and given to Kunwar Bhikhari Singh of Manika. Tikait Unaras Singh and his Diwan Shaikh Bikari were captured in January, 1858 and executed on conviction because of their concern in rebellion.

LOYALISTS.

The principal loyalists were Thakurai Raghubar Dayal Singh, Thakurai Kishun Dayal Singh, Sheo Charan Rai of Nawagarh, Bhikhari Singh of Manika, Bhagwan Deo of Untari, Bhaya Deo Nath Singh of Untari, Devi Baksh Singh of Nowadag, Raja of Deo (Gaya) and Jagat Pal Singh of Pithauri (Ranchi).

UNPUBLISHED LETTERS.

"A few references to some of the unpublished letters which are available in the Record Room at Daltonganj will be helpful to appreciate the trend of events of the movement during 1857-58.

In his letter no. 4005, dated the 24th November, 1857, A. R. Young, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, had informed the Officiating Commissioner of Chotanagpur that the Lieutenant Governor had approved of the measures suggested by him for the repression of the disturbances in Palamau. The Commissioner seems to have been given an almost blank cheque for crushing the movement and a copy of the letter was forwarded to the Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision. As large contingents of the people who had risen in arms from different districts had taken shelter in the more dense mountain fastnesses of Palamau, Capt. Dalton, Commissioner of Chotanagpur moved and was able to get the deployment of several sections of army into Palamau. Dalton, on his part, asked I. M. Graham, Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision in his letter no. 191, dated the 28th November, 1857 that he should see to sufficient supply of *rasad* at Manika, Lesligunj, Chainpore and other places. Graham was also asked to see that good and plentiful water was procurable near the

halting places and that he should send the Commissioner a route showing the best halting places. Two Companies of Her Majesty's 13th Light Infantry of Sasaram with their guns were ordered to proceed to Chainpore *via* Akberpore to the relief of Lieutenant Graham. The Raja of Deo (Gaya) was also called upon to co-operate with this force. This order was transmitted by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in his letter no. 4060, dated the 27th November, 1857. A portion of the Madras Rifles at Raniganj was also ordered to march to Palamau *via* Shergatty. Different sections of the army would not have been deployed to the areas of Palamau unless the situation was rather acute. Lieutenant Graham was mildly reprimanded for needing relief as is shown in letter no. 4803, dated the 30th December, 1857, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Commissioner, Chotanagpur. It was mentioned in the letter "The Lieutenant Governor approves of the course pursued by Lieutenant Graham and of his spirited determination to maintain his position in Palamau but at the same time His Honour expects that he will use the greatest caution in all his proceedings as in the event of his being surrounded as before it may not be possible again to send a party to rescue him". It may be mentioned here that in an earlier letter, dated the 28th July, 1858 Captain Dalton had already moved that the Korundah Subdivision which includes Palamau, Sirgoojah, Oodeypore and the Subdivision of Burhee should be added to the district under the military charge of Brigadier Douglas.

There are also relevant documents to show that liberal offers of reward and promotion were held out to the police and civil population for giving active help by way of giving information or leading to the arrest of absconders. The Magistrate of Lohardagga was ordered in June, 1857 to increase the horse or foot police in anticipation of the approval of Government. The Police Officers were also told in letter no. 987, dated the 26th June 1857 that they will receive immediate reward if their work is favourably commented upon. In his letter no. 3118, dated the 11th August, 1858, A. R. Young informed the Commissioner of Chotanagpur that the news of the collapse of a section of Thakoorai Kissen Dayal Singh's people has been received with satisfaction. It was mentioned that this party of Thakoorai Kissen Dayal Singh had succeeded in carrying away a Havildar of Ramgarh Battalion.

Rewards were being broadcast for any news or help leading to the arrest of the 'rebels'. In his letter no. 252, dated the 22nd December, 1857, Captain Dalton informed Lieutenant Graham, Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision that he was authorised to offer Rs. 500 for the apprehension of Bhowaney Bux Rai. The Junior Assistant Commissioner was also ordered to offer a reward of Rs. 200 for the apprehension of Mukut Manjhi.

Reference has already been made to Baboo Bhowaney Bux Rai of Bisrampore. Baboo Bhowaney Bux Rai ultimately gave himself up to Captain Dalton who asked Lieutenant Graham to complete his enquiry

against Bhowaney Bux Rai after hearing and recording what he has to say in explanation. The indication was quite clear as the second paragraph of Dalton's letter to Graham, dated the 3rd February, 1858, will show. He mentioned "Whatever may be the result of this enquiry, it is necessary that the Baboo should be severely called to account for having so long disobeyed the orders issued to him to appear and in regard to his having failed hitherto to afford such assistance towards putting down the insurrection as you were entitled to expect from him and it was his duty to afford. I request that he may be proceeded against on these charges as soon as possible, and that the case when completed may be referred to me for orders with your opinion."

Bhaiya Koomar Singh of Checharee, as previously referred to had also incurred the displeasure of the authorities. He was placed under restraint and his estate was attached. A police thana was started in this area to stabilize the administration. In his letter no. 113, dated the 2nd October, 1858, the Extra Judicial Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision was further told that Rai Jagatpal Singh Bahadur, Parganait of Pithoria would be "a good man to place a temporary charge of Checharee estate and the thana".

That the aftermath continued throughout 1858 is also shown from the contents of letter no. 21, dated 31st January, 1859, from Dalton, Commissioner of Chotanagpur, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal. In this letter he forwarded a copy of the report of Captain Davies detailing recent operations in Palamau which had resulted in the evacuation of that and the adjoining district by the mutineers and rebels who had flocked into them from Behar and Shahabad. Captain Nation was much commended. Dalton mentions in this letter :—"It was soon found that numerically strong as were the rebels, it was impossible to bring them to an engagement; every opportunity was then taken to surprise them. They got no rest, were driven from place to place in the barren hills till at length in despair they abandoned the district altogether and left the local people to shift for themselves. The local rebels under the chiefs Nilambar and Pitambar are now again reduced to a small and insignificant band whose complete subjugation will, I expect, be especially brought about by the vigorous and unrelaxing measures. Captain Davies and the Officers co-operating with him are carrying out." The Secretary to the Government of Bengal acknowledged the letter and it was mentioned that the plan of operations was the best that could have been adopted under the circumstances.

There is another important letter no. 1196, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Chotanagpur, dated Fort William, the 21st February, 1859 in which it was mentioned that a party of rebels from Palamau was on the way to Singhbhum to effect a junction with the Porahat insurgents. This party was, however, driven back by some of the Ramgarh Irregular Cavalry sent for the purpose by Captain Davies and afterwards followed up by detachment under Captain Nation and Lieutenant Graham. The insurgents were

very alert to stop the coalition of Palamau insurgents with those of other districts.

The loyalists were being given substantial rewards for services rendered by them. The confiscated estates came in very handy and *jagirs* were carved out and made over to the loyalists. In his letter no. 2859, dated the 13th August, 1858, A.R. Young intimated the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces that certain awards were made. Thakoorais Raghubar Dyal Singh and Kissen Dyal Singh were given the titles of Rai Bahadur and a *Khillut* including a double-barrelled rifle. Thakoorai Raghubar Dyal Singh was further given a confiscated service *jagir* of 12 villages bearing a quit-rent of Rs. 13-11-9 a year. Sew Charan Rai was given a *Khillut* in addition to his existing *jagir*. Kuar Bhikari Singh was also given a *Khillut* and a small confiscated *jagir* of 5 villages paying an annual rent of Rs. 30 a year. These awards followed the recommendations of the Commissioner of Chotanagpore communicated in his letter, dated the 21st June, 1858, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal. The Commissioner placed Thakoorai Raghubar Dyal Singh as his chief help. He referred to both of them in glowing terms and mentioned that "Thakoorai Raghubar Dyal Singh has been the principal brunt of the disturbances. His property has been plundered in all directions and his assistants murdered in several instances. He deserves great credit for the manner in which he held against the whole of the Bhogtas as well as for the assistance he has admirably rendered me and the good will he had exhibited towards Government from the beginning". The Commissioner recommended that the *jagir* of Chamoo Singh lately belonging to the rebels Pitambar and Nilambar, already confiscated should be conferred on Raghubar Dyal Singh. Baboo Sew Charan Rai, *jagirdar*, Burgarh estate was referred to as the man who had protected the Government treasure, records and the officials who had fled from Lesligunje after the attack on them by the insurgents. He has also given, as Dalton mentioned, great assistance to Lieutenant Graham and to himself. Regarding Kuer Bhikari Singh, Dalton observed, "He is one of the Chero Zamindars and also the only one of that class who from first to last stood boldly aloof from all conspiracy against Government and exerted himself in every way to prevent the spread of disorder and disaffection. He was one of the first to join Lieutenant Graham and the information he gave was of great service to that officer. In consequence of this his house at Punka was attacked and burnt .....Not far from Bhikari Singh's villages is the confiscated *jagir* of Rega Singh executed as a leader in the disturbance. It consists of 5 villages paying an annual rent to Government of about Rs. 30." Commissioner Dalton recommended that this *jagir* along with the *Khillut* should be given to Bhikari Singh. This letter of Commissioner Dalton practically admits that the many small Chero Zamindars almost to a man took arms against the British. We have also seen that the Bogtahs did the same. This should mean that practically all the countryside must have been aflame.

The Old English Correspondence Volume for 1860 has some interesting letters which show that the aftermath of the disturbances was still there in 1860. The conduct of Bhaiya Bhugwan Deo of Nuggur Oontaree and the enquiry thereof form the subject matter of an interesting letter from I. M. Campbell, Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner, Palamau Subdivision, to Captain Davies, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Lohardagga Division. From the charges it appears that Bhaiya Bhugwan Deo refused to render efficient military service to Government although bound to do so under the *Sanad* on which he held his tenure and had allowed armed rebels to pass through his zamindary unmolested. He was further charged for having supplied provision or connived at the supply of provision to the rebels who encamped near Nuggur. It may be mentioned here that Bhaiya's duty was to guard some of the *ghats* leading into Palamau. Campbell's finding was that he had failed to perform his duty and that this failure rendered his estate liable to confiscation.

From a letter no. 156, dated Lesligunje, the 30th August, 1860, sent by the Junior Assistant Commissioner of Palamau Subdivision, to the Senior Assistant Commissioner, it appears that the thanas of Chutterpore Manika and Lesligunje were burnt by the villagers during the disturbances in 1857. The reference to the word 'villagers' in this context is important and would show that it was not the armed rebels alone who were destroying buildings. From the same letter it would appear that Burgurh thana was destroyed by the Bogtahs.

List of Rebels.

From a statement giving a list of rebels since August, 1857 signed by J. M. Graham, Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner, we find the following names :—

Nilambar Sah, Ruttan Sah, Narayan Baniya, Pitambar Sah, Kutkun Sah and Bhooka Sah charged with rebellion, wilful murder and attack in the town of Chainpore. Nilambar Sah was further charged with plundering and destroying the factory of Bengal Coal Company and burning village Baree, Hehagurrah, etc. Koomar Sah, Ruttan Sah, Narayan Baniya, Shew Charan Manjhi along with two brothers Pitambar and Nilambar were also charged with wilful murder of several Government servants and rebellion. Bhooka Sah was charged with the burning of Burgurh thana. Some of the other men who were charged with rebellion were Ganpat Manjhi, Kurtoo Manjhi, etc. There is no doubt that the statement mentions wilful murder of quite a number of persons, dacoity, arson and plunder against these men. It cannot be doubted that there was a considerable amount of bloodshed, plunder and arson. In many cases, however, it was also not possible to have any direct proof as to the individual who committed the crime.

Baboo Teekait Singh who was sentenced to 8 years' unprisonment ie additional sentence of confiscation of his estate and property he subject matter of a letter no. 14, dated the 23rd May, 1859, from the Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner of Korundah Subdivision, to the Government of Bengal. It appears that a review of the case was called for because of a petition from his son Soorjnarayan Deo. Graham, Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner, was of the opinion that Teekait Singh was the principal instigator for burning villages in Gurhwa area.

From several documents it is found that the zamindars and the principal men in the villages were openly helping or at least conniving at the depredations of the insurgents. The Extra Junior Assistant Commissioner in a letter, dated the 9th June, 1860 had mentioned that there was no doubt that any body of rebels could be lurking in any area unless the neighbouring zamindars connived—a frank admission which gave a correct picture of Palamau even in 1860.

A Popular Movement.

The narrative of the events will show that the movement at Palamau was of a very different character from a mere mutiny of the sepoys. The indigenous population of the district consisting of the Cheros, Bogtahs and Kharwars had taken to arms. Practically the bulk of the Jagirdars and zamindars had sided against the Government and against the very few loyal Rajput *Jagirdars*. The important places of the area, namely, Lesligunj, Garhwa, Manika and Chainpur were pillaged. A number of Government thanas and *Abkari Kacheries* were pulled down and were burnt. The summit of the movement was in December, 1857 when "nearly the whole of the district of Palamau was apparently up in arms" (Prof. H. P. Chatterji in Mutiny of Bihar, Sl. 140, Bengal Past and Present). By the first week of January, 1858 there was a turn in favour of the British. But the fact that Nilambar and Pitambar remained absconders and continued creating havoc for some months more shows that the civil population was in full support of the movement. In March, 1858 there was a fresh flare up under the leadership of Ganpat Rai and Bishnath Sahi both of whom were, however, eventually arrested and executed.

The revolt in Palamau was not so agitated as in Singhbhum nor was it more or less a sepoy mutiny as in Santhal Parganas. In the district the movement had assumed a fully popular character. The different sections of the civil population had thrown their lot together and wanted to shake off the British authority. Here it was not the case of the sepoys rising with or without any support from the civil population. It was a case where the civil population led by their natural leaders, the zamindars and *Jagirdars* took to arms. If it was a mutiny at all it was a mutiny which was taken up by the people."[1]

The first great effect of the 1857 movement was an administrative reorientation so far as the district is concerned. Regarding the adminis-

1. This extensive quotation is from P. C. Roy Choudhary's "1857 in Bihar—Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas", second edition.

trative changes the following quotation from "1857 in Bihar (Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas)" referred to before is relevant :—

"Prior to the year 1892, the present district of Palamau formed part of the district of Lohardagga. From 1852 to 1859 one of the Junior Assistants of Governor-General's Agent, South-West Frontier, was in charge of what was then known as the Korundah Subdivision with jurisdiction over the greater part of the present Palamau district. This Junior Assistant in addition to the charge of Palamau was required to act as Special Assistant to the Commissioner in superintending the affairs of Sirgooja and the charge of Odeypore, two tributary States in the South-West Frontier. The administrative headquarters was at Korundah or Jameera Pat, situated on a barren hill within the limits of Sirgooja.[1]

After the flare up in 1857-58, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division the Government of Bengal in 1859 sanctioned the permanent location of the headquarters of the Junior Assistant of Korundah Subdivision in Palamau. Lesligunj was selected as a civil station. It was, however, abandoned later in favour of a more suitable site situated on the bank of Koel river opposite Sahpur. The new civil station which was made ready and occupied in 1863 was given the name of Daltonganj after Commissioner Dalton who was at the head of Chotanagpur Division during the stormy period of 1857 movement. The Subdivision of Palamau was upgraded into a district from January, 1892, according to the Bengal Government notification, dated the 30th October, 1891. Lt. Col. A. E. Gordon was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the second grade and Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, vide Government notification, dated the 27th October, 1891 published in *Calcutta Gazette*, 1891 (Part I, page 931).

This post had been sanctioned, vide Government of India Resolution no. 3263, dated the 5th April, 1892 the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau was vested with necessary judicial power held by the Deputy Commissioner of Chotanagpur Division. The immediate reason for the creation of a separate administrative unit and for placing the headquarters in Palamau in 1859 was that this area was a scene of widespread movement in 1857. It was felt that proper restoration of British authority could only be done after it was given a separate administrative status with full powers. Even when this subdivisional headquarters was located at Palamau the idea was that ultimately the unit will be further upgraded into that of a district."

1. Additional information on 1857 movement in Palamau district may be had in—

(1) Dr. S. B. Choudhury's "Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutiny, 1857—1859".

(2) Dr. K. K. Dutta's "History of the Freedom Movement in Bihar".

(3) Sri R. R. Diwakar's "Bihar Through the Ages".

FROM THE 20TH CENTURY.

The history of the district after the stratification of the administrative changes and since the beginning of the 20th century really merged into the history of the province and of India. The next event of public importance was the rapid political changes since 1919 and the inception of the Non-Co-operation Movement at the initiative of Mahatma Gandhi. Palamau along with other districts of Bihar played an important role during the Non-Co-operation Movement in spite of her comparative backwardness regarding education. The special session of the Indian National Congress in Calcutta in 1920 was attended by a number of Adivasis who walked all the way from Palamau district to Calcutta. Strangely enough the call of Mahatma Gandhi had a quick response from the Adivasis.

Some of the earlier non-Adivasis who took part in Congress work were Hiranand Ojha, Durga Nand Ojha, Vindeshwari Pathak, Sheikh Mohammad Hassan and Deo Narayan Mahta. A largely attended session of the Bihar Students' Conference was held at Daltonganj on the 10th October, 1920 under the Presidentship of Rev. C. F. Andrews. This conference of the students was attended by Mazrul Haque, Chandra Bansi Sahay, Krishna Prassan Sen Sinha and others. Mazrul Haque in his speech on the resolution of the use of Swadeshi cloth expressed the desirability of the students participating in political matters and proposed an amendment that college students and other students above 16 years of age could participate in the political matters. There was another resolution regarding the withdrawal of students above 16 years of age immediately and unconditionally from Government aided or controlled institutions to national schools. Abdul Bari had moved this resolution and it was passed by an overwhelming majority of votes. A national school was started at Daltonganj in the house of Sheikh Saheb and Vindeshwari Pathak was the headmaster. It may be mentioned that this national school was in a way the nucleus of the activities of the Congress movement in this district. Whenever any person of importance would visit Daltonganj, he paid visits to this national school where meetings used to be held. During 1921 and later a series of meetings were held at different places like Panki, Japla and other places where the cult of Charkha, Khaddar, anti-untouchability, prohibition, etc., used to be dwelt upon. In 1922, Manindra Nath Swami of Banaras visited Daltonganj and delivered speeches and a notice under section 144, Cr. P. C. was at once served on him by the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau. Devaki Prasad Sinha, a reputed advocate of Palamau and Krishna Ballav Sahay were elected members of the local propaganda committee of the Chotanagpur Division in the meeting of the Bihar Branch of the Swarajya Party held at Patna on 2nd June, 1923. Both of them moved quite a lot in Palamau district to organise the Congress movement.[1]

1. Dr. K. K. Dutta's "History of the Freedom Movement in Bihar, Volumes I, II, III" has additional information on the Congress movement in the district.

A momentous event was the visit of Mahatma Gandhi along with Dr. Rajendra Prasad to Daltonganj on the 11th January, 1927 during his second tour in Bihar. Thousands of villagers from distances of 20 to 30 miles attended the meeting and Mahatma Gandhi had to move from place to place within the meeting to address the great mass. It may also be mentioned here that the Bihar Students' Conference and the Local Branch of the Kayastha Sabha took prominent part in shaping the advanced public opinion. The 25th Bihar Students' Conference was held at Daltonganj in 1932 under the presidentship of Kedar Nath, an eminent lawyer of Gaya. It has also to be mentioned that the Kisan Movement in Palamau district gave a wide support to the agitation against the constituted authority. The time-old *Kamia* system and the economic backwardness of the labourers were the common target. The relationship between the landlords and the tenants had deteriorated badly. Many tenants had stopped payment of rent as a result of which the landlords were unable to pay the Government revenue and cess in time. The Congress took a good deal of interest in the improvement of the condition of the tenants and the agricultural labourers and there was an active Congress propaganda for filing suits for determination of rents. Congress activities in this connection were particularly concentrated in spots where there was more of oppression on the tenants and the agricultural labourers, for example, at pockets of Hussainabad, Chhatterpur, Garhwa, Ranka and Bhaunathpur police-stations. A well- attended political conference was held at Ranka in 1942 where Jadubans Sahay and other local leaders condemned the attitude of the landlords.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya visited Daltonganj in 1936 to inaugurate the Vishnu Mandir erected in the heart of the town. Malviyaji had accepted the inaugural ceremony only when the enlightened people of Daltonganj had made the commitment that the Vishnu Mandir will also be thrown open for the Harijans. An Annual Session of the Bihar Provincial Hindu Sabha was held in 1941 under the presidentship of Kamakhya Narayan Singh, Raja of Ramgarh.

The labour problem particularly at Japla had also attracted a good deal of attention. There was a labour strike at the cement factory at Japla in 1937-38 and since then the labour problem in this district could be said to move along with the labour problem elsewhere.

The August disturbances in 1942 had their echoes in Palamau as well. Railway lines were dismantled, telegraph lines were cut and a large number of men both at the district headquarters and in the interior were arrested. Since then as from before the district had actively participated in the various phases of struggle for independence.

Since independence was achieved the event of far-reaching importance was the abolition of zamindaris which has been dealt with separately. The partition of India and the creation of Pakistan was affected by widespread communal disturbances in the country. Luckily

Palamau had escaped slightly. There has been an influx of displaced persons in this district particularly from the West Pakistan. This element has been completely absorbed in the population.

Regarding the abolition of zamindaris, it may be mentioned that it was a very necessary step. The relationship between the zamindars and the tenants had deteriorated very badly and there was a lot of trouble in the different parts of the district over *Bakast* and *Gairmajrua* lands, rights over lac and *mahua* trees, payment of rents, etc. The realisation of *abwabs* had become extinct sometime back but now the tenants had been refusing to pay their legitimate rent and the landlords in their turn were harassing the tenants over their rights on lac and *mahua* trees. Agrarian troubles broke out in different pockets and at Kharaundhi in Bhaunathpur P.-S. the tenants had resorted to *Satyagraha* for taking forceful possession of *Bakast* lands. Consequent upon the vesting of intermediary interests with effect from the 26th January, 1955 the tenants ceased paying rent, etc., to the outgoing landlords. The Land Reforms Act put an end to all this and after the usual aftermath of such a revolutionary steps things are becoming normal now.

An incidence of some importance took place in 1958 which was fomented by one Phetal Singh, a Kharwar. This local incidence attained much more publicity than what it deserved and even was loosely described in the Press as the Kharwar Movement.

As mentioned before the Kharwars form one of the major Adivasi elements in the district. A certificate sale of a bullock belonging to a Kharwar at village Khobi near Manpur in Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh bordering Palamau district created an alarming situation. The Kharwars organised themselves under one Chuni Singh and the movement quickly went out of alignment and refusal to pay taxes became a slogan. Their party came to be known as the *Bharat Sarkar*. The so-called *Bharat Sarkar* Party was said to have the objective of creating and establishing an independent State of the Kharwars. The police in Madhya Pradesh naturally took steps to crush the movement and the movement spread to the south-western part of Palamau district where there is a large Kharwar population.

The first meeting of the Kharwars was held at village Saraidih in Bhandaria P.-S. Other meetings followed at Parasatand and Kutku in January, 1958. The leadership was of one Phetal Singh who moved quickly from place to place in the jungles. Phetal Singh came from village Bahahara, 8 miles from Ranka P.-S. and quite a number of villages in Ranka thana were badly affected.

It is understood that Phetal Singh's party had more than 300 strong adherents and a movement to create confusion and to benefit thereby won the sympathy from people of anti-social bias. As Phetal Singh and his party moved in the jungles, the forest contractors,

labourers and Tehsildars were terrorised. The Tehsildar engaged in collection of chaukidari tax at village Bankhetta was asked to leave the village, and exaggerated stories regarding Phetal Singh and his gang frightened a number of subordinate Government employees. One Mahadeva Singh, a Kharwar of village Ramchandrapur, P.-S. Sarguja was the chief adviser of Phetal Singh. The so-called *Bharat Sarkar* of the Kharwars was quickly suppressed by the police. The village Bahahara, the centre of Kharwar activities was surrounded by the military police, reinforced from Ranchi and headed by the District Superintendent of Police of Palamau. The gang was surrounded up in the course of which one of Phetal Singh's men was killed and injury was caused to a few others. Some policemen had also received injuries in the course of their round up. Phetal Singh was arrested along with 8 followers and the chief adviser. They were ultimately tried and Phetal Singh was given rigorous imprisonment for three years.[1] Phetal Singh and all his associates were given pardon and released in 1959.

1. The following authorities were consulted :—

(1) Hunter's Statistical Account of Lohardagga.

(2) District Gazetteer of Palamau, 1907.

(3) District Gazetteer of Palamau, 1926.

(4) Old Records in the Record Room of the Deputy Commissioner, Palamau, Daltonganj.

(5) Old Records in the Record Room of the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division, Ranchi—File no. II-5 of 1859—70.

(6) Final Report of the Survey and Settlement Operations in the district of Palamau, 1918—20 by T. W. Bridge.

(7) Judgment of Title Suit no. 11 of 1924 in the Court of Additional Sub-Judge, Palamau (Gopal Bux Ray *v.* Vinodini Devi).

(8) Judgment of First Appeal 98/1934, Patna High Court.

(9) P. C. Roy Choudhury's "1857 in Bihar (Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas)", Second Edition, 1959.

(10) H. P. Chatterji's "Mutiny in Bihar", Bengal Past and Present, sl. 140.

(11) Jagdish Narain Sarkar's "The Mutiny of 1857-58 and the Palamau Jagirdars", Bihar Research Society Journal, Vol. XLI, pt. IV, 1955.

(12) Amar Nath Das—"India and Jamboo Island", 1925.

(13) K. K. Datta's "History of Freedom Movement in Bihar".

(14) R. R. Diwakar's "Bihar Through the Ages".

(15) S. B. Chaudhury's "Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutiny, 1857—1859".

CHAPTER V.

PEOPLE.

INTRODUCTORY.

The total area of Palamau district is 4,921 square miles according to the area figures of the constituent units, e.g., police-stations. According to the report of Surveyor-General of India the area of the district is 4,896 square miles. The difference between the two figures is not much and may be ignored. There are 3,202 villages and 3 towns and 1,78,775 occupied houses altogether. The urban population is 37,007 as against the rural population of 9,48,760 souls.

The population of the district according to 1872 census was 4,23,795 souls. The following statement will show the variation in the population of the district since 1901 as mentioned in the *District Census Hand-book for Palamau*, 1951[1] :—

Years.	Persons.	Variation.	Males.	Variation.	Females.	Variation.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1901	6,20,092	..	3,06,454	..	3,13,638	..
1911	6,87,710	+67,618	3,41,840	+35,386	3,45,870	+32,232
1921	7,33,394	+45,684	3,67,371	+25,531	3,66,023	+20,153
1931	8,18,736	+85,342	4,09,778	+42,407	4,08,958	+42,935
1941	9,12,734	+93,998	4,57,372	+47,594	4,55,362	+46,404
1951	9,85,767	+73,033	4,98,564	+41,192	4,87,203	+31,841

GROWTH OF POPULATION.

The administrative history of the district has been indicated in the Chapter on General Administration. It may, however, be reiterated here that Palamau *pargana* had first formed a part of the district of Ramgarh. In 1834 this *pargana* was transferred to the district of Lohardaga and in 1853 Palamau was made a subdivision of Lohardaga. In 1863 Daltonganj was selected as the headquarters of the subdivision. In 1892 Palamau became a full-fledged district.

1. The figures of the growth of population referred to later in older Gazetteers slightly differ from the figures of the *District Census Hand-Book*. Variations are slight and may be ignored.

Growth of population is naturally connected with the administrative changes. The first attempt for making an enumeration of the population of Palamau *pargana* was made by Captain Depree at the time of Topographical Survey of Chotanagpur in 1868. W. W. Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Lohardaga District*, published in 1877, refers to Captain Depree's enumeration. Captain Depree, however, did not base his enumeration on much of a scientific basis and it was not possible at that time to adopt much of a correct technique. Captain Depree at a random survey calculated the number of houses and arrived at the figure of 6.34 persons per house. According to Depree's technique the total population of the district of Lohardaga including the *parganas* of Tori and Palamau was 14,12,956 and the population of Palamau and Tori was 5,30,961. Very little reliance can be put on Capt. Depree's figures but the fact is mentioned as he was a pioneer.

In 1869, there was an experimental census by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga. This census also was not based on much of the present-day technique. The population of the district of Lohardaga was calculated in 1869 to be 13,96,471 persons or 16,485 less than the estimate of Capt. Depree. This fact alone in a census taken within a year of Depree's enumeration would show that neither of the calculations was very correct, as the experimental census of 1869 was based on the calculation of the village watchmen who could neither read nor write.

A regular census was taken during the cold weather of 1871-72. This census was done with proper precautions and the results disclosed a total population in Lohardaga of 12,37,123 souls inhabiting 2,40,843 houses and the density of the district 103 souls to the square mile. Palamau subdivision consisting of the police circles Bareswar, Chhattarpur, Daltonganj, Garhwa, Munka, Majhiwan, Patan, Ramkunda gave the area of 4,260 square miles, 2,667 villages or townships, 68,719 houses, and a total population of 3,66,519 and the density of population was 86 persons per square mile. It is to be mentioned here that although Japla and Belaunja areas had been transferred to Palamau in 1871 the census of these areas was not included in the figures for Palamau as mentioned by Hunter in his *Statistical Account of Lohardaga*. Taking the area of Japla and Belaunja, the population in 1872 was 4,23,795 souls for Palamau, the area in square mile was 4,910 and the density remained at 86 persons per square mile.

The next census in 1881, however, recorded the population at 5,51,075 which indicated a growth of not less than 30 per cent suggesting that the previous census had also loopholes. The census in 1891 recorded the population at 5,96,770 souls and the increase during the decade came to 8.3 per cent. The next census in 1901 disclosed a further increase of 22,803 persons the total population being recorded as 6,19,600. The census of 1911 gave the population of 6,87,710 souls. It may be said that the census techniques were being made more reliable.

The population figures quoted earlier of the different census years elicited the following observations from P. C. Tallents, I.C.S., in the Revised Edition of *Palamau District Gazetteer* published in 1926 :—

"Between 1891 and 1901 the rate of progress was retarded owing to two famines, in 1897 and 1900, and a high death-rate in the latter year : an actual loss of population occurred in the east of the district. The rate of increase was accelerated again in the following decade between 1901 and 1911, especially in the south of the district; in Hussainabad in the north there was a slight decrease. Between 1911 and 1921 there was a further increase, though at a reduced rate. No special circumstance affected the health of the population during these ten years until 1918. The rainfall of that year was above the normal, but its distribution was fatal. The monsoon broke late, and the time available for ploughing was so curtailed that the people in many cases sacrificed the *bhadai* for the *aghani* crops. In July floods occurred that completely upset all ideas then obtaining on the subject of high flood levels, and most of the maize and other *bhadai* crops that had been sowed were washed away. By the middle of August the rains had practically stopped and by the middle of September they had stopped altogether. On the unirrigated lands, which are for the most part in the possession of the smaller tenants, the rice crop was a failure, and the area sown with *rabi* crops was only of half its usual extent. The district was only saved from a disaster by the reserve of wealth that had been accumulating as the result of several years of good crops and the boom in the lac trade during the war, and thanks also to a good *mahua* crop. Meanwhile the suffering caused by the influenza epidemic of this year was greater than in any other district of the province : the death-rate from 'fever' rose to the unparalleled height of 59.2 per mille and the total number of deaths recorded in the year was 49,000 or 14,000 in excess of the number of births. The epidemic continued during the first months of the following year and the birth-rates of the next two years were naturally low. In spite of the disasters, the increase of population during the decade was 45,684 or 6.64 per cent. The increase was greatest in Chhattarpur, Hussainabad and Garhwa, while losses occurred in Ranka, Mahuadanr, and Balumath. Generally speaking, the population increased in the north, where it was most, and decreased in the south, where it was least dense."

The census of 1931 recorded an increase of 11.64 per cent and the population growth appears to have been much more rapid in the Latehar subdivision, which had come into being in 1925.

The general incidence of health was also reported to be better than the previous decade. The 1941 census gave an increase of 11.5 per cent and the growth of population appears to be due mostly to natural accretion.

In the last decade 1941—50 the population of the district has increased by 8 per cent only. There was a flare-up of cholera in this period. The fall in the growth-rate appears to be due to the decrease in the birth-rate. This also was partially due to a virtual collapse of properly reporting vital statistics because of 1942 movement.

The following statement will show the percentage variation in the population of subdivisions and revenue thanas during the last two decades :—

District, subdivision and revenue thana.	Population.	Percentage variation.		Density.
	1951.	1941—51.	1931—41.	1951.
Palamau	9,85,767	8.0	11.5	200
Sadar subdivision	7,84,207	9.0	..	241
Daltonganj	1,88,216	14.1	10.1	332
Garhwa	1,53,505	9.2	7.9	273
Ranka	54,222	1.6	12.9	88
Chhattarpur	74,722	7.5	10.7	220
Patan	1,45,961	18.0	15.1	248
Hussainabad	1,67,581	0.4	16.4	290
Latehar subdivision.. ..	2,01,560	4.1	9.0	121
Balumath	77,984	—10.7	8.0	123
Latehar	86,727	23.2	10.4	149
Mahuadanr	36,849	2.8	8.8	81

It will be seen that the above figures show that the increase in population was fairly well distributed among the two subdivisions as also among revenue thanas. In the last decade, however, there has been much greater increase in population in the sadar subdivision than in Latehar, and generally speaking the population of the densely populated thanas has grown faster than that of sparsely populated thanas. There has been a substantial decrease in the population of Balumath thana, and low increase in Ranka and Mahuadanr. Hussainabad which has comparatively speaking, a moderately dense population has remained stationary. Out of 21 thanas now only Daltonganj and Garhwa are

densely populated. Some of the thanas like Ranka, Mahuadanr, Garu and Bhandaria are very thinly populated. One could go miles and miles by the main road connecting the thana headquarters without seeing a hamlet. Although a subdivisional headquarters for 35 years Latehar is still a township.

MIGRATION.

The availability of virgin land in Palamau district had been one of the causes of the earlier incidence of immigration. The flow of immigrants to the district has never been very marked since 1901 but there has been a slow incidence through all the decades. Immigrants are mostly from the neighbouring districts of Gaya and Shahabad. In the recent years the various resources have attracted immigrants. A moiety of the immigrants consists of *mahājans* and business people. The recorded number of immigrants in some of the census years may be discussed. In 1901 the number was 38,838 representing 6.26 per cent of the population. Apparently this was due to the undeveloped state of the district and the large area awaiting reclamation which invited a large number of immigrants from the neighbouring districts. The total number of immigrants in 1911 was 35,758 while in 1921 the figure came down to 24,246. As an abbreviated census was done in 1941 immigration figures for this census are not available. In 1951 census the total number of immigrants was recorded as 35,425.

There used to be a regular recruitment of imported labour to the tea districts of Assam and Duars from Palamau district in the past. Emigration to the tea districts of Duars was not regulated but emigration to Assam was regulated under the Inland Emigration Act and was controlled by the Assam Labour Board. For decades there was an Agent for the Tea Districts Labour Association in Daltonganj who used to control the operation of the recruiting *Sirdars* for the district. The system of recruitment through *Sirdars* was substituted in place of a wholesale recruitment through any possible agency and even giving a false allurement. The Daltonganj depot of the Tea Districts Labour Association has been abolished since 1956 and the flow of emigration to the tea districts has considerably decreased. Some recruitment of the men of Palamau is now done through Ranchi depot. It is reported that the figures were 142 in 1956, one in 1957 and 154 in 1958. There was in the past also a small flow of emigration to the neighbouring area of Mirzapur and Surguja. It is not possible to collect the figures.

The number of emigrants, i.e., persons born in Palamau but enumerated elsewhere in 1901, was 32,210 or 5.19 per cent of the population. O'Malley thought that the figure was not correct as many people born in Palamau might have given out that they were born in Lohardaga, the name of the old district of Ranchi and had been returned as such.

The incidence of emigration in 1911 and 1921 was near about 5.5 and 4.81 respectively of the actual population. After 1921 the figure of emigration of individual district to other States of India was not compiled and emigration figures are available only for those who have been enumerated within the State. The incidence of emigration from 1931 is not very marked. In 1951 census 23,327 persons born in Palamau district were enumerated in other districts of Bihar.

Rural-Urban Population.

As mentioned before the district is primarily rural. In 1951 census the rural population was recorded at 9,48,760 as against the urban population of 37,007. The urban-rural ratio is 1 :26 according to 1951 census. There were only three towns, namely, Daltonganj, Garhwa and Hussainabad.* The index of urbanisation has been extremely slow as the following figures of population of the towns from 1901 onwards will show :—

Census year.	Daltonganj.	Garhwa.	Hussainabad.
1901	5,837	3,610	..
1911	7,179	4,198	..
1921	9,817	9,626	..
1931	12,040	11,985	..
1941	13,943	8,712	..
1951	19,223	9,467	8,317

The 3,202 villages have 1,73,048 houses. The growth of rural population is not very marked. The villages are generally very small and scattered. For postal purposes Palamau district is an extremely difficult one owing to the very scattered nature and the small population of the villages.

Displaced Persons.

Displaced persons from West Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province which are now included in Pakistan began to arrive in Bihar from July, 1947. The influx was rapid and a considerable number of displaced persons began to pour in the different parts of Bihar from the West Pakistan, but large-scale movement did not begin until the second quarter of 1950 when there were fresh communal disturbances in East Pakistan. According to the census of 1951 the total number of

*Latehar with an addition of several villages will soon be made into a Notified Area Committee. A Water Tower is under erection and will ensure pipe water supply shortly (1960).

displaced persons in Palamau was 726. Out of it 370 were males and 356 females. The break-up figures were as follows :—

Displaced persons from West Pakistan.

1946.	1947.		1948.		1949.	1950.	1951.
	M	F	M	F			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
..	136	177	17	26	..	..	..

Displaced persons from East Pakistan.

1946.		1947.		1948.		1949.		1950.		1951.	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
..	..	90	88	108	48	..	5	19	12	..	..

Languages.

The observations made by P. C. Tallents in the last *Revised District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) still hold good :—

"The great majority of the people speak the dialect of Bihari Hindi known as Bhojpuri, but in the north-east the Magahi dialect is used. The purer form of Bhojpuri, known as Standard Bhojpuri, is spoken in the strip of country along the bank of the Son, but the dialect here spoken has several divergences from the language spoken in Shahabad. In the remainder of the district the people speak a corrupt form of Bhojpuri which has undergone modifications, partly by the influence of the Magahi dialect, which surrounds it on three sides, and of the Chhattisgarhi spoken to its vocabulary which belong to the languages of the non-Aryan population. It is generally

known as Nagpuria or the languages of Chotanagpur proper; but it is also known as 'Sadri', and is called by the non-Aryan Mundas 'Dikku Kaji' or the language of the Dikkus or foreigners. The word Sadri in this part of the country is applied to the language of the settled as apart from the unsettled population; thus the corrupt form of Chhattisgarhi, which is spoken by the semi-Aryanised Korwas who have abandoned their original Munda language, is known as Sadri Korwa, as compared with the true Korwa language belonging to the Munda family which is still spoken by their wilder brethren.[1]

"Magahi, i.e., the dialect of Magadha or South Bihar, is current in the north-east of Palamau, and does not differ in any material respect from the language spoken in the adjoining district of Gaya.

"Oraon or Kurukh is spoken mainly in the south of the district; and Munda dialects by various tribes of aboriginal descent."

According to the languages spoken the figures in 1951 census are as follows :—

Indo-Aryan languages—

Languages.	*Persons.*
Hindi	9,10,193[2]
Bengali	2,630
Marwari	468
Punjabi	416
Gujrati	226
Oriya	176
Nepali	46
Other Indo-Aryan languages	116

Munda Languages—

Languages.	
Korwa	10,701
Mundari	3,819
Other Munda languages	1,191
Santali	384
Ho	377
Kharia	318

1. G. A. Grierson; *Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. V, 1903.

2. The *District Census Hand-Book*, p. 89, mentions that the figures for Urdu have been shown with Hindi. There were 25,951 returns for Urdu.

Dravidian languages—

Languages.	*Persons.*
Oraon	54,659
Telugu	8
Other Dravidian languages	6
Tamil	4

Other languages of India—

Languages.	
Pushtu	3
Miscellaneous languages of India	3
Malar	1
Asiatic languages	5
European languages	17

Religion and Caste.

The population broadly consists of Hindus, Mohammedans, Christians and Adibasis. The break-up figures are as follows :—

Hindu	8,71,261
Mohammedan	97,403
Christian	3,666
Adibasis	2,741

These figures are according to 1951 census. The population of Christians clearly appears to be an under-estimate for in Mahuadanr thana alone there are said to be more than 20,000 Christians. The Assistant Commissioner of Tribal Welfare puts this figure at near about 21,000 for Mahuadanr thana only. The number of Adibasis will include most of the persons returned as Christians. The average enumerator may not have always correctly recorded some of the Adibasis who definitely follow a higher standard of life as Adibasis. It is also a notorious fact that the nomenclature of Hindu is applied in a loose manner.

The figures of the division of the population according to religion as indicated before quoted from the *District Census Hand-Book of Palamau* based on 1951 census figures are apparently not very acceptable. The figures of Christians and Adibasis are clearly incorrect. Apparently the figures for Hindus comprise the bulk of the Adibasis. Apart from these sections, there are Sikhs and Jains who form a very small but influential section of the population. Members of these communities are mostly business men and in quest of business they have gone into the very interior of the district. The figures for the Sikhs and Jains were 483 and 197 respectively in the census of 1951. Unfortunately, these figures are also peculiar. Among the Jains there are 87 males and 10 females. Among the Sikhs there are 168 males and 315 females.

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Out of the total population of 9,85,767 the number of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is 4,89,802. The break-up figures are as follows :—

Scheduled Castes	2,19,615
Scheduled Tribes	1,72,027
Backward Classes	98,160*

Some of the classes of Hindus belong to the so-called higher castes like Brahmins, Rajputs and Bhumihars. It has to be stated that some of the Brahmin families were originally imported as priests. Long contact with the indigenous population has brought about some changes in their complex. It is only in this district that even in Brahmin families only a few decades back the bridegroom stooped and touched the toe of the bride and swore to be faithful to her. This is what is usual with the Cheros. Some of the Bhumihars are big cultivators but they do not plough themselves. Quite a number of Bhumihar families have made their mark as timber contractors or as other businessmen. The other class of Hindus that is very influential in the district is the Ahirs. They are the great pastoral people and in Palamau they trace their origin to Lord Krishna. The Ahirs of Palamau have a number of sections like Kishunaut, Majhraut, Kanaujia, Goria and others. The ancestors of the Kanaujia Ahirs are supposed to have migrated from Kanauj. It is peculiar that in Ahir families there are two kinds of marriages in vogue. Well-to-do Ahirs give *tilak* to the bridegroom and after the offering of *tilak* or presents when the betrothal is done the marriage is performed in the bride's house. But the other system of taking a bride price from the bridegroom party is also in vogue. Ahirs have widow marriage in vogue which is known as *sagai*. *Sindurdan* is an important part of an Ahir's marriage.

It is a very common feature in Palamau district that Ahirs take out hundreds of cattle for grazing for months together at one stretch during the dry period and bring the cattle safe and even with calves. This is being mentioned to show that the pastoral economy of the district still lingers.

There are a few other numerically small classes of people but are distinct. One such class is the Athiths. Athiths wear the head gear of ochre colour and necklace of *rudraksh* and *kanthis*. Athiths are divided into two classes, *Sanyasi* and *Grihast*. *Grihast* Athiths follow Hindu law of inheritance. They are mostly cultivators and they carry on trade in buffalo and money-lender's profession. A somewhat detailed description of some of the important elements of the population is given below :—

This district, however, has an interesting cross-section of the population and there are a number of tribals that make a

*According to the "Tribal Bihar in Maps" (1960), the Scheduled Tribes form 13.50 per cent, the Scheduled Castes 23.34 per cent, Backward Classes 10.43 per cent, and other 52.72 per cent. This is according to 1951 census. (P. C. R. C.).

good percentage of it. It is, however, unfortunate that while the tribals of the neighbouring districts of Ranchi and Singhbhum have been studied, there has not been a proper investigation of the tribals and semi-tribals of Palamau. Some of the tribals of Palamau district like Oraons, Mundas and Kharias are found in great number in other districts as well. Shri S. C. Roy's studies of the Oraons, Mundas, and Kharias, etc., will be found interesting and generally applicable to these tribals in this district as well. There are, however, local variations in the culture-complex of even these tribals within Palamau district. There has not been adequate researches into the Birjias, Nagesias, Korwahs, etc. A future researcher might usefully investigate the social changes and differences of the tribals in Palamau district from their counterpart in other districts of Chotanagpur or beyond and trace the reasons. This should be an extremely important study as this district continued to be in possession of the Oraons, Mundas, Cheros and other Adibasis for a very long period continuously.

It is interesting to observe that the Oraons, Mundas, Raksels, Cheros and Kharwars claim to be the rulers of the district by turn. Some of them have been treated separately. The Adibasis appear to have been pushed out from the position of the rulers by the Raksel Rajputs. The succession of different ruling families has been discussed in the text on Chapter History. The Raksel Rajputs in their turn had to make way for the Chero chiefs. While the Raksels ruled, they brought families of Brahmins from much beyond the district to play the part of the priests. In the 15th and 16th centuries of Christian era, it appears that the Rajputs and Brahmins had their sway in the district. With the coming of the Chero chiefs and Kharwars there was a somewhat change and orthodoxy spread into the interior. The Cheros were very religious-minded. The ancestors of Chainpur, Ranka and some other well known Rajput families of the district had founded temples and encouraged Hindu orthodoxy and had contacts with advanced families beyond the district. The security that the Chero chiefs and Kharwars offered brought about development of home crafts and the growth of a number of service classes. This is the reason why even in an inaccessible village in the very interior of the district we find a solitary family of a barber, *dhobi*, carpenter or blacksmith which is not the case in the inaccessible or remote villages of Singhbhum or Ranchi district. From the pastoral stage the villagers had passed

on to the agricultural stage quickly and there grew up the classes of cultivators and agricultural labourers, landed or landless. There also grew up a service class of bonded labour (*kamia*) for the field and for the household (*launri*) as well. In this district till only three decades back every affluent family had one, two or more families of hereditary servants attached to the household. Where a girl of such a family was married, a few of the servants, usually young in age would be sent to the bride's new home to be permanently attached there. This was in vogue in Palamau even three or four decades back.

TRIBALS.*

Tribal Welfare.

The main tribals in this district are the Oraons, Kharwars, Cheros, Kisans (Nagesia), Bhogtas (Ganjhus), Birhors, Paraiyahs and Mundas. The economic incidence of the tribals has been extremely low and their habits of living in some sort of seclusion have kept them considerably away from the currents of progress. Some of the missionaries and particularly the Roman Catholic missionaries had settled down decades before in Adibasi pockets such as Mahuadanr and Bhandaria and had tried to propagate education and some sort of social upgrading among them. No doubt these missionaries had also the other object of converting as many Adibasis as possible into Christianity. The Mahuadanr Revenue Thana has got a population of 36,849 souls out of which even according to a modest estimate 25,000 persons are Christians. Latehar subdivision has got most of the tribals.

The break-up figures of the main tribals supplied by the Deputy Commissioner's office are given below. These figures should be taken as approximate in 1960 :—

Oraons	61,454
Kharwars	60,393
Cheros	17,618
Kisans (Nagesia)	6,629
Bhogtas (Ganjhus)	11,638
Birjias	1,594
Parhaiyas	7,107
Mundas	5,247
Korwahs	11,203

There are smaller groups like Lohras, Birhors, Koras, Gonds, Asurs.

With the advent of Independence and the change-over of the State Government from a Police State to a Welfare State the uplift of the tribals and other backward sections was actively pursued. A special department known as the Welfare Department was created at the Secretariat level. The district administration of the Welfare Department is in the hands of the District Welfare Officers who are also under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner. Under the District Welfare Officer there are a number of Thana Welfare Officers whose duties are to have closer contact with the aboriginals, to know their difficulties and to try to redress them through the District Welfare Officer.

*Please see "Land and People of Tribal Bihar." (Bihar Tribal Research Institute, Ranchi) for further information. (P. C. R. C.).

Each Thana Welfare Officer has a mission to fulfil and it is a question of how far he has been able to do the work. His work is of diversified nature, one of which is to start a small library and provide some recreational amenities to the aboriginals. It is contemplated to pursue the scheme on a large scale so that small clubs at important centres may be evolved where the Adibasis would be encouraged to meet every evening and be acquainted with the current affairs. The Thana Welfare Officer has also to look after the economic independence of the tribals as far as possible. If the tribal needs loan to tide over some difficulties or to purchase seeds for his fields or wants to put his children into a school, the idea is that the Thana Welfare Officer should be the immediate agent for getting him these facilities. He has to be the friend, philosopher and guide of the Adibasis.

One of the main items of the Welfare Section of the district administration is to improve the educational facilities provided for the Adibasis. The number of aboriginal students in all types of schools in 1950 was only 2,627 as against 11,074 in 1958-59. Stipends are granted to the aboriginals for their study. Hostel facilities are also provided for the Adibasi students. One such hostel run by the Adimjati Seva Mandal at Latehar has provision for 50 students. There is another aboriginal hostel at Latehar and one at Daltonganj.

Grain Golas.

The Adibasis are rather improvident and their low economic incidence also stands in the way of building up a reserve of grains for seeds. More frequently the Adibasi cultivator usually finds himself in difficulties for providing seeds at sowing time as he has already eaten up all his grains. In order to tide over such difficulties grain *golas* have been provided at different places from where a quantity of seed strictly limited to the requirement is issued to the Adibasi cultivator with the stipulation that the quantity will be returned when his grains are collected. There are grain *golas* at Ramgarh, Bhandaria, Ranka, Nagar, Padam, Latehar, Chandwa, Nindra, Balumath, Saryu, Chhipadohar and Mahuadanr.

There are 15 Thana Welfare Officers working in the district.

Oraons.

Sunder in his *Palamau Settlement Report* (1898) mentioned that there were 48,546 Oraons (23,799 males and 24,747 females). He

found that the Oraons held 9,808.56 acres of land, the rent of which was Rs. 7,054-2-0. The food of the Oraons he found was pig, beef, goat's flesh, eggs, fowls, tiger, leopard, bear, all birds except vultures, fish, field-rats and large bull-frogs. He observed that roots of all edible kinds were relished.

He found that young Oraon children between the age of seven to nine years were being married and thought they were following the example of the caste-Hindus. Ordinarily the children were named after the day on which they were born. Sometimes the name of some relative or ancestor was fixed. Many of the common names were Somra, Mangra, Budhua, Bifaiya, Sukra, Sanichara, Etwari after the particular day of birth.

Regarding funerals Sunder observed that the dead bodies were burnt After the body had been consumed, five bits of bone from the hands, ribs, and thighs were collected and put in an earthen vessel and kept at the place where the body was burnt. After twelve days, when the *bhoj* ceremony was to be performed the ashes were swept by the people who burnt the body and thrown into the river. After a bath, the earthen vessel containing the bones of the deceased was carried to his hut. All along the way parched rice was scattered. The earthen vessel was hung on the wall outside the hut. After this when food for the *bhoj* was ready a little of everything was to be taken and placed in the earthen vessel to satisfy the spirit of the deceased. Then the feast was to be held. The earthen vessel would then be carried to the river and thrown. Before the vessel was to be carried pice had to be put into the vessel. After throwing the vessel in the water of the river the men will go to the nearest outstill shop and drink.

Regarding festivals Sunder observed that they were *Karma*, *Jitia*, *Amawas*, *Dashara*, *Soharai*, *Chat* and *Deothan*. Regarding religion he observed that the Oraon deities were (1) *Darha*—who was supposed to reside in Ranchi but came to Palamau annually to visit the Oraons. If he was not propitiated, he caused sickness and other troubles and so offerings of pig, cock and goat and once in three years a sheep had to be made to him: (2) *Purbia*—who also caused sickness and had to get a male kid; (3) *Chigur*—She had to be propitiated with offerings of fowl, *roti*, and drink; and (4) *Goisali*, who was the god of cattle. If he was not propitiated with sacrifice of a pig he would cause sickness and death among cattle.

Regarding clothing Sunder observed that men wore *dhoti* and a *chudder* and some of them wore coats or jackets and a head cover. Women wore a *sari*, which covered their body from waist to feet, and were also used for covering their bosoms. Children were allowed to go about naked until the age of six years.

Before a detailed description of the present day Oraons in Palamau district is given, mention may be made of the fact that remarkable

social changes have taken place among the Oraons. This is only expected as the Oraon areas have been well opened up and means of communications that have been provided for, brought them in touch with the outside world. There is not so much change in the food habit excepting that they are now more of rice-eaters as the fauna are getting rare in Palamau district. Early marriages which had attracted Sunder's attention are not so much in vogue. The customs that followed birth or death and the festivals have not changed but some of the Oraon deities which Sunder mentioned are not much heard of now. Regarding clothing the Oraon men wear more of *kurtas* or jackets and the women a separate *jhula* or blouse.

As the largest of the aboriginal tribes in Palamau district Oraons need some more mention. The Oraons are found in large number in the thanas of Mahuadanr, Latehar and Balumath. Quite a large number of them and particularly at Mahuadanr have been converted into Christianity. The Roman Catholic Mission at Mahuadanr is a very flourishing institution and has now worked for about eight decades. The Mission has a string of *Prachars* or local missionaries throughout the area. They run schools for boys and girls.

The most important feature in the present day Palamau Oraons is that they have almost forgotten their own language. The Oraons have a spoken language with no written script although the Roman Catholic Mission has introduced the Roman script and recently Nagri script is being used. The Oraons today speak a little of Oraon with a large admixture of Hindi words.

In the villages where there are more of Hindus the Oraons have lost many of their tribal traits. Left to themselves they have maintained their *Dhamkuria* system where the young unmarried boys and girls live separately and get ample opportunities of mixing with each other. The *akhara* is a spot where the young Oraons, boys and girls sing, dance and play upon musical instruments.

Marriage ceremony is negotiated in a manner which is essentially tribal. The girl has an assured position in the family and the girl's family has to be approached from the bridegroom's side and not *vice versa*. Omens are observed. When the matchmaker (*agua*) starts for the house of the prospective bride, if he comes across a jackal passing by his path or hears a crow crowing on a tree he will go back as they are considered to be bad omens. After the visit of bridegroom's party, the father of the bride in the company of match makers goes to the house of the bridegroom and usually the completion of marriage negotiation is followed by feast and drink.

On the day of the marriage from the bridegroom's house starts a party consisting of men and women, young and old. A dancing section dressed in flowers accompanies the groom's party and the bride's village has also to provide another dancing party. Both the dancing parties provide great music, dance and mirth. After marriage the bride goes to

her husband's place where she is to be visited by her father and other relations. Women play a very prominent part and the tribals have refused to imbibe the *parda* system from women of other sections.

Among festivals *Sarhul*, when the *sal* trees blossom heralding the new year, is the most important one which is celebrated with abundance of music, feast, dance and drinking. *Sarhul* is the expression of joy of the Oraons for the home coming of the new harvest. The other festivals like *Karma*, *Jitia*, *Jatras*, *Fagun* are all agricultural festivities and they show the pastoral and agricultural complex of the tribals. Anyone who has observed any of these festivals will mark the spirit of abandon, humour and the keenness to enjoy themselves even if that verges on vulgarity.

The Oraons are very hardworking people. They are essentially a community-minded body and the whole village will turn out to cultivate another man's land, if necessary. Hunting was a great pastime before and supplemented their meagre food. An annual hunt is a great event with the Oraons and the women folk dressed in male costumes go out hunting with men-folk.

The women take a great part in the agricultural operations including heavy manual work and probably this has led the Oraons to use cows to plough fields as well. This idea of using cows for cultivation is a taboo to the Hindus.

The Oraons believe in the existence of one powerful spirit as the supreme God or Spirit and a regular graded hierarchy of spirits according to importance. They have a *Pahan* for invoking the aid of spirits and to propitiate them. The *Pahan* is the chief guest in all the community feasts.

The economic condition of the Oraons is extremely low. The incidence of literacy and education is negligible. With difficulty they eke out an existence and have been freely exploited by the zamindars, the *mahajans* and the big cultivators. It is only the Christian Oraons that have a little higher standard of life and they use more clothing, have a better house and some furniture. Otherwise the Oraon huts are wretched, thatched with straw and their furniture consist of a few mats, one or two *charpais* and probably split bamboos fixed higher for seating purposes.

They are broken up into a number of totemistic septs. Each sept bears the name of an animal, a tree, a plant or some material object, natural or artificial. The members of the sept are prohibited from killing, eating, or injuring the totem. *Tirki* sept, for an instance, has the totem of young mice; *Ekka* sept that of tortoise, etc.*

*For some of the recent changes among the Oraons, S. C. Roy's "The Oraons of Chotanagpur", Ranchi, 1915 and Sir John Houlton's "Bihar, the Heart of India" (1949) may be consulted. In Sir John Houlton's book there is some information about the human sacrifice, witchcraft, *dhamkurias*, songs and dancing festivals, etc. There are more serious investigations published in "Man in India" (Ranchi) and Bihar Tribal Research Society brochures.

Korwas.

D. H. E. Sunder in his *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations* has given a detailed description of the Korwas. There has not been much of later investigation about the Korwas exclusively and Sunder's observations have to be quoted *in extenso* for the future researchers. It may be mentioned here that the Korwas claim to be the original inhabitants of Palamau, Surguja and Jaspur. It is a peculiar fact that in the villages inhabited by the Adibasis the Korwa priests are more in demand to propitiate local spirits. A large number of Korwas are found in Ranka and Untari thanas.

Their physique is somewhat different from that of the other tribals. They are stodgy with narrow forehead and unattractive features. The women are extremely hardworking and practically carry out all the household chores. Some of the septs of the Korwas are well worth investigation. Agaria Korwas are said to be the offspring of Korwa and Agaria marriages. Korwas who live in the villages are known as *Dih Korwas* while those on the hills are known as *Paharia Korwas*. The influence of totem is strong and a set of taboos follow the totems. Some of the totems are tiger, snake, parrot, wild goose, fish, mango, etc. They are extremely good hunters and bowmen. Their arrows have split heads, and they often use poison at the arrow heads. The Korwas still have the nomadic habit and change their homesteads frequently. They have no language of their own and speak a mixture of several dialects. They are extremely backward in all possible ways and literacy has made practically no headway among them.

Sunder's observations on the Korwas are as follows :—

"A Dravidian tribe of Palamau. As to their origin, the tradition is that Korwas originally came from Lanka (Ceylon); but how or when or under what circumstances, is not known. They are well built, strong, and hardworking. In appearance, both in features and dress, as well as in the ornaments they wear, they rather resemble Kherwars. In height they are just about 5 feet 6 inches, the women seldom being higher than 5 feet. The complexion of both is a dark brown, but I have seen some of a much lighter colour. They wear beard and moustache, and keep long hair, which is shaved only a little way just over the forehead. Both ears are bored by the *Sonar*. The hair is combed with a wooden *kanki*, which is made in Palamau. Korwas whom I have questioned allege that they are divided into seven clans or sub-castes, viz., Rajkorwa, Manraji, Samat, Edgi, Murung, Birjia, and Birhor. Each sub-caste is obliged to marry among themselves. They do not eat or drink with those outside their sept.

"*Homesteads.*—Houses are generally built facing northwards. Walls of huts are of *sal* posts plastered with earth. The frame of the roof is made of bamboo, and is thatched with

straw (*phus*). Before occupying a new house the owner performs *puja* by making offerings to Debi, Raksel, Muchukrani and Duarpar, the deities of Korwas. The floor of the hut is plastered with cowdung, after which a lamp is lit, and kept in the centre. Five plates of new earth are made and placed round the lamp. The plates are marked with *sindur*, and some cooked *arwa* rice as also milk and *ghi* together with a *puri* made of wheat and rice flour mixed with *ghi*, are placed on each plate. After this the following lines are repeated by the owner of the house :—

'Dekho Maharaj, pait parwani, Loge Lachmi paral lotal rahi, Je mange ei waste tohara ke manat hae, Kahin bane jhare kusal mangal rahe, Tub jane Maharaj asal deo.'

(Oh King, should any member of my family be in the forest or my cattle be grazing there, keep them safe. To obtain this I make these offerings to you, and if all be quiet and happy, then I will know that you are the real King.)

After this a kid is killed. Muchakrain must always have a black one. Water is poured over the kid's head, and the following lines are repeated :

'Dekho Maharaj, baen dhar, Tab jane asal deo, ghar ke pujari.'

(Oh King, let me feel you holding my hand, then I will know that you are the real deity who should be worshipped in this house.)

If the head of the dead kid quivers, it is considered that the offerings are accepted, and that the prayer is answered.

The kid is then skinned, and the flesh is cooked and eaten by the family. No work in the field is done on that day. It is considered a day of rest.

"*Marriage*.—There are two marriage systems : (1) The runaway or love marriage. Two young people take a fancy to each other, and run off and live together in the boy's hut at his father's homestead without further ceremony. This is called *dahura patura bia* and is generally adopted.

The second system is as follows : The father of the boy sends two men of his own caste to the girl's father, and asks for his daughter. If agreeable, as is generally the case, consent is given, and the marriage is arranged. The *dali* or purchase money has to be paid, and a day is fixed for this. It is usually within 8 or 10 days of the first interview. On the appointed day relatives and friends come, each family bringing with them a gift of rice and *dal*. In their presence the *dali*, consisting of Rs. 5, as also a *mai-sari* are given by

the boy's father to the girl's parents. The money is taken by the father, the *mai-sari* by the mother. This binds them as far as giving the girl is concerned. After this there is feasting and drinking and the night passes in revelry. Early next morning the girl is conveyed in a *dooly* to the boy's house. Her parents do not accompany her; but follow later in the same day. After this the young couple are made to sit together in the *angina* or courtyard and are anointed with *haldi* (turmeric) by the boy's sister. She then gives them a bath and new garments are worn by them. After this the *pahan* or *baiga* takes some rice flour and makes four lines with it on the ground under a *marwa* (canopy) which had been previously erected in the *angina*. This is the *chowka*. Two *pathals* or leaf plates are made and placed within the *chowka*. The boy's brother-in-law who is called *lokanda* then acts the part of the *napit*. He takes some *arua* rice and causes it to be scattered on the ground in front of the young couple by the boy's sister who is called *lokandi*. After this they enter the *chowka* and sit on the *pathal* side by side in front of the altar of two *kalsis* (earthen vessels) which are placed in the centre of the *marwa*. They sit with their faces looking eastwards. Their hands are joined and kept open in front of them with the palms upwards. The boy sits to the left of the girl. The *lokanda* then ties the boy's *chudder* to the girl's *sari* by a knot and after this places *arua* rice in each of their hands. Some of this rice is then scattered by him over the pair and on the ground in front of them. This is the *chumaon* ceremony. After this the remaining rice is placed by the boy and girl, respectively, on their leaf plates and they then stand one behind the other, the girl being in front of the boy. She holds a *soupli* in her right hand and the boy holds, her wrist, while still behind her. The *lokanda* then places *lawa* (fried rice) on the *soupli* while the boy shakes her hand and causes the *lawa* to scatter on the ground. The two then do *bhanwar*, by walking round the *chowka* five times. After each turn the boy bends and with his right hand touches the small toe of the girl's right foot and thus salutes her.* This completes the *bhanwar* ceremony. After this the couple sit together as before on the leaf plates within the *chowka*. The *lokandi* then brings some *sindur* in a vessel called *sindhora* and while the girl is covered with a piece of cloth the boy marks her on her forehead five times with *sindur*. This is called the *sindur-bandhan* and is the binding part of the ceremony.

*This custom still exists in some Brahmin families of the district. (P. C. R. C.).

After this the couple stand and, on the two baskets being placed on the ground in front of them, they step into one basket and then into another and so on until they reach the door of the hut. Here they are stopped by the boy's sister, the *lokandi*, who refuses to allow them to enter the hut until a present is given to her. This amounts to two annas, which are paid or promised by the boy's father, after which the *lokandi* moves away and the young couple go into the hut. Here eating *jhuta bhat* ceremony is performed. The boy eats some rice and milk and after him the girl does so out of the same plate. The knot binding their clothes together is untied by the boy, who then moves out of the hut leaving the girl behind. She is unable to come out from there during the whole of that day; but is visited by her friends and relatives and congratulations follow. In the evening the boy returns to the hut, and the marriage is consummated the same night. The girl's age at the time of marriage is between 12 and 14 years. Puberty is said to begin at 12 years. On the following morning the pair come one after the other, the bride being behind the bridegroom. The *lokandi* then again ties their clothes together as on the previous day, and a party of four, comprising the *lokandi* first, then the bridegroom, behind him the bride, and lastly the *lokandi*, walk in line. The *lokandi* and the bridegroom salute each of the people seated in the *angina* by touching the right foot of every person and also bowing to them. Each person who is thus saluted has to give a *dahej* (present) of money, according to circumstances, which is placed in the bag (*khoincha*) formed by the bride in front of her by her *sari*. This ceremony which is called *gor-lagan*, being completed, the young couple return to their hut and the friends leave after feasting and drinking.

A Korwa may marry three wives, but not more. Polygamy is, however, practised only when the first wife is childless. A man may marry two sisters, provided the elder one becomes his wife first. He may marry his elder brother's widow, but not his younger brother's widow. Marriages of this sort take place by the *sagai* form and are not compulsory.

"*Births.*—In childbirth a Korwa woman is attended by an elderly female of her own caste, or if one is not available, by another Korwa woman who takes the place of the *chamain*. She is removed from the hut where meals are cooked (*rasoi ghur*) to the adjoining one and has to remain there 12 days. Six days after birth of the child the *chatti* takes place. The woman's clothes are washed and the father and other male members of the house have to shave their heads. On the lapse of twelve days the *Barhi* takes place. This consists of the father killing a fowl or kid and offering it to the deity. In doing this he repeats the following lines :—

"He Maharaj, e barhi ke bakra puja tohara ke det hae
Kusal mangal rahe.'

(Oh king, this kid is offered to you for this Barhi; grant that all joy and happiness may continue here.)

The kid's head is then chopped off. After this the relatives and friends who may be present are feasted and the woman is then permitted to leave the hut. During the 12 days that she is there she is unclean and is not permitted to come out; but she does so privately and only in presence of women by a small back door which exists in every Korwa's hut. This door is also used for the purpose of escaping in case of danger of any kind. On the expiration of six months the *an-prasan* ceremony takes place. This is feeding of the child with rice. Its feet are washed in unboiled milk. Some *arua* rice, *gur* and milk are cooked together and brought out in a *chipi* (plate). The child's mother's elder brother (*mama*) then feeds it and also names it. For this he is presented with a piece of cloth or some money, according to circumstances. A woman is known to have given birth to 12 children, but this is exceptional. A woman is said to generally have about seven children.

The mode of addressing parents and others is mentioned below :—

Father—Appa.
Mother—Inga.
Elder sister—Didi.
Younger sister—By her name.
Elder brother—Dada.
Younger brother—Babu.
Father's elder brother—Nunu.
Mother's elder brother—Mama.
Wife's brother—Babu.
Grandfather—Aja.
Grandmother—Nani.

"*Clothing.*—Among Korwas, men wear a *dhoti* round the loins. It is supported on the waist by a string called *danda*. In lieu of *dhoti* some men simply wear a *bhagwa*, which is a piece of cloth supported by the *danda* and tied between the legs. It covers the front and back. A piece of cloth measuring about three yards in length is worn on the head as a *pugree*. Some also occasionally wear an *angna* (coat) over the body. Two *dhoties* are worn annually and cost Re. 1. Women wear a *sari*, which goes

round them and also covers the body above the waist. The length of the *sari* is five yards. It is purchased from the Jolaha at one rupee per piece. Sometimes thread twisted by women is given to the Jolaha for weaving the *sari*. Each seer of thread gives four yards of cloth. The Jolaha charges two Gorukhpuri pice per yard for weaving the cloth.

"*Personal ornaments.*—Of ornaments Korwas wear *kanousi* of brass or silver on both ears. The cost is about 4 annas. They wear *bera* (bracelet) of silver on the right hand and occasionally on both hands. The cost is Rs. 4. *Bijuit* (armlet) of silver is rarely worn. A string with two metal tokens is worn on the neck and is called *sirjaner*. Iron finger-rings called *anguti* are worn on third finger of left hand.

The ornaments worn by Korwa women are—

English.	Vernacular.	Value.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Brass finger-ring worn on left hand ..	Anguti	0	4	0
Anklets of *kasa* (bell-metal) ..	.. Pairi	1	8	0
Armlets of brass	.. Tar	1	4	0
Ditto of glass	.. Churla	0	6	0
Bracelet of brass	.. Lasunia	0	12	0
Ditto of *kasa*	.. Bera	0	4	0
Ditto of glass	.. Churi	0	6	0
Ear-rings of brass	.. Tor	0	4	0
Nose-ring of silver or brass ..	.. Nathia (silver) ..	1	0	0
Ditto ditto	.. Ditto (brass) ..	0	4	0
Necklace of beads	.. Harsa	0	4	0
Great toe-ring of *kasa* ..	.. Angta	0	2	0
Second toe-ring of brass ..	.. Baturi	0	1	0

"*Customs at death.*—The dead are burnt and also buried. Those who have no relatives and people who die of cholera are always buried, as this disease is feared by all castes throughout Palamau. *Nisakia* are people who have no relatives. When burnt, the corpse, called *matti*, is placed between a pile of wood after which the nearest male

relative of the deceased takes five bundles of *kher* (straw) and after lighting them, applies the fire to the head of the corpse. Each time he does this he walks round the pyre and sets fire thereto. When the pyre is well ablaze, the party go off to the bank of the river. Here they sit too deep and pass handfuls of sand from one to another over each shoulder on to the ground behind. This is done five times and is called the *kandkati* ceremony. After this they return to the pyre and collect the bones, etc., of the deceased that may remain unburnt and cover them up with ashes and earth. Having done so they have a bath and return home. Here a *katauth* (wooden basin) is filled with water and a *tangi* (iron axe) is placed alongside it together with some *barni* grass with its roots. The grass is dipped in the water and is applied to the right foot while it is on the *tangi*, and then over the left shoulder. This is done five times and is supposed to purify the people who had attended the funeral. After this, food consisting of rice and milk is cooked and eaten by them. On the expiration of 10 days the *daso* ceremony takes place. The relatives have to shave their heads and wash their clothes. On the following day the *bhoj* follows and relatives and friends are fed according to circumstances. They assemble under a *jhala* (shed made of leaves) and a *tahalu*, being a member of the caste and a resident of the village, then washes the feet and legs of each person present. There are two *tahalus*, one of whom does the washing while the other pours water. After this all sit under the *jhala*. Another person called *barik* places tobacco on a leaf before each person. On food being ready, the *barik* stands on one leg before them and holds out his hands' palm upwards and performs the *angia* ceremony. He says to all present 'take *angia* of a handful of food in the name of (name of the deceased is here mentioned)'. 'We agree' is the reply of the guests. This completes the ceremony and the feasting with drinking then begins.

"*Religion.*—The deities of Korwas are (1) Debi, (2) Raksel, (3) Duarpar, and (4) Manusdeva or Nunku. All these have to be appeased at different seasons of the year by the killing of kids and offering of *roti* made of flour, else they are supposed to be offended and to cause sickness and trouble in the house, if not in the entire village. All deceased relatives are worshipped.

"*Food.*—Almost anything is eaten by Korwas. Beef, goat's flesh, venison, sheep, fowls, turtles, fish, cattle that die a natural death, hare, tiger, leopards, hanuman monkeys, milk, butter, *ghi*, buttermilk and all edible roots. Birds of all kinds, except kites and vultures, are eaten. Blood of

any animal is also drunk after being cooked. At the beginning of the day before going to work the first meal called *lookma*, which consists of *mahua*, is eaten. The meal is a light one and the quantity taken is expressed as *pao-bhar* (¼ seer). The next meal *kalewa* is taken at about noon in the field, where it is brought by the wife or some other member of the house. It consists of *mahua* and buttermilk (*matta*), as also vegetables and boiled roots and *bhat* of *sawan, gandli, kodo* or any other cereal. It is a hot meal and a full one. Rice is not eaten as a rule. If obtainable, it is eaten, but is not depended on. The last meal, called *biari*, is taken at nightfall, and consists of *mahua*, vegetables and *bhat* made from some cereal or *makai*, or whatever may be cooked. *Dori* (seed of the *mahua* fruit) oil, *til*, mustard and *keoti* oil are used for cooking food. When oil is not available food is simply boiled in water. Oil is expressed by the *Teli*, who charges for doing so at the rate of two Gorukhpuri pice per *ghani* (mill); or more frequently oil is expressed by enclosing the seed in a small bamboo basket called *putla*. The *putla* is placed between two blocks of wood called *patri*. The operation of pressing the upper *patri* over the lower one is called *sunnum*. The outturn of oil is a quarter seer from a seer of seed. The oil-cake is called *khari*. *Keoti* and *dori* oil-cake are used as fuel. *Til* and mustard oil-cake are eaten by Korwas. Sugar and *gur* are eaten, but chiefly as medicine. Salt is purchased from the market and eaten daily, except on Sundays, when neither salt nor buttermilk is eaten.

Meals are common to a household. If there be old parents or friends in the house, they are attended to first, after which the husband, wife, and children eat together in the same room; but the wife has to sit a short distance away from her husband. Meals are eaten on *donas* (plates) made of leaves of the *sal, korea, chirchiri* or *mahulan* tree. Drinks are obtained from the outstill shop. Water is procured for all purposes from the nearest river."*

Chero.

Chero is a land-holding and cultivating class of people in this district. Cheros at one time ruled over Gangetic provinces and were the rulers of Palamau for a long time. They claim to be Rajputs. Palamau Cheros are divided into two sections—*Barah hazar* and *Terah hazar*. The former is higher in rank and includes most of the descendants of former ruling families who assume the title of Babuan. The Babus of Nawa Jaipore or ex-Deogan State, those of Bisrampur belong to this

*The present socio-economic changes of the Korwas should be an interesting investigation not much of which has been done (P. C. R. C.).

group. The *Terah hazar* are of lower rank and they are scattered over the district. Colonel Dalton makes the following observations on the physical characteristics of Cheros :—

"The Cheros vary in colour, but are usually of a light brown colour. They have high cheek, bones, small eyes, obliquely set, low broad noses and large mouths with protuberant lips. According to Buchanan, the old Cheros claimed to be Nagbansis. Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh was for sometime under the sway of the old Cheros. In Shahabad also many ancient monuments are ascribed to them. An inscription at Buddha Gaya mentions one Phulichandra who is said to have been a Chero. In Palamau they retained their dominant position till the accession of the British Government. They had expelled the Raksel chief sometime in the reign of Jahangir. They had invaded Palamau from Rohtas with the aid of Rajput chiefs, the ancestors of the Thakurais of Ranka and Chainpur and had driven out a Rajput Raja of the Raksel family. The latter retreated into Sirguja and established himself there as a Raja. It is said that Palamau population then consisted of Kharwars, Gonds, Mars, Korwas, Parahiyas and kisans. Of these tribes the Kharwars were only conciliated by the Cheros and were allowed to remain in peaceful possession of the hill tracts bordering on Sirguja. It is popularly asserted that at the commencement of the Chero rule in the district, they numbered 12 thousand families and the Kharwars 18 thousand families. If an individual of one or the other is asked to what tribe he belongs, he will say not that he is a Chero or a Kharwar but that he belongs to the 12 thousand or to the 18 thousand, as the case may be.

The Cheros of the district live strictly as Rajputs and wear sacred thread (*janau*). They do not, however, intermarry with really good Rajput families. The Babuans of Bisrampur and Deogan ex-States have intermarried with Rajput families. If the economic condition of other Cheros was sound there would have been no hitch in their case also for such kind of intermarriage between the Cheros and Rajputs. Intermarriages between the Chero and Kharwar families have taken place. A relation of Palamau Raja married a sister of Maninath Sinha, Raja of Ramgarh. Cheros claim to be the descendants of *Chyavan Muni*, one of the great Hindu *Rishis*. The Cheros have a tradition that they came from Morang.

The marriage service of Cheros conforms to the orthodox Hindu pattern. At the close of *bhanwar* ceremony the couple march round an earthen vessel set up under the bridal

canopy of boughs, the bridegroom stooping touches the toe of the bride and swears to be faithful to her through life. Polygamy is permitted but is not very common. The Cheros have Brahman Gurus and priests. They worship Hindu gods but worship such spirits as Baghaut, Cheori, Darha, Dwarfal and others to which goats, fowls and sweets are offered. In these sacrifices Brahmans do not take part. A Baiga belonging to one of the aboriginal races performs the Puja of these spirits. They have also a priest like some of the Kols, called *Pahan* (Priest) who is either a Bhuiya or Parahiya. The deity honoured is the tutelary spirit of the village.*

The social status of the Cheros was very high even in the Moghal period of Indian history. They were given the rank of Mansabdars in Akbar's Court. Their children are invested with sacred thread by a Brahman priest at the time of marriage. Agriculture is their original occupation but now a days they keep shops, do cartaging, work on roads or in coal mines and collect tasar, lac and catechu. In the forcible words of Mr. Ferbes the Cheros are a proud race and exceedingly jealous of their national honour. They have never forgotten that they were once a great people and that their descent was a honourable one. Only the very poorest will hold the plough."

This picture of the Cheros may be supplemented by the observations of Sunder on the Cheros in the *Survey and Settlement Report* to show what have been the changes and how they were about six decades back. It may also be mentioned here that unfortunately no sociological investigation appears to have been made on the present day Cheros. The Cheros form an excellent subject of investigation as there has been a tremendous change in their socio-economic structure owing to acculturisation.

Sunder observes as follows :—

"The Cheros of Palamau are divided into two sub-castes. Barahazar or Barahajaria and Tere-hazar or Birbandhia, and are found chiefly in the hilly cultivated northern tappas of Kote, Pundag and Imli. They are rare in the southern part of the district. The number of holdings in possession of these people in the villages to which this settlement relates is 455, and the area covered by them is 3,203.42 acres. The rent payable for this land is Rs. 2,428. The two sub-castes are sub-divided into seven clans, having the distinguishing titles of (1) Mowar, (2) Kuanr, (3) Sanwat, (4) Rautia, (5) Manjhi, (6) Sohanait and (7) Mahto. Among the Mowars and Kuanrs there is (1) a Barka Mowar and a Chotka Mowar and (2) a Barka Kuanr and a Chotka Kuanr. The Chotka Kuanr are alleged to have come to Palamau from Buxar in Shahabad with the ancestors of the late Kuanr Bhikari Singh of Manka. The legend regarding the creation of the Birbandhia Cheros is this: 'A wealthy Chero who had resided in Birbandhia had invited his friends, who were all Cheros, to a feast. They came and found him with *kharams* (wooden sandals) on his feet, while he was pouring *ghi* into *dal* that was intended for them. This so irritated them that they not only abused him and left his house, but also outcasted him'. Since then there have been two castes, the followers of the outcasted Chero being the present Birbandhia Cheros."

*A Baiga is a priest of an aboriginal tribe. The priest has various other names (P. C. R. C.).

Of the history of the Cheros, Colonel Dalton in his *Ethnology of Bengal*, writes as follows :—

"The Cheros were expelled from Shahabad, some say by the Savars or Suars; some say by a tribe called Hariha. The date of their expulsion is conjectured to have been between the fifth and sixth centuries of the Christian era. Both Cheros and Savars were considered by the Brahmans of Shahabad as impure, or Malechhas; but the Harihas are reported good Kshatriyas.

"The overthrow of the Cheros in Mithila and Magadha seems to have been complete. Once lords of the Gangetic provinces, they are now found in Shahabad and other Bihar districts, only holding the meanest offices or concealing themselves in the woods skirting the hills occupied by their cousins, the Kharwar; but in Palamau they retained, till a recent period, the position they had lost elsewhere. A Chero's family maintained almost an independent rule in that *pargana* till the accession of the British Government; they even attempted to hold their castles and strong places against that power, but were speedily subjugated, forced to pay revenue, and submit to the laws. They were, however, allowed to retain their estates; and though the rights of the last Raja of the race were purchased by the Government in 1813, in consequence of his falling into arrears, the collateral branches of the family have extensive estates in Palamau still. According to their own traditions (they have no trustworthy annals) they have not been many generations in Palamau. They invaded that country from Rohtas, and with the aid of Rajput Chiefs, the ancestors of the Thakurais of Ranka and Chainpur, drove out and supplanted a Rajput Raja of the Raksel family, who retreated into Surguja, and established himself there. It is said that the Palamau population then

consisted of Kharwars, Gonds, Mars, Korwas, Parhaiyas, and Kissans. Of these, the Kharwars were the people of most consideration; the Cheros conciliated them and allowed them to remain in peaceful possession of the hill tracts bordering on Surguja. All the Cheros of note who assisted in the expedition obtained military service grants of land, which they still retain. It is popularly asserted that at the commencement of the Chero rule in Palamau they numbered twelve thousand families and the Kharwar eighteen thousand, and if an individual of one or the other is asked to what tribe he belongs, he will say, not that he is a Chero or a Kharwar, but that he belongs to the twelve thousand or to the eighteen thousand, as the case may be."

Colonel Dalton says: "The Palamau Cheros now live strictly as Rajputs, and wear the *paita* or caste thread." This, however, is not correct. Some Cheros wear *jineo* or the sacred thread; but many do not do so, in fact, there are said to be more Cheros in Palamau without the thread than with it. Many of those who do not wear it, eat fowls, pork, eggs and drink liquor; this, however, is not done openly, the reason being, as some of the leading Cheros explained to me, that if they made it public, Brahmans who now eat *pakki* and drink water that is given by them, would cease to do so. The Tere-hazar Cheros will eat both *pakki* and drink water from the hands of the former, but will not eat rice cooked by them.

Again Colonel Dalton says that "intermarriages between Chero and Kharwar families have taken place: but from enquiry in the district, I find that such marriages have never taken place in Palamau. The present direct descendant of the Raja of the Cheros is Rai Kissen Bux, Rai Bahadur of Nawa Jaipur, who has married into Rajput families, owing to which, it is said, that Cheros who wear the sacred thread do not eat with him, unless food is cooked separately for them by a Brahman. Of the Chero headmen whom I questioned, some said that their ancestors came from Morang, while others alleged that they came from Kumaon. The written story regarding his family given to me by Rai Kissen Bux, Rai Bahadur, is as follows:—

"The origin of the family is traced from Raja Keso Narain Singh, a Boondya Rajput, who was Raja of Ghurgoomti in Bundelkund. His daughter was married to one Chawan Muni, after whom they are called the Chawanbansi, or children of the Moon. Their descendants reigned at Kumaon for five generations. Foolchand Rai, one of the family, conquered Bhojpur, where they continued for the next four generations, until Raja Shahbul Rai conquered the Raja of Champaran and settled there. But the latter, with the aid of the Emperor of Delhi, took Shahbul Rai prisoner and regained his territory. Shahbul Rai's son, Bhagwant Rai, fled from Champaran and found shelter with Raja Deo Sahi of Dhawadand. From here Bhagwant Rai came to Palamau, accompanied by Puran Mul, a younger son of Raja Deosahi, and obtained service under Manu Singh the then Rakseyl Raja of Palamau, to whom he had brought letters of introduction from Raja Deo Sahi. In the following year during the absence of Raja Manu Singh at Surguja, Bhagwant Rai treacherously murdered his family and seizing the *guddee*, proclaimed himself as the first Chero Raja of Palamau. The family has been in the district for over 200 years."

"*Marriage.*—Among Cheros the Kuanr, Sanwats, and Mowars, may marry among themselves; but they should not marry those having the titles of Mahto, Sohanait, Manjhi and Rautia, nor can these, owing to the fewness of their number, marry among themselves. Infant marriages are not in vogue. The girl and boy are usually of the age of 10 or 12 years. Puberty begins at 12 years. The marriage ceremony is in the usual Hindu form. The couple do *bhanwar*, by walking around the altar, which is set up in the centre of the *marwa* or marriage canopy, built of bamboos in the courtyard. The altar consists of two *kalsas* (earthen vessels) that are placed there in the name of the bride and bridegroom. They are filled with water and have some *dubh* (grass), *kaseli* (betel nut) and a pice placed in each of them. Over the *kalsas* there are two covers (*dhaknas*) in which cotton seed (*banour*) and *urid dal* are kept with some mustard oil. There are two wicks in each cover and the four ends of the wicks are lit while the marriage ceremony is proceeding. In doing *bhanwar* the bride and bridegroom (the latter being behind the former, with his left hand on her left shoulder and his right hand holding her right wrist) walk round the altar five times scattering parched rice (*lawa*) before themselves all the while. After each turn the bridegroom stoops and touches the right toe of the bride. After this they return to their seats and are there surrounded by a sheet of new cloth. The *sindur bandan* ceremony is then performed by the bridegroom, who marks the bride's forehead five times with *sindur*.* This is followed by the *gaona* ceremony. The *napit* makes a slight gash below the nail of the right hand little fingers of the couple and the blood that is drawn is wiped by him with two pieces of *mahawar* (cotton dyed with lac). The bride and bridegroom are then made to stand and their seats of leaf plates are changed, the bride taking the bridegroom's and he her's. The *napit* then puts the *mahawar* containing the bridegroom's blood in the bride's right hand and her *mahawar* with her blood in it in the bridegroom's right hand. Each then touches the other's throat (*kant*) with the *mahawar*. This is the binding part of the ceremony and is called *sine-jora*. After this the *napit* takes two mango leaves from the bride's *patmaur* (crown), rolls them and with a cord ties one on the left wrist of the bride and the

**Sindur-dan* may be the survival of the primitive custom when a man won a woman in fight and drew blood from her forehead by the sword to mark possession (P. C. R. C.).

other on the left wrist of the bridegroom, this is called *kakna bandan*. The bridegroom's elder brother then receives some silver ornaments together with a *sari* from his father and after touching the altar where a lump of earth and one of cowdung, representing *Gour* and *Ganesh*, are kept, places them in the hands of the bride and thereafter takes off her *patmaur* of mango leaves. He and other relatives and friends then throw *achat* (*arua* rice) over the couple and the proceedings end by their retiring to their own quarters. Here the bridegroom promises to give his bride some present after which she takes the *maur* off his head. The *maur* is placed by the bridegroom's brother or father during *Assar* on the nearest bamboo bush, the belief being that the bridegroom's *bans* (children) will increase and multiply as the bamboo does. On the fourth day of the marriage called *chautai*, the bride and bridegroom, and the latter's mother and other relatives go to the nearest river for a bath. The *kalsa* of the bridegroom is taken there and the water in it is poured by the bride over her mother-in-law's head; all then have a bath in the river and return home. Here the bride and bridegroom are seated within a *chawka* which the *napit* makes. The bride then takes off the bridegroom's *kakna*, and he removes off her *kakna*. This closes the ceremony. The two *kalsas* are carefully stored for one year and then forgotten. The marriage is consummated on the wedding day. A Chero may re-marry (1) on the decease of his wife or (2) if his wife be childless. If she has children, he cannot re-marry. Widows are allowed to re-marry. A widow may marry her deceased husband's younger brother. Such marriages take place by the *sagai* form, in order to preserve the honour of the family. Cheros say that a young widow may be persuaded into joining a lower caste, hence marriage with her husband's brother is desirable. They are, however, not forced in the matter, but may do as they like. A man may marry two sisters, provided the elder one is married first. A widow having children, has not been known to re-marry. If a woman be found having committed adultery she is turned out of the house without any ceremony, and thus divorced by her husband. The man with whom she goes wrong, marries her by the *sagai* form. Neither of them is outcasted. No other form of divorce is recognised.

"*Birth.*—At childbirth a woman is attended by her mother-in-law if she be available, and also by the *chamain*. She takes a bath on the sixth day, and on the twentieth day, or sooner, if able, again bathes. and wears clean clothes. She draws water from the village well after marking it five times with *sindur*, and after this she is considered to be clean, and may attend to the duties in the house. Barrenness is not common in Chero women. When a woman is barren, she is looked down on. The saying is she is *banj* (barren), and not worth looking at'. Nevertheless, she is well treated by her husband. Twins occasionally occur and considered to be a sign of good fortune among Cheros. Births sometime occur out of wedlock. If the woman in presence of a *panchayat* declares that the father of the child is so and so, the man named is obliged to marry her by the *sagai* form, and both are

permitted to remain in the caste. If the woman fails to mention the father's name, she is outcasted, and nobody will eat with her. Children are named as soon as means are available for paying the Brahman. He is told the date and hour of birth, and he gives the name. If the Brahman is not called, the child, if a boy, is named by the father, and a girl is named by the mother.

"*Funerals.*—The dead are burnt in the usual manner. The ashes are generally covered over and allowed to remain. Some Cheros, however, take five bones, viz., two from the feet, two from the hands, and one from the ribs, from the ashes of the pile, and place them in a new earthen pot, which is buried in the ground near a *pipul* tree. The nearest male relative of deceased pours water on the ground over the pot for ten days, and after this the usual ceremony of feeding Brahmans and others is performed.

"*Tattooing.*—All Chero women are *tattooed*. Tattooing is confined to women, and is made by the *malarin*, who is paid from two to four annas. The operation being exceedingly painful, the tattooing is not completed the first year, but is done gradually. Tattooing is done with needles, the pigment employed being *kajal* (antimony) mixed with woman's milk. Tattooing commences inside the forearms, and then goes on to the neck and chest, the design being according to fancy of the *malarin* doing it. The marks on the chest are in imitation of necklaces, and those on the ankles and arms resemble anklets and armlets."

Parhaiyas.

Parhaiyas at one time formed a very important section of Palamau population. Some of their songs are evidently old war songs of the tribe and one particular song refers to the invasion of Palamau which is "Fly, Fly, Deo Shahi is coming and we cannot resist him". Deo Shahi was the father of Puran Mal, one of the leaders of the invading force. Parhaiyas are still found residing in jungle villages, although some of them have started living in plains also. They are fairly good cultivators and they supplement their slender resources by collecting honey, lac and other jungle produce and barter them with grains, salt, tobacco and cloth.

Sunder had made a detailed study of the Parhaiyas which is quoted *in extenso*. It may be mentioned that as there has been no recent sociological research on the Parhaiyas some of the observations of Sunder may have become obsolete now. Sunder observes as follows :—

> "Parhaiyas are a Dravidian tribe found, I believe, only in Palamau. According to their own tradition, they have all along been in Palamau and they allege that originally they were the *duar pujaris* or priests of the Maharajas of the district. They are found chiefly in the southern tappas, seldom towards the north of Daltonganj. They are a simple people, hardworking and laborious, and are

good cultivators. In height they are generally about 5 feet 3 inches. They have broad, flat faces with slightly oblique eyes and their colour is dark copper. In my dealings with them, I found them honest and truthful and they are frank to a degree.

"*Food.*—All edible jungle products are eaten and no one knows better than the Parhaiya and Brijia where to obtain them. Fish of all kinds, young pig and castrated pig called *meda*, fowl, goat's meat, deer, hare, doves, partridge, peacock, and quails are eaten. They abstain from eating beef and mutton. Marrow is much relished, also curd and buttermilk. Cow's milk is drunk. Food is cooked by the wife. If there be a daughter, she helps the mother. Meals are eaten on plates made of leaves of the *palas*, *sakua*, *mahulan*, *korea* or *dorang* tree. The wife helps the food. If there be aged parents in the homestead they have their meals before the rest of the family. The aged are much respected. The husband takes his food next and, if there be children, they eat with him in the *dhawa* or verandah of the house. The wife eats last of all in the room where she had cooked the food. Two good meals are taken daily. In the morning, after ploughing is finished, men take some refreshment in the shape of about quarter seer of *mahua*. This is called *lukma*. At noon *kalewa* consisting of about a seer of *sathu*, together with boiled vegetable and chilly, are eaten. If rice be available, it is eaten, but is not depended on. Cereals together with roots, vegetables, *sags* or meat are preferred and much relished. The principal meal is taken at noon. The next meal, *biari*, is eaten after sunset and is never a heavy one. If mustard oil be in the house food is cooked in it, otherwise oil of *mahua* seed is used.

Fire is made by rubbing a piece of dry bamboo smartly against another. The sparks caused by the friction are directed to a piece of cloth which burns soon and is used for lighting fuel in the oven.

"*Marriage ceremonies.*—Two of the headmen of the village called *aguan* are sent to the father of the girl to negotiate for her. If her parents be agreeable, Rs. 5 or Rs. 7 are paid to them as *dali* by the *aguan*, who are relatives of the young man. This binds the girl's parents from disposing of her elsewhere. About eight days after this the girl's father together with a few male relatives visit the young man. If he be approved, the *dali* money is retained, if not, the arrangements are broken off. If no objection is made, the Brahman is consulted and he fixes an auspicious day for the marriage. He receives a rupee for doing this. On the day fixed the *aguan* and a few of the bridegroom's

friends go with a *dooly* to the bride's house. Here they present her mother with a *sari* and sweetmeats. They also make over to the bride a new *sari* for herself. On the following morning she wears this and is conveyed in the *dooly* to the bridegroom's house. Her parents follow in the evening. A *marwa* (wedding shed) is erected in the courtyard of the house and is covered with bamboo twigs and leaves. A plough, yoke with pole, etc., complete is fixed in the ground in the centre of the space occupied by the *marwa* and two *kalsis* (earthen jars) filled with water are placed opposite it in the names of the bride and bridegroom. A post made from a branch of the *sida* tree, covered over with small pieces of rag coloured yellow with turmeric, is fixed in the ground in front of the bridegroom's hut. This is called *kaliani*. The fathers of the couple then sit together in front of the *kaliani* and the Brahman pours *ghi* into an earthen vessel which is kept in front of the *kaliani* and in which a lighted wick is burning. This completes the *ghiu-dhari* ceremony. While the *ghi* is ablaze the parents salute each other. After this the *napit* takes some flour of *arua* rice called *aipan* and makes a square on the ground to the east of the *marwa*. Two leaf plates called *pathal*, are placed within the square and the bride and bridegroom are seated thereon, opposite each other, and in front of the *kalsis*, the bride looking to the west and the bridegroom to the east. Here they hold up their hands' palm upwards and the *napit* puts rice called *achat* therein. This is done five times and each time the rice is thrown on the ground over two lumps of earth representing Gour and Ganesh which are kept by the Brahman in front of the couple. Some *dahi* together with a little *aipan* are also kept there as an offering to the deity. After this the fathers of the bride and bridegroom take some turmeric and with it mark the young couple in places from feet to head. A *lohra* (pestle) is then held by five headmen (being relatives of the parties) together, turmeric is applied to it and after this the head, shoulders, body, and feet of the bridegroom and bride, respectively, are touched with it. Some women then dig a hole in the ground in the courtyard. A yoke of a plough is placed over the hole and the bridegroom is seated thereon. Women being his near relatives, then take the *kalsi* which had been kept in the *marwa* in his name and pour some of the water in it over him. After this bath he is wiped and re-seated in the *marwa*. A similar operation is performed on the bride. The fathers of the parties then exchange cloths with each other. Each puts his cloth over the other's shoulder. They then take two peacock feathers from the *maur* or

crown of the bridegroom, put them into *dahi* and mark each other five times on the forehead and chest with them. After this they salute each other. This is done to establish *samdi* or friendship that should never be broken. The bride's father then takes her on his right thigh and while she is seated there opposite the bridegroom, the Brahman with some *kuss* grass in his hands sits to the right of the bride and repeats prayers. A cup made from leaves of the *sal* tree is placed in the right hand of the bride's father. The Brahman fills it with water. The bride's *kalsi* is then touched with the cup in the right hand of bridegroom, who hands it over to his father. The water in the cup is poured by him into the *kalsi* of the bridegroom. This is done five times and is called *karmat*. After this the bridegroom's father takes *sindur* and marks his son's *kalsi* five times. The *napit* then takes some parched rice and walks round the bride and bridegroom five times, scattering it in front of them all the while. After each round the bridegroom has to salute the bride by touching her foot over the right big toe with his right hand. After this a few of the elder male members of the family hold a sheet round the young couple and the bridegroom then marks the bride on her forehead with *sindur* (vermilion). This is the binding part of the ceremony. The nearest female relative of the bride thereafter marks her nose and head with *sindur* to indicate that she is a married woman. And while this is being done the Brahman and *napit* receive their *neg* (fees or presents) according to the circumstances of the parties. The *napit* scatters rice over the bride and bridegroom. He also performs the *gaona* ceremony by colouring the nails of the bride's fingers with *mahawar* (cotton dyed with lac). This entitles her to return home. After this the bride and bridegroom rise and two baskets are placed on the ground by the *napit*. The young couple walk on this, one behind the other, with an end of the bride's *sari* knotted to an end of the bridegroom's *dhoti*. This is called the *gat-bandhan*. They proceed to their hut stepping on the baskets, but are stopped at the door by the bridegroom's sister, who demands a present. This being promised, she allows them to enter the hut, the door of which is then closed by some relative. Here the couple untie the knot of their garments and also eat some *dahi* together out of the same plate. The bride also takes off the bridegroom's *maur* (crown) and he removes her *patmaur* (head-dress). The marriage is consummated the same day. Two days after this the *maur* and *patmaur* are made over to the *baiga* (village priest) who places them at the *gaonhel* (sylvan shrine). He is paid

two annas for doing this. The bride and bridegroom accompany the *baiga* and salute the *goanhel* by bowing before it. After this they have a bath and put on clean garments and then salute the household gods, viz., Chandi, Duarpar and Baghout. Chandi, if offended, is supposed to cause sickness and death. Duarpar, if displeased, causes sickness; but kills nobody. Baghout is believed to cause death from attack of a tiger when he is dissatisfied. Chandi is supposed to remain at the entrance to every hut. Duarpar is said to reside within the hut and Baghout is said to also move about there. After this the bride returns to her parents and continues with them for a year during which she is not visited by her husband. In *Dashara* or *Fagua* she returns again to her husband and stays with him.

Marriage takes place between the age of 12 and 14 years. Puberty is said to begin at 14 years and the first child is said to be generally born within two years. A man may marry two or more wives if he is able to support them; but polygamy is permitted only when the first wife is childless. A man may marry two sisters provided the elder one becomes his wife first. The first wife is called *barki*, the second is called *chotki*.

"*Divorce.*—If the husband and wife fail to agree, they may separate by mutual consent. In such cases both parties may re-marry. If the woman re-marries, it is by the *sagai* form and the man who takes her pays Re. 1-4-0 to her parents. Such a woman is precluded from residing in the apartment in which the *deota* (deity) is believed to remain. She is provided with separate quarters; and owing to this, divorces are uncommon. Widows re-marry by the *sagai* form. The price of a widow is Re. 1-4-0 and is paid to her parents.

"*Births.*—At childbirth a *chamain* attends the woman. The *chamain* remains with the patient for ten days. Women are said to rarely give birth to twins. A woman is unclean for six days. On the lapse of this period, the *chatti* is performed. The *napit* paints the woman's nails; he also colours the nails of her feet red with *mahawar* (cotton dyed with lac). The *chamain* bathes the woman and she is clothed with new garments; but for 15 days no food cooked by her is eaten by her husband. The child is named by the Brahman who is paid for this from five pice to Re. 1-4-0.

"*Habitations.*—The Brahman is consulted and an auspicious day is fixed by him for building the hut. If there be only one hut, the door should always face to the east.

The hut should not be less than 6 cubits broad and 12 cubits long. The roof is thatched with straw.

"*Medicines.*—In sickness, medicines are found in the jungles. In fever, a root called *satour* is crushed, and mixed with water which is then drunk. The bark of the *karam* (*Adina cordifolia*) tree is also crushed and mixed with water, which is strained and drunk. In high fever the root of the *mowan* tree is crushed, mixed with water which is strained and drunk. The fruit of the *mowan* tree is crushed and mixed with water. This produces a froth, which is rubbed over the body, and is said to reduce the temperature. In colic, the old stem of a cob of maize is burnt, pounded and mixed with black salt and rock salt. A pill is made of this and swallowed. 'When the stomach is heated' the bark of the *baher* tree is crushed and mixed with water, which is strained and drunk. Barley, turmeric and *gur* are ground and mixed with water and drunk for the same complaint. In cough, the juice of the *sale* tree is drunk. In sorethroat the *harre* (*Terminalia chebula*) fruit is burnt, ground, and eaten. In diarrhoea the gum of the *sale* tree is powdered, mixed with fresh *dahi*, and drunk. In cholera the seed of an old cucumber is ground and given to the patients. In headache the fruit of the *bhela* (*Semecarpus Anacardium*) tree is cut, and the juice is applied to the forehead. The blisters caused thereby, are said to remove the pain. The juice from leaves of the *chilbil* tree is also used for blistering the head in the same manner. Garlic is sometimes rubbed over the temples to relieve pain. When half the head aches or in neuralgia, the fruit of the *panrer* tree called *ad-kapali* is used. It is worn at the end of the lobe of the ear on the affected side of the head, like an ear-ring. In cold, chilly is ground, mixed with water and drunk. For goitre, the root of the *keinar* tree and *chitaor* root are ground, and rubbed over the affected part. In small-pox, cowdung is burnt, and *ghi* is poured over it. The ashes as soon as cool are put over the affected part.

"*Funerals.*—The dead are burnt, except in cases of cholera, when they are buried. The funeral pyre is set ablaze by the son or nearest male relative of the deceased. The ashes are collected and covered over with sand, and a mound is made at the place. The bones of the deceased are left there. The funeral party return home and purify themselves by touching water in which five blades of *dubh* (grass) and a piece of iron are placed. In the evening some rice is cooked in milk. This is called *dudh mui* and all the party have to eat of it. On the tenth day after the funeral the *napit* shaves the male members of the family of the deceased. This is called the *dasua*. On the 12th day the Brahman is fed and is also given some money, according to the circumstances of the people. The *napit* and the *dhoby* are also paid. The relatives and friends of the deceased are fed.

"*Tattooing.*—All Parhaiya women are tattooed (*khodna*), which is done by the *ghasin* or *malarin*. Her charge is from two annas to four annas, according to the patterns that she may be required to make. Tattooing is done after the age of ten years, and before marriage takes place. Antimony and woman's milk are used, and the pricking is done with three needles. The ornamentation is according to the fancy of the woman who performs the operation, but the patterns are generally necklace, bracelet, and anklet. The figures are made on the arms, neck, chest, and ankles of women. Men are not tattooed.

"*Ornaments.*—Women wear *pairi* (anklets); *anguta* (ring on great toe), *anguri* (ring on small toe); *churi* (bracelet) of lac; *churla* (glass armlet); *guria* (necklet of beads); *hasuli* (necklet of silver); *tarka* (ear-ring); *tikli* (round wafer on forehead), and *nathia* and *bolak* (nose-rings).

Men wear *kanousi* (ear-ring); *bera* (bangle of silver), and occasionally *udhras* (necklace of beads).

"*Religion.*—The deities are Dharti or Muchukrani, who is believed to remain within the village under a large tree. She is appeased by the offering of a kid. Raksel is believed to keep off sickness provided an offering of a he-goat is made to him annually. Duar Pahar is said to be a Dhosad who remains in the village. He is appeased with a male pig. During the Dashara festival a buffalo is killed as an offering to him. Debi Mai is the deity of goodness. A black she-kid is killed as an offering to her."

Birjias.

Sunder has left an extremely interesting note on the Brijias who are the same as the Birjias. His observations are quoted *in extenso*. It may be mentioned here that the Birjias are more found in Mahuadanr police-station and are fast declining. They are nomadic in habits and a very small percentage has taken to settled cultivation. The bulk of them live in a group of two or three families on the spur of the high hills. They still do a little cultivation by burning the underwood and by throwing some seeds on the ashes. Usually they move out from their homestead in about a year.

Birjias speak a dialect called Birjia which is a mixture of Mundari and other tribal dialects. Their manners, customs and other ways of life are akin to those of Korwas, Kharias and other tribes.

It has to be mentioned before Sunder's observations are quoted that there has not been any detailed investigation into the present day Birjias and many of the Sunder's observations may have become outdated or may be wrong. Nevertheless, as a pioneer investigator his observations are of great value.

Sunder observes as follows :—

"These people know nothing of their history and only say that they have been in Palamau for many generations. With few exceptions, they are found chiefly in jungle tracts in the southern part of the district where the cultivation done by them is entirely on the *beonra* or juming system. They are well-built, strong and able to bear any amount of hardship. In height, the men seldom exceed 5 feet 3 inches, while the women are about 5 feet. They are dark-skinned and have broad noses with flat faces and small black eyes. In spite of the hardships they have to endure in a part of the district which is extremely unhealthy during most of the year, and where the weather is intensely cold during the winter months, the average age to which they live is 30 years, and I have a few acquaintances among them who have passed the age of 60 years.

"*Food.*—Brijias eat beef, pork, deer, goat, buffalo, sheep, gaur, dhamin snakes (*Ptyas mucosus*), goi (a lizard), rats, bull, frogs, tiger, leopard, bear, peacock and all birds, except vultures. They drink milk and buttermilk, and also eat curd. Blood, called *tumba*, of all animals that are eatable is boiled and drunk. It is not taken raw nor is uncooked meat eaten. Food is cooked in mustard, *mahua* or *jatingi* oil, whenever this is obtainable; otherwise it is cooked in water only. Oil is expressed by themselves between two logs of wood. All food eaten by men may be eaten by women also. Marrow is called *tumul* and is much sought after, owing to there being grease in it. In seasons of scarcity little difficulty is felt, as all edible roots and vegetables procured in the jungle are eaten, and no one knows better than the Brijia where he can easily get them. Salt (*bulung*) is obtained by exchange and eaten. Sugar and honey are eaten, the latter being obtained from beehives in the jungles.

Fire is made by rubbing two pieces of bamboo against each other. The lower piece is split and a bit of rag is fixed between. The upper piece is rubbed smartly against the lower one. The friction creates sparks, which soon set the rag ablaze. Steel and flint are not known.

The first meal called *lookma*, is taken in the fields between 9 and 10 A.M., and consists of boiled pulse or *makai*. The next meal called *kal-wa-jom-ko* is taken at noon (*dophar*) and consists of *mahua* and vegetables, or boiled *makai* or *bhat* made from *jinor* or pulse. The food most appreciated is *makai* and *marua*, together with such meat or vegetables that may be available, as also *mahua*. Rice is eaten when obtained, but is little cared for, the former and cheaper grains being the staple food of these people. Food is cooked by the wife, or if there be an elder daughter in the house, she attends to this, while the mother looks to other matters. Fuel is brought by the father or brother. Water is obtained from the nearest river or from a well, if one exists, but river water is preferred. Meals are common to the household. The mother helps the husband first, then the children, and lastly herself. All eat together in the compartment adjoining the one in which the food was cooked. When the children are given rice for the first time, a fowl is killed and offerings are made to deceased relatives. Five plates made of leaves are placed in a freshly cleaned part of the floor of the hut. Rice and fowl's meat are then put on the plates and the father of the child addresses the deceased relatives thus :— 'From today this child is beginning to eat rice. May he (or she) be able to digest it and may he (or she) continue in good health'. After this some rice is taken from each of the five plates and placed in the child's mouth by the mother.

"*Marital relations.*—Two friends, called *bisuts*, go from the boy's father to the parents of the girl and ask whether a marriage would be agreeable or not. If agreeable, as is always the case, the girl's parents fix a day, which is generally within eight or ten days of the first interview, and ask the *bisuts*, to return. On the day appointed the *bisuts*, as well as the young man to be married and a few friends, take two earthen vessels or *handi* or *janr* (rice beer) with them and go to the girl's house. The *handi* is carried there by the bridegroom. On the same evening the girl's parents' relatives and friends assemble in the courtyard (*angina*) of the girl's house, and here the betrothal takes place by the girl's father, announcing that the marriage has been arranged and that he has promised to give his daughter to the boy. After this *handi* (liquor) is distributed by the *bisuts* in a *topara* (earthen pot) or *lota* to each of the people present and the night is spent in feasting and drinking. On the following morning the girl's father fixes a day for the marriage, and after this the *bisuts* and boy return home. The date for the marriage is generally one year after the betrothal. On the lapse of the period that may be fixed, five earthen

vessels of *handi* and 12 *paseries* or 72 seers of rice, as also two pigs and Rs. 6 in cash are taken by the *bisuts*, the bridegroom and his friends, together with two drummers to the bride's house. They are met on the way by the girl's people, and the marriage takes place on the same day. The rice, pigs and Rs. 6 are made over to the girl's father in the presence of the relatives and friends who assemble in the courtyard. A *sari*, called *mai sari* is given to the girl's mother, and one is also given to the bride. The *bisuts* then cause the bride and bridegroom to stand under a *marwa* (marriage shed covered over with leaves and bamboos) in the courtyard. After this the *bisuts* pour a little mustard oil over (1) the boy's head and (2) the girl's head, and then dress their hair with a *kanki* (comb of wood). This is the binding part of the ceremony. One of the *bisuts* then takes the bridegroom on his shoulder while the other *bisut* takes the bride up in his arms and the two then dance together in front of each other, singing all the while. After this dancing, which lasts for a few minutes only, the pair are set on the ground and they then have to go together, the boy first and behind him the bride, and salute the guests present, beginning from the right and ending on the left, by bending before them and touching their feet. This completes the marriage ceremony. Congratulations follow and presents of money are given to the girl according to circumstances of their friends. The only head-dress worn by the bridegroom is his *mureta* (turban) of cloth. He wears a *kurta* over his body and *dhoti* as usual. After this there is a feasting and drinking which run into the small hours of the morning. The whole of the food eaten at this feast has to be cooked by young men. No women are allowed to do this. The parents of the bridegroom are not present at the marriage. The *bisuts* represent them and arrange the whole affair. On the food for the feast being ready the girl's father addresses the male guests as follows :—'Come brothers and eat the feast that is ready for you' and to the women folk he says—'Come sisters and join in this feast.' After this there is feasting and thereafter the *bisuts*, as also the bride and bridegroom, return home to the latter's house and the marriage is consummated there. The bride's parents do not accompany her. Four days after this the couple take two earthen vessels of *handi* called *Baharaoti handi* to the bride's parents and drinking follow at their house. On the same day presents consisting of

money or cattle are given to the bride by her parents. This is called *dan dahy*. The couple then return home.

Polygamy is permitted. A man has been known to have three wives, but the number depends on his ability to support them. If there be three wives, food is cooked by the second or third wife, generally the latter, while the elder one attends to other affairs of the house. A man may marry two sisters, provided he marries the elder one first. If a man is unable to agree with his wife, he may divorce her by simply sending her away. The separation is effected in the presence of a few headmen of the village. The woman so separated may join another man by mutual arrangement which is called *sagaina*.

"*Reproduction.*—In childbirth a woman is generally attended by her mother-in-law. If she has none, the next near female relative attends her. In cases of difficult labour shampooing is resorted to. Beyond this, nothing is done. Cases of difficult labour are said to be rare. Marriage takes place between the age of 12 and 16. Puberty is said to begin at 12 years. A woman begins child-bearing at the age of 16 and ends at about 40 to 45 years. The average number of family is 5, of whom two are boys and three are girls. The largest family known was of 9. A mother is known to have given birth to this number, of whom five grew up and four died. A mother suckles her children up to the age of 3 years. Twins sometimes occur and are well regarded. It is said that when twins are born, if one dies, the other never survives. In cases of sickness, no medicine is given to a child. The mother only is dosed and it is believed that the child benefits thereby. The principal disease from which infants suffer is said to be fever, which prevails most in the month of *Kartik*. A barren woman is called *Banjiana*. She is not looked down on. Barrenness, however, in Brijia women is said to be uncommon. Births out of wedlock are never heard of. In fact, men respect women in this matter and there is said to be little immorality.

"*Customs at death.*—The dead are burnt. On removal of the corpse from the house paddy is scattered behind it by the head male member of the family. Wood is collected and the body is placed thereon by the male relatives of the deceased. No outsider may touch the corpse. A piece of new cloth is put over it. After this the nearest male relative walks round the pyre five times and each time applies fire from a bundle of straw first to the mouth of the corpse and then to the pyre. When the whole is burnt and nearly reduced to ashes, water is

poured over the unburnt portion and the fire is extinguished. After this nearest male relative takes a bit of bone from the forehead, the right forearm, the chest, the lower end of the spine and both thighs and feet, and after placing them in a new small earthen pot which is tied in a piece of new cloth it is then buried in a suitable prominent site, generally alongside a road. Before filling up the hole in which the pot is placed, a black fowl is killed in the name of the deceased to satisfy his spirit and the blood from the fowl is allowed to drop on the pot containing the bones. After this, the hole is filled up and a large stone called *kalbudh* is erected over it. The dead fowl is taken home and cooked. On completion of burial of the bones the funeral party return home and have their heads just above the forehead shaved after which a bath is taken in the river. The eldest male member of the family then takes some oil and turmeric (*haldi*) and applies it to the heads of the people present. This is said to purify them. On food being ready, five boys are brought and seated in the courtyard (*angina*) and are fed with rice and pork. This is called the *panch kuanri* and its performance admits of other people taking food. After this there is feasting and drinking and the funeral ceremonies are completed.

"*Inheritance.*—Property descends to the son; if there be no son, then to the next male relative and widow, half to each. Daughters get nothing except what may be given to them by their father while he is alive. If there be no male relatives, the property remains with the widow so long as she is alive and after her decease is divided by the daughters in equal shares. Relationship is thus always traced in the male line.

The mode of addressing relatives is as follows :—

Father is called Apun.

Mother is called Engain.

Elder brother is called Dadain.

Younger brother is called Bokonje.

Elder sister is called Daie.

Younger sister is called Bokonje.

Son is called Hoponing.

Grandson is called Nathian.

Father's elder brother is called Gungunje.

Father's younger brother is called Kakain.

Mother's elder brother and younger brother is called Mamunje.

Father's elder sister and younger sister is called Hotomin Kakinge.

Father's wife is called Hilinge.

Sister's husband is called Tenjain.

Brother's son is called Bhutijain.

"*Clothing.*—Men wear a *barki gendra*, which is a sheet or cloak for covering the body. It is in two long pieces stitched together and costs Re. 1-8-0; or they wear a *gendra*, which is a single piece of cloth worn round the loins. It is supported on the waist by a cord called *danda-dor*. The *dhoti* costs 8 annas. One *barki gendra* and two *dhoties* are worn during each year.

Women wear an *evergendra* or *sari*. It is worn round the lower part of the body. They do not wear a *danda-dor*. Two *evergendras* are worn each year and cost Re. 1-8-0. No *kurtas* are worn. The body from waist upward is covered by a part of the *evergendra*.

Children remain naked up to the age of four or five years. No ceremony is performed when they wear clothing for the first time.

"*Diseases and medicine.*—The sick are looked after by their wives or other relatives. On recovery from sickness *puja* is generally performed by offering a fowl or pig through the *Ojhas* to the deities Khat and Dhandi. The sick are laid on a piece of mat called *patia*, which is made from leaves of the date-palm. The diseases from which Brijias suffer and the remedies employed are mentioned below :—

Brijia.	English.	Remedy.
Ruatana or Gendrain ..	Fever ..	The bark of *karam* tree is crushed and soaked in water. After being strained the infusion is drunk.
Datahasua	Toothache ..	The root of *rangaina* creeper is powdered and applied to the affected tooth.
Samanghasutana ..	Headache ..	Turmeric and garlic are ground and applied to the affected part.
Suantana	Stomachache ..	Ashes are spread on the stomach and a heated sickle is applied over the place where the pain is most severe. An immediate cure is said to be effected.

Brijia.	English.	Remedy.
Aonkatitana ..	.. Dysentery ..	Bark of the mango-tree is crushed and mixed with milk. The liquid is strained and drunk.
Piritana ..	.. Jaundice ..	Children are said to be affected most by this disease. Mustard oil and lime are mixed and rubbed over the body every evening for seven days. This is said to effect a cure.
Matatana ..	.. Small-pox ..	No medicine is taken. *Puja* is performed to appease the goddess Debi. Fire is made and *chuan* (gum of *sal* tree) and *gur* are burnt over it. This is believed to satisfy the deity.
Khuktana ..	.. Cough ..	Black pepper corns are ground and mixed with water. The infusion is strained and drunk.
Luturhasua ..	.. Earache ..	A cowrie (shell) is heated, and while warm, is put into water held in a leaf. The water thus heated is applied to the ear, and is said to give immediate relief.
Bultana ..	.. Giddiness ..	The fruit of the *kathal* tree is ground and mixed with hot water. The infusion is strained and drunk.
Dautana or Babadtana	.. Ringworm ..	Wet cowdung is applied to the part in small circular cakes. These cakes are then removed and kept near the fire. It is cured within the number of days that the cakes take to dry.
Mahumaumtana	.. Bleeding of nose	A cure is said to be effected by smelling fresh cowdung.

Rheumatism is tutaintana, cholera is markhitana and cramps are nyertana. There is no remedy for these diseases. The *Ojha* is consulted and performs *puja* to propitiate the deity.

"*Ornaments.*—Among Brijias, men wear *bera* (bracelet) of silver on the right hand. The value of it is from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6. They wear a *hisir* (necklace) of beads costing two Gorakhpuri pice string on their neck. A brass hairpin called *salukha* is worn on the head to support the hair. It costs two pice. *Kanousis* of brass (ear-rings) are worn on both ears. They cost two pice. Sometimes a string containing a silver coin is worn on the neck. This is called *chandwa*.

The ornaments worn by women are mentioned below :—

		Rs.	a.	p.
Necklace of beads	Hisir	0	2	0
Ditto of brass	Suta	0	6	0
Ditto of silver..	Do.	5	0	0
Leaf ear-rings	Dandik ..	0	2	0
Brass bracelet	Sakom.. ..	1	8	0
Brass armlet	Churla.. ..	0	1	0
Brass anklet	Penri	1	8	0
Rings worn on all fingers ..	Mandam ..	0	0	3

Brijia women are not tattooed."

Birhors.

The number of Birhors in Palamau or as a matter of fact in any district will always vary from time to time. The Birhors and particularly one class of them are absolutely nomadic in habit and will move away from their habitation at the slightest pretext. They live in very small leaf-huts with an opening through which one could crawl in with difficulty. Birhors are still met with in the jungles of the southern thanas of Chandwa and Balumath and in Netarhat. They are fast declining. A settlement of Birhors has been recently done at Bishunpur to stop this decline.*

Dalton observed about the Birhors in about 1864 :—"With much trouble some Birhors were caught and brought to me. They were wretched-looking objects, but had more the appearance of the most abject of one of those degraded castes of the Hindus, the Domes or Pariahs, to whom most flesh is food, than of hill people. Assuring me that they had themselves given up the practice, they admitted that their fathers were in the habit of disposing of the dead in the manner indicated, viz., by feasting on the bodies; but they declared they never shortened life to provide such feasts, and shrank with horror at the idea of any bodies but those of their own blood-relations being served up to them. The Raja of Jashpur said he had heard that when a Birhor thought his end was approaching, he himself invited his kindred to come and eat him. The Birhors brought to me did not acknowledge this."

Paddington's Memorandum on an Unknown Forest Race inhabiting the thanas South of Palamau was published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1855. Quotation from Paddington's

*The S. D. O. of Latehar reports that about 250 Birhors of Mahuadanr area have been rehabilitated in Bishunpur colony in Ranchi District.

Memorandum will be found in the same book. Paddington mentions that they might well have been mistaken for a large Orang-Utang. He further mentions that with great difficulty and by the aid of signs one of the Dhangars could make them understand the questions put to them.

The next more detailed report about the Birhors was given in the Report of L. R. Forbes, I.C.S., on the Raiyatwaree Settlement of the Government farms in Palamau. S. C. Roy has given a lengthy quotation from Forbes' Report in his book on "The Birhors". This Report may be looked into for fuller details about the Birhors. Dalton's Ethnology was published in the same year as Forbes' Report but contains a few lines about the Birhors. Dalton observes—

"The Birhors call themselves Hindus, live in the jungles, and subsist on wild animals, honey and what they can obtain by the exchange of jungle produce with people of the plains. They are great adepts at snaring monkeys and other small animals, and sell them alive or eat them, they have no cultivation whatever, but they are apparently Kolarian, as among themselves they converse in Kol. They sell chob, a strong fibre of which ropes and strings for various purposes are made, honey, wax, and sikas, the sticks like bows for carrying loads *bonghy* fashion and *banghy* ropes; and with the proceeds and the spontaneous edible productions of the forest they manage to exist and clothe themselves. There are people called Birhors in Chutia Nagpur proper and Jashpur, who live in the equally wild state, but communicate with each other in a dialect of Hindi. They are a small, dirty, miserable-looking race, who have the credit of devouring their parents, and when I taxed them with it, they did not deny that such a custom had once obtained among them."

Dalton attaches a short account of Birhors supplied to him by one of his subordinates who had visited some Birhor settlements. That account runs as follows :—

"The Birhors were found living in the jungles on the sides of hills in huts constructed only of branches of trees and leaves, but so made as to be quite water-tight; their huts are as small as those of the jungles, previously described. The entrance door faces the east, and is about two feet from the ground. A man and his wife and young children sleep together in this small hut six feet square, but grown-up children are provided with separate huts; they lie on date-tree leaf-mats spread on the ground. They have hardly any cultivation, and never touch a plough. A man and his family who not long ago left their community and took to cultivating in the plains are now considered outcaste. The men spend their time in snaring hares and monkeys, collecting edible roots and jungle fruits and the chob (*Bauhinia scandens*) bark, of which they make strings for various purposes. They are seldom seen in the villages, but the women frequent the markets to sell their ropes and jungle produce.

"The Birhors affirm that they and the Kharwars are of the same race descended from the Sun. They came, seven brothers, to this country from Khairagarh (in the Kaimur hills); four went to the east, and three brothers remained in the Ramgarh district. One day when the three brothers were going out to fight against the chiefs of the country, the head-dress of one of them got entangled in a tree. He deemed it a bad omen, and remained behind in the jungle. His two brothers went without him and gained a victory over the chiefs, and returning found their brother employed in cutting the bark of the chob. They derided him, calling him the Birhor, ('Birhor' is Munda for a woodman or forester) or chob cutter; he replied that he would rather remain a Birhor and reign in the jungles than associate with such naughty brothers. Thus originated the Birhors, lords of the jungles. The other two brothers became Rajahs of the country called Ramgarh.

"The number of the Birhors is limited, estimated at not more than 700 for the whole Hazaribagh district. They are quite a nomadic race, wandering about from jungle to jungle, as the sources of their subsistence become exhausted. There are about ten families in the jungles near the village of Ramgarh, forty in the vicinity of Gola, ten in the jungles of Jagesar, and forty families about Chatra and Datar. Major Thompson, in his report on Palamau, speaks of them as the aborigines of that district. They are found in Chutia Nagpur proper, in Jashpur, and in Manbhum.

"The women dress decently; they have marks of tattooing on their chest, arms, and ankles; they have no such marks on the face.

"After child birth a woman remains in her hut for six days and has no food, except medicinal herbs. Then the infant is taken out, not by the ordinary door, but by an opening made in the opposite wall; this, it is believed, protects it from being devoured by a tiger or bitten by a snake.

"Parents arrange the marriage of their children. The father of the bridegroom pays three rupees to the father of the bride. They have no priests, and the only ceremony is

drawing blood from the little fingers of the bridegroom and bride, and with this the *tilak* is given to each by marks made above the clavicle. This, as I have elsewhere noted, I believe to be the origin of the practice now so universal of marking with red-lead. The convivialities of feasting and dancing conclude the day.

"The ceremony takes place in the bride's house and next morning she is taken to her husband's; but after remaining there two days she returns to her father's to complete her education and growth at home.

"Their ceremonial in regard to the dead is quite Hindu. They burn the body and convey the remainder of the bones afterwards to the Ganges, they say; but probably any stream answers. They do not shave for ten days as sign of mourning; at the end of that time all shave and they have a feast.

"The Birhors worship female deities and devils. They have assigned to Devi the chief place among the former and the others are supposed to be her daughters and grand-daughters; she is worshipped as the creator and destroyer. The devils are Biru Bhut, who is worshipped in the form of a raised semi-globe of earth—Biru is also the Kharria god and Darha, represented by a piece of split bamboo three feet high, placed in the ground in an inclined position, called also the 'Sipahi', sentinel. This is the immediate guardian of the site, as a god or devil of similar name is with the Mundas and Oraons. A small round piece of wood, nearly a foot in length, the top painted red, is called 'Banhi', goddess of the jungles. Another similar is Lugu, the protectress of the earth. Lugu is the largest hill in Ramgarh, so this is their Marang Buru.

"An oblong piece of wood, painted red, stands for 'Maha Maya' Devi's daughter. A small piece of white stone daubed with red for her grand-daughter, Buria Mai; an arrow-head stands for Dudha Mai, Buria's daughter. They have also a trident painted red for Hanuman, who executes all Devi's orders.

"Sets of these symbols are placed one on the east and one on the west of their huts, to protect them from evil spirits, snakes, tigers and all kinds of misfortune.

"It is not easy to place the Birhors from what is above disclosed, but the fact that, though a wandering and exclusive people, they commune in the Munda language, is, I think, sufficient to establish that they belong to the Kol race: and then they have the Mundari-Oraon deity Darha and adore the Biru of the Kharrias.

"The people with whom they exchange commodities are all Hindus or Hinduised, so it is not surprising that they should take up Hindu notions."

S. C. Roy also refers to the article of Mr. W. H. P. Driver, an Emigration Agent published in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* in 1888. This is followed by details on the Birhors as a result of personal study by S. C. Roy. His monumental volume is still the standard book on the Birhors. It is a pity that this fast declining small tribe is not being investigated again by some scholars. In these three decades and half that have rolled by since S. C. Roy published his book, the Birhors have undergone great changes. One section of them has taken to settled life. But the other portion is fast declining, and have almost refused to absorb any of the changes in which they live. An attempt has been made by the State Government of Bihar to make the Birhors take to settled life and as indicated before the success is confined to one section only.*

Mundas.

D. H. E. Sunder in his *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations of the Palamau Government Estate* published in 1898, as mentioned elsewhere, has discussed a number of tribals, but he has not discussed the Mundas. This is rather peculiar because the Mundas, although a minority among the Adibasis of Palamau form quite an important tribal element.

The name Munda appears to be of Sanskrit origin and means the headman of the village. By common parlance the designation Kol is used for both Mundas and Oraons. The Mundas are more akin to the Hos of Singhbhum and the Santhals of Santhal Parganas than the Oraons.

Mundas are found mostly in Balumath thana. A certain number of Munda families are also found in different villages of Chhechkari valley who are designated as Bhuinhers, probably indicating that they were the original settlers. As a matter of fact, the areas of Barwa, Chhechhari and Surguja were opened up by the Munda pioneers and they occupied the lands which were reclaimed. The word 'Bhuinhar' also means the holder of the land.

Like the Oraons the Mundas of Palamau district have lost their language. Very few Mundas in Palamau district now speak Mundari. They speak a kind of Hindi but their manners and customs are quite akin to those of the Mundas in Ranchi and other districts.

Mundas are divided into many sub-tribes such as Kheria Munda, Maheli Munda and Oraon Munda. The sub-tribes are probably the result of inter-caste marriages with neighbouring tribes. A Munda may not marry a woman of his own sept. Maheli Munda has the pig

*It is now understood that the Bihar Tribal Research Institute, Ranchi has undertaken a study of the tribals and will publish "Land and People of Tribal Bihar". (P. C. R. C.).

for his totem and for this tribe consumption of pork is a taboo. Totems have still a very great value and restrictions are respected.

Like the Oraons here also the women have an assured possession. Bride-price has to be paid whatever be the sum. *Sindur dan* or the smearing of the vermilion on the bride's forehead by the bridegroom has become almost the essential binding portion of a marriage ceremony and there is no doubt that this has a clear influence of the neighbouring Hindu families. Usually marriages are arranged but there have been occasions where a love-lorn girl enters the house of her beloved youth and would not leave even when beaten. After some molestation she is accepted even if the man has another wife.* Widows marry again by ritual function as *sagai* in which *sindur dan* is performed by the left hand. Divorce is allowed at the instance of either party and the divorced women are permitted to marry again. In case of adultery the seducer has to pay the husband the full amount of bride-price, stands a feast and has to marry the girl. Seduction is not favoured but tolerated within restrictions.

The highest deity for the Mundas is *Singhbonga*, the sun god. He is the head of the Mundas' deities but he himself does not inflict any suffering on the Mundas. There is a regular graded hierarchy of other deities, some good and some bad, and they have all to be propitiated. The bad ones have a terrific evil power and unless they are propitiated, illness, cattle epidemic, crop failures, etc., will follow. If there are epidemics or crop failures, something must be missing and that something is the wrath of a particular deity. The priest is to find out, which particular deity has been displeased and give offering to propitiate. It is peculiar that different deities should have prescribed separate offerings. For example, the *Singbonga* is given goats and white cocks. Other deities will be given other types of offerings. Next to *Singbonga* is *Burubonga* or *Marangburu* (a mountain god). *Marangburu* is a kind god and is very popular with the Mundas and buffalo has to be offered to him. He is the deity that presides over rainfall and naturally has to be propitiated more fondly. *Ekidbonga* rules over tanks, rivers, etc., and if he is angry he might pull the bather inside and kill him. Nearer home every village has a *Deswali* or *Karah Saranga* which is a sort of *Gramya devta* or village deity. Usually a few old trees are treated as the *Sarna* or the sacred grove and the *Deswali* deity with his wife known as *Tahid Burhi* are supposed to live in that *Sarna*. The *Sarna* is held sacred by both Adibasis and non-Adibasis, in the village. The villagers as a whole offer *puja* at the *Sarna* in every sowing season as the pair of village deities have to be propitiated for good crops. Unless they have been offered sacrifices, transplantation of paddy should not be done nor are the fresh grains of paddy be taken home. The Mundas have a very good explanation for the stars. They consider the moon to be the wife of *Singbonga* who is

*This aggressive form of marriage is prevalent in quite a few tribals (P. C. R. C.).

sun and their union has resulted in the innumerable stars that shine overhead.

The Mundas have the same set of festivals like Oraons. The most important is *Surhul* adventing the new harvest and a festival of great joy and merry-making. The other festivals are *Kadleta*, or *Bathuli* (*Asarh* festival), *Nana* or *Jamnana* festival for the advent of the new rice, etc.

Their social organisation is also similar to that of the Oraons. The Pahan is the spiritual head while the Mahto and Gorait are for the worldly affairs. They have other smaller dignitaries as well like the Goalas, Goraits and Lohar. The Gorait keeps watch on the village. The village flag is an object of pride to the Mundas. On occasion of festivity and *Yatras* the village flag is lifted and zealously greeted by the Munda youths. The incidence of literacy and education is extremely poor.[1]

Festivals.

D. H. E. Sunder in his *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Palamau District* published in 1898 has made certain observations on the festivals[2]. As this appears to be the result of one of the earliest enquiries based on personal knowledge a verbatim quotation is given below :—

> "*Festivals—Nawa—the harvest festival.*—When paddy is ready for the sickle, five *mutas* or *arpas* (sheaves) are cut by the head of the family and taken home. This is called taking *alo*. The paddy is husked and parched in a new earthen *handy*, and then pounded in the *okhar*. The pounded paddy is *chura*. After this the head of the family, having had a bath, takes some *sal* leaves, the number being according to the number of deceased relatives of the family, and puts a little *chura* on each of them. These leaves are placed in a circle on a part of the floor of the hut, which had been previously cleaned and plastered over with cowdung. A vessel containing fire is kept within the circle formed by the leaves. Some *ghi* is burnt on the fire. This is called doing *hom*. Water is then sprinkled over each of the leaves containing *chura*. After this the *chura* is collected and distributed among all the members of the house, and is eaten there by them. This completes the ceremony. New rice is then cooked and friends are invited and fed. This being done, reaping operations begin. This ceremony is compulsory,

1. Sri S. C. Roy's books on the Mundas have a general application to the Mundas of Palamau district as well. There have been many recent investigations into Mundas but Sri S. C. Roy's books still remain an authority (P. C. R. C.)

2. The pattern has remained the same in the rural areas. (P. C. R. C.).

and is performed with respect to all crops, even to cucumbers and vegetables that are grown on *bari* lands.

"*Soharai.*—On the evening of 17th *Kartik* small lights are lit in the house and about the courtyard. On the following morning cattle are brought in from the field and shut up in the *gohar* (cow-shed). Rice-bear, called *hanria*, is made and given to each animal in a leaf cup (*dona*), one *dona* to each animal. After this, oil of *mahua* seed is rubbed on their horns, and the cattle are then released and sent to a field, in which a pig with its hind-legs tied is held by a long rope by the *giars* or cowherds. The cattle being driven towards the pig attack and gore it to death. The *giars* take the dead pig and eat it. This ceremony is performed to satisfy the deity.

"*Phagua.*—Is observed by Oraons, Kherwars and all aboriginal tribes. On 1st *Phalgun* a pig is killed and cooked. Some meat taken from the head of the animal is put on five leaf plates in the names of the deceased members of the family. A *roti* (flour cake) is also put on them, and water is then sprinkled over the whole, the names of the deceased being mentioned all the while. After this the rice and meat are gathered from the plates and given to the members of the family and eaten by them. On the completion of this ceremony friends are invited and fed, and there is eating and drinking all night.

"*Arwa.*—This festival is observed by Brijias, and is held in Pous. Some *urid dal* and *arua* rice are put one over the other in five places on the bare ground in the name of the deceased members of the family. A black kid is then brought and held before the five offerings and made to eat some of the *dal* and rice. As soon as this is done the animal's head is chopped off on the spot. The head is kept on the floor with the rice and *dal* round it, and water is sprinkled over it. The eldest male member of the house then salutes it by bowing before it. All this takes place in the compartment of the hut adjoining the one where meals are prepared. After this the kid's head is cut up and cooked. As soon as ready, the meat is brought on five *donas* (cups made with leaves) with five other *donas* containing *khetchari* (rice and *dal* boiled together). Five leaf plates are then made and placed on the floor on the spot where the kid had been killed, and a portion of the meat and *khetchari* is put on each of the plates as an offering to the deceased members of the family whose names are repeated all the while. After this the meat and *khetchari* are collected from the plates and distributed among members of the family who are seated

there, and is eaten by them. When this is done friends are invited and informed that *dal* has been eaten for the first time in the season, and there is then feasting and drinking for the remainder of the day.

"*Karma.*—In this festival, which is observed by all aboriginal tribes of the district except Bhuinhars, a branch of the Karam tree is planted in the *angina* (courtyard) of every homestead, and offerings of *roti* and cucumber are made to it by women of the house. In the evening and all through the night there is dancing and singing among the girls and boys, and much feasting and drinking goes on. In the morning the Karam branch is sprinkled with *dahi* and thrown into the nearest river.

"*Srawan puja.*—A pot of milk is taken on top of a hill in village Barwadih in tappa Durjag, and an offering is made to the deity *Duar Pahar*. A stone on the hill is worshipped. *Sindur* (vermilion) is rubbed on it. After this the milk is poured over the stone by the *baiga*. If the milk flows on to any length, it is believed that there will be good rain. If not, and the ground absorbs the milk it is understood that rainfall will be short. Parhaiyas alone observe this *puja*.

In Jitia women bring roots of berni grass, together with a branch of Doomur tree, and plant them in the court. The *okhar* is placed along-side, and offerings of *dahi*, etc., are made to it. All, however, do not perform this *puja*, as the Brahman has to be consulted, and his sanction obtained. He charges one rupee and a *dhoti* for this. After the branch is planted there is feasting and dancing all night. This is purely a Parhaiya *puja*."

Kharias.

Kharias form a smaller section of the Adivasis in this district.*

Regarding the Kharias of Palamau, traditions mention that they came and settled in Palamau after the Oraons. Kharias are essentially cultivators and their houses are situated on the side or tops of the hills. Usually two or three houses of Kharias are at one place and then there will be a big gap where there will be another cluster of houses. The Kharias are extremely dirty and they hardly wash themselves. They are also totemistic but the influence of totem is said to be rather weak. It is understood that the sept of Kharias with a sheep for their totem would not hesitate now to eat mutton or to use woollen rug which a few decades back their predecessors would not have done.

*"Tribal Bihar in Maps" published by the Bihar Tribal Research Institute shows there are no Kharias now in this district. This does not seem to be correct. See page 100. There are some Kharias scattered in the district but appear to have lost their identity with Oraons as reported by S. D. O., Latehar. This is a matter for investigation.

Kharwars.

D. H. E. Sunder in his *Final Report on Survey and Settlement Operations of the Palamau Government Estate* published in 1898 mentions about Kharwars as follows :—

"There are 1,919 Kharwar raiyats in the Government villages to which this report relates, and the area of land held by them is 11,205.09 acres. They are a Dravidian tribe, and their legend is that they came to Palamau originally from Khari-Jhar, whence the name Kharwar. Some however, allege that they came from Ramghar, but none are able to give even an approximate date as to their emigration, and nothing is known by them as to their past history. In Palamau, they are found chiefly in the southern *tappas*. They are a dark-skinned, hardy people, but extremely lazy. Although their pursuits are purely agricultural, they are more fond of remaining at home and of an idle life, than of working in the fields and improving their lands.

"Kharwars of Palamau are divided into six clans or sub-castes, viz., (1) Surujbansi, (2) Dualbandi, (3) Patbandhi, (4) Kheri, (5) Bhogti or Gounju, and (6) Manjhia. All count themselves as among the eighteen thousand or *atare hajar* Kherwars. Some Kherwars wear *jineo* or the sacred thread. These are under vow not to (1) marry by *sagai* form, (2) not to eat pig, (3) not to eat fowl, and (4) not to drink. A man may not eat or marry save in his own sept.

"*Food.*—Kharwars eat goat's meat, pig, fowls, eggs, hare, peacock, doves, partridge, fish and all edible roots. They do not eat beef or sheep. Their principal food in Palamau is *makai*, *marua*, and *mahua*. Given these three articles, they want nothing more, and do not depend on rice.

"*Marriage.*—Infant marriages are not practised. The bridegroom must be of the age of 12 or 14 years and able to plough, and the girl should be of the same age. The marriage proceedings are as follows :—

The boy's father sends two friends (*aguas*) to the parents of the girl to ascertain whether they would be willing to give their daughter or not. The reply is not given until the lapse of a night. If during the night that the *aguas* are at the house, the barking of a deer or the cry of a *pkekar* or *phiaou* (jackal) is heard the omen is bad and the marriage cannot take place. If the roar of a tiger be heard, the omen is considered very good, and the *lagun bandan* is completed by the girl's father

giving his consent. Thereafter he is invited to the boy's house. He goes there accompanied by a few friends within ten days, and the *bar* or bridegroom is shown to him. If he is satisfied, he gives expression to this by presenting the *bar* with some money, the amount of which depends on his means. This is called the *moohdekhai* ceremony. After this a goat and food consisting of rice are brought and presented to the bride's father, and he is feasted, and then returns, home. Within ten days the *gatbandhi* or *paobandhi* or betrothal ceremony takes place. The bridegroom's father and a few friends go to the bride's house. The *napit* and Brahman are present there. The friends and relatives assemble in the courtyard, which had been previously well plastered with cowdung, and the bride is brought out, and made to sit here on a plate called *pathal* made of *sal* leaves sewn together. The bridegroom's father puts Rs. 7 in her hands as *dali* in token of his approval of her. The bride's father and the bridegroom's father sit facing each other on separate *pathals*. Then the Brahman takes paddy, and after touching the bride with it places it in the hands of her father. In the same way he puts paddy into the hands of the bridegroom's father. The two then cross hands, and thus swearing to be friends for ever, rise and *johar* (embrace) each other. This is the *gatbandhi* ceremony, and binds both the bride and her father. After this the Brahman fixes a day for the lagan. On the date so fixed a *barat* (party) consisting of the bridegroom and his relatives and friends go to the girl's house. The bridegroom is carried there on a *jahaj*, or if one is not available, in a palky. A *jahaj* is a platform on which there is a chair or stool on which the bridegroom is seated under a canopy over which a yak's tail is tied. A bit of mango leaf called *kakna* is tied to the boy's right hand with a piece of cord. On the approach of the bridegroom's *barat* the girl's people go out with music and meet them. This is the *mer-gherai*. On arrival at the bride's house, the bridegroom has to do the *doar puja* ceremony. He is seated at the entrance to the house, and the Brahman performs the *puja*. A brass cup containing pan leaf, *kuss* grass, betelnut (*kaseli*), *arua* rice, *sindur*, *gur*, *til* and *jao* is placed in front of the bridegroom. The Brahman repeats *mantras*, and does *hom* by pouring *ghi* and *dhuan* (gum of *sal* trees) over some fire. After this the bridegroom distributes the *pan* among the guests. He then proceeds to the *jhala* (shed) prepared for him.

On the following morning he is called by the *napit* to the marriage ceremony, which takes place in the *angina* (courtyard) of the house under a *marar* (canopy) built of posts with bamboo twigs and leaves. In the centre of this shed an altar of two *kalsis* (earthen vessels) alongside a plough, is erected. The bridegroom is seated in a *pathal* (leaf plate) in front of the altar. The bride's father sits to the right of the bridegroom on another *pathal*. The bride is seated on her father's right thigh with a bit of *mahua* leaf tied to her left wrist by the *napit*. A *dona* (cup) made from *sal* leaves and containing some *kuss* grass and mango leaf, together with ground rice, called (*arpan achat*) is placed by the Brahman in the right hand of the bridegroom, who then puts it in the bride's hand. She makes it over to her father, who then touches her *kalsa* with it and delivers it to the bridegroom's *kalsa*. This is done five times in token of the giving over of the bride to the bridegroom. The bride is then seated on a *pathal* to the right of the bridegroom. The *napit* now distributes *achat* (*arua* rice) from the *dona* among the relatives on both sides and then, while the Brahman is repeating *mantras*, scatters some of the *achat* over the young couple. After this some *lava* (parched rice) which is given by both parties is placed in a clean cloth, which is held by the bride's father. The bride then stands with the bridegroom behind her and his hands resting on her shoulders. The bride holds a *supli* (bamboo tray) in her right hand while the bridegroom holds her wrist from behind. Her brother puts *lava* on the *supli* and the couple jointly scatter it on the ground, while they walk five times round the altar. This is doing *bhanwar*. After this both are re-seated on their *pathals*. A *Sindhora* (brass pot) containing *sindur* as also some *san* fibre and a rupee are then placed in the bride's left hand and the fathers and elder male relatives on both sides hold a sheet round one after the other and apply it to the forehead of the bride. This is the *sindur* bandhan. After this the *napit* makes a slight cut with his razor on the left hand little finger of the bride and on the right hand little finger of the bridegroom and the blood is drawn. This blood is wiped with a leaf of *mahawar* (cotton dyed with lac) which is then applied to the right sides of their necks by the bride to the bridegroom's neck and by him to her's. This is called the *senai jora* ceremony and binds the two. If *senai jora* is not done, the bridegroom may afterwards claim to abandon the woman. After this

the *gaona* ceremony is performed. The bride and bridegroom change *pathals* and the bridegroom's father brings a silver *hasuli*, some *achat* (*arua* rice), *gur*, a *sari* called *pitamari* and a bit of silk thread, together with a piece of silver tied to them called *Dholna*, and after touching the bridegroom's *kalsa*, places them before the bride. The bridegroom's elder brother then takes each of these presents and put them one by one, in the bride's hands which remain open to receive them. He then takes *achat* and scatters it over the couple. The bride's elder brother's wife (*Bhouji*) then applies *sindur* on her from the bridge of her nose across her forehead and up to centre of her head. Two baskets are then brought and the bride and bridegroom step on one and then on the other and so enter a hut, the walls of which are painted with circles, called *kohbar*. These are made to indicate that it is the hut of the young couple. While in the hut they eat some *dahi* out of a plate, the bridegroom first and then the bride. This is called *jhuta-khabar* ceremony. The pair then walk out together and salute the guests and the bride is presented by them with gifts of money. This completes the *gor lagni* ceremony. Feasting follows and the young couple then proceed to the bridegroom's house. On arrival there the bridegroom's mother welcomes them by singing and throwing cowdung over and behind them. This is *parchan* or bringing the girl within the household. After this they step on baskets to their own *kohbar*; but at the entrance they are stopped by the bridegroom's sister, to whom a present of money or any other article has to be made, after which she allows them to pass in. The marriage is consummated on the same day. Puberty begins at 12 years.

"A custom prevails among Kherwars of Palamau of marrying the blind with the blind, or the deaf with the dumb. I have seen husbands and wives who had been born blind. In the case of a dumb woman whom I saw in a village near Tarhassi in *tappa* Pundag and whose husband had been deaf the issue, being two boys, were shown to me. Both were born helpless cripples.

"A widow may re-marry by the *sagai* form. About two maunds of rice, as also a goat and a *sari* have to be given for her. If a man and wife fail to agree, they may leave each other by mutual consent. There is no other form of divorce. If a woman is childless, her younger sister may marry her husband. This is called *rijbia*. A man may marry as many wives as he is able to support.

"*Births.*—At childbirth a woman is attended by a *Chamain*, and the proceedings and ceremonies are the same as those of other Hindu castes. The woman is unclean and unable to attend to cooking of meals for twenty days. The child, if a boy, is named by the father, if a girl, by the mother. A woman is said to generally have her first child at the age of 20 years.

"*Funerals.*—Infants of one to three years are buried. Adults are burnt; the proceedings are the same as at all Hindu funerals. After the burning five bones of the deceased are collected and placed in an earthen pot which is buried under a *pipul* tree. The person who had put fire to the mouth of the deceased is called *agdeoa*. For ten days he places some rice, milk, and a little water in an earthen cup (*dona*) together with a lighted *chirag* on the spot where the bones are buried. On the lapse of ten days the *kataha* or Maha Brahman goes to the bank of the nearest river, and after placing some milk, *jao*, *til*, *gur* and *arua* rice in ten leaf plates performs *puja* for satisfying the spirit of the deceased. After this relatives and friends are feasted.

"*Memorial structures.*—If the deceased be a *mahto* (headman) of the village a *kalbud* is put up in his honour alongside the principal road of the village. The *kalbud* may be of stone or wood. A face is cut on it and the name of the deceased, as also the date and year of his death.

"*Inheritance.*—Property descends to the sons. If there be two wives, their sons get the property in equal shares. If there be only daughters, the widow retains the property so long as she continues in the house. Should she re-marry the property goes to the nearest male relative, but a portion is given to the daughters.

"*Religion.*—The deities of the Kherwars are (1) *Muchukrani* or as she is also called *Durjagin* or *Pachiari*. She is believed to be wife of the Raksel that reigned in Palamau before the Cheros came to the district. Raksel is said to have resided on a hill in *mauza* Barwadih, tappa Durjag, where the ruins of his palace still exist. A she-goat (*Panti*) is killed as an offering to this deity; (2) *Duarpar* who is supposed to govern the village. He is appeased with the killing of a pig; (3) *Dharti*, to whom a pig has also to be offered. No cultivation can be done until he is appeased. He is believed to be ruler of the earth; and (4) *Debi*, *Chandi*, *Darha* and *Dahkin*, all of whom have to be propitiated with offerings of either fowls, goats or pigs.

Customs as to salutation are curious among Kherwars. Friends and relations meeting after long absence, salute each other in three separate motions, viz., (1) *ankwar*, which is joining hands before each other, (2) *johar*, which is embracing each other, and (3) *kusal mangal*, which is asking good wishes or blessings of each other. When a Kherwar meets an acquaintance he simply bows and touches his right leg. There is no greeting in the morning between members of a family nor does the husband greet his wife on return from a journey. At meals the husband eats before his wife; wives are treated kindly and many husbands consult their wives in times of danger or difficulty. The aged are tenderly treated and always have their meals before other members of the family. Guests are served before all others."

These observations could be supplemented as to the present picture of the Kharwars. Some are found amongst the labouring classes, while some have attained position as big land-owners. Some Kharwars declare their original seat to have been the fort of Rohtas. They also claim descent from Rohitasava, the son of Harischandra. They wear *Janeu* or sacred thread.

Colonel Dalton notices the traditional connection between the Cheros and Kharwars, who are said to have invaded Palamau from Rohtas and driven the Rajput chief of the country to retire and found a new kingdom in Sirguja.

It is said that the Palamau population originally consisted of Kharwars, Gonds, Mars, Korwas, Pahariyas and Kisans. Of these, Kharwars were rather important. The Cheros conciliated them and allowed them to remain in peaceful possession of the hill tracts bordering on Sirguja. Those Kharwars who have no lands and work as labourers have certainly lower position in society. But Kharwars owning large fields are very refined and high-browed in appearance. Some of them by inter-marriages are as good as Rajputs and are very sensitive as to their status. In 1958 there was an agitation among the Kharwars which has been referred to elsewhere.

Bhogtas.—Bhogtas are one of the divisions of Kharwars. They are found in the hills of Palamau skirting Sirguja and in Tori. The head of the clan was a free brother, says Dalton but was granted a *Jagir* on his surrendering and promising to keep peace. His two sons Pitambar and Nilambar Bhogtas rose against the British Government in 1857-58 and fought valiantly the move for independence. They were captured. One was hanged and the other transported for life and the *Jagir* was confiscated. Pitambar and Nilambar were patriots of first water who staked their life, property and everything at the altar of the service of mother-country. Bhogtas do not inter-marry with ordinary Kharwars, though they live side by side with them. They are certainly a branch of Kharwars and have formed themselves into an independent group. Among Bhogtas a bride price is regularly paid but Deswar Kharwars do not take money for their daughters. Kharwars

follow Hindu usages and have Brahman priests. They also propitiate spirits.

CHAMARS.

Chamars are very strong physically. They trace their pedigree to Ravidas, the famous disciple of Ramanand. Whenever a Chamar is asked what he is, he replies that he is a Ravidas. Another tradition current among them suggests that their original ancestor was the youngest of four Brahman brothers who went to bathe in a river and found a crow struggling in quicksand. They sent the youngest brother in to rescue the animal, but before he could get to the spot, it had been drowned. He was compelled by his brothers to remove the carcass and after he had done this, they turned him out of their caste and gave him the name of Chamar.

In marriage bride price has to be paid. Widows are permitted to marry again in the *sagai* form. The dead bodies are cremated in ordinary Hindu fashion and *sradh* is performed on the 13th day after death. Libation of water and balls of rice called *pind* are offered to the spirit of the departed. A chamar breeds large herds of pigs. His occupations are tanning leather, making shoes and saddlery and grooming horses, working as ploughman and serving as musician of wedding. His favourite instruments are *Dhol*, drum, cymbals, *khanjari*, *Dhak*, *Singa* and *Bansari*. As a clan they are intelligent and given proper facilities of education they could absorb knowledge quickly. They have been trying to upgrade themselves in spite of their low economic status. There is wonderful human material in them.

Female Chamars are the midwives of our country. A Chamar woman is as hardy and strong as the male. She also works as labourer in field.

DHANUK.

Dhanuks are a cultivating class of people. Many people of this caste are employed as personal servants in the households of members of the higher castes. Buchanan considered them a pure agricultural tribe, who from their name implying archers were probably in former times the militia of the country and are not much different from the Kurmis.

Dhanuks are divided into many sections—Magahiya, Tirhutia, Kanaujia, Dhudhwar and Kathautia. Magahiya, Tirhutia and Kanaujia are common territorial names used by many castes to denote sub-castes, who resided in and migrated from such tracts of land as Magah, Tirhut and Kanauj. They follow Hindu usages in the matter of their marriage and death. Widow marriage is permitted.

Dhanuks are employed in the villages by the richer sections for ploughing the fields, bearing palanquins or do domestic chores. Owing to economic changes there is less of chance of employment in these occupations for the Dhanuks who have now taken to work in the mills, factories, small business, etc.

DHOBI.

They are divided into many sections such as Kanaujia, Magahiya, Awadhiya, etc. In case of marriage, preliminary negotiations are conducted by a matchmaker (*agua*) who may or may not be a relative of the bride. A small customary price (*tilak*) is usually paid to the parents of the bridegroom. Hindu Dhobies generally worship Siva, Vishnu and Sakti. Most of the Hindu Dhobies living in villages have taken to agriculture. In this district a Dhobi gets a special fee in cash or in kind at child birth or on the occasion of *sradh*.

DOMS.

Caldwell in his Grammar of the Dravidian Languages considers these people as the surviving representatives of an older, ruder and blacker race who preceded the Dravidians in India. According to Sir Henry Elliot they were one of the aboriginal tribes of India. Manu, the Hindu Law Giver, speaks of Doms (Chandals) as the result of the union of a Brahman woman with a Sudra male.

Several old forts testify to their former importance and still retain the names of their founders as for instance, Domdiha and Domangarh. Buchanan calls Domingarh, the castle of the Dom lady. Carnegi in his notes on the Races of Audh observes that the fort of Domangarh was the stronghold of the Domar, a degenerate class of Rajputs and suggests that these Domars or Donwars may have been a family of Doms who had risen to power and got themselves enrolled in the conveniently elastic fraternity of Rajputs. In support of this theory he refers to the case of Ali Bakash Dom, who became Governor of Ramlabad, one of the districts of Audh.

Dark complexioned stodgy in stature and with rather unseemly features, the Doms are readily distinguishable from the other castes of Hindus. For centuries they have been subjected to menial duties and have served as helots of the Hindu community and this has gone to obliterate all structural traces of their origin.

Magahiya Doms of Bihar have a legend of their origin. It is said that once Mahadeva and Parvati invited all castemen to a feast. Sufat Bhakat, the ancestor of the Doms, came late and being very hungry mixed up and ate the food which the others had left. Owing to his unseemly behaviour, he and his descendants were degraded and condemned to eat the leavings of all other castes. There are Magahiya Doms in Palamau. They are also called Bansphor, bamboo-splitters as they make baskets out of bamboos.

On the occasion of the funeral ceremony of all Hindus the services of Doms are taken. The doms eat pork, fowls, ducks, field-rats. But no Dom will touch the leavings of a Dhobi. Nor will he take water, sweets or any sort of food or drink from a man of that caste.

The Doms make basket, mat, *jhanpi*, and they rear pigs also. Doms are usually watched by the police, for they commit burglary by digging through the walls of houses.

They economically belong to the lower group of population. Their house furniture and clothing are similar to those of Bhuiyas and Chamars. They are still a neglected tribe of people. The uplift of the Doms is necessary. The picture given by Caldwell is not correct now. The Doms are no longer the helots of the village.

DOSADHS.

Dosadhs are mostly the cultivating class of Hindus. The members of this community are largely employed as village watchmen and messengers. They claim to be descended from Dushasan, the brother of Kuru Prince, Duryodhan. They worship Rahu and trace their origin to him. They are divided into many sections—Kanaujia, Magahiya, Bhojpuria, Silhotia, etc. The members of all these groups will eat cooked food together but do not intermarry.

The marriage ceremony of Dosadhs is a meagre copy of the ritual in vogue among Hindus. Well-to-do Dosadhs employ Brahmans to officiate as priests. They follow Hinduism. Rahu is their chief deity. To avert diseases and in fulfilment of vows, sacrifices of animals and the fruit of the earth are offered to him at which a Dosadh Bhakat or *Chatiya* usually presides.

Dosadhs perform *Arkhar*. The sacrifice is generally performed on the 4th, the 9th or the day before the full moon of the months of *Aghan*, *Magh*, *Phalgun* or *Baisakh*. The Dosadh who is to offer a fire sacrifice to Rahu builds a hut for a *Bhakat* who is to officiate at the sacrifice. The latter spends the night sleeping on *Kusa* grass. In front of the door facing east a trench 6 cubits long, a span and a quarter wide and of the same depth running east and west is dug. The trench is filled with mango-wood soaked in *ghee*. The *Bhakat* bathes and puts on a *dhoti* dyed in turmeric. He mutters a number of mystic formula and worships Rahu on both sides of the trench. The fire is kindled and the devotee walks three times round the trench. When the actual flames subside and the cinders are aglow the devotee walks with bare foot on fire in that narrow trench. Usually the trench is so narrow that very little dexterity is required for a man to walk with his feet on either edge so as not to touch the smouldering ashes at the bottom. By passing through the fire the devotee is believed to have been inspired with the spirit of Rahu. Excited by drink and *ganja* he chants mystic hymns and distributes to the crowd *Tulsi* leaves which are supposed to heal diseases otherwise incurable and flowers which have the virtue of curing barren women to conceive. The proceedings end with a feast and religious enlightenment soon passes into a drunken revelry lasting long into the night.

Besides Rahu, Dosadhs worship Goreya, a Dosadh bandit-chief, to which members of all castes resort. Bhairava, Jagdamba mai, Kali

are also worshipped. The Dosadhs themselves work as priests. This is a prominent complex among the Dosadhs and shows their advanced views.

Dosadhs usually burn their dead and perform *sradh*. They used to eat pork, fowls and indulge freely in strong drink. Food habits are rapidly changing now. They used to keep pigs and serve as Chaukidars. They serve as grooms, elephant drivers, grass and wood-cutters. Some of them are excellent cooks and domestic servants. During Muslim rule in Bengal the Dosadhs served in the army. According to Mr. Reade, most of the sepoys who served under Lord Clive were Dosadhs. The Dosadhs are in better position than Bhuiyas and Chamars. Their houses are built of mud and straw-thatched. Some Dosadhs have tiles on their houses. Economically they are people of lower income-group. Males put on *Dhoti* and females coarse *sari* and jacket. The poorest among them make use of *bhagowa*. They work as ploughmen also.

NAI OR NAUA.

Nai or Naua is a barber caste of Palamau. There are several sub-castes among barbers—Awadhia, Kanaujia, Biahut, Magahiya and Turk-Naua. Of these Awadhias claim to have come from Audh, Kanaujia from Kanauj, Magahiya from Magadh Turk-Nauas are Mohammedans.

Barbers pay a small *tilak* varying with the means and the relative status of the families. The ceremony of marriage is of the standard Hindu pattern. *Sindurdan* is considered essential. There is a *panchayat* among barbers to decide the question of divorce. Divorced women may marry again by the *sagai* form. Nauas have Brahman priests.

The barber performs the *Chaudakaran* ceremony of a Hindu child, which takes place compulsorily at the age of six months or a year. In funeral ceremony he also plays a very important part. He shaves the head and pares the nails of the dead preparatory to cremation. He also shaves the head of the man who puts the first light to the pyre. Ten days afterwards he shaves the head of every member of the male household. The female barber pares the nail of the female household. By this time, after taking a final bath, they are purified of the contagion of death.

In the celebration of the marriage of high Hindus he acts as Brahman's assistant and to the lowest caste or tribes, he is himself the priest. He is also the match-maker among all respectable castes. The regular village barber is paid in kind annually by each house-holder. Besides his annual fee in kind, he gets a *panja* of paddy and *rabi* crop from every house-holder he serves.

The social position of the barber is high. His clothings, housing, and mode of living are of middle class people. Barber as a class is very intelligent.

KAHARS.

Kahars are the cultivating and palanquin bearing caste of Hindus. Many members of this group are employed as domestic servants. They also serve as cooks. Some of the Kahars have received education and claim their descent from Chandrabansi Rajputs. They wear sacred thread also.

Kahars as a class claim Jarasandh, king of Magadh of *Mahakavya* age as their ancestor. Rawani, Magahiya are their sub-castes. It is said that there were no sections among the Kahars and they all lived at Ramanpur, near Gaya. The chief of Kahars married two wives who quarrelled very much among themselves. So the chief removed one of his wives to Jaspur. Her descendants formed the Jaswar section while the members of the family who remained at Ramanpur were known as Ramanis or Rawanis. The marriage is of the usual Hindu type. Widows are permitted to marry again by the *sagai* form. Bride price of varying nature is paid to the relatives of the bride. There is a *panchayat* in Kahar community. Kahars have titulary deities. They too worship Sokha. They have Brahman priests and Brahman *gurus*. The *gurus* are also Bairagi or Nanak Shahi Yogis.

KANDU.

Kandu is the grain-parcher caste of Hindu. Madhesia, Magahiya, Kanaujia are some of the sections of Kandu. In *tilak* cloth and ornaments are usually exchanged; the first gift is presented by the parents of the bride and it is followed by the parents of the bridegroom. In case of poor parentage bride price is paid to her father. Marriage of poor bride is performed in the house of the bridegroom.

Kandus in village make sweets and fried rice (*chura*) out of paddy. Some follow cultivation and the poorer among them are employed as labourers. In this district they are economically of middle lower group.

KAYASTHA.

Kayastha is the writer class of the district. The earliest reference to the Kayasthas as a distinct caste occurs in Yajna Valkya who describes them as writers and village accountants, very exacting in their demands from the cultivators. In the *Padma* and *Skanda Puranas* the Kayasthas are said to be the children of Chitragupta, the supreme recorder of man's virtues and vices, who sprang from the body of Brahma and this was the first Kayastha. There is much controversy regarding their origin and this is not the place to enter into details about their origin.

Kayasthas are very influential people in the district. Ambastha, Srivastava, Karan are some of their sub-castes. In this district the Akhauris and Thakurs are notable and influential people.

Their marriage is of standard Hindu type. But in Kayastha family there is an exorbitant demand of *tilak* and dowry by the parents of the bridegroom. Hence much delay is caused in the marriage of grown-up girls.

Kayasthas follow various occupations. Besides service, they carry on cultivation, trade and various other professions. The social position of Kayasthas is very high and respectable. They belong to middle upper class of people and some of them may be classed under higher income-group of people in this district. They have a higher standard of life and have better type houses and household.

KEWATS OR MALLAHAS.

They are fishing and cultivating people. The marriage ceremony of these people is of absorbing interest. In their marriage the bridegroom's people pay a visit to the bride's house for the purpose of seeing the bride. This is followed by a return visit on the part of the bride's people known as *Baradekhi*—seeing of the bridegroom. Then comes *tilak*. The bride's father goes to the bridegroom's house with a present of money, clothes, etc. After that a day is fixed for wedding. When the bridegroom's party comes to the bride's house, it is lodged in *Janawasa*. There the females of the bride's household, one of them bearing on her head a *ghara* of water go in a body to the *Janawasa* and assail the bridegroom's party with abusive songs and personal ridicule. This is kept up until one of the bridegroom's friends comes out and drops some prepared betel and some money. Then the women retire. Thereafter the wife of one of the brothers of the bride returns to the *Janawasa* with a scarf and she throws it round the neck of the bridegroom and drags him away to the courtyard of the bride's house. There in the *Marwa* he is made to walk round it, scattering on the ground the paddy parched in the *Matkorwa* ceremony of the preceding day. Both parties are then seated under the *Marwa*. The family first then performs the ceremony. After *Sindurdan* the bridal pair are taken into one of the rooms, where two dishes of fried rice and milk are standing ready. A tiny scratch is then made in the little finger of the bridegroom's right hand and of the bride's left. The drops of blood drawn from these fingers are mixed with the food. Each then eats the food with which the other's blood has been mixed.[1]

Mallahas also work as labourers in forest and prepare catechu. Economically these people are not better off. They live in mud-houses.

KOERIS.

Koeris are the numerous cultivating caste of people in the district. Many Koeris are prosperous cultivators holding occupancy rights. They grow all kinds of vegetables and sell them. The landless among them work as labourers also. Their skill and industry are so notorious that a Koeri, even if he has no land of his own, is usually in demand as a partner on the system of cultivation.

1. This custom prevails in many parts of the world. (P. C. R. C.)

In marriages and funerals they follow Hindu usages. A widow is permitted to marry again by a *sagai* form.

There are sections among this caste. Banafar, Barki Dagin, Chhotki Dagin, Jaruhar are some of the sub-castes of this tribe.

Economically they are people of middle lower class. They grow every kind of crop.

KUMHARS.

Kumhars are people whose occupation is to make earthen pots, tiles, etc. In Palamau Magahiya, Kanaujia and Audhiya Kumhars are in abundance.

Kumhars have their kiln, store house and dwelling house beneath the same thatched roof. They prepare their clay at the door. They make use of grass, reeds or bamboo stems and dried leaves for heating the kiln.

Kumhars make pottery during winter but in summer they make tiles. Kumhar women also assist their males in fashioning the globular part of the vessels. In this district most of the Kumhars have cultivating lands.

Koeris and Kumhars are economically better off. They follow Hindu usages in matter of marriages and funerals. There has been a considerable advancement in them recently.

RAJPUTS.

Rajputs form the most influential caste in the district. Most of the rich zamindars belonged to this class. But owing to the abolition of zamindari they too have become tenants and their influence is waning. The number of Rajputs is very great in Hussainabad. Several classes of Rajputs inhabit this district. Some are Chandrabansi, Surwar, Surajbansi and Nagbansi. The Namudag family of Surwar class is very prominent. The families of Ranka and Chainpur are descended from the families of *Diwans* or Chief Ministerial Officers under the old Chero-rulers. The heads of both these families always helped the British Government in times of emergency and difficulties. They had received the title of Rajas from the past rulers. The Raj-Family of Ranka is noted for its princely contributions to the cause of secondary education of the district. Govind High School of Garhwa and the Girwar High School of Daltonganj owe their origin to the generosity of Raja Girwar Prasad Sinha of Ranka. The Sonepura and Untari families were very influential and have still large cultivation. Economically the position of the Rajputs is good. Some of them belong to higher income-group. They have pucca houses and investment in banks. Their standard of life is high. They have a tradition and a past.

BRAHMINS

Brahmins are well-to-do cultivators. They are most numerous near the towns of Daltonganj and Garhwa. Some of them held rent-free land granted by the Raksel and Chero chiefs. Brahmins first came to Palamau as the priests of the Raksel Rajputs. A large number of them came also along with the Chero invaders. They acted as *Gurus* and *Purohits* of Chero Rajas. Some of the Brahmins are now highly educated and hold responsible posts in the State. Physically they are fine and well-built. Usually intelligent, they appear to be fond of litigation. As a class they are quite distinct.

There are sub-castes among the Brahmins—Kanaujia, Sarjuparin, Sakaldwipi and Maithil. The number of Kanaujia Brahmins is exceedingly large.

Brahmins economically belong to middle upper class. Their occupations are cultivation, trade and *mahajani*. They take rice, pulse, wheat and *sattu* and vegetables. Many Brahmins have become meat-eaters now. Males wear *dhoti*, *kurta* and *ganji* and females wear *sari* and blouses. On the occasion of marriages males put on *pagri* and caps. *Sari* and *dhoti* dyed in yellow colour are used. Houses of Brahmins are mostly mud-built. Among Brahmins *Satyanarayan Katha* and *Bhagwat Puran* are very often recited. When *Bhagwat Puran* is recited by Pandit for seven continuous days, a great *Yajna* follows. Hundreds of Brahmins are fed, gifts are distributed and great rejoicing takes place. Their influence as priests or leaders in the society is on the wane.

VAISYAS.

Vaisyas are generally traders. They have many sections or sub-castes. Agrawals, Kalwars, Telis and others are included in this group. Of these people Agrawal is a wealthy section. People of this group deal in grain and jewellery. They are also bankers. Raja Agranath was the first son of this tribe. According to Nesfield people taking to the calling of trading in *Aguru* (sandal) was called *Agrahari*. The bulk of Agrawals belong to the Vaishnava form of Hinduism. A few are Saivas and Saktas also. The social status of Agrawal is very high. They wear sacred thread. In marriages the standard form of Hindu ritual is used. Brahmins act as priests.

This caste has produced two historical persons—Madhu Sah and Todar Mal. They were Akbar's ministers.

Some Agrawals have landed properties. The poorer members of the caste work as brokers, touts, workers in gold and silver embroidery. The other sections of Vaisyas also follow Hindu customs. But their social status is inferior to Agrawal Vaisyas. Among some sections of Vaisyas widow marriage is permitted by a *sagai* form.

BARAIS.

Barais are essentially cultivators. Barais are orthodox Hindus and they bear the title of Raut. They worship both Mahabirjee and Goreya, a godling of the Dusadhs. They engage Brahmin priests for worshipping Mahabirjee and engage Dusadhs for worshipping Goreya godling.[1] Betel cultivation and agriculture are their chief occupations. They are also engaged in preparing lime and *Katha*. They are very fond of *kirtans* and *kathas*.

BHUINYAS.

Bhuinyas are scattered all over the district and they claim to be the original clearers of the jungles and claim to be the first settlers. They are dark-brown people with black straight hair on head, middle sized and capable of enduring great fatigue. They regard Rikhmuni as their patron deity and claim their descent from him. They form usually the landless labour force for the field. Divorce and widow marriage are permissible. A divorced woman may marry again in *sagai* form.

Bhuinyas have barber priests. They worship Rikhmuni and Tulsi Bir. They also appease spirits like Goreya, Sokha and Darha. They have great belief in witchcraft. When a member of the tribe falls ill he seeks the aid of village *ojha*. Economically they belong to a lower group of rural people. Most of these people wear a *Bhagwa*, a narrow piece of cloth about three feet long and a few inches broad. It is passed between the thigh and is fastened in front and behind to a string worn round the waist. Women wear a very coarse *sari*. They have hardly more than one *sari*. The Bhuinyas males and females do not bathe for months together. Their houses are very small and straw-thatched. A small house of ten to fifteen cubits long and four to five feet wide serves the purposes of a kitchen, sleeping room, dining room and a guest room. Their poor life is more to be imagined than described.

Some of them rear goats and pigs and fowls as well. Coarse food consisting of maize, *kodo*, *sawan*, *khesari* and other crop is their lot. Some times they take rice and *chapati* also. They are given to drinking. There is hardly any family of Bhuinyas where *khaini* (tobacco) is not taken. Even little children of eight or nine years old are found taking *khaini*. Despite their hard life these people appear cheerful and in the evening most of them play upon *mahar* (a musical drum). They sing and dance merrily. This is the only source of recreation to these people. Women also work as labourers. Transplantation of paddy is generally done by these women. They are also very hardy.

MOHAMMEDANS.

Mohammedans are in a minority in this district. Their number in the district population is about seven per cent. The Muslim population

1. Goreya worship is common in some other districts of Bihar including Champaran in North Bihar. (P. C. R. C.)

consists of Ansaris, Pathans, Sheikhs and Saiyads. More than half of them are Ansaris. The Pathans chiefly live in Hussainabad and Garhwa, the Sheikhs in Hussainabad and Daltonganj. The number of Mohammedans is larger in the north of the district. In this part of the district the two *parganas* of Japla and Belaunja were granted as *Jagir* to officers in the Mughal emperor's employ. The descendants of the Nawab's family are still found at Hussainabad and Sheikhpur and are held in great respect. The Ansaris are mostly cultivators and weavers. There is a large section of Muslims called Kunjras who deal in vegetables.

In Patan thana, Ansaris worship the Panchpir and Sheikh Sadhu. At Lesliganj, Anjan Saheed is worshipped by them. A small mound of earth in a room of almost every Ansari in Patan thana is set apart for the purposes of the worship of Panchpir. At Lesliganj a tile-thatched shed marks the spot of Anjan Saheed.

CHRISTIANS.

In 1951 census the population of Christians in Palamau district has been recorded as 3,666 souls. This is clearly a very great underestimate as at Mahuadanr thana alone, it is said there are more than 25,000 Christians. In the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) it was mentioned that there were altogether 7,283 Christians in the district, of whom 7,232 were Indians. Nearly all of these were to be found in Chhechhari and the book mentions how in February, 1890 a deputation of 70 "Chechariens" visited Ranchi and two days before Christmas in that year Fathers Cardon and Dehon reached Kurund on the hills between Barwe and Chhechhari where the valley gave itself to the mission *en bloc*. Father Dehon made Mahuadanr his home. He built the church, school, etc., and in February, 1896 he was well established there. The church was built brick by brick by the local converts under Father Dehon's inspiration and guidance. The Father laboured with his own hands along with his fold. It is an attractive tall red brick building, 100 ft. long, 45 ft. wide and surmounted by a steeple 90 ft. high. In 1905 he died of heatstroke in the train at Rajhara as he was returning to his work at Chhechhari in spite of ill health. His remains were first interred at Daltonganj, but were subsequently removed to Mahuadanr.

While nearly all the Christians in Chhechhari are Oraons, there are also some other tribals who have become Christians. There is a network of the local representatives of the mission throughout the district. Some of the places even now inaccessible by jeep have branches of the Roman Catholic Mission. The Roman Catholic Mission maintains a large number of schools both for boys and girls and dispensaries at the centres throughout the district. The church and the other mission buildings at Mahuadanr particularly are in the midst of peaceful and picturesque surroundings. There are also Roman Catholic Churches at Kanjia, Daltonganj and other places.

The other Christian Mission in Palamau is the Church of Christ Mission which first came to the district in 1909. The community in Daltonganj now numbers a few hundreds and the mission runs schools both for boys and girls and an orphanage. The mission began its work at Latehar in 1919. They have a branch at Bhandaria where a school is run by them.[1]

The Christians form a small but an influential section in the district. The incidence of education among them is quite high.

TATTOOING.

Among the women-folk of this district *godana*, a female tattoo is still in vogue almost in all the communities. In higher educated society it is declining; but the member of higher educated is very small. A short description of this established practice will be of great interest for references to students of history. When a *Godanawali* comes to a village, a married girl of every community gets herself tattooed. In tattooing the juice of the *Bhangra* plant and women's milk are the materials used and punctures are made with needles or the thorns of the *Karaunda*. While the operation is being performed, a very equivocal *mantra* is recited by the *Godanawali* to alleviate pain. Women get their arms, chests and feet tattooed. Ordinary tattoo design either circular or stellate is made at the top of the nose in the centre of the forehead. For days together the tattooed girl remains in pain. When a female was asked as to why she took so much pains in getting the parts of her body punctured and tattooed, her immediate reply to the query was that "everything from her body would be removed after death but only the tattooed marks would go with the body".

WITCHCRAFT.

The Adibasis of Palamau district have also a strong belief in witchcraft which still rules their socio-economic life particularly in the rural areas.

Generally barren women or widows, old and uncomely in looks, are taken to be witches. The popular belief about witches training among the Oraons is as follows[2] :—"Whereas certain persons are born with the evil eye and the evil mouth, witches in general have to acquire their art by a course of training in secret. At the dead of night especially in new moon nights, the witches gather under some tree at a secluded spot at some distance from human habitation. There, it is said, they strip themselves of their clothes and wear only the fringes of old brooms, made of wild grass, suspended from a girdle round their waists. Thus arranged, the naked women hold the witches dance with the help of the weird light of lamps burning on tiger's skulls. On these occasions

1. Their branch at Latehar was taken over by Mennonite Chruch in 1947. The Protestants have a church at Pandeypura and they have between them more than a thousand adherents.

2. S. C. Roy—*Oraon Religion and Customs*—p. 257

a black chicken, a day or two old, is said to be sacrificed. It is at these witches dances that novices learn the spells and incantations and other techniques of magic art. Should any outsider happen to come their way during these dances and sacrifices the stranger is challenged and if found to be a mere way-farer and not an inquisitive spy, he is warned on pain of death not to speak to any one of what he may have seen or heard. On his promising not to utter a word about it, he is permitted to depart. It is said, however, that for days afterwards the intruder is shadowed to make sure that he keeps to his promise. Should he prove faithless, it is said, he is sure to be killed through magic. All traces of foot-steps or other marks of the witches dance are said to be wiped off through magic. It is particularly on the night of the new moon ('a-ma-waş') in the month of Kartick when the *Soharai* festival is celebrated that these witches dances are celebrated with special eclat. Large companies of witches, it is said, move about that night and people are afraid of stirring out of their houses at a late hour that night. The company solemnly interrogates the new initiate 'Kori Pasa Sahabe Ki Tanga Pasa Sahabe?' (Are you prepared to suffer chastisement with the handle of axe or the spade rather than betray our secrets). And the initiates take pledge of secrecy and replies "Sahab Guru Sahab" [I shall suffer all, Master (Preceptor), I shall suffer, suffer, suffer]. That night, it is said, that some witch extracts, unobserved, by her magic spells the heart of some man, packs it up in a bundle of *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa*) leaves and secretes it in a pipal tree and names a day for the death of the unfortunate victim and on the appointed day death is said to actually occur. A powerful witch, it is asserted, can by her spell uproot a tree and in the same night remove it to a distance of twelve Koses (more than twenty-four miles) and again bring it back to former position. It is further said that witches enter into communion with spirits that ordinarily receive no sacrifices such as the spirits of the dead (*Purna Khunti*) and such spirits is '*Hankar Bai*' and by tempting them with sacrifices get their nefarious designs on others executed with the aid of these spirits; and such spirits are therefore called '*Nisan bhuts*'[1].

[2]*The witches'* modus operandi.—The various methods by which a witch brings on disease or other calamity to an individual, a family or a village, are (1) the use of spirit bundle or *sans*, also called *nasan*, (2) the employment of the magic *ban* or arrow-shot, (3) magical extraction of the intended victim's heart, (4) overshadowing or otherwise harming an intended victim in the guise of a black cat or '*chordewa*' or of a manikin. The spirit bundle or *sans* or *nasan* of the witch consists of a small parcel of torn rags or a small earthen-ware jar, containing various sorts of fried grains and bits of the leg, head, horn or bones of some fowl or animal. These are meant as pledges of sacrifices to the *Nasan* spirit or spirits. The witch buries such a *nasan* bundle, unobserved, at some spot in the doomed village or in the compound of the doomed

1. S. C. Roy—*Oraon Religion and Customs*, pp. 257—59.
2. S. C. Roy—*Oraon Religion and Customs*—pp. 259—61.

family. And calamity is sure to overtake the village, so long as a witch doctor or spirit doctor does not, with the help of his *sadhak-bhut* discover the *nasan* bundle and brings it out and offers the required sacrifices.

The *ban* or arrow of the witch appears to be nothing more than the force of the magic spell. This magic arrow, it is said, has a very long range and silently hits the intended victim from a very long distance, altogether unperceived. When, as a consequence, the victim feels pain on the face or shooting pain in one of his limbs or some other sudden physical affliction to which no known cause can be assigned, it is inferred that some witch must have aimed her magic arrow at the patient; and a *sokha* is consulted and a witch doctor or *Mati* is called in.

As has already been noted another method by which a witch kills an intended victim is to extract the heart of the victim through magic spells on the '*sohorai amawas*' night and pack it up in bundle of *pipal* leaves and name a day for the death of the victim. And the victim gradually pines away and dies on the day so named. It is believed that a witch can see right through the body of men and animals into their hearts, for a taste of which organ in particular, they have a great hankering; so, when a man or animal pines away and dies without any apparent sickness, it is believed that the heart has been extracted by a witch.

A fourth method by which the witch effects her nefarious designs is to harm people by taking the shape of *chordewa* in night. She takes the shape of a cat and in this shape, the witch enters people's house, licks the saliva trickling down the corners of the mouth of some sleeping person or bites off a lock of hair of a sleeping person, and the unfortunate person falls ill or his hair falls off. Even if the witch in this shape throws her shadow on a sleeping person the latter suffers from a nightmare. In the same shape of a cat, the witch is also believed to enter people's houses at night and mew in a plaintive strain and as a result some calamity is sure to overtake the family. If such a cat (*chordewa*) can be laid hold of and killed or its legs or other limbs broken, the witch too, it is said, will be found dead at his home or maimed in her leg or other limb as the case may be.....Witches are also credited with the evil eye and the evil mouth. It is said that when a wizard or a witch looks at anybody's healthy children or well-fed cattle or good crops with the eyes of malice and mutters to himself or herself "how fine", the words act as an incitement to malice of some malignant spirit and serious harm is sure to be caused to the children, cattle or crops."

The above description about belief in witchcrafts among the Oraons of Ranchi also applies generally to the collateral tribes like the Mundas, etc., living in the district of Palamau.

It may be observed that it is not known how much basis there is for this elaborate pattern of belief. Regarding individual woman taken as practising witchcraft, a majority of the cases are based absolutely on no real foundation. The tribal people believe that all diseases and

mishaps are caused by mischievous spirits. They also think that in the majority of cases witches are responsible for employing the mischievous spirits. Old ladies with queer penetrating looks in the eyes and ugly shape, provoke fear into the mind of the people and so these women are taken for witches. When a so-called witch-finder divines an old lady as witch responsible for a mishap, she has practically no other alternative than to plead guilty. As a potential source of future danger, she is either killed by beating or driven away from the village. The queer effect of this belief is that the suspected lady under the pressure of popular opinion is sometimes led to form a belief that she wields supernatural forces and gradually develops the habit of performing typical magical rites customarily ascribed to the witches.

While practices of witchcraft by suspected women are too often hypothetical, there are actual specialist witch-finders known variously as the *Sokha*, *Mati*, *Deonra* or *Bhagat*. About the process of witch-findings Mr. S. C. Roy writes[1]: "The *Bhagat* or Mati lights fire and when the smoke rolls up and curbs around him he begins by slowly chanting his *mantras* and quickly swaying his body till at length he works himself up to a state of frenzy and declares he has seen the witch who has roused up a particular spirit to afflict his clients. The spirit, too, is named as also the sacrifices required to appease him. The afflicted party now return to their village, hold a *panchayat* before which the offender is summoned and she is required to pay as fine the cost of the estimated liberally of the sacrifices necessary to appease the infuriated spirit. In case of denial of guilt and refusal to pay the fine demanded, the suspected witch is not unoften severely thrashed, dispossessed of her lands and in some cases driven out of the village."

Suspicion of witchcraft is a major source of criminal offences among the Chotanagpur aboriginals and as such is a baffling problem for the administration. This is so in Palamau district as well. As the belief in witchcraft is too deeply ingrained in their mind associated with their fundamental belief in supernatural cause of diseases and other mishaps, the belief cannot be eradicated by merely taking to penal measures. It is suggested that the following steps may in course of time considerably tone down this existing superstition :—

(1) In the middle schools and the high schools situated in the tribal areas, natural causes of diseases are to be thoroughly explained along with the fallacy of the belief in witchcraft. Teachers are to explain how this belief has been discarded in the advanced areas of the country.

It is not advisable to introduce this at the primary school level.

(2) In the aboriginal students' hostels the inmates of the hostel may be made convinced of the fallacy of the belief in witchcraft and the necessary harm done to their society through this belief.

1. S. C. Roy—*Mundas and their Country*.

(3) All the while, penal measures are to be maintained against beating any person on the suspicion of witchcraft.

(4) As a substitute for the belief in the witchcraft which adequately explains to the tribal mind the causes of diseases, modern medical aids must be supplied to them to make them encouraged to discard the old belief.[1]

BELIEFS, ETC.

Beliefs, superstitions, customs regarding ploughing, reaping and weaving have an importantbearing on the culture of the people. A brief survey will be of some interest although many of the beliefs are on liquidation.

Village superstitions and beliefs.—Although changes are seen, people of every nationality are more or less superstitious. In every village there is a village deity and other subsidiary deities, without the worship of which no work of any kind is undertaken. When the transplantation of paddy seedlings is done, the village deity through *Pahan* or *Baiga* is invoked and worshipped. On the occasion of marriage, or when the threshing of corn is done, the same formula is repeated. If in a village there is a number of co-sharers: so long the chief co-sharer does not perform the *puja* of a village deity, no one can transplant paddy. This superstitious belief goes a great way to hamper the agricultural operations of poor cultivators as they have to sit idle for days together in anticipation of the lead to be given in *puja* by the chief cultivators.

Belief in witchcraft or exorcism is a common feature and it predominates the life of 95 per cent of village-folk. If a child falls ill or a bullock is indisposed, the cause is attributed either to witchcraft or to the wrath of a village deity. Forthwith the aid of an *ojha* (exorcist) is solicited. He comes, recites the *mantras* and tries by his words to give immediate relief to the suffering party.

Good and bad omens.—Omens control to a great extent the life and activities of credulous villagers. Sights of men and beasts and sounds of birds and animals play their own part in this connection. The sight of pitchers filled with water, pregnant woman, fish, funeral procession, the sight of sucking calf, woman with a pot filled with water or curd, prostitute, washerman with a bundle of washed clothes are considered to be good omens for the occasion of starting any work or in a journey.

The sight of an oil-woman with oil pots on her head, a man or woman with empty pitcher, a jackal passing by the road on which the villager is going, howling of jackal and hooting of an owl are considered inauspicious omens.

1. There have been open suspicions that *Sokhas* in the past have been encouraged by the lower grades of officials, particularly the subordinate Police who close their eyes to the *Sokhas'* activities.

Customs regarding cultivation and agricultural work.—Cultivators as a class of people observe many customs regarding ploughing, sowing, reaping and threshing of corn. Akshoy *Tritiya Utsab* is one of the most auspicious occasions for the life of a *kisan*. The work of ploughing begins from this day. The household of a *kisan* rejoices on this day along with the ploughman.

Another common custom is in connection with the sowing of paddy seeds. This is also a day of rejoicing for the *kisan*. Sumptuous food is prepared and ploughmen are fed and handful of paddy are also given away to the needy and ploughmen. Seedling transplantation is one of the most important agricultural ceremonies for the *kisan*. An organised co-operative method is followed for transplanting paddy seedlings. When the transplantation in the field of the head man takes place, all the co-villagers assist him with the result that three-fourth of his transplantation work is finished in one day. The people are fed and shown respect. The finishing touch of transplantation of paddy is the last ceremony connected with paddy transplantation. Just after the completion of work, each labourer is given 2 seers of paddy, in addition to their usual wages. All the labourers are given oil, vermilion and the wife of the chief ploughman is given a jacket. The women-labourers sing songs and dance in the *angan* of a *kisan*.

Seasonal customs.—There are some ceremonials connected with seasons also which a *kisan* observes. *Karma* and *Jitia* are two very important festivals for the women of cultivators. *Karma* is generally observed among the Adibasis, Cheros, Kharwars, Bhuiyas and other "low caste" people. High class Hindu women observe *Jitia* festival. *Karma* is a great festival celebrated in Chotanagpur. With this ceremony ends the *Bhadai* cultivation. Women appear gay and colourful. The typical folk dance is performed. *Jitia* appears to be a national festival among the Hindus. Its observance marks the triumph of good forces on the evil ones. Many mothers fast for 24 hours for the good of their children. The festival marks the end of the rains and heralds the advent of *Sharad* season.

There are other ceremonies connected with *Nakchatra* months. Of them *Adra* is very important. On this day all work of *kisan* is suspended. He observes this day with great awe and reverence. It is believed that the seeds sown within 13 days of this *Nakchatra* never go a-miss.

Besides these customs, *Min-Sankranti* and *Brikcha Sankranti* festivals connected with months are of great significance to the cultivators. *Fagun* also comes under this head. The cultivator's customs, ceremonies and festivals are all inseparably connected with *Nakchatra* seasons and months.

Rituals.—Every religion has her own rituals connected with birth, marriage, pregnancy and death. According to *Sutra-Granth*, Hindus have to observe about 40 rituals from conception to death. But these

days a few rituals are observed. *Chhati, Barahi, Annaprashan, Mundan, Upanayan, Bibaha* and *Antesti-kriya* are some of the rituals that are observed. The Mohammedans too observe *Sunnat*, marriage and death ceremonies. The same is the case with the Adibasis.

Social Institutions.—The district lacks miserably in social institutions. There are a very few places of amusement in the district. Throughout the whole district there is a picture house at Daltonganj and another at Garhwa. People are educationally backward. Museum or art centres are unknown. In towns there are libraries but they too cannot cater to the mental needs of scholars for they are poorly equipped with books. This was the only district in the State which had no college before the year 1953.

Standard of living.—In order to deal with the standard of living of the people of this district, they may be classified under three heads; (1) higher, (2) middle and (3) lower. The higher class people are economically sound. Hence they live a comfortable life both in town and in village. They take rice, pulse and bread. They get milk, *ghee*, vegetables and protein food as well. They use a number of clothes and their costume is differentiated as usual. Middle class people find it very difficult to get rice, pulse, bread, *ghee* and vegetables throughout the year They have to limit their comforts. But middle class people living in rural area take rice only for a month or two. They have to depend on other coarse kind of edibles. They hardly get milk and *ghee*. Middle class people living in villages have cows and she-buffaloes. But they sell *ghee* and utilise the income for the purchase of clothes and paying of dues. Only on ceremonial occasions they make use of *kurta* and cap. In winter season the middle class people cannot make provision for quilt and warm clothings for all members of their family. The higher class people can only have quilt and warm clothings.

The lot of the lower class people is very pitiable. In this district people find it very hard to get two full meals. Their food consists of *Sattu and Ghatta* of maize and *jinora*. Sometimes in a week they get rice and pulse. Milk, *ghee* and oil are rare for them.

Their clothing consists of a *dhoti* of two or three yards. If they save something, they can buy a *ganji* or small *kurta*. Their children live almost naked and the women-folk have only one *sari*. When the clothing of these people get dirty and unclean, they have to face tremendous difficulties in washing their *saris*. The males wash their *dhoti* and put it on without getting it dry. In winter season the people of lower class have to face the cold very boldly. They make use of an earthen pot filled with cow-dung, etc., in which fire is kept. This is the standard of living of these people who live upon wages and have no other source of income.

The poor people living in jungle depend a great deal for their living on *mahua, sarai* (fruits of *sal* tree), *pichar, kaland* and *bair fruits*. When there is a failure of *mahua*, people find it very difficult to live.

Coating and shirting are meant for either educated people or rich people. These people have of late taken to trousers and *paijamas*. Generally people make use of fire-wood and dried cow-dung for cooking food. Owing to the restraint put on fire-wood and owing to the policy of the State Government in letting out forest on lease to *thikadars* (contractors), the people living in villages have to depend on dried cow-dung called *goitha* and *chipari*. It is only in town that charcoal is used.

Kerosene oil is used for lighting purposes. Electricity has of late been introduced only in Daltonganj town of the district. Garhwa Road and Garhwa have also got electricity recently, Latehar not yet. Use of electricity for industrial purposes is confined to saw mills, breaking of stones, processing of foodgrains and oil and lac factories besides at Hutar coal mines.

The middle class people living in rural area use seasonal food. That is to say that when *bhadai* crop is reaped they take *bhat* of *sawa, ghatta* of maize and bread of *mahua*. After the reaping of *agahani* crop they take rice for a month or two.

Generally speaking people living in villages prepare their food on *chulha* made of earth. Higher and middle class people have no doubt a place set apart for cooking purposes in their house. But the poorer people have very small hut of 10 or 12 cubits in length and 4 cubits in breadth. This hut serves all the purposes of a sleeping room, cooking room, drawing room and guest room simultaneously. The so called Harijan people called *Dusadh, Chamar, Dom, Parhaiav* and *korwas* have such abodes. Their condition is more to be imagined than described.

Barber is used both in rural and urban areas for shaving purposes. In Daltonganj saloons have been started but in other towns it has made little progress. In rural area poorer people hardly shave in a month. There are hospitals in every police-station of the district but they are not sufficient to cater to the needs of the vast population of the district. Some Ayurvedic institutions have been started. These hospitals and Ayurvedic institutions are not always equipped with medicines.

Smoking and drinking are becoming quite common. Tobacco chewing is also in vogue. *Pan* (betel) is in common use. Tea has come to stay. Coffee and cigars are still rather un-common. Consumption of electricity is common wherever electricity is provided. People do not like to walk long distances if there are passenger buses. Cycles, torches, good shoes, lantern, some rude furniture and tea-shops are becoming common in the country side.

A random sample survey in the rural and urban areas of a few chosen families indicates that as a rule there is no change or craze to enjoy leisure and relaxation. If there is some craze for it, the Adibasis have it.

Social Life.

The pattern of social life is in a crucible owing to the impact of the present day socio-economic changes. Palamau is no longer the unopened district of hills and forests, tigers and diseases. In the past century Palamau did not offer much of attraction to the outsiders. Rather a popular maxim was in vogue that if one wants to court death he has just to settle down in Palamau. The great resources of the district are being tapped and the district has now a fair share of roads and railways. People from other tracts with different culture-complex have started settling down in Daltonganj. The very fact that a second grade college for boys was only opened at Daltonganj less than a decade back and that there is already a growing incidence of co-education in that institution is a clear indicator of the great *zeitgeist*. The last Great War saw the recruitment of a number of tribals and others from this district in the military. The settlement of large military camps in the interior of the neighbouring district of Ranchi led to a number of construction projects including aerodromes. A large labour force had to be recruited on very high wages to complete the projects. Along with the other districts of Chotanagpur, Palamau also sent quite a large number of men and women to work in the aerodromes, etc. The large recruitment in the tea gardens had also contributed to the upgrading of the common man. The coolies who returned from the tea gardens or from the military camps with shirts, trousers and shoes or with *sans*, under-garment and trinkets helped to break the exclusiveness of this district of forests and tigers. The opening of the mineral resources in the neighbouring districts like the cement factories in Shahabad and Singhbhum, steel factory at Jamshedpur, the collieries in Ranchi and Hazaribagh naturally attracted the economically backward common man of the district. This process has continued and in the near future the Hatia Project and the other projects in Ranchi and other districts including Palamau itself will help the men of this district to earn more money.[1]

The impact has been marked on home life. The types of dwellings are changing. The mud-huts in the urban areas are slowly giving way and people who worked and lived outside would not be satisfied unless there is probably a chair or stool and a table. Use of trinkets and soaps is an index of the present trend. The old loin cloth of the Adibasis is hardly to be seen. Gone are the days when the coy Adibasi girl would be happy to move about with a small piece of rolled coloured mat in her ear-lobes. Instead she would wear cheap trinkets of coloured plastic. Similar changes are also observed in dress and ornaments of middle class family and the families in the higher income-groups. Their dress, on the whole, is now simpler more with

1. The new project of a 101-mile new rail line from Robertsgunj in Uttar Pradesh to Garhwa Road will open up substantial trade-links which will further help the development of Palamau district. The foundation of the rail-bridge on Sone river at Chopan as part of this project was laid by Sri Jagjiwan Ram, Railway Minister, on October 2, 1960.

an eye to durability and cheapness. The present day dwellings that are going up in Daltonganj are not being controlled and hence different types of houses with variegated pattern are to be seen. The furniture pattern in the dwellings of the family of middle class and higher income-groups is also changing. The present day youths are allergic to squat on the ground and have their meals. There is more of furniture in the living rooms. The change in the pattern is definitely underlining a more comfortable mode of living. Along with the other changes in home life, the pattern of food is also showing a change. More people are turning non-vegetarian and drinking of tea is replacing consumption of milk. Restaurants and hotels are springing up in the towns and villages. There are more people now that have taken to smoking and drinking. There is a perceptible shift of the upper and middle class people to the urban areas. The changes are more to be seen in the urban areas. But as the district headquarters largely determines the social trends, one may expect that without the economic resources these more expensive habits will go to the villages. This is unfortunate but looks almost inevitable. The long distance buses like those to Bhandaria or Mahuadanr are upgrading the villages on the routes. The Block headquarters in the interior have the same effect.

There are also changes in amusement sources. The *melas* and *hats* used to have some rustic sources of amusements. The communal dances of the Adibasis were great in the past. The *melas* and *hats* are now visited by roving small movies, *nawtanki* dances and demonstrative cinema shows. *Jatras* and *kirtans* are, however, still there to keep up the older tradition of instructive amusements. The natural beauty spots are hardly resorted to.[1]

In urban areas cinema shows are becoming more popular. The loudspeaker broadcasting cinema hits as an advertisement has almost become a nuisance. Songs and dance demonstrations by school girls are getting common. The *puja* festivities at Daltonganj are attended by thousands of villagers every night.

Another change is the shift of the social life to a more individualistic pattern. The average villager and particularly the average Adibasi had much more of a communal life earlier. While the Adibasis still retain this approach of life and to some extent the Christians too, the others are clearly becoming more materialistic and have developed an individualistic approach. This is strange because it was in Palamau district that still a couple of decades back, it was usual for the entire village folk to plough up another man's land and this process went on rotation. It was this approach that might have led to a real national revolution in Palamau in 1857. As mentioned elsewhere this is the only district in Bihar where almost every section of people joined the movement of 1857. The approach to an individualistic life is more perceptible in the urban areas.

1. Daltonganj-Latehar Road is one of the wonderful drives in India but very few tourists go out on this road. There are well-placed Rest Houses and Forest Bungalows in areas where tourism could well be developed.

The recent abolition of zamindari system has had a tremendous influence on social life, the effects of which are too early to be felt. The traditional leadership in society, rural or urban, came from either the men of the higher caste or the zamindars. The present day system of education and the socio-economic changes previously indicated had already started sapping the leadership of the castemen when came the abolition of zamindari in 1957. The numerous zamindar families had been nursed with the tradition of keeping a number of *kamias* and *launris* (maid-servants). In presence of the zamindar, his tenants would not dare to sit on the same platform where the zamindar sat. The average zamindar riding on a horse would have a couple of *kamias* run after him to hold the horse if he got tired and wanted to get down. The inaccessibility of a number of thanas helped to keep up this tradition of zamindars. The economic status of the zamindar was hardly a factor. Even a small zamindar would be a satrap in a small way.

By one stroke of the statute this leisured and pampered class was pulled down from the high pedestal. He has now the problem to earn his livelihood. Excepting a few, the economic condition of others is not enviable. The *kamiauti* system had been abolished some time back and now it is a problem for them to have a domestic servant and agricultural labourers. Some of them are turning to business. Some zamindars are now taking lease from the Government to work the very mineral resources of their previous estates which they had neglected. Some are turning forest-contractors, timber merchants, or licensees of public vehicles. There is a distinct shift of this class to come and live in towns of this district and beyond. Exploitation of the industrial resources, in big or small scales, will open new employment chances.

The impact of the abolition of zamindari is being felt in the changes of social values. Dignity of labour is more appreciated. The professional classes previously taken to be socially degraded because of their avocations have their position now. The adult franchise, the statutory removal of untouchability and change of the character of the Police State into Welfare State since Independence had been won, has highlighted the importance of the common man. The political and social changes are leading to a certain imbalance and confusion. In this great change the educated professional groups like the lawyers, doctors, educationists, businessmen, etc., have a great role to play. It is the educated middle class that gave the leadership in the 19th and early 20th century almost everywhere before high casteism or long purse came to be overvalued. It is felt that with the liquidation of zamindari and high casteism the educated professional groups should again come into their own after a little while. There is bound to be a certain amount of frustration and economic instability in this class for sometime owing to the abolition of zamindari and other changes and the aftermath of the upheaval of the common man. There has got to be an adjustment to maintain the social equilibrium and in that process the middle class men will have to play their great role again by acting as the cushion to absorb the shock and by giving the lead.

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

INTRODUCTORY.

The total area of the district according to 1951 census is 4,896 square miles or 31,35,540 acres[1]. The area occupied by forests and not available for cultivation is approximately 18,75,089 acres. The area under orchards is about 916 acres. The cultivable waste occupies about 2,28,766 acres. From these figures it will be seen that the area available for cultivation does not form the bulk of the area of the district. It has to be mentioned that these figures supplied by the Agriculture Department are approximate and somewhat different from the figures published by State Directorate of Economics and Statistics. But the differences are not very substantial and may be ignored. It is apparent from time to time the land distribution figures will differ.

The soil-type is more or less uniform throughout the district. Mostly the soil is loamy with very little variations. Stretches of reddish and black clay soil are also found. The area of Ranka and Bhandaria police-stations has got red laterite soil while Panki and Lesliganj police-stations have light black clay soil. Geologically soil formation in the district is the outcome of the natural work of the rivers Koil, Amanat and Son. There are two main zones of soil for agricultural purposes. The first consists of river valley basins of Amanat, Koil and Son and contains stretches of fertile alluvial soil covered with varieties of rice and to a less extent of sugarcane, wheat, barley, gram, *kulthi* and *surguja*. The second comprises the hilly tracts where the soil formed is of thin loose and gravelly type. This area is mostly covered with jungles and cultivation is mainly carried on in the valleys lying among the hills and in the long stretched narrow basins formed on both sides of the hills, rivulets and rivers. Hilly tracts, viz., Ranka, Bhandaria, Garu, Mahuadanr, Latehar and Balumath are cultivated by hardy peasants belonging to Adibasi tribes like Oraon, Kharwar, Korwa and Chero. The area under rice is comparatively less. Rice fields are, however, expanding under reclamation. There is not much interest in *rabi* crops. The peasantry of this area mainly depends on *bhadai* crops, such as maize, *jowar*, *marua*, *kodo*, *bodi*, *urid* and vegetables raised during rains.

As will be mentioned later there are two seasons for growing crops known as *kharif* and *rabi*. There is also a third season called hot weather. *Kharif* season starts from the middle of June to the middle of October while the *rabi* season extends approximately from 15th of October to the

1. This is the area according to the Surveyor-General. According to *District Census Hand Book of Palamau* based on 1951 Census the total area is 4,921 sq. miles. The difference is negligible and can be ignored (P. C. B. C.).

middle of January. Hot weather season runs from the middle of January to the middle of June. Out of normal rainfall from 45 inches to 52 inches in different parts of the district about 95 per cent is received during the *kharif* and the rest is received in the *rabi* season. Hot weather season generally suffers from want of rain. The *kharif* season crops are maize, *marua*, *urid*, groundnut, *jowar*, *bajra*, paddy, *sanai* and *rahar*. *Sanai* is grown for green manuring. The main crops grown in *rabi* season are wheat, barley, gram, peas, oat, sugarcane, *masuri*, *tisi*, *khesari* and mustard. During hot weather season *china*, maize and *boro* paddy are grown.

The district has been a chronic sufferer from famine, drought and scarcity conditions. Floods are not a problem as the rivers are mostly hilly excepting Son which is a perennial river and occasionally creates havoc in certain pockets. The flood of Son extends over three or four days or for a week at the most and the main crops damaged are maize and sometimes paddy. Cyclones of major intensity are not known.

Land Utilisation.

Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, Chotanagpur Division, left some notes, geographical, statistical and general of Palamau Pergunnah written during 1862—66. Palamau was a part of Lohardagga or Chotanagpur district at the time. Major Thompson's report was printed at Alipur Jail Press in 1866 and a copy is available in the Library of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. This report gives a useful account of the condition of agriculture in Palamau about a century before. Major Thompson mentioned that out of the approximate area of the Pergunnah 3,650 sq. miles, only about 456 sq. miles were cultivated. He pointed out that 2,399 sq. miles jungle was fit for cultivation while 608 square miles were natural hills and 187 sq. miles were unculturable waste. Palamau was at that time divided into 25 large estates locally termed Tuppeh "Tuppah". The flourishing area was Tuppeh "Tuppah" and 644 acres of this grew rice out of the one-third of the total area which was under cultivation. But the population of the Tuppeh was extremely meagre and was on the average 114 souls to the square mile. Some of the other Tuppehs had lesser population. Tuppeh "Munkheree" had only one-fifth of the total area cultivated and had only 59 souls to the square mile. Tuppeh "Seemah" had only one-eleventh of the total area under cultivation and the population statistics 20 souls to the sq. mile. Netarhat was in this area.

Major G. H. Thompson could visualise better and more extensive cultivation in Palamau, for example, for Tuppeh "Sunnaya" he had observed that the area was well-watered from the Koil river and by many of its feeders coming from the hills to the south. Two main roads passed through the Tuppeh from Daltonganj to Checharee and to Sirgoojah and that the soil was rich, means of irrigation plentiful. Thompson thought that if the Tuppeh was better inhabited there would

be fine crops. He has also good observations to make about Tuppeh "Turriya" which he found rich in coal as well. He mentioned about this Tuppeh "Skirts the right or north bank of the Koel river, along which for some distance inland, there is rich rice cultivation, which is well watered by numerous streams that flow from the hills on the northern parts of the tuppeh".

Major Thompson had also observed that "Amanat" valley, tuppehs Poondag, Imlee and Kote contained the richest cultivation in Palamau. Regarding the soil in Palamau his observation may be quoted :—"The soil in Palamau where it has been opened up, and well tilled is generally very productive. The valleys, of course, contain the best soils for rice, and the cereal crops; but the soils of the higher lands, and hills, are rich in decayed vegetable mould, which is added to yearly by the fall of leaf from the jungle and forest, and are consequently best adapted for cotton. The iron and the lime are powerful stimulants to the soil, and with care, and proper attention to the seasons, almost any kind of crop can be successfully reared." Cotton seems to have been quite common at that time. He observes "The cotton lands are generally in the jungle, or on spurs of hills, and are frequently changed. Trees, although always cut down, are seldom or ever up-rooted on cotton lands; the practice being to clear the land of all low jungles, and spread this, with the branches of the trees, over the ground, and when all is dry, to set fire to the leaf, and branches thus spread out. Land thus prepared for cotton is called "*Daha*". The charcoal and ash improve the soil, but the chief reason assigned by the native for this mode of preparing the cotton soil, is that it tends, better than any other system, to eradicate, by burning up, the roots of the grasses."

His report has an area statistical statement for Pergunnah Palamau in 1866. According to this statement the number of estates were 25 and the number of villages 2,749. The area in square mile under cultivation was 456, fit for cultivation 2,399, hills 608 and barren waste 187. This gives us a total of 3,650 square miles. The average size of villages in acres was 849. According to him the number of ploughs in the Pergunnah was 24,761, the number of bullocks 59,290, number of cows 38,895 and number of buffaloes 70,035. The population consisted of 1,56,876 souls—females 71,563 and males 85,313.

This picture drawn by Major Thompson could be compared with the present picture (1955-56) of land utilisation as disclosed in the following tabulated statistics published by Directorate of Economics and Statistics (1955).

Statement showing classification of areas (in thousand acres) during 1955-56.

	Classification of land.	Area.
1.	Forest	20,07
2.	Not available for cultivation	2,64

Classification of land.	Area.
3. Other uncultivated land excluding current fallow.	1,63
4. Current fallow	2,77
5. Net area sown	3,02
6. Total area of the district	31,45
7. *Bhadai* crops	1,81
8. *Aghani* crops	2,03
9. Fruits	...
10. Potatoes	...
11. Vegetables including root crops ...	...
12. Total area sown	5,87
13. Area sown more than once	2,83

HOLDINGS.

The distribution of the area of the holdings is not uniform. It appears that there had been progressive decline in the average size of a holding. This is only expected because of the Law of Inheritence, as on every death of the *karta* (family-head) of the family there will be a further partition of the holding. At the time of the settlement of D. H. E. Sunder (1894-95 to 1896-97) there were 12,952 holdings with 64,961.95 acres. From this it is apparent that the average size of a holding was 5 acres in the Palamau Government estate.

In the *District Census Hand Book of Palamau*, 1951 there is the following chart on distribution of 1,000 agricultural holdings by size of holdings based on sample survey of size of holdings, 1952 :—

Up to 0.5 acre.	Exceeding 0.5 acre and up to 1 acre.	Exceeding 1 acre and up to 2 acres.	Exceeding 2 acres and up to 3 acres.	Exceeding 3 acres and up to 4 acres.	Exceeding 4 acres and up to 5 acres.	Exceeding 5 acres and up to 10 acres.	Exceeding 10 acres and up to 15 acres.	Exceeding 15 acres and up to 30 acres.	Exceeding 30 acres and up to 50 acres.	Exceeding 50 acres.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
247	174	146	90	90	24	90	52	42	10	35

From the above-mentioned statistics it is clear that there had been decline in the average size of the holding. The number of small size holdings of 0.5 acre and one acre is greater than the big size holdings.

EXTENSION OF CULTIVATION.

Extension of cultivation in this district has been rather slow in comparison with the other districts. This is mainly due to the poor economic incidence of the common man. The first reclamation was

obviously done by the Adibasis and the indigenous population who, however, were gradually reduced to the position of serfs, agricultural labourers or small cultivators by the zamindars. The incentive for extension of cultivation was thereby partially lost. With the abolition of the zamindari the problem has again been put in the crucible. With the advent of the Welfare State and a large number of ameliorative measures taken in the First, Second and the Third Five-Year Plans extension of cultivation is expected to be more rapid. The district is now divided into a number of blocks and each of the Block Development Officer is expected to see to the extension of cultivation and better cultivation of the lands that are already under the block.

When we remember that there was a stage when the Adibasi tribals practised the *beora* cultivation system for raising crops we have got to admit that there has been an advance although distributed over several centuries. In *beora* cultivation they used to cut down the jungles and burn the trees. They used to drill holes in the earth and ash with the help of a pointed bamboo stick and put in seeds. The availability of supply of instructions for better agriculture, better seeds, manures and proper implements will no doubt help in extending cultivation. The Agriculture Department is charged with this duty.

The District Agricultural Officer is in overall charge for the agricultural development in the district. He has been given Subdivisional Agricultural Officers. Under each Subdivisional Agricultural Officer there are two or three Agricultural Inspectors and under each Agricultural Inspector there are two or three *Kamdars* to assist him in the field work. The main items of work of this machinery are the introduction and distribution of improved seeds, manures and implements, construction of minor *ahars*, *bandhs* and *pynes*, construction of medium *bandhs*, multiplication of seeds and implementation of the Agricultural policy of the State Government through the Community Development and the National Extension Service Blocks. There is one Government Experimental Farm engaged in research work on food produce and citrus development. This farm is situated at Chianki near Daltonganj. The area of the farm is 100 acres—30 acres for citrus research farm, 30 acres for district agriculture farm and 40 acres for agricultural school farm. It has already been mentioned elsewhere that this district can grow excellent oranges. There is no doubt why it cannot grow good mangoes, papayas, lemons, peaches and other fruits. It is in horticulture and extension of vegetable belts that the future cultivators will find a good deal of market in the near future as the neighbouring district of Ranchi is being rapidly industrialised and a new township will very soon grow up at Hatia near Ranchi because of industrialisation. The vegetable belts round about Ranchi cannot possibly supply sufficient vegetables and fruits to the people of greater Ranchi. Palamau is excellently connected with Ranchi by roads and in the near future we will see truck loads of vegetables and fruits being rushed to Ranchi from the markets in Palamau district probably making it difficult for the Palamau population to get enough of them.

RAINFALL.

The district has a normal rainfall of 51.52″, but the southern part of this district which is overgrown with thick forests and jungles gets more rainfall than the northern part which is almost a plain land bordering the districts of Gaya and Shahabad. The normal period when the monsoon breaks is the mid June and more than 50 per cent of the rains are received during the months of July and August. In the latter part of the rainy season the rainfall is rather unevenly distributed and varies from year to year. There has been a conspicuous failure of *Hathia* rains in most of the parts of this district for the last three years. The southern portion, however, was slightly better.

The success of agriculture in this district is entirely dependent on rainfall. A good shower of *Hathia* rain when received in September ensures *rabi* and the prospect is further added by winter rains. In the other months there is very little rainfall. Details of rainfall have been given in a separate chapter.

Distribution of rain seems to have been more disturbed since the third decade of the twentieth century. One of the reasons may be the indiscriminate exploitation of forest. The frequency of drought years seems to have almost become a normal feature. Generally the peasants need a heavy shower of 3″ as a premonition in May or early June to facilitate breaking up of the soil for the preliminary preparation for seed bed. The rain at the end of June and in July should be heavy to allow the seedlings to grow and the paddy fields to be preceded for transplanting. An interval of comparatively less rain follows allowing inter-cultural weeding operations to be successfully done. In the end of September and the beginning of October, the *Hathia* rains come which must be very heavy. On the sufficiency of the *Hathia* rains depends the success of winter rice crop and the land preparation of *rabi* crops. Finally, the periodic showers from December to February inclusive are essential to a good *rabi* harvest. These December to February showers help the growth, maturity and grain formation of *rabi* crops.

TEMPERATURE.

Details of temperature have also been given in a separate chapter. There is a great variation in temperature of the district. There is a difference of about 30° between the normal maximum and normal minimum monthly temperature and it is not unusual for an equal wide variation to occur within the 24 hours.

There is also a great variation in the maximum temperature required for ripening of the various crops. *Kharif* crops generally ripen in the month of September to October and require maximum temperature from 70° to 80°. In the case of *rabi* crops, the temperature required for ripening is much more varying from 100° to 105° F.

IRRIGATION.

The uncertainty of a well-distributed monsoon has placed the importance of artificial method of irrigation in the forefront for successful crop raising. There are, it is true, a large number of rivers and streams in the district, but in most of them the supply of water diminishes rapidly or fails entirely soon after the end of the rains. The landscape being undulating and abnormally sloping, the *nallahs*, rivulets and rivers rising from the hillocks and hills send out torrential currents during the rains which generally run to waste cutting deep ravines and gorges in the basin tracts.

The system of artificial irrigation prevalent in the district consists of three main types, viz., Major Irrigation Schemes, Medium Irrigation Schemes and Minor Irrigation Schemes. The Major Irrigation Schemes when executed supply a perennial supply of water both during the *kharif* and *rabi* seasons. The schemes constructed under Major Irrigation Schemes are the Karabar, Harhgarhwa, Sadabah and Batre Batane channels. They irrigate in total 6,000 acres of land. Some of them do not supply perennial irrigation water though they are meant for the best insurance against the failure of *Hathia* rains in September-October and for raising *rabi* crops, if possible, even summer crops. However, they are very important from the view point, that they have proved to raise the total yield of crops production in the area to an appreciable extent. Such schemes generally cost above rupees one lac and are capable of irrigating more than 1,000 acres.

The second type of scheme is the Medium Irrigation Scheme. They were sponsored during the Grow More Food Campaign launched during 1940—52. These schemes are intended to supply assured irrigation to paddy crop during the intervening drought periods in the *kharif* season. Less is expected from such type for irrigating *rabi* crops. Wherever the source of water-supply is a living rivulet and a river or a hill percolation or a mountainous spring, irrigation to *rabi* and summer crops to some extent, is possible by such scheme. Such schemes are few and far between in the district. A Medium Scheme as sponsored by the Grow More Food Campaign costs above rupees five thousand and is normally capable of irrigating more than 100 acres of land. More or less this Medium Scheme is a rain-fed one and of a diversion type. It has generally a catchment area in the mountainous uptracts of various *nallahs*, rivulets, ravines and gorges. The run off from the catchment area is drained down to the main river or rivulet and is directed to the area to be benefited by a *bandh* or a pucca weir or dam across it. When water comes the surplus is let out through the flood escape and the remaining required water is stored in the bed of the scheme. The stored water is allowed to flow out through sluice gates fitted at the mouth of the *pyne* or irrigation channel when required, to puddle and irrigate paddy-cut field or to irrigate *rabi* crops, if there is a sufficient storage in the *bandh*.

So far, there are 16 Medium Schemes constructed in the district and they are capable of irrigating 17,000 acres of paddy and *rabi* crop land.

The third type of scheme sponsored by the Grow More Food Campaign is termed as Minor Irrigation Scheme. It includes minor *bandh, ahar, pyne, karaha* (small irrigation channels emanating from the main irrigation channel) and wells. The *bandh* is a diversion embankment constructed across a small *nallah* or depression along the contour level having a flood escape and an irrigation channel. As it runs along the contour level, it lengthens for miles together till it is broken by some river or great depression. As it proceeds on in length, the area of its catchment goes on increasing. At places it may require the other more *pucca* flood escapes to let out flood water. Such flood escapes are called locally *Chahakas*. Here and there throughout the embankment and irrigational channel *Bhaos* (wooden or earthen or cement concrete pipes) are fitted to let out water for irrigating lands below. Such *bandhs* mainly depend upon rain water. Their irrigation channels do not function if the rains cease for a week or a fortnight.

The *ahar* is a temporary monsoon reservoir fed by irrigational channel or *pyne* emanating from the neighbouring river or a diversion *bandh*. The water from the *ahar* is let out through *Bhawas* fitted at the bottom of the embankment. The *ahar* is the oldest system of artificial irrigation scheme still proving very successful for paddy cultivation. After *Hathia* rains, water in the *ahar* is completely dried. It is then ploughed for *rabi* crop sowing. It grows very bumper *rabi* crops.

The *pyne* is the cut out channel across an upheaval stretch of land from the river bed down to the adjoining tract situated in lower level. It is a means for distributing river water into the fields.

The *karaha* is small irrigation channel which emanates from the main channel to effect more branching of the latter to facilitate distribution of irrigational water more widely and judiciously than otherwise.

The well is a perennial source for water-supply for irrigation. Its supply of water is limited. Generally a well of 10′ diameter is sponsored by the Agricultural Department for the area costing about rupees two thousand for forty feet depth and is capable of irrigating one acre of land. Water is lifted from the well by means of *latha* (a wooden lever) and *kundi* (an iron bucket having V shape bottom). It is the oldest device of the area still proving very essential for *bari* land, upland, fruit and vegetable cultivation. It has proved very helpful even growing *rabi* crops, though with slightly high cost. Cultivators are encouraged by the Government to sink wells at 50 per cent subsidy basis. The increase of vegetable areas in the district depends more upon the increase of wells in number.

The *sair*, i.e., the swing basket is one of the oldest system of artificial irrigation. It is neither effective nor economical. The cultivators take recourse to it during drought when they cannot get water

for their crops by some other suitable means. It works in tanks, *bandhs*, and river.

The lift engine and pump scheme was sponsored by the State Government under Grow More Food Campaign in the year 1948—52. During these years State had no good *Hathia* rains. At places *Hathia* rains totally failed. The cultivators all over the State expressed their desire to have lift and pumps to combat drought. This district has more than one hundred sets operating all over the area. Side by side a squad of the mobile engine pumping sets has been set up in the district to combat the drought of areas having more than 500 acres of cultivated land in one block.

Boring Open Wells.

On the whole, the Major Irrigation and Medium Irrigation Schemes have received full justification and appreciation from the peasantry of the district. The Minor Irrigation Scheme, except wells, is losing popularity. The Minor Irrigation Schemes are usually cheap in cost for construction and maintenance and are locally more suitable to provide irrigation in tracts where other bigger schemes cannot work.

The following table will show the number of Grow More Food Schemes constructed in this district for supplying irrigational facilities :—

Year.	Minor Irrigation Schemes.	Medium Irrigation Schemes.	Surface percolation wells.	Rahats.	Borings.	Lift Engines and Pumps.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1942-43 ..	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1943-44 ..	72	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1944-45 ..	81	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1945-46 ..	77	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1946-47 ..	56	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1947-48 ..	79	Nil	9	Nil	Nil	Nil.
1948-49 ..	151	Nil	44	6	Nil	Nil.
1949-50 ..	176	Nil	77	12	Nil	5
1950-51 ..	Nil	Nil	122	40	15	23
1951-52 ..	26	2	90	10	35	63
1952-53 ..	30	1	30	3	22	Nil.
Total ..	750	3	372	71	72	91

In addition to the above schemes completed in the district there are large number of minor *ahars* and *bandhs* spread over the entire district. These schemes depend primarily for their water-supply on rainfall and serve as small reservoirs and irrigate on an average 20 acres of land each. It is only in the beds of these *ahars* and also on the uplands where well and other surface irrigation exists and two crops are usually raised. The Waterways Department has taken up construction and repairs of several major schemes in the district so far. These schemes are providing irrigational facilities to about 5,000 acres of land each. The following table will show the areas irrigated by different sources :—

The total area under irrigation according to *Bihar Statistical Hand Book*, 1955 in 1955-56 is 1,10 thousand acres. Detailed figures are not very reliable due to incomplete survey of the district but are being quoted from 1953-54 to 1955-56 as they, nevertheless, show the trends :—

(Area irrigated in thousand acres.)

—	Government canals.	Private canals.	Tanks.	Wells.	Other sources.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1953-54	..	..	16	33	7	60	1,15
1954-55	..	..	..	1	9	1,16	1,26
1955-56	..	..	..	..	11	99	1,10

SOIL.

There is a great heterogeneity in the nature of soil existing in the district. Right from hard clay to light loam is noticed changing from village to village as well as plot to plot. The following are the main types of soil found in this district :—

(*i*) *Heavy clay*.—Locally known as *kewal* and is considered very rich. The soil becomes very hard when dry and very sticky in wet condition due to high percentage of fine clay. The special feature of this soil is that it is capable of holding moisture for longer period, if proper care is taken. There is slight variation in this type of soil due to existence of nodular lime contents and this gives a whitish tinge to this type of soil at places. It does not grow good *rabi* crops.

(*ii*) *Sandy soil*.—This is commonly known as *balsundar* and contains a considerable admixture of coarse sand. With irrigation facility this soil is capable of producing good crops of paddy, fruits and vegetables.

(*iii*) *Loam*.—This is commonly known as *dorasa* where a typical admixture of sand and clay exists. It is superior to sandy loam, but inferior to *kewal* soil. This soil grows *aman* paddy and sugarcane.

The above are the three main types of soil found in this district. There is, however, a great variation in their mixture due to existence of different soil constituents. The following are the admixture of soil obtaining in this district, over and above the three main classes mentioned above. Local names have been used :—

(*i*) *Gangti soil*.—This is commonly known as *gangti* and has got a high percentage of *kankar* and lime in the soil. It is also known as *garia* kewal.

(*ii*) *Ankrout*.—This is an admixture of sandy and gravelly soil with clay.

(*iii*) *Pathri*.—This is a reddish soil full of gravels and pebbles and found on the slopes and at the bottom of the rivers.

(*iv*) *Lalmiti*.—It is red ferruginous soil found in the south of this district near the Chotanagpur plateau and in gneissic hillocks and ridges in the north-west.

(*v*) *Pawar*.—This soil has a large mixture of coarse sand and is very friable and poor in quality.

Area under each type of soil.—There is a great variation of area of the soil of each category and one type of soil is gradually converted into other by continued agricultural operations and by the application of organic and inorganic manures.

Crop raised in each type and their average yield.

Sandy clay—Paddy	...	12 to15 mds. per acre.
Wheat	...	4 to 6 mds. per acre.
Gram	...	5 to 8 mds. per acre.
Clay—Paddy	...	4 to 8 mds. per acre.
Rabi	...	2 to 3 mds. per acre.
Millet	...	6 to 10 mds. per acre.
Oil seeds	...	3 to 4 mds. per acre.

Soil analysis conducted under the Chemical Section of Agriculture Department, Bihar, reveals that Palamau soil is mostly deficient in calcium and phosphorus.

Soil erosion or soil silting.—Broadly speaking, soil erosion is caused by rainfall as well as by wind. Though the agency of winds is working most inconspicuously, the result of wind erosion is not meagre and is very difficult to control where soil erosion is caused by rainfall or water, which is of two types :—(1) Gully erosion and Sheet erosion. Gully erosion is by far the worst and damages are very great,

if not checked. So far in this district nothing conspicuous has been done to stop the ravages of soil erosion except some propaganda by Agricultural Department to cultivators to change their agricultural practices and follow improved methods of crop growing. Soil erosion is a big problem in this district.

Classification of Lands.

The cultivated land in the district was classified in the record-of-rights, as done in the other districts of Chotanagpur into two main divisions, viz., rice land and upland. They have been again subdivided into three classes according to the merit of productivity.

Rice land (*Don, Dhankhet*).—First class rice land (locally termed as *gahera, bahiar or ghoghra*) grows a heavy crop of late ripening rice, harvested in *Aghan*. It remains moist for the greater parts of the year. If it is drained suitably *paira* crops of wheat and gram can be raised. The land of this class is usually irrigated by artificial means and is ordinarily situated in the bed of a *nallah* or immediately below *bandh* or an embankment.

Second class rice land (locally termed as *singha, dohar, chaur, kanki* or *ghugri*) grows varieties of paddy which ripen by the end of *Kartik* or the beginning of *Aghan*. It is less favourably situated than the first land, but derives some of its moisture from irrigation. Such land is usually found in long winding *nallahs* in the jungle or in narrow terraced land. Such land is generally irrigated by water diverted from the *nallah* or rivulets dammed across. If irrigation is assured, the yield of such rice crop can very well compete with that of the first class rice land.

Third class rice land (locally termed as *bad, tarkha, sathiar, tarkhet* or *badhian*) includes that large part of the rice land of the district where no water is brought by irrigational means but in which moisture is retained by terracing. This type of land is not very fertile and the paddy yield is much smaller.

Upland.—Upland has also several grades. The first class of upland commonly known as *bari* or *gharbari* is the usual homestead land by the side of dwelling houses. Such homestead land is usually fenced and well manured and is capable of raising two crops a year. It includes also such plots as are commonly used for the cultivation of sugarcane and growing vegetables, and the *dub* (inundated during the monsoon) land in the bed of reservoirs (*aharas*) which are let out after *Hathia* rains or after serving the purpose of irrigation, and some of the rich land stretching on the bank of the Son and the Koil.

The second type of upland (locally termed as *bhita, maruabari, bapirbari* or *chira*) includes the unfenced lands, usually next to the first class upland, that are manured sometimes and like the first class upland, bear two crops a year.

This class of upland is situated away from the villages. The most valuable crop is *aghani* which includes the best rice and sugarcane. The *bhadai* includes the early rice, *marua, kodo*, maize, *jowar*, millet and other less important grains. The *rabi* crop includes gram, barley, wheat, oats, lentils (*masoor*), linseed, *kulthi*, and other pulses. The area in which the autumn (*bhadai*) rice crop is raised is approximately identical with the third class rice land. This crop is of greatest importance in Palamau, much more than the winter rice crop. The proportion of upland to rice land is much higher in Palamau than in the adjoining districts of Chotanagpur as the following figures show :—

District.	Rice land in acres.	Upland in acres.
Palamau ..	2,65,000	7,64,000
Hazaribagh ..	6,78,000	8,44,000
Ranchi ..	11,92,000	14,34,000

Basti site.—It grows sometimes one crop a year and sometimes one crop every third year or few years. The extent to which this land is cultivated depends on the demand for land in the neighbourhood. Generally this class of land grows maize, *rahar, jowar, bodi, urid, moong, til, marua*, and *kodo* after heavy manuring.

The uplands commonly known as *tanr* are at the mercy of monsoon. With well irrigation some portion may turn into an orchard and vegetable garden. More of this type of land is coming under the plough.

Due to the undulating topography of the land of this district the cultivable land presents a diversity of the general appearance. Majority of the paddy lands in this district lie in valleys which are formed due to natural slope of the land and where conditions are most favourable to paddy cultivation. There are also other areas where paddy cultivation is done in fields after terracing and making proper *ails* in suitable pieces of plots with the minimum efforts. In these too, above types of land, main *aghani* paddy is grown and the type of land is known as first class paddy land. The nature of the soil of these fields due to continued cropping has become clayey or heavy soil. The second class land covers an extensive area of the district where paddy crop is grown and is entirely dependant on rainfall. The earlier crops which mature by the end of September or early October are raised on this land and the soil is light loam to loam in nature. Thirdly, there is a vast expanse of cultivable lands where *bhadai* crops are grown depending upon the nature of the soil from plot to plot. Some of these lands which have got irrigational facilities and which are close to the villages grow *rabi* crops in them.

About 25 per cent of the total cropped area is under two crops throughout the district. This area is mostly dependent on timely

rainfall and is subject to variation from year to year with the construction of Medium and Major Irrigation Schemes in this district. This area is expected to increase in next few years.

PRINCIPAL CROPS[1].

Paddy.

Paddy (*Oryza sativa*) is the most important crop in the district with an approximate area of 2,65,000 acres. The area, of course, will vary from year to year. The greater part of this crop is *bhadai* (2,10,000 acres) but the most valuable part is *aghani* (55,000 acres). The *aghani* paddy is in most part transplanted (*ropa dhan*) and is sown after the beginning of the rains in June or July on lands selected for seed-nurseries, which have previously been ploughed three or four times and heavily manured with cow-dung or compost. After four or six weeks, when the young plants are about a foot high, they are pulled out and transplanted in the permanent seed beds or plots which are prepared by puddling the soil with plough and levelled with *hengas* (wooden planks or levellers). At the time of puddling plots are heavily manured with cow-dung's compost at the rate of 10 to 15 cart loads per acre to ensure good crop. The paddy plants are then left to mature with the aid of water till towards the end of September. The water is then drained off and the fields are allowed to dry up for 15 days and at the end of that time they are again flooded. It is this practice which makes the rainfall or failing that irrigation essential for a successful harvest. This practice is called *nigar*. After *nigar* the late rains (*Hathia*) are very important to bring the paddy crop to full maturity. *Hathia* rains are essential to add and provide moisture to soil for *rabi* crop also. As *Hathia* rains are very precarious and mostly subject to failure, the practice of *nigar* is generally avoided by the cultivators. If *Hathia* rains fail, the paddy plant will wither and serve only the purpose of fodder, but if seasonable showers fall or the crops obtain sufficient supply from ahar, the paddy crop comes to maturity in November and December and is then reaped.

A certain proportion of the paddy is sown broadcast in May or June in low-lying lands and is not transplanted, this system is known as *rasbuna* or *dhuriya bawag*. The system of broadcast of paddy in low-lying land is generally discouraged as it does not give high yield in comparison to transplantation.

The *bhadai* paddy (about 2,10,000 acres) is also sown broadcast in May or June and is not transplanted. It is regarded as a 60 days crop and is generally harvested in September or October. One variety known as *tenwa* is sown broadcast in February or March. It is a hot weather paddy and is reaped in May or June. The *tenwa* paddy is grown on a small extent in the plots where the water of hill spring

1. The figures of the area under different crops are supplied by the District Agricultural Officer and for 1958-59.

stagnates during the summer. Such types of land is available in southern part of the district. Other varieties are known as *karhaini* and *gora dhan*. The *karhaini* paddy is generally grown in the upland paddy fields which stagnate water during rainfall only for a week or two. The *gora* paddy is grown on the upland or *tanr* land which does not at all accumulate water. It is sown mixed with *rahar* and *bodi*. It thrives merely on water moisture.

Maize.

Maize (*Zea mays*) forms another important crop. It occupies a gross area of about 73,000 acres. It is grown in *bari* land and upland *tanr* where rain water does not stagnate. It is the chief crop in the hilly parts, where the cultivation of autumn and winter paddy and *rabi* crops cannot be profitably carried on. It is one of the staple food crops of the district. Its importance cannot be minimised and substituted by raising another similar crop as it supplies the bulk of foodstuff at inopportune moment when other staple foodstuffs run short. The poor cultivator and the agricultural labourers in the district generally fall back on this crop for their food during August and September when food shortage is generally very high.

It is sown in June or July after the first shower of the monsoon and harvested in August and September. The cobs begin to appear within a month after sowing and thence forward the fields have to be carefully watched to prevent the ravages of birds and beasts as well as loss by theft. The cultivators of the district attach so much importance to this crop as to put wholesale available cow-dung manure only to raise this crop. The other fields may complacently go without manure for raising other crops. The district of Palamau is one of the few best districts in Bihar for producing this crop.

Marua.

It (*Elensine coracana*) occupies a gross area of about 32,000 acres. It ranks next in importance to maize among the *bhadai* crops. It is grown in all parts of the district and is one of the main food crops in the hilly areas. It is both broadcast and transplanted. Seedlings for transplantation are raised on a small nursery where two or three inches layer of dried cow-dung is spread over and burnt.

It is a late crop and has to be harvested in October or November. *Marua* is very exhausting crop and requires heavy manuring for good harvest. Its preference over other similar *bhadai* crops, lies in the fact that it is a very hardy crop and once established can very well stand the drought of whatever intensity may be.

Gondli.

Gondli (*Panicum miliare*) is next to *marua* in importance as a drought resistant upland *bhadai* cereal crop. No other sown *bhadai* crops ripen as early as *gondli* does. It ripens in the last week of July.

It is also a poor man's crop. The yield per acre is very low, i.e., three maunds per acre. The poorer section of the cultivators of southern tracts grow this crop with same care and interest as they take with other crops.

Jowar.

Jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*) is another drought resistant cereal. It is best suited for upland and hill slopes. It is sown just after the early shower of monsoon, i.e., in June or July and harvested in November or December. This crop is sown mixed with *rahar*, *gora* paddy and other fibre plants (such as *kudrum*).

In recent years the popularity of this crop is gaining ground as it is both a food and a fodder crop.

Gram.

Gram or *boot* (*Cicer arietinum*) is the most important *rabi* crop grown over a gross area of about 1,48,000 acres. It is grown both as a single and a mixed crop. It is grown mixed with wheat or barley It is sown in October or November and harvested in March or April. A little shower in January or February does well for the crop.

Barley.

Next to gram in acreage, barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) ranks high amongst the *rabi* crops. It has an area of about 72,000 acres and is grown in all parts of Palamau except in the hilly tracts inhabited by tribes of aboriginal descent who show little aptitude for the cultivation of food crops other than their favourite millets. It is essentially the food for the poor classes who eat the grain, boiled or fried, make it into bread or consume it in the form of *sattu*.

Wheat.

Wheat (*Triticum sativum*) occupies a gross area of about 37,000 acres. It is grown more or less in all parts of Palamau except in the hilly tracts where the soil is too loose and gravelly. It is grown most extensively in the valleys of the Koil and the Amanat and the narrow strip of flat country fringing the district on the north. It thrives in *kewal* or strong clay soils and also does well in loamy soils and alluvial deposits, but the best outturn is obtained when it is grown in the beds of *ahars*. With irrigation facilities it thrives on every type of soil, however, poor it may be. The cultivators of Palamau specially of Hussainabad and Bhaunathpur have to dig *katcha* wells for growing wheat every year which collapse during the next monsoon.

Other cereals and pulses.

Amongst the less important cereals are millet or *bajra* (*Rennisetum typhordium*), *sawn* (*Penicum frumentacum*), *kodo* (*Paspalaum serobi culatum*), and *china* (*Penicum miliaceum*). These cereal crops occupy a small acreage of poor land.

Amongst the pulses the most common is *urid* (*Phaseolas roxburgi*) grown on about 20,000 acres, *barai* (*Phaseolas mungo*) on about 9,000 acres, *kulthi* (*Dolichus biflorous*), *rahar* (*Cajanus indicus*) on about 44,000 acres, *khesari* (*Lathyrus sativus*) on about 29,000 acres and *masoor* (*Ervam lens*). *Urid* is grown on upland. Generally the cultivators spread dried leaves three inches thick over the plot during the summer and set it on fire. When fire goes out, leaf ash is ploughed in, which is conducive for the growth of *urid*. *Rahar* is cultivated both in the hills and in the plains, the aboriginal cultivators of the former exchanging the produce for rice and salt. The species raised by them is larger than that of the plains. They grow it by a system known as *beora* wherein the land is cleared by burning the jungle and the seeds planted in holes drilled about a cubit apart. *Khesari* is sown immediately after the rains among the standing paddy. It yields a coarse type of pulse which is eaten in the form of *sattu* or boiled and eaten as *dal*. *Masoor* is another lentil which is eaten in the same way as *khesari*. It is sown broadcast like gram and wheat after ploughing the land for twice and thrice. It does well in clayey soil.

Oilseeds.

Amongst the oilseeds the most commonly grown is *til* (*Sasamum indicum*). It occupies a gross area of about 31,000 acres. It grows on the worst type of lands. *Sarguja* (*Guizelia abyssinica*) and mustard are grown on upland occupying about 15,000 acres. Linseed (*Linum usetatissimum*) occupies the area of about 12,000 acres. Castor (*Ricinus communis*) grows well in the *bari* and the upland *tanr*. It occupies considerably a negligible area in the district. *China badam* or groundnut (*Archis hypogoes*) is grown in a very small scale. The soil is quite favourable for this crop. It is subject to the ravages of wild beasts and birds.

Sugarcane (*Sacharum officinirum*).

It is a cash crop of the district. It requires intense irrigation during the *rabi* and summer seasons. It is mostly grown in the valley in the north and in the central part of Palamau. It is not a popular crop in the south due to the absence of irrigational facilities. Irrigation to this crop is generally done through wells with the help of *latha* and *kundi* and through swing baskets which are operated to lift river water when it is grown on the bank. The sugarcane sticks are pressed in iron roller mills so designed to extract out juice. The juice is converted into *gur*. The nearest sugar mill is at Guraru in Gaya district and the Bihia mill in Shahabad.

Cotton.

Cotton (*Gossypium sp.*) used to be a favourite crop with the semi-aboriginal tribes and the principal centres of cultivation were the jungly tracts. At present it is hardly cultivated at all but as the method of cultivation is primitive and interesting, it may be mentioned.

There are two methods of raising cotton (*kapas*) called respectively *kachhwa* and *daha*. The first system *kachhwa* needs the ploughing of fields for three or four times during the first rain preceding the break of monsoon. The fields are left to weathering process through the summer till early shower of the monsoon falls when cotton seed is sown broadcast. The method is generally unpopular owing to the amount of weeding required. The cultivator either cannot afford more intensive labour or is too indolent to do weeding operation. The second method called *daha* is by far the most common and involves a great waste. In this case the land selected is generally forest land which is cleared by cutting down the trees, the stumps alone being left standing. The whole field is then covered with a thick layer of brushwood which is set on fire during the hot weather. This firing has a two-fold object. Firstly it burns up the roots of all grasses and weeds lying near the surface, thus effecting a certain saving in weeding and secondly, the alkali contained in the ashes is an excellent manure. It is not often, however, that this latter advantage is secured for unless a shower happens to fall immediately after the land has been fired, the strong west winds carry away the ashes. As soon as the first showers have fallen, the cultivator ploughs up the land and sows the seed broadcast, when this has been done, he proceeds to fence the field round to keep off deer which are very fond of the crop; and this is the only expense he incurs till the time comes to gather the crop.

The *daha* system being the one most commonly practised, it is not surprising that the growth of cotton has decreased rapidly with the extension of cultivation, as the jungle is gradually burnt down or gives place to the plough, and also owing to the reservation and protection of forests in which such a method is strictly prohibited. In 1863 the Bihar Cotton Road was specially constructed to export cotton from Palamau and Surguja during the American Civil War. In 1872 the area under cotton was 9,600 acres; in the five year ending in 1905-06 it averaged only 4,320 acres, in 1906-07 it had fallen to 1,500 acres and at the last settlement the area recorded was only 1,200 acres. The period onwards 1930 recorded no area for the crop due to awful shrinkage in its acreage.

Fruit trees.

Mangoes are grown all over the district. Other fruits grown in the district are orange, plantain, custard apple, mulberry, guava, pomegranate, jackfruit, *bel*, and plum. *Mahua* is of the greatest economic importance and is the poor man's sustenance in times of scarcity.

Tea and coffee are not cultivated. Silk and tobacco are also not widely grown. Lac has an important place in the cultivation of this district. It is cultivated on *palas*, *plum*, *kusum*, *pipal*, *bar*, *gular*, *pakar*, and other trees.

Vegetables and Fruits.

The vegetables of Palamau include potatoes, tomatoes, brinjal, *karaila* (Bitter gourd), *nenua* (Sponge gourd), *jhingi* (Ridge gourd), *kaddu* (Bottle gourd), *seem* (Beans), *konhra* (pumpkin), *ramtorai* (Lady's finger), cucumber, *kundri*, *khekhsha* (wild gourd found in forests), mushrooms, etc. Tomatoes of Latehar area are very luscious and large.

With the fast industrialisation of the neighbouring town of Ranchi the vegetable belts in Palamau district are bound to have a fillip. With proper care one can make a good profit out of a vegetable garden even now. A small plot of about three *kathas* of land at Hariharganj in occupation of a Doctor has been a show-piece growing all kinds of winter vegetables with some care. The soil is drier than that of Ranchi and requires more water and manure for giving a good yield of vegetables.

Among the cultivated fruits, mangoes take a prominent place. They are grown all over the district and numerous large groves are found towards the north. Next to mangoes is oranges. The district has lime belts well suited for oranges. The quality and size could be improved upon. They grow very well particularly in Japla area. Other citrus fruits could also be well grown. Melons are cultivated extensively along the banks of streams. Other fruits are plantain, custard apple, mulberry, guava, pomegranate, pumelo, jack-fruit, *bel*, *mahua*, and blackberry. Custard apple, *bel*, blackberry and *mahua* grow in the district in wild state. Papayas do not grow as well as in Ranchi and will require more water for giving a good yield.

Of all fruit bearing trees the *mahua* (*Bassia latifolia*) has a great economic importance. It is found in great abundance all over the district, both in hills and in plains. For the poorer section of people, particularly aboriginal and semi-aboriginal tribes, it is the only supplementary article of food. This is largely consumed at the time of scarcity and famine. The part of the *mahua* which is eaten is the corolla of flowers, a fleshy blossom of pale yellow colour. When it is fresh, it has a disagreeable and pungent sweetish taste. The blossoms spring from the ends of the smaller branches of the tree, in bunches from 20 to 30 and as they approach ripeness, swell with juice and fall to the ground. Much depends on the weather while the flowers are developing; the crop requires sun and cloudy weather and thunderstorms are most destructive.

As soon as the buds appear, the ground under the trees is carefully cleared by burning all grasses and weeds. The first fall of the blossom is the signal for the women and children to be moving about. Those whose homes are near the trees, go out to work at dawn, returning two or three times during the day with what they have gathered. Where trees are at the distance the whole family member encamp close by and remain there till entire crop has been gathered. After being gathered it is spread out to dry upon the ground which has previously

been smeared with a coating of cow-dung and mud. The ground under the *mahua* tree becomes the clearing house for village gossips for the time being.

The blossoms are rarely eaten while fresh, being considered unwholesome but are kept in the sun till they are dried, when they turn light brown and resemble raisins. There are several methods of preparing the blossoms for food, the most common being to boil it, but as this seems to take all flavour out of it, the seeds of the *sal* or some acid leaves or herbs are cooked with it in order to render it palatable. Another method is to fry it in *ghee* or butter, but it is too expensive a luxury to be indulged in by the common man. Another important use to which the *mahua* blossoms are applied is in the distillation of spirit.

The fruit of the *mahua* commences to form immediately after the fall of the blossoms, and ripens in June. The fruit is never plucked in the tree nor is the tree shaken to induce it to fall, should this be done, the tree, it is said will not bear any fruit the following year; consequently it is allowed to drop itself. The fruit, when ripe is about the size of a peach and has three different skins, with a white nut or kernel inside. The whole of the fruit is utilised in the following ways. The two outer skins are either eaten raw, or cooked as vegetable. The inner skin is dried and ground up into flour. Of the kernel oil is extracted which is largely used for cooking purposes and for adulterating *ghee*.

Next in importance as an article of food is the *bair* plum (*Zizyphus jujuba*). It grows upon a small thorny thicket or bush. It is found all over the district. When half ripe, it has the pleasant acidic taste of an apple. It is gathered when fully ripe, dried and stored. In dried condition it is eaten either boiled or in an uncooked state. The thorny branches furnish materials for a cheap and impervious hedge. The *piar* is the small black fruit resembling sloe (small bluish black plum) in appearance. It grows plentiful in the jungly area. It is gathered and dried in the same way as *bair*. The two small stones in the fruit, which are known as *chiraunji* are made into a delicate sweetmeat.

The forests contain numerous other edible fruits and roots and for at least eight months in the year furnish the people of the jungly villages with a supply of food, which though perhaps not very substantial or digestible, is still sufficiently nutritious to prevent starvation. In this respect the inhabitants of jungles are better off in time of distress caused by famine than that of the highly cultivated parts. Some of the roots are highly nutritious and form a favourite article of food with the hilly tribes. These tribals are the only people who know where to find them. Neterhat plateau could well be utilised for horticulture provided a good water-supply is assured. An attempt has already been made and peaches, apples, avočado, pears are being grown.

The taste has still to improve but this will be a matter of time. There is no reason why cherries cannot be grown there. The pears are of cooking variety and could be well utilised in making jam.

Spices.

The district grows chillies, mustard, garlic, *dhania* and *shaunf* as crops for spices. Chillies are grown along with other garden crops. *Rai* and *dhania* grow as *rabi* crops. Garlic, *shaunf* are grown during *rabi* season under irrigation.

Agricultural Implements.

The time-worn agricultural implements are still largely used. The country ploughs made locally by the village carpenters still hold the market. Attempts are being made to introduce better implements through the Agriculture Department.

The Bihar Junior Plough is used for opening of furrows in lands. It ploughs at a greater depth than the *Deshi* plough. It has been recommended by the department. The price is about Rs. 18 only. It is a heavy plough and so it has not been popular in the district for the local light bullocks.

Bihar Cultivators and hoes are used only in the farms. The general cultivators do not keep them.

In addition to *deshi* plough which is nothing but a log of wood with or without an iron point, a wooden plank called *henga*, sufficiently heavy is also used which function mostly in breaking up the clods. After each ploughing it is used to cover up the seed and sown by broadcast method. Sometimes a plank two to three feet square is used for the same purpose. This also serves as a leveller in case of uneven ploughed lands. The cost of the plank varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3, depending upon the locality and type of wood used therein devised locally called *Malabasa* and is used for sowing of *rabi* crops in villages. This is used behind *Deshi* plough and generally made with the help of bamboo sticks with a hollow hole in it and the upper part has wooden mouth, funnel like in shape in which the seed is dropped. The lower end of the bamboo is connected with the *Deshi* plough through a hole.

The main difficulty in the use of the better implements such as Bihar Junior Plough, Bihar Senior Ridging Plough and the Sukhda Plough are the poor and small size of bullocks.

Facilities of Repair and Replacement.

Facilities of repair and replacement of the ordinary plough, Bihar Junior Plough and Bihar Cultivators are easily available. Hardly any special repairs and replacements are required for these implements and the cultivators are able to attend to them locally with the help of the village carpenters.

Mechanical Implements.

Tractors are still practically unknown in this district. The Agriculture Department has arranged for three tractors in the district which are run on hire system. No proper census of privately owned tractors has been taken but their number is not large. Disc plough and disc harrow and mouldboard plough are being used with tractor. The question of finding parts for the very few tractors in use has proved a difficult problem.

The topography of the country and the law of succession are impediments to any wide scale use of tractors. A tractor can only be used at an enormous cost if the country side is undulating and hilly. Small holdings are not suitable for tractor cultivation.

The statistics of agricultural machinery and implements in 1956 were as follows :—

Ploughs.		Carts.	Sugarcane crushers.		Oil Engines with pumps for irrigation purpose.	Electric pumps for irrigation purpose.	Tractors.		Ghanis.	
Wooden.	Iron.		Worked by power.	Worked by bullocks.			Government.	Private.	Five seers and over.	Less than five seers.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1,18,634	268	3,265	44	995	79	2	3	5	158	1,554

Seed Supply.

The sources of supply of seeds in the district are the Department of Agriculture, private local farms or the ordinary cultivators. Very usually the cultivator keeps back a quantity of his own crop for seed purposes. The Department of Agriculture runs seed supply stores or seeds are supplied through the Co-operative Department.

There is an attempt in upgrading the crops by the supply of improved varieties of seeds. A number of crop seeds are made available for early *aman* which is ready for harvest by the middle of November. The other varieties are for medium *aman* which gets ready for harvest by the end of November. Jaunpur maize and Kalimpong maize have been introduced in the district. Locally grown better type maize seeds are also supplied. The seed of the Jaunpur variety is smaller than the Kalimpong one. In a similar manner better type of seeds for wheat, gram and barley are also made available. But unfortunately the seed supply by the Government agencies are not sufficient to meet the local demands. That is why Government have introduced a Seed

Multiplication Scheme by which cultivators are given improved varieties of seeds and are encouraged to grow them on selected plot. When the crops are gathered the Agricultural Department takes back the seed and purchases more for distribution purposes.

In this connection it has to be mentioned that the storage facilities available to the average cultivator is meagre. Very few cultivators have any proper place for long time storage. Warehouse arrangements on behalf of the State Government have not yet reached the district of Palamau.

Manures.

The ordinary manures are cow-dung, wood-ashes and the droppings of cattle. Manuring is done either by broadcasting or in lines. Previously manuring was done without knowing the deficiency of the soil. Now doses of manures other than cow-dung are given as per instructions issued by the Special Officer, Manurial Tables Schemes, though there are a large number of villages where old methods are still followed. The cultivators themselves prepare farm-yard manure and compost. Town compost is seldom available from the local Municipality. Chemical fertilizers are available from the local Credit Agricole Department. Sulphate of Ammonia is being sold @ Rs. 18 per maund whereas Single Superphosphate and Bonemeal @ Rs. 9 per maund. There is a subsidy of 25 per cent on the phosphatic fertilizers inside the Intensive Cultivation Blocks. The cost of manuring depends upon the crops and soil of the locality. The source of distribution of manures is the Co-operative Credit Agricole Depot.

Transport.

Transport of the crops from the field to the granary or the threshing floor is still carried on either on head-load or pack bullocks or by bullock carts. The transport cost is usually not much. The primary market is usually within a dozen of miles and the gathered grains are carried through by bullock-carts.

Rotation of Crops and Crop Combination Methods.

The average cultivator in the district does not follow any particular crop rotation or combination of crops. He is either too ignorant or too indolent to follow a rotation of crops or a combination of crops. There has been a traditional complacence about cultivation and the cultivator has to be taught that with the same plot of land he could probably raise two crops in the year in place of one. It is true, the want of irrigational facilities may be an obstacle. There are, however, small patches where minor irrigation facilities do exist and even at such places two crops are not normally grown.

The Agriculture Department is trying to introduce rotation of crops and crop combination methods. Previously also there used to be a mixed crop grown such as gram and barley and gram and wheat

together and this fact is utilised for making a propaganda for double cropping in the land which used to grow one crop. Irrigational facilities are being extended and with propaganda and demonstration there is no reason as to why this district will not take to crop rotation and combination of crops. The following system of crop rotation is being popularised among the cultivators depending upon the type of lands in the different localities :—

Up land—Maize, wheat or gram, peas.

Medium land—Early paddy—barley and gram—early paddy—*masur*.

Low land—Paddy (late)—*Paira khesari*—paddy—fallow.

Pests and Diseases.

The following pests are found in the district :—

(*a*) *Rice Gundhi Bugs* (Leptocorisa Varicornis).—The bug infects at the milking stage of the paddy crop and for some years did a lot of damage recently. It is a serious type of pest for the paddy as it sucks the milk of the grain-leaving only the husk.

These pests are controlled by dusting with Benzene Hexachloride.

(*b*) *Rice Hispa.*—At places, but in a very insignificant measure Rice Hispa is found damaging paddy. This is also controlled by dusting with Benzene Hexachloride.

(2) *Locust.*—It is an ordinary grass hopper which changes its living habits during certain periods when the climatic conditions become favourable. It is a migratory insect which moves in swarms and settles in compact block. They are controlled by baits.

(3) *Worms.*—The damage by worms is slight.

(4) *Rats.*—The damage caused by them both in the fields and godowns is very great. They are controlled by cynogassing.

(5) *Wild animals.*—Among wild animals, blue-bulls (*nilgais*), monkeys, jackals, bears, bores, porcupines cause great damage to the standing crops. They are controlled by fencing, by scaring away, by means of drums and scare-crows. In some cases crop is saved by means of guns. Wild elephants in certain areas create occasional havoc by destroying crops, particularly paddy. The wild elephant menace is definitely on the increase.

(6) *Stray cattle.*—Stray cattle also do harm to crops.

Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

Area under fodder crops.

The forests of Palamau supply good pasturage during rainy and winter seasons. But in the dry season the supply of fodder is practically stopped for about four months. There had been practically no

extension of modern fodder crops. By investigation it has been ascertained that the fodder crops like *para* and *berseem* may extensively be grown. For the preservation of hay two hay-making centres one at Barwadih and other at Kumandih had been opened which preserve about 13,000 maunds grass. There is ample scope for spread of knowledge of fodder crops among the rural people. The Animal Husbandry Department has started tackling the problem but there has not been much headway yet.

Grazing facility is now controlled by the Forest Department. Professional graziers are commonly found in Garu, Barwadih, Ranka and Bhandaria thanas. They move about the jungles with their wives and children. Cattle are allowed to graze on payment which is popularly known as *kharchari*.

Dairy Farming.

There is only one small dairy at Netarhat. The produce is supplied to the Netarhat Public School, but is in a short supply. The cows are usually small in size and do not yield good quantity of milk. As has been mentioned elsewhere although efforts are being made to improve the variety but the size of the cow being small there has been difficulty in introducing the proper sized good breeding bull. The district has not got water pools and remains dried for several months. As such buffaloes cannot thrive. There is also dearth of fodder. A good percentage of the milk is converted into *chhena* and *khoa* for making sweets for which there is a good market in the urban areas. These are difficulties why there had not been a successful dairy although the milk supply in the urban areas cannot be described as inadequate. Daltonganj is one of the few towns where boiled milk as such is sold in some shops.

Sheep Breeding.

Sheep rearing is a subsidiary occupation, especially of the shepherd caste locally known as *Gareris*. A large number of sheep is exported from Palamau to the coalfields areas of Bihar and West Bengal. Some of the *hats* have a big turnover in sale and purchase of sheep and goats. Hariharganj and Daltonganj markets have large transaction in them. The animals are usually transported by trucks and no census has been taken. A class of Muslim known as Dabkars deal in them. The number of sheep in 1951 was 57,509 as against 56,165 in 1956. Hitherto no attempt has been made to improve the local sheep breed. The *Patania* variety is commonly found in the district. A few improved varieties of rams were distributed by the Animal Husbandry Department to improve the local breed but the upgrading is insignificant. The local wool is of inferior quality and so recently a Wool Development Scheme has been sponsored at Daltonganj by Government to improve the quality of the wool.

Poultry Farming.

Poultry is kept by quite a good number of people but there is, practically, no system of proper housing and feeding. Both in the urban as well as rural areas, poultry is kept in free range. Birds are shut up in a dark coup in the night and they are let loose in the morning to go about to collect food. Wild animals and particularly jackals are awful lifters of such birds. The Adibasis, the Muslims and some of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes men have a subsidiary income from poultry. The weekly market at Daltonganj on Wednesday has a large turnover in poultry, mostly chickens. There is a great scope for upgrading the species. Local investigations at two remote areas Bhandaria and Mahuadanr indicated disappointing results although the Blocks of these two areas are reported to have worked for the improvement of poultry. With the rapid industrialisation of the neighbouring district of Ranchi there will develop an inexhaustible market of export of poultry from this district.

Fisheries.

Palamau district is not noted for fish. The rivers are mostly hilly and their currents are very sharp and so there is very little possibility for breeding. In the summer season almost all the rivers except Son become dry. Mahseer are found in the Son during the rains and they also pass up the Koil. During rainy season *rohu* and *kajar* are found in the Koil. In other seasons fish becomes rare in Palamau. In order to develop fisheries three nurseries, viz., Latehar, Garhwa and Daltonganj have recently been started. Carp breeding scheme is also in operation in Daltonganj. Survey is going on and reservoirs are being examined for proper breeding places. There is a fish sanctuary in the Son near Japla. The fishes are mostly found in tanks and their surface area, is about 120 acres. The varieties which are met frequently are *katala*, *rohu*, *naini*, *mirgal*, *magur*, *garai*, *bami* and *boari*. The district has very few big tanks where fish could be bred.

LIVESTOCK.

According to the livestock census in 1951 the district has 10,02,536 heads of livestock as against 10,44,332 in 1956. The population in the last two census years is given below :—

Livestock.	Population. 1951.	Population. 1956.
Cattle (males) over 3 years	2,77,319	2,65,368
Cattle (females) over 3 years	2,49,262	2,15,036
Cows	78,099	79,229
Youngstock (cattle)	1,34,443	1,68,298
He-buffaloes over 3 years	17,616	8,102
She-buffaloes over 3 years	74,300	63,685

Livestock.	Population. 1951.	Population. 1956.
She-buffaloes in milk	23,145	24,507
Youngstock (buffaloes)	32,929	30,565
Sheep	57,509	56,165
Goats	1,27,703	1,84,619
Other livestock	31,455	43,484
Total livestock	10,02,536	10,44,322
Poultry	2,43,304	3,60,540

Further details of the livestock population for 1951 and 1956 as disclosed in livestock census are given in the Appendix.

CATTLE FAIRS.

Every weekly *hat* of Palamau has good turnover in cattle. Over and above there are a few important annual cattle fairs in the district, the details of which are as follows :—

Name of the fair.	Period.	Number of Cattle.
1. Latehar	*Shivaratri* (for three days)	4,000
2. Balumath	*Kartic Purnima* (for a week)	22,000
3. Lesliganj	January during *Makar Sankranti* (for a week)	2,000
4. Hariharganj	*Pus Purnima* (for three days)	30,000
5. Balubhang	*Ram Navami* (for three days)	90,000
6. Shibla	*Basant Panchmi*	6,000

Veterinary Aid.

The district is without any veterinary hospital. At present the district has got four dispensaries as detailed below :—

Name of institutions.	Jurisdiction.	Field veterinary dispensary centres.
1. Veterinary Dispensary, Daltonganj	Daltonganj Lesliganj. Panki. Manatu. Patan.	Lesliganj. Pol-pol.
2. Garhwa	Garhwa Bhaunathpur. Untari. Ranka. Bhandaria.	Ramna. Obra.

Name of institutions.	Jurisdiction.	Field Veterinary dispensary centres.
3. Hussainabad	Hussainabad Chhattarpur. Hariharganj. Bishrampur.	Mohammadganj. Rehla.
4. Latehar	All over the sub-division.	Chandwa Manika.

The district needs more institutions. It has been decided to open a dispensary at Lesliganj and it is also proposed to run a full-fledged hospital at the district headquarters. Cattle diseases of contagious nature like Rinderpest, Haemorrahagic, Septicaemia, Anthrax, Foot and Mouth disease, Sura, etc., are very common in this district.

Cattle Improvement.

The following schemes are functioning in the district :—

(1) Maintenance of bulls in key villages for stud purposes.

(2) Preparation of hay—a centre has been opened at Barwadih.

(3) Improvement of *goshalas* where cows are maintained properly. Pedigree bulls are distributed to the *goshalas*.

(4) Scheme for establishment of concentration camps for old and decrepit cattle. One such camp has been opened at Barwadih.

Bullocks play a great part in agriculture. At places improved breeds like *Sahiwal* and *Tharparkars* are seen in the district that have been purchased from Government Farms. *Shahabadi* breed bullocks are gradually replacing the local breeds of poor and small-sized bullocks.

Livestock Products.

Livestock products include milk, eggs, hides, hornbone and wool. The milk yield per cow is small but the number of milching cows being large the daily average milk yield in the district is quite large and more than what could be consumed as milk. A large quantity of the daily produce of milk is converted into *ghee* and *ghee* industry is thriving in this district. The good yield of milk has encouraged the preparation of palatable sweets like *sandesh*, *rasgollas*, and *chena-murki*, etc. The sweets prepared even in the interior are much better than what are produced in the neighbouring district of Gaya. There is a good scope for the development of poultry in this district. The vast Adibasi population keep poultry as a rule. Trade in hornbone and wool product is not well organised and admits expansion.

Loans for Land Improvement.

The district has quite a large quantity of culturable waste lands but the reclamation requires contour bunding, and other processes that require a lot of money. Tractor reclamation has not yet been tried and it is bound to be very expensive. In the meanwhile, loans are being given by the State to encourage reclamation of waste lands by manual labour. There is also a subsidy grant for reclamation of laterite soil. Land improvement loans and agriculturists' loans are also distributed annually for the improvement of the lands already cultivated or for purchasing tractors and other implements. The effect has not yet been phenomenal and it is not expected to be as such.* The following two statements show the amount of loans distributed under different heads for certain years :—

Statement showing amount advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883, Agriculturist's Loans Act, 1884 from 1951-52 to 1958-59.

Year.	Loan advanced. Under Land Improvement Act (in rupees).	Under Agriculturist's Loans Act (in rupees).
1951-52	59,257	13,68,132
1952-53	72,829	17,68,768
1953-54	77,791	18,00,934
1954-55	8,825	4,50,000
1955-56	4,720	9,99,800
1956-57	1,450	4,10,000
1957-58	4,610	8,75,000
1958-59	9,780	14,41,227

Statement showing the amount of Land Improvement Loans and the Agriculturist's Loans distributed for reclamation of waste land from 1951-52 to 1958-59.

Year.	Amount of the Land Improvement Loans distributed (in rupees).	Area of waste lands reclaimed by manual labour (in acres) with assistance of agriculture loans and official initiative.	Amount of Agriculturist's Loans distributed for purchase of tractors and other implement (in rupees).
1951-52 ..	1,23,775	792	..
1952-53 ..	37,450	544.00	..
1953-54 ..	42,350	1,153.54	..
1954-55 ..	70,170	2,713·55	2,75,000
1955-56 ..	64,255	1,731·21	..
1956-57 ..	59,805	..	..
1957-58 ..	44,430	..	..
1958-59 ..	22,390	..	..

*The figures are supplied from the Deputy Commissioner's office. (P. C. R. C.)

AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.

The position of the agricultural labourer in the district of Palamau is calculated to be much more wretched economically than that of the agricultural labourers in the other districts of Chotanagpur. The other districts of Chotanagpur are pretty well industrialised and industrialisation in some of them is so intense that thousands of labourers from outside are being engaged. In this district there are very few organised industries and the position of the agricultural labourer is rather isolated. He cannot dictate his own terms. This is the district where the notorious *kamiya* system was in existence till only a few years back.

An agricultural labourer has been described as "A person whose time not being occupied and not wholly occupied in cultivating land of his own is willing to work on land of another for some form of remuneration. The last five words marked the nature of the modern agricultural labour contact and should be remarked that the worker assumed to be landless or in occupation of only a small parcel of land." This definition has been adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

In the chapter on "People" there is a discussion on the possible break-ups in population under different occupations. Occupational statistics are known to be the least satisfactory of the census tables, mostly on account of changing, intermittent and non-specialised nature of employment. If census is taken in July, the number returned as agricultural labourers will be different than what will be returned if it is taken when the crops are being cut. Besides an agricultural labourer may have another subsidiary occupation and in the census he may have been excluded from the occupation which brings in a subsidiary income. It is, however, clear from the figures quoted elsewhere that the majority of the population in this district depends on agriculture and the majority of the population that depends on agriculture belongs to the class of agricultural labourer. This class has two components of agricultural labourers with a small quantity of land and completely the landless labourer. In this district there has not been any scientific census of agricultural labourers as such and it is clear from our investigation that it is completely the landless labourers who supply the steel-frame of population of this sector. A completely landless labourer deserts the village in particular seasons and this is the district from where there used to be a large-scale recruitment of indentured labour for the tea districts.

The economic condition of the agricultural labourers, whether landed or landless is extremely poor. The difference is in degree of poverty. He has the instrument of his physical labour. e.g., a spade, an axe, a pick, a scythe and a hoe. He has very little money for diversion or for entertainment and at best he can indulge in a little quantity of *tari* and that also when *tari* is cheap. The trinkets his wife has are of very little value. His kitchen and dining equipments are principally made of earthen vessel.

In a typical case of agricultural labour the average monthly income comes to about Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 taking into consideration the gaps of unemployment. About Rs. 25 of the monthly income would be spent on foodgrains, about Rs. 3 on oil, spices or *gur*, and Re. 1 for *biri*, visiting any *mela* and buying some very cheap sweets for the family and so on. Any expenditure for additional food or non-food items like lighting, clothing, medicine, etc., are to be met out of the balance. If he owns a house it is nothing but a flimsy hut. The supplementary income of the family members is intermittent and slight.

If this be the position of the average agricultural labourer who owns a bit of land, one can understand the condition of the labourer who does not own any land.

The reasons for the very poor condition of the agricultural labourer in Palamau district are not far to seek. The district has been repeatedly affected by drought, scarcity and famine. The soil is not very rich and the bulk of the district is covered with jungles and hills. The economic backwardness is always intricately bound up with the large number of small zamindars in the past.

It will, however, be wrong to think that at any time the villages in this district were largely self-sufficient and self-perpetuating rural communities. There was a time when the labourer was a part and parcel of the *Malik's* (landowner's) family. He shared almost the same food and lived from generation to generation in the same family. But slowly the landlords had stiffened and the self-sufficient and self-perpetuating rural communities started breaking out. The landlords or the land owning cultivators and the labourers were torn asunder and the traditional arrangement controlling the mutual exchange of labour and product snapped. The Permanent Settlement broke the back of the raiyats. By one stroke of pen Lord Cornwalis had reduced the present proprietors to an unenviable condition and the rent collectors were declared zamindars. The famines left very little scope open for the isolated, down-trodden, purely agricultural labourers with or without any land. The real serfs emerged as the *kamias* in this district. A *kamia* was one who had literally sold not only himself but his descendants unless the loan borrowed had been remitted or the small parcel of land given was bought. By bewildering arithmetic the labourers' labour always went towards realisation of the interest and the principal sum remained intact. There has been a case where for a loan of Rs. 25 a father and a son had worked till the Magistrate intervened and set the *kamia* free.

The improvident ways of the Adibasis and backward sections in this district also helped to consolidate the *kamia* system. The small landlord was always ready to dole out a loan and the labourer was always in need of some money. The result was that the Adibasis started losing their best lands and the *mahajans* or speculators or outsiders started grabbing their best lands. The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act had to be altered but much of the mischiefs had already been done. The various ameliorative measures for the tenants,

namely, rent reduction laws, etc., did not touch the class of agricultural labourers who were, as observed before, mostly landless. The few who had lands had already parted with them. This is one of the reasons why a portion of the agricultural labourer was siphoned off in the forces of shappers and miners, the civil pioneer forces, etc., in years of war. The tea gardens also absorbed quite a number of them.

The system of bonded labour had existed in some other parts of Bihar also but this system known as *kamia* in Palamau and Hazaribagh districts was rather notorious as the *kamias* were put to all kinds of ignominies. The Kisan Sabha did a lot in liquidating the system of bonded labour. Ultimately a statutory Act had to be passed in 1920 which curbed the system of bonded labour or *kamia* system.

NATURAL CALAMITIES.

The Indian Irrigation Commission described Palamau as the driest and probably the poorest district of the Province. The frequent droughts and famines or scarcity conditions that have visited this district within the last century support this observation. As mentioned elsewhere the main economy of the district is agricultural and out of the total population of 9,85,767 in 1951 census the agriculturists number 8,98,191, i.e., about 91 per cent of the population. The people, though agriculturists, are not adequately supported by the produce of their holdings but depend also on labour, *mahua* and jungle produce for eking out their existence. The district falls within the retreating range of the south-west monsoon and as such rainfall is wholly dependent upon local conditions and local winds which are seldom favourable to the district. Consequently the district suffers from regular droughts and famines. Within the period of last century there have been famines in 1859-60, 1873-74, 1896-97, 1899-1900 and 1918-19 and there have been several years of scarcity up to 1956 and the worst of all was perhaps that of the year 1955.

The rainfall in Palamau is not only scanty but very capricious in its distribution. Ideal conditions postulate some premonitory showers in May or June to enable the land to be prepared, abundant rain in the end of June and at intervals during July and August to allow transplantation and growth of seedlings and after an interval of comparatively fair weather during which weeding may be done, enough rain in September to allow grain to develop and mature fully. The weather then should shed off to fair in October to allow harvesting to be done. For the *rabi* crops periodical showers from December to February are essential. The agriculturists of the district are fairly conscious of changes in weather and they most accurately forecast their agricultural prospects. They rely mostly upon the saying of Ghagh, a well-known weather-reader of olden Bhojpur. Ghagh bases his forecast upon the conditions of the weather in different *nakshatras*.

आवत आदर नहीं दिया, जात न दिन्हा हस्त ।
यही कारण दोनों गये, पाहुन और बृहस्त ॥

[If there is no rainfall in the beginning of *Adra* and at the end of *Hathia* (the debased form of *Hasta nakshatra*) *nakshatra* the agriculturist is done for and so is the case with the guest who is neither cordially received at the time of arrival nor heartily given a see off.]
In another verse Ghagh says—

सावन मास बहे पुरवैया, बैला बेच लेहु धेनु गैया।

(If easterly wind blows in *Sawan* it is better to sell bullocks for cows.) The reasons are apparent. If the local wind blows easterly in *Sawan* it cannot bring clouds and rains which will follow drought and failure of crops. The third saying of Ghagh is also very important to understand his weather readings—

रात निवदर दिन के छाया, कहे घाघ जे बर्षा गया ।

(If there are clouds in day and the sky is clear during night it will not rain.) These sayings contain some of the finest forecast of conditions of weather. But the weather itself is never favourable in this district. The chief crops in this district are *bhadai*, the *aghani* and the *rabi*. The north and centre of the district are chiefly under rice and *rabi* crops such as wheat, barley and gram while *bhadai* crops are only to a small extent. In the hilly tracts there is comparatively little rice cultivation and much less of rabi while *bhadai* crops such as maize, *marua*, *sawan* and *kodo* are extensively cultivated. These crops are much more evenly represented in this district than elsewhere in Chotanagpur. The people, therefore, seldom have all their eggs in one basket. But as they live always near the margin of subsistence, any shortage has the effect of reducing them from mere want to semi-starvation. This is more specially the case because such a shortage not only reduces their own crops but makes it impossible for their employers to give them an adequate daily ration in return for each day's labour. Such employment as is available is almost exclusively agricultural and is itself affected by the unfavourable conditions.

SCARCITY AND DROUGHT.

From old records and reports it will appear that in 1868 there was a failure of *bhadai* crop and winter rice due to absence of rain and this caused a famine in 1869. The most affected areas were the north-east and north-west of the district and to a small extent the central areas. In 1873-74 there was again a failure of *mahua*, *bhadai*, *marua* and *aghani* and there was a general famine affecting Japla and Belaunja in the north, Deogan and Untari in the extreme north-east and north-west. In 1895 there was very little rain at the beginning and a heavy rain later when it was not necessary. In 1896 there was again an unfavourable distribution of rain which led to the famine of 1897. The pockets affected were the tracts running from east to west through the centre, i.e., revenue thanas of Garhwa, Daltonganj, Balumath, Latehar and Patan covering an area of 2,563 square miles with a population of 3,83,400 souls. In 1898-99 the total rain was normal but in the next

year there was an ill-balanced rainfall on account of which the crops partially failed and this led to the famine of 1900. The area of Mahuadanr thana was severely affected. The area affected was 502 square miles. In 1918 there was an irregular distribution and early cessation of rainfall and a general scarcity. Practically the whole of the district was affected and Daltonganj area was worse hit. In 1932-33 the whole of the district suffered from drought. The drought was a severe one occasioned by a serious break in the monsoon. *Bhadai* and winter rice crops were affected and *rabi* crop was considerably damaged by untimely rains accompanied by hail-storms. Prices of commodities became on the whole about half the average of the prices for the years 1920 to 1930 and the burden of cash rent consequently doubled. This was also the case in 1947-48, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53. There was almost the same irregular distribution of rain and failure of *Hathia* rains. From 1950 onwards practically near scarcity condition had affected the whole district. To be more detailed in 1950-51 the whole district was affected and Garu was worse hit. In 1951-52 the area affected included Bhaunathpur, Ranka, Bhandaria, Manatu, Bishrampur, Daltonganj, Garhwa, Panki, Barwadih (Garu), portions of Balumath, Latehar and Chandwa. In 1952-53 the areas affected included Ranka, Bhandaria, Garhwa, Bhaunathpur, Manatu, Chhattarpur, Daltonganj (south of the river Koil), Panki (south and west portion), Patan (north portion), Barwadih, Garu, Mahuadanr and Balumath (north and west portion). The scarcity conditions were generally acute throughout the district in 1954-55 and 1955-56.

The district has had bad crops from 1937-38. In this year the *aghani* crop was damaged and *rabi* and spring oil-seeds could not be sown extensively as the fields were hard to be ploughed. The economic condition of the people grew worse on account of failure of crops and they were hard hit by the depression in the lac market. Prices of shellac touched the lowest level hitherto recorded causing considerable distress amongst growers and labourers.

During the post-war period and specially by the end of 1946-47 the position grew worse. The prices of foodgrains, cattle and other necessaries of life in general continued to remain high. The business community and more particularly the grain merchants, cloth merchants and mill owners were in as unusually prosperous condition and in spite of all efforts to check them, profiteering and black-marketing continued to the profits of these classes. The high prices mainly affected the landless labourers and the people with fixed income, the middle class and the lower classes. More hardship was caused by the shortage of cloth and other essential commodities. The quality of most of the foodstuffs like rice or *atta* was below standard.

Under this background of scarcity and economic depression, the years from 1947-48 to 1955-56 suffered from successive droughts partial in some years and complete in others. In 1950-51 there was heavy rainfall at the beginning of the year which damaged the *bhadai* crops

and thereafter drought damaged the winter rice crops. *Hathia* rains failed completely. Prices of agricultural and other essential commodities rose very high. The Revenue Department launched a scheme of construction of minor irrigation works and a sum of Rs. 11,50,000 was spent over construction of *ahars*, *bandhs* and other petty schemes of irrigation. The Agriculture Department completed 121 irrigation wells; 40 *rahats* and pumps were fitted and 28 lift and pump engines were distributed at a total cost of Rs. 81,500. Government took prompt action to meet the shortage of foodgrains and opened grain shops on a very wide scale to enable the people to purchase foodgrains at reasonable prices. Relief works were arranged to provide the poorer sections to obtain some wages. Minor Irrigation schemes were carried on an extensive scale and Taccavi and Land Improvement loans were given liberally. A sum of Rs. 1,30,565 was distributed as Agriculturist loans and another sum of Rs. 10,700 was distributed as Land Improvement loans.

Garu was the worst affected area. Though there was enormous communication difficulty owing to the river Koil and due to several other rivulets all unbridged, foodgrains were transported and relief had to be extended to that area. The year 1951-52 proved more difficult. The following areas were affected and declared scarcity pockets where relief measures were ordered to be undertaken :—

Sadar Subdivision.

(1) Bhaunathpur police-station.

(2) Ranka police-station.

(3) Bhandaria police-station.

(4) Manatu police-station.

(5) Bisrampur police-station—Union no. 1 and part of union no. 2.

(6) Daltonganj police-station—Ramgarh area, i.e., the south-west portion of the police-station bordering Ranka and Bhandaria.

(7) Garhwa police-station—South-west portion.

(8) Panki police-station—North-west portion bordering Pratappura (Hazaribagh district).

Latehar Subdivision.

(1) Barwadih-Garu.

(2) Portion of Balumath police-station.

(3) Portion of Latehar police-station.

(4) Portion of Chandwa police-station.

Relief measures were started in last week of April, 1951. The landless labourers were employed in execution of Minor Irrigation Schemes, reclamation of waste land, repairs of old roads and construction of new ones. Fair price shops were opened in the interior of the district so that foodgrains may be reached in the interior at reasonable prices. In the beginning ration cards were distributed among the

people paying chaukidari tax of six annas and later on it was brought to twelve annas level. In special cases the Circle Officers Incharge of relief work were authorised to exercise their discretion in giving this limitation of chaukidari payment so that no hardship may be caused to the really needy person. A sum of Rs. 45,309 was spent during the year 1951-52 over distribution of gratuitous relief to the needy persons as defined in Bihar and Orissa Famine Code. It was first distributed in shape of grains and later on it was distributed at the rate of six *chattaks* grain besides Rs. 2 as each doles for adults and at the scale of half to the minors. A sum of Rs. 8,576-6-6 was received as donation from the Prime Minister of India and others for distribution of food to the poor. Out of this amount Rs. 4,465-10-6 was spent during 1951-52. A sum of Rs. 49,085 was spent over construction and repairs of District Board roads in the scarcity area to give employment to the landless labourers. The Divisional Forest Officer, Palamau spent a sum of Rs. 1,30,070 over the construction and repair of 14 roads. A sum of Rs. 257 was spent for giving relief to spinners under the category of light manual labour. The Daltonganj Municipal tank was desilted at a cost of Rs. 8,761. Government had placed an allotment of Rs. 10,00,000 for the execution of M. I. schemes. The entire amount was spent in completing 632 schemes in the district. A sum of Rs. 10,73,043 was distributed as Agriculturist's loans and Rs. 1,35,595 as L. I. loans.

Children below the age of 14 and nursing and expectant mothers were given U. N. I. C. E. F. milk powder. There were 40 milk distributing centres in the district under the charge of the Medical Officers and Headmasters of schools. 280 fair price shops were opened and foodgrains had been stored in the different centres of the district. 2,70,299 maunds of grains were sold.

The year 1952-53 was also declared scarcity year and relief operations were ordered in the following places :—

Sadar Subdivision.

(1) Ranka police-station—Entire.

(2) Bhandaria police-station—Entire.

(3) Garhwa police-station—Entire.

(4) Bhaunathpur police-station—Entire.

(5) Manatu police-station—Entire.

(6) Chhattarpur police-station—Entire.

(7) Daltonganj police-station—South of river Koil.

(8) Panki police-station—South-west portion.

(9) Patan police-station—Northern portion.

Latehar Subdivision.

(10) Barwadih police-station—Entire.

(11) Garu police-station—Entire.

(12) Mahuadanr police-station—Entire.

(13) Balumath police-station—North-west portion.

The following year 1953-54 was somewhat better than the previous one but some damages to the early paddy were done by Gundhi bugs in about 73 villages. The situation was brought under control by use of an insecticide. Leaflets were distributed to the agriculturists suggesting means to fight the menace. Some damages were also caused by floods in the river Son in Sonpura *Elaka* of Bhaunathpur police-station. Although the harvest was good this year the agriculturists could not be able to replenish their last resources and their conditions remained almost the same except for a little improvement in the economy of the large producers. Relief measures were continued. 31,702 maunds of foodgrains were sold at controlled rates through 51 fair price shops most of them being in the interior of the district. A sum of Rs. 3,00,000 as Taccavi loan and Rs. 42,325 as Waste Land Reclamation loan was distributed in the district. The Agriculture Department spent about Rs. 87,590 on construction of medium and minor irrigation schemes including wells and open borings. Besides 534 maunds of vegetables were also arranged and distributed in intensive block's areas. The Revenue Department completed 273 schemes out of 604 schemes of minor irrigation taken up during the year involving a cost of Rs. 3,50,000. These preparations could hardly prove a match to the nature which terribly fights with its deadly weapon of drought. The monsoon broke late in 1954 and the rainfall was recorded far below the normal. The *Hathia* rains failed completely and with this the agriculturists' hopes were gone.

Relief measures had to continue unabated. A number of schemes were taken up to give some relief.

Item of work.	Amount spent.
	Rs.
1 Hard Manual Projects	44,000
2. Minor and Medium Irrigation schemes by Revenue Department.	3,10,444
3. Medium and M. I. Schemes by Agriculture Department.	1,79,780

Three hundred and eighty-one M. I. schemes and 3 medium schemes were under execution out of which 288 schemes were completed at a total cost of Rs. 3,10,444.

Forty-eight wells were dug and 379 were taken up for execution. These wells were primarily intended to supply drinking water to the rural population. The total amount of Rs. 1,50,058 was spent over these schemes.

The situation grew worse in 1955. It was a year of drought. The monsoon broke very late, and as a result of which sowing of seedlings was delayed, and the bulk of the paddy seedlings remained untransplanted. The *Bhadai* crop was damaged due to meagre rain. After this there was interrupted rain during the transplantation season. The *Hathia* rains failed completely and due to this *rabi* crops also could not be sown effectively. The statements as appendix to this chapter would show the average affected, the extent damage caused to *Bhadai*, *Aghani* and *rabi* crops in respect of each crop separately. There was also scarcity of drinking water. The agriculturists were hard hit as they had been facing successive droughts right from 1950-51 and the drought this year brought crisis in their economic condition. The effect of this drought badly prevailed during the months of April to June, 1956. There was shortage of fodder during the summer months of March to June and the cattle were badly affected. There was difficulty of drinking water in the forest area of Ranka. The average yield was reported to vary between 35 per cent to 50 per cent in different areas. The yield of crop was good in Mahuadanr, portion of Hussainabad police-station and Lesliganj police-station only. As a measure of relief, hard manual labour schemes in shape of construction of roads and desilting of tanks were taken up in different police-stations of the district, almost throughout the year except during the rainy season. The normal schemes of different departments were also pushed through vigorously. The Forest Department opened work in many of the coupes and as such large number of people in these areas had full employment. The Local Self-Government Department also granted separate sum for repair of District Board roads under the hard manual labour schemes. These coupled with the execution of minor irrigation schemes, medium irrigation schemes, local works programme schemes, normal road schemes of District Board roads, building and road schemes of Public Works Department provided employment to a large number of persons.

The following table shows the items and expenditures over the relief measures :—

	Amount. Rs.
(1) Hard Manual schemes	3,91,600
(2) M. I. Schemes of the Revenue Department ...	3,95,960
(3) Medium and M. I. Schemes of Agriculture Department.	3,77,206

Three hundred and thirty-five M. I. schemes and 73 medium schemes were undertaken at the instance of the Revenue Department of which 155 schemes were completed. 326 wells were sunk under Local Works Programme and 493 more were under execution. These schemes were intended mainly to serve the purpose of supplying drinking water in rural areas. The total amount spent on well schemes was Rs. 1,83,593. Taccavi and other loans were distributed to relieve the distress.

FLOODS.

Palamau is not essentially riverain district and so is comparatively free from devastating floods. But there had been a devastating Son flood in 1923, the details of which in the last *District Gazetteer* of *Palamau*, 1926 are as follows :—

"In 1923 the district suffered from a dramatic but brief calamity in the shape of a flood of the Son, which rose to an unprecedented height and did much damage along the river bank on the northern fringe of the jurisdiction of Bhaunathpur police-station, from Khokha on the Mirzapur border to Sunripura where the Son joins the Koil. The flood was caused by an exceptionally heavy and uninterrupted downpour of rain in the area drained by the river in the Central Provinces. It was first noticed in Palamau in the small hours of the morning of Saturday, August 18. During that morning the villagers went to the river bank to collect for use as fuel the trees and branches that were being swept down in the flood. The river continued to rise till 2 P.M. in the afternoon, and a number of the villagers who had gone to the river bank had to climb up into trees to save themselves. The flood remained at the unprecedented height which it had then reached till 10 A.M., on Sunday, August 19. The population of the village of Sonpura and the surrounding *bastis* had climbed up into trees or on to the roofs of their houses, and the trees and houses were now beginning to collapse in the swirling water. Seventy-nine lives were lost in this manner during these critical hours, including the whole of the inhabitants of the Dom *tola* who had climbed up into a large tree as the flood rose. The water receded to some extent during Sunday afternoon, but some people remained cut off in the trees or on the roofs for three whole days, and three children were born in the branches of the trees. A boat had meanwhile arrived at Sonpura from Sunripura, which assisted in collecting the refugees and bringing them to the *garh* of Babu Bisambharnath Sahi of Sonpura. A crowd of 800 persons had collected in his house by August 22. Two other boats that were in Sonpura were chiefly occupied at this stage in saving the belongings of some of the wealthier residents of the village.

"There is no bridged road and no telegraph to Sonpura, and not a word of information regarding the flood reached Daltonganj till August 21. The Sonpura estate was at that time still being administered under the Encumbered Estates Act, and the Manager, who was intimately acquainted with the neighbourhood, was despatched that evening to

the scene of the disaster with means of relief. He reached Sunrki, which is about four miles from Sonpura, on the 22nd. He found that the flood had receded, leaving behind it a sea of mud, and he also found that there was not a single boat at Sonpura. That afternoon he started distributing relief. In the early hours of the following morning he saw that the river was rising again. The first thing to be done was to collect boats, a matter of some difficulty, but the work of rescuing the people who had again taken to the trees began that afternoon, continued till 10-30 P.M., that night, and was resumed on the following day, during which time 1,200 persons were brought to safety. Meanwhile the crowd had been penned up in the house at Sonpura for some days and steps had to be taken to prevent an outbreak of cholera there and in the neighbouring villages, which also were crowded with refugees. Fortunately this danger was averted and, apart from some fever, no epidemic occurred.

"In all 33 villages were affected and 1,381 houses were destroyed. More serious was the damage caused to the fields of what was perhaps the most fertile tract of the district. The fertility of Baliari was proverbial 'Sau Untari, Naek Baliari'. But when the flood receded it had left a deposit of some six feet of sand over the best lands in the village. Other villages seriously affected in this way were Sonpura, Nawadih, Pindraha, Kishunpur, Gara Kalan, Gujaria, and Kadhwan. A sum of nearly Rs. 5,500 was collected in Daltonganj for immediate distribution to the afflicted population : to this sum the wealthy and the poor contributed after their means and a handsome subscription was received from a generous Indian gentleman of Bombay who desired to remain anonymous. A sum of Rs. 40,000 was distributed in loans, principally for the rebuilding of houses, and steps were taken to encourage the cultivators to apply for a reduction of rent on the ground of the deterioration of their holdings. The flood was also very serious in Bihar, but in no district was the loss of life in any way comparable to what occurred in Palamau. The reason for this was that elsewhere the water could spread itself out over vast areas a foot or two in depth but in Palamau the water rose to a much greater height, as it was held up between the Kaimur hills of Shahabad on the north and on the south by the low hills of Bhaunathpur which reach down to the point at Sunripura. Consequently, when the houses and trees began to collapse, there was little hope of saving the refugees who had taken shelter in them and who were swept down with them into the flood."

After 1923 the district suffered lightly due to the minor floods in 1953, 1956 and 1957. In September 1953 the river Son over-flooded its banks and caused some damage in Bhaunathpur police-station. The water began to recede after two days. Relief measures were taken and Rs. 1,412 were distributed as agricultural loan among the flood-stricken people. In August, 1956 there was flood in Majhiaon police-station due to the rise of the rivers Son and Koil. The flood remained for a week and caused damage to the standing crops and houses. Gratuitous relief in the shape worth Rs. 1,750 was distributed. In October, 1956 the river Koil again rose and caused some loss in village Chamartoli near Daltonganj. There was a flood in July, 1957 which was caused due to the rise of the river Harhi. It lightly affected Hussainabad. The rivers that do cause flood havoc occasionally are Son and Koil. The other rivers being hilly and small, the flood water passes off quickly.

Statement showing crop damage during *Bhadai* seaso 1955-56.

Serial no.	Name of crop.	Area affected (in acres).	Crop damaged (in maunds).	Percentage of damage.	Cause of damage.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Paddy	84,814.05	3,40,983.00	60	Drought.
2	Maize	90,351.40	3,00,677.39	50	Ditto.
3	Marua	46,736.75	4,58,198.36	45	Ditto.
4	Jowar	31.88	152.00	30	Ditto.
5	Bazra	0.09	0.05	30	Ditto.
6	Other cereals ..	45,616.61	1,31,524.01	40	Ditto.
7	Pulses	38,496.63	75,464.29	40	Ditto.
8	Oil-seeds	994.88	1,380.18	40	Ditto.
9	Supp. Lemp	29.42	30.21	20	Ditto.
10	Other fibres	0.32	2.10	20	Ditto.
11	Sugarcane	175.45	686.14	20	Ditto.
12	Other crops	5.19	29.12	20	Ditto.
13	Vegetable	20.69	56.16	30	Ditto

Statement showing crop damage during *Rabi* season 1955-56.

Serial no.	Name of crop.	Area affected (in acres).	Crop damaged (in maunds).	Percentage of damaged.	Cause of damage.
1	Barley	6,219.89	25,932.21	50	Excessive drought.
2	Wheat	3,398.47	10,730.33	50	Ditto.
3	Gram	19,606.39	62,034.16	50	Ditto.
4	Arhar	9,951.73	31,576.25	50	Ditto.
5	Matar (peas)	109.41	190.21	50	Ditto.
6	Masur	4,899.72	18,241.07	50	Ditto.
7	Khesari	926.27	1,556.08	50	Ditto.
8	Mustard	2,441.67	6,074.02	50	Ditto.
9	Linseed	2,320.99	7,362.01	50	Ditto.
10	Gram and Barley ..	3,693.29	11,234.21	50	Ditto.
11	Wheat and Gram ..	560.85	2,798.09	50	Ditto.
12	Wheat and Barley ..	148.17	660.23	50	Ditto.
13	Potato	9.82	239.25	50	Ditto.

Statement showing crop damage during *Aghani* season 1955-56.

erial no.	Name of crop.	Area affected (in acres).		Crop damaged (in maunds).		Percentage of damage.	Cause of damage.
1	2	3		4		5	6
		Ac.	Dec.	Md.	sr.		
1	Paddy ..	17,970	64	1,48,529	35	60	Drought.
2	Kurthi (Dalhan)	2,775	64	13,639	0	43	Ditto.
3	Til ..	1,207	16	2,652	21	28	Ditto.
4	Other crops ..	2,173	10	6,884	9	41	Ditto.
5	Potato ..	4	07	65	30	40	Ditto.
6	Other vegetables	2	49	26	2	42	Ditto.
7	Sweet potato ..	1	72	28	16	52	Ditto.
8	Other Oil-seeds..	383	52	652	12	34	Ditto.
9	Reshadar ..	7	28	8	26	40	Ditto.

CHAPTER VII.

INDUSTRIES.

THE OLD TIME INDUSTRIES.

The physical features of Palamau along with the non-availability of the arteries of communications, electricity and incidence of technical skill delimited the nature and scope of the old time industries. Proper communications are a landmark of progress and so is the availability of electricity. As has been mentioned elsewhere communications are only developing since very recent times. Without a network of communication facilities, it could only be cottage industries that flourished in this district in the olden times. Here also the type of the cottage indusries was limited by the availability of communications. The scattered villages of small population and a very few townships and the inaccessibility of many of the markets necessarily narrowed down the scope of the cottage industries which had to cater to the wants of small sections of consumers. The forest offered a subsidiary living to the inhabitants who utilised the jungle grass, reeds, bamboos, etc., and developed a few typical cottage industries like rope-making, catechu manufacture, cocoon rearing and lac industry. There were excellent grazing fields which attracted a large bovine population and the milk products gave occupation to hundreds of people. The *ghee* and butter of Palamau have still a tradition behind them. Another cottage industry was the utilisation of the cotton trees. Palamau, a century before was well noted for cotton weaving as was observed by G. Thompson, who carried out the revenue survey and his notes were published in 1866. There was a big cultivation of cotton trees, which led to a flourishing cloth weaving industry. Indigo was once tried but cultivation of indigo did not find a good response. The patches of sugarcanes here and there brought in a small *gur*-making industry. These cottage industries are still existing and will be noticed elsewhere.

INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRICT.

From the geological report it appears that there are deposits of various minerals. The important minerals which are available in this district in commercial scale are coal, limestone, fireclay and laterite. There are also traces of deposits of iron-ore, graphite, dolomite, red ochre, yellow ochre, bauxite and lead. As to the commercial value of all the minerals, it is difficult to say whether a large-scale industrial development is possible except in the case of coal, limestone and fireclay. This is because there has not yet been a proper investigation from the angle of the possibility of a large-scale industrial development with these minerals as base. So far as coal is concerned at present two

collieries, one at Rajhara and the other Hutar colliery at Barwadih, are working.

In earlier days there were classes of persons whose main avocation of life was to smelt iron from soft iron ore with the help of coal and limestone or dolomite. These people were known as Agarias or iron smelters. The iron recovered by country-made crude process were mostly used for agricultural implements. Since the extraction from iron-ore in that way became uneconomic with the advancement of time, the number of iron smelters gradually decreased.

At the time of the publication of the last District Gazetteer in 1909 the only organised industries were shellac and coal. By the time the District Gazetteer was revised in 1926 a cement factory had grown up at Japla.

Power Supply.

At present Palamau is receiving Damodar Valley Corporation power from Barun through two departmental receiving sub-stations, viz., Daltonganj and Japla. In Palamau only three towns—Daltonganj, Japla and Garhwa have been electrified. The villages which have been so far electrified are Barwadih, Betla, Chhipadohar, Chianki, Betla and Rehla. The Damodar Valley Corporation power is now also consumed in the Hutar Coal Mine, Sakra Graphite mine and in the Japla Cement Factory. The other coalfields of the district have their own power supply.

An investigation is going on at two places, viz., Barwadih and Japla for the installation of the Thermal Power Station. It is hoped that it will be taken up during the Third Five-Year Plan.

Mining and Heavy Industries.

Coal has the most important place among mining and heavy industries. Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, Chotanagpur Division in his notes, geographical, statistical and general on Lohardaga written during 1862—66 and published from Calcutta in 1866 observes as follows regarding the availability of lime, coal and iron :—

> "There is abundance of lime in Palamow. It is found all over the surface of the country on the western portion of the Purgunnah. The surface lime is of two descriptions the "Gooteen" or "Kunkur" nodular limestone, formed from the red clay, and the best for the hydraulic purposes; and the "Ghuttee" or calcareous tafa, a vegetable formation, found in large concrete masses on the edges of precipices or ghauts, and carried by drainage into the beds of nullahs and over the country generally. Mountain limestone underlies the sandstone rock, and is visible in some of the deep nullah or ravine sections of the country.
>
> "Coal is very plentiful in Palamau. I believe that an inexhaustible supply will be found in the valley of the Koel river, for the entire length of its course through the Pergunnah, some 90 miles. It is visible, on the surface at many places, on both banks of the river, in tuppehs Baresand, Khamee Doorjag, Dhoothoo, Kote, Imlee, and Turriya.
>
> "Iron, also, is as plentiful as coal; and when it is considered how much both of these valuable minerals are required, on the Railways that are now in progress in the N. W. Provinces, and that the cost of both, if brought from Palamow, Sirgoojah, Rewah, and Singroolee, would be far less than is now paid, for what is brought from Bengal, it is surprising that up to this date nothing has been done to open out, by good road, or canal communication, the vast resources of these provinces.
>
> "It has been stated that antimony, copper and lead, are to be found in Palamow, but no indications of these ores were seen during the survey operations; and from careful enquiry, nothing was heard about them. The natives state that copper is plentiful in Rewah."

Coal.

It is interesting to observe that the availability of coal in this district that had been mentioned by Major G. Hunter Thompson in his notes in 1866 had already attracted a very considerable attention by 1877 when W. W. Hunter's *Statistical Account of Lohardaga District* was published. Hunter had observed that "The only important coal bearing area in Lohardaga district is situated to the north of Daltonganj, the administrative headquarters of Palamau subdivision". The importance that the coalfield near Daltonganj had attained was due to the working of the Rajhara Coalfield which has an interesting history that could be repeated.

Messrs. Carr-Tagore and Co. was a partnership firm formed in 1834 by Dwarkanath Tagore (grandfather of the world renowned poet and philosopher, Rabindra Nath Tagore). William Carr and William Prinsep carried on a considerable trade in indigo and silk with England. This firm in 1836 purchased Raniganj Colliery, originally opened by William Jones. After this purchase the firm of Carr-Tagore was enlarged by bringing in Messrs. H. B. Henderson, I. Dean Campbell and Dr. McPherson as additional partners. The Calcutta office of the firm was managed by Donald McLeod Gordon and the supervision and running of colliery being made over to Mr. C. B. Taylor, under whose management the coal interests of the firm were rapidly expanded, and

included the acquisition and opening of the Rajhara Colliery in Palamau district.

There are some extremely valuable old letters regarding the availability of coal in Palamau district. Through the courtesy of the Chief Mining Engineer of Messrs. Andrew Yule and Co., Ltd., the following valuable historical background of the Rajhara Coalfield has been obtained.

From copy of a letter dated 1st March, 1841 (the original of which is in the office of the Bengal Coal Company, Ltd.) from Mr. C. B. Taylor to his Principals, Messrs. Carr-Tagore and Co., it appears that Captain Sage, the Engineer, conducted operations at Singrah on the Amanat Nudee in 1833[1]. He remained there along with four European soldiers for about three to four months and despatched 400 maunds coal on bullocks to Dinapore at a cost of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund. Captain Sage spent about Rs. 18,500 in course of the operation. It is mentioned in the report that the "Coal of the Amanat is on the east side of the Coyl.....the coal of the Amanat field does not omit any flame and produces very little smoke, it however gives out a great heat in burning and is slowly combustible. I set fire to a maund a weight, and it kept in a state of combustion for 3 days and nights. If it contains any bitumen, it must be a very small proportion, from the absence of this substance, and its non-inflammable quality it has erroneously been called anthracite on Blend Coal, its fracture is slaty and not conchoidal".

Captain Sage likewise examined two other coal sites, viz., Balsarh and Barwadih. The coal found at the former place was of inferior quality like the former. Though the coal found at Barwadih was of superior quality still due to the paucity of water the operation had to be abandoned.

Taylor mentioned in his letter to his Principals that the next operation was conducted by Mr. Homfray in 1837. In the report submitted to Lord Auckland, Mr. Homfray had mentioned that "underneath these rocks are immense number of places where coal is found which I contrived by sinking and tracing to conduct from one mine to the other". Mr. Homfray remained at Singrah only for nine days. Mr. Homfray in his report to Lord Auckland had mentioned the existence of valuable iron-ore but Mr. C. B. Taylor could not discover any appearance of iron-ore, except some sandstone of a reddish colour. Lord Auckland was not satisfied with the progress of the work and the operation had to be closed. Taylor thought that Homfray's report to Lord Auckland was not a faithful one.

1. From a letter of Capt. Sage, dated the 27th April, 1836, which is quoted in Dr. M'Clelland's Report on the Coalfields of India it appears that Capt. Sage prospected this area in 1830. This is confirmed by Mr. C. W. Hope, Executive Engineer, Western Sone Survey Division in his note, dated 13th of October, 1876.

Mr. Tytler, a civil engineer stationed at Dinapore was deputed in 1839 to examine the coalfields in Palamau under the control of Captain Johnstone. Mr. Tytler carried on mining operations about 20 yards to the westward of the spot where Capt. Sage had run in the gallery; he took out a large quantity of coal but only despatched to Dinapore 500 maunds, it was carried on bullocks at an expense of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund. The coal found was useless. Mr. Tytler spent about Rs. 4,000 in course of one and half months stay at Singrah. Taylor could not discover that Tytler had investigated any other site for coal. Taylor held that Government were not satisfied as to the value of Singrah coal. Cazee Golam Muhamed was sent by Mr. Ravenshaw of the civil service. The Cazee went to work (April to August, 1840) there in 1840. But this operation had also ended in a failure. The Cazee had spent Rs. 26,500 and could send only 100 maunds of coal to Dinapore by boats from Sicksicky up to where the coal was taken by bullock-carts.

Having given details of operation conducted by Government, Mr. C. B. Taylor mentioned in his letter about the work done by his own men. They left Raniganj in March, 1840, and after examining the coal sites of Bulserah and Barwadih they came to Singrah and took a lease of the last named place from the Jagirdar Sankar Singh Jamadar. They first sunk to a depth of ten or fifteen feet to the south of Capt. Sage's gallery but the site was abandoned as the coal found was of inferior quality. The present site of the Rajhara was discovered by an accident as one of the men when walking to the village of Rajhara came up to a Jogee's well around which were several pieces of coal, which on being ignited burnt with a fine flame. But after examination Mr. C. B. Taylor said "that the coal found in the Jogee's well was only 3 feet thick". At the distance of 446 feet to the north of the Jogee's well they sunk another pit, from this pit to the mine now in operation is 573 feet 6½ inches. Mr. C. B. Taylor had further mentioned that the coal found near the pit burnt well with a bright white flame, though it was not so compact as Raniganj coal but was highly bitumenised and possessed more heating power. The distance of the mine from the *ghat* on the bank of the river Koil where the coal was deposited was 1,318 yards.

About transport, C. B. Taylor had mentioned as follows:—"I intend having the coal transported on boats of 100 maunds each to Sicksicky below the Ganesh Rocks, from this place boats of any size can convey the coal to Dinapore, for which we shall have to pay at the rate of 13 rupees per 100 maunds, this being the sum paid by the Cazee; the people will not take the less, but should the result of this season prove satisfactory, we must build boats ourselves of 6 to 800 maunds each to take the coal to Dinapore, we have now got 10 small boats of 100 maunds each ready, and are preparing 20 of a larger size to carry the coal down the Sone to Dinapore."

At the outset Mr. C. B. Taylor had mentioned that in 1840 he had to bear a loss of Rs. 1,076-12-0 due to several causes. In addition to

this he rejected 7,000 maunds of Rajhara coal, all that was broken into small pieces or of a slaty appearance.[1]

Daltonganj Coalfield.

The Geological Survey had investigated the Daltonganj coalfield. The following accounts from the *Memoirs of the Geological Survey* are quoted in Hunter's Statistical Account of Lohardaga :—

"THE DALTONGANJ FIELD lies partly in the valley of the Koel river and partly in that of the Amanat, extending altogether a distance of 50 miles from east to west. Its total area is nearly 200 square miles. This statement of its size, however, conveys a very erroneous idea of its value as a coal-bearing tract, for out of the 200 miles, scarcely 30 belong to the Damodar series. The boundaries of the field are very irregular, and for distances of considerable length, they are often so obscured by alluvium that they have been plotted only approximately. The most eastern extremity is near the village of Loharsi (which is just within the Palamau boundary after leaving Hazaribagh District). The most western extremity is probably near Chitorpur, a mile or so beyond the town of Garwa. Hitherto, it has been the custom to call this field the Palamau, and not the Daltonganj coalfield. There are, however, many coal-bearing areas within the subdivision of Palamau, and the name consequently of the Palamau field as applied to any one of them is not sufficiently distinctive. The designation would be admissible did any coal-measures occur near the town of Palamau; but that town happens to be far distant from any locality in which coal-measures exist. To indicate, therefore, more precisely the geographical position of the field, a fresh name has been adopted from the Civil Station of Daltonganj, which lies just beyond the southern borders of the field. The surface of the country, within the limits of the field, is an undulating plain with no rising ground (consisting of sedimentary rocks), that has any pretensions to the name of hill. All the inliers of gneiss—and there are several—have been planed down; and although bordering the field there are hills of the same or nearly of the same lithological character, that rise to a height of over 200 and 300 feet, and even considerably more above the level of the Amanat, still the metamorphic rocks, where within the area of the field, have failed to express a definite physical contour distinct from that of the Talcher type. The principal drainage channels are the Koil and its affluent the Amanat. The latter river enters the field at its eastern extremity about two miles west of Loharsi; and then flows steadily westwards until it joins the Koel five miles north of Daltonganj. None of the sections that it exposes in its passage through the Talchers and Damodars are important either geologically or economically; and the same remark applies to those of the Koel. The tributaries of the Amanat are small streams with the exception of the Jinjoi, which may be further noted as the only one of its important feeders that exhibits coal in its banks. The Koel, soon after its entrance into the field runs between high alluvial banks for about two miles, but when it enters into the area of the Barakhars its banks lose their conspicuous height. Its most important tributaries are the Durgaoti, with its sub-tributaries, the Sudabah and the Danro or Garwa river. The last-mentioned stream exposes no coal, but it displays the entire series of the Talchers in the west of the field.

"In ascending order, the formation usually developed in the coalfields of Bengal are :—I. Talcher; II. Damodar—(1) Raniganj, (2) carbonaceous shales, and (3) Barakar; III. Panchet—Upper and Lower. In the Daltonganj field, only the Talcher series and the lowest group of the Damodars occur. I shall proceed to treat of the economic value of the field.

"On account of the limited area occupied by the Barakars and the paucity of coal seams, the economic value of this field is small. There is, indeed, but one workable seam—that which occurs at Pandua and Rajhera; and in calculating

1. Taylor had prospected the availability of limestone as well and quotation from the same letter on limestone may not be inappropriate :—"the lime is found at some distance from the river (Sone) to which it is carried on bullocks, a very expensive method of conveyance and which will admit of improvement; the limestone instead of being blasted with gun powder is separated with the hammer and wedge at about 3 times the cost. I give you underneath the price now paid by a Sircar who is procuring (by contract) 40,000 maunds of quick lime for the Executive Engineer Officer at Dinapore :—

Quick lime purchased on the spot at per 100 maunds	Rs. 8
A tax levied by collector per 100 maunds	Re. 1
Bullock hire per 100 maunds to Ackberpore	Rs. 7
Boat hire per 100 maunds to Dinapore	Rs. 8
	Rs. 24"

In the last paragraph of his letter Mr. C. B. Taylor has mentioned about copper as follows :—

"I send in the box containing specimens a substance, which I read in the newspaper sometime ago was called coppers or sulphate of iron, of course erroneously, although I doubt not but what coppers may be produced from it. It contains a large portion of sulphur. I suspect, the mineral is found near Rohtasghur."

the available yield of coal, I would leave out of consideration the seams at Singra and the one in the Sudabah river, as they would only be worked for supplying fuel should their proximity to a lime or brick-kiln give them the advantage of position over the Rajhera seam. For any demands from a distance that may be made upon the Daltonganj field, the Rajhera (or Pandua) seam only would be available; and as I question whether any local demand will ever arise a computation of its yield will give the true index of the value of the field. The area covered by this seam may be estimated at three miles by one, and assuming that there is 6 feet of coal, the yield would be 18,000,000 tons. But a considerable correction has to be made on account of waste, &c. in working. From the 18,000,000 tons of possible coal, I do not think a deduction of 6/10 would be excessive, and we shall have remaining 11,600,000 tons of coal available. Although this amount is small, it is sufficient to supply for the next fifty years any centres of industry that might find it advantageous to draw their fuel from the Daltonganj field.

"In the office of the Geological Survey, the following analysis of the Pandua coal, which had been exposed for several years, was made by Mr. Tween, viz., carbon, 64.4; volatile matter, 22.4; ash, 13.4. In the *Indian Gleanings in Science*, Vol. III, page 283, the following analysis are recorded :—(1) Slaty coal, S. G., 1.482; water expelled on sand bath, 9.1; carbon, 52.1; volatile matter, 37.4; ashes, 10.5; percentage of ash in coke, 16.8. (2) Coal without lustre, S. G. 1.419; water expelled in sand bath, 7.1; carbon 54.1; volatile matter, 36.4; ashes, 9.5; percentage of ash in coke, 14.9. Considering that the coal assayed by Mr. Tween had been exposed for several years, and possibly some of the volatile matter had been dissipated, there is a close approximation to the results obtained and recorded in the *Gleanings in Science*. I have little doubt that these assays are of the Singra coal, and if so, it shows that the coal of the field is of pretty equable quality. Ten to thirteen per cent of ash is in excess of the better kinds of Damodar coal, but for ordinary purposes, this amount of inorganic matter is no serious drawback. The coal of this field is capable of performing the duties which Raniganj coal has hitherto accomplished. The Bengal Coal Company once worked the coal at Rajhera and at Pandua. Several shafts have been sunk, and two of them are of large dimensions. The finest is one south of the village of Pandua, which is 13 feet in diameter. The water in it stood at a level of 50 feet below the surface of the ground, on the 18th February, 1869. Since 1862, operations have been suspended; but now that the project of the Son Canal has been sanctioned, a demand for coal may arise to bring into activity a branch of industry which so materially affects the welfare of the people. A road has lately been constructed to facilitate the carriage of coal from Rajhera and Pandua. It runs in a north-westerly direction, skirting the hills which border the Koel. It diverges from the Koel near Muhammadganj, and passing by Haidarnagar and Japla touches the Son near Budwa. The following returns of the coal raised between the years 1859 and 1862 are taken from the *Coal Resources and Productions of India* :—'In 1859, 28,648 *maunds* or 1,048 tons; 1860, 30,900 *maunds* or 1,131 tons; 1861, 33,343 *maunds* or 1,220 tons; and in 1862, 43,772 *maunds* or 1,602 tons."

From the reports of C. B. Taylor, Major G. Thompson and report of the Geological Survey, it would appear that the resources of the Daltonganj coalfield could not be properly utilised because of want of communication. Bullock-carts and boats appear to have been the only means of conveyance. Practically no roads existed but some tracks. The report of the Geological Survey of India quoted in Hunter's Statistical Account of Lohardaga mentions that a road had lately been constructed to facilitate the carriage of coal skirting the hills which bordered the Koil.

It can safely be said that for want of better communication the Rajhera colliery had not been fully exploited till the end of the 19th century. The opening of the Barun-Daltonganj railway in 1901 brought this area within the reach of Kanpur and the other manufacturing centres in the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) and after that the work was undertaken on a large scale. In 1901 the Bengal Coal Company commenced systematic operations at Rajhera with an output of 3,881 tons, the production rising to 33,557 tons in 1908.[1]

From the account given in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (Revised edition) published in 1926 it appears that its output rose to 86,000 tons in 1915, during which year an average labour force of 855 men, women and children was employed. It is mentioned there that "the colliery was eventually abandoned because the extraction of more coal could only have been effected at a disproportionate cost, and because the company were faced with the expenditure involved in developing the Hutar field, of an important area of which they had taken a lease. At the time of writing no coal, but only fireclay was being extracted at Rajhera, the number of persons so employed being between 50 and 100. Over 5,000 tons of fireclay were produced in 1923."

It is reported that from 1953 the colliery began to work regularly and since then its raisings had been on the increase. It is reported

1. *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1909).

that an average of 650 labourers worked daily in the coalfield in 1959. The statistics of the output of the coal from 1953 to 1958 are as follows :—

Year.	Output in tons.
1953	23,467
1954	61,446
1955	84,707
1956	75,429
1957	86,121
1958	88,206

This coalfield produces natural soft coke of superior quality (smokeless). This coal is considered the best coal for domestic purposes. The coal is supplied to various places in India but the bulk of it is exported to Japan and Pakistan.

The wages of the workers have been fixed under the Labour Appellate Tribunal's Award which came into force with effect from 26th May, 1956. Besides wages the labourers whose emoluments are less than Rs. 100 get once in a year uniforms and footwear at a concessional rate of 50 per cent, 7 paid festival holidays in a calendar year and railway fares both ways when they proceed home on leave earned under the Mines Act, 1952.

The working conditions of the workers are regulated by the Mines Act, and may be briefly indicated as they affect the raisings. The Act contains provisions for ensuring safety, sanitation and health, etc., of the labourers. The Mines Rules contain provisions in regard to the first medical aid and medical appliances, leave with wages, welfare amenites and maintenance of various registers. The Regulations also contain the provisions for transport of men and materials, mine workings, precaution against certain dangers, ventilation, lighting, explosives and shortfiring, machinery and plant, etc.

The company maintains a hospital at Rajhera under the charge of a qualified medical practitioner for the treatment of the workers. Bad cases are sent to Daltonganj Hospital. In accidental cases, all expenses in connection with the treatment of the workers are borne by the company. A creche has been provided for the children of the workers under six years of age. Under the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, of 1941 the women employed in a mine are entitled to receive a payment at the rate of twelve annas a day for four weeks preceding delivery and four weeks after delivery. A pithead bath has been provided as required under the Coal Mines Pithead Bath Rules. There is a canteen and shelters have been provided near the work places for taking food and rest. A safety committee, consisting of an equal number of members of the company and the workers, has been set up to discuss matters relating to safety. A Welfare Officer has been appointed to look after the welfare of the labourers and for the implementation of the various Labour Laws and Awards.

A welfare fund has been created through the contribution of the company and workers for meeting the expenses of the labourers during extraordinary circumstances, viz., serious accident, prolonged sickness and others. The workers are also entitled for the Old Age Benefits under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme.

Rajhera Colliery is not connected by Telephone which is a handicap to some extent for the administrative officers.

Hutar Coalfield.

Regarding Hutar coalfield the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* published in 1926 mentions as follows :—

"The Hutar coalfield, which extends over an area of nearly 79 square miles, lies to the south of Daltonganj and west of the Auranga river and is traversed by the Koil flowing from south to north. Regarding the quantity and quality of the coal in this field Mr. Ball wrote as follows :—

'The coal measure rocks of this area present many striking differences from those of the Auranga field. To this rule the coal is no exception, as will at once be apparent by a comparison of assays. From the Daltonganj coal that of Hutar differs in containing a notably smaller proportion (7.15, per cent) of fixed carbon, and would, therefore, have a less heating power. The proportion of ash, 10.7 per cent is the same in both. On the whole, however, the Hutar coal is quite equal to the average of Indian coals, so far as regards quality. Much uncertainty must attach to any estimate of quantity. Only three seams of good quality, containing a thickness which could be worked with profit, are known to exist. I do not at all despair of this field being found to contain workable seams of value, but the facts at present available do not justify any confident expression of opinion that such will certainly prove to be the case.'

"Dunn[1] estimated that over an area of 4 square miles, 32 million tons of average, Indian-quality coal are available. Known since 1779, parts of the field have been explored from time to time and it will unquestionably attract more attention in future. The Sone Valley Portland Cement Co. commenced mining at Barichatan in 1926, in two seasons which were originally opened up by the Bengal Coal Co. in 1925. The coal said to contain 31.4 per cent volalite matter, 51.8 per cent fixed carbon and 16.8 per cent of ash, with calorific value of 6,600 calories, is brought to Barwadih railway station by rope-way for use in the cement works at Japla."

1. *India's Mineral Wealth*, by J. Coggin Brown and A. K. Dey, published in 1955, p. 23.

The statistics of raisings and despatch of the Hutar coalfield from 1953 to 1958 are as follows :—

Year.	Raisings (in tons).	Despatch (in tons).
1953	68,008.05	...
1954	63,642.40	51,085
1955	61,598	44,906
1956	29,299	34,597
1957	19,485.40	19,745.25
1958	25,981.32	25,277.40

Auranga coalfield.

Regarding Auranga coalfield the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* published in 1926 mentions as follows :—

"The Auranga coalfield extends over an area of 97 square miles along the course of the river of the same name in the south-east of the district. It contains numerous coal seams, some of large size, and the total quantity of coal available has been estimated at 20 million tons, but the fuel is of indifferent quality. Mr. Ball wrote as follows :—

'The coal which occurs in the rocks of the Raniganj group is of too unimportant a character, whether as regards *quality* or thickness, to be considered as affecting the question of the amount economically available in this area. The improbability of this field containing a large supply of really good coal is very great. The appearance of the seams, and the result of the assays, both point to this conclusion. At the same time, it should be remembered that there is not a single fresh and clear section of the rocks and that the coal has never been quarried to the smallest extent'."

The seams, although up to 40 ft. thick, consist largely of carbonaceous shale and the coal itself is so high in ash and moisture that its large-scale systematic exploitation is said to be doubtful. Be this as it may, a colliery, at which operations were started in 1944, supplies fuel to brick works and cement factories.[1] This coalfield does not work regularly now. From the statistics available from 1954—58 it appears that it worked only in 1956 and 1957 and the raisings were only 1,117 and 1,064 tons respectively.

A small portion of the large Karanpura coalfield of which the greater part falls in Hazaribagh, is situated in the south-west of the district at a distance of about six miles from the Auranga field. The coal is exposed here and there in the beds of the rivers. This Karanpura

1. *Ibid* p. 23.

coalfield contains several thick coal seams similar to those of South Karanpura which wholly falls in Hazaribagh, but remains to be exploited.

Iron industry.

Regarding iron, W. W. Hunter in his Statistical Account of Lohardaga has mentioned that "three varieties of iron-ore also occur in Palamau—*bibi, bali and dherhar. Bibi* is said to be really the best, as it is the most ductile; but the natives prefer *bali*, as it is harder, and makes better ploughshares and agricultural implements". Iron-ore is found in many parts of the district, and is particular in the neighbourhood of the coal mines. But the deposits of iron-ore are not of much importance and no attempt has been made to exploit these ores.

Iron smelting.—Iron-ore is plentiful in the south, where it is smelted by the aboriginal tribe known as Agarias. The following is a description given by Mr. Ball of the primitive process of smelting practised by them :—"The furnaces of the Agarias are generally erected under some old tamarind or other shady tree on the outskirts of a village or under sheds in a hamlet where only Agarias dwell, and which is situated in convenient proximity to the ore or to the jungle where the charcoal is prepared. The furnaces are built of mud, and are about 3 feet high, tapering from below upwards, from a diameter of rather more than 2 feet at base to 18 inches at top, with an internal diameter of about 6 inches, the hearth being somewhat wider. Supposing the Agaria and his family to have collected the charcoal and ore, the latter has to be prepared before being placed in the furnace. Three varieties of ore are recognised, viz., *bali*, i.e., magnitite, *bibi*, i.e., maematites from coal-measures, *dherhar*, i.e., haematites from laterite. *Bali* is first broken up into small fragments by pounding, and is then reduced to a fine powder between a pair of mill-stones. The haematite (*bigi* and *dherhar*), it is not usual to submit to any other preliminary treatment besides pounding.

"A bed of charcoal having been placed in the hearth, the furnace is filled with charcoal and then fired. The draught is produced by the usual pair of kettle drum like bellows, which are worked by the feet, the heels of the operator acting as stoppers to the valves. The blast is conveyed to the furnace by a pair of bamboo twyers, and has to be kept up steadily without intermission for from six to eight hours. From time to time, ore and fuel are sprinkled on the top of the fire, the proportions used not being measured, but probably the operators are guided by experience as to the quantities of each which produce the best results. From time to time the slag is tapped off by a hole pierced a few inches from the top of the hearth. Ten minutes before the conclusion of the process, the bellows are worked with extra vigour and the supply of ore and fuel from above is stopped. The clay luting of the hearth is then broken down, and the ball or *giri*, consisting of semi-molten iron slag and charcoal is taken out and immediately

hammered, by which a considerable proportion of the included slag, which is still in a state of fusion, is squeezed out.

"In some cases the Agarias continue the further process, until after various reheatings in open furnaces and hammerings they produce clean iron fit for market; or even at times they work it up themselves into suitable utensils. Not unfrequently, however, the Agarias' work ceases with the production of the *giri*, which passes into the hands of the Lohars. Four annas is a common price paid for an oridinary sized *giri*, and as but two of these can be made in a very hard day's work of 15 hours' duration and a considerable time has also to be spent on the preparation of ore and charcoal, the profits are small. The fact is, that although the actual price which the iron fetches in the market is high, the profits made by the *mahajans* and the immense disproportion between the time and labour expended and the outturn, both combine to leave the unfortunate Agaria in a miserable state of poverty."[1] The iron used to be made into axes, plough-shares, well-buckets, and other agricultural implements and also into guns, which were sold according to the length of the barrel at Re. 1 a span; the best guns used to be made at Herhanj and Daltonganj, but this industry is now dead.

Fireclay.

The Daltonganj coalfield has supplied a highly plastic fireclay from quarries at Rajhera.

The fireclay extracted at Rajhera is of superior quality. It is supplied to various factories for manufacture of crockery and fire bricks. On an average about 60 labourers worked daily in fireclay mine in 1959. The raisings of fireclay of Rajhera are as follows :—

Year.	Raisings in tons.
1953	8,053
1954	6,760
1955	13,340
1956	9,484
1957	6,205
1958	11,360

Besides Rajhera, fireclay is also available at Tiniakhar, Tipu Khurd and Tupu Kalan near Latehar, and Mahuamilan, Chakla, Chitrapur and Dadhu in Tori estate. Mining operations are being conducted successfully in these areas and they are supplying fireclay to Kumardhubi and Mugma factories.

Other minerals.

A number of other minerals are found in the district but have not been worked on a commercial scale. Limestone, sandstone and

1. V. Ball, the Auranga and Hutar Coalfields and the Iron Ores of Palamau and tori, Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. XV.

graphite are known to exist, and bauxite is reported to be found in the neighbourhood of Netarhat. The bands of limestone of Archaean age are found in Khalari south-west of Daltonganj. Copper has been found at several places in Palamau, but it is said that the size of the lode is too small to be worked with profit. There is further scope for investigation into the prospects of commercial utilisation of the minerals known to exist. Investigations by the Geological Survey of India are still continuing.

The total number of persons engaged in mining and quarrying according to 1951 census was 1,093 out of which 1,075 were males and 18 females. The break-up figures were as follows :—

	Total.		Employers.		Employees.		Independent workers.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Non-metallic mining.	60	..	..	..	60	..	..	..
2. Coal mining	546	10	14	..	410	10	122	..
3. Iron-ore mining.	239	..	55	..	19	..	165	..
4. Stone-quarrying, clay and sand pits.	97	8	2	..	7	..	88	8
5. Mica ..	133	..	4	..	118	..	11	..

There are reasons to believe that these figures are an under-estimate. It has to be remembered that this type of labour fluctuates according to seasons.

LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES.

Sone Valley Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Japla.

The Sone Valley Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Works at Japla started production in the year 1922 with a single plant to produce 60,000 tons of cement per year. The Company belonged to a British Firm, the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., London. Now it is one of the units in the chain of Sahu Jain Industries. Owing to high quality of cement being produced and maintained here and with its increasing demand, four kilns and its auxiliaries have been erected and its total production has gone up to 2,50,000 tons of cement per year.

The difficulties before these works are late running of pilot and placement of wagons for loading. Recently for the last two years there has been shortage of workable orders due to glut in cement trade which

has resulted in accumulation of huge cement stocks, thereby hampering the normal production. The bulk of increase of demand from 1950 to 1956 was due to multi-purpose projects and road developments. Imports were completely banned in 1957. The demand for 1960-61 is between 12.5 to 13 million tons but this has not developed as anticipated due to largely inadequate supply of steel and due to pruning of some of the Five-Year Plan Projects, based on over-optimistic demands, possibly result of an inadequate appreciation of market conditions, and inter-relationship between prices and off-take capacity in excess of consumption has been created. In export market also Japla cement is meeting a keen competition from other countries, e.g., Europe, Japan, etc., and consequently Indian market is not developing. Due to non-availability of suitable coal and its movement production in India has been affected.

The manufacture and utilisation of Portland Cement involves several distinct fields of science and art. An adequate treatment of any one of these themes, however, cannot ignore their inter-relationship. For better understanding of the use of cement it is necessary to give a brief outline of both.

Portland Cement is defined as the product obtained by intimately mixing together calcareous and argillaceous materials with fluxes and burning them at clinkering temperature and grinding the resultant clinker. After burning no material other than gypsum or air-entraining agents is added. Limestone quarries are situated at Baulia and Chunhatta in the Vindhya (Kymore) range in the district of Shahabad. Huge deposits enough to last for more than a century exist. The limestone contains about 80 to 80.5 per cent calcium carbonate and low in magnesia, well suited for cement manufacture. There are two varieties of limestone, viz., white and dark. The white gives two distinctive types of lime, brilliant and buff coloured, characterised by innumerable well defined fissures which form a Criss-Cross-Pattern typical of crystalline stone. Dark variety tends to expand on calcination. Flue dust and mill scale are obtained from Burnpur (Kulti), laterite from Katni Marwara (Madhya Pradesh), Tori (Palamau), gypsum from Jasmar (Bikaner), Kavas (Jodhpur) and Rishikesh (U. P.) and coal from Hutar (Palamau), Asansol and Karanpura fields.

Limestone is brought from quarry by means of an aerial bicable ropeway, haulage being over five miles at the rate of about 100 tons per hour and 1,200 tons per day.

Well proportioned materials are finally ground with about 36 per cent water and fed to rotary kilns 200—300 feet in length and 8—10 feet in diameter, where it is burnt by means of pulverised coal, most of the reactions proceed in the solid phase and towards the end there is an incipient fusion and a melt is formed. Complex reactions take place. Tricalcium silicate (C_3S) dicalcium silicate (C_2S) Tricalcium aluminate (C_3A), Tetracalcium alumino-fervite (C_4AF), are formed. Tricalcium silicate gives the strength at an early period (7 days) and

Dicalcium and Tricalcium silicate give strength at a later period (6—12 months), Magnesia if present in large quantity in cement gives expansion.

According to Indian Standard Specification the fineness of cement should not exceed 10 per cent on No. 9 sieve (B. S. S. 1702) or it should have a specific surface of not less than 2,250 sq. cm., per gm. by air permeability apparatus. The expansion of cement should not exceed 10 mm by Le Chatelier method. The initial setting time should not be less than 30 minutes and the final setting time should not exceed 600 minutes. The compressive strength of cement is as follows :—

	Ordinary.	Rapid hardening.
1 Day	..	2204 lbs/sq. in 155 Kg/sq.
3 Days	(2204) or 155 Kg/sq.	3484 lbs/sq. in 245 Kg/sq.
7 Days	(2896) or 210 Kg/sq.	....

The compressive strengths of Japla "ROHTAS" Brand Portland Cement are 2,500 and 3,500 lbs./sq. in for 3 and 7 days respectively and for "ROHTACRETE" Brand Rapid Hardening Portland Cement, 2,000 and 4,000 lbs/sq. in for 1 and 3 days respectively.

The annual output of cement for the last ten years, i.e., from 1950 to 1959 is as follows :—

	Tons.
1950	175,225
1951	250,330
1952	232,640
1953	213,900
1954	196,910
1955	195,000
1956	174,630
1957	177,210
1958	203,120
1959	164,780

Destination of the markets where cement is sent :—

North and South Bihar.—Patna, Gaya, Nawadah, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Saharsa, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Kishanganj, Daltonganj, Garhwa and Ranchi, etc.

West and North Bengal.—K. P. Docks (Calcutta), Sealdah, Saheb Bazar, Burdwan, Asansol, Bankura, Contai Road, Burnpur, Siliguri Town, Alipurduar and Cooch Bihar, etc.

Assam.—Gauhati, Jorhat Town, Tinsukia, Shillong, Dibrugarh Town, Badarpur, Karimganj and Nowgong, etc.

Uttar Pradesh.—Gorakhpur, Izatnagar, Sultanagar and Varanasi.

There are 1,267 labours employed at these Works. The following welfare measures are available :—

(*a*) Canteen, (*b*) Creche, (*c*) two clubs, one for staff and the other for labour, both these clubs are well equipped, (*d*) Children Park, (*e*) two Cinema shows in a month to staff and labour are shown free of cost, (*f*) Co-operative Stores, (*g*) Annual Sports, (*h*) Cultural Programmes as arranged from time to time, (*i*) a well equipped hospital with indoor and outdoor (44 beds) and a maternity ward as well, (*j*) Prohibition Drive is also arranged from time to time and (*k*) a High School with free education up to class VII.

In case of any dispute it is always tried to be settled by negotiation and most of them are settled mutually at the initial stage. Always it has been the endeavour of the Company to promote harmonious relationship between the labour and the management. Their grievances are immediately heard and looked into as far as possible. Major issues, if not settled by mutual negotiation, are referred to arbitration or conciliation to the Labour Commissioner.

There are about 400—500 quarters for labour and staff and all quarters are furnished with light, fan and water pipes. Endeavour is being made to build more quarters under the Industrial Housing Scheme.

SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES.

Palamau lags far behind in the small-scale industries. There are practically no textile and sugar industries in the district. Handloom industry is in a somewhat flourishing condition and meets the requirements of the people to a large extent. The number of rice, flour, oil and *dal* mills in the district in 1951 was a few. The number of such mills registered under the Factory Act in the census of 1951 was only nine in which 48 persons were employed. It appears that the census of 1951 had not taken into account all the existing rice, flour, oil and *dal* mills and had based their figures on the information supplied by the Labour and Industries Department. It is reported that the number of rice, flour, oil and *dal* mills in the district is now 88, out of which 52 are flour mills, 23 rice mills and 13 oil-pressing mills. The actual number of persons engaged will not be large and is below 1,000 persons.

Shellac industry.

The shellac industry, one of the flourishing industries of the district, to all intents and purpose is a cottage industry. The cultivation of lac is widely spread in the district and lac industry is a valued subsidiary occupation of the cultivators. Due to the presence of a large number of *palas* trees, considerable quantity of lac is produced. The principal crop of *palas* lac is obtained in April and May, the *Baisakhi* crop; but some of the lac is then left on the trees until October or November when

it becomes fit to be gathered and sold as brood lac. This is the *kartiki* crop. The *Kusum* lac is more valuable, but less extensively cultivated. The principal *Kusum* crop is in October and November.

Lac is a resinous incrustation found on the twigs of certain trees, which is produced round the bodies of colonies of the lac insect. The latter subsists on the sap that it sucks up by means of a proboscis from the succulent tissues of the tree. When the young insects escape from the dead body of the female, they crawl about in search of fresh sappy twigs; this is known as swarming and at this time the twigs of trees infected with the lac insect will often be seen to assume a reddish colour, owing to the countless masses of minute insects that are moving all over them. Those that become fixed drop their legs and at once proceed in the process of digestion to transform the sap sucked up by the proboscis and to exude from their bodies the resinous matter with which they become ultimately incrusted. At this stage when it is evident that the swarming is beginning, the twigs of an old tree with the insects on them are cut off and tied on a fresh tree, which it is proposed to bring under cultivation, at the base of the new shoots which have grown as the result of previous pollarding. After a time the insect crawls up the branches of the fresh trees, and, piercing the bark at some place sufficiently soft, fixes itself down and commences to exude lac. The greater and the better part of the lac is exuded by the female after mating. The quality of the lac depends upon the brightness of the colour, the thickness of the incrustation, and the comparative freedom from parasites. The cultivator lops off the twigs on which lac has formed with an axe and then separates the lac from the twigs with a sickle. Two important lac assembling centres of the district, viz., Daltonganj and Garhwa, are situated on the banks of the river Koil. Other important centres are Latehar and Tori.

The average production (1951—55) of the above centres cropwise is as follows[1] :—

	Baisakhi.	Katki.	Total.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Daltonganj	46,000	7,400	53,400
Garhwa	24,000	4,800	28,800
Latehar	16,800	5,150	21,950
Tori	13,000	2,600	15,000
Rest of the district ..	12,000	1,350	13,350
Total ..	1,11,800	21,300	1,33,100

1. Report of the Indian Lac Cess Committee, Ranchi, 1956.

In addition, Garhwa usually receives on an average 25,000 maunds annually from Surguja and Mirzapur districts. A small quantity of *Kusumi* lac comes to Latehar, the average of which annually comes to 1,000 maunds. Thus on an average about 1,60,000 maunds of stick lac are handled in Palamau district.

The annual report (1957-58) of the Indian Lac Cess Committee has given the statistics of stick lac in Palamau in 1957-58 in comparison to the previous four years as follows :—

Baisakhi.	Katki.	Total of all crops.					Normal.
		1957-58.	1956-57.	1955-56.	1954-55.	1953-54.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
1,00,000	20,000	1,20,000	1,83,000	1,51,500	1,11,500	86,000	1,31,500

In the census of 1951 there were 24 shellac industries registered under the Factory Act in which 1,362 labourers were working. From the report of the Indian Lac Cess Committee it appears that there were 41 factories in 1955-56 with about 500 *bhattas* (only one factory Baralota uses power and is equipped with two washing barrels). The labour force was roughly between 1,500 to 2,000. The shellac factories are mainly concentrated at Baralota, Chainpur, Garhwa, Latehar and Chandwa. The number of dependants on this industry is said to be about 40,000.

Lac industry is in a slump now. The foreign market has been substantially lost owing to synthetic products in the American and other foreign markets. It is also unfortunate that in the past differences have been found between the samples sent and the actual bulk supply. There has been a steep drop in the prices of lac all over India.

Lac is a precious earner of foreign exchange. Indian Lac Cess Committee, the Central and State Governments and the lac industrialists are trying to find more avenues of consumption of lac within India. An internal market would be more dependable as a stabilising factory. The Lac Research Institute at Namkum (Ranchi) has made some useful contribution to it. For example, a coating of lac on earthen pots adds lustre and durability to them. Such earthen water bottles are common in Jaipur but not so in Bihar although Bihar's lac is the largest in India. The proper distribution of seed lac, fight against deteriorating factors and increase of knowledge for enhancing the consumption field among the people should receive serious attention of all concerned if lac industry has to improve.

Manufacturers Association.—In 1943, the manufacturers of the district formed the Palamau Shellac Association to safeguard their common interests. The object of the Association is to improve the condition of the industry. In 1949 there was a conference of shellac manufacturers with the same purpose. The industry has had many vicissitudes as the main consumption is in foreign countries and the foreign market is being slowly lost.

Labour position.—Manufacturing shellac is a skilled process and labourers for it were imported from Chatra and Raniganj. Slowly the local labourers picked up the work and these days most of the work is being done by them. Up to 1933-34, the daily wage was Re. 1-0-6 for a team of three workers. As prices of shellac rose and the labourers became better organised the rates increased to Rs. 2-2-0 and subsequently to Rs. 3-1-0. With the passing of the Minimum Wages Act it was raised to Rs. 5-8-0 in 1950 for the same team of three workers.

The relation between the labourers and factory owners is not always very happy. Because of the increase of the wages the manufacturers now mainly manufacture seed lac, and many lac labourers are out of employment and have found other avenues. Furthermore, a large quantity of stick lac is being sent from this district to mechanised factories in Calcutta. The local manufacturers with their small capital cannot compete with these firms in buying the raw materials and, therefore, their factories remain partly idle thus increasing unemployment. The factory owners have moved the State Government and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, to ban export of stick lac from Bihar or fix a quota of exports of stick lac from Palamau to Calcutta. The stick lac is now mainly exported through road.

Biri Making Industry.

Biri making industry is widespread throughout the district. About 2,00,000 bags of *Kendu* leaves are annually produced from the forest of the district. The Indu Biri Factory, Krishna Biri Factory, Jain Biri Store, Jaisummerddin Biri Store and Vijoy Biri Store located at Daltonganj are registered *biri* factories of the district. On an average 50 labourers work daily in these factories. Two unregistered *biri* factories are running at Garhwa. A number of them are in a disorganised form and are running with the joint co-operation of the family members.

Saw mills.

There are 24 saw mills in the district. They are located at Daltonganj (3), Chhipadohar (8), Latehar (5), Chandwa (2), Garhwa (1), Rehla (2) and Barwadih (3).

Engineering.

The Japla Engineering Works manufactures 41.19 tons of cast iron material annually. Besides, concrete spun pipe is manufactured at Japla by the Bijoy Company. The average annual production is 320 tons of concrete products. About 20 labourers work daily in these factories.

Ice and Creameries.

In 1951 there were two ice and ice-cream industries in Palamau in which 19 labourers were found to be employed. The details of the working factories for the year 1955 were as follows :—

Number of factories registered—69.

Number of working factories—81.

Mandays worked—7,18,983.

Total number of workers—2,691.

Ice-creams although of very poor quality have a market in the summer season in the urban areas.

Cottage industries.

Cloth weaving.—The weaving of cotton and wool is an important occupation to the majority of the Adibasis. The hand-woven cloth, which though coarse is durable, is mostly seen amongst the aboriginal and the semi-aboriginal tribes. In the Chhechhari valley it is widely prevalent and mill-made cloth is found in rarity. There had not been any census of looms but it is understood that more than 5,000 looms are in work for weaving cotton and wool. These looms are all handlooms of primitive design, the fly-shuttle looms are a few in the district. The wool weaving is done by the men of the caste known as Gareries.

The other cottage industries are rope-making, blacksmithy, pottery, goldsmithy, bee-keeping, carpentry, basket and bamboo wares, palm-*gur* making, *tassar* rearing, match box making, leather tanning and leather goods making and *ghee* making. Mostly these industries are running in a disorganised form, located in the extreme interior lacking the suitable facilities for transport, technical and financial help.

Efforts are being made by the Industry Department to develop these industries with technological and artistic development. Four training-*cum*-production centres have been opened to impart training in the respective crafts and industries to the artisans or persons interested in the particular craft in the locality. After training for one year the trainees are expected to form and start co-operative production centres in the particular craft and the financial requirement has also been given

by the Government under the Bihar and Orissa Industries Act, 1923. The following centres are running in the district :—

(1) Leather goods making training-*cum*-production centre at Daltonganj.

(2) Dyeing and printing-*cum*-production centre at Daltonganj.

(3) Cotton weaving tuitional class, Pokhari (Latehar).

(4) Wool-weaving class, Makari (Garhwa).

(5) Bee-keeping centres are running at Satbarwa, Chattarpur, Chandwa, Kundri, Garu, Panki and Balumath.

(6) *Gur* and *Khandesari* centres are running at Japla and Panki.

Tassar industry.—The raising of cocoons for silk was an important industry of the district but due to the absence of patronage from the Government and foreign competition, the industry received a great set back after the First World War. The revenue from *Koa* (silk) used to be a good part of the revenue derived by the Chero Rajas from Palamau, and theoretically Government held a monopoly of the cultivation of the commodity and of *kath* (catechu) throughout the *pargana* of Palamau down to the year 1851, when they relinquished their claims in respect of villages not held *khas*. The contract for cultivating silk in the Government Estate was auctioned annually but the proceeds used to be very small.

The cocoon rearing industry is carried on mainly by the Adibasis and the poorer sections of the people. The State Government after independence in 1947 tried to retrieve the silk industry by affording technical and financial assistance to the rearers of the cocoon. The Government had opened a Tassar Seed Supply Station at Daltonganj in 1956. The majority of the *tassar* rearers are found in Lesliganj, Nagar, Bhaunathpur, Daltonganj and Barwadih thanas.

After survey it was found that the number of food plants viz., *asan*, *arjun*, *sal*, etc., in Palamau is quite adequate for rearing cocoons, but heavy taxes levied by the Forest Department and indiscriminate cutting of the food plants had rendered great disservice to this industry. An appeal was made and now a general rate of royalty has been fixed to Rs. 2 instead of Rs. 18-12-0 for 100 trees.

The Tassar Seed Supply Station at Daltonganj distributes disease-free layings of *tassar* eggs and it is reported that the production of *tassar* had been high due to this activity. In 1959 three Reeling and Spinning Demonstration Centres were started at Lesliganj, Nagar and Bhaunathpur and two rearing centres at Patan and Barwadih. The statistics below will show the work of the Tassar Seed Supply Station, Daltonganj.

Statistical information showing the activities during the year 1959 of the Government Tassar Seed Supply Station, Daltonganj Palamau.

Number of persons trained in scientific method of rearing.		Number of disease-free layings manufactured.		Number of disease-free layings distributed.		Number of persons newly took up rearing.	Number of rearers to whom D.F. Ls. supplied.		Number of rearers in the area.	Quantity of cocoons produced in the area.		Actual consumption of D. F. Ls in the area.
Tassar.	Eri.	Tassar.	Eri.	Tassar.	Eri.		Tassar.	Eri.		Tassar.	Eri.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
721	15	10,320	720	10,320	715	89	606	26	1,500	54,98,289	6,984	Bhadai—75,000, Katki—2,25,000 for the whole district.

Demonstration in reeling and spinning.		Number of persons trained in reeling and spinning, boiling and spinning of silk cocoons.	Production of yarn.						Number of paddle charkhas introduced.	Number of persons took up mulberry cultivation.	Acre of land.
			In the station.				Local.				
Schools.	Hats.	Vill.	Hand spun yarn.			Sr.Ch.To.	Hand spun yarn.	Sr.Ch.To.			
14	15	16	17	18			19	20	21	22	23
43	90	99	1,530. Not habitual spinner.	22	8	2½	1 3 3¼	18 12 0 Spun on Dhera as they have no spinning charkha.	26	15	5

Catechu manufacture.

Regarding catechu manufacture the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) mentions as follows :—

"An interesting, though not a numerous, group under this head are the catechu collectors. Catechu or cutch is the astringent resin extracted from the *khair* (*Acacia catechu*) tree. The manufacture of this drug is carried on by Mallahs, who come annually from Gaya and other districts for the purpose. The first thing they do is to choose a suitable site for encampment in a locality where the trees are plentiful and where water is to be had. As soon as a central spot has been selected the whole party set vigorously to work to erect a sufficient number of huts for the shelter of each family. The worksheds are then erected, and furnaces prepared by digging circular holes about 2 feet in diameter and 4 feet in depth, with a flue sloping down from above. The men are now daily in the forest engaged in cutting down the trees and lopping off the branches, after which the trees are taken to the encampment in lengths of 10 to 12 feet. As soon as the supply begins to come in, the women bark the trees and chop off the outer white wood, leaving the inner wood only. The heart of the tree, which is of a dirty red colour and full of sap, is then cut up into small chips which are packed in large earthen jars called *chattis*. The latter are placed over the furnace or oven and their contents boiled from 12 to 16 hours. The juice (*ras* or *arak*) which boils over is poured into another jar, replaced on furnace, and stirred till it attains the consistency of syrup. It is then poured off into a circular earthen vessel, and allowed to settle for a night, and next morning is strained through a large basket; the liquid portion thus strained off is poured into a ditch dug close by, and is made into second class cutch, called *khaira*. First class cutch, called *pakhra*, is made from the thick residue left which remains in the basket for about a month, during which it further thickens according to the temperature and the weather. The mass is next poured in a layer in the ground over ash, upon which it is kept for eight or ten days during which it hardens. It is then cut up with a knife into squares, in which shape it is sold to the trader. Cutch can only be made during the cold weather. It fails to harden on hot days, and Mallahs, therefore, close work before the end of March. They believe that, unless they keep perfectly pure and clean during the whole time, the cutch will be spoiled. They pay royalty to the zamindars according to the number of *chattis* they keep in use".

The observation of the last District Gazetteer still holds good. With the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the royalty is now paid to the State Government. The average annual amount of cutch exported from Daltonganj, which is the main centre for cutch exportation, comes to about 3,000 maunds. It is mainly exported by rail.

Ghee making.

Ghee making industry is an old indigenous industry of the district. Even a few years before hydrogenated oil was unknown in Daltonganj, the district headquarters and *ghee* was the chief medium of cooking. In the extreme interior of Palamau the people are still unaware of the hydrogenated oil. *Ghee* of Palamau is still cheaper than the other districts of Bihar. *Ghee* is mainly exported to Jamshedpur, Ranchi and Calcutta.

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIALITY.

The district has vast natural resources but they have not been fully exploited. In the forests of Palamau the bamboos are found in abundance. There is a great potentiality for the bamboo pulp industry in the neighbourhood of Chipadohar. A vast number of bamboo pulps are exported from Chipadohar to Dehri-on-Sone and Titagarh in Calcutta. This industry can be developed if it is properly exploited. There is also great potentiality for the development of ply wood factory in Palamau. The forest industries have been covered in the Chapter on Forests. It has also tremendous resources for fire-bricks factory and the catechu industry.

Underground minerals some of which have been indicated earlier are also not being worked to their full capacity. It is also understood that there are rich deposits of atomic minerals in this district. With the opening up of communications and pooling of financial resources and State encouragement, there is no doubt that Palamau district will be one of the first class industrialised districts in India in some near future.

CHAPTER VIII.

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE.

BANKING AND FINANCE.

History of Indigenous Banking.

There was no established bank in the past. It appears that the village *mahajans* and landlords as money-lending sources were in existence from time immemorial. The first recorded reference of the persons engaged in the business of money-lending is found in the Settlement Report of Forbes published in 1875. Forbes, at the end of paragraph 434 of his report observes, "Not only the species of trading carried on by persons who are *mahajans* and traders by caste, but almost every landlord in the *perganah* is more or less engaged in it, rather in giving of what is called *kurja*, and in carrying a money-lending business known as *len-den*".

There was scarcely a single individual in Palamau at that time, who did not apply to the *Sahu* for small loans. The *Sahu* ordinarily means a trader but in this case the *Sahu* need not necessarily be a *mahajan*. Many landlords were *Sahus*, and so were some wealthy *raiyats*. This system of money-lending by *Sahus* still continues.

Forbes further observes: "In the months of April, May and June, when food is scarce, the people apply to the *mahajans* and petty traders for small loans; to enable them to live and to buy seed for the coming autumn harvest. Some of them mortgage only their cotton, and some the whole of their coming crops. But once a cultivator has resorted to the grain merchant, he is rarely able to shake himself free again; nor is this to be wondered at, when we consider the rates of interest at which these loans are taken. For instance, a cultivator borrows, we will say, one rupee on his cotton crop; for this he binds himself to deliver to the grain merchants, when this crop is ripe, one (*kachcha*) maund or 84 lbs. of seed cotton the market price of which at the cheapest rate, 12 (*kachcha*) seers per rupee..... This interest demanded ranges from 8 annas to 3 per cent per mensem. Sometimes payment in kind at certain rate stipulated for; sometimes the conditions are that half is to be repaid in kind at certain rates and the other half in cash.

"The rates at which these advances were given are as follows:— For one maund of either *bihan* or *khaihan* given, the tenant binds himself to deliver at harvest time two maunds of grain, if he fails then the following year he has to deliver one half more, and on a second failure he has to deliver a fourth more of what he has to deliver for second year or three or three quarter maunds, on further failure, the amount of grain is commuted in its money value, and the proprietor proceeds to realise the amount in the best way he can,

either by taking a bond and suing for the amount or taking its equivalent in other grain or as is more often the case than not, by forcible distrant of grain or other moveable property." The above mentioned system of lending is called *Barhi*, *Derhi* and *Sawai*, and is still in vogue.

W. W. Hunter, in his book "A Statistical Account of Bengal", Vol. XVI, published in 1877 gives an interesting description of the money-lending or of indigenous banking system prevalent during that time. His observations are as follows :—"The old landed proprietors of Lohardagga District are not, as a rule, possessed of large saving and they do not enter into money transactions in the character of lenders. Such transactions are carried on by *mahajans* or professional bankers and merchants, a few of whom are land holders as well as capitalists. These loans are of two kinds—those in which land is given as a security without possession, interest being charged at the rate of twelve per cent per annum; and those where the transaction takes the form of a mortgage with possession, and the interest is at the nominal rate of one half or one per cent. As, however, the mortgagee has complete possession of the property, the interest which he actually realises from his capital, is often very high indeed. In *Zar-i-peshgi* loans, given in consideration of a lease granted by the borrower, the current rate of interest is twentyfour per cent payable from the rents of the estate, and the amount of advance is adjusted in proportion to the rent roll. Sometimes the precise rate of interest is not specified but the lender is allowed to realise whatever he can get from the collection of the estate.

"The more important forms of small transactions in cash or grain between cultivators and their landlords or their *mahajans* are the following :—

(1) *Len-den* or petty loans to raiyats, which are generally given in cash in the month of June when prices are at their highest, and repaid in grain after the winter harvest when prices are very low. Interest is charged at the rate of one-third of anna for each rupee per mensem, and is also paid in kind. So that for every rupee advanced in June, a raiyat has to pay in December a rupee's worth of grain at the price then ruling, in addition to the worth of two or three annas on the rupee as interest. (2) *Chara* is a simple form of loan which resembles the foregoing, except that the interest is not estimated in terms of money. The principal is paid in December with one maund of grain at the market rate of the day, as interest. (3) *Khepi* is a form of loan made to persons taking a journey (*khep*) to purchase grain. Interest is paid at the rate of one anna per rupee for every journey that is made. Thus, if a man borrows Rs. 25 at *khepi*, makes two trips for grain and repays the principal at the end of a month, he will have to pay fifty annas or Rs. 3-2-0, being interest at the rate of 150 per cent per annum. (4) *Seri* is a form of loan peculiar to the south-western portions of Palamau and the western *parganas* of Chutia Nagpur proper. In the month of June the land-holder advances to each of his tenants a *ser* of salt, which is repaid in December by one maund of grain. Sometimes tobacco is given instead of salt, and is paid for in the same manner and at the same time. The custom of giving *seri* loans is fast dying out, and is now chiefly interesting as illustrating the mode in which Hindu landlords used to deal with aboriginal tenants.

"In small transactions where ornaments or household vessels are pawned as security for the loan, the rate of interest varies from 25 to 37½ per cent per annum or from ⅓ to ½ an anna for each rupee per mensem. Such loans are never given for more than half the intrinsic value of the article pawned; and if the money is not paid on the date specified, the property is, *ipso facto*, forfeited to the lender."

The *Sahus* or village merchants usually took exorbitant rate of interest. Once a person became involved in debt, it became very difficult for him to get rid of himself from the debt. An extract from Forbes, report will fully illustrate the system pursued by the *Sahus*. It reads as : "Punctually as the harvest comes round, the *Sahu* or his agent appears with his pack bullocks to carry off the cotton. If the quantity agreed upon is forthcoming, all is well; but woe beside the unfortunate cultivator if it is not. Should a small portion only be forthcoming, it is seized, and sometimes charged against the debtor as loss upon the profit which the *Sahu* would otherwise have made. The loan remains over till next harvest on the same conditions, only that interest is added. Sometimes the deficiency in the weight of cotton is made up by seizing other grain, proportionate to the market value of the cotton. Thus, supposing a loan of Rs. 4 has been taken on condition of delivery of 27 seers of cotton per rupee, the quantity to be delivered would be 2 maunds 28 seers, the market value of which at 6¾ seers per rupee, which is the cheapest rate, would be Rs. 16. If only 27 seers, value of Rs. 4, and representing Re. 1 of loan be delivered, the *Sahu* will help himself, not to Rs. 3 worth of other grain, but to Rs. 12 worth. In case of *til* at Rs. 2, 3, 6 per maund this would be 5 maunds 16 seers; and if only 2 maunds 28 seers of *til*, value Rs. 6, were forthcoming, the balance of Rs. 6 is put down as the principal and the same transaction is repeated the following years."

Forbes mentioned that Government took a stern attitude to curb exactions from the poor raiyats in the hands of the *mahajans*.

The institutions of *Chara*, *Khepi* and *Seri* loans mentioned above are not current now. But the *mahajans*, whether big or small have continued to exist and form the easiest source for finding credits. Whether known as *mahajans* or *Sahus* their activities were very widespread and they formed the institution of the indigenous bankers. The moving Afgan money-lenders who generally lend on very high interest and with very little security could also be said to be a later element in

the institution of indigenous banking. There has been a recent advent of Sikh traders in the district and they also advance loans occasionally.

The general credit facilities available in the district at the moment include the village *Sahus* or *mahajans*, registered money-lenders, joint stock banks, co-operative banks, central co-operative bank, Kabulis and Sikh money-lenders and loans from Government. It may be mentioned here that in order to improve the general economic condition of the raiyats and particularly the simple minded aboriginals, so that their need for credit will be reduced, Government have passed, from time to time, laws and regulations. An important measure was taken when the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was amended in 1955 to debar alienation of an aboriginal's land without the permission of Deputy Commissioner. The spendthrift Adibasi was an easy prey to the speculative money-lenders or middle class men who take away the land of the aboriginals through advance of loans. The need for credit has also been sought to be minimised by the starting of grain *golas* which act as seed banks. Government help is given through distribution of loans under various Acts for improvement of land, purchase of bullocks, etc.

Credit is usually required by the average man to tide over the present difficulty. Loans are also taken occasionally with a long view of a far-reaching improvement to the land or a bigger enterprise. The average cultivator wants money quickly for immediate necessity, e.g., to buy a bullock or a plough, to purchase seeds or manure or it may be to get a marriage performed in the family. He knows that he may get a loan from the Deputy Commissioner's office if it is needed for agricultural purposes. Yet he seldom approaches the Department. The time-lag, the several trips he has to make to the headquarters, the complacence of the subordinate official machinery through which his application is to go usually scare away the prospective creditor. He would, therefore, approach the *mahajan* who exactly knows and appreciates his nature of the need and would quickly advance the money. Even if the *mahajan* deducts a portion of the loan in payment of the future interest he would not mind. This is why the *mahajans* still exist till better circumstances are evolved.

INDEBTEDNESS COMMON TO THE RURAL AND URBAN AREAS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH USURY IS PREVALENT.

There has been no systematic study of the problems of indebtedness in this district. The general economic condition of the common man has been commonly accepted to be poor in this district which was, at one time considered to be the most backward in the Chotanagpur Division. The Settlement Officers and the various other Revenue Officers who have had to enquire into the living conditions of the people at different times have passed observations which indicate the general features but such observations cannot be said to be based on a thorough and exclusive problem. Some of the institutions and customs peculiar to this district like the *kamiauti* system (bonded labour), *buha* loans (borrowing of a pair of bullocks on stipulation of a quantity of grain

when gathered), etc., show that the people were generally very poor. Sunder, in his *Report on Settlement Operations* (1894—97) had particularly mentioned the poor condition, general improvidence, and indebtedness of the Cheros and Kharwars. Bridge in his *Report on the Settlement Operations* (1913—20) has mentioned about the *Kamiauti* system and short cash loans. In the Revised *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) by P. C. Tallents, there was a reference to this small scale loans and often in kind that were prevalent. Tallents held that the fact that cash debts were usually on small scale did not mean that they were quickly or easily repaid. In the recent years Government has felt the necessity of controlling the money-lenders to some extent and thereby to control the ceiling of the interest. The Moneylenders Act was passed in 1938. In 1952-53, there were 24 licensees under this Act registered in rural areas and 14 in the urban areas. At the end of 1952-53 there were 129 licensees in the rural and 133 licensees in the urban areas. The total amount of loans advanced by them came to Rs. 3,56,056 as mentioned in the *Bihar Statistical Hand-Book*, 1955. Such detailed figures for the year following the year 1952-53 are not yet available. But we have the figures of fresh licenses issued to the money-lenders from 1952-53 onwards. They are as follows :—

Year.	No. of licenses issued.
1951-52	52
1952-53	39
1953-54	53
1954-55	53
1955-56	35
1956-57	36
1957-58	45
1958-59	59

The very fact that there has been need for more registered money-lenders will show that the need for credit is not on the decline.

The following statement shows the amounts advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act, 1883 and Agriculturists' Loans Act, 1884 :—

LOANS ADVANCED.

Year.	Under Land Improvement Loans Act (in rupees).	Under Agriculturists' Loans Act (in rupees).
1951-52	59,257	13,68,132
1952-53	72,829	17,68,768
1953-54	77,791	18,00,934
1954-55	8,825	45,00,000
1955-56	1,450	9,99,800
1956-57	4,610	8,75,000
1957-58	9,780	14,41,227

Regarding these figures of loans taken by agriculturists it may, however, be said that the entire amount may not have been utilised for the purpose for which the loans have been taken. Nevertheless, these figures do indicate a definite trend, and particularly when the figures could be associated with drought or other natural calamities. It is understood that the *buha* system still persists in Latehar Subdivision although it is on the decline. If the original price of the bullock is Rs. 100 the poor cultivator pays almost half of the price in kind for taking loan of the bullock for one agricultural season. It may be safely observed generally that the problem of indebtedness has not been fully appraised in this district. The banking organisation has yet to develop along with the habit to invest and before investment comes in there has to be created a margin for it. The commercial banks are allergic to give loans to the agriculturists because of the provisions of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act. The co-operative movement has so far given benefit to a very small percentage of the needy.

If any intelligent guess on a certain amount of random field investigation and discussion could be made, it may be hazarded that the majority of the agriculturists in this district are indebted. On some calculations it was suggested that 75 per cent of the villagers are in debt and the amount varies between Rs. 30 to 100 according to the borrowing capacity.

State Bank, Joint Stock Banks, other Loans and Investment Companies.

Banking was pioneered in this district by the Chotanagpur Banking Association with its Head Office at Hazaribagh. This bank opened a local branch at Daltonganj in 1911 and became extremely popular particularly among the middle class men. Unfortunately, the bank went into liquidation in 1957. The closure of the bank was a calamity to the middle class people who had put their hard earned savings in the bank.

The Bank of Bihar with its Head Office at Patna set up a branch at Daltonganj in 1943. The bank advances loans against moveable and commercial commodities. The rate of interest charged on the advances varies between 6 to 7 per cent.

The Punjab National Bank with its Head Office at New Delhi opened a branch at Daltonganj in 1951. The bank advances loans against commercial commodities.

A branch of the State Bank of India was opened in Daltonganj in August, 1956. The bank mostly deals in Government transactions. It may be mentioned that prior to 1956, there was no Government bank in the district and all Government transactions were dealt by Government treasuries.

The figures of the total deposits in the banks are not available. Regarding the rate of interest per annum usually it is ¼ per cent on current deposits, 1½ to 2 per cent on savings bank deposits, 2½ to 3½ per cent on fixed deposits. About 6 to 7 per cent interest is usually charged on advances against cash credit accounts, gold ornaments, and *hundis*.

Banking has yet to take its roots in this district.

Co-operative Credit Societies and Banks.

The history of the co-operative movement dates back since 1919. The last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* by P. C. Tallents, published in 1926 observes: "The history of the movement in Palamau begins from the year 1919 when Thakur Bhola Nath Sinha began to organise societies in Panki, and the Rev. A. C. Watters in Latehar. In 1924 a Central Bank was formed with a capital of Rs. 45,000. The working capital of the bank is double what it was then, and loans have been made to 97 societies in the villages at the usual rate of 12½ per cent per annum. The societies are most numerous in the neighbourhood of Latehar, Lesliganj, Satbarwa, and Panki; a few are also in existence near Daltonganj and Chattarpur. The members number between 2,000 and 3,000. It is anticipated that a number of other societies will shortly be opened."

The Daltonganj Central Co-operative Bank registered a phase of prosperity. Its business increased with the growth of the number of societies. In 1939, there were 142 co-operative societies. But the financial position of the bank deteriorated since then. The Government had to intervene and enquire into the matter. On the findings of the enquiry the Bihar Government undertook to bear the losses incurred in reconstructing the bank and further it agreed to subsidise the bank for a period of five years against the net losses of the bank. The bank was resuscitated in 1945. The bank took up the business of the controlled commodities from 1946—1953 with its affiliated societies but it sustained losses in the said business. Therefore, the bank gave up the trading activities and now financing was made to the deserving societies.

The bank now deals with the agriculturists of the district only. It advances loans to the agriculturists against the produce of the land. The bank has advanced loans to its affiliated societies amounting to Rs. 82,703 during the period 1st July 1958 to 30th June 1959. The present position of the bank is indicated in the statement given below :—

The present financial position of the Daltonganj Central Co-operative Bank.

	(30th June 1958.)	(30th June 1959.)
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Share Capital ...	78,784 ...	2,59,006
2. Reserve Fund ...	7,231.41 ...	
3. Special Reserve Fund. ...	5,000.00 ...	

	(30th June 1958.)		(30th June 1959.)
	Rs.		Rs.
4. Fixed Deposit ...	28,734	...	28,734
5. Savings Bank and current deposit.	1,82,034	...	3,77,553.29
6. Total Reserve Fund	36,768	...	29,265
7. Medium Term loan	94,938	...	72,765
8. Short term loan	65,795	...	40,568
9. Working Capital loan.	5,320	...	5,016
10. Share Capital loan	1,350	...	...

The bank has received a long-term loan of Rs. 5,000 from the Government, through the apex bank for construction of Godown, payable in 20 years. It has repaid Rs. 750 to the Government. The bank is also repaying an old reconstructed loan of Rs. 17,058 on *pro rata* basis. The bank took the medium-term loans for purchase of bullocks, and short-term for purchasing crops, bricks and fertilisers, etc.

The bank collected Rs. 1,07,915 from the societies during the year 1958-59 , which were given to them as loans.

Out of the total demand of Rs. 2,21,453 collection from members came to Rs. 1,03,692 having a percentage of collection 43.8 per cent.

The bank earned a profit of Rs. 2,720 during the year which decreased its total loss by Rs. 17,723 as against the total loss of Rs. 20,443.

Co-operative societies.

The Chapter "Other Departments" has also dealt with the registered co-operative societies in the district which are 763 in March, 1960. Their total number of membership is 22,147. The following statement shows the financial position of the Co-operative Societies running in the district of Palamau :—

Financial position of the Co-operative Societies in Palamau.

Year.	No. of the co-operative societies.	Share capital.	Working capital.	Reserve fund.	Deposits.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
30th June 1955 ..	325	..	..	..	..
30th June 1956 ..	404	35,143	1,65,276	27,938	4,574
30th June 1957 ..	535	71,968	2,67,846	31,603	6,417
30th June 1958 ..	674	78,784	3,27,747	36,768	10,648
30th June 1959 ..	763	2,69,006	5,21,535	39,265	10,648

General Life and Insurance.

The district had only one branch office of the Metropolitan Insurance Company, Ltd. This was before nationalisation of insurance business. Agents and inspectors of various other insurance companies secured business of life, fire, motor, and transit insurances. The Companies represented were the Aryasthan Insurance Co. Ltd., the Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Co., Ltd., the Oriental Government, New Asiatic, New India Fire and General, Bihar United and Insurance Co., Ltd., the Sun Life and Non-Tarrif Insurance Companies.

Since the nationalisation of Insurance in 1956, these companies have ceased working, and the "Life Insurance Corporation of India" came into being. But the Corporation has not opened a separate unit in this district. However, the field officers and agents of the Corporation operate in the district.

For insurance against fire, theft, or for motor vehicle etc., there is no restriction on the different companies who specialise in them. Agents of several such companies operate in this district.

Trade and Commerce.

Old time trade routes.—The topographical position of Palamau in the State of Bihar has a special significance. It is a district at one border of the State and adjoins some districts in the State of Bihar, namely, Gaya, Hazaribagh and Ranchi and some districts in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. From a study of the old documents and enquiries it appears that before the opening of Barun-Daltonganj Railway in 1902 and the extension of the modern means of communication such as roadways, railways, waterways, etc., the trade and commerce of the district was controlled by rather primitive circumstances. There were cart tracks connecting Palamau with the districts on the border and Surguja which was a feudatory estate before. But locomotion on these tracks was risky as the areas were infested with dacoits and wild animals. Bullock-carts, elephants, horses, pack ponies or bullocks were the chief sources of conveyances while transport by head-load was also common. The rivers were unbridged. Sone river, while in spate, was navigable to some extent and carried a lot of merchandise, particularly timber. The rainy season, however, meant almost a complete paralysis for transport of heavy goods by roads or by existing cart tracks. When locomotives were unknown the chief centres of trade and commerce were the *hats* and *melas*. There was more of internal consumption of the commodities produced within the district.

Regarding the character of trade and commerce before the present century the following observations of L. S. S. O'Malley in the *District Gazetteer of Palamau* published in 1907 throw considerable light :— "Merchandise is still almost entirely carried by pack-bullocks, the drivers of which are, indeed, the chief traders. These *beparis* wander about, picking up supplies wherever they can find them, and taking

them from one *hat* or market to another, until they can get rid of their loads. The local traders are men with scarcely any larger sphere of operations, their practice being to buy paddy by the bullock-load from the *beparis*, employ women of the village to husk it, and then retail their purchases in the form of rice. As a class, in fact, they are petty hucksters with a very small capital, whose dealings do not, as a rule, extend beyond the adjoining districts and States. This commercial backwardness seems doomed to disappear now that the railway has tapped Palamau."

The commercial backwardness which O'Malley mentions has now been removed to a great extent. As mentioned before the construction of Barun-Daltonganj Railway in 1902 was a definite land-mark in more than one ways. In order to supply sleepers for the laying of the railway lines, jungles were considerably cleared and tracks made for the movement of carts with the timber. This led to the tracks being made better afterwards. The old records indicate that before the railway line was opened the cattle and other commodities used to be carried by carts or head-loads to points on Sone river and from there carried by boats. There was a further extension of the railways in 1929. The present century has seen a considerable development of the roadways. The contribution of the District Board towards the construction of the roadways throughout the district has been considerable and reference may be made to the Chapter on Local Self-Government. It may briefly be mentioned here that at present the district has a sizeable network of roads connecting it with the neighbouring districts both within Bihar and outside. The district is now connected by road with Mirzapur and the construction of the Rihand Dam in Mirzapur district will also help in the trade and commerce of Palamau district. Garhwa Road railway station is assuming more importance because of the neighbouring districts of Surguja in Madhya Pradesh and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. There are bans at the moment for free movement of certain commodities to this district and *vice-versa* but there are other commodities which can move and Garhwa Road station at the moment happens to be the nearest railway station for some of the areas in those districts.

It cannot, however, be said that the roads within the district serve all the purposes. As a matter of fact, most of the villages are so scattered and have such small habitation that it is not known as to when every village would have a feeder road to the neighbouring broader trans-district road. This is why the system of primary trade in the hands of *Vyaparis* and village *Baniyas* still continues and as circumstances indicate shall continue for a considerable time to come. The *Vyaparis* buy the grains and other commodities from the growers at their villages or at a little more central place where the commodities are brought by the villagers either on carts or as head-load. Pack-bullocks are still a common feature in this district while they are disappearing in some of the more advanced districts in Chotanagpur. The commodities are first taken to some big villages where there are some stores and from there they ultimately go to a larger market. The rustic *hats* still continue

to be the primary source for the turn-over of commodities. True. *Vyaparis* or the village *Baniyas* earn a very large share of the middleman's profit but with the present economy there does not appear to be any other alternative. The primary cultivator has no means to hold back the grains nor are there storage facilities near by. Public carrier trucks or privately owned trucks call at such of the *hats* which are situated at motorable roads and *Vyaparis* coming in these trucks buy up the vegetables, *ghee*, grains, etc. In the same way catechu and lac also find their market outside the district.

EXPORT AND IMPORT.

Export.

The export of the district consists mainly of forest produce, minerals, agricultural produce, live-stock and *ghee*. Some of them are coal, cement, lac, catechu (*katha*), grains, timber, bamboo, *ghee*, bones and hides, *kendu* leaves for *biri*, honey, vegetables, goats, etc. The bulk of the export trade passes through Daltonganj, Chhipadohar, Garhwa and Hariharganj. The railway stations that have a commercial importance within the district are Barwadih, Latehar, Daltonganj, Garhwa Road and Japla. A brief description of some of these commodities may be given.

Lac.—Before 1918 the main market of export of lac was Mirzapur where lac had to be carried on bullock-carts. The first shellac factory was opened at Shahpur (Daltonganj) in 1918 followed by other factories. The bulk of the lac is locally handled now and is ultimately sent to Calcutta. Lac is exported both by railways and roadways. Carrier trucks are becoming popular for the transport of lac. The lac market has been suffering from vicissitude. The total produce of lac has been discussed elsewhere. Practically the entire quantity of lac is exported.

Catechu.—Catechu is exported to Varanasi, Kanpur and Patna. In March, 1960 the wholesale price of catechu was found varying from Rs. 250 to Rs. 320 a maund. Almost the entire quantity of catechu produced is exported. It is difficult to get at the approximate figure of the quantity exported.

Oilseeds.—Among the oilseeds mustard and *til* occupy a prominent position. Previously Calcutta used to be the main centre for export. But with the establishment of oil mills in the neighbouring districts, the export to Calcutta has naturally decreased. The bulk of the oilseeds is now sent to Gaya and Varanasi, which are nearer to Palamau district. The chief exporting centres of oilseeds are Daltonganj and Garhwa. The wholesale price of mustard seeds in March, 1960 was nearabout Rs. 26 per maund and that of *til* Rs. 27.

Mahua seeds are also exported to Calcutta. *Mahua* oil is mainly consumed as the base soap. An enquiry in the market at Daltonganj suggests that the annual average export from Daltonganj is about 20,000 maunds a year. The wholesale price of *Mahua* seeds at Daltonganj was Rs. 20 a maund in March, 1960.

Ghee.—The excellent grazing fields of Palamau district have maintained a large cattle population from before. Forbes in his *Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations* published in 1875 mentioned that *ghee* was one of the most important articles of Palamau produce. Forbes estimated that 15,800 maunds of *ghee* used to be exported from Palamau at that time. It is interesting to observe that the price of *ghee* was Rs. 12 per maund. Even if the figure of export may not be absolutely correct, it will show that *ghee* occupied a very prominent place in the economy of the district.

Local enquiry suggests that the one time flourishing *ghee* trade has considerably declined. There was a widespread slaughter of cattle during the Second World War for the consumption of the military. The introduction of hydrogenated oil has also considerably affected the *ghee* trade. A local enquiry reveals that *ghee* is sent to Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Chaibassa, Banaras and Calcutta. The main centre of export of *ghee* is Garhwa from where it is sent out by the wholesale dealers. The retail price of *ghee* fluctuates from Rs. 4-4-0 to Rs. 5-4-0 per seer. In March, 1960 the ruling wholesale price was Rs. 198 per maund.

Forest produce.—The forest products of Palamau like timber, bamboos, *biri* leaves, crude gum, bee wax and honey are mostly exported. Bamboos are mostly despatched from Chhipadohar, Daltonganj, Kechki and Rajhara to the paper mills. About 2,000 maunds of bee wax is reported to be exported to Calcutta from Daltonganj. Crude gum to the extent of 2,000 maunds per year is exported to Katni and Bombay. The produce of honey has not been properly developed and a very small quantity is generally sent to Patna. Daltonganj grows practically all the vegetables and there is a heavy demand on the meagre vegetable belts in Palamau for consumption at Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Japla and Dehri-on-Sone. With the industrialisation of Ranchi, which has already started, there will be a further pressure on the vegetable market at Daltonganj, Hariharganj and other places. The quick moving trucks regularly call at the roadside markets for purchasing vegetables and their quick transport elsewhere. It has already been mentioned elsewhere that there is a brisk trade in goats in this district. *Dabkars*, a professional Muslim section dealing in goats, have kept the goat trade almost entirely in their hands. It is a common sight to see truck-loads of goats being taken to the railway stations, for export to bigger stations like Patna, Jamshedpur or Calcutta.

Import.

The district imports a large number of essential commodities from the neighbouring districts, some of which are foodgrains, piece goods, sugar, kerosene oil, yarn, salt, cotton piece goods, tobacco, medicines, spices, etc. Palamau does not grow sufficient rice for the internal consumption of the district. It is mostly imported from Sasaram in Shahabad district and Doudnagar in Gaya district. Surguja was a great source for the import of rice. At the moment the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have banned the export of rice from Surguja. Palamau used to get a considerable quantity of rice from Gumla in Ranchi district. Gumla rice is now mostly diverted to Ranchi and other places. A local enquiry in the market suggests that about 50,000 maunds of rice is annually imported in the district. This is in addition to the bulk supply from the Supply Department.

Wheat.—Wheat is also imported from Shahabad district. Besides the quantity supplied by the Supply Department not less than 10,000 maunds of wheat a year on an average is imported in normal circumstances. In this connection it has to be mentioned that drought is quite common in this district leading to scarcity conditions. The following statement showing receipts of rice and wheat in the district of Palamau has been taken from the District Supply Office :—

Statement showing Receipt of Rice and Wheat in the district of Palamau.

Year.		Rice.			Wheat.		
		Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.
1952	...	15,981	39	0	40,287	21	0
1953	...	12,150	7	6	21,668	31	0
1954	...	9,725	37	4	4,450	27	0
1955	...	21,004	0	0	1,717	0	0
1956	...	58,844	33	12	67,808	38	12
1957	...	5,900	11	0	86,147	14	0
1958	...	32,157	25	0	3,56,556	2	0
1959 (Up to August)		—			27,929	37	12

Arhar and gram are usually imported from Sasaram in Shahabad district and Daudnagar in Gaya district, Aligarh, Etawah and Agra. Not less than 50,000 maunds of gram a year is imported in normal condition. In 1958, which was a difficult year, about 2,000 maunds of gram had been imported from Punjab. Sugar is imported from Dalmianagar in Shahabad district and other places as guided by the Supply Department. Kanpur and Bombay are the main places from where cloth is imported. It is difficult to ascertain the value of the cloth that is imported in a year. A local enquiry in Daltonganj market suggests that not less than Rs. 20,00,000 worth of cloth is imported within the district. Tobacco comes mostly from the neighbouring district of Gaya which is noted for the manufacture of good tobacco. Salt, spices, kerosene oil, petrol, diesel oil, etc., are also imported.

Trading Centres.

There is no regulated market in the district. As already mentioned the primary markets are the village *hats* and *bazars* and the secondary markets are places like Garhwa, Daltonganj, Hariharganj, Japla, etc.

The wholesale agents usually maintain *Arhats* or godowns and take a commission per maund of the commodity for storage as their fees. The condition of storage facilities are rather primitive and leads to a lot of wastage. State waring house activities have not yet been extended to this district.

It may be generally observed that there is no wholesale business other than lac, catechu and forest products. Grain *mandis* in the popular sense do not exist. The *Arhatias* who are concentrated at Garhwa and Daltonganj act as wholesale dealers and form the link between the small producers and retailers. The retail marketing centres are Daltonganj, Garhwa, Nagar, Ranka, Ramna, Godarmana, Panki, Lesliganj, Tarhasi, Satbarwa, Latehar, Chandwa, Chhipadohar, Barwadih, Chanki, Chhattarpur and Mahuadanr. The *melas* in the district have very good turn over of the produce of the district and also for imported goods. A list of rural markets covered by the *hats* is given as an appendix to this text. The list is quoted from the last *District Gazetteer* as there has not been any particular change excepting that some of them have become more important.

Fair-Price Shops.

The number of fair-price shops in the district varies according to the circumstances. These shops are manned fully whenever there is scarcity and the foodgrains are pushed in by the Supply Department to keep down the prices. In 1958-59, a period of scarcity, there were 109 fair-price shops. In March, 1960 there were 81 fair-price shops working in the district. The fair-price shops during the normal times have a steadying influence on the market.

It may be said that co-operative marketing has made very little headway in the district.

Merchants Association.

An enquiry discloses that there are six trade associations mostly with offices at the district headquarters. They are *Vyapar Mandal*, Sugar Association, *Thoke Chini Bikreta Sangh* (Wholesale Sugar Dealers Guild), Traders Association, Retail Cloth Dealers Association and Wholesale Cloth Dealers Association. Not much could be ascertained about the activities of the associations and a local investigation suggests that some of them exist on paper only. There are no consumers associations.

Weights and Measures.

The All-India standard regarding weights and measures has been adopted. It may, however, be said that the standards are not in use, as a rule, in the interior of the district. Grains are still measured out in *Pailas* (small basket) on the borders of Hazaribagh and Ranchi districts. There are also time-honoured pieces of stones used as weights which, however, conform to the standard weights. The necessary rod is not always of the standard length in the interiors.

CHAPTER IX.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Old Time Highways.

The pargana of Palamau is a land of forests and hills and during the last few centuries it has presented an administrative problem to the rulers. In spite of the inaccessibility of the parts of the district invaders were attracted towards the pargana. Emperor Shershah was attracted probably when he was building the Badshahi Road, now Grand Trunk Road and Sherghati was an important trade centre on this road. Sherghati was closely associated with Palamau from commercial point of view. The opening of the Badshahi Road was a landmark for Palamau as people could march from Sherghati into the interior of Palamau. Shaista Khan had marched from Patna in 1642 and entered the territories of the Cheros through Manatu Pass. Jungles had to be cut down and an apology of a road was made wide enough for an army to move somehow. After this, Daud Khan appears to have proceeded against the Cheros but the difficult nature of the country and the grim want of communication was appreciated by the fact that Daud Khan's army took about a month to cover a distance of 14 miles. They had to carve out every foot of the road as it were. But Daud Khan had determination behind him and he opened up a portion of the countryside. The march of Daud Khan is found in a map preserved in the Mannulal Library at Gaya.

This pargana was held during the Mughal rule by members of Chero family as *jagir* on an annual *Peshkash* and on condition of service. The want of communication, the rugged nature and the inaccessibility of the terrain had always prompted the local rulers to ignore their lords. One of the jagirdars, Pratap Rai, made default in the payment of *Peshkash* to the Mughal Government and troops were sent against him. Pratap Rai, however, managed to appease the Mughal Government who made him a Commander of one thousand horses and gave a grant of Palamau as a military tenure at a jama of Rs. 2,50,000. In later times as well some jagirdars were refractory and the jagirs were resumed and resettled. The Chero jagirdars or ghatwals were called Rajas. The Palamau estate was also called Pundag and it was included in the grant of the Dewani to the East India Company and since then the Company became entitled to the rent payable by the ghatwals or Rajas of Palamau. The ghatwals had tremendous influence because of the want of communications.

In this difficult country it was a case of administrative exigency leading to the construction of the roads. After the establishment of the rule of East India Company there was some internal trouble owing to the rivalry of the two claimants, Chitrajit Rai and Gopal Rai. Captain Camac was attracted and naturally wanted to fish in the troubled water

in 1771. He captured Palamau fort and made a settlement with Raja Gopal Rai. The vicissitude of Gopal Rai will be found in the Chapter on History. It has to be mentioned here that in 1786 Mr. Mathew Leslie, Collector of Ramgarh district to which Palamau then appertained made a fresh settlement of Palamau estate and in 1789 the new lessee Thakurai Sheo Prasad Singh continued. The problem of keeping the lessees in their position led the administration to make some sort of roads. There was another reason why the early administrators felt the necessity of making roads and that was because of the minerals of the area.

Captain Camac had literally overrun an absolutely unknown and unchartered territory. When he moved with the army he almost did not know what was there five miles beyond his camp until his spies brought him information. It was easy to fight a pitched battle and win it but it was difficult to consolidate the control and one of the biggest pre-requisite was to have a survey of the area and a fairly dependable map. In this connection the great work of the early pioneers who did the survey and mapped the area cannot be overemphasised. The country was strange and difficult, mountains and terrains were formidable barriers. The people were unresponsive and the climate was unhealthy. Proper medical assistance was difficult to get and movement was extremely hazardous because of the want of roads. The magnitude of the work of the pioneers who studied the area, carried out the survey and compiled some sort of maps, under such difficult circumstances, could well be imagined. Glimpses of their work could be had from the three volumes of Historical Records of the Survey of India by Col. R. H. Phillimore. Col. Phillimore's painstaking and monumental research has enabled us to have the names of some of the poineers who made the laying of the communication artery possible in the later years.

It appears that in January, 1776 Major Rennel, Surveyor General had reported "In Ramgurh and Palamaw, no surveyor has ever yet been employed. The idea that we have of the interior parts of these districts, is from some sketches and remarks made by Capt. Camac, Lieut. Fennel.....The principal parts of Chuta Nagpur, Toree and Koondah were regularly surveyed by Lieut. Fennel who died whilst on the Survey. He had instructions to survey Palamaw and Ramgur also.....This survey will take up five or six months." Charles Ranken was appointed to survey Palamau but in January, 1777 Rennel had reported that Lieut. Ranken could not carry on the survey in Palamaw because of administrative troubles.

A map based on a survey completed in 1777 was prepared for "Ramgur, Palamaw, Chuta Nagpur, Toree and Koondah filled in largely from observations and remarks of Capt. Camac and Lieut. Fennel, who reduced these provinces to subjections". Col. Phillimore mentions that the first edition of the Bengal Atlas, 1779—81 had nine plates and one of them was for the *conquered provinces on the south of Bahar, viz., Ramgur, Palamaw and Chuta Nagpur with their dependencies.*

This was the first concrete result of the desire of Camac who while in command on the South West Frontier in 1771 had suggested a survey through Chota Nagpur and Palamau and wrote about it to the Council of Patna : "We have often experienced the extreme diminution of our troops and the great expense and difficulty of sending them by sea, while the road would be nearer and attended with scarce any objection or trouble". It must have been some satisfaction to Camac who died in 1784 that when submitting the maps, Rennel had acknowledged the sketches made by Camac and his notes on the Geography and nature of the country "in the little known regions of Ramgur and Palamaw".

The next survey work in Palamau appears to have been done by William Cartwright who surveyed a route of 689 miles from Hazaribagh through Palamau and Surguja and back to Chatra. The officers of the Ramgarh Battalion combined this work with their arduous duty. Some of them who worked in Palamau were Carmichael Smyth, Rapper, Ferguson and Robert Smith.

The next stage was the surveying of the lines for roads. The Surveyor General had deputed Gilmore in 1829 for surveying the line for a road running through Raniganj, Rup Narainpur, Palamau, Karagdiha to Bihar. This was completed quite quickly. The area had continued to be extremely unhealthy and one of the surveyors, Oliver wrote to the Surveyor General in 1828 of the "hardships, sickness and numberless other mortifications unprecedented."....."After Mr. Rossenrode proceeded dangerously ill to Gayah, I was able, what with the aid of Mr. Torrick just recovered, and the convalescent, to finish for the season Palamaw." Col. Phillimore in his third volume refers to Ollivers' "arduous six years trangulating eastwards..... through Palamaw and Chotanagpur beyond the reach of medical assistance." This brings the works of the pioneers till about 1825. The work continued spasmodically for various reasons and went on entailing exacting tasks.

The subdivision of Koranda which is practically now the district of Palamau was established only in 1853. There is a report on Koranda by H. Rickettes, Member of the Board of Revenue which is found in the *Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government*, Volume XX, published in 1855. Koranda[1] was a part of the district of Chotanagpur or Lohardaga at that time. Rickettes mentioned that the Lohardaga Division of Chotanagpur contained two estates, Nagar, the property of the Nagar Raja and Palamau the property of Government, purchased by a sale for arrear of revenue by 1813. Even at that time one Mr. Tailor had worked the coal mines at Rajhara for four or five years, but the undertaking was abandoned in 1848. For transport of coal the rivers were depended upon. It is not definitely known if the project was a failure because of want of roads. It is not unlikely. While discussing the roads of this Division, Rickettes did not have

1. Also mentioned frequently as Korunda.

much to say about the roads in the subdivision of Koranda. At that time the officer stationed at Koranda had jurisdiction over the estates of Udaipur escheated to Government, Palamau purchased by Government and Sirgooja a tributary *mahal* held under the Governor-General's Agent. But he had no roads practically to help him in his work and ponies and elephants were the means of conveyance. There was not even a good road connecting the headquarters of the subdivision at Koranda with the district headquarters at Kishenpur or Ranchi.

The Report of Mr. Rickettes, Member of the Board of Revenue in the *Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government*, 1855 particularly mentions about the lack of postal communication due to the inaccessibility of the area from Ranchi to Koranda. Ranchi was the headquarters of the district. Rickettes mentions : "An Assistant being now stationed at Koranda, it is necessary that postal communication should be established between that place and Ranchee. There is a *zamindary* dak as far as Lohardagga but no communication between that place and Koranda, the distance of 54 miles. The distance should be divided into 6 stages and that the runners should be stationed at each of the 4 named stages. In that part of the country people will not move at night alone. Two at Koranda and two at Lohardagga will suffice. Runners could be procured on Rs. 2-8-0 per month, but it was strongly recommended that Rs. 3 be allowed, for the lower sum will procure the services of only the very worst of the labouring population. The expenses will be Rs. 60 per mensem. The Principal Assistant recommends that an Overseer should be appointed at Rs. 6 but at present the necessity of incurring this expense is not shown."[1]

Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey gave a report on Pargana Palamau based on his note made during 1862 to 1866. A summary of this report is available in the *Annals of the Indian Administration*, Part II, Vol. XI, March, 1867, pages 100—106. The report also makes out that there were hardly any good roads and that the area was full of jungles and hills and mostly wasteland. This is shown from the mention : "The approximate area of the Pargana is 3,650 square miles of which 456 sq. miles are said to be cultivated; 2,399 square miles jungles fit for cultivation, 608 square miles entirely hills; 187 square miles unculturable waste".

Major Thompson was rather pessimistic about Daltonganj which had already been selected as headquarters of the subdivision and the residence of the Assistant Commissioner Incharge of Palamau. He mentions : "As a central situation it could not have been better selected but Daltonganj is not considered a healthy place". According to Major Thompson, if Palamau was to be made into a separate district one of the following sites should be selected as the headquarters.—"Panki, Turhursea, Padma, Boohee, Gurwa, Bishrampoor and Neturhat". All

1. It is understood that Palamau is still the poorest district from postal communication point of view. (P. C. R. C.).

these places that he mentioned had an elevation above sea level of more than 500 feet and Neturhat was shown to be 3,335 feet high. But it appears that excepting pony or cart track there were no roads connecting these places. The administrative problem of that time for this subdivision for want of roads could be appreciated from the fact that "the Munsiff resides at Lohardagga and the Deputy Commissioner at Ranchee, so that parties to civil suits and to such criminal cases as are appealed have unusually long distances to travel before their suits and cases can be disposed of. Lohardagga is 110 miles and Ranchee 150 miles distance from Oontaree." The Report on the Physical Geography also shows that the country was of a very broken and of a hilly nature, particularly the southern and western points and there were elevations at places of nearly 4,000 feet above the sea level. The hills as in many places were densely covered with trees and bush jungles and the climate was generally unhealthy. The Amanat Valley, Tappa Poondag, Imlee and Kote, were tolerably open and contained the richest cultivation in Palamau. The average breadth of the valley was 8 miles and the ground was of an undulating nature and this was one of the most healthy and flourishing parts of the pargana. It has also been found that there was abundance of lime and coal and it was also realised that river Sone could be utilised for transport. The Bengal Coal Company raised the coal at the pits for 8 pie or 3/4th of an anna per maund and after carrying it to the Sone first by boat down the Koil and afterwards when they found that the river route did not answer, by carts along a rough road which they made close to the right bank of the river, they sold it for four annas a maund. It is mentioned in Major Thompson's Report : "The distance from Rajhara to the point where the Koel runs into the Sone is less than 40 miles and a good road on the line formerly adopted by the Bengal Coal Company could easily be made. Any other line of road would be difficult of construction, as it would have to pass over hill ghats, that skirt the river for long distances, on either side. Iron, also is as plentiful as coal, and when it is considered how much of both these valuable minerals are required on the railway that are now in progress in N. W. Provinces and that the cost of both if brought from Palamau, Sirgooja, Rewa and Singrawlee would be far less than is now paid for what is brought from Bengal. It is surprising that up to this date nothing has been done to open out by good road or canal communication the vast resources of these Provinces."

At another place Major Thompson mentioned that if more and better lines of communication could have been opened up, Palamau could soon be converted from what it was then, into a model district. He also mentioned that trade was slight from the isolated position owing to the natural difficulty of transit and almost utter want of communication.

Major Thompson's observations were particularly relevant because of the insurrection that broke out in 1857. The inaccessibility of the countryside helped the people who raised the standard of a revolt against the administration. As a matter of fact it was this district

alone out of Chota Nagpur Division where there was a very deep-rooted and extremely widespread revolt.[1] The petty chiefs, Cheros, the Kharwars and other Adibasi tribes all rose almost to a man and fully utilised the want of communication.

Captain Dalton, Commissioner, had himself accompanied a section under Major MacDonald and fully appreciated the difficulty of want of communication. He remained at Lesliganj for some time for collecting supplies and making preparations and then entered the Bhogta country which was extremely difficult to tackle. He was not successful in capturing the two ring leaders, Nilambar Shahi and Pitambar Shahi, particularly because it was almost impossible to open up the jungle hide-outs.

The Movement of 1857 in Palamau district was an extremely difficult problem particularly because of want of communication. After the flare up, the administrative headquarters at Koranda or Jameerapat situated on a barren hill within the limits of Sirgooja was abandoned because it was not connected by roads and Lesliganj in the valley was selected as the headquarters. Lesliganj again was abandoned later in favour of a site on the bank of Koil river opposite Shahpur where the town known as Daltonganj grew up. The new civil station was made and occupied in 1863 and the name was given after Commissioner Dalton who was at the head of the Chotanagpur Division during the stormy period of 1857. The subdivision of Palamau was upgraded into a district from January 1st, 1892.

In 1880 a writer describing Palamau prefaced a section on 'Roads and Carriage' with the following remarks :—

> "This section might almost be written in the words, *mutatis mutandis*, of Alorovandius famous chapter concerning the owls of Iceland. Of *pucka* bridged roads there is not a single example. The few roads that do exist are little better than mere fair-weather tracks. Of these the principal are from Daltonganj to Ranchi, and from the same place to Dehri-on-Son. But few of the others are practicable for carts, and the remainder can only be used by pack cattle and elephants".[2]

Even as late as 1897 the Deputy Commissioner reported that "Palamau has neither railway nor reliable water communications, and all her roads are third class ones, i.e., *kachha* and unbridged ones. Her mode of transport of goods is by cart and by pack-bullocks. In the summer months (April, May and June), transport is very difficult owing to the want of fodder and water for cattle, and during the rains

1. "1857 in Bihar (Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas)" by P. C. Roy Chaudhury, Gazetteers' Revision Branch.

2. V. Ball, Geology of the Aurangabad and Hunter coalfields. Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. XV.

it is rendered almost impossible owing to the heavy condition of the roads and the flooded state of the numerous rivers and streams which intersect the roads frequently. Daltonganj is over 100 miles from Gaya, the nearest railway station; in dry weather it takes 8 to 10 days, and in the rainy season 12 to 20 days for a cart to do the journey". During the severe famine that occurred in that year, the difficulty of transport proved insurmountable, both road-routes and river-routes failing, and Palamau was cut off from supplies. "The fact is", the same officer said, "that Palamau is probably the most isolated district in the whole province of Bengal,—a district which in a time of scarcity may not inaptly be compared, in the words of the late Sir George Campbell, to a ship at sea running short of provisions".

The impact of the ravages of frequent famines in the latter half of the nineteenth century was great in Palamau due to the absence of the means of communications. There were two acute famines in 1897 and 1900. Food could not be rushed. Information regarding scarcity or famine could reach the administrative headquarters with delay. The advent of the railway in 1902, however, considerably met the situation. Prior to that year, the district was rather badly isolated and communications by railway, waterway or good road were almost non-existent. Administration was still a problem because of the bad communications. If military movements sponsored the earliest communications, exigency for better and normal administration was the second phase of expansion of communications. Before that the only traders were the traditional *banias* who carried on their business through pack-bullocks and ponies only in the surrounding villages and they could not extend their business beyond the neighbouring districts and State.

During the famine of 1897, in spite of bounties and advances to merchants due to the absence of means of transport of metalled roads and navigable rivers, great difficulties were there in importing food-grains. Foreseeing this dismal situation when the Government decided to import rice, no sufficient number of bullock carts were available for this transport from Gaya to Palamau. Unfortunately the rainy season had also set in and the roads had become impassable. It was then decided to send the rice from Gaya to Barun and through boat to Daltonganj up the son and Koil rivers, but this scheme of river transport also failed due to scanty rain in July and August which kept the rivers at an unnavigable depth. Rice could only be brought to Daltonganj by making arrangement of small boats and that also within three weeks. By that time the hardship on the people or casualty through starvation may well be imagined.

This isolation was broken when the Barun-Daltonganj Railway was sponsored and extended up to Rajhara in May, 1902. This was further extended by the close of that year up to Daltonganj connecting this part of the country with the railway system of India. The section from Daltonganj to Barkakana, constructed as part of Central

Indian Coalfields Railways and opened to traffic in 1929, has been connected with Calcutta-Barkakana Railway track and Barkakana-Gomoh track. The further extension of the railway has been covered elsewhere. The district, as a whole, has a poor railway mileage and many of the areas have no railway facilities.

Road Transport.

The first proper road made by Government was laid down in 1863 when the American Civil War had interrupted the cotton trade and it was desired to provide an outlet for the cotton grown in Palamau and Sirguja. This road was intended to join Daltonganj with the Grand Trunk Road *via* Sherghati a distance of 70 miles and was called the Bihar Cotton Road. But this road was never completed.

The interior of the district had not been opened out fully owing partly due to the nature of the country, which rendered the expense of laying roads prohibitive and partly because the resources of the District Board were inadequate for the large area comprised within the district. The want of communications was especially marked in the south, a large roadless tract, mostly covered by hill, rock and jungle. The hilly and broken part of the country and the absence of roads rendered even cart traffic impossible and practically the entire trade was carried on by slow moving pack-bullocks or head-loads along numerous well-worn tracks.

The extreme hazards of survey and mapping of the area have been indicated earlier. The fact remains that in spite of the great work done by the officers and staff of the Survey of India, so ably covered in Col. R. H. Phillimore's *Historical Records of the Survey of India* Volumes, not much attempt had been made by the civil administration to open up many roads throughout the 19th century. A picture of the roadways could be indirectly made out by the following observations on Palamau by E. B. Bradley-Birt in his *Chotanagpur, a Little Known Province of the Empire* (1903) :—

> "Palamau, until recently a subdivision of Ranchi but now forming a district of its own, has always been one of the best shooting grounds in Chotanagpur. It is a land of rivers, mountains, and jungle, and even in many parts is absolutely undisturbed. But Daltonganj, the head-quarters station on the North Koil, is now the centre of a large coal district, and the introduction of the railway has already made great changes threatening the peace of the jungle and foreshadowing the inevitable result of the advance of civilisation when Palamau too will cease to be a natural preserve and the haunt of big game".

It will thus be seen that till the beginning of this century the district was almost as somnolent and unopened as in the years following Captain Camac's invasion when Palamau was put as a part of the

district known as Ramgarh Hill Tract when the magisterial court held alternately at Sherghati now in Gaya district and Chatra now in Hazaribagh district. The very hugeness of the district including all Hazaribagh and Palamau with parts of Gaya, Monghyr and Manbhum, and the Chotanagpur chiefs rather loosely held had made Palamau the far flung abutment almost totally neglected. It were only the rivers, nature's gift that allowed some easy transport in the rainy season. Palamau as a whole till the end of the 19th century remained as the difficult area of the aboriginals, tigers and adventurers in business, the land of big game and of illness and a headache to the administrators.

In 1908 the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, Vol. XIX mentioned: "The Daltonganj section of the East Indian Railway (opened in 1902) runs for 55 miles within the District. The District contains 322 miles of road (of which 26 are metalled), and 38 miles of village tracks. The principal lines are from Daltonganj to Gaya District via Hariharganj and Manatu, to Ranchi, to the extreme south of the District through the Government forests, and to Mirzapur and Husainabad via the important market of Garwa; a good road from Garwa in the direction of Surguja is under construction. Quicksands in the Koil and its great breadth are extremely unfavourable to the development of the country west of that river".

For about two decades since the last Gazetteer (1926) was published the development of roadways was not sustained and practically the progress was slow. The District Board alone used to look after the maintenance of the roads within the district. With the increasing importance of the natural products of this forest district, the utilisation and exploitation of the forest products practically forced the authorities to take due care of the roads, their improvement and further expansion. The Forest Department did not pay much attention before to the forest roads, although now about 500 miles of roads are maintained by the three Forest Divisions in Palamau district, viz., Daltonganj Forest Division, Garhwa Forest Division and Latehar Forest Division.

As regards the Public Works Department prior to 1949 there was no unit of P. W. D. functioning in this district. During 1949 a subdivision of P. W. D. was established at Daltonganj under the Hazaribagh Division and another subdivision of P. W. D., at Chandwa in 1951. It is only with the launching of the first Five-Year Plan that the Public Works Department started moving in the matter of improvement of roads which were till then entirely maintained by the District Board. The third subdivision at Garhwa was created in November, 1955 and the Daltonganj subdivision was also simultaneously made a division of P. W. D. This division is entrusted with the maintenance and development of the roadways in the district. In 1956 Barwadih subdivision was created. Before the First Five-Year Plan not even a single mile of Palamau roads were black-topped. By 1959 these three agencies, viz., District Board, Forest Department and the Public Works Department have brought about a change in

the roadways. A description of the main roads at the close of 1959, their classification, areas served, etc., is given below categorised according to the controlling agencies. There is no National Highway in this district.

Roads under State Public Works Department.

Daltonganj-Ranchi Road.—Out of the total length of 104 miles between Daltonganj to Ranchi a length of 66 miles is in this district. It is one of the finest all-weather roads in the State, bridged at all necessary points, and entirely black-topped. The important places through which this road runs are Satwara, Manika, Sasang, Latehar, Jagaldaga Colliery and Chandwa. On this road the inspection bungalows maintained by the P. W. D. are at Manika, Sasang, Latehar and Chandwa. The road is of great administrative importance and connects the beautiful Latehar area with Netarhat and other places of beauty.

Daltonganj-Aurangabad Road.—Out of the total distance of 60 miles between Daltonganj and Aurangabad, 44 miles lie in Palamau district. This is also a State highway, fully bridged and entirely black-topped. This all-weather road touches Nawa, Chhatarpur police-station and Hariharganj police-station and a branch road takes off to Nabinagar in Gaya district. This road serves as an all-weather link between Daltonganj and Patna via Grand Trunk Road and Gaya and during fair weather through canal road. There is one inspection bungalow on this road at Chhatarpur maintained by District Board. The road passes through a picturesque and interesting countryside and is very useful for trade.

Chandwa-Balumath-Gonia Road.—This is an all-weather State highway running from Chandwa to Dobhi on the Grand Trunk Road but only 23.75 miles of this road is within the district of Palamau. It takes off from 57th milestone in Daltonganj-Ranchi Road, is fully bridged and black-topped and forms part of the P. W. D. road in the districts of Hazaribagh and Gaya via Chatra and Dobhi. It touches Balumath where one National Extension Service Block has been opened.

Rehla-Garhwa-Ranka-Godarmana Road.—This road takes off from Rehla at a distance of about 2 furlongs from North Koil and its total length up to Godarmana near Madhya Pradesh border, opposite to Ramanujganj in the district of Surguja, is 36.5 miles. In between Rehla and Godarmana the road was intervened by six major gaps. Out of these six major gaps, the construction of a major bridge of 1,615 ft. 6 inches on river North Koil, of 645 ft. on river Danru near Garhwa town and two submersible bridges at Hurdag and Kharso have been completed. A minor high level bridge on Chapchapia has been just completed. One submersible bridge on Andraj is under construction. This is a State highway and on its completion, this will provide a vital road in an area of no railways for the transport of the rich forest products of the outlying area south of Garhwa and that of Surguja district, the nearest railhead for which is Garhwa railway station. This road connects Ranka, one National Extension Service Block headquarters and leads towards Bhandaria another National Extension Service Block headquarters. There are two inspection bungalows besides this road at Garhwa and Godarmana. At Ranka also there is one inspection bungalow of District Board, Palamau. Bhandaria is a neglected outlying point and will grow in importance because of this road and the National Extension Service Block. Bhandaria has a forest bungalow.

North Koil Bridge Link Road.—This State highway takes off from near the bridge on Sadabah river about 11 miles from Daltonganj on Daltonganj-Aurangabad Road and connects Rehla-Garhwa-Ranka-Godarmana State highway. This is 12.5 miles long, fully bridged and black-topped.

Daltonganj-Barwadih-Bhandaria-Godarmana Road.—This road bifurcates at a distance of 7 miles from Daltonganj at Bhusar on Daltonganj-Ranchi Road, passes through Kutmu and then takes a turn to Barwadih and Godarmana touching Hutar coalfields and crossing North Koil near about Hutar. The road from Bhusar to Barwadih 12 miles long and from Bhandaria to Godarmana 9 miles are under improvement by P. W. D. and the rest about 25 miles from Barwadih to Bhandaria has been kept in abeyance for finalisation of a new alignment. This is a fair-weather road and when it is ready it will complete a circuit from Daltonganj to Garhwa, Godarmana, Bhandaria, Barwadih and back to Daltonganj.

Rehla-Bishrampur Road.—This road connects Bishrampur National Extension Service Block headquarters and police-station with the North Koil bridge link road at about two miles from Rehla. It is black-topped and fully bridged and is a classified village road. There is one District Board inspection bungalow at Bishrampur.

The following roads are under improvement by the Public Works Department :—

Daltonganj-Lesliganj-Panki Road.—This 28 miles fair-weather road is under improvement by P. W. D. It has four major gaps on Banwa, Khapargarhi, Sapni and Satbahni which are to be bridged. Buses ply only during fair weather.

Balumath-Herhang-Panki Road.—This 29 miles long road is not fully bridged and only jeepable in fair weather. This has been recently taken up by P. W. D. and is under improvement. The major mileage of this road belonged to Forest Department and a negligible distance by District Board.

Kejari-Patan Road.—This road is 10.25 miles long, unbridged and jeepable only in fair weather. It takes off from Daltonganj-Aurangabad Road near the Amanat river. It is under improvement.

Patan-Manatu Road (up to Padma).—This 11.75 miles road is unbridged and jeepable only in fair weather. It has been put under improvement. From Manatu to Padma about 6 miles is a *katcha* road of District Board.

Garhwa-Nagar-Untari-Murisemar Road.—This road starting from Garhwa is 29.5 miles long. From Garhwa to Nagar-Untari a distance of about 23 miles is water-bound macadam and fully bridged but not as yet black-topped. This distance is for all weather, but from Nagar-Untari to Murisemar about 6.5 miles, although of water-bound macadam built, but in a very bad condition. One major gap is also between Nagar-Untari to Murisemar. This distance can be covered only in fair weather.

Rerma-Sudna Road.—This road of 2.5 miles is under improvement by P. W. D.

Roads under District Board.

The roads under the supervision of the District Board and their conditions, mileage, etc., are detailed below in a *proforma*. It may be mentioned that because of the inadequacy of funds the condition of the roads has been rather bad under the District Board :—

Serial no.	Name of the road.	Distance.	Condition of the road. Metalled.	Gravelled.	Katcha.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	
1	Daltonganj-Garhwa	18 1 0	4 3 0	1 4 0	12 2 0	
2	Garhwa-Majhiawan	12 1 15	..	8 0 0	4 1 15	
3	Majhiawan-Dingwai	27 0 16	..	..	27 0 16	Katcha.
4	Lesliganj-Ekhara	26 5 135	..	7 0 0	19 5 135	It terminates at Gaya border.
5	Lesliganj-Loop	2 6 54	2 6 54	..	..	
6	Panki-Chako	6 1 20	..	..	6 1 20	
7	Daltonganj-Patan	13 2 32	..	..	13 2 32	

Serial no.	Name of the road.	Distance.	Condition of the road. Metalled.	Gravelled.	Katcha.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	
8	Garhwa up to border towards Lohardaga.	1 4 0	..	..	1 4 0	It terminates at Lohardaga border.
9	Lesliganj-Bari	6 4 0	..	..	6 4 0	
10	Udaipur-Sagalim	2 4 0	..	..	2 4 0	
11	Daltonganj-Garhwa Road to Pathra village.	1 4 0	..	..	1 4 0	
12	Shahpur-Basti	1 0 168	..	..	1 0 168	
13	Shahpur-Chainpur	1 1 120	..	1 1 120	.	
14	Approach road to Garhwa Road Railway Station.	0 2 0	0 2 0	..	..	
15	Approach road to Mahammadganj Railway Station.	0 2 15	0 2 15	..	..	
16	Approach road to Rajhara Railway Station.	2 4 0	..	..	2 4 0	
17	Approach road to Japla Railway Station.	0 5 167	0 5 167	..	..	
18	Japla-Chhatarpur road.	17 6 0	13 0 0	4 6 0	..	This is all-weather road.
19	Japla-Deorighat	2 3 0	2 3 0	..	..	Metalled and all-weather road but not in good condition. Although under District Board, but the cement factory keeps it barely usable.
20	Mahammadganj-Kandi.	9 0 0	..	9 0 0	..	
21	Japla to border towards Nabinagar.	5 1 0	..	5 1 0	..	
22	Ankasi-Lurgumi	9 4 20	..	9 4 20	..	
23	Mahuadanr-Hami Chatakpur.	9 1 120	..	9 1 120	..	

Serial no.	Name of the road.	Distance.	Condition of the road. Metalled.	Gravelled.	Katcha.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	
24	Mahuadanr-Champa	4 7 110	..	4 7 110	..	
25	Mahuadanr towards Barway in Ranchi district.	6 0 40	..	6 0 40	..	
26	Patan-Nawajaipur	7 4 0	..	..	7 4 0	
27	Rajwadih-Chinaki	3 6 0	..	..	3 6 0	
28	Approach to Untari Road Railway Station.	0 4 0	..	..	0 4 0	
29	Approach road to Latehar Railway Station.	2 4 0	2 4 0	..	..	
30	Girjia Toli to Surguja border.	14 4 150	..	..	14 4 150	Not maintained.
31	Betla Fort Road ..	3 0 0	..	..	..	
32	Untari-Bhawnathpur.	9 4 0	..	..	9 4 0	Not maintained.
33	Approach road to M. E. School, Latehar.	0 4 0	..	..	0 4 0	
34	Sultana road to Ladi village.	0 2 127	..	..	0 2 127	
35	Patan road to Kishanganj village.	2 0 0	..	..	2 0 0	
36	Rajhara-Pahley	4 6 0	..	..	4 6 0	Not maintained.
37	Haidernagar-Kasiara	2 6 0	..	..	2 6 0	
38	Chandwa-Chatra Road to Nagar Mandir Road.	0 6 52	..	..	0 6 52	
39	Japla-Basti	1 0 223	..	..	1 0 223	
40	Japla-Pathraghat	18 0 0	..	..	18 0 0	
41	Approach road to Daudarkala L. P. School.	1 4 0	..	1 0 0	0 4 0	

Serial no.	Name of the road.	Distance.	Condition of the road. Metalled.	Gravelled.	Katcha.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	M. F. Y.	
42	Approach road to Chankari L. P. School.	2 0 0	..	..	2 0 0	
43	Chainpur-Salatua	6 0 0	..	..	6 0 0	
44	Kechki-Mandu	10 4 0	5 0 0	5 4 0	..	
45	Garu Rood Road ..	12 0 0	..	..	12 0 0	

Excepting these roads, there were other roads under District Board also, which have either been abandoned or transferred to Forest Department or to Public Works Department. An important District Board road is Daltonganj-Garhwa Road, which connects two large trade centres and is 18 miles long. It crosses a series of unbridged rivers of which North Koil, Tahley and Mangerdehai are more important. Another river Danru has been bridged by Public Works Department. This is a fair-weather road.

Till 1958-59, under District Board there were 60.50 miles of metalled and 239.50 miles of unmetalled roads.

Forest roads.

The Forest Department through their three Divisional Forest Offices at Daltonganj, Garhwa and Latehar maintain about 500 miles of forest roads for their own purposes. These forest roads have been classified into two categories—class I and class II roads. These roads and the Forest Rest Houses inside the forests have made the inspection of the forest possible. The forest roads are normally used by the Government officers and they are not thrown open to the buses or trucks unless required for administrative purposes.

Municipal road.

The Daltonganj Municipality maintains 16 miles of road out of which 12.71 miles are metalled and 3.29 miles are unmetalled. The condition of the municipal roads is not too good and in great contrast to the P. W. D. roads.

RAILWAYS.

It has been mentioned before that Barun-Daltonganj Railway which was opened as far as Rajhara in May, 1902 was extended up to Daltonganj by the close of that year connecting Palamau with the railway system of India. Another line of railway was also surveyed

in 1925 and construction had begun which was to traverse through the coalfields of Hazaribagh, Palamau and Sirguja of Madhya Pradesh. This line was to cross the district from east to west, from a point near Chandwa police-station through Kerh to a point near Bhandaria police-station and so on into Surguja. The construction of this line had to be abandoned due to paucity of fund. Sometime or other this railway communication has to be established to open up the countryside and for feeding the multi-purpose projects with coal, etc. Another part of the Central Indian Coalfields Railways proposal for extending the line beyond Daltonganj up to Barkakana, thus connecting Barkakana and Dehri-on-Sone by single broad gauge line, was opened to traffic during 1929. This line has been extremely useful for goods and passenger traffic, because of its connection with Barkakana-Calcutta Railway tract and Barkakana-Gomoh Railway tract.

The total length of railway line passing through this district from Japla to Mahuamillan is 115 miles and the railway stations are Japla, Haidernagar, Mahammadganj, Untari Road, Garhwa Road, Rajhara, Daltonganj, Kechki, Barwadih, Chhipadohar, Kumandih, Latehar, Richughuta, Tori and Mahuamilan. From most of these stations *Biri* leaves, timber and bamboo are exported. From Japla the main goods to be exported is cement and from Rajhara coal. Both the railways and roadways have played a very important role in the economic life of the district. Till lately after the introduction of railways, the roads of Palamau cut at many places by the rivers were mostly fair-weather roads and the railways were the main carrier of the imported goods.

As regards competition between the rail and the road in this district, it can be safely said that there is hardly any competition. On the one track line inside this district only 2 passenger up trains and 2 passenger down trains run (1959). This is extremely inadequate for the passengers and taking advantage of this situation the bus owners have fixed their timings. Garhwa and Latehar are usually reached by the common man by a bus and not by train. The differences in their charges are negligible, and the buses are normally over-crowded and service rendered uncomfortable. Most of the points served by the buses are not touched by railways, which is another reason of this advantage on the part of the bus owners. The railway facilities are expected to be stregnthened and more trains have to run without the least effect on the bus services.

With regard to the goods traffic, shellac which was once a main commodity for export from Daltonganj railway station is hardly exported from here now. This is because the transport of these goods through trucks take comparatively lesser time and ensures safer delivery. Usually the places served by the trucks inside the district for transportation of goods are not served by railways. Where it is entirely impossible to carry goods through trucks, people use the railways. The revenue of railway has considerably gone down within the

district. Time factor, so very important in the business world is helping the buses and trucks. There is also no programme in near future for further expansion of the railways inside the district, but for the roads there is a large programme.

TRANSPORT VEHICLES.

Due to the previous unsatisfactory road system and a number of unbridged rivers till lately, transport through bullock-carts was also not possible on most of the sides. Porters, pack-bullocks and ponies were used for transport from village to village. Now these conditions have considerably changed and bullock-carts are mostly used in rural communication.

The number of bullock-carts registered in the Daltonganj Municipality and District Board is no index of the real number of the bullock-carts that are in service in the district. The District Board was not serious about insisting on bullock-carts being registered. Rubber-tyre carts drawn by bullocks common in the districts of North Bihar are not seen. *Ekkas*, two wheeled light vehicle, with a flat platform as seat, drawn by single horse so very common in Bihar are also not common in this district.

Cycles form by far the largest number of private vehicles. The number of cycles registered in the Daltonganj Municipality during 1958-59 is 848, and possibly double the figure is in use without registration. Small tradesmen take their goods on these cycles and more from place to place. Rickshaws are much in use especially in the urban areas. This is a three-wheeled cycle carriage, accommodates two passengers and is peddled by a man. During 1958-59, the number of rickshaws registered in Daltonganj Municipality is 222. Passengers with small luggages and for a short distance prefer this conveyance. *Thelagari*, a two-wheeled light carriage drawn and pushed simultaneously by three to four men is used in Daltonganj and other towns for transporting eight to nine maunds of commodities from the shop of one businessman to another. Their registration in Daltonganj Municipality began in 1957-58.

Regarding the power-propelled vehicles a statement of the total number of vehicles under different heads paying their taxes in this district is given below :—

Year.	Motor cycles.	Trucks.	Buses.	Cars and Jeeps.	Tractors.	Trailors.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1956-57 ..	32	286	31	152	10	23	534
1957-58 ..	29	300	34	167	10	25	565
1958-59 ..	45	390	36	151	10	25	657
1959-60 .. (up to 31st August 1959).	51	426	44	165	10	25	721

Besides the number of buses registered in Palamau district there are about 10 buses more that ply on the roads inside Palamau district, but pay their taxes in one of the adjoining districts. The accurate number of trucks cannot be easily compiled for the reason that the truck owners surrender their registration when there is no work for them to avoid payment of taxes and also when their trucks are not in order.

As regards the passenger buses plying on the roads of this district, the route from Daltonganj to Gaya has been provincialised and one Rajya Transport bus plies direct from Daltonganj to Gaya and another from Daltonganj to Aurangabad. In March 1960, a direct Bus Service from Patna to Daltonganj and back has been introduced by Rajya Transport Board. The permits for plying the buses are obtained by the private individuals or companies from the Chotanagpur Regional Transport Authority with its headquarters at Ranchi. This unit has the Commissioner of Chotanagpur Division as its Chairman and several officials and non-officials as its members. This Regional Transport Authority meets from time to time, reviews the road position and grants permits, if necessary. The same Regional Transport Authority also grants permits to the private and public carriers for carrying goods. The number of the buses and the trucks will considerably rise when the district is adequately provided with roads. The routes over which the passenger bus services run are as follows :—

(1) Daltonganj-Panki.
(2) Daltonganj-Panki-Chako (extended up to Hazaribagh).
(3) Daltonganj-Patna.
(4) Daltonganj-Manatu.
(5) Daltonganj-Hussainabad.
(6) Daltonganj-Hariharganj.
(7) Daltonganj-Bhandaria via Rehla.
(8) Shahpur-Bhawnathpur.
(9) Shahpur-Majhiawan.
(10) Garhwa Road-Bhandaria.
(11) Daltonganj-Mahuadanr.
(12) Murisemar to Daltonganj via Garhwa-Rehla.
(13) Daltonganj-Ranchi.
(14) Daltonganj-Aurangabad.
(15) Daltonganj to Chatra via Chandwa.
(16) Latehar-Mahuadanr.
(17) Daltonganj to Bhawnathpur via Rehla.
(18) Daltonganj to Godermana via Rehla.
(19) Shahpur to Bargarh.
(20) Hariharganj to Japla via Chhatarpur.
(21) Hariharganj to Aurangabad.

The condition of most of the buses is rather bad. Overcrowding is common and third class passengers are huddled together and quite a number of them have to remain standing. But for first and second class passengers there is some comfort in the seating arrangements. In this district there are no organisations either of the bus owners or of the employees. The bus services have done a great work in this district which has a small railway mileage.

There is not even a single taxi in service in this district.

WATER COMMUNICATIONS.

The rivers are hilly and run dry in the summer and become turbulent for a short time in the rains. Communication by water in this district is, therefore, of little importance. The Sone can be navigated in country boats during and after the rains when conditions are favourable. This river is also used for taking floats of sabai grass, timber, bamboos, etc., and an assessment known as "*Bahata*" payment was common at certain points levied by the zamindars before and by the State now after the abolition of zamindaris. The north Koil can also be negotiated in shallow boats as far as Daltonganj in the rains. The most important use to which the rivers were put was the floating of thousands of bamboos out of the forests down the Koil in rafts from Kechki to Japla and beyond. But now bamboos are mostly transported through railways from Kechki and as such the importance of water communication in this district has considerably decreased.

Ferries.

In the absence of bridges the rivers are crossed on foot where it is possible. During the rains ferries ply. As most of the connecting ghats have not as yet been bridged so the ferries on the three rivers, viz., Sone, North Koil and Amanat are maintained by the Palamau District Board.

The ferries along the Sone are situated at Deori, Daugwar, Saundipura, Budhua, Gara, Ranidewa, Hariharpur, Sonipura, Parata Khokha, Panchdumar and Kadhawan. On the North Koil there are ferries at Mahammadganj and Sisha, on the river Amanat at Sikki and Tarhasi and on Danru at Danru. Each of these ferries as per bye-laws is required to maintain two boats, one big and another small.

TRANSPORT BY AIR.

There is one small landing ground at Chianki at the third mile from Daltonganj on Daltonganj-Ranchi Road. This landing ground is generally used during fair weather and normally by planes belonging to the State Government. No regular services operate from here or through this landing ground. The landing ground is 2,450 ft. from east to west and 1,500 ft. from north to south.

There are no ropeways in this district.

REST HOUSES.

The inspection bungalows are distributed throughout the whole district and controlled by the agencies for the roads. The Public

Works Department and the District Board maintain inspection bungalows primarily for the use of their officers, but these rest houses or inspection bungalows are also available for the public on payment if they are vacant. There is one Circuit House at Daltonganj fully furnished under the administrative control of Revenue Department. The Deputy Commissioner, Palamau is in its immediate charge.

The inspection bungalows maintained by the P. W. D are at the following places :—(1) Garhwa, (2) Godermana, (3) Manika, (4) Sasang, (5) Latehar, (6) Chandwa and (7) Garu rest house. The following are the inspection bungalows maintained by the District Board :—

Latehar subdivision—

(1) Latehar, (2) Chandwa, (3) Balumath, (4) Mahuadanr, (5) Netarhat and (6) Garu.

Garhwa subdivision—

(1) Garhwa, (2) Bishrampur, (3) Rehla, (4) Nagar Untari, (5) Ramna and (6) Ranka.

Daltonganj sadar subdivision—

(1) Lesliganj, (2) Panki, (3) Manatu, (4) Nawa, (5) Chhatarpur, (6) Hariharganj, (7) Hussainabad, (8) Haidernagar and (9) Mahammadganj.

The Forest Rest Houses are the following :—

Daltonganj Forest Division—

(1) Lat, (2) Mandu, (3) Kerh, (4) Betla, (5) Barwadih, (6) Kechki, (7) Daltonganj, (8) Kundri, (9) Seoti, (10) Karmahi and (11) Saraidih.

Latehar Forest Division—

(1) Maromar, (2) Baresand, (3) Rud, (4) Aksi, (5) Adhey, (6) Amjhara, (7) Mahuamillan, (8) Sarju, (9) Kumandih, (10) Mutlang and (11) Fulsu.

Garhwa Forest Division—

(1) Bhandaria, (2) Chainpur, (3) Kulku, (4) Bishrampur, (5) Bhawanathpur and (6) Kailar.

There is one Forest Rest House at Netarhat in the Palamau district but it is under the control of Gumla Forest Division of Ranchi district. Most of the Forest Rest Houses are situated at beauty spots and will be appreciated by the tourists.

Travel Facilities.

Old time Rest Houses and Dharmashalas.—The old time institution of *sarais* of which one reads in the records of those early days hardly exist in the district. Owing to the hazards of road journey when railways did not exist there was not much necessity for *sarais* and

dharmashalas. When roads and railways were opened some of them came to be established.

There are now 19 *dharmashalas* in the district. There are no good hotels either in the towns or in the areas where tourism could be developed. Even the beauty spot of Netarhat is without any hotel. The men incharge of the Rest Houses may turn out a meal provided they are given provision. In Daltonganj there are some very cheap hotels and restaurants with poor standard but they serve a great purpose by catering meals within a rupee to the itinerant middle class men who happen to be there on a casual visit.

Post Offices.

Post offices in the Palamau district are under the control of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Hazaribagh Division with headquarters at Hazaribagh. At Daltonganj there is one head office. In the post-independence period there has been a phenomenal increase in the rural post office. Now 14 sub-offices and 123 branch offices are controlled by this head office. Khelari, McCluskieganj and Ray are in the Ranchi civil district, but their post offices are still controlled by the Daltonganj Head Office. There are three types of communications through which postal activities are carried on, viz., Rail 115 miles, by bus 64 miles and by runners for 598 miles. There are 101 villages that are served once between 7 to 14 days, 437 villages weekly, 895 bi-weekly and the rest villages and towns are served daily.

The average number of postal articles served in each month is 2,40,828. As regards the facilities available for extension of post offices, there is a certain standard set up by Postal Department regarding the population, etc., on which experimental post offices are being opened. There are not many villages with a population of 2,000. For those villages which fulfil this standard, experimental post offices are opened. In this way the number of post offices is very slowly increasing. For the area and population the postal service is inadequate on paper but the reasons are obvious. It is difficult to cater for scattered small villages separated by forests and hills, and particularly when the villages have a scanty population.

Telegraph Offices.

Besides 15 railway telegraph offices, there are six postal telegraph offices in this district at (1) Daltonganj Head Office, (2) Daltonganj Kutchery, (3) Garhwa, (4) Japla, (5) Latehar and (6) Rehala.

McCluskieganj and Khelari sub-offices are also provided with telegraphs. The phono-*cum*-service from McCluskieganj serves Chandwa and Balumath within the district of Palamau.

There are the following phono-*cum*-services in the Palaman district where telegraphic messages are received. These messages through

telephones are transmitted to the post offices provided with telegraphs and from there they are transmitted :—

(*i*) Daltonganj-Lesliganj-Panki.

(*ii*) Daltonganj-Patan-Chhatarpur.

(*iii*) Japla-Haidernagar.

(*iv*) Garhwa-Ranka.

(*v*) McCluskieganj-Chandwa-Balumath.

(*vi*) Mahuadanr-Netarhat.

In this way the recently opened National Extension Service Block headquarters at Panki, Balumath, Mahuadanr, Ranka, Patan, Garhwa (South), Chhatarpur, Chandwa can be said to have telegraphically connected, but the Block headquarters at Manatu, Bhandaria, Bishrampur, Dhurki and Chandandih have not been connected.

Telephone Service.

The telephone public call offices in the district are at (*i*) Daltonganj, (*ii*) Latehar and (*iii*) Garhwa. There is a proposal to start one P. C. O. at Barwadih also. In the Daltonganj town there are 86 telephones. On an average 45 outward trunk calls are booked and 30 inward trunk calls are received per day at Daltonganj exchange. The phono-*cum*-services given above mention the telegraph offices connected with places provided with phones. Japla Cement Factory is also provided with phones, but the connection is with Dalmianagar. This is a personal connection of the concern.

Radio Sets.

There are altogether 1,020 radio sets in the district on air and have been categorised as domestic sets, commercial sets and community sets. The licenses for the use of these radio sets are issued by the local post offices on behalf of the Government of India.

Wireless.

There are two wireless stations in the district, one at Daltonganj and another at Garhwa exclusively for administrative purposes. The police personnel are incharge of these stations.

From the description above it may be concluded that although there has been a great development in communications in this district, and under the Third Five-Year Plan there will be more expansion, this picturesque district with great tourist attraction and mineral and forest prospects still needs much more of communications. There are a large number of places of commercial importance, of scenic beauty, waterfalls, wild life, hill sites which could be developed for the tourists and the *shikaris* if there were better communications.

Apart from the possibility of the development of tourism more roads are necessary for making the district as one of the important

units in the State. It is well known that an immense quantity of iron-ore is found all over the district, especially in the neighbourhood of the coalfields. The ores from the Gondawana are very valuable and at present they are worked only to small extent. Limestone, sandstone, laterite and graphite also exist, but difficulties of transport had for a long time prevented their full utilisation. Even now they could be more exploited. Copper has been found but the want of communications has prevented a proper investigation as to the sources.

A singular effect of the hitherto want of communication will be seen in the lesser number of *hats* and fairs in the district. While the neighbouring district like Gaya or Ranchi has a large number of hats and fairs there are very few in Palamau district. The chief trade centres are almost as what they were in 1908. The district is also on the border of the State of Madhya Pradesh and for a particular area of Madhya Pradesh the nearest railway station is Garhwa Road. If railway communications could be extended from Garhwa Road connecting Ambikapur in Madhya Pradesh there would certainly have been a great development of trade and commerce. Extension of communications in the recent decades has helped in the spread of education, the incidence of which was only 1.9 per cent (3.7 males and 0.1 female) of the population being able to read and write in 1901. The number of hospitals and dispensaries also are still few and far between. An all-round improvement of the district could only be possible when there are more of roadways and railways in this district.

There are no recognised and organised Associations of Owners and Employees in the field of Transport and Communications.

CHAPTER X.

ECONOMIC TRENDS.

LIVELIHOOD PATTERN.

Data on livelihood pattern, price level, wage structure and employment position are useful for an idea of the economic trends of a district. A short review of the livelihood pattern and the material condition of the people a few decades back set against the present will indicate the economic trends.

Mr. D. H. E. Sunder, in his *Report on Survey and Settlement Operations of Palamau District* (1898) mentioned, "Roughly speaking, the people are certainly better off than at the last settlement. Thirty years back there was no road to Sherghati, and important marts were reached with great difficulty. The road to Ranchi also was then only under construction. Crops and other produce could not be disposed of with facility. Prices were consequently low, the people were obliged to deal with the *mahajan* alone. He fixed rates and flourished while they remained poor. Now all this has been changed. The district is fast opening out. Many good roads have been made and others are under construction". Even Mahuadanr and Bhandaria Thanas have now roads on which buses and trucks ply.

L. S. S. O'Malley in the *Palamau District Gazetteer* (1907) had described the occupational distribution of people. He found that according to the census of 1901, agriculture supported no less than 72.3 per cent of the population, while 11.7 per cent were dependent on various industries, 0.8 per cent on the professions and 0.3 per cent on commerce.

Agriculture continued to be the main occupation during 1907—1920. The *Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations of* 1913—1920 by T. W. Bridge, (1920) mentions that the total number of persons solely dependent upon agriculture with their dependants was 529,966, out of the total population of 687,710. According to the census of 1921, 524,976 persons were dependant on agriculture for their livelihood, persons supported by industry were 47,163, by commerce 30,063, by professions, 4,265 and other occupations gave the occupation to 126,927 persons.

P. C. Tallents, in the revised *Palamau District Gazetteer* (1928) mentions: "The predominant interest is of agriculture, of the persons recorded as so employed the greater number (420,150) are ordinary cultivators, of whom 130,983 are male workers and 76,122 female workers, while 213,045 persons of both sexes are dependants. 4,664 persons live on rent derived from agriculture land, and 98,447 are field labourers. Another 98,611 labourers and workmen otherwise unspecified are mostly engaged in agriculture from time to time in addition to

their other forms of work; if they also were treated as agriculturists. the proportion of the population supported by agriculture would rise from 71.6 to over 85 per cent. Further it must be remembered that there are few professional or businessmen of the upper and middle classes living in the district who do not own some land. If allowance is made for these factors, it will be found that hardly 10 per cent of the population remain who have no direct interest in agriculture". In this view Tallents in 1926 concurred with O'Malleys' view in 1907.

The *Census Report of* 1931 does not throw much light on the pattern of livelihood as detailed out in the previous census reports, but it does mention the occupational distribution per mille of the population. According to the census of 1931, out of the population of one thousand persons, 460 persons were earners with or without subsidiary occupations. Out of these 460 persons, 404 were engaged in exploitation of animals and vegetation, which broadly speaking could be described as persons somehow dependant on agriculture. The tables in the *Census Report* of 1931 do not give the figure of the actual dependants on the earning persons. This is why the number of persons directly dependant on agriculture cannot be ascertained. However, the report does mention that 42 persons out of one thousand are dependant on industry, 7 on transport, 22 on trade and 10 on domestic services, etc. The position of agriculture as the main occupation had persisted.

Owing to the war exigencies the census operations were very much curtailed in 1941 and do not give the figures for the different occupations.

According to 1951 census, 8,98,191 persons depend on agriculture for their livelihood, out of the total population of 9,85,767. This comes to about 91 per cent of the total population of the district.

The census of 1951 has divided the livelihood pattern into eight broad classes, each class consisting of three sub-classes, e.g., self-supporting persons, non-earning dependants and earning dependants. The Census Report defines "non-earning dependant" as one who earns nothing and is completely dependant on others; and an "earning dependant" as one who earns something but not enough for his maintenance. The break-up details below show the distribution of the agricultural livelihood classes in 1951 :—

Agricultural Classes.		Males.	Females.
1. Self-supporting persons	...	1,91,070	77,755
2. Non-earning dependants	...	2,34,591	3,57,087
3. Earning dependants	...	25,589	12,099
Total (8,98,191)	...	4,51,250	4,46,941

Further the agricultural classes have been divided into four categories. They are as follows :—

(1) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependants—

		Males.	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	1,38,609	54,813
Non-earning dependants	...	1,72,834	2,63,027
Earning dependants	...	21,008	8,780

(2) Cultivators of land wholly or mainly unowned and their dependants—

		Males	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	10,628	4,947
Non-earning dependants	...	13,029	17,534
Earning dependants	...	895	570

(3) Cultivating labourers and their dependants—

		Males	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	40,995	17,662
Non-earning dependants	...	47,865	75,045
Earning dependants	...	3,626	2,702

(4) Non-cultivating owners of land, agricultural rent receivers and their dependants—

		Males	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	838	333
Non-earning dependants	...	863	1,481
Earning dependants	...	60	47

Non-Agricultural classes have been divided into four categories as follows :—

		Males	Females.
(1) Self-supporting persons	...	21,595	5,183
(2) Non-earning dependants	...	24,241	33,822
(3) Earning dependants	...	1,478	1,257
Total (87,576)		47,314	40,262

(1) Production (other than cultivation)—

		Males	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	6,759	1,911
Non-earning dependants	...	7,082	9,874
Earning dependants	...	890	238

(2) Commerce—

		Males.	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	5,659	951
Non-earning dependants	...	5.369	8,416
Earning dependants	...	78	281

(3) Transport—

		Males.	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	975	...
Non-earning dependants	...	1,378	1,629
Earning dependants	...	72	17

(4) Other sources and Miscellaneous sources—

		Males.	Females.
Self-supporting persons	...	8,202	2,321
Non-earning dependants	...	10,412	13,903
Earning dependants	...	438	721

From the figures it is apparent that the number of economically active persons is very small. Out of the total population of 9,85,767 persons, only 2,68,825 are self-supporting and 37,688 earning dependants. Thus we see that 2/3 of the population is entirely dependant on the economically active persons. This is not a happy feature and suggests that there is a leakage of human energy and a surplus of man power is available for other work.

It is apparent that more land is being brought under the plough. The *Census Report*, 1951 shows that the net area sown in 1921 (average for the quinquennium ending 1921) was 555,300 acres which increased to 686,001 acres (average for the quinquennium ending 1951). This will mean a proportionate increase of the number that has taken to agriculture. It is so because the pace of industrialisation has been very slow in the district. The *Census Report* of 1951 mentions that there were only 37 industries in the district registered under the Factories Act of 1948, employing 2,624 persons. Industries have, therefore, cyphoned off a very small number of men. There were 24 shellac manufacturies in the district which employ about 1,362 persons. Cement occupies the next position which had engaged 1,134 persons. There was one small glass industry which gave livelihood to only 70 persons in 1950, but it has ceased working now. The number of rice, flour, oil and *dal* mills in the district is nine which employ 48 persons. Apart from the industries registered under the Factories Act there were 1,663 textile establishments coming under small-scale industries employing 4,158 persons whole-time and 1,143 part-time. The number of the establishments and the number of persons engaged will show that they are very small concerns. The number of persons engaged in other small-scale industries classified as non-textile establishments in the *Census Report of* 1951, was 415 as whole-time and 256 as part-time in 443 establishments. These industries employed 8,598 persons only in 1951.

The total number of persons dependant on commerce in 1951 was 20,744 out of which 6,600 were self-supporting persons, 13,875 non-earning dependants and 359 earning dependants.

The number of persons dependant on transport was 4,073 out of which only 975 are self-supporting, the rest earning and non-earning dependants being 89 and 3,007, respectively.

Persons engaged in other services and miscellaneous sources were 35,997. Out of this 1,159 are earning dependants, 24,315 being non-earning dependants and rest 10,523 being self-supporting persons.

Miscellaneous Occupations.

Besides persons engaged in agriculture, trade, commerce and transport, etc., dealt with, a part of the population is engaged in occupations such as public administration, learned professions (e.g. Doctor, Engineer, Lawyers, etc.), and domestic services lumped under one heading as "Miscellaneous Occupations". The number under public administration and learned professions forms a very small percentage in the livelihood structure but their impact on the society is very great, because of the leadership supplied. They form the middle class which is the backbone of the social structure.

Public Administration.

According to the *District Census Handbook for Palamau* based on 1951 census figures, the total number of persons engaged in health, education and public administration according to the census of 1951 comes to 1,427 males and 183 females. These figures include the persons as employers, employees and independent workers coming under the abovementioned heading. The break-up figures are as follows :—

Occupations—

(1) Medical and Health Services—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	1	2
Employees	110	101
Independent workers	71	13
Total	182	116

(2) Educational Service and Research—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	...	10
Employees	254	48
Independent workers	1	7
Total	255	65

(3) Army, Navy and Air Force—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	2	—
Independent workers	—	—
Total	2	—

(4) Police (other than village watchman)—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	265	—
Independent workers	—	—
Total	265	—

(5) Village officers and servants, including the village watchmen—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	110	—
Independent workers	—	—
Total	110	—

(6) Employees of Municipalities and Local Boards—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	98	—
Independent workers	18	—
Total	116	—

(7) Employees of State Governments—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	496	2
Independent workers	—	—
Total	496	2

The figures will show the small number of women engaged in the above mentioned occupations. The occupation which engages the largest number is Medical and Health Services; Education Service and

Research comes next with a number of 65. The number of females employed under the State Government is only two.

Since the last census there has been an expansion of Government departments particularly in Police Services, Community Development and National Extension Services Blocks. As a result the number of employees under the above categories must have had a big increase which is likely to be disclosed in 1961 census. But even then the percentage in the total population will be very small.

Persons under this group enjoy certain benefits in the shape of a cost of living allowance and a few of them are provided with Government quarters. Housing is a big problem for the Government employees as there appears to be some allergy in the towns and villages to let out houses to the Government employees and Government quarters are very inadequate.

Persons within this category have an inelastic income and the dearness allowance that is given, is not at par with the spiral rise in prices. As a matter of fact if the cost of living has gone up four times the pay structure has remained almost the same for the higher paid incumbents and the scale of dearness allowance does not exceed Rs. 100 per month in any case. The dearness allowance for the lower paid employees is somewhat more liberal. It is only in April, 1960 that there has been another addition of Rs. 10 per month to all employees under this State within the pay group of Rs. 250. The class IV employees have certain other advantages in the shape of getting sets of uniforms, umbrellas, etc., which are not given to the employees of any other grade. As a matter of fact, the emoluments given to class IV employees compare more favourably to the emoluments given to the grades above class IV in comparison with the expenditure involved for acquiring the mental equipment which entitles a man to enter into the grades above class IV. The standard of living differs very widely. A clerk of Rs. 100 per month has to bear much more hardship than a peon of Rs. 50 or so.

The number of persons in teaching and allied lines is very small. The condition of the teacher may particularly be mentioned. Generally they are a very poorly paid class and they have to add to their income by private coaching, writing text books, examining papers, etc. In the present set-up the pay of a teacher in the rural areas is smaller than the pay of a class IV employee.

Learned Professions.

Persons under this category have a background of education and are Lawyers, Educationists, Engineers, Businessmen, Doctors, Writers, Journalists, etc. The *District Census Handbook of Palamau*, 1951 has

included them under the "Services not elsewhere specified". Their detailed break-up figures are as follows :—

Occupations—

(1) Legal and Business services—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	— ...	—
Employees	693 ...	—
Independent workers ...	135 ...	—
Total ...	828 ...	—

(2) Arts, Letters and Journalism—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	— ...	—
Employees	— ...	—
Independent workers ...	5 ...	—
Total ...	5 ...	—

(3) Religious, Charitable and Welfare Services—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	5 ...	—
Employees	37 ...	13
Independent workers ...	234 ...	13
Total ...	276 ...	26

It is doubtful if these figures are very correct.

Law.—According to the statistics about 828 persons are engaged in legal and business services. This figure includes Lawyers including Mukhtars and their clerks, businessmen and their employees, etc. There are at present 60 Lawyers in Daltonganj town, including their clerks. There are no women in this profession. The profession of Law is not so paying now owing to the abolition of zamindari and the devaluation of the purchase value of the rupee. The zamindari abolition and the village *panchayats* have helped to decrease the number of contested litigations and to the pulling down of the larger scale of fees in vogue before. The number of the lawyers is on the increase because the educated unemployed find a quicker avenue in this profession. The Doctors also have a lesser number of paying patients.

Hospital-mindedness is on the increase and the availability of a Government Doctor in every Block under National Extension Service Scheme are some of the reasons for the decline of private practice. No Doctor is engaged in research for which facilities are absent. But in spite of all this, it may still be said that on the average a Doctor has a better chance of earning money than a Lawyer. There is always a place at the top for a Lawyer but there is a lot of unemployment below the top Lawyers. With Doctors, however, money is earned in a more distributed manner. A Doctor of five years' practice normally earns more than a Lawyer of the same standing unless the latter has a strong backing.

Arts, Letters, and Journalism.

The number of persons engaged in arts, letters and journalism according to 1951 census, was only five in the district. This is a clear indication that the literary profession in the district has made no headway. All the five persons were residents of rural area, as the district census report shows. This does not seem to be very correct. It may, however, be mentioned that a person may be pursuing the work under this category as a part-time work.

At present two weeklies are published from Daltonganj and the number of persons engaged in this profession should record some increase in 1961 census.

Religion.

There are 276 males and 26 females engaged in religious, charitable and welfare services, in the district. The persons under this category will include the Christian Missionaries, the Hindu and the Muslim priests, employees in temples, etc. The break-up figures for the smaller categories under this head are not given in the *District Census Handbook for Palamau.*

Domestic and Personal Services.

The figures of persons engaged in the domestic and personal services are as follows :—

Occupations—

(1) Services otherwise unclassified—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	60
Employees	1,348	646
Independent workers	530	278
Total	1,878	984

Occupations.

(2) Domestic Services (but not including services rendered by members of family households to one another)—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	1,385	368
Independent workers	124*	326*
Total	1,509	694

(3) Barbers and Beauty shops—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	14	1
Employees	56	9
Independent workers	396	119
Total	466	129

(4) Laundries and Laundry Services—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	9	6
Employees	19	4
Independent workers	220	78
Total	248	88

(5) Hotels, Restaurants and Eating Houses—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	—	—
Employees	24	—
Independent workers	7	—
Total	31	—

(6) Recreation Services—

	Males.	Females.
Employers	6	—
Employees	5	—
Independent workers	41	12
Total	52	12

*NOTE.—The *District Census Handbook of Palamau*, published in 1956 mentions in page 65, that this was an error of classification which was detected at the time of final checking but then it was too late to rectify it. (P. C. R. C.).

The persons engaged in domestic services include cook, household servants, water carrier, groom, etc. The statistics indicate as is expected that the number of domestic servants is more in urban areas than in rural areas. In urban areas there are 895 males and 309 females, in rural areas 614 males and 385 females. All these 895 males rendering domestic services are concentrated in the towns, namely, Daltonganj, Garhwa and Hussainabad.

The lot of domestic servants has definitely improved. They are profited by the enormous expansion of other avenues of occupation and get a better pay and fooding. Many are engaged in part-time job in several families and make out a living higher than a poorly paid clerk. As a clan they are more conscious of their rights than obligations. Many of the previous domestic servants have adopted other occupations as Rickshaw-pulling, working in Hotels, Office Peons, Chaukidars, etc. There is a dearth of domestic servants and this has been fully exploited for getting higher wages, lesser work and obligations. At present a part-time maid servant in the towns gets near about Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 a month plus some tiffin. She works at least at three or four places and so her total income is quite good. The wholetime domestic servants are paid about Rs. 20 a month or so, and meals.

The figure of barbers and workers in beauty shops appears to be wrong and more based on the caste return. It is likely that *Hazams* although following other professions have not cared to record their other professions. The barbers still have to some extent a very distinct place in Hindu society particularly in certain religious ceremonies and rituals like marriage, *mundan*, funeral and other such occasions. In the rural areas barbers are paid in kind.

In urban area the average daily earning of a barber is not less than Rs. 2 to Rs. 3. His charges vary. The roadside barber will charge anything from one anna to annas two for a shave and two annas for a hair cut. If he is sent for at the residence he will charge 3 to 4 annas for a hair cut and a shave. In the barber's saloons usually a charge of 4 annas is made for a hair cut and two annas for a shave. There is no fixed charge for the female barbers who visit houses particularly to put red colour round the feet of the ladies.

The District Census Handbook of 1951, gives the number of persons engaged in "Laundry and Laundry Services" as 248 males and 88 females. The number of *Dhobis* actually engaged in washing clothes in the district should be larger. The figures quoted do not appear to be very correct. There are only 2 mechanised laundries in Daltonganj. The laundries charge more than the washermen. Their rate is usually 12 nP. a piece, where as the charges of washermen vary between Rs. 1.25 nP. to Rs. 1.50 nP. for per twenty pieces of cloth if the clothes are to be returned within a week. For 24 hours service the usual charges are three annas for one piece. Their rates also vary.

In the district, there are only 31 persons engaged in the "hotel, restaurants and eating houses," according to the District Census Handbook of Palamau. Since the last census several hotels, restaurants and eating houses have been opened at Daltonganj, Garhwa and other places. At present the hotel business in Daltonganj town is more monopolised by the Sikhs, where definitely more than 31 persons are employed. The persons employed are cooks, waiters and serving boys. The cooks receive a monthly salary of Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month with fooding. The waiters and serving boys are paid Rs. 8 to Rs. 15 a month with meal.

The district does not have any good hotel where a comfortable board and lodge are provided. Mostly they are cheap restaurants and eating houses, where only tea, *sherbet*, sweetmeats and snacks are sold. These hotels and restaurants are generally situated near the Court compounds, cinemas and in the town *bazars*. They are rather in filthy surroundings. In the morning and evening these restaurants are generally crowded mostly by men of middle class or outsiders who casually visit the towns for litigation, etc.

The exact number of tailors is not given in the *District Census Handbook of* 1951. However, at one place the book does mention that there were 483 males and 97 females engaged in making wearing apparel (except foot-wear) and made up textile goods. No tailor earns anything less than Rs. 90 a month.

The above analysis tends to show that there is more pressure on orthodox agriculture in the district even when the soil is not very good and while there are potentialities for industrial development. It cannot, however, be said that agriculture has reached a saturation point, but nevertheless, more of marginal lands are being brought to cultivation. True, irrigational projects have sought to improve the condition of soil but the fact remains that agriculture in this district is still a gamble in rains and most of the costly projects of irrigation will be useless if there has not been an adequate and well-distributed rain-fall.

The district of Palamau is a food-deficit pocket and almost every year sizeable quantities of different foodgrains are imported in the district. If *Hathiya* rain fails as it failed in 1950-51, 1954-55 and again in 1955-56 there would be a general scarcity throughout the district. The yield of the land is lower than the yield of the land in the neighbouring districts and the agriculturists are in the clutches of the old methods of cultivation, uneconomic fragmentation of holdings and a complacent attitude of life. The only solution seems to be the introduction of a mixed economy.

Level of Prices and Wages.

The study of price level in different periods is important. Various factors as rise in population, the tempo of production, demand and supply, import and export, etc., affect the price level. Prices are bound to fluctuate with the variations of the season, but apart from these

temporary changes there has been a marked decline in the purchasing power of the rupee, since the beginning of the century.

W. W. Hunter, writing about prices, in his book *A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Volume XVI (1877), mentioned that no returns of prices could be given for every year previous to 1859. However, he has given the figures of prices, as follows :—

Prices of Foodgrains per maund in Palamau for the years 1859, 1866 and 1870.

Name of the article.	1859.	1866.	1870.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Best unhusked rice	0 13 6	2 0 10	1 2 0
Best cleared rice	1 10 3	4 1 8	2 2 0
Common unhusked rice	0 11 10	1 14 1	0 11 10
Common rice	1 7 8	3 12 2	1 8 9
Wheat	1 10 3	4 13 0	2 0 0
Barley	1 10 3	4 13 0	1 6 10
Indian corn	0 10 8	2 2 4	0 12 0

Hunter further mentions that rice was sold at the uniform rate of one pice per *paila;* but as the prices rose, the size of the *paila* diminished[1]. Hunter observes: "It is a common trick, while measuring out a maund of grain, to change this *paila* for one of the smaller size that had previously been hidden in the sack. Thus also, instead of asking the current price of grain, a man will walk around the market and narrowly watch the size of *paila* which different dealers are using."

D. H. E. Sunder, in the *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of Palamau*, published in 1898, has given price figures of foodgrains from 1875 to 1895. It is not necessary to give all the price figures here. The figures for 1875, 1885, and 1895 are mentioned below :—

Name of crops.	1875.	1885.	1895.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Rice (husked)	1 11 0	2 4 6	2 15 5
2. Wheat	2 5 7	2 3 0	2 12 0
3. Barley	1 5 11	1 13 0	1 11 0
4. Maize	1 3 10	1 7 6	2 3 7
5. Gram	2 0 10	2 3 7	2 13 7
6. Mahua	..	1 5 0	0 11 10
7. Cotton	..	..	22 13 8

1. *Paila* is wooden bowl, by which grains are weighted and measured. It is not in use now except in a few remote villages.

The above table shows that the rise in price of rice in 1895 was 76 per cent above that of 1875, in maize 79 per cent, and in wheat, barley, gram had been 17 per cent, 23 per cent and 39 per cent respectively.

L. S. S. O'Malley, in the *District Gazetteer of Palamau*, published in 1907, writing about the prices says that during the fifteen years (1891—1905) the price of food had risen considerably with noticeable exceptions, viz., maize and salt. The price of the latter has fallen owing to the reduction of the salt tax. O'Malley further writes, "It must be remembered however, that there are many people in the district who live to such a large extent upon jungle fruits that they are little affected by the rising price of grains, and specially of rice".

T. W. Bridge, in the *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement of Palamau* (1913—1920), published in 1921, criticized the account given by Sunder in 1898. Bridge observes: "Comparison of the average retail prices reported at Daltonganj for the period 1906—1915 and the prices published in Mr. Sunder's report was made. Here, however, a difficulty arose in respect of rice for it is not clear whether Mr. Sunder's figures are for the cheapest rice or the average rice. In any case, these prices have no relation to the sum which the raiyat obtains when he sells his crop to the dealers, as he must do in Palamau, immediately after the harvest; but as there are no information available to show what the raiyat's price was in 1896, they were the only possible means of making a comparison. The average prices per maund during the later decennial period excluding the famine years (1908-09) were :—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
4 1 8	3 10 4	2 14 4	2 4 8

Mr. Sunder's prices for the years 1886—95 were—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
2 8 8	2 10 1	2 3 9	1 12 5

The percentage of increase is thus—

Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Maize.
61.57	38.61	29.60	28.44

But if Mr. Sunder's figures refer to the cheapest rice, percentage of increase will diminish from 61 per cent to the 40 per cent of that crop".

P. C. Tallents, in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* published in 1926, writing about the prices says that the price of rice showed a rise of roughly 100 per cent during the period. There was a sharp rise in price in 1919 carried over to 1920 due to failure of rains. In January of 1920 rice was selling at the rate of 5 seers 10 chattaks per rupee, maize at the rate of 6 seers 12 chattacks, gram 5 seers 10 chatacks and salt was sold at the rate of 12 seers 2 chattacks a rupee. The prices of rice or salt increased in the month of July, but that of maize and gram fell down. Gram and maize were sold at the rate of 7 seers 14 chattacks, and 7 seers 5 chattacks respectively. Thus we see that these became cheaper for the general people. Summing up the price situation, Tallents wrote: "Generally speaking the cost of living has greatly increased in Palamau as elsewhere in India in recent years".

The *District Census Hand Book*, 1951 gives the ruling wholesale prices of the period between 1941—50. The figures of prices are given on monthly basis so the average yearly price of rice, wheat and gram is mentioned below after calculating :—

(*Price per maund.*)

Year.	Rice (medium).	Wheat (red).	Gram.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1941	5 2 6	..	3 11 7
1942	7 1 3	..	5 13 11
1943	14 3 2½	16 12 10	11 9 5
1944	11 15 4	13 14 0	10 1 4
1945	12 8 10	12 6 8	8 14 0
1946	19 14 0	19 0 0	18 14 0
1947	19 12 0	23 12 0	17 3 10
1948	21 2 0	26 12 0	26 12 8
1949	20 4 0	21 4 8	13 13 4
1950	22 13 4	25 6 8	17 15 4

The above mentioned figures reveal that the price of rice has continuously gone on increasing since 1941. The lowest price recorded for rice was Rs. 4-1-0 a maund in the month of March, 1941, whereas the highest price recorded was at the rate of Rs. 28 a maund in the months of August and September of 1950.

The price trend of wheat was a fluctuating one, rising in one year and declining in another. However, the highest price of wheat recorded was in the months of November and December of 1947, when wheat was sold for Rs. 30 a maund, the lowest price being Rs. 10-2-0 a maund in the month of March, 1943. The price of gram has also been a fluctuating one. A matter of great surprise in the price of gram is that it is sold for Rs. 35 a maund in the months of November and December, 1946 whereas the prices of rice and wheat were Rs. 18 and Rs. 24 a maund respectively in the same month. This is an unusual feature and no reasons could be ascertained from the Deputy Commissioner's office as to the peculiar trend. Another feature in price level of this decade is that the price of rice had increased to Rs. 20 a maund in the month of June, 1943 from Rs. 11-2-0 in the month of May, 1943. Similarly the prices of rice and wheat nearly doubled. The price trend of the year 1945 shows that it remained steadily moderate throughout the year in comparison to the previous year. The year 1950 has registered the highest price level for rice, wheat and gram. This has no doubt greatly affected the material condition of the people. This continued rise in price since 1945 was first thought to be a temporary phase; but the prices have stabilised at the high level without any prospect of recession in future. This is apparent from the following statement on the retail price of the cereals per maund in 1957-59 obtained from the District Supply Officer, Palamau :—

Cereals.	Year.		
	June, 1957.	August, 1958.	October, 1959.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Rice—			
Medium	22	29	25
Coarse	20	26	20
2. Wheat—			
White	20	23	22
Red	..	21	..
3. Gram	13.50	17.50	15
4. Maize	13	18	9.50
5. Sugar	35	40	43
6. Pulse (*arhar*)	19	25	24

Price Control Measures.

The closing years of the second great war brought about a great change in the economy of the prices of essential commodities. On one

side there was a short supply while on the other hand there was the first necessity of supply for military needs. No district was left isolated and there were large scale speculations by interested parties. Prices began to shoot up and the State had to intervene. Rationing of the essential commodities had to be introduced in the urban areas and inter-district trade in essential commodities was regulated. Rationing of foodgrains and cloth and other essential commodities was introduced for the first time in Palamau district in April, 1948. Embargoes were imposed on free export and import of foodgrains along with other commodities like sugar, cement, iron-goods, coal, etc. Permit system was introduced for such export and import.

A number of fair price shops were opened through licensees for supplying grains, etc., according to ration cards. The fair price shops were supplied with commodities by the Government from the Government godowns which were opened. Government had to intervene at the primary market and bought up at the source and imposed a ban on the big cultivators against their direct sale of foodgrains. Government took up the work of procurement of paddy, wheat, etc., and controlled the supply through the railways and roadways to the towns.

The arrangement appears to have worked well in Palamau district. The value of grains sold from Government godowns from 1948-49 to 1951-52 was as follows :—

Year.	Amount.
	Rs.
1948-49	7,71,856
1949-50	6,53,495
1950-51	6,74,156
1951-52	54,70,813

The arrangement has continued in some shape or other, although the first force of emergency does not exist now. The fair price shops in the towns continued as a sort of buffer and whenever prices shoot up either through speculation or through short supply due to a bad harvest or otherwise, foodgrains are immediately sent from the Government godowns either within the district or outside and there is an immediate effect in stabilising the price level. The number of fair price shops functioning in the district would be a sort of index of the fluctuating prices of foodgrains. The number of such shops in 1957-58 was 86 while it shot up to 169 in 1958-59 because of the acute scarcity prevailing in the district. When conditions resumed normalcy to some extent, the number fell to 81 in 1960-61. When conditions would become much easier then the number of shops functioning would further go down or the off-take of the grains will be reduced.

The District Supply Office more popularly known as the Price Control Department linked with the Supply Department at Government level has come to stay. This is essential because we are now in the

midst of great development programmes and a number of vast projects have been undertaken by the State of Bihar, the other States in India and the Centre. This district as a component part of the State of Bihar is an integral part of the Indian Union and if there is surplus of any commodity in this district and there is scarcity at an area hundreds of miles away, the surplus may have to be cyphoned to that area and *vice versa*. The country has now been divided into integrated separate zonal systems so far food is concerned and one and the same policy is adopted throughout.

This aspect of State trading is a recent feature in the economic trends of the district.

Wages.

As mentioned elsewhere, agriculture is still the main occupation in the rural areas. W. W. Hunter in *A Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XVI. (1877), mentions that no information regarding wages level was available for years previous to 1856. Hunter gives the following table showing the comparative wages of coolies, day labourers, smiths, brick-layers, and carpenters in the years 1856 and 1870 :—

Wages in Lohardaga District for the years 1856 and 1870.

Year.	Coolies.	Day labourers.	Smiths.	Brick-layers.	Carpenters.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1856	1 anna ..	1 anna to 1 anna 3 p.	2 to 3 annas	2 to 3 annas	2 to 3 annas.
1870	1 anna 3 p. to 1 anna 6 p.	1 anna 3 p. to 1 anna 6 p.	3 to 4 annas	3 to 4 annas	3 to 5 annas.

Hunter further says, "wages are said to have risen to the present level almost immediately after the Mutiny in 1857.

"In rural parts of the district the village carpenter is paid 10 *pailas* or seers of unhusked rice for every plough, while the village smith gets 20 seers per ploughshare."

D. H. E. Sunder in the *Final Report on Survey and Settlement* (1894-95 *to* 1896-97) *of Palamau* mentions that smiths were never paid in cash. He got a share of the produce calculated on the working plough. He observes : "He is paid, one village may be taken, in which his dues are—*Manni* of one maund (*kachi*) of grain annually per working plough. It is generally paid in two instalments, viz., half maund in *Aughan* and half a maund in *Cheyt*. In *Assar* he gets 3 seers of grain as *morghari* or *lagaoni* per working plough. He also gets one

panja of paddy in *Aughan* and one of *Jau* or gram in *Cheyt*. In *Assar*, at the beginning of the season he repairs ploughshare. For this he gets 1⅓ seers of grain." The carpenter was also paid at the same rate as the blacksmith.

Regarding the *Kamias* or bonded labour mentioned elsewhere, Sunder mentions: "*Kamias* plough and do all field work for their masters, and are paid in kind for this at the village rates for every day they may work. When they fail to turn out they receive nothing..... *Kamias* have to perform all *begar* work in the shape of carrying loads. For doing this they are paid at the rate of one Gorukhpuri pice per mile; There are generally 112 of these pice to each rupee. It will thus be seen how low the rate is. Even then *Kamias* are frequently not paid at all."

The *Revised District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1907) has mentioned, "the *Kamia* is practically a serf, who binds himself to work for a master in consideration of an advance of money. He is obliged to remain in the village and work for his master, as long as the loan remains unpaid; and in return he is either provided with free quarters or given materials to build a hut for himself and his family; he also receives 5 *kathas* of rice land, the same quantity of upland, the seed with which to sow them, and the use of his master's plough. He ploughs and does all field work for his master, and is paid in kind at the village rate for every day he works."

P. C. Tallents, in the *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) observes about the *Kamia* as, "he is.....remunerated for his labour on the days on which he gives a full day's work by 2 or 3 *kachcha* seers of whatever foodgrain the master may find it convenient to give; at harvest time he receives one out of every 21 (or 16) bundles he reaps, which amounts to about 15 *kachcha* seers in two days. On the average he is likely to work on two out of three days in the year. His own remuneration is supplemented by less liberal rewards to his dependents for doing part-time jobs when required". This system of forced labour, or *begari* was abolished legally but Tallents observes that it was idle to pretend that the tenants throughout the district have yet risen to the full measure of their liberties or that *begari* was no longer taken. He, however, thought that some years must elapse before *begari* was no more heard in Palamau. *Kamia* or bonded labour has been completely abolished now.

About other types of wage earners, O'Malley in the *Gazetteer of Palamau* (1907) writes, "the price of unskilled labour has risen considerably in the headquarters station, where the cooly's daily wage now varies from 3 to 3½ annas a day as compared with 2 to 3 annas ten years previously; but in the villages the wages of labour remain much the same from year to year. Here the labour is still paid largely in kind and is, therefore, not much affected by the rise in the price of food grains".

The opening of railways and inter-communication with centres of trade led to the increase in the wages of skilled labour as masons, carpenters, smiths. O'Malley mentions: "An expert mason or carpenter who earned 8 annas a day 10 years ago, now gets 12 annas a day; and in the same period the daily wages of a common mason have risen to 5 annas to 6 or 8 annas, and those of a common carpenter from 5 annas to 7 or 8 annas. The most skilful blacksmith now earns 14 annas per diem as against 10 annas, and the common blacksmith 8 annas as compared with 7 annas a decade ago."

Tallents sums up the wage condition around middle nineteen twenties as, "The rates of wages have recently increased in the district, partly owing to the general rise in the cost of living that has occurred in India, and partly owing to the development of lac cultivation and the construction of coalfields railway. Round Hussainabad also wages have been raised by the demand for labour in the cement factory, the skilled labourers on the railway nowadays getting from 8 to 12 annas a day, and the District Board has to give from 6 to 10 annas. The ordinary skilled workmen, such as carpenters and blacksmiths get anything from 12 annas to a rupee. The village servants are, however, still paid in kind, and so generally are ploughmen who receive grain to the value of about 6 annas a day and a little *sattu*. In case of agricultural labour however the competition for labour is not free, as the landlord generally controls the labour he requires through the *Kamiauti* system, which at its worst is little better than slavery or the *begari* system".

The wages remained practically stationary between 1930 to 1943. The level of prices which went on soaring upwards since 1943 remained high and so the wage level of skilled and unskilled labourers, because the prices of the commodities have determining effect on wages. The figures below on wages indicate that the level of wages has doubled for all types of work. Investigation shows that this has even nearly almost trebled for highly skilled and mechanical work in industries. Wages of agricultural labourers have also increased, but the rising prices have not affected them so adversely as the casual labourers. This is so because the agricultural labourers are mostly paid in kind while the casual labourers are paid in cash. The figures on wages as noted below have been taken from the *Bihar Statistical Handbook of* 1955 :—

SKILLED LABOURERS.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Carpenters—			
1953	2	5	10
1954	2	0	0
1955	2	0	0
Blacksmiths—			
1953	2	1	8
1954	1	12	2
1955	1	12	0

Cobblers—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	1	2	8
1954	1	0	0
1955	0	14	0

FIELD LABOURERS.

Men—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	0	14	8
1954	0	13	10
1955	0	14	6

Women—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	0	13	6
1954	0	10	6
1955	0	10	0

Children—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	0	8	4
1954	0	12	0
1955	0	12	0

The statement below shows the average daily wages paid to agricultural labourers in Palamau district during the years 1953 to 1955 :—

OTHER AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.

Men—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	1	8	0
1954	0	13	10
1955	0	14	6

Women—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	0	15	3
1954	0	10	6
1955	0	10	0

Children—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	0	9	0
1954	0	5	0
1955	0	5	0

Herdsmen—

Men—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	1	0	0
1954	0	12	2
1955	0	12	0

Women—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	—		
1954	—		
1955	0	8	0

Children—

	Rs.	a.	p.
1953	—		
1954	—		
1955	0	8	0

The minimum wages for the agricultural labourers were fixed in 1954 under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Schedule II). This led to widespread complaint from the agriculturists on the ground that the wages fixed were very high. Therefore, the Government of Bihar constituted a tripartite committee of agricultural labourers, agriculturists and the Government. This committee made investigation in twenty villages of the district regarding agricultural wages and reported in 1958. On the recommendation of this committee, the agricultural minimum wages for this district were revised in the month of October, 1958 and fixed as follows :—

Agricultural Operations.	Rate of the Minimum Wages fixed.
1. Ploughing, embanking, harrowing, manuring, sowing, weeding, uprooting, transplanting, irrigating, threshing, winnowing and other ancillary units of operations not specified in this Schedule.	Two seers six chataks of paddy and six chataks *lukma*, or One seer eight chataks of rice and six chataks *lukma* or Their equivalents in other grains according to their relative prices in nearest market.
2. Harvesting	One bundle out of sixteen bundles of harvested crop and also the existing practice of "*antia*" wherever it exists.

This rate is for both the casual and attached labourers, but the attached labourers are entitled to get the produce of five *kathas* of paddy

land and five *kathas* of *tanr* land in addition to the daily wage. The expression "attached worker" means a worker who is under a contract, written or verbal, with his employer, while the expression "casual worker" means a worker other than an attached worker. Daily hours of work consist of 9 hours for the adults, and 6⅔ hours for the adolescents and four hours for the children. These rates are fixed only for those workers who are paid in kinds only.

The Minimum Wages Act of 1948 is in force in the district, no doubt, but the wages according to the fixed rates are not always paid. Complaints have been received from the agricultural labourers and a few cases have been filed against the employers. The ignorance, simplicity, illiteracy and the poverty of the agricultural labourers do not enable them to complain against their employers lest they might not be thrown out of employment.

Wages of the persons employed in shellac manufactories have been mentioned in the Chapter "Industries". Minimum rates of wages have been fixed for the employment in shellac manufactories of Palamau district, as follows :—

Categories.	Minimum rates of wages. Rs.	a.	p.	
1. *Karigar*	2	10	0	for melting 41 seers of seed lac.
2. *Belwayia*	1	14	0	for melting 41 seers of seed lac.
3. *Pherwayia*	1	0	0	for melting 41 seers of seed lac.
4. *Kamia*	1	0	0	for melting 41 seers per day.
5. *Mazdoor*	1	4	0	for melting 41 seers of seed lac.
6. *Rang Karhiya*	0	6	6	per full basket of 24 seers.
7. Crusher	1	4	0	per day for 3 maunds of stick lac.
8. Tailor (*Khalifa*)	0	4	0	per Bhatta.
9. *Ghasandar* or *Majandar* ...	0	6	0	per basket of 24 seers washed and dried seed lac.
10. *Lathwa* or *Jalbhariya* ...	1	4	0	per day.
11. *Ghoghiahins*	1	0	0	per day.

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Minimum wages have also been fixed for the *biri* workers. For this section of workers there are various categories of minimum rates. They are :—

"A" Rs. 2-4-0 for per thousand of *biri* manufactured at the district headquarters.

"B" Rs. 1-12-0 for one thousand at all subdivisional headquarters and municipal towns.

"C" Rs. 1-8-0 for one thousand *biri* for the places within 5 miles beyond the limits of "A" and "B" and Rs. 1-6-0 for one thousand *biri* in other places.

But the most prevalent rate for the *biri* worker is Rs 1.87 (Rs. 1-14-0).

The common rate of wages for the casual labourers in the district is as follows :—

Male—Re. 1 to Re. 1.25.

Female—Re. 0.87.

Children—Re. 0.62 to 0.75.

(Masons are paid Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.50 np. per head per day. The wages vary according to the skill of the mason.)

Railway porters earn about Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2 a day on an average. A large number of females are employed for loading and unloading of bamboos, timbers, etc., in the jungles. Their daily average wages are Re. 0.87 np. to Re. 1. The persons employed for cutting timber, bamboo and for plucking *biri* leaves are paid Re. 1 to Rs. 1.25 per head per day. A herdsman (*charwaha*) is paid four maunds of paddy in a year from one house having not more than four heads of cattle, 5½ maunds if more than 4 heads of cattle up to 10. If a person has got more than 10 heads of cattle he often employs a separate *charwaha* giving Rs. 4 per month plus food. Carpenters and blacksmiths are also paid in kind by the agriculturists. They are paid 2½ maunds (*kacha* maund) per plough per agricultural season. The district has a number of persons employed as truck and bus drivers. The drivers of heavy motor vehicles are usually paid Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 a month.

Standard of Living.

In his *Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XVI (1877) W. W. Hunter had mentioned that the Deputy Commissioner estimated the living expenses for the family of a well-to-do shopkeeper consisting of three adults and 2 children to amount to Rs. 6 per month and of a cultivator to Rs. 4 per month. According to the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga, as Hunter mentioned, a farm of 13 acres of lowland and 26 acres of high land was considered to be a large one and a holding of 1/3rd of an acre of lowland and 3⅓ acres of upland was small one.

According to him a fair size comfortable holding in Palamau assuring a good living was about 4 acres of lowland and about 8 to 10 acres of upland. It is however, not mentioned as to the approximate number of persons that held large farms, small farms or comfortable holding. Hunter, however, mentioned that the amount of money spent in consumption of fermented liquor and in litigation would indicate that the material condition was "fairly prosperous". Hunter, however, did not discuss the material condition of the middle class people following profession, probably because this was a very small minority in his time and they were prosperous. Hunter's estimate of the living expenses mentioned earlier has to be accepted with the background of what a rupee could fetch at that time.

O'Malley in the first *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1907) appears to have accepted Sunder's opinion mentioned in the *Survey and Settlement Report* (1898) that the material condition had considerably improved. It was observed that there were more markets and the people had little difficulty in disposing of all they wished and often at good profits. Clothing made of English material was replacing the coarse cloth woven by the local weavers and leaf-plates and wooden cups were being replaced by brass utensils.

In the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) Tallents mentions that "there is a total population of 420,150 to be maintained each year on Rs. 40½ lakhs, from 168,784 holdings each containing on the average 0.71 acre of rice land and 3.17 acres of upland. The sum available per head of this population is therefore something between Rs. 9 and 10 a year. For the rest of the population, i.e., the landlords plus the labourers, who together amount to less than half the number of cultivators, a sum of Rs. 26½ lakhs is available annually : there is nothing to be gained by striking an average for an aggregation which contains individuals maintaining such divergent standards of living as the landlords and the labourers ..... A more direct and reliable indication of the poverty of the cultivators of the district is to be found in the fact that though there is no reason to suppose that the soil of Palamau is specially rich, rather the contrary, the general pitch of the rents, in spite of reduction effected by settlement, is still twice as high as in Ranchi or Hazaribagh."

Conditions have considerably changed since the last Revised District Gazetteer was published in 1926. There is more of urbanisation, more lands have been brought under the plough, beginnings of industrialisation have been made and a distinct change in appreciation of social value is visible. More boys are going to the school and, peculiarly enough, school education makes them allergic to take to the plough or the father's craft. The zamindar stood at the apex of the social hierarchy while the landless agricultural labourer was at the bottom. The middle class educated men have continued to be the backbone of the society although the zamindars have been pulled down from their high pedestal by the statutory abolition of zamindari and there has been an upsurge among the smaller cultivators, the agricultural labourers and the industrial workers. The size of the holding has diminished while the produce of the land is fetching much higher price now. There are other avocations possible although agriculture has remained the main occupation of the district.

Some investigation had been made as to the family budget of people of different status both in the rural and urban sectors. According to the results of this enquiry, persons in the rural areas may be classified under three headings, for example, landless agricultural labourers who earn their livelihood by working in the fields of other persons as attached or casual labourer, persons having 5 to 6 acres of land which would be giving them a subsistence but not much of comfort and agriculturists who have more than 6 acres of land that allows a somewhat comfortable living. The persons coming under the last category are certainly economically better off than the other two classes and constitute the real middle class among the agriculturists of the district.

The landless labourers earn just enough to satisfy the chief physical wants. Their assets are extremely few and they are usually mobile. They have to undergo hardship on certain days when they cannot sell their labour. The persons who have small holdings will be slightly better off than the landless agricultural labourers as they are not unamenable to work in others' field and thereby supplement their income. Litigation and avoidable extravagance on social events like marriages or funerals take away a good slice of their income. The middle class agriculturists may be said to have an income adequate to assure a fair living. But they also get indebted because of litigation and social commitments. Another source of drain of their income is the expenditure to educate the children in the schools and colleges. There may not be a high school near at hand and that would mean more expenditure as the boy has to remain in the hostel. As mentioned before there is only one college at Daltonganj in Palamau district and so any one wanting to go in for college education has at least to go and stay at Daltonganj. The previous comfortable margin of living that the middle class people had was due to their income from the land as well as the subsidiary income earned through some profession. For reasons mentioned before they have not got now as much of comfortable living as before. There has not been any proper survey of the indebtedness of any class of people in Palamau.

Another change in the standard of living between that of the landless labourer and a small agricultural family may be mentioned. They are almost at par now so far as the standard of living is concerned. If the landless labourers remain idle on certain days of the year they try to make it up by charging more wages when they know that the crops cannot be gathered without their help. The income of the landless labourers has increased because of the increase in wage rates and their women folk also work as casual labourers and bring in extra money to

the family pool. The investigation made shows that the pattern of consumption of the casual and attached labourers is almost the same but the attached labourers have a more stabilised economic condition than that of the casual labourers.

The food consumption of the people in the rural areas consist of rice, maize, *marua*, *gondli*, *sawan*, *china* and *kodo*. Rice is the staple food of the well-to-do. The majority of the people who are not well-to-do live on maize, cereals and pulses like wheat, gram and *kurthi*. The northern areas bordering on Shahabad and Gaya districts are under paddy and *rabi* cultivation. There, rice is largely consumed besides *marua*, wheat, barley and gram. The hilly tracts which form the remainder of the district are mainly inhabited by the aboriginal tribes which cultivate little rice and even less *rabi*. Here *bhadai* crops, such as maize, *marua*, *gondli*, and to a small extent *sawan* and *kodo* are extensively grown and consumed, while rice, wheat and barley are of little importance. In addition to these foodgrains, the inhabitants in hilly tracts, where forests abound, largely use edible forest produce to supplement their food supply. The *mahua* flower, seeds of *sal* tree, the *piar* and the *ber* and a large variety of jungle fruits and roots are eaten either cooked or raw. The consumption of vegetables in the lower classes is very limited. On an average, a family of this class spends about Re. 1 to 1.25 per month on vegetables and this amount is mostly spent on purchasing potatoes. Green vegetables are purchased very occasionally. Some *sag* (spinach) may be collected from the fields for consumption. The expenditure on sugar, spices, fuel and lighting, kerosene oil, is much less. Agricultural labourers are usually vegetarians not because they have a dislike for fish and meat but because of their high price. But the expenditure on the country liquor and tobacco is usually sizeable and may come next to that of food. Expenditure on education rarely finds a place. Children are not educated because of poverty. The children have often to supplement the family income. The average *per capita* consumption of cloth in this class may be said to be about 16 yards per annum. Footwear is not widely used in the villages, more so in the case of labourers.

In the middle class agricultural families rice, wheat, maize and gram are consumed which they grow and the coarser and cheaper cereals are not usually popular. The pulses *arhar*, gram, *kurthi* and *urid* are popular. The consumption of sugar is on the increase. *Gur* is not available in many parts of the district. Vegetables are consumed almost daily. Milk and milk products are consumed according to means and if the cows and buffaloes give milk. Usually in such families milk is not purchased. Tea has not entered in the interior of the district unless there is good contact with the towns. The richer classes in the villages have started keeping tea for guests. They are normally not vegetarians but the consumption of meat, fish, egg is occasional because in the rural areas their regular supply is not assured. In this class, the average *per capita* consumption of cloth ranges between 30 to 40 yards per annum. Footwear is more commonly used.

The houses of these families are usually of better type with a courtyard, verandahs, a sizeable *baithka* (sitting place) and a separate *bathan* or cowshed for the cattle, and a well either inside the house or near the main entrance.

Expenditure on education was found to be a considerable item in the budget. There is keen desire to give a good education to the children. Recreation and amusements or hobbies do not find much of a place. Newspaper reading is slowly becoming a habit. Expenditure on purchase of books or newspapers is kept to the minimum.

The family budget of an agriculturist owning about five acres of land including homestead, and a family of 7 persons is given below. In the family one person is the earner while there are three earning dependants. The total asset of the family is in the form of land valued at Rs. 1,500, livestock worth Rs. 500 and other assets of Rs. 500. The assets in the form of "others" include agricultural and non-agricultural implements, house, household furniture and metal utensils and a few trinkets for women. The income of the family is in the form of the agricultural produce worth of Rs. 641.00 (for 66 maunds for the last crop year), livestock produce of Rs. 55.50 (milk and *ghee*), income from non-agricultural source Rs. 120. Thus the total annual income comes to Rs. 716. The monthly items of expenditure are Rs. 52.50 on food, Rs. 5.50 on miscellaneous and Re. 0.15 on household, the average monthly farm cost is about Rs. 20.62. The annual expenditure is about Rs. 233.50 on livestock maintenance, Rs. 86.75 on implements and Rs. 95.25 on other charges as seeds, manure, land tax, etc., Rs. 85.25 on clothing. In the last winter season Rs. 4.50 had been spent on bedding. The budget shows that the expenditure far exceeds the income, and the family runs into deficit of Rs. 60 a month. This may be taken as the average type of this class.

The economic condition of the urban non-agricultural labourers is not much better than that of the rural agricultural labourer. The urban non-agricultural labourer does not get any perquisites like tiffin in addition to the wages and has to purchase all the foodgrains and other commodities in the market and with the price variations their economy is much affected. Further the urban labourers do not like to consume the coarser and cheaper grains like *makai*, *marua*, etc.

The family budget of a rickshaw-puller was investigated. He has a family of six—one male, two females and three children. The earners are the husband and the wife. The husband is a rickshaw-puller while the wife works as a maid-servant. Their total monthly earning comes to about Rs. 78 per month. The income from rickshaw-pulling varies from month to month. The items of monthly expenditure are as: rice Rs. 13.50, wheat Rs. 7.25, pulses Rs. 4.00, oil Rs. 4.50, medicine Rs. 3.75, vegetables Rs. 2.25, beverage Rs. 2.00, rice and barley Rs. 5.25. There is no expenditure on items like milk and *ghee*, fruits, education, domestic servants, etc. The expenditure on clothing, fuel, lighting, house rent and miscellaneous are as Rs. 5.00, Rs. 5.00,

Rs. 1.12, Rs. 4.00, and Rs. 7.00 respectively. In the miscellaneous expenditure liquor and tobacco are included. The family is not in a position to save as their earnings help only to make a bare existence possible. For the month taken into account the income has been about Rs. 78 while the expenditure about Rs. 69. The saving is paid as interest and a part payment of the loan. This family is in debt of Rs. 300. The amount was borrowed to purchase a rickshaw, and interest is paid at the rate of Rs. 3.12 per hundred per month over that amount.

The middle class men in the urban areas are within the income group of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per month. An idea of the family budget of one such family is given. This is a family of a teacher having 11 members—two males, two females and seven children; owning a house. The monthly income is about Rs. 152 (pay plus fee from tuition). He also receives about 12 maunds of rice annually from his land in the village. The monthly expenditure of the family on foodgrains is as follows :— Rice Rs. 30.00, wheat Rs. 21.75, gram Rs. 3.50, pulses Rs. 16.00, oil Rs. 4.50, milk Rs. 7.50, vegetables Rs. 12.50, tea Rs. 2.62 (total Rs. 98.37). Rs. 8 a month is spent on education of children. Domestic servant is paid Rs. 6 a month and 7½ seers of rice. The expenditure on fuel and lighting is Rs. 10.50 and Rs. 2.25 respectively and Rs. 11 on miscellaneous. The family does not save except Rs. 6 which he pays as premium on a life insurance policy for Rs. 2,000. He is in debt to the tune of Rs. 200. The loan was taken for constructing the house and he pays interest at the rate of Rs. 3.12 per hundred per month. Credit is often resorted to for purchasing cloths and consumption goods and repayment is made on instalment basis. The budget does not show any expenditure on entertainment or newspapers or books.

The other budgets on the family income and expenditure of such families conform to this typical budget with a little variation. This variation occurs due to the change in the size of the family. There may be some expenditure on entertainment by visiting cinemas. But there is not much of saving for the bad days. It is also peculiar that middle class families usually have a large family. There has been no family planning in the past.

The district has very few persons of the upper middle class, or upper class with a comfortable economic condition. Such persons are usually businessmen, top lawyers, doctors and highly paid Government servants more concentrated now in the towns. Their standard of living is akin to the persons of such classes in other districts. They have some margin to save. Their budget includes expenditure on fooding, clothing, entertainments, education, medicines, servants, hobbies, etc. The expenditure items on servants, entertainments and education of the children take away a good percentage of the income. Strangely enough, in spite of the rise in the prices of foodstuff, the expenditure on fooding is not very considerable unless the family is large.

General Level of Employment in Different Occupations.

In the section on livelihood pattern it has been mentioned that the main occupation of the district is agriculture engaging about 91 per cent of the total population. Although occupations other than agriculture engage a very small section of the population, rural or urban, mention has to be made of the pressure on these occupations to show the economic trends.

The following statement from the *Palamau District Census Hand-Book*, 1951 gives the number of persons engaged in different occupations other than agriculture :—

Occupations.	Male.	Female.
1. Primary Industries (as stock-raising, rearing of small animals and insects, plantation industry, forestry and wood cutting, fishing).	726	159
2. Mining and quarrying (coal, mica, iron-ore and sand pits).	1,075	18
3. Processing and Manufactures (foodstuffs, textile, leather and vegetable products thereof).	2,113	932
4. Processing and Manufacturing—otherwise not elsewhere specified (bricks, tiles, structuring clay products, cements, wood and wood products, furniture).	2,336	665
5. Processing and Manufacture of metals, chemicals and products thereof.	479	137
6. Commerce (retail and wholesale traders in foodstuffs, fuel, textile, leather, etc.)	5,659	951
7. Construction and Utilities (building, roads and bridges, etc.).	730	100
8. Transport, Storage and Communication (rail, road, water, postal, telegraph, telephone).	1,565	29

(These are consolidated figures of varieties of occupations classified under one head.)

A brief break-up of the above specified occupational figures will give a clearer picture.

Under the occupational head "Primary Industries", the number of persons engaged in stock-raising was 395 males and 65 females; rearing

of small animals and insects, 35 males and 33 females; plantation industries, 27 males only; forestry and wood cutting, 235 males and 36 females; fishing, 30 males and 25 females. The figures for forestry and wood cutting appear to be an under-estimate.

The break-up statistics of Mining and Quarrying are : non-metallic mining, 60 males; coal mining, 546 males and 10 females; iron-ore mining, 239 males; stone quarrying, clay and sand pits, 97 males and 8 females; and the mica mines, 133 males. Here also the figures do not appear to be correct. More people are definitely engaged in coal mining and stone quarrying.

The processing and manufacture—foodstuffs, textile, leather and products thereof—employed persons as, food industries otherwise unclassified, 201 males and 86 females; grains and pulses, 151 males and 101 females; vegetable oil and dairy products, 110 males and 109 females; sugar industries, 13 males and 73 females; beverages, 13 males; tobacco, 136 males and 75 females; cotton textile, 499 males and 246 females; industries otherwise unclassified, 30 males and 37 females; leather, leather products and footwear, 479 males and 108 females.

The processing and manufacturing—not elsewhere specified—includes manufacturing industries otherwise unclassified; bricks, tiles and other structural clay products, cements, cement pipes and other concrete products; non-metallic mineral products; wood and wood products other than furniture and fixtures; furniture and fixtures which employed 325 males and 132 females; 29 males and 22 females; 952 males and 27 females; 248 males and 157 females; 723 males and 327 females and 79 males respectively.

The processing and manufacture—metals, chemicals and products thereof—include manufacture of metal products otherwise unclassified which employed 342 males and 137 females; iron and steel, 98 males; transport equipment, 35 males; machinery (other than electrical machinery) including engineering workshops, 4 males.

Commerce employed the largest number of males and females. It included retail trade otherwise unclassified which gave livelihood to 2,153 males and 339 females; retail trade in foodstuffs employed 2,552 males and 469 females; retail trade in fuel including petrol provided employment to 124 males and 13 females; retail trade in textile and leather goods supported 259 males and 43 females; wholesale trade in foodstuffs engaged 134 males and 9 females; wholesale trade in commodities other than foodstuffs was the source of livelihood to 215 males and 35 females; under real estate 30 males and 9 females were being employed; whereas the money-lending, banking and other financial business supported 192 males and 34 females.

There were 613 persons (all male) employed in transport by road, the water transport was the means of livelihood for 82 persons, the railways employed 280 males whereas the postal services 557 males, telegraph and telephone services employed 22 males, 1 female and 6 males respectively.

A passing reference may be made as to the changes that are expected in 1961 census. The expansion of National Extension Service Blocks and Community Development Projects, more of mining and quarrying, start of small industries, development of the roadways, and more utilisation of forest resources are expected to raise the figures of persons engaged in non-agricultural occupations. Trade and commerce particularly in forest products and livestock are engaging more attention and giving occupation to more people. The development of silviculture in this district will open up the availability of more of forest produce and is likely to employ more persons. A paper-pulp factory near Daltonganj is visualised. Even now pulping may probably be done on a comparatively small scale which is common in Japan. The development of a vegetable belt round the urban areas is a foregone conclusion because of the rapid industrialisation of the neighbouring town of Ranchi. This will lead to more men taking to business and transport.

The problem of the educated unemployed is not so acute in this district because of the comparative backwardness of the district from educational point of view. But the trends are there. The extension of the Blocks and the other Government Departments will absorb some of the educated unemployed. The figures of the educated unemployed are not available but there can be no doubt that they are mounting up. It may be mentioned that the State does not insist on private employees notifying their vacancies.

SHIFT FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY.

The industrial potentiality of the district is still untapped. There is, as mentioned elsewhere, a good possibility of several small-scale industries as well as large-scale industries and particularly a fuller exploitation of the forest and mineral resources of the district. At the moment there is only one large-scale cement factory at Japla which employs about 1,300 persons. Under such circumstances the shift from agriculture to industry is naturally not marked nor is there much of shift from one industry to another. The tea estates in Assam used to take away a fair number of field labourers, both men and women. In recent years there has not been much of emigration either. It is true that the industries in the neighbouring districts of Ranchi and Singhbhum have attracted labourers from Palamau district but the number is not large. The poorer classes of the district are allergic to emigration.

Employment Exchange.

The Employment Exchange in the district was opened at Daltonganj in 1953. The figures below give some idea of the work done through the Employment Exchange :—

Years.	Persons registered.	Persons placed.
1953	2,500	181
1954	2,671	190
1955	2,663	234
1956	2,956	275
1957	2,133	342
1958	1,845	125
1959	1,983	309
Total	16,751	1,656

The statistics show that the Exchange had not been much used by the employers or it may be that the right type of people required in different trades do not register themselves. There is no legal obligation on the private employers to notify their vacancies and practically no interference from the State to the employments given. Even the State Departments do not as a rule, take the help of the Employment Exchange to fill up the vacancies.

National Planning and Community Development.

With the advent of Independence in 1947 the character of the administration of India both at the Centre and at the States underwent a revolutionary change. The essential features of the administration before the Independence were the collection of revenue and administration with the purpose of maintaining law and order. From this objective of a Police State there was a change into what is known as the Welfare State and both at the Centre and at the State level, a National Planning Council and a State Planning Board were constituted. The aim was to frame co-ordinated schemes for an all-round development of the rural areas which had been very much neglected in the past. A further aim was to decentralise the activities of the State which were mostly concentrated at the district level. Peculiarly enough the police thana was the unit through which the administration moved prior to Independence even for development work. Under such circumstances there is no wonder that the social values were not properly appreciated and the common man was practically ignored. The Community Development schemes were started all over the country in the First Five-Year Plan and the first Community Development Block in Palamau district was started at Panki in June, 1954. The Second Five-Year Plan underlined the work taken up and indicated an extension.

The field of public administration in a Welfare State is much wider and the various economic plans undertaken were to be implemented through the Community Development Projects and National Extension Service Blocks. It was visualised that all this required a great army of both technical and non-technical personnel and both the State Governments and the Central Government provided agencies for training up the personnel. The National Extension Service and Community Development Administration have been the most remarkable feature in the rural development administration and the future of the countryside is now linked up with the implementation of the various programmes undertaken by them. The importance of the village as an administrative unit has been underlined and the village has been put definitely on the administrative map. The development programme and its administration has now been taken right to the villages. The idea is that the raiyat at his village will get the services of a trained animal husbandry man and experts on medicine and public health, agriculture, co-operation, industries, etc. The idea is also to create an integrated development administration at the Block level which will go down to the village level.

The whole of Palamau district is slowly being covered by the Blocks. The following statement will show how far the work has progressed in the district :—

Community Development Blocks in the district.

Name of the Block.	Present stage.	Date of opening.	Population.	Gram Panchayat.
1. Panki	C. D. Stage II	June, 1954	41,715	18
2. Balumath	C. D. Old pattern	June 1955	47,995	18
3. Mahuadanr	Special Multipurpose	December, 1955.	27,383	10
4. Manatu	C. D. Stage I	19th May 1956.	32,626	15
5. Bhandaria	Ditto	Ditto	16,431	8
6. Ranka	Ditto	Ditto	37,791	12
7. Patan	Ditto	1st September 1956.	51,373	19
8. Bisrampur	Ditto	Ditto	61,962	20
9. Garhwa West	Ditto	26th January 1957.	46,616	14
10. Chhaterpur	Ditto	2nd October 1957.	49,199	18
11. Chandwa	Ditto	Ditto	29,989	12
12. Dhurki (Nagar South)	Ditto	1st April 1958.	18,066	8
13. Latehar East	Ditto	1st October 1958.	36,219	13
14. Hariharganj	Pre-extension	1st April 1959.	25,523	11
15. Garhwa East	Ditto	10th October 1959.	44,721	12

During the First Five-Year Plan the first nine Blocks were established and in the Second Five-Year Plan period six more Blocks have been set up till March, 1960. Under the existing plan the entire district is expected to be covered under the Community Development Blocks by 1964-65.

Organisational Pattern.

There is a District Development Committee with the Deputy Commissioner as the co-ordinator and there is a District Committee consisting of non-officials, Members of the State Assembly, Members of Parliament, the District Heads of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation, Medical and Public Health, and other Development Departments. There is a similar Block team at the Block level with the Block Development Officer as the co-ordinator. The Block Advisory Council consists of *Sarpanches*, progressive farmers and other non-officials. This organisation goes down to the village. At the village level there is a Village Level Worker who is to co-ordinate now the work of a number of villages. The idea is that every village or a few of them will have a Village Level Worker. The Village Level Worker is to co-ordinate the village work and to help the Village *Panchayats*, the Village Co-operatives, etc., functioning properly. The institution is intended to assist the people in their efforts to improve their own condition and to enlist the active co-operation of the people through *Gram Panchayats*. The *Gram Panchayats* are not only the units of self-government but also the units for administration of justice to some extent.

It is to be realised that the rejuvenation can only be possible if there are suitable Block Development Officers, Agricultural Extension Officers, Animal Husbandry Officers, Medical Officers, Lady Health Visitors, Midwives, Overseers, Male and Female Social Education Organisers, Progress Assistants, Village Level Workers, *Gram Sevikas*, etc. Overnight the large army of officers required cannot be found. The work is new and there should be no wonder if there have been leakages in human energy or financial or other type of bungles at some level. A number of Extension Training Centres in the State and beyond is working at full speed but to cover all the districts in India is a task of great magnitude.

The changed set-up of the revenue administration is also another feature which affects the economic trends. A large number of *Karamcharis* and other personnel are now required to run the revenue administration at the lowest level. The scheme of land reforms in India is closely associated with the problem of co-operative farming. The extension of co-operating farming will also need trained personnel. It is not impossible that there may be some criticism as to the working of the system and the common man may think that he is not in much advantage by the new set-up but it will take a little time to realise the full benefit of the scheme. The changed pattern of the administration

with the active co-operation of the villagers at the level of the villages is bound to affect the economic trends of the future.

Evaluation has not been done in respect of any of the Blocks of the district. But the progress report suggests that the Blocks are helping better cropping pattern, larger turnover, better facilities for rural credit and lesser insistence on land. The trend is towards lesser dependence on agriculture as mainstay owing to the creation of more avenues of occupations since the inception of Blocks. Employment opportunity is quite encouraging and the Training-*cum*-Production Centres and the availability of electrical power at places like Chipadohar had been helpful.

GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITION.

If a higher standard of living, consumption of electricity, use of public vehicles, better type of food and clothing, desire for higher education, more exploitation of the internal resources, better produce, etc., are any criteria for marking an improvement in the general economic condition of the people in an area, it may be observed that this has improved in Palamau district. The common man in the district now uses more cloth, has a more variety of food, will take a seat in the public vehicle when going a distance of 20 miles, keeps a lantern and probably a torch, and aspires for a bicycle. He has now the benefit of the irrigational works, public health measures and has more leisure to visit the *melas* and fairs. He has always a ready market for his produce, be it timber, eggs, grains or livestock. The minerals and the forests of his area are being more exploited and if he wants, he can sell his surplus labour. There is always a market for his labour and he is no longer required to go to the tea gardens. As a tenant he has no longer to suffer from the *abwabs* or the *zulum* of zamindars. He knows how much he has to pay as rent and where to go if he is harassed. As an agriculturist, he has profited by the great rise in the prices and the reduction of the rent two decades back. As an agricultural labourer he has forgotten how his father slogged under the *kamia* system. Now he is free to offer his services anywhere and he can almost dictate his terms as there is a great scarcity of availability of labour. He has now been given more rights in the forest produce for his domestic consumption. As a tradesman he has more avenues for putting in his capital. The improvements in communication have immensely opened the prospects of trade. The incidence of general health has vastly improved. But the avenues for employment for the educated middle-man are not many.

Economic condition of the people of an area is not an abstract feature. There has been an accent on the value of labour and the importance of the common man has been underlined. There has been a great social uplift and more avenues opened for the down-trodden depressed classes. They are no longer working under the load of century-old taboos and the constitution gives them equal rights with others. This is a very great moral force and asset for improving the economic condition.

It is true that taxes have increased and the prices of articles have also tremendously increased. But in a planned economy where great development projects are sponsored for bringing in an all-round upgrading there has got to be an imposition of fresh taxes and a certain amount of denial of luxuries without heavy payment. As a matter of fact, there is an opinion that in view of the magnitude of the developments undertaken throughout the country the incidence of taxation is quite modest. No. district can remain isolated now and Palamau district derives benefits for projects in other districts of the State and beyond and must bear more taxation for the benefits. Many other countries had developed themselves by a much more vigorous and regimented life.

What the district needs more is the development of small and large-scale industries. The essential agricultural economy has suffered in the past by either floods or general scarcity and continues to do so. The old records show that the district had suffered badly in 1868, 1873-74, 1896-97, 1899, 1900, 1918, 1932-33, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1954-55 and 1955-56. Usually the more affected areas were north-east and north-west and to a smaller extent the centre. In 1896-97 the revenue thanas of Garhwa, Daltonganj, Balumath, Latehar and Patan had suffered badly for want of rains. In 1918 there was an irregular distribution and early cessation of the rainfall and this led to a district-wide scarcity in 1919. In 1950-51 the whole district had suffered from heavy rains in the beginning and then complete failure of *Hathia*. Complete failure of *Hathia* rains had caused scarcity throughout the district in the years 1954-55 and 1955-56. Heavy floods in Sone river due to the heavy and uninterrupted downpour of rains had caused severe floods in 1923 and 1950. This analysis will show that agriculture is still at the mercy of rains. It is, therefore, clear that when there are possibilities of small and large-scale industries by utilising the internal resources an attempt should be made to change the face of the district by starting them as far as possible. A self-generating economy for the good of the district as well as for the State can only be possible if the essential agricultural economy is supported by an industrial economy.

CHAPTER XI.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY.

Prior to the year 1892, Palamau formed part of the district of Lohardaga. From 1852 to 1859 one of the Junior Assistants of Governor-General's Agent, South-West Frontier, was in charge of what was then known as the Korundah subdivision with jurisdiction over greater part of the present district of Palamau. The Junior Assistant in addition to the charge of Palamau was required to act as a Special Assistant to the Commissioner in the superintendence of the affairs of Surguja and the charge of Udaipur, two tributary estates in the South-West Frontier. His civil station was at Korundah or Jameera Pat, situated on a barren hill within the limits of Surguja now in Madhya Pradesh.

In 1859 on the recommendation of the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division, the Government of Bengal sanctioned the permanent location of the headquarters of Junior Assistant of Korundah subdivision in Palamau. The new site selected for civil station was Lesliganj, but it was abandoned later in favour of a more suitable site situated on the bank of Koil river opposite Shahpur. The new civil station which was occupied in 1863, got the name of Daltonganj after the name of Col. Dalton who was the Commissioner of Chotanagpur in 1857.

The subdivision of Palamau was changed into a district from January 1, 1892, vide Bengal Government notification dated the 30th October, 1891, and Lt. Colonel A. E. Gordon was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Second Grade, and Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, vide Government notification dated the 27th October, 1891, published in *Calcutta Gazette*, 1891, part I, page 931.[1]

The post had been sanctioned, vide Government of India Resolution no. 3263, dated the 5th August, 1891. By a further notification, dated the 5th April, 1892, the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau was vested with necessary judicial powers held by the Deputy Commissioners of Chotanagpur Division.

The sources for the study of the early history of Palamau are very meagre; and for that very reason the system of administration of the early Chero and Kharwars who ruled the country is much obscure. The information that we get from the *Badshahnama*, the *Alamgirnama*, the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin* and several other scattered accounts of the English writers does not give much help in drawing a correct and detailed picture

[1] *The District Gazetteer of Palamau* by Mr. O'Malley and Tallents mentions Mr. W. R. Bright to be the first Deputy Commissioner. The records in Archives of the State Government, however, do not support this and indicate that Gordon was the first Deputy Commissioner (P. C. R. C.).

of the administrative machinery; nevertheless, they throw sufficient light on the subject to form an idea of the same.

Until the seventies of the sixteenth century A. D. Palamau was ruled by the Chero king. The king was the administrative head and combined in him both the civil and military authority. He ruled the country as long as he remained powerful to subdue his chieftains. The lands of the country were divided into two parts; the *khalsa* or crown lands, and the *jagir* lands held by a number of nobles who paid a certain amount to the sovereign, provided for certain services specially on conditions of rendering military service in times of war and kept the balance of income to themselves. The king depended very much on *jagirdars* for his military operations, who seldom fulfilled their obligations when required to do so and for his prosperity on raids and forays rather than upon cultivation and settled rule. The face of the country in these days is said to have been for the most part covered by jungles. The town of Palamau itself, the capital of the country, was hemmed in on all sides by jungle into which the defeated Cheros always seemed able to make an escape from their enemies at the eleventh hour. For the purpose of administration the country seems to have been subdivided into *tappas* and villages. The origin of *tappas* is lost in obscurity and is still a subject of research. The administration respected the autonomy of the villages and the people were allowed the freedom of social life. Each village was under the charge of a village headman or *Pradhan* whose main function was to keep order in the village and to help his superior landlord in collection of dues. The situation of headmanship was hereditary but liable to dismissal on failure of duty. There was also a *patwariship*, in the latter part of the Chero rule, in each village who kept revenue accounts. In course of time these institutions of headmanship and *patwari* dwindled into impotency.

Administration of justice seems to lie entirely in the hands of the *jagirdars* and *ijaradars* under whom the people held their tenancies. The Raja did not interfere so long as there was no violent crime or defiance of royal authority. There were no primary courts nor anything like legislation in the modern sense of the term. Men had to settle their differences locally, by appeal to the caste courts or *panchayats*, the arbitration of an impartial umpire or by resort to force. The condition of the people on the whole was satisfactory during the reigns of the early kings but definitely not in the time of the later kings when the situation faced a great setback on account of the ravages of prolonged wars and invasions. During the reign of king Medni Rai it is said that there was no house without a churn and butter. "*Raja Mednia Ghar Ghar Baje Malhania.*" It is learnt from traditions that Raja Medni Rai constantly visited the people and those found without means were provided by neighbours who were required to contribute out of their fortunes to make such persons solvent. During the reigns of later Rajas the sovereignty of the king was imperilled more than once by the imperial invasions of the Mughals, although the Rajas asserted their independence every time after the departure of the invaders or the

moment they were capable to collect armies and drive out the Emperors' garrisons. The defeat of King Pratap in 1643, however, is an important factor in the history of downfall of sovereignty of the Palamau kingdom. The Raja was not only compelled to pay a heavy *peshkash* of a lakh of rupees annually but was also required to go in person to Patna where he was ultimately made a commander of one thousand horse and given a grant of Palamau as military fief upon a *jama* of Rs. 2,50,000. The acceptance of *mansabdari* made the Raja an officer subordinate to the Emperor bound to render military service in times of need. The situation, however, did not last long and the country soon asserted its independence and stopped payment of *peshkash*. Aurangzeb ordered Daud Khan, the Governor of Bihar to invade the country who defeated the king in 1661 and appointed a *fauzdar* to look after the military administration of Palamau Pargana. Kunda was taken from the Chero king and settled with another zamindar. In 1666 Lashkar Khan, the new Governor of Bihar, took the Pargana under his direct control. Since then up to the British conquest, Palamau remained engaged in various wars and internal disputes. The administration of the country during this period, therefore, necessarily continued to be that of military despotism.

A new era of administration opened with the conquest of Palamau by the British in the year 1771. The country was placed in charge of the Patna Council and a triennial settlement at an annual revenue of Rs. 12,000 was concluded with the Raja. The revenue was not paid with any amount of regularity and thus it became necessary to revise the three years' settlement. On the 8th February, 1773, a quinquennial settlement was made and the revenue was fixed at Rs. 6,000 for the last year, Rs. 8,000 for the second and Rs. 12,000 for the remaining three years. On the 15th October, 1773, Warren Hastings recommended to the Council that Palamau, Ramgarh and Nagpur should be transferred from the charge of Patna Council to the Presidency and observed that the administration of justice and collection of rents from the raiyats should be left entirely to the zamindars. This was in essence in conformity with the spirit of the Grant of Diwani. This change took place in the following year, the Burdwan Council exercising control for few months during the process. At the end of the year 1775 Philip Francis wrote a minute urging that in order to improve the country and increase the revenue, the administration should be transferred to a civilian. The proposal was accepted and Palamau was placed under the Collector of Ramgarh who was given an assistant to manage the affairs. The southern frontier force, however, continued to be stationed at Hazaribagh until quite recent times. Since then there had been no less than six changes in the revenue jurisdiction of the country up to the establishment of South-West Frontier Agency in 1834. From 1775 to 1800 A. D. Palamau remained within Ramgarh, from 1800 to 1809 A. D. its jurisdiction was transferred to Bihar and from 1809 to 1816 it remained in charge of an Assistant Collector sitting alternately for six months at Chatra and Sherghati. In the latter year he was ordered to

write direct to Board. In 1817 a regulation was passed establishing a Board of Commissioners for Banaras and Bihar. The Assistant Collector was placed under it and correspondence was henceforth done with the Collector of Bihar. In 1819 the Ramgarh Collector became a Joint Commissioner and the Assistant Collector administered Palamau for three years. In 1834 the South-West Frontier Agency was created and Palamau was incorporated in it as a part of the district of Lohardaga. "As a result of all these changes", writes Mr. Bridge, "the officer who wanted them, could never find the records relating to the district; thus in 1838 Dr. Davidson, the first Principal Assistant to the Agent who was then incharge of the Pargana, reported that he could not find any of the English correspondence of the period about 1818 because it was, he believed, at Gaya, and so inter-mixed with the Sherghati papers that it could not be disentangled from them. Similarly it was not till 1876, after he had been 12 years incharge of the subdivision that Mr. Forbes first saw Mr. Cuthbert's well known reports of 1827 and even then he had access to none of the very important papers connected with them. It is necessary to bear these facts in mind, for the absence of the old documents had very important consequence in the later history of the district." With the creation of the Agency all the regulations together with the rules for the collection of revenue till then in force were suspended but the Agency was directed to conform generally to the orders of the Sadar Diwani and Nizamat Adalat and the Sadar Board of Revenue.

From 1834—44 headquarters of Palamau remained at Lohardaga, and then at Kishunpur (Wilkinsonpur which is at present known as Ranchi) up to 1852. It was split up into separate subdivision in 1853 A. D. with headquarters at Korundah or Kuroondah, a place perched on the lofty peak of Jamira Pat on the border of Surguja estate at an elevation of more than 3,400 feet from the sea level. The jurisdiction of the subdivision extended over Tappa Kanro in Surguja and the two parganas of Palamau and Odeypur or Udaipur. A Junior Assistant of the Agent was stationed there. On account of difficult communication and remoteness of the places these headquarters could not be popular. The situation of Korandah was all the more appalling as will be apparent from the ispection note of H. Ricketts, Member of the Board of Revenue in 1855 (selection from the Records of the Bengal Government, no. XX, Calcutta Gazetteer Office, 1855): "The subdivision of Koranda was established only in 1853.

"2. The Officer stationed there has jurisdiction over the estates of Oodeypoor escheated to Government, Palamow purchased by Government, and Sirgoojah, a tributary *mahal*, held under the Governor-General's Agent.

"3. In the 5th paragraph of his letter of the 21st February, the Agent recommended, that the Assistant should ordinarily exercise, subordinate to the Principal Assistant of Lohardugga, the full powers of a Magistrate, and corresponding powers in the Revenue Department: the proposal was sanctioned.

"4. In his letter to me of the 19th October, the Assistant in charge of the subdivision stated, that Palamow had not been made over to him, and that Lall Bindasaree Persad, the Rajah's younger brother, had the sole management of the Police, subject only to the supervision of the Assistant, and, consequently, that on that date Oodeypoor only was really subject to the entire management of his office.

"5. Having called for copy of the instructions issued to the Assistant, I find, that on the 8th August, the Agent directed the Assistant to exercise in Palamau the full powers of a Magistrate and Collector, in subordination to the Principal Assistant of Lohardugga: and on the 10th February, the Governor-General's Agent instructed him, that in Oodeypoor, the entire Judicial, Revenue and Police duties were under his charge; that he would dispose of all Revenue and Civil cases which might be brought before him; that in the Criminal Department he would exercise the full powers of a Magistrate of the Regulation Provinces, and refer to his (the Governor-General's Agent's) Court all cases which in a Regulation district would be committed to the Sessions; that in heinous cases, likely to be committed to the Agent's Court, the depositions should be taken by the Assistant in person, but that in petty cases, the depositions might be taken by the *Tehseeldar* as heretofore; that in all cases of crime or misdemeanour, he should hear the defence of accused persons before passing sentence, but that in petty cases of assault, etc., he might pass orders upon the record received from the *Tehseeldar;* that in forwarding cases for the orders of the Agent's Court, he should submit a brief statement of the case and of the proofs adduced against the accused.

"6. With reference to that part of these orders which says, that in petty cases of assault, &c., the Assistant may pass orders at once on the record received from the *Tehseeldar* I think it would be better to give the *Tehseeldar* power to dispose of very trifling cases, with the powers of an Assistant under Regulation IX of 1807.

"7. With respect to Sirgoojah, the Assistant was instructed, that in conformity with the practice of the office, he would interfere as little as possible, with the internal management of the Mehal; that in cases referred by the Manager, within the competence of a Magistrate, he would pass final orders and submit to the Agent such cases as in the Regulation Provinces would be committed for trial to the Sessions.

"8. In cases within his own competency, Mr. Thompson was instructed, that it was not necessary for him to require the attendance of the witnesses at Koranda; that the evidence taken by the Sirgoojah Manager would suffice, provided there was no reason to doubt its genuineness, but he was at liberty to summon and examine the witnesses in any case whenever he considered it necessary. As in the case of Oodeypoor, instead of the Assistant passing orders in trivial cases on the strength of depositions taken by the Manager, I think it would be far safer and better, in every respect, to give the Manager power to

dispose of trifling cases with an appeal to the Assistant; as a Native. who would not hesitate to cook a case to be disposed of by the Assistant, would hesitate to cook a case to be disposed of by himself.

"9. With these alterations, I approve of the instructions issued to the Assistant, but it appears to me, that the establishment he is allowed, is not sufficient to enable him to conduct his duties with any efficiency. I would increase it to Rupees 174, which will enable the Assistant to entertain six efficient men; without such an establishment, he will be unable to perform the duties expected from him. I must here remark, that it is the very worst economy to employ an expensive official, and to stint him in establishment. It is an economy universally prevalent, especially with reference to all our Native Judges, Deputy Collectors and Deputy Magistrates. Often times, a *Mohurrir* at Rupees 10 per mensem is saved, at the cost of three days' pay of the master at Rupees 10 per diem. I now propose to increase the Assistant's establishment allowance by Rupees 50 per mensem, which will enable him to do justice to his appointment, and to himself."

In his letter no. 92 of the 20th April, 1859 Colonel Dalton reported to Government: "That it was in every respect a most unfavourable position for the Junior Assistant perched on a barren hill and difficult of access, far from any *bazar* or village from which supplies could be obtained, no population near but the scanty and wild inhabitants of one or two small hamlets, and as remote as it was possible to be from the parts of the jurisdiction, where the chief business of the office lay, it was some idea of its value as a sanitary position that could alone have led to its selection, and in this respect it never came up to the expectations that had been formed of it, as statistics collected showed that it was by no means a healthy locality either for Europeans or for natives.

"The Palamau people complained not only of the long journey that they had to make which could only be undertaken during the favourable seasons of the year, but the poverty of Koranda and its neighbourhood was such that they had to take with them provisions to last them during the whole period of their sojourn and though Koranda or Jamira Pat was within the limits of Surguja, it was for its inaccessibility not more patronized by the Surguja people than by the Palamau people."

In 1860 it was decided to establish a permanent subdivision in Palamau and a committee selected a site for the headquarters at Bhuree on the Amanat near Tarhasi and Sagalim. The site was approved by Government but afterwards given up in favour of Lesliganj, a more central place. But before any building had been undertaken, Lesliganj was found to be unhealthy and the site now occupied by the station at Daltonganj was finally adopted by Colonel Dalton in 1862 after whose name the town bears its name. The next change of importance was the transfer of Japla and Balaunja Parganas from the district of Gaya in 1871. In the year 1892 Palamau was created an independent district and Pargana Tori was transferred to its jurisdiction from

Ranchi district. Since then it is a constituent district of Chotanagpur Division and within the scope of Regulation XIII of 1833 under which the South West Frontier Agency was established it is a non-regulation district, which means that some of the general regulations and Acts in force in other parts of Bihar have not been extended to it. There was at one time some conflict of opinion as to what laws were in operation in a non-regulation district. In letter no. 2611, dated the 5th June, 1871 the Government's classification on the subject issued in connection with the transfer of Japla and Balaunja Parganas to Palamau was that the only point in which the non-regulation system differed from the regulation system was in the matter of the sale of real property for debt. The revenue laws applied to the non-regulation districts were less severe than those in the regulation districts.

The Deputy Commissioner and his Office.

The Deputy Commissioner from the very beginning of the present set-up of the administration in the district was treated as the very pivot of the set-up. At first a military officer, then usually promoted 'writer', later a covenanted hand and then a member of the Indian Civil Service or the Provincial Civil Service, the Deputy Commissioner who was also the Collector was the officer who counted most. There was a time when the Deputy Commissioner not only looked after the general administration, law and order, the post offices, the hospitals, but for a long time he was the Chairman of the District Board and looked after the roads, rural sanitation and health, village education and arboriculture. With the growing complexity of administration there have been ramifications and the post of Special Officers created for some of the administrative departments. Thus the Deputy Commissioner came to be helped by a gazetted Superintendent of Excise for the administration of excise affairs, a Superintendent of Police for running the day to day police administration, a District Sub-Registrar for the registration of documents, a Superintendent of Jail for running the day to day jail administration, a Civil Surgeon to run the medical department, etc. He was given a number of gazetted officers who were magistrates of various ranks for running the core of the administration. They were also Revenue Officers and as such designated as Deputy Collectors. These officers used to be vested with magisterial and revenue powers by publication of notifications in the Official Gazette.

Even with the creation of posts for high powered officers like the Superintendent of Police or the Subdivisional Officers, incharge of subdivisions, to whom considerable devolution of powers were made, the overall administrative supervision and responsibility remained with the Deputy Commissioner. It was the Deputy Commissioner who was the invariable link with the authorities of the State level. He was to implement the State policy in every branch in the district. He was accountable to the Government for bad administration.

Another duty of the Deputy Commissioner was to hear criminal cases and to decide them. Usually the Deputy Commissioner heard

appeals from the 2nd and 3rd class Magistrates and revenue appeals. He could also try important original cases, both criminal and revenue. When work multiplied, the Deputy Commissioner's original criminal or revenue work had to be given up and the criminal appellate work was delegated to a Senior Deputy Magistrate who was vested with appellate powers.

With the development of public opinion the District Boards were made independent bodies but the Deputy Commissioner had still certain responsibilities to see that the Board was functioning properly. Many of the District Officers' departments like Excise, Co-operative, Jails, etc., were made into separate departments at Secretariat level and the local officer at district level for that department was put under his departmental boss as well. Thus an Excise Superintendent had to work under the Deputy Commissioner directly but he was also put under a Deputy Commissioner of Excise at the Division and the Commissioner of Excise at Government headquarters. But this did not give the Deputy Commissioner much relief as he was still responsible for the department. After Independence in 1947, the character of the administration has been undergoing a great change. Briefly the State has assumed the role of a Welfare State. More and more development work and projects were introduced. More agrarian reforms came in adding to the work of the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner's functions as the Collector went on rapidly multiplying. A large number of District Councils for Education, Sanitation, Small Savings Drive, Irrigation, etc., came to be formed. The Deputy Commissioner was invariably the head of all these District Councils. A large number of ameliorative rent-laws like Rent Reduction, Cess. Commutation, Bakast Restoration were passed. The result was that the officers had to do a lot of field work. The changed set-up of agrarian laws culminated in the abolition of zamindaries by an Act in 1950. The zamindari abolition was a very serious step, revolutionary in character as it did away an institution over a century old that had dominated almost every aspect of rural life. There had been no Survey and Settlement Operations in the district for several decades. The land records were not up-to-date and this created a great problem to the Collector and his officers. All these changes necessitated addition to offices and every district was given an Additional Collector with a large staff. The subordinate staff was recruited hurriedly and most of them lacked revenue experience. The attitude of the outgoing landlords was not helpful and generally non-co-operative.

As mentioned before the office of the Deputy Commissioner known as the Collectorate had continued the same pattern from almost the beginning of the district administration under the British rule. A detailed study of the district and subdivisional offices which included the recommendations regarding the standard of staffing and the organisation to be adopted for the Collectorate and subdivisional offices was done in 1905 by a Committee known as the Slacke Committee. The

Committee was set up to draw a comprehensive scheme for improving the position of the ministerial officers. The pattern that was set up followed the needs at that time. The English office in the Collectorate was the clearing house of the Deputy Commissioner's administration and every letter went to the English Office and had to be treated in the various departments concerned but under the control of the English Office. Apart from the confidential section there were separate criminal and revenue departments and the Office Superintendent was at the head of the ministerial officers. Each of the departments in the Collectorate like the English Office, Establishment, Nazarat, Tauji and Cess, Land Registration, Treasury, etc., was put under a Deputy or a Sub-Deputy Collector or an Assistant Magistrate or a Joint Magistrate who belonged to the Indian Civil Service. The Establishment was technically under a Deputy Collector and under him the head of the ministerial establishment, namely, the Office Superintendent ran this section.

It has to be remembered that practically every Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector at the district headquarters was burdened with criminal cases and other multifarious duties. The Revenue Department under them did not receive as much attention as their importance indicated. Thus the Nazarat or the Tauji or Cess Section which deals with monetary transactions running to even lakhs of rupees in some months was left to a non-gazetted ministerial officer. The Magistrate-in-charge could not devote much time to see to the day-to-day working of his departments or to carry out the inspections. The Manuals or Codes for the various departments were compiled decades before and laid down quite a fool-proof arrangement involving regular inspections, cross checks and periodical transfers of the ministerial head and the Deputy Collector-in-charge. The Deputy Commissioner did not have much time to make thorough inspections as before. The fresh set of officers were not given as elaborate training as before in the departments.

With the emergency on the wake of the Second Great War, various Price Control measures had to be enforced. Cloth, kerosene oil, sugar, medicines, consumers' goods and various other more necessary commodities had to be controlled. Very difficult problems of supply had to be tackled at the Government level and the districts were also called upon to share the burden. The Deputy Magistrates had to take up the role of a trader, a shop-keeper, a godown superintendent. They did not have the training for all this work. Overnight a Sub-Deputy Magistrate with a small pay of Rs. 200 per month found himself changed into a Price Control Officer or a District Supply Officer controlling transactions of lakhs of rupees. The original strength of the ministerial officers could not cope with the great pressure of work and quickly large temporary recruitments had to be made. The temporary recruits knew very well that their establishments might not last for a long time. They had very big temptations before them and it should be no wonder if a certain degree of corruption and demoralisation of the administrative

machinery had crept in. It was extremely difficult for the Deputy Commissioner at the head to control the sudden huge increase of work and the incidence of a large number of purely temporary departments and temporary personnel. The emergency took away a number of senior officers and the Civil and Police services to special departments. But it could be said with emphasis that the services personnel at the top, as a class had rallied wonderfully and worked very hard to meet the exigency of the situation. It was also a remarkable achievement that the services continued to give their very best under the new set-up of Government with the advent of the popular Ministry in 1946.

Many of the temporary departments that had been created because of circumstances brought in by the Second Great War closed down at the proper time. Some of them like Supply Department had to be continued in some shape or other and has received fillips occasionally. New problems were created with the partition of the country and the creation of Pakistan. A large number of Muslims from Bihar for various reasons migrated to Pakistan. Quite a number of Muslims from this district also went away. There was a panic among both the communities for some months following the communal outburst in 1946. The tension received its peak after the partition which encouraged the Muslims to migrate. A very large number of Hindus from East Pakistan came over to India, and had to fan themselves out in the different districts. This district also had received some displaced persons from west Pakistan.

As has been mentioned before development work has been given a great emphasis in the present set-up of administration of the Welfare State. A large number of Welfare schemes have been taken up for the Backward Communities and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. National Extension Service Blocks and Community Development Projects have been started in all parts of the district. The idea is to carry out intensive co-ordinated rural development of each area with the active association and participation of the people. The administrative set-up has had to change very considerably because of the abolition of zamindari. There is no intermediary link now between the State and the cultivators. All these changes at the district level were to be controlled from the Collectorate and had taxed to the utmost the set-up of the Collectorate, the office of the District Officer with its old pattern. It was felt that this pattern must go. For this reason the State Government deputed a senior officer Mr. B. D. Pande, I.C.S., to study the problems of the reorganisation of districts and subdivisional offices (1958).

Mr. B. D. Pande, I.C.S., took into account the existing circumstances which covered the separation of the judiciary and the executive, the development programmes and the consequent changes towards a welfare administration and the staff that had been recruited on *ad hoc* basis, the lack of method of working, supervision or inspection. It was felt that the Collectorate was not organised into properly defined unit

with a proper structure which was essential for efficient office organisation. Ill-assorted arrangement at the top was bound to affect the ramifications and the actual working of the schemes.

The number of clerical staff had gone up more than four times as compared with the number of clerical staff in 1904. In some districts the number of ministerial staff had gone up to near about 600 persons. If to this were added the number of field staff that were working under the Collectorate, namely, *Karamcharis*, Village Level Workers, *Gram Sewaks*, Inspectorates, etc., it was found that the non-gazetted establishment under some of the Collectorates would amount to as large as 2,000. The huge array of assistants itself called for administrative and organisational problem of its own.

Most of the correspondence was carried out in the main office of the Collectorate known as the English office which was itself a misnomer. The English Office formerly had two main divisions, Judicial and Revenue. While a number of revenue subjects were still dealt with in the English office, there was a fairly big separate revenue establishment, consequent on the abolition of zamindari. Correspondence was also carried on in a large number of smaller offices. This led to duplication of files and papers, lack of supervision, etc. Accordingly the Collectorate was proposed to be divided into seven principal sections as follows :—

(1) *Confidential.*—This was to be directly under the Collector.
(2) *General Office.*—This was to replace the English office.
(3) *Revenue Office.*—This was to correspond with the present revenue office set up on the abolition of zamindaries and include all allied subjects.
(4) Development office.
(5) Establishment office.
(6) Legal Section.
(7) Treasury and Accounts.

The proposed distribution of subjects was as below :—

Section I—Confidential.
Section II—General.

1. Law and Order; 2. Agrarian Disputes; 3. Maintenance of Public Order Act; 4. Collective Fines; 5. Police and Home Guards; 6. Requisitioning and derequisitioning of property; 7. Allotment of houses; 8. Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Board; 9. Elections; 10. Census; 11. Cinemas and Dramatic performances; 12. Licenses (Arms, explosives, etc.); 13. Press, including examination of newspaper cuttings; 14. Public Relation; 15. Relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from Pakistan; 16. Evacuee Property Act; 17. Passports and Visas; 18. Domicile Certificate; 19. Political sufferers; 20. Jails; 21. Supply and Price Control; 22. Anti-corruption; 23. Assembly, Council and Parliament questions; 24. Local bodies i.e., Municipalities, District Boards,

Notified Area Committee and other Union Committees; 25. Library; 26. Forms and Stationery; and 27. Labour, including Minimum Wages Act, Workmen's Compensation, etc.

Section III—Revenue.

1. Land Reforms; 2. Tenancy Act; 3. Rent and Cess; 4. Khas Mahal; 5. Rent Commutation; 6. Chaukidari; 7. Settlement; 8. Ballbandhi; 9. Malkhana; 10. Registration; 11. Chakrana; 12. Embankment; 13. Excise and Opium; 14. Kanungo Establishment; 15. Taxation Measures; 16. Records Room; 17. Copying Department; 18. Certificate; 19. Nazarat; 20. Circuit House; 21. Land Acquisition; 22. Ferries; 23. Mining; 24. Treasure Trove; 25. Stamps; 26. Crop and Weather Reports and 27. Flood and Scarcity.

Section IV—Development.

1. Five-Year Plan and Co-ordination; 2. District Development Committee; 3. District Planning Committee; 4. District Education Committee; 5. Community Project and National Extension Service; 6. Local Development Works Programme; 7. Irrigation (Major, medium and minor); 8. Reclamation of Wasteland; 9. Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes; 10. Gram Panchayats; 11. Vested zamindari improvement works; 12. Welfare activities of other departments including Grow More Food; 13. Statistics; 14. Forests; 15. Loans including Agriculturists' Loans, Land Improvement Loans, Loans under the State Aid to Industries Act, etc.; 16. National Savings Schemes and 17. Works Staff in the District.

Section V—Establishment.

1. Personal cases—maintenance of service books, character rolls, leave accounts, etc., of personnel employed under the Collector; 2. Appointments, postings, and transfers; 3. Leave; 4. Departmental Proceedings; 5. Provident Fund Gratuity; 6. Pensions; 7. Security; and 8. Bill and Budget works of the Collectorate.

Section VI—Legal Section.

1. Revenue and Judicial Munshikhana; 2. Civil Suits; 3. Pauper Suits; 4. Criminal Motions; 5. Inspection of Trial Registers; 6. Appeals; 7. Correspondence with the Legal Remembrancer; 8. High Court; 9. Release of Prisoners; 10. Pleaders, Mukhtars and Revenue Agents; 11. Probate; 12. Wakf Estates—Religious Endowments; 13. Payment of Pleaders' Bills; 14. Judicial Account; 15. Criminal Fines; 16. Law Agents and Law Clerks; 17. Other Criminal, Civil or Revenue Appeals or Motions—and matters connected therewith; and 18. Court Malkhana.

Section VII—Treasury and Accounts.

1. Treasury and Accounts and 2. Sale of Stamps.

Mr. Pande made a detailed recommendation for the office indicating the scales of pay under the different heads. He had further recommended for the removal of the artificial distinction between Class A and Class B District. At the time of the Slacke Committee's Report a distinction was made between the districts mainly on the basis of the number of assistants employed under a Collectorate. Where the number of clerks was below 100 the district was placed in a lower category in respect of the pay of the supervisory staff. The number of clerks in every district was well above 100 when Mr. Pande made his enquiry and he felt that the ministerial officers employed in the different districts should have equal opportunity of promotion to a higher post. Therefore he recommended that the distinction between the different districts in matter of salaries to be drawn by persons doing the same kind of the jobs should be abolished.

There was a certain amount of invidious distinction between a sadar subdivision and a mofussil subdivision. The recommendation was that the sadar subdivisional office should be organised more or less on the lines of mofussil subdivisions. The Sadar Subdivisional Officer was to have the following departments :—

General office, Elections; Development; Confidential; Loans and Relief; N. E. S. and Gram Panchayats; Supply and Price Control; Minor Irrigation; Public Relations; Welfare; Chaukidari; Nazarat; Certificate; B. T. Act cases; Library; Land Reforms—L. L. Fee—Revenue Munshikhana; Arms; Cinemas and other licenses.

According to Mr. Pande, the Collectorate should also retain Probate, Civil Suits, Malkhana, Mines, Revenue Appeals, Settlement, Embankment, Ballbandi, and Land Acquisition Sections. Another important change that had to be taken cognisance of, was that with the abolition of zamindari and the vesting of the zamindari into the State, the Khashmahal Department of a district had lost its separate entity. The Khasmahal was, therefore, to be completely merged with the Land Reforms Department. The Landlord Fee Department of the Collectorate had to be abolished as with the abolition of the zamindari, no money orders had to be sent or acknowledged. It was recommended that arrangements should be made with the District Registration Office or the Sub-Registrar to deposit the Landlord Fee direct into the treasury and send notices to the Circle Officers or the Anchal Adhikaris concerned.

Mr. Pande went into some detail as to the necessary augmentation of certain departments like Nazarat, Certificate, Record Room, etc. He considered that since the Anchal Adhikari was also the Block Development Officer the certificate powers should not be vested in him and the procedure of getting certificates executed through the Subdivisional Officer should continue. It may be noted here that the work in connection with certificates has been transferred to the Anchal Officers in the other Raiyatwari States of Bombay, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

Mr. Pande had also given elaborate suggestions for the working of the Development Office, Welfare Department, Gram Panchayats, Loans Department, Establishment office, Legal Office, Insptctions, etc. He had recommended that questionnaires to assist in the inspection as in the case of some of the older manuals should be prescribed for the new branches also like those of development, revenue, etc. They will be of valuable guidance to junior officers.

He also felt that there should be adequate delegations of powers to officers at all levels, namely, Anchal Adhikaris, Subdivisional Officers, Collectors, etc. He had also indicated the necessity of a regular training of the newly recruited assistants and that the training should be closely integrated with practical training in the office itself.

The Chief Secretary in his no. OM/R-302/56—10443, dated the 20th December, 1957 had approved of the suggestions and informed the District Officers by name that the arrangements should be made forthwith to introduce the Reorganisation Scheme in the districts and subdivisions from the 2nd January, 1958. He reiterated that the Collectorate should be divided into seven principal sections as recommended by Mr. B. D. Pande. He further expected that the Sadar Subdivisional Officers should function separately from the Collectorate like Mofussil Subdivisional Officers with the departments as recommended by Mr. Pande and the Collectorate should, however, retain the nine subjects mentioned before as per Mr. Pande's recommendations. There was a further reiteration of Mr. Pande's scheme in the letter of Mr. M. S. Rao., I.C.S., Chief Secretary no. R2-302/56-CSR.—365, dated 9th July, 1958. In this letter the existing distinction between A and B Class Districts in respect of pay scale for various categories of the posts was abolished. Orders were passed for the merging of the Khasmahal Office in the General Land Reforms office, the abolition of L. L. Fee Department and other recommendations regarding Nazarat, Certificate, Establishment and Legal Section, etc.

SUBDIVISIONS.

The subdivisional system was only introduced in October. 1924, when an outlying subdivision was opened with headquarters at Latehar, consisting of the three revenue thanas of Latehar, Balumath and Mahuadanr. The rest of the district consisting of other six revenue thanas and the other fourteen police-stations constituted the Sadar subdivision of the district up to June, 1955, when another subdivision of Garhwa was opened. The third subdivision comprises the police-stations of Garhwa, Nagar Untari, Bhaunathpur (including the sub-police-station of Majhiawan), Ranka and Bhandaria. The rest of the nine police-stations continue to remain in the Sadar subdivision of Daltonganj. The necessity for a third subdivision was felt as early as 1944, on account of the inaccessibility of the areas lying west of the

river Koil and specially during the rains when it remains quite cut off from the rest of the district owing to bad communications intercepted by several un-bridged rivers difficult to negotiate but the proposal could not be an accomplished fact until 1954 when a resident magistrate with powers of a magistrate of 1st class was posted there to try cases arising within the areas constituting the present subdivision of Garhwa. In administration of the district the Deputy Commissioner is assisted by the Additional Collector who has a staff of his own in the administration of revenue and a number of Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors. In 1951, Government took over the estates of Ranka, Chainpur, Nagar Untari, Sonepura, Bishrampur, Deogan and Tori under the provisions of Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 and subsequently by a general notification issued under section 3 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act all the interests of the intermediaries of the whole district vested in Government with effect from 26th January, 1955. These events demonstrated the necessity of a closer administration. The whole district has been proposed to be divided into a network of twenty-five circles or Anchal offices each under the charge of a Circle Officer or Anchal Adhikari who would be an officer not below the rank of a Sub-Deputy Collector. Under this scheme all the police-stations will have one circle or Anchal office each with the exception of police-stations of Daltonganj, Garhwa, Bhaunathpur, Nagar Untari and Latehar which will have two *anchals* or circle offices. At first ten Circle Officers functioned at Daltonganj, Chhatterpur, Panki, Lesliganj, Garhwa, Nagar Untari, Ranka, Latehar, Balumath and Barwadih. Community Development Blocks have now been opened in the course of the Second Five-Year Plan. Block Development offices are functioning at Panki, Garhwa, Mahuadanr, Chandwah, Ranka, Bhandaria, Manatu, Balumath, Patan, Bishrampur and Chhatterpur. The Anchal offices comprised within the Block Development areas will ultimately merge into them after the latter shall have worked for six months. The villages formerly constituting the Government estates merged into the newly vested zamindari estates from October, 1955.

The greater portion of the protected forests in the estate was made over to the control of the Forest Department in the year 1920. Only a small portion in Lesliganj circle covering an area of 16½ square miles was retained under the direct management of the Deputy Commissioner with an establishment consisting of one Forester, four forest guards, and eight village headmen appointed to work as forest guards. The rest of the protected and the reserved forests were under the control of an Assistant Conservator of Forests. Subsequently these forests also were transferred to the control of the Forest Department. With the passage of the Bihar Private Protected Forests Act, 1946 (since replaced by Bihar Private Protected Forest Act, 1947) all the forests owned by

private landlords were constituted into protected forest areas and brought under Government management. These forests are under the administration of Forest Department of Government.

The Chaukidari Department is managed by the Chaukidari Officer under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. The Welfare Department of the district takes special care of the aboriginal and Harijan population of the district. A Sub-Deputy Collector is in charge of Aboriginal Welfare Department and the welfare of Harijans is looked after by a District Harijan Welfare Officer who generally belongs to non-gazetted rank. The department is under the control and supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

The Department of Gram Panchayat is under the charge of a District Panchayat Officer who is an officer not below the rank of a Sub-Deputy Collector. He works under the supervision and control of the Deputy Commissioner. The Public Relations Officer works as a liaison between the people and the Government. The other local officers are the Superintendent of Police, the Civil Surgeon, the Assistant Sessions Judge*, the District Medical Officer of Health, the District Agricultural Officer, the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, the Assistant Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department, the Assistant Engineer of the State Board of Electricity, the Superintendent of Education, the District Inspector of Schools, the Subdivisional Officer of Waterways and several other departmental heads and functionaries. Lately a District Mining Officer has been posted to this district. He combines mining work for Ranchi district as well and has his headquarters at Ranchi.

REVENUE.

The main sources of revenue of the Chero Rajas were :—

(*i*) Land Revenue.

(*ii*) Profession tax on herdsmen, oilmen, and weavers.

(*iii*) *Chulhkar*, i.e., a tax imposed on each oven for extraction of *kath* and on distillation of country liquor.

(*iv*) *Ghatwari* or tolls collected on *ghats*.

(*v*) *Ganjeauts* and *hats* duties.

Of the above items nos. (*ii*) and (*iv*) were abolished and (*iii*) and (*v*) were taken over by the Government as early as in 1790. With the sale of Pargana Palamau in 1813 the Government purchased the estate of the Raja and thus began *sir* collection of Land Revenue from 1818. The income of the Chero Raja was estimated at Rs. 16,029 in 1778 which rose to Rs. 18,622 in 1789 A. D. The revenue payable by the Raja to the Government was Rs. 12,182 in 1779.

*A full fledged and Sessions Judgeship was created in 1960 (P. C. R. C.).

The following table shows the income of the Government under the main heads since the creation of the district :—

Main heads.	1892-93.	1901-02.	1905-06.	1924-25.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue ..	63,000	89,000	1,36,000	1,77,000	75,862	80,302	76,862	2,75,396	7,61,906
Exercise ..	1,35,000	1,22,000	2,18,000	10,00,000	15,75,212	14,66,360	12,86,220	14,24,345	14,58,515
Local Cess ..	..	..	70,000	1,40,000	2,03,630	1,94,365	1,83,429	1,44,500	1,41,234
Stamps ..	26,000	41,000	49,000	1,27,000	..	3,11,132	..	3,96,560	4,74,344
Registration ..	..	..	4,336	11,641	62,711	55,662	51,015	47,568	46,024
Income-tax ..	10,000	15,000	11,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sales Tax ..	..	..	..	..	5,23,233	4,30,654	4,04,281	4,51,548	4,10,195
Agri. Income-tax ..	..	..	..	..	39,282	41,204	81,915	64,568	82,116
Motor Spirit Tax ..	..	..	..	..	1,15,260	1,30,545	1,54,257	1,72,896	1,37,795
Entertainment Tax ..	..	..	..	..	32,526	24,127	20,758	32,146	27,527
Forest ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electricity Supply ..	..	..	..	..	8,951	9,523	12,296	14,502	47,497
Transport ..	..	..	..	..	11,496	31,413	41,936	35,203	47,311

STAMPS.

The revenue from stamps rose from Rs. 26,000 in 1892-93 to Rs. 4,74,344 in 1955-56. The table given above indicates that income from this source has steadily increased from year to year. Of Rs. 4,74,344 received on account of this head Rs. 1,24,852 was obtained from sale of judicial stamps and Rs. 3,49,492 from non-judicial stamps. This is a striking contrast to the position that was in 1924-25 when the proceeds of sale of judicial stamps was Rs. 1,02,000 and Rs. 25,000 only from sale of non-judicial stamps. The increase in sale of non-judicial stamps may be attributed to the increase in the number of documents registered in later years. In 1924 the number of documents registered was 2,253 as against 6,601 in 1955.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

On the 6th April, 1781, a regulation was passed by which a Civil Court of Judicature was established at Chatra. It exercised jurisdiction over the districts of Ramgarh, Nagpur, Pargana Palamau and Kendy which were then called Baghalaut districts. The court had both civil and criminal jurisdictions. As the country was poor and jungly no separate officer was given to it but the officer entrusted with revenue work became the Judge and the Magistrate in addition to his other work, subject to an injunction to keep his two duties distinct. The office of the *Faujdar* being too expensive was abolished but the Faujdari daroghas were retained independent of the court who were directed to report all the *faujdari* details to the Governor-General through the Remembrancer of Criminal Courts. The zamindars, however, retained some of their judicial functions concurrently with the *Adalat* but in course of time these powers became extinct on account of the growing power and control of the law courts. Not only the zamindars were ousted of their judicial functions by the court but they were also restrained in exercise of what they regarded to be their rights and privileges. Thus in 1797 when the Raja resumed the estate of Deogan on the death of Sugandh Rai he was compelled by the Collector-Magistrate to restore the estate to the former owner.

In 1834 the *Diwani Adalat* was abolished along with the rules of civil and criminal justice and the court was transferred to Lohardaga and placed in charge of the Principal Assistant to the Agent. In 1838 the procedure prescribed for recording evidence in trial of petty criminal cases was directed to be applied as outlined in the proceedings of the Hon'ble the President of India Council in the Home Department (Judicial) dated 29th July, 1838. In 1853 the Junior Assistant of Korundah was vested with powers to try cases of petty offences and in 1854 he was vested with much more powers to try offences of greater importance and also to commit criminals to the Court of Sessions. The powers exercisable by him synchronise with 2nd class magisterial powers of the present time with special powers under section 206 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Government orders contained in letter no. 4160, dated the 12th August 1854, received with letter no. 282, dated the 6th September 1854 of the officiating Deputy Commissioner, Lohardaga). In the same year the designation of the Commissioner changed to Commissioner of Chotanagpur Division and he was relieved of his judicial functions by Deputy Commissioner appointed for the purpose in 1854, began to be called a Commissioner of the Chotanagpur Division. During the Movement of 1857—59 martial law was proclaimed in Palamau in August, 1857, and the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division, Sessions Judges and Principal Assistant were empowered under section 1 of Act XVII of 1857 to try mutineers or deserters or any person concerned in the mutiny under the Articles of War and to pass sentences to death. In case of civil mutineers they were authorised to sentence them to imprisonment with or without hard labour for life or for any term of years. By another order all the civil authorities were directed to try mutineers or deserters and on being identified as such to sentence them to death and carry out the execution forthwith. (Letter, dated the 20th June, 1857, from A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary, to Government of Bengal, to Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division. Letter no. 234, dated the 20th June, 1857, of A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to Government of Bengal.) Up to 1864, there was only one Assistant Commissioner with limited powers in charge of whole pargana the duties of which were very multifarious and extended and far too heavy for any one officer. Consequently the *Thakurais* of Ranka and Chainpur were appointed Honorary Magistrates with third class powers in recognition of their services rendered to Government in the mutiny of 1857. The area lying west of the river Koil yet proved another obstacle in the administration of justice. On account of its isolated geographical position it always remained out of the reach of the people and it became necessary to make the people understand and be benefited by the laws and administration laid down for them from time to time by the British Government. To tide over the difficulties and upon recommendations of the Assistant Commissioner, a Criminal Bench of Magistrates was sanctioned in 1883 for Garhwa. The jurisdiction of the Bench extended over the thanas of Garhwa, Hussainabad, outposts of Untari, Majhiaon and Ramkanda. The Bench was invested with the powers to try cases under section 34 of the Municipal Act (Act V of 1861), sections 277, 285, 286, 284, 290, 352 and 510 of the Indian Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) and to try all such summons cases and offences under the Municipal Act and conservancy clauses of the Police Act and was authorised to entertain on own motion complaints under these sections. The court was directed to hold sittings once every week on Wednesday.

The panel of the Honorary Magistrates consisted of Ramjut Singh, Zamindar of Garhwa, Dukhi Sahu, merchant of Garhwa, Gobardhan Ram, Head Pandit, Middle Vernacular School, Garhwa, Sheikh Neyazan, merchant of Garhwa and Gopi Dhar Dubey of Achla Nawadih. The Bench was directed to be presided over by three Magistrates sitting in rotation fixed by the Subdivisional Magistrate and in cases of appealable sentences passed by the Bench it was directed to ascertain from

the accused whether he intended to prefer an appeal, which laid before the Subdivisional Magistrate (letter no. 1112-J.D., dated the 11th June, 1883, from Under-Secretary to Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division) and if he did so to report the grounds of his appeal. The Court was authorised to record its proceedings in Hindi. Nagri or Kaithi script had already been decided to be exclusively used from 1st July, 1881, in all the courts and offices in the district of Lohardaga, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum. (Letter no. 127, dated the 30th June, 1880, of the Secretary to Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division.)

The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and the Criminal Procedure Code, 1898 were extended to this district in 1881 and 1898 respectively by notification issued under the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874 (Act A14 of 1874). (Notification in *Calcutta Gazette*, 1898, part I, page 714).

During the Kol revolt on Surguja border in 1883 the Subdivisional Magistrate was invested with 1st class power for the first time so as to enable him to quell the distrubances effectively. (*Gazette of India*, 1881, part I, page 504.).

Since after the creation of the district in 1892 the criminal justice is administered by the Deputy Commissioner who has special powers under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code assisted by a number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class magistrates. During the 2nd World War, 1939 the Senior Deputy Magistrate was also vested with power under section 30 of Cr. P. C. besides the Deputy Commissioner and thereafter the Subdivisional Officers have also been invested with this power.

Between 1944 to 1954 there were two Honorary Magistrates for various terms at Daltonganj. There is no Honorary Magistrate at present. By amendment of Criminal Procedure Code in 1955 the Magistrates having powers under section 30, Cr. P. C. have been asked to suspend the exercise of their powers under this section although they have not yet been divested of it. By this amendment of Procedure Code the hearing of appeals from the order of 2nd and 3rd class magistrates have been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Sessions Judge. There is one Assistant Sessions Judge at Daltonganj who tries cases of offences not punishable with death or imprisonment for life*. For the Latehar subdivision there is the Subdivisional Officer with first class and a Sub-Deputy Magistrate with first class powers. For Garhwa there is the Subdivisional Officer with first class powers and one Sub-Deputy Magistrate has been sanctioned with 2nd class powers.

Separation of Judiciary from the Executive has not yet been made in this district.

CRIME.

Since the publication of the last Gazetteer the population of this district has increased by 34 per cent and the crime under all heads by only 22 per cent. The crime position of the district has not deteriorated

*The setting up of a separate Judgeship for the district at Daltonganj in 1960 has been an important land-mark.

and could be said to be more under control than during the British regime.

The country was freed from the British rule in August, 1947 and became a Republic State in January, 1950. The Police State became a Welfare State. During the transitional period every new State is expected to pass through a great upheaval and this had happened in this country too. But the crime position, on the whole, remained within control. Heinous crimes are somewhat on the increase and this is due to the unprecedented droughts in the country from year to year and the high price of foodstuffs and other commodities going up by 400 to 500 per cent. The level of heinous crimes particularly dacoities by gangs was quite high till 1951. Eighty or ninety dacoity cases per year were common. This level is now controlled and in 1959 there were only 16 dacoities as against 30 in 1958.

With the opening of the Garhwa subdivision in 1955 the number of reported crimes and petty offences in the west of the district may increase considerably. More cases will be detected or reported. Prior to the year 1954 people of the Garhwa subdivision had to come down to Daltonganj courts and this proved too costly for the general mass who mostly come from the poorer Adibasi sections. After sometime when the State would come to more normalcy and the various projects would begin bearing fruits there is every reason to believe that the crime position would be better.

It will be interesting to note here that the criminals of today do not come from the same class of people as that of 30 years ago and so it is not always possible for the average police officer to tackle with the present day crimes. Keeping in view of the advanced nature of crimes several measures have been taku up by the Government to bring efficiency in the investigation of cases. As for example an Advanced Training School has been started in the Patna Secretariat where advanced training on scientific investigation is given to the police officers. Several of the Palamau police officers have taken up training into the School and have been supplied with the modern scientific apparatus to enable them to combat the modern scientific crimes and the criminals. In a few years' time all the officers of this district will be trained which will help a good deal in detection of various such crimes which are a problem for the police officers at present. A peculiar feature of crimes against properties in this district is that they are usually committed by people originally hailing from outside like Gaya and Shahabad districts or by outsiders who come by train or bus. Local people are more involved in murders owing to love intrigues, etc.

Prosecution Cadre has been separated from the General Police Cadre. Only law graduates are now taken into this new cadre. With the introduction of this scheme in this district greater efficiency is expected on the prosecution side as well.

Data of Crimes vrs. Population.

Average annual crime figures (during 1926—35)	...	698
Average annual crime figures (during 1946—55)	...	850
Population in 1921	... ...	7,33,394
Population in 1951	... ...	9,85,767

POLICE.

The head of the police in the district is the District Superintendent. He is assisted in his work by the Deputy Superintendent of Police who has his headquarters at Daltonganj. The post of the Deputy Superintendent of Police was created in the year 1942. The district is divided into four police circles, viz., Sadar, Latehar, Garhwa and Hussainabad. Hussainabad Circle was created in the year 1952. One Inspector is in charge of each circle. There is a fifth Inspector who is in charge of the Police Courts in the district and has his headquarters at Daltonganj. In all there are 21 police-stations in Palamau as follows :—

Sadar Subdivision.—(1) Daltonganj, (2) Bishrampur, (3) Panki, (4) Patan, (5) Manatu, (6) Hariharganj, (7) Chhattarpur, (8) Lesliganj and (9) Hussainabad.

Latehar Subdivision.—(10) Latehar, (11) Chandwa, (12) Balumath, (13) Mahuadanr, (14) Garu, (15) Barwadih.

Garhwa Subdivision.—(16) Garhwa, (17) Nagar Untari, (18) Bhaunathpur, (19) Ranka, (20) Bhandaria and (21) Manjhiaon.

It is expected that there will be four more police-stations at Garhwa South (Peshka), Untari South (Dhurkih), Latehar West (Manika) and Daltonganj West (probably Chainpur). This is as per phased programme of the Anchals.

The total strength of the police in the district including the armed force in different ranks is as follows :—

Reserve Sergeant Major—1, Sergeant—1, Inspectors—5, Sub-Inspectors—37, Assistant Sub-Inspectors—36, Havildars—12 and constables—402.

A comparative ratio of police men *vis-a-vis* the population of the district and its area is given below :—

During 1925.	During 1955.
One police man : 1,945 persons	One police man : 2,427 persons.
One police man : 13 sq. miles	One police man : 12 sq. miles.

There was a general expansion of the police force during the last eight years but the above ratio of police strength of force reveals that the strength of the police force has not been increased in proportion to the increase in the population.

After the zamindari was taken away by the State in Palamau district in the year 1954, work of the police also increased considerably. They have to escort agricultural loans, land rents and revenues from village to village and guard the collections. The district has been divided into Anchals and Blocks and for each Anchal or Block a police guard and an escort party has been sanctioned. The force will go on increasing along with the expansion of the Blocks. Discipline and control of the force have been vested in the district police. This will indicate that the volume of work of the headquarters office so far as it relates to the Gazetted staff has enormously increased with no suitable relief. The Deputy Commissioner has the administrative control over the Superintendent of Police but he is not expected to interfere with the day-to-day administration. The Superintendent of Police is also under the administrative control of the Deputy Inspector-General with headquarters at Ranchi. The Inspector-General of Police with headquarters at Patna is the head of the Police Department.

Rural Police.

There are two kinds of rural police. One is called the village *chaukidars* and the other *ghatwals*. Watch and ward in the village is the duty of the village *chaukidars* who are appointed by the Superintendent of Police under the Chotanagpur Rural Police Act. The total number of *chaukidars* for the whole district today is 869 as against 1,219 before. There was a 30 per cent cut in the strength of the *chaukidars* few years back. Palamau has a scattered population in small villages, situated in jungles, at a considerable distance from each other. For proper watch and ward of such scattered villages the present strength of the *chaukidars* appears far too inadequate. The reorganisation of the rural police has been taken up by the State Government and when it comes into being these rural police will become almost a part and parcel of the regular police under the active control of the police officials and will then be able to enjoy greater power and facilities. The *chaukidars* generally come from the Scheduled Castes. The *chaukidars* get a flat rate salary of Rs. 10 each per month plus Rs. 2 as dearness allowances. 187 *chaukidars* hold *chakrana* lands. Since these *chaukidars* are receiving regular pay now, the issue has been taken up with the Commissioner, Chotanagpur Division to abolish the *chakrana* system and convert the *chakrana* lands into raiyati lands and fix necessary land rent for it.

The duty of the *ghatwals* is to guard the difficult *ghats* and passes in the jungles where there is fear of travellers being waylaid by the robbers. The number of *ghatwals* is 26 and the number of *ghats* is 19 at present. This system is a survival of the day when all the zamindars policed their own estates. The *ghatwali* income comes to Rs. 2,386-8-0. With the improvement in the manner of communications and abolition of the zamindari system they have now outlived their utility. At present they are practically doing the jobs of the *chaukidars*. The number of *ghatwals* is being reduced.

The discipline and control of the *chaukidars* vests in the Superintendent of Police whereas the collection of revenue is done through the 25 *chaukidari tahsildars* under the control of a Deputy Collector designated as the Chaukidar Officer.

Village Chaukidars and Ghatwals.

Before June, 1950, there were 1,219 *chaukidars* including nine of the Hussainabad Union Board. After the reorganisation of the rural police system of the State in 1950 there are only 869 village *chaukidars* in the district. There are 25 *chaukidari tahsildars* to collect *chaukidari* taxes with the annual demand of Rs. 72,543; the whole district has been divided into 23 circles for collection purposes each under one *chaukidari tahsildar*. Two hands are kept at the headquarters as reserve quota. Each collection circle corresponds with the jurisdiction of a police-station excepting Hussainabad, Garhwa and Bhaunathpur which have two circles each. Garu and Bhaunathpur police-stations are combined in one circle. Now all the *chaukidars* are paid at uniform rate of pay of Rs. 10 per month. There are over 250 *chaukidars* who hold *chakrana* lands in addition to their pay. The number of *ghatwals* has been reduced to 26 after the retrenchment effected in 1950.

Criminal Justice.

The criminal justice is administered through the law courts at Sadar and the Subdivisional headquarters at Latehar and Garhwa by Subdivisional Officers and assisted by other magistrates. Sessions cases are tried by the Assistant and Sessions Judges and the Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi who frequently come from Ranchi and hold occasional camp courts at Daltonganj. There is a correspondence with the Government to have a permanent Court of the District and Sessions Judge, Palamau. The judiciary has not yet been completely separated from the executive in this district. There are no Honorary Magistrates in this district.

Petty offences are also tried by the Gram Panchayats under the Gram Panchayat Raj Act.

Civil Justice.

There is no separate judgeship for this district. The civil and criminal courts of this place are within the Ranchi judgeship.[1]

Formerly there were no regular civil courts here and this was evidently because there was not much of civil litigation in this district, and the few cases which were instituted were of very simple nature. Title suit litigation consisted almost exclusively of suits for partition with occasional mortgage suits and a few money suits based on handnotes, bonds and oral transactions. Some of the Deputy Magistrates here used to be vested with the powers of a Munsif and

1. A separate Judgeship was created for the district in 1960.

Subordinate Judge but nearabout the year 1920 the court of a Munsif was permanently established at Daltonganj. The Subdivisional Officer of Latehar, however, still continues to exercise the powers of a Munsif but when his file becomes congested an Additional Munsif is deputed there to remove the congestion. When the court of the Munsif was established here the Munsif was vested with the powers to try cases up to the value of Rs. 2,000 and suits over the value of Rs. 2,000 used to be instituted in the court of the Deputy Magistrate-Subordinate Judge. The Deputy Commissioner of Palamau used to be *ex officio* Subordinate Judge of this district but in practice he did not exercise the powers except under the Indian Succession Act. The applications for succession certificates filed before the Deputy Commissioner were seldom contested and there was hardly any occasion for a reference to be made to a civil court proper. The Deputy Magistrate-Subordinate Judge used to decide uncontested suits and execution cases and prepare contested suits and cases for the regular Subordinate Judge who used to be deputed here periodically either from Ranchi or Hazaribagh to try them. The Deputy Magistrate-Subordinate Judge was also vested with insolvency powers in respect of cases in which the liability did not exceed Rs. 5,000 and he was also subsequently vested with powers to try contested partition suits.

Since, however, the Deputy Magistrate-Subordinate Judge used to take a very long time in disposing of cases and making cases ready for the regular Subordinate Judge on account of his other pre-occupations and certain legal anomalies and litigations also considerably increased after 1942 on account of the rise in the price of lands, the necessity for a permanent court of Subordinate Judge was felt and two Additional Subordinate Judges were for the first time posted at Daltonganj in 1947 and one of the Additional Subordinate Judges was also vested with powers under section 30, Criminal Procedure Code to try criminal cases and in 1948 one court of the Subordinate Judge was made permanent. At first the Subordinate Judge here did not exercise Sessions powers but since 1950 he is also exercising the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. He is also empowered to try cases arising out of the Indian Succession Act, XXXIX of 1925 under notification no. 132-A., dated the 21st June, 1949 and to try insolvency cases in which the debts do not exceed Rs. 5,000 under notification no. 561-J., dated the 21st January, 1909. He is also empowered to receive title and money appeals not exceeding Rs. 500 in value from the decrees and orders of the Munsifs in the district of Palamau under notification no. 50-A., dated the 8th May, 1950. Since the recent amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code (Act XXVI of 1955), the Assistant Sessions Judge here is also hearing appeals from the judgments and orders passed by Magistrate exercising second and third class powers.

At first, the Munsif here was vested with powers to try cases up to the value of Rs. 2,000 but subsequently his pecuniary jurisdiction was

raised up to Rs. 4,000 and he was also vested with powers to try S. C. C. suits up to the value of Rs. 100 and in 1949 his S. C. C. powers were raised up to Rs. 250.

The relationship of the Bench and the Bar has been cordial and dignified. The Bar is still small owing to the paucity of cases in comparison to other districts. There have been several very important litigations here recently over successions, partitions, underground mineral rights, etc. In important cases, advocates and barristers from Patna and other places are usually briefed.

EXCISE.

The observation of Mr. O'Malley in 1907 in the First Edition of the Gazetteer that "Excise is the most important source of revenue" is more correct today than when the words were written.

The Government have been steadily pursuing the ideal of excise administration of combining a maximum revenue with a minimum consumption. With this aim in view, the Government introduced the contract system of supply of distillery, liquor in certain areas of the district in June, 1929 and as a result of the change, the excise revenue in 1929-30 dropped to Rs. 4,28,703 from Rs. 7,73,494 during the preceding year. The system did not, however, work satisfactorily and the Government had to finally revert to the outstill system in the year 1934-35 because the excise revenue fell as low as Rs. 2,67,154 in 1932-33 due to leakage of revenue through various excise crimes. The general economic depression, which set in 1929-30, however, continued to adversely affect the excise revenue till the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, when the revenue began to show signs of revival. The increase in the revenue was not, however, very spectacular till 1944-45 when it rose from about Rs. 7½ lakhs to about Rs. 10 lakhs. In the year 1945-46 it shot up to just over Rs. 16 lakhs and then to Rs. 19½ lakhs in 1946-47, which still continues to be the highest target reached in this district.

The Government again, with a view to put a check on the drinking habit of the people, abolished the outstill system in major portion of the district and distillery liquor shops under the auction system was introduced in the year 1947-48 and as a result of this the excise revenue again dropped to a little over Rs. 9¾ lakhs. The sliding scale system of settlement of liquor shops was, however, introduced in the following year, but the downward trend in the revenue could be checked in the year 1949-50 when the revenue rose to Rs. 11½ lakhs. It reached the maximum of Rs. 15¾ lakhs in 1951-52 and then gradually declined to a little over Rs. 12¾ lakhs in 1953-54. It again revived in 1954-55 and the upward trend is still being maintained, though the outstill system existing in the police-station areas of Panki, Manatu, Nagar and a portion of Balumath police-station, was replaced by the auction system of distillery liquor shops.

The contract system of supply of distillery liquor is in force throughout the district, except in the police-stations of Ranka, Bhandaria, Mahuadanr and portions of Garu and Balumath. All the distillery liquor shops, except those in Panki, Manatu, Nagar and a portion of Balumath police-station, are settled under the sliding scale system. There are, at present, 87 distillery liquor shops including 19 shops settled under the auction system. The total revenue derived from the distillery liquor shops on license fee and duty is about Rs. 8½ lakhs, which constitues about 58 per cent of the total excise revenue.

There are also 26 outstill shops in Ranka, Bhandaria, Mahuadanr and the portions of Garu and Balumath police-stations and the total demand towards license fee comes to about Rs. 4½ lakhs, contributing another 35 per cent of the total excise revenue.

There are also 101 *tari* shops, 27 *ganja* shops, 24 *bhang* shops and 18 opium shops throughout the district, besides a few other miscellaneous licenses. The total revenue receipt from these sources is about 1½ lakhs, which contributes only about 11 per cent of the total revenue.

No review of the excise administration will, however, be complete without a brief reference to the steps taken from time to time towards temperance and total prohibition. An attempt to check the easy access to cheap outstill liquor by introducing the costlier distillery liquors was made in June, 1929, when most of the outstill shops were replaced by distillery liquor shops. As this scheme did not work successfully, the outstill system was again re-introduced in the year 1934-35. In 1947-48 the Government, with a view to encourage temperance and restrict the heavy consumption of liquor, reduced the number of outstill shops to seven for the outlying areas of the district, but due to administrative difficulties, the number of outstill shops was raised to 45 in subsequent years. In the year 1955-56, the distillery liquor area was again extended leading to the conversion of 19 of the outstill shops into distillery liquor shops. A proposal for the introduction of prohibition in progressive stages is also under consideration.

The strength of the existing executive staff of the department consists of one Excise Superintendent, three Excise Inspectors, seventeen Excise Sub-Inspectors, and forty-nine Excise peons. The total expenditure for the collection of the excise revenue and for the excise administration amounts to only about Rs. 1,20,000 or 8 per cent of the total revenue. A statement showing the total excise revenue from 1925-26 to the year 1958-59 is appended below :—

Year.	Total Excise Revenue in Rs.
1925-26	10,82,227
1926-27	10,29,953
1927-28	8,25,274

Year.	Total Excise Revenue in Rs.
1928-29	7,73,494
1929-30	4,28,703
1930-31	3,86,779
1931-32	2,82,864
1932-33	2,67,154
1933-34	3,25,733
1934-35	4,45,286
1935-36	4,35,728
1936-37	3,73,389
1937-38	3,85,215
1938-39	4,36,904
1939-40	4,59,039
1940-41	5,15,524
1941-42	5,48,109
1942-43	6,38,059
1943-44	7,28,765
1944-45	10,01,721
1945-46	16,05,024
1946-47	19,52,850
1947-48	9,85,047
1948-49	9,37,366
1949-50	11,35,320
1950-51	12,84,650
1951-52	15,75,211
1952-53	14,66,360
1953-54	12,86,220
1954-55	14,24,345
1955-56	14,58,515

COMMERCIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT.

This department is now a very important source of provincial revenue. It came into existence with the passing of the Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1944.

The following taxation measures are administered by this department :—

(*i*) The Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938;
(*ii*) The Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1944;
(*iii*) The Bihar Entertainment Tax Act, 1948;
(*iv*) The Bihar Electricity Duty Act, 1948;
(*v*) The Bihar Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act, 1939; and
(*vi*) The Bihar Passengers and Goods Transport Tax Act, 1950.

The Agricultural Income-tax Act was passed in the year 1938. Its administration was originally under the Collectorate. After the passing of the Bihar Sales Tax Act in 1944 a separate Commercial Taxes

Department was formed and the administration of the Entertainment Tax Act was transferred to this Department from the Collectorate, in the year 1943, and that of the Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act in the year 1949. The Bihar Electricity Duty Act was passed in the year 1948 and in the Bihar Finance Act, 1950 (Part III) a tax was also levied on the fares and freights realised from the passenger buses, taxi-cars and motor trucks. The administrative head of the Department in the district is the Superintendent, Commercial Taxes who is assisted in his executive work by the Assistant Superintendent and Inspectors. He is under the Commissioner of Commercial Taxes with headquarters in Patna.

The Bihar Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1938.—The administration of Agricultural Income-tax was taken over by the department in 1944 and the collection in rupees made under this Act since 1955-56 to 1958-59 is as follows :—

	Rs.
1955-56	15,315
1956-57	14,036
1957-58	19,400
1958-59	22,447

The Bihar Sales Tax Act, 1944.—When this Act was first introduced in the State a minimum turnover of Rs. 5,000 was fixed for registration of a dealer who was authorised to collect the tax from the consumers and to pay the same to the Government. The Act was subsequently amended in the year 1947 and the minimum limit for registration was raised to Rs. 10,000. The Act was again amended in the year 1954 and the minimum limit for registration was raised to Rs. 15,000. The number of registered dealers in this district have accordingly varied to a great extent from time to time. The amount of tax collected in the district from 1955-56 to 1958-59 is given below :—

	Rs.
1955-56	4,12,105
1956-57	4,38,969
1957-58	4,84,486
1958-59	3,46,940

The Bihar Entertainment Tax Act, 1948.—Entertainment Tax is levied on payments for admission to places of entertainment like cinemas, theatres, etc. There is only one permanent cinema house in the district. From time to time permission has been granted to a few temporary cinemas in the various places of the district. The amount realised under this Act since 1955-56 to 1958-59 is given below :—

	Rs.
1955-56	27,927
1956-57	30,621
1957-58	43,834
1958-59	47,540

The Bihar Electricity Duty Act, 1948.—This Act came into force in the year 1948. There was no public supply concern of electricity in this district previously. There were only a few small generating plants owned by two or three rich persons besides the Japla Cement Factory which was a prominent assessee under this Act. A State concern for the supply of electricity came into existence in 1954. The amount of tax realised under this Act is as follows :—

	Rs.
1955-56	47,453
1956-57	23,267
1957-58	24,804
1958-59	32,054

The Bihar Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act, 1939.—The administration of this Act was taken over by the Department in the year 1949. There are at present 21 assessees under this Act, in this district. The tax was realised at the rate of annas 5 per gallon till the 31st March, 1953 and after that the rate of tax was raised to annas 6 per gallon. The amount of tax realised under this Act from 1955-56 to 1958-59 is as follows :—

	Rs.
1955-56	1,87,795
1956-57	2,04,033
1957-58	2,79,411
1958-59	3,13,258

The Bihar Passengers and Goods Transport Tax Act.—This Act came into force with effect from the 1st April, 1950. There are at present 10 stage carriage owners having their places of business in this district, registered under the Act. There are a number of public carrier owners which are also registered under this Act. The amount of tax realised under this Act is as follows :—

	Rs.
1955-56	47,311
1956-57	45,848
1957-58	53,738
1958-59	66,076

A tax on commodities of inter-State transactions known as Central Sales Tax was imposed on the 1st July, 1957. The collection has been as follows :—

	Rs.
1957-58	84,038
1958-59	1,89,654

POST AND TELEGRAPH.

This section has been covered in the Chapter on Communications. Briefly, it may be mentioned here that the post offices in the Palamau District are under the control of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Hazaribagh Division with headquarters at Hazaribagh with effect from the 1st December, 1955. The mails of the district are conveyed by train, motor vehicles and on foot. Great credit is due to the mail runners on whom fell the main burden of the postal system for decades when there were no good roads or railways. Quite a large number of them had fallen victims to prowling man-eaters. At present the mails are conveyed for 143 miles by railways, 64 miles by motor vehicles and by mail runners 269 miles. The dak facilities exist in every village which is conveyed by the postmen. One hundred and one villages are served once between 7 to 14 days, 437 weekly, 895 bi-weekly and the rest of the villages and towns are served daily.

CENTRAL EXCISE.

There are only two Central Excise commodities, viz., tobacco and cement. Tobacco does not grow extensively in this district, but it is imported from North Bihar and Gujrat. Cement is manufactured at Japla Cement Factory. The revenue realised from cement is about 10 lakhs of rupees. There is a good market for tobacco trade at Daltonganj. It has got both chewing tobacco and *biri* tobacco warehouses where non-duty paid tobacco is stored and cleared after payment of Central Excise duty. At present there are ten thousand warehouses at Daltonganj and about ten thousand maunds of tobacco is stored by them annually and an annual revenue of about Rs. 4 lakhs is derived.

A little tobacco is also grown in hilly area and used for personal consumption. The acreage is about 5 acres in the whole district, the yield per acre being very low.

In tobacco trade, Daltonganj also feeds Lohardaga which is situated in Ranchi district.

A good deal of tobacco is consumed by the local people who get the supplies through hawkers.

JAIL.

The Daltonganj District Jail is situated in the north-eastern corner of the town on Patan Road. It is about one mile from the railway station and nearly four furlongs from the court. The total area of the jail land is 23.47 acres. The jail building stands on high ground. The area within the enclosure of the jail walls is 2 acres only. Only 5 acres of land are under plough. The remaining land is rocky and undulated. The official capacity of the jail is for 186 prisoners. The average population of the jail in the year 1925 was 10 undertrial prisoners and

5 convicts. The population has since been increased enormously. The average daily population of the jail for the last few years is as follows :—

Year.	Convicts.	Undertrials.	Security.	Civil.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1951	163.59	222.76	0.17	..	386.52
1952	155.20	247.92	..	..	403.12
1953	168.26	171.43	..	..	339.73
1954	132.47	142.44	..	..	274.91
1955	111.97	85.83	..	0.02	197.82

The existing accommodation in the jail has become quite insufficient. Extension of the jail is under active consideration of the State Government and the Public Works Department has been asked to submit plan and estimate for the same.

There is a hospital in the jail which has a small dispensary and a ward of 12 beds.

Previously the jail was functioning as sub-jail under the charge of the Civil Surgeon, Palamau. Owing to the constant increase in the population of the jail, the State Government raised the status of this jail to that of a 2nd class district jail on a permanent basis from the 1st April, 1950. It remained under the charge of the Civil Surgeon, Palamau till the 30th June, 1951. The Government, however, appointed a whole-time Superintendent and he took charge of the jail from the Civil Surgeon, Palamau on the 1st July, 1951.

Garden.—There are two gardens. Garden no. 1 (old) measures 3 acres. The area of the new garden which has recently been reclaimed is 2 acres. In gardens vegetables are grown for the consumption of prisoners during the rainy and winter seasons. There being no irrigational facilities it is not possible to grow vegetables all the year round. The two wells in the old garden get dried up in the summer season. The question of further deepening of them is under consideration.

Education.—A school up to class III standard is being run in the jail to educate the prisoners. The average daily attendance in the school is 56. Course books, exercise books, slates and pencils are supplied to the prisoners at State cost. Four daily papers are also given to them. There is a small library containing 300 books for the benefit of the prisoners.

Industries.—The following industries have been started in the jail :—

(1) Cane industry—*Merhas*, file baskets, waste paper baskets and cane chair, etc., are manufactured.

(2) Oil *ghanies*—Mustard oil for the consumption of the prisoners is prepared.

(3) *Duree* and *Newar* weaving.

(4) Manufacture of prison cloth—The jail is now self-sufficient in respect of prison clothings.

(5) Hand spinning (*Charkha*).

Sub-Jail.—There is only one sub-jail in this district at Latehar which is affiliated to the District Jail, Daltonganj. The official capacity of this sub-jail is 42 only.

The District Jail staff consists of a whole-time Superintendent, a Jailor, two Assistant Jailors, one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, one clerk, four head warders, 35 warders, two female warders, one part-time compounder and a part-time Medical Officer (who is also Civil Surgeon of the district).

Co-operative Movement.

The co-operative movement in this district took its origin in the year 1919, when Thakur Bhola Nath Sinha in Panki thana and Rev. A. C. Watters in Latehar area began to organise co-operative societies with the aim of saving the people from exploitations of the village money-lenders which was the cause of the deplorable condition of the population. With the prospect of cheap credit the number of societies gradually began to increase and by 1924 it rose to 97 when the Daltonganj Central Co-operative Bank came to be formed with a capital of Rs. 45,000. Gradually the activities of the bank developed and other types of rural works, viz., improving sanitation, education, agriculture and communication of the village with the joint efforts of its members and the societies came into action which succeeded to some extent in improving their condition as number of the societies rose to 145 in 1932.

With the failure of lac crop and fall in its price subsequently it was discovered that members were unable to pay their dues and overdues began to show signs of increase and the condition of the bank became shaky. The Provincial Co-operative Bank which was the main prop of the Bank came to its rescue and took charge of the arrangement of the Central Bank in the year 1945 for a period of two years. During this time, Bank and the society were rehabilitated by the Government and the liabilities of the members were fixed according to their repaying capacity.

At present various types of societies, viz., Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies, Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies, Co-operative Stores, and Vishkarma Industrial Co-operative Societies have come into existence with total number of 2,507 as members.

The break-up figures of co-operative societies are as follows :—

(1) Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies	...	142
(2) Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies	...	35
(3) Co-operative Stores	...	7
(4) Vishkarma Industrial Society ...	...	1
Total	...	185

The societies are spread over in Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Panki, Manatu, Chattarpur, Garhwa, Hussainabad, Bhandaria, Bishrampur, Chandwa, Balumath, Barwadih and Latehar police-stations. The Credit agricultural business has been taken since 1945 and consequently Co-operative agricole depot has been opened at Daltonganj with seasonal branches at Latehar, Muhammadganj, Garhwa Road and Chattarpur for sale of manure. Besides, the depot also supplies iron to the members for making agricultural implements. Several thousand maunds of chemical fertilizers and oil-cakes are being distributed to member and non-member agriculturists of the district. The Central Bank Co-operative Stores and some societies are also dealing in various commodities, viz., cloth, yarn, salt, sugar and grain.

To meet the needs of the localities a spacious godown for the storage of chemical fertilizers, oil-cakes, iron, etc., is under construction in the land of the Central Co-operative Bank at the cost of the Government.

For the supervision of the bank and the societies one Inspector, Co-operative Societies has been posted at Daltonganj by Government and one Supervisor at Japla. New societies are being organised near Japla. The Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Hazaribagh Circle, Hazaribagh is the controlling authority. One Government Auditor has also been posted at Daltonganj.

As there is still scope of further development of co-operative societies in the interior, steps are being taken to organise more multi-purpose co-operative societies with the help of the State Co-operative Bank and Bihar Co-operative Federation.

Public Relations Department.

This department acts principally as a liaison between the State Government and its people. In a district like Palamau where the literacy according to 1951 census is only 7.85 per cent and accessibility to the countryside is not easy, there is a great necessity of this department to enlighten the public about the programme and the achievements of the Government and also to educate them properly to

discharge their responsibility accordingly. The department is functioning in the district since 1946 under an officer designated as District Publicity Organiser with his headquarters at Daltonganj. He is assisted by two Assistant Publicity Organisers with their respective headquarters at Daltonganj and at Latehar. These officers tour in the interior and give talk to the people, address them on current topics and also show them films of public importance.

To achieve its objectives, the field staff of the department operate through three-fold media, viz., oral, visual and written. The district unit is equipped with a motor van fitted with a cinema projector, a radio set and electric generator 35 mm., talkie films and a public address system consisting of microphone and loud-speakers. With a view to carrying the torch of knowledge to the countryside, the department has provided radio sets free to rural institutions in the district including *Panchayat*, basic schools and libraries.

Electricity Department.

History.

Electrification of Daltonganj town was taken up in the year 1946-47. At first it was decided to electrify it through a private concern and a license was given to M/S. Ganesh Lal Sarogi. But later Bihar Government decided to electrify this town departmentally and preliminary work was taken up some time in October, 1953 after creating a subdivision of the Electricity Department at Daltonganj. At first this subdivision was under Gaya Electric Supply Division but later in July, 1954 it was transferred to Ranchi Electrification Division. In 1955 this subdivision was transferred under Aurangabad Electrification Division under which it continues now.

The preliminary work for the construction of 11/33 KV line from Daltonganj to Hutar along with the survey of L. T. distribution in the town was started in December, 1953. The work was completed sometime in February, 1954. At the beginning the supply was maintained by a 75 KW Diesel Generating set at Daltonganj. At that time the supply was restricted for 12 hours in night only. After that a 125 KW Steam Generating Set was set up at Hutar and it was possible to supply electricity for 24 hours.

Further steps were taken to improve the supply position by constructing a power house along with the erection of another 250 KW Diesel Set at Daltonganj. Accidentally the steam set at Hutar failed in August, 1956 and there was again some trouble in maintaining the supply. This irregularity was finally overcome by commissioning another 245 KW Diesel Set at Daltonganj Power House and switching over the total source of supply to Daltonganj only. It is expected to give a more stable supply to meet the greater loads when the new 150 KW Diesel Set comes into commission. But this system of supplying power through Diesel Power will come to an end when D. V. C.

power will be available at Daltonganj. A scheme for 33 KV line from Japla to Daltonganj has already been taken up.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

The Indian Registration Act of 1908, the Indian Stamp Act of 1899 and other allied Acts are in force in the Registration offices. The Daltonganj Sadar Registration office is an old office and a source of a good revenue to the Government.

There is a record room in the Sadar Registration office where records are preserved.

There are at present three Sub-Registry offices at Daltonganj, Hussainabad and Latehar. The Sub-Registry office at Latehar which was opened in 1904 was closed in 1908. But owing to the formation of Latehar subdivision, it was re-opened in 1926, with the 2nd Officer as an *ex officio* Sub-Registrar. A Sadar Sub-Registrar was stationed at Daltonganj till the 8th August, 1946, and a District Sub-Registrar took over charge on the 9th August, 1946. The District Sub-Registrar assists the Deputy Commissioner who is the *ex officio* District Registrar in the administration of the department. The District Sub-Registrar and the Muffasil Sub-Registrars deal with the registration of documents within their jurisdiction.

The following is the statistics of each Sub-Registry office ending 1955 :—

Office.	No. of documents registered.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Daltonganj	4,822	33,875	13,861
Hussainabad	1,098	8,740	6,092
Latehar	681	3,409	1,945

The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act which has a bearing on the registration of the documents underwent various changes from time to time. The landlord's registration fee increased by leaps and bounds since the introduction of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1938. The rise and fall of the number of registration of documents is a good index for the economic trends of the district.

The Money-Lender's Act came into force since 1938, authorising the Registering Officer to grant licenses. The total number of licenses issued to the money-lenders is 573.

The District Sub-Registrar is a Marriage Officer under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. There is provision for a Mohammadan Marriage Registrar and a Christian Marriage Registrar.

By notification no. A/K3—104/56-R—1343, dated the 18th June, 1956 issued by the Government of Bihar, Revenue Department (Registration Section) and by an amendment passed by the Parliament, the system of mentioning caste in the documents has been abolished. All the Registering Officers are required by an order of Government to pass an examination in the tribal languages. The Officers of the Registration Department are recruited by the Bihar Public Service Commission after passing the competitive examinations and they are confirmed in their appointment after passing the departmental examinations. Under Government orders the officers of the department are eligible for appointment as Honorary Magistrates and Deputy Collectors. The Sub-Registrars may also be employed in connection with other duties with the permission of the District Registrar subject to the order of the Collector.

The following is a statement of registration of deeds from 1942 to 1951 showing the number of documents registered and the probable Registrar and a Christian Marriage Registrar.

Deeds presented.

	BK. no. I.	BK. no. IV.	BK. no. III.	
1942 ..	5212	165	4	Increase due to economic distress.
1943 ..	6803	215	7	Ditto ditto.
1944 ..	5784	201	10	Decrease due to an economic improvement in the condition of the people.
1945 ..	5157	155	7	Decrease due to gradual improvement in such condition.
1946 ..	5420	157	7	Increase due to Bakasht lands being settled with raiyats.
1947 ..	6374	109	7	Ditto ditto.
1948 ..	5939	114	13	Decrease due to promulgation of some ordinances as to transfers by the Government of India and the State Government, Bihar.
1949 ..	5073	88	8	Ditto ditto.
1950 ..	5708	139	12	Increase due to failure of crops.
1951 ..	7400	933	11	Increase due to a large number of documents.

CHAPTER XII.

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.[1]

History of Land Revenue Administration.

The district of Palamau was constituted in 1892-93 and was divided into four *parganas*, namely, Palamau, Belaunja, Japla and Tori for the sake of Land Revenue Administration. The *parganas* are further divided into *tappas*. The old division into *parganas* and *tappas* is of little practical value now-a-days, as the administration is now carried on on the basis of police-stations and *Anchals*. The district consists of nine Revenue Thanas divided in two subdivisions previously but after the creation of one new subdivision at Garhwa in the year 1955, the number is three.

Subdivision.	*Revenue Thanas.*
1. Sadar ...	1. Daltonganj. 2. Chhattarpur. 3. Patan. 4. Hussainabad.
2. Garhwa	1. Garhwa. 2. Ranka.
3. Latehar	1. Balumath. 2. Latehar. 3. Mahuadanr.

The nine Revenue Thanas are further subdivided into 21 police-stations as below :—

Name of police station.	Name of Anchal-*cum*-Development Block.	Area in sq. miles.	No. of villages.	Total population.
Daltonganj ..	Daltonganj (East) ..	85	80	53,370
Daltonganj ..	Daltonganj (West) ..	244	182	55,830
Garhwa ..	Garhwa (North)	110	109	44,721
Garhwa ..	Garhwa (South)	163	133	46,616
Hussainabad ..	Hussainabad	188	280	81,138
Bhaunathpur ..	Bhaunathpur (East) ..	193	129	50,445
Bhaunathpur ..	Bhaunathpur (West) ..	196	130	35,998

1. The texts of the Chapters on Land Revenue Administration in the last two District Gazetteers are given as enclosures. As there have been great changes the descriptions of the old systems have a great value.

Name of police station.	Name of Anchal-*cum*-Development Block.	Area in sq. miles.	No. of villages.	Total population.
Nagar Untari ..	Nagar Untari (North) ..	142	135	44,102
Nagar Untari ..	Nagar Untari (South) ..	148	56	18,066
Bisrampur ..	Bisrampur	226	224	61,962
Hariharganj ..	Hariharganj	85	178	25,523
Chhattarpur ..	Chhattarpur	255	240	49,199
Patan ..	Patan	149	186	51,373
Lesliganj ..	Lesliganj	91	142	37,301
Manatu ..	Manatu	214	190	32,626
Panki ..	Panki	146	200	41,715
Ranka ..	Ranka	386	155	37,791
Bhandaria ..	Bhandaria	229	68	16,431
Chandwa ..	Chandwa	228	85	29,989
Balumath ..	Balumath	407	174	47,995
Latehar ..	Latehar (East)	163	176	40,962
Latehar ..	Latehar (West)	142	96	22,368
Garu	Garu	200	67	9,466
Barwadih ..	Barwadih	276	81	23,397
Mahuadanr ..	Mahuadanr	255	106	27,383

Number of Estates.

At the time of the last Revisional Survey Operations conducted by Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S., during 1913—20, there were 258 permanent revenue-paying estates, one Government estate and 378 revenue-free estates. Prior to the Land Reforms Act came into operation the total number of revenue estates were 1,320 including 885 revenue-free estates and one Government estate. The increase in number of revenue-paying and free estates since the last Settlement Operation was due to the partition of parent estates and opening of separate accounts.

Amount of Revenue.

The Land Revenue payable was Rs. 8,926 and from that of Government estate was Rs. 61,389. The cess payable for revenue-paying and revenue-free and Government estates was Rs. 1,41,957, 72,032 and 7,957 respectively.

Average size of holding now as compared with the past covered by the Settlement Officers.

Mr. Sunder in his Settlement Report, paragraph 6 at page 2 has given the total number of fields (i.e., plots) measured by the Survey Department at 1,61,352 excluding the area of jungle. The average size of field was 0.65 acre only. Mr. T. W. Bridge in his Settlement Report, paragraph 144, page 64 has said that the total number of fields (or plots) in the district measured by the Survey and Settlement Department was 20,28,367 only excluding the area of the jungle and the average size of a field was 1.46 acres only. There is no record at all in any of the two Settlement Reports to show the average size of the holding. But, after complete vesting of all intermediaries' interests in the district and according to the reports received from the Muffasil Revenue Field Staff the total number of holdings in the district is 1,33,603 and the total area of the fully assessed tenancies (except jungle) is 29,70,744 acres in round figures.

The average size of the holdings has been indicated at page 128 of the *District Census Hand-Book*, 1956. The distribution of 1,000 agricultural holdings based on sample survey of size of holdings in 1952 was as follows :—

Distribution of 1,000 agricultural holdings by size of holdings (based on sample survey of size of holdings, 1952).

Up to 0.5 acre.	Exceeding 0.5 acre and up to 1 acre.	Exceeding 1 acre and up to 2 acres.	Exceeding 2 acres and up to 3 acres.	Exceeding 3 acres and up to 4 acres.
1	2	3	4	5
247	174	146	90	90

Exceeding 4 acres and up to 5 acres.	Exceeding 5 acres and up to 10 acres.	Exceeding 10 acres and up to 15 acres.	Exceeding 15 acres and up to 30 acres.	Exceeding 30 acres and up to 50 acres.	Exceeding 50 acres.
6	7	8	9	10	11
24	90	52	42	10	35

Working on this basis the distribution size-wise of the existing 1,33,603 holdings comes to—

Up to 0.5 acre.	Exceeding 0.5 acre and up to 1 acre.	Exceeding 1 acre and up to 2 acres.	Exceeding 2 acres and up to 3 acres.	Exceeding 3 acres and up to 4 acres.
1	2	3	4	5
33,000	23,247	19,506	12,024	12,024

Exceeding 4 acres and up to 5 acres.	Exceeding 5 acres and up to 10 acres.	Exceeding 10 acres and up to 15 acres.	Exceeding 15 acres and up to 30 acres.	Exceeding 30 acres and up to 50 acres.	Exceeding 50 acres.
6	7	8	9	10	11
3,207	12,024	6,948	5,611	1,336	4,676

Average rental with reference to the size of the holding.

As reported above the figure of average size of the holding is not available in either of the above two Settlement Reports, but as reported above the total number of the holdings on the basis of reports available so far, is 1,33,603 and the total rental is Rs. 8,75,702 and so the average rental per holding on the above basis comes to Rs. 6.55 nP. per holding or Re. 0.29 nP. per acre in this district.

CHANGES IN THE TOTAL RENTAL IN THE DIFFERENT SETTLEMENT PERIODS.

Settlement Operation of the district of Palamau was taken up during the years 1894-95 to 1896-97 by Mr. D. H. E. Sunder, I.C.S., Settlement Officer when this district was a part of the Province of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. According to the Settlement Report the total rental of the district was Rs. 74,432-10-0 only as has been given in detail at pages 78-79 of Mr. Sunder's Settlement Report.

The next settlement of this district was taken up in the year 1913 and was completed in April, 1920. The Settlement Officer was Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S. According to the Settlement Report the total rental of the district was Rs. 5,90,126-2-6 as has been given at page 128 of Mr. Bridge's Settlement Report. The increase in rental was chiefly due to the increase in cultivated area.

All the intermediary interests in the district have now vested in Government under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 with effect from the 26th January, 1955 and the rental of the district, as it stood on 31st March, 1959 was Rs. 8,75,702 only. This amount is expected to increase much more after assessment of rent for lands saved to ex-intermediaries and *Kabil lagan* lands* is completed.

*Lands which are assessable for rent but not assessed as yet are known as *Kabil lagan*.

The changes in the total rental during the different settlement periods work out as under :—

—	Total rental in round figures.	Total area under cultivation in round figures.	Average rental per acre.
	Rs.		Rs. nP.
1. Mr. Sunder's Settlement Operation of Khasmahal villages.	74,433	56,279	1.22
2. Mr. Bridge's Settlement Operation.	5,90,126	8,73,556	0.67
3. Present position. ..	8,75,702	29,70,744	0.29

The existing total area of 29,70,744 acres is based on the report of the Agricultural Statistics. The average rate of rent per acre based on this total area is much lower than the average rate of rent during the last Survey and Settlement due to two reasons. Firstly there was reduction of rent after the last Settlement and the percentage of reduction ranging between 0.5 to 6.42 and secondly some of the existing total cultivated area is still to be assessed to rent. The exact area unasssessed to rent is not known. Supplementary *bujharat*, and assessment of rent for unassessed areas are in progress and the correct position will be known after they are completed.

ABWABS.

No *abwabs* were in existence in villages of the Government estates. During the Survey and Settlement Operation in 1894-95 to 1896-97 by D. H. E. Sunder of the Government estates in Palamau, it was found that following kinds of *abwabs* were in existence in *jagirdari* villages according to custom :—

(*i*) *Harai*.—Every raiyat possessing plough had to give *harai* which is to plough the *Jagirdar's khalsa* fields for three days in a year and the raiyats were paid only three seers of any grain per day as *banni* for doing this kind of job.

(*ii*) *Ropni*.—At the time of transplantation of paddy, the raiyats of a village had to attend to the *Jagirdar's* or the farmer's land before their own for a period of eight days and they were paid three seers of grain for each day. they were employed. This included *lukma* and *kalewa* given to them (breakfast and day's meal).

(*iii*) *Salami*.—During Dashara festival, the raiyats had to pay from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 to *Jagirdars* or zamindar. In some *jagirdari* villages, the raiyats had also to give a rupee as *salami babuan* for the *Jagirdar's* son and a rupee as *salami thakurbari* on account of worship of the idol in *Jagirdar's* house. A he-goat was also taken from each village.

(*iv*) *Dewan Rasum*.—If the village was *sir* the tenants had to pay the *Jagirdar's dewan* at the rate of one pie on each rupee of the total rent. If the village was under a *thika* the *thikadar* had to pay *dewan rasum*.

(*v*) *Musadi kharcha*.—When a raiyat paid up his dues in full he was granted a *Farkatti* by the *Jagirdar*. For this, the charge was one anna generally, but in cases of well-to-do *thikadars*, one rupee was charged by the person, who wrote receipt.

(*vi*) *Mohur kharcha*.—Two annas to four annas were taken from every raiyat at the end of each year by the man who stamped receipts issued to the tenants for rent paid.

(*vii*) *Gammi*.—It was a cess, which *Jagirdars* took at the rate of one rupee per raiyat when any death occurred in the *Jagirdar's* family. This was realised for funeral expenses of deceased.

(*viii*) *Mukh-dekhi*.—On the birth of a son or daughter to the *Jagirdar* or *zamindar*, every raiyat had to pay at the rate of one rupee for looking at the face of the newly born baby.

(*ix*) *Bardaonach*.—*Jagirdars* used to purchase a bull every third year and the cost used to be met by the raiyats of a village jointly but the price of the bull was paid only by those tenants who had 15 or more heads of cattle.

(*x*) *Bet-begar*.—Whenever services of the potter, carpenter or blacksmith were needed, they had to work for the *Jagirdar* and they were paid only three seers of grain for the work.

During the last Survey Operation in the district, Mr. T. W. Bridge, the Survey Settlement Officer, has given the accounts of these illegal tolls under the heading "*Mutfarka*". He has quoted Mr. Cuthbert who observed that it was a most arbitrary and oppressive tax and many people had left their habitations on account of these undue vexatious exactions. It had been abolished by the Board of Revenue, many years before the last Settlement Operation, but like other orders, this had been totally disregarded in Palamau. These illegal taxes were again abolished, but they were still claimed in many private estates. As they were not a charge on land, they were not admitted in the Record of Rights.

Speaking of rakumats (abwabs), Mr. T. W. Bridge writes in the *Final Report on Survey and Settlement* : "*Rakumats (abwabs)* (that is to say such *abwabs* as have been legalized under the Commutation Act and the present Tenancy Laws) are of very little importance in Palamau, where the landlords, being able to take all that the holdings could pay in the shape of rent, have not as a rule troubled much over unrealizable supplementary charges. The Untari zamindar is the only

exception to this state of affairs. He has made a practice of taking some of his assessment from the *thikadars* in the form of *rakumats*, and they in their turn have tried to set extra sums out of the raiyats in the same way; but even in this case reliance has been chiefly placed upon direct rental charges. *Rakumats* whenever they have been found to be legally payable, have been commuted, under orders of Government, to a money value, and that money value has been added to the attested rent except when under section 105, the resultant total would have exceeded a fair rent for the holding. Thus *rakumats* have under the law been finally abolished in the district".

About *begari* Mr. T. W. Bridge writes in his Settlement Report, "All *begari* wherever it existed in the district has been commuted and whether the commuted value was allowed or disallowed under section 105, *begari* can no longer be legally claimed. Moreover, under section 101 neither *begari* nor *rakumats* can be attached to any such tenancy created after 1908, when Tenancy Laws were brought in operation".

Under section 63 of Chotanagpur Tenancy Act realisation of any levy in excess of the rent fixed is an offence. The records available do not show the institution of any case under section 63 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, against any landlord of this district for realisation of *abwabs*. The tenants being very backward did not dare complain the authorities against landlords in connection with realisation of *abwabs* from them. All landlords were, however, not following the law, and *begari*, goats during Dashara, and *dewan rasum*, etc., used to be realised from the tenants by some landlords. The tenants had not the courage to approach the authorities against these illegal exactions and so the offenders could not be brought to book. After implementation of the Land Reforms Act, all intermediaries' interests in the district have passed to and vested in Government and now there is no realisation of any kind of *abwabs*.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS WITH THE CLASSIFICATION OF TENANTS.

In the Survey and Settlement Report of Mr. Sunder, the soil of Palamau district has been classified as follows :—

(1) Dhankheti *or rice land; first class, second class and third class.*—1st class *dhankhet* is the lowest land, and is best for growing paddy. Second class *dhankhet* is slightly higher than this, and third class is higher than second class land.

(2) Bhita *or upland; first class, second class and third class.*—First class *bhitas* are the uplands in which *bhadai, paddy*, wheat, barley, maize and sugarcane are grown. *Doob* lands lying within the basin of embankments or bunds produces good crop of wheat and are included in first class *bhita* land. Second class *bhita* lands yield *masuri*, linseed and gram. Third class *bhita* lands generally produce *til*, cotton and pulses. *Tanr* lands which are cultivated once in three or four years are included in third class *bhita*.

In the last Survey and Settlement Report of Mr. T. W. Bridge the soil has been classified as follows :—

(1) *Dhankhet*—(*i*) First class.
(*ii*) Second class.
(*iii*) Third class.

(2) *Tanr*—(*i*) First class.
(*ii*) Second class.
(*iii*) Third class.

Class of tenants.—The raiyats are broadly divided as follows :—

(1) *Tenure-holders.*—They held their tenancy at fixed rents which could not be enhanced. Under them there were under tenure-holders also. The number of tenure-holders and *mokarridars* on the eve of the Zamindari Abolition was 50,991.

(2) *Settled raiyats.*—A person who, for a period of twelve years, has continuously held as a raiyat land in any village is a settled raiyat of that village. *Bhumidars* and *mundari khut-kattidars* are regarded as settled raiyats in certain cases specified under section 18 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act.

(3) *Occupancy raiyats.*—Every settled raiyat of a village has a right of occupancy in all land held by him in that village.

(4) *Non-occupancy raiyat.*—A non-occupancy raiyat is liable to pay such rent as may be agreed upon between him and the landlord at the time of his admission and is entitled to a lease solely on such rent as may be so agreed on.

(5) *Under-raiyat.*—Raiyats cultivating lands under occupancy raiyats.

The Survey and Settlement of Mr. Sunder was in respect of the Palamau Government estates only. The classification of tenants has not been given but the classification of tenants and the aggregate cultivated area held by each class of tenants as given at pages 78-79 are as follows :—

(1) Settled raiyati—5,009—area held—39,379 acres.
(2) Occupancy raiyati—2,467—area held—8,620 acres.
(3) Non-occupancy raiyati—5,476—area held—17,015 acres.

In the Bridge's Settlement Report classification of lands under cultivation has been mentioned at page 20 of Appendix 4 of the report

but the classification of tenants has not been given. The classification of cultivated lands as given in the report is as given below :—

				Acres.
Dhankhet I	...	...	...	6,408.26
Dhankhet II	...	...	...	36,679.08
Dhankhet III	...	...	...	1,35,067.20
		Total	...	1,78,154.54
Tanr I	...	...	...	50,485.44
Tanr II	...	...	...	1,72,706.74
Tanr III	...	...	...	4,72,220.62
		Total	...	6,95,412.80

Total cultivated area—8,73,567.34 acres.

There has been no survey and settlement operation after Mr. Bridge's Survey and Settlement Operation. The present acreage under cultivation of different kinds of lands by different class of tenants is not available.

PARTICULAR KINDS OF TENURES OF RIGHTS OF THE TENANTS TO FORESTS AND MINERALS.

All the estates in Palamau were originally tenures known as *ijaras*, and *minhai* grants of various descriptions made by the Chero Rajas of the district. In 1895 all these tenures were raised by the Bengal Government to the status of permanent heritable, transferable and non-resumable estates and were registered as such subject only to the punctual payment of Government revenue. The *ijara* tenures were registered as revenue-paying estates and *minhai* as revenue-free estates. The tenures of Tori estate in Palamau was the creation of Maharaja of Chotanagpur who resided at Ratu in the district of Ranchi and the entire estate known as Tori estate was a grant made in the year 1867 to Kumar Jagat Mohan Nath Sah Deo, a *khoroosh* grant liable to resumption on the failure of male heirs. The Kumar himself after the grant created various kinds of tenures as well. The tenures in Pargana Japla were the creation of the Nawabs of Hussainabad and that of Belaunja Pargana by the Sonepura Rajas. Before the implementation of the Land Reforms Act of 1950 the following kinds of tenures existed in this district :—

(1) Jagirs.—These tenures created by the Rajas for performance of certain services to them. For instance, performing sacrifice of buffalo at the time of Dashara festival at the place of the Raja concerned or similar other services.

(2) *Khoroosh hin heyati.*—These were ordinarily granted to females for their own maintenance during their life time only resumable to the original estates after their death.

(3) *Special khoroosh.*—This is a kind of *khoroosh* granted for special purposes. For instance *sindurtari khoroosh* granted to females at the time of marriage.

(4) *Tamlik khoroosh.*—These were granted to daughters and sisters at the time of their marriage but resumable to the original estates on failure of their male issues.

(5) *Khoroosh.*—Simple *khoroosh* were being given to the members of the family and even to the other persons by the Rajas at their wills.

(6) *Khairat tenures.*—These were generally known as—(*a*) *khairats*, (*b*) *brit*, (*c*) *kusbrit*, (*d*) *brahmotar* and (*e*) *debotar*. In these tenures generally the grantor used to divest himself of all rights in the land which vested in the grantee. These were made generally to the priests or to the temples, etc.

(7) *Mukari tenures.*—These tenures are found throughout the district and were created by the proprietors concerned when they were in need of money at the time of marriage or other circumstances when they used to receive lump sum at the time of creation of the *mukari* right and used to fix nominal rent besides cess at usual rate.

(8) *Dar mokari tenures.*—The *mukaridars* in turn at the time of need used to create similar right as laid down above.

But, after the implementation of Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, all the above kinds of proprietorship (revenue-paying and revenue-free estates) and all the tenures described above have been abolished and all the persons concerned have been reduced to the status of raiyats under the State Government.

So far rights of the tenants to forests are concerned, they were mentioned in the *Khatian* Part II of the village concerned which was prepared during the last Survey and Settlement Operation of the district conducted by Mr. T. W. Bridge, I.C.S., and the tenants used to exercise their rights accordingly. These rights are—

(1) Extraction of fuel from jungle for household purposes.

(2) Picking of *mahua* flowers from the jungle.

(3) Taking wood from jungle for manufacturing agricultural implements.

(4) Grazing of cattle in the jungle.

(5) Taking *chop* from jungle for household purposes.

(6) Taking wood and bamboo from jungle for household purposes.

The same right is being honoured up till now even after implementation of the Bihar Land Reforms Act. So far as the right over mineral is concerned, tenants had no such right at any time.

The Rights of Zamindars to the Underground Minerals and effect of Land Reforms Act over it.

Formerly the ex-landlords of bigger estates of this district like Ranka, Chainpur, Untari, Deogan, Sonepura were under the impression that all the underground mineral rights belonged to them. On this presumption one Srimati Bhauraj Kuer of Hurilong and Raja Brahmdeo Narain Singh of Chainpur settled some mines of coal known as Hurilong and Hutar Coal Mines with some private parties. Thereupon the then Government after necessary examination of the old relevant papers filed a Mining Suit (Civil) against the settler Smt. Bhauraj Kuer and the proprietor of Chainpur Raja Brahmdeo Narain Singh in the year 1933, which was decided by a Special Sub-Judge appointed for the purpose in the year 1954. The suit was decided in favour of Government and it was held that all the underground mineral rights of Pargana Palamau belong to Government. Since then the State Government is now the whole and sole proprietor of all minerals and underground rights. The Civil Suit was in respect of Palamau Pargana only and the rest of the district remained undisturbed. Hutar Coal Mines, Barichatan Block, Semra Lime Stone were settled by Government after decision of the above Civil Suit and as such the Bihar Land Reforms Act had no force on these mines.

So far Rajhara and Jagaldagga Collieries of this district are concerned these were settled by the ex-landlords of the villages concerned long before the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950. According to sections 9 and 10 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 these two coal mines are now deemed to have been settled by the State Government on the same terms and conditions of the lease as was given to the lessee by the ex-landlords. Similarly one Iron-Ore Mine at Goreya-Balahia settled by the ex-landlord of the village long before the passing of Bihar Land Reforms Act is also deemed to be settled with the lessee M/S. M. G. Rungta and Co., on the same terms and conditions as was given by the lessor. Over and above there are no working mine leases granted by the ex-landlords directly or indirectly and as such the effect of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 was not adverse against any working mine so far this district is concerned.

Kamiauti System.

The Survey and Settlement Report of Mr. T. W. Bridge shows that *kamiauti* system prevailed in this district. Under this system the landlords used to keep a fairly large number of tenants practically as slaves for cultivating their *bakast* lands. The holdings of the tenants were so small, and the rents so high, that they had to depend solely on the landlords for their employment during a portion of the year. In return for their labour on the lands of the landlords these unfortunate tenants used to get only three seers *kachi* of paddy per head per day. According to Mr. Bridge the total number of such slaves was about 60,000 and the remaining tenants were half slaves.

Kamiyas could only count on employment from their masters regularly during the busy agricultural season, that is to say during the times when there was a great general demand for labour. At other times they were employed on gathering grass or fuel to fence their owner's *bari* or to repair houses of the landlords. In some cases a *kamiya* used to get a very small portion of service land which was called *palhath* which generally amounted to a quarter of a *bigha* of poor rice land and the value of its gross produce was Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 a year. The *kamiyas* used to build their houses on a bit of unoccupied *tanr* land. In cases they ceased to be *kamiyas* they had to give up their *palhath*, but not the houses or *bari* which adjoined it. They had no moveable property at all except the clothes they wore and cooking pots given to them at the time of their marriage. They had no reserves of food and often went all day with only a single meal and in the months of the hot weather, they sometimes had to pass a day without a meal.

Mr. Sifton has given a full description of the *kamiauti* system in paragraphs 265 to 273 of the *Hazaribagh Settlement Report* which is quite applicable to Palamau and Mr. Bridge has noted in his Final Report that he cannot do better than advise the reader to refer to it.

Accordingly, Government taking all the aspects of the system described above, passed Bihar and Orissa Kamiauti Agreement Act, 1920 (Act VIII of 1920) abolishing the system from the Province for good.

Kisan Agitation.

There was a marked deterioration in the relations between landlords and tenants due to *Kisan Sabha* movement. The propaganda of the *Kisan Sabha* led to rents being withheld in Ranka and Japla in this district during 1937-38. The tenants of late Mr. Hasan Imam were dissatisfied at not getting receipts for produce rents. In the Ranka estate tenants in a body refused to take settlement of lac trees though retaining possession of them.

The Administration Report for 1938-39 shows that a large number of collective petitions under section 139(2) of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act were filed by tenants claiming *gairmazarua* lands which the landlords opposed. This greatly embittered relations between them. The Magistracy and the Police had to take strong, sustained and vigilant measures to maintain peace.

During early part of 1958 there was an agitation to hold up rent in Ranka thana under the leadership of one Phetal Singh, a *khenwar* of the locality, who claimed to be an independent chief. This agitation took a bad turn and subsided after the arrest of Phetal Singh.

Changes in Agrarian Laws.

The particular attention of the Government was turned towards improving the lot of the *kamiyas*, who were half slaves and Bihar and Orissa Kamaiuti Agreement Act, 1920 (Bihar and Orissa Act VIII of 1920) was passed and brought under operation to make provisions regarding agreements for the performance of certain kinds of labour in the Province of Bihar and Orissa. This Act gave great relief to the bonded labour classes.

The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was amended suitably and a new section 23A was inserted under which registration fee payable to the landlord was fixed and no discretion was left to the landlord to demand a higher fee for mutation of the name of a purchaser.

A new section 61 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was inserted according to which a raiyat has right to get his *bhauli* rent (produce rent) converted into cash rent.

Similarly section 63 of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was inserted which is a penal section and any landlord realising any excess rent either in cash or kind other than rent of the holding is liable to criminal prosecution.

Similarly under section 21A of the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (inserted by Amendment Act of 1947) the raiyats got full rights over trees standing on their holdings from before or planted by them on such holdings.

The Bihar Waste Land (Reclamation, Cultivation and Improvement) Act, 1946 (Bihar Act XVI of 1946).

This Act was enacted to provide for the reclamation, cultivation and improvement of wasteland and unproductive lands in the province of Bihar. The area reclaimed with wasteland reclamation loans is 7,438.57 acres and 895.58 acres were converted into paddy fields with the help of subsidy granted to the tenants and amounts spent over them were Rs. 4,73,895 and Rs. 61,270-8-0 respectively.

Bihar Privileged Persons Homestead Tenancy Act.

Only 11 cases were instituted under this Act out of which five were rejected and six were allowed. There is no dearth for homestead land in this district, and hence the number of cases has been quite low.

There were frequent disputes between landlords and tenants regarding possession over *Bakast* lands. To provide a summary and cheap procedure for deciding such disputes, Bihar Bakast Dispute Settlement Act, 1947, was passed. The total number of cases instituted under this Act was 1,422 out of which 185 ended in favour of tenants, 51 in favour of landlords, 35 were compromised, 1,122 were rejected and 29 were withdrawn. Although the tenants did not take full advantage of this legislative enactment, still it gave some relief to them.

Rent Reduction Operation.

In the thirties of this century there was a slump in prices and it became difficult for most of the tenants to pay rents specially because of enhancements made by the landlords. To give relief to the tenants, Rent Reduction Operation was conducted in this district between 1938 and 1940, and substantial relief accrued to the tenants from this Operation. The total number of cases for reduction of rent under section 33(A) of Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was 28,549. The total amount of reduction made is not available, but approximately the reduction ranged between 0.5 per cent and 6.42 per cent. Three gazetted officers with necessary staff had been employed on this operation.

Bihar Private Irrigation Works Act, 1922 was amended in 1939. According to this amendment the Collector under the Act was empowered to get those irrigation schemes repaired which had been neglected by the landlords concerned, and to realise the cost of such repairs from them.

The total number of schemes taken up and completed, from 1948-49 is given below :—

Year.	No. of M. I. Schemes taken up.	No. of M. I. Schemes completed.
1948-49 ..	338	338
1949-50	514	514
1950-51	1,086	1,086
1951-52	474	474
1952-53	1	1
1953-54	255	247
1954-55	34	34
1955-56	98	93
1956-57	57	57
1957-58	45	45
1958-59	56	56
1959-60	Nil	Nil.
Total ..	2,958	2,945

Bihar Money Lenders Act, 1938 was passed and brought in operation to safeguard the raiyats from the professional *baniyas* and money-lenders, who advanced to the labourers money on high interest. The number of valid licenses on 31st March, 1960 was 224 only.

Bihar Panchayat Raj Act was also introduced in 1948 and the poor people were saved from being dragged to court unnecessarily by well-to-do people and petty quarrels are settled or decided locally.

Statements A and B below will show the number of cases and suits filed, disposed of and pending since the year 1955-56 till 1958-59 under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act.

(A) Disposal of cases.

Financial year.	Total cases for disposal.	Cases disposed of				
		Compromised.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1955-56 1956-57 1957-58 1958-59	.. 5,698	2,809	302	404	1,085	1,098

(B) Disposal of suits.

Financial year.	Total suits for disposal.	Suits disposed of			
		Compromised.	Decreed.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1955-56 1956-57 1957-58 1958-59	.. 1,652	537	590	236	289

Commutation of Produce Rent into Cash Rent.

In 1946-47 there was a general drive to commute *Bhauli* rent into cash rent and a special staff was appointed for the purpose. Commutation cases covering 4,543 villages were started and disposed of locally. The total area for which produce rent was commuted into cash rent and the total annual cash rent fixed were 12,202.20 acres and Rs. 47,077-3-7, respectively.

Bihar Land Reforms Act.—This Act has been brought under operation in the year 1950. Under this Act all zamindari interests vested in the State and the tenants were brought in direct contact with the State.

Government Estate.

The history of the district has been given in detail in Chapter III of Mr. Bridge's *Settlement Report*, pages 14 to 60 of the Report. In

paragraph 63 at page 31 thereof it has been stated that Captain Roughsedge insisted on the sale of the estate of Raja Churaman Rai which had fallen in arrears and accordingly the estate was sold in the year 1812-13 and purchased by Government for Rs. 51,000 (Rupees fifty-one thousand) only. At that time Palamau was not a separate district but was included within Lohardaga. In the year 1892 a separate district was formed as Palamau district with Parganas Palamau, Tori, Japla and Belaunja with Colonel Evans Gordon as the first Deputy Commissioner. After the purchase of the aforesaid estate of Raja Churaman Rai by Government it was managed through Raja Ghanshyam Singh till 1818 and thereafter was being settled on annual basis till 1824. Mr. Smith then gave it on lease for five years from 1824 to 1829-30. During the disturbance of 1831-32 there was an addition of 31 more villages to the Government estate probably due to forfeiture. The *thikadari* system continued till 1896 when the management of Government estate was taken up directly by Government and four *Tahsil* Circles of Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Latehar and Garu were established with one *Tahsildar*, one *Moharrir*, four *Tahsil* peons at each *Tahsil* Office. Besides this mofasil staff one Khasmahal Officer (Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collector) with clerical staff was stationed at headquarters of the district. There were lots of correspondence about the rate of rent to be assessed in respect of the holdings of the raiyats in Khas Mahal from the time of settlement by Mr. Forbes to that of Mr. Bridge and at last in the year 1918 the maximum and minimum rates of rent to be assessed on the raiyats of the Government estate were sanctioned in Government letter no. 4239—44 R/S., dated the 2nd July, 1918 as under :—

	Dhan I.	Dhan II.	Dhan III.	Tanr I.	Tanr. II.	Tanr III.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p
Maximum ..	6 0 0	4 0 0	2 3 0	3 12 0	1 4 0	0 5 0
Average ..	4 13 0	3 4 6	1 12 0	3 2 0	1 0 0	0 4 0
Minimum ..	3 8 0	2 7 0	1 5 0	2 4 0	0 12 0	0 3 0

Besides the rent on the tenancy the rate of rent on the trees in Government estates was also under correspondence with the Government and the Government in their letter no. 22-RT., dated the 16th November, 1918 for the first time ordered that the tenants of Government estates would enjoy all the rights over trees which grow in their holdings free of any charge. This has been mentioned in paragraph 386 at page 159 of Mr. Bridge's *Settlement Report*. The insertion of section 21A in the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act appears to be the outcome of this decision of Government. The above system of direct management of Government estate by the officials as laid down above continued till 31st August, 1955 and with effect from 1st September, 1955 the Government estate also merged with the Land Reforms Section of the Collectorate and is managed now along with vested estates.

Land Reforms Act and its Effect.

Like other districts of the Province of Bihar, Palamau district had permanent settlement as its land tenure system. The permanent settlement made in 1793 was a historical necessity at the time it was made but in the 20th century it had outlived its utility and become a legal anachronism. It kept the land revenue payable to the State at a very low figure fixed in perpetuity, and prevented the raiyats from coming into direct contact with the State. The landlords were almost like parasites on the society and some of them were notorious for their oppression. The Indian National Congress, from the early days of the national struggle for freedom, had the abolition of zamindari as an important item in its programme of agrarian reforms. When after attainment of independence of the Congress party came in power at the Centre as well as in the State, it took up this matter in right earnest and Bihar Abolition of Zamindaris Act, 1946 was passed. The validity of this Act was challenged on behalf of the landlords in the Patna High Court. This Act was repealed in 1950, and Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 was passed to implement in full the promises made by the Congress party in their Election Manifesto.

This Act was also challenged by the principal landlords of the State including the proprietors of Nagar Untari, Ranka, Sonepura and Chainpur estates of this district and part of this Act was declared *ultra vires* by the Patna High Court. The Constitution was amended in 1952. Even after the amendment of the Constitution, the Act was again challenged, but the Supreme Court declared the Act to be *intra vires* except for some minor provisions of the Act.

Government decided in the first phase of the programme to take over the big estates and tenures having gross annual income exceeding Rs. 50,000. In pursuance of the Government decision the following estates of over Rs. 50,000 income were notified under provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 (Act XXX of 1950) and possession of those estates was taken between 9th June, 1952 and 14th June, 1952. One tenure of Darbhanga Raj having gross income of over Rs. 50,000 lying in this district was also taken.

(1) Chainpur estate.
(2) Ranka estate.
(3) Nagar Untari estate.
(4) Sonepura estate.
(5) Deogan estate.
(6) Bisrampur estate.
(7) Tori estate.
(8) Darbhanga Tenure (part of Deogan Estate).

Subsequently the State Government decided to take over all the intermediary interests in the district and a general notification to this effect was made under section 3(*b*) of the Bihar Land Reforms Act on the 26th January, 1955 and all the estates and tenures passed to and became vested in the State with effect from 26th January, 1955.

With the implementation of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, the zamindari system has disappeared with all its attendant disadvantages and the raiyats have come into direct contact with the State. The ex-intermediaries have also become tenants in respect of the lands which were in their possession on the date of vesting of their estates. The annual rent demand of this district is Rs. 8,75,702 as against the land revenue of Rs. 8,926 which the State was getting from the landlords before the abolition of zamindaris. This income will have a substantial increase in near future as a result of assessment of rent for lands saved to the ex-intermediaries and *kabil lagan* lands. There is a further substantial income from *sairats* and *salami*, etc. This income is varying from year to year. In the year 1959-60 the income from *sairats* was Rs. 3,32,966. Thus while the Land Reforms Act has done away with an outmoded system having several disadvantages it has substantially enriched the State coffer. The Statement of Demand and Collection from 1954-55 to 1958-59 of vested estates is given below :—

Statement of Demand and Collection from 1954-55 to 1958-59 of vested estates.

Year.	Demand.						Collection.							
	Arrear rent.	Current rent.	Arrear cess.	Current cess.	Arrear Misc.	Current Misc.	Arrear rent.	Current rent.	Arrear cess.	Current cess.	Arrear Misc.	Current Misc.	Percentage of total collection on total demand.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1954-55 ..	75,819	1,82,807	66,011	92,589	16,023	78,732	22,651	1,44,869	17,879	44,986	..	91,909	64.7	Rent.
1955-56 ..	2,41,819	7,16,007	80,655	45,899	39,584	2,49,696	1,37,733	5,80,421	13,564	36,413	23,518	2,21,171	74.9	,,
1956-57 ..	2,95,848	8,22,785	76,255	50,079	1,78,347	1,49,034	2,07,480	6,98,426	20,880	43,168	1,57,324	96,884	82.0	,,
1957-58 ..	2,70,162	8,39,909	60,241	52,228	78,856	2,74,574	1,28,741	5,25,039	10,186	32,130	23,184	1,57,195	59.9	,,
1958-59 ..	5,63,303	8,75,702	76,385	54,821	1,33,958	3,32,966	3,72,548	6,98,007	27,826	43,200	38,383	2,26,465	71.1	,,
													Total Demand.*	

*The decrease in demand of cess when compared with that of 1954-55 is due to the demand of cess upon the tenure-holders and *Mokaridars* were as before, but after complete vesting on 26th January 1955 their cess demand was reduced like that of other tenants.

Under provisions of the Bihar Land Reforms Act certain classes of land which were in possession of the ex-intermediaries on the date of vesting of their estates became their raiyati holdings, and rent was to be assessed for such lands under sections 5, 6 and 7 of the aforesaid Act. As fixation of rent would take some time, the Bihar Recovery of Arrears of Rent of Outgoing Proprietors and Tenure-holders (Vested Estates and Tenures) Act was passed in 1955 to facilitate the recovery of rent from the ex-intermediaries and to save it from being time-barred.

As a result of the Bihar Land Reforms Act an approximate area of 66,689 acres vacant lands came in possession of the Government and this land is being settled with landless members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The total area thus settled till December, 1959 is 16,830.54 acres with 4,690 landless people.

ORGANISATIONAL PATTERN OF THE LAND REFORMS DEPARTMENT AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

For efficient management of the vested as well as Khas Mahal estates, the district has been divided into 25 circles having 250 *halkas*. The names of circles with number of *halkas* subdivisionwise are as follows :—

Name of subdivision.	Name of circle.	No. of halkas in the circle.
Sadar	Daltonganj East	9
	Daltonganj West	12
	Lesliganj	9
	Panki	10
	Manatu	11
	Bisrampur	12
	Hariharganj	9
	Chhattarpur	12
	Patan	10
	Hussainabad	12
Latehar	Latehar East	10
	Latehar West	8
	Barwadih	10
	Garu	8
	Chandwa	10
	Balumath	12
	Mahuadanr	10

Name of subdivision.	Name of circle.	No. of halkas in the circle.
Garhwa	Garhwa East	10
	Garhwa West	10
	Bhandaria	8
	Ranka	10
	Majhiaon	10
	Nagar North	10
	Nagar South	8
	Bhaunathpur	10

The number of villages in each *halka* ranges between 12 and 20. Each *halka* is in charge of a *Karmachari* who has been given a *Tahsil* peon. Each circle is in charge of a Circle Officer, who is generally a Sub-Deputy Collector. He is assisted by a Circle Inspector who is a non-gazetted officer. At present the total number of Circle Officers is 21 only. Four circles, viz., Latehar West, Garu, Bhaunathpur West and Lesliganj are, therefore, tagged at present with the adjoining circles. The sanctioned strength of ministerial staff for each circle is two Upper Division clerks and three Lower Division clerks. Two office peons are sanctioned for each mofassil circle office, and one for the circle office located at district or subdivisional headquarters. In the mofassil each circle office has been given one night guard also.

At the subdivisional level the Subdivisional Officer is formally in charge of revenue work. In Sadar and Latehar Subdivisions the Subdivisional Officers are assisted by one Additional Subdivisional Officer with headquarters at Daltonganj. In Garhwa subdivision the Subdivisional Officer is assisted by one Deputy Collector incharge of Land Reforms. For Latehar subdivision also the post of a Deputy Collector incharge of Land Reforms has been sanctioned but no officer has been posted as yet. In each subdivision there is a Law Clerk to look after the cases relating to the Land Reforms Section.

At the district level, the Deputy Commissioner and the Additional Collector are incharge of revenue work. There is a proposal to post one Sub-Deputy Collector to help the Additional Collector in day-to-day work of the revenue section but on account of paucity of officers no officer has been posted so far. There is one Additional Office Superintendent at district headquarters to look after revenue work. He inspects the subdivisional and circle offices and gives proper guidance to the ministerial staff.

Ad-interim *payment*.—Under section 33 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act *ad-interim* payment is to be made to the ex-intermediaries

till the final compensation is paid. The allotment and expenditure over *ad-interim* payments are as follows :—

Sl. no.	Year.	Allotment received.	Total disbursement.
		Rs.	Rs.
1	1955-56	70,000.00	57,742.50
2	1956-57	3,55,000.00	2,93,907.75
3	1957-58	3,00,000.00	2,91,597.23
4	1958-59	3,00,000.00	2,15,870.34
5	1959-60	3,00,000.00	2,58,529.36

The reasons why the entire allotment was not spent every year were mainly two. Firstly the allotment was not made on the basis of accurate requirement, and secondly in a fairly large number of cases the amount payable is too meagre and it has to accumulate for several years before it can be remitted to the payees by money order.

Compensation.—The total number of intermediaries whose estates have vested is 13,383. The total number of returns filed by them is 13,383. The total number of cases started so far for compensation is 7,181. In 40 cases necessary enquiries have been completed and payment of compensation is expected to be made in these cases in the year 1960-61 as allotment of rupees ten lacs for compensation has been received for the first time. Previously no allotment of funds had been made for compensation. The main reason for poor progress in respect of compensation is that the returns filed by the ex-intermediaries did not produce necessary papers in spite of repeated demands. Cent per cent verification of returns has to be done before compensation proceedings can be finalised. This is possible only after the completion of the Supplementary Bujharat, Khewat Bujharat and assessment of rent for all lands saved to the ex-intermediaries under sections 5, 6 and 7 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act which are in progress.

By the Bihar Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1959 sections 32A and 32B have been inserted in the Bihar Land Reforms Act. Under these sections Compensation Officers are empowered to make payment of 50 per cent of the approximate amount of compensation, if they are satisfied that delay is likely to occur in payment of compensation under section 32 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act. Compensation work is being given top priority and it is expected that in all simple cases in which no complications are involved payment of compensation will be made under section 32 and in other cases 50 per cent of approximate compensation will be paid under section 32A in the current financial year (1960-61).

Fixation of ceiling of land.

The measure for fixation of ceiling of land is still at the legislative anvil, and the question of its implementation will arise after it becomes an Act.

Consolidation of Holdings.

The Bihar Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation Act, 1956 (Bihar Act XXII of 1956) has not been made operative in this district till now, as contemplated in section 3 of the Act.

Co-operative Farmings.

The district of Palamau is a hilly tract and has not got adequate irrigational facilities. Electricity is not yet available in the rural areas. The people are backward. In the circumstances the formation of successful running of co-operative farming is a difficult task in this district. Still after considerable effort, the following co-operative farming societies have been formed, and are functioning :—

(1) Parahiya Joint Co-operative Farming Society, Latdag, P.-S. Latehar.

(2) Sinjo Joint Co-operative Farming Society, P.-S. Latehar.

(3) Sagana Joint Co-operative Farming Society, P.-S. Harihar ganj.

(4) Chiru Joint Co-operative Farming Society, P.-S., Chandwa.

(5) Naktibar Joint Co-operative Farming Society, P.-S. Harihar ganj.

(6) Bankita Joint Co-operative Farming Society, P.-S. Balumath.

The achievements of these societies are not spectacular till now chiefly because of want of adequate irrigational facilities and backwardness of the people. All necessary efforts are being made to make them function successfully.

Settlement of Land with Landless Labourers.

The question of settlement of lands with landless members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes was under the serious consideration of Government since the present Ministry took office. Up till December, 1959 lands have been settled with these classes as given below :—

Name of castes.	Total area settled.	Total no. of persons with whom settlement made.
	Acres.	
Scheduled Castes	8,051	2,080
Scheduled Tribes	6,962.60	2,034
Backward Classes	1,796.94	556

It is also the policy of the Government to construct houses in colonies for Adivasis and Harijans. The list below indicates the progress made so far in this direction :—

List of Harijans and Adivasis Housing Colony.

Sl. no.		Name of place where located.	No of houses constructed.
1	1953-54	Bisrampur	24
2	1954-55	Ahirpurwa, P.-S. Nagar	14
3	1954-55	Chainpur..	15
4	1955-56	Majhauli, P.-S. Panki	16
5	1956-57	Chhipadohar, P.-S. Barwadih ..	12
6	1956-57	Bisrampur, P.-S. Ranka	23
7	1956-57	Haranloiya, P.-S. Balumath	14
8	1956-58	Sinjo, P.-S. Latehar	25
9	1957-58	Kear, P.-S. Barwadih	10
10	1957-58	Chitarpur, P.-S. Balumath	10
11	1957-58	Tana, P.-S. Bisrampur	5
12	1958-59	Chira, P.-S. Chandwa	7
13	1958-59	Bankita, P.-S. Balumath	9

The Harijans and Adivasis families settled in the colonies have been given land generally at the rate of 5 acres each family, and they have been provided with bullocks, agricultural implements and cash assistance for their rehabilitations.

Bhoodan Movement.

Bhoodan movement initiated in 1951 in Telangna district of Hyderabad touched this district in 1952. Sant Vinobajee undertook *Pad-yatra* in furtherance of the movement three times—for about a week in November, 1952, for about a month in May, 1953 and for a few days in January, 1954. The object of this movement is to secure voluntary gift of lands from the Haves for the Have-nots.

The total number of *danpatras* received by Sant Vinobajee was 25,532 covering an area of 2,66,831.83 acres. The largest donation of one lac two thousand acres was made by the Raja Bahadur of Ranka. Sant Vinobajee was very much impressed by this donation and called it *Purnadan*.

So far about fourteen thousand acres of gifted land has been distributed amongst five thousand landless persons. Some mistakes

crept in the matter of distribution of the land by the Bhoodan Committee and those mistakes are rectified as they are discovered and reported by the Bhoodan workers.

Under the provisions of the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, all lands gifted to Sant Vinobajee vest in the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Committee. In the district the custody of *danpatras* and distribution of the land, etc., were in the hands of the local committee under the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Committee. At present the local committee has an office in Daltonganj town. The Committee has a Secretary. A Zila Sarvodaya Mandal has recently been constituted with a convener. This Mandal will shortly take over all functions of the District Bhoodan Committee. The Convener of the Zila Mandal has constituted a working committee of five members which is to look after day-to-day work.

There is one District Bhoodan Land Resettlement Committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner as Chairman, Convener of the Sarvodaya Mandal and the District Agriculture Officer as members. This Committee sanctions the amount of loans and subsidy to be given to the Bhoodani tenants. Up till now Rs. 68,000 as subsidy and Rs. 22,000 as loan in round figures have been sanctioned by this Committee and distributed amongst Bhoodani tenants.

Under the provisions of the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954, *danpatras* having an area of more than five decimals each have to be confirmed by the Revenue Officer appointed under the Act. Up till now the total number of *danpatras* presented by the local Bhoodan Committee before the Revenue Officer was 21,940, out of which 2,597 were confirmed, 125 were returned to the Committee as they covered an area of less than 5 decimals each, 19,191 were rejected and 27 are pending for disposal. A large number of *danpatras* were rejected as they did not contain essential particulars. The local Bhoodan Committee is collecting the particulars required, and will shortly move the Revenue Officers concerned for restoration of the rejected cases. The Revenue staff has been instructed to supply to the Committee such particulars as may be available with them.

Material Condition.

In his Report of 1875 Mr. Forbes has quoted this from Hunter's *Statistical Account of Lohardaga*, "Taken as a whole the Palamau peasant is better clothed, fed and housed than his Bihar neighbours. He is very improvident and often in debt; but there is this difference between him and the Raiyat of Bengal that whereas he is only the victim of the Mahajans, the latter is the landlord's also. The assessment is light, the terms on which they hold their land are easy, and as the population is scant and land is plentiful, the cultivating peasant is too valuable and too easily scared away or induced to settle on a neighbour's land, to admit of his being rack-rented."

In the Settlement Report of Mr. Sunder, the material condition of the people is described thus: "Roughly speaking, the people are certainly better off than at last settlement. Thirty years back there was no road to Sherghati, and important marts were reached with great difficulty; the road to Ranchi also was then only under construction. Crops and other produce could not be disposed of with facility. Prices were consequently low, and the people were obliged to deal with the Mahajan alone. He fixed rates and flourished over his profits while they remained poor. Now all this has changed. The district is fast opening out. Many good roads have been made and others are under construction. There are more markets now, and while Mahajans and European agencies compete in the purchase of grain and other produce, the people have little difficulty in disposing of all they wish, and often at good profits. Their own habits have also changed, and are changing with the times, inasmuch as the majority of them, from the humble Birjea, Parahiya, and Korwa to the proud Rajput, Chero and Brahman, may now be seen wearing clothing made of English material, whereas formerly they wore what Jolahas weaved for them. And there is also scarcely a family now in which brass utensils are not used in place of leaf plates and wooden drinking cups. That some of the people are in debt is certainly true. In a country where it is looked upon as duty to procreate heirs on the earliest practicable date, irrespective of the means for supporting the family when it arrives, temporary dependence on others for food and raiment is unavoidable in the case of a large number. Absurdly disproportionate marriage expenses, and the general improvidence of the raiyat, particularly among the Cheros, Kharwars, Oraons, and Bhuiyas, preclude his hoarding up any surplus. Perhaps a bad season intervenes, and he can no longer pay his rent without recourse to the village Sao or Mahajan (money-lender)".

Mr. T. W. Bridge's Account of the material condition of the people during the last Survey and Settlement Operation in the district.—In his last *Survey and Settlement Report* Mr. T. W. Bridge found that the rosy picture given by Mr. Forbes in 1875 was incorrect. The whole of this description, according to Mr. Bridge, depends on the wrong assumption that because there is much unreclaimed land in Palamau, the holdings of the peasants must, therefore, necessarily be large and their rents low. If the assumptions were true, it would have been a fair deduction that there was a competition for tenants which automatically acted as a safeguard for the rights of the tenantry.

The rents were not low and conditions were not easy in Palamau. The raiyats were not capriciously nomadic nor were they well housed, clothed and fed. There was no competition for them and in majority of cases, the raiyats had absconded and they had done it under compulsion, either because rents were insistently demanded from them which the land could not bear, or because the landlords coveted their lands and expelled them forcibly.

The application of the figures of population with that of rent receivers would give a fairly accurate idea of the material condition of the people of the district as a whole. The number of rent receivers in the district with their dependants was 13,390. The total income of rent receivers was Rs. 26,65,776, so that the average annual income per head was Rs. 199. The total number of persons solely dependent upon agriculture with their dependants was 5,17,895. If the rent receivers and the population of the towns of Daltonganj, Garhwa and Japla are excluded from the total district population, the result would be approximately 6,50,000 and the number may be taken to represent the population that is dependent on district's agriculture for a living. The value of the gross produce which falls to the raiyat's share after payment of rent is Rs. 40,22,938 including service holdings. Therefore the average gross annual income per head would be only Rs. 6-3-0; or over pice a day. It would appear from this how extraordinary poverty existed in the district.

Additional sources of income to the agriculturist were very few. *Mahua* flowers and edible jungle products supplemented the food supply in many parts of the district and many of the lower class raiyats had a goat or two or a few poultry.

Growing of lac was very profitable in the first great booms of 1895 and 1905, but most of the profits were taken away by the landlords and the *baniyas*.

The collieries at Rajhara used to employ a small number of workers.

Thus at the time of the last Survey and Settlement the district was extremely poor, and its agriculture was insufficient to feed the population.

The present material condition of the people of the district during present Congress Government.—Since the last Survey and Settlement Operation the condition of the people has improved considerably. According to the *Report of the Agricultural Statistics for* 1958-59 the total cultivated area of the district is 8,49,575 acres besides 2,92,136 acres of current fallow land which is as good as cultivated land. The cultivated area of 8,49,575 acres is divided as follows:—

	Acres.
Bhadai crops	3,28,977
Aghani crops	3,11,234
Rabi crops	3,07,783
Garma	1,581

During the last Survey and Settlement Operation the total area under *Bhadai*, *Aghani* and *Rabi* was found to be 2,17,184 acres. Thus the area under these crops has almost gone up four times. The existing area under double crops is 2,17,940 acres whereas such area during the

last Survey and Settlement Operation was 38,980 acres. Thus there has been a very substantial increase in the area under double crops also.

Under the Bihar Private Irrigation Works Act a very large number of old irrigation schemes which had been neglected by the landlords have been repaired and renovated. 22 medium schemes covering a total benefited area of 8,640 acres have been executed by the Agriculture Department and 20 medium irrigation schemes covering a total benefited area of 7,174.65 acres have been executed by the Revenue Department. A large number of irrigation wells have also been constructed. 10 major irrigation schemes have been taken up by the Palamau Waterways Division which are under execution. The total area expected to be irrigated by these schemes is 33,750 acres. Improved seeds are being made available to the cultivators from Seed Multiplication Farms of different Blocks and Chemical fertilizers are also being made available to the cultivators locally. The preparation of compost and green manuring had been encouraged and had a substantial progress. The Agricultural demonstrations of different varieties are being conducted in the rural areas showing improved method of cultivation to the cultivators. A large number of co-operative societies have been formed and they are providing agricultural credit to their members. The cumulative effect of these measures is the substantial increase in production and consequent improvement of the agriculturists.

There has been considerable improvement in communications of this district. Inaccessible areas like Mahuadanr, Bhandaria and Manatu, etc., have been opened up and the produce of these areas now easily find their way to various markets fetching quite good prices to the producers. With the start of industrialisation of Ranchi the agricultural and horticultural products of this area specially vegetables and fruits are being exported to Ranchi town and they are sources of good profit to the producers. One new railway line from Garhwa to Robertsganj is nearing completion and when this line starts functioning the area through which it passes will develop considerably.

Seventeen Blocks are functioning in the district and in a few years the entire district will be covered by Blocks. The Blocks are trying to effect all-round development of the area in which they are located. They are trying to bring about appreciable improvement in the spheres of agriculture, industries, public health, education and rural crafts and their efforts so far have brought about distinct improvement in the living of the people.

The majority of the population of this district consists of Adivasis, Harijans and Backward Classes. The Welfare Department has done a lot to improve the condition of these people. At present 37 grain-*golas* are functioning. They provide credit facilities for seeds and subsistence to these classes. About 2,000 students of these classes are getting stipend to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs a year. Medical facilities and legal aid are made available whenever necessary. 122 schools and 6

hostels have been established and are being run by the Welfare Department. 16 colonies of Adivasis and Harijans have been set up and poor Adivasi and Harijan families have been settled in those colonies. They have been supplied with lands, implements, seeds, bullocks and other basic requirements. 55 nomadic Parahaiyas families have been rehabilitated and provided with houses, lands, implements, seeds, bullock and cash assistance. Thus the condition of the Adivasis and Harijans and Backward Classes has considerably improved and efforts are under progress for further improvement.

With the abolition of zamindari the illegal ejections by the landlords have disappeared and the tenants are in direct touch with the State. The measures indicated above have considerably improved their condition economically, socially and culturally and further improvement is bound to take place in course of implementation of the existing as well as coming Five-Year Plans. The Adivasis are, however, still improvident and they spend their saving on drinking. A sustained propaganda is being carried out to eradicate this evil from them but the success achieved so far is not encouraging.

CHAPTER XIII.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

There is a District Welfare Officer for Palamau with headquarters at Daltonganj. His main duty is to look after the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes, Backward Classes and the other sections of the people who come under the generic term of Harijan. The setting up of Harijan colonies and the provision for wells is one of the main items before the District Welfare Officer. The work of the construction of Harijan colonies has been taken up both under the Centrally sponsored schemes and under the Plan Scheme in State sector. At the end of 1959, the construction of 54 units of houses for the Harijans had been taken up under the housing scheme under the Centrally sponsored schemes. These units are located at Bariatu, P. S. Patan, Bajkum, P. S. Latehar, Nagar, P. S. Chandwa and Tolra, P. S. Bisrampur. Under the housing scheme under State sector, houses have been built at Bisrampur (24 units), Chainpur (15 units), Tona, P. S. Bisrampur (5 units). These villages are in the Sadar Subdivision. At Garhwa subdivision 14 units of houses have been built under this scheme at village Ahirpurwa, P. S. Nagar.

A Harijan colony has been completed at Majhauli, P. S. Panki. It is proposed to open a Harijan hostel in those buildings.

The target in 1959 was to sink 132 wells for the Harijans. Till August, 1959, only 25 of them had been completed.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

There is an Assistant Registrar incharge of the Co-operative Societies for Palamau Circle with headquarters at Daltonganj.

The co-operative societies in this district were supervised by Gaya Circle and later on by Hazaribagh Circle. Due to the increase in the number of co-operative societies of different kinds the necessity of closer supervision was felt and accordingly a new circle was created at Palamau Circle and the office of the Assistant Registrar was opened in September, 1955.

The total number of co-operative societies of different types is 747, scattered throughout the three subdivisions of the district. Apart from the credit and multipurpose co-operative societies the following different kinds of societies have been organised and registered :—

(1) Vyapar Mandal Co-operative Societies	6
(2) Larger-sized Multipurpose Co-operative Societies ...	8
(3) Joint Co-operative Farming Societies (3 registered and 2 under registration).	5
(4) Sarvodaya Sahyog Samiti	4
(5) Forest Coupe Co-operative Societies	5
(6) Labour Co-operative Societies	2

(7) Lac Growers' Co-operative Societies	6
(8) Weavers' Co-operative Societies	22
(9) Oilmen's Co-operative Societies	23
(10) Poultry Farming	2
(11) Dairy Farming Co-operative Society	1
(12) Vishwakarma Co-operative Societies	2
(13) Palm Gur Producers' Co-operative Societies ...	2
(14) Gur Khandsari Co-operative Societies	6
(15) Other types of Industrial Co-operative Societies ...	12
(16) Co-operative Stores	5

Vyapar Mandal.

The State Government has invested in the shares of the five marketing societies at the rate of Rs. 20,000 per society. Besides, the State Government has sanctioned Rs. 19,000 per society for the construction of seed-*cum*-fertilizer godown. 25 per cent of this money is subsidy and 75 per cent is loan repayable in 15 annual instalments. The State Government has also provided managers for carrying on the working of the society in respect of four marketing societies.

Larger-sized Multi-purpose Co-operative Societies.

Seven larger-sized societies have been provided with wholetime managers at the cost of the State. The State Government has invested in the shares of the larger-sized society at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per society in respect of seven societies and has granted at the rate of Rs. 10,000 to five of the above societies for the construction of seed-*cum*-manure godowns, 25 per cent of which is subsidy and 75 per cent as loan repayable in 15 annual instalments.

Joint Farming Co-operative Societies.

The State Government has recently given the services of one farm manager and one *Kamdar* for giving technical guidance to the joint farming society.

Sarvodaya society has also taken up joint farming in the *Bhoodan* lands.

Forest Coupe Co-operative Societies.

Two of the forest coupe societies have taken up the utilisation of forest produces this year as they were given contract of small coupes. Their work is satisfactory.

Weavers' and Oilmen's Co-operative Societies are also working satisfactorily.

There is one Central Co-operative Bank to which the societies of all types have been affiliated. In order to increase the borrowing limit of the Central Bank the State Government has invested Rs. 1,00,000 towards the Share Capital of this Bank. This Bank finances the societies in this district as there is no other Central Co-operative Bank. The total financing of the Bank is Rs. 1,33,534 in 1957-58 and Rs. 83,000 in 1958-59 and Rs. 1,00,000 during *kharif* drive

1959-60. The Bank mostly finances medium-term and short-term loans. The total demand of the Bank as on 30th June 1959 was Rs. 1,70,071.19nP. out of which Rs. 1,03,711.82 nP. has been realised. The total percentage of collection of the Bank is 61 per cent. Besides this, there are some old loans against the old societies from the time when the Bank was reconstructed. The recovery in respect of the old loan is very poor as the landed assets in this district are not saleable.

The State Government has provided all the staff for carrying on the business of the Bank as the Bank was not in a position to meet its establishment.

Electricity Department.

Daltonganj was supplied with electricity in April, 1954. Initially supply was started with small diesel generating sets located at Daltonganj and subsequently a steam engine was installed at Hutar Colliery.

Eventually the entire growing need of Daltonganj and areas around it was met from the diesel station which was strengthened by installation of new plants. But the growing demand of the town could not be catered by the diesel station because of the limiting character of diesel generation. It was decided then to avail supply from Damodar Valley Corporation sources and so 33 KV line was laid from Barun to Daltonganj Ex. Japla.

In the meantime acute shortage of power was felt and as Damodar Valley Corporation was not in a position to meet further demand, supply was availed from Japla Cement Factory.

The supply from Japla Cement Factory was availed on the 17th November, 1958 and naturally with the closure of the diesel station expectations came up in the mind of the people that the tariff would be revised for their benefit. The rates of supply at Daltonganj in comparison to Ranchi and Aurangabad are as follows :—

Ranchi, Aurangabad, etc., and other areas served by Damodar Valley Corporation.		Daltonganj served by diesel station.	
	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.
For 1st 32 units ..	0 4 6	Units at ..	0 6 6
Less	0 0 6 rebate.	Less ..	0 0 6 rebate.
Industrial—			
Units at ..	0 2 3	Units at ..	0 3 3
Less	0 0 3 rebate.	Less ..	0 0 3 rebate.

Now a revised tariff for the areas south of Ganga has been announced and the same rates would prevail everywhere. This would go a long way to redress the long standing grievances of the people of this town.

Due to limited generating capacity of the diesel station there were restrictions on load and so development of industries was stagnant. As soon as the supply from Japla was availed, all restrictions on load have been removed and there is no difficulty in getting power at Daltonganj now.

There are two electrical subdivisions functioning in Palamau district. One is located at Japla and the other is at Daltonganj.

Japla subdivision.—Mains have been laid in the following villages in Japla subdivision :—

(1) Japla.
(2) Hussainabad.
(3) Chowkri.
(4) Bilashpur.
(5) Nawadih.
(6) Hydernagar.
(7) Bindubigha.
(8) Bhaibigha.
(9) Bhabhan Deori.
(10) Bahera.

Japla, Hussainabad and Nawadih have already been electrified. Other villages would shortly be supplied with electricity.

Provision for extension of 11 KV line up to Kurmipur in the year 1959-60, comprising villages Gamharia, Bansdiha, Upri, Kachra, Kamdarpur has been made. The line would ultimately be extended up to Chhattarpur in the year 1960-61. This is a backward and very poor tract and so greater care is being taken to develop this area.

Daltonganj subdivision.—Supply of power has been made available recently to Garhwa Road (Rehla) and the extension of 11 KV line to Chhipadohar is in progress. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the rains so that all the timber sawing machines at that place may switch over to electric drive before the next season starts.

The electrification of Garhwa town is also scheduled to be completed by 1960-61 by extending 11 KV line from Garhwa Road. The total provision for capital works in Palamau district in the year 1959-60 is Rs. 5 lakhs.

Miscellaneous.—The department is encouraging farmers to irrigate their land by lift pump. These pumps are fitted on application in their wells situated in the vicinity of the mains on easy hire-purchase system. They are installed by the department completely.

Palamau Waterways Division, Daltonganj.

The Executive Engineer, Palamau Waterways Division, is in charge of this division with his headquarters at Daltonganj. He is charged with very important development programmes.

In the First Five-Year Plan, the Irrigation Department carried out the execution of four numbers of Irrigation Schemes in this district, besides detailed investigation of several other schemes, part of which has been taken up in the Second Five-Year Plan and the remaining are still under observation. The four completed schemes are Kararbar Irrigation Scheme, Batre Irrigation Scheme, Chordanda Irrigation Scheme and Sadabah Irrigation Scheme, brief descriptions of which are furnished below :—

Kararbar Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of this scheme is located on the river Kararbar in village Siplaha, P.-S. Hussainabad of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 6,37,600 out of which the up-to-date expenditure is Rs. 5,60,636. This irrigation scheme has got irrigation potential of 5,400 acres, against which about 5,746 acres of *kharif* was irrigated in 1958, and the same area is envisaged to be irrigated this year as well. If the rainfall in latter part of the year is favourable, it will be possible to irrigate 1,200 acres of *rabi* and about 100 acres of hot-weather crops like cane.

Batre Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of Batre Irrigation Scheme is located on the Batre river in village Dhab, P.-S. Hariharganj, of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 6,61,976 out of which Rs. 5,94,693 has so far been spent. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 6,000 acres, against which 6,163 acres could be provided with irrigation facilities in the *kharif* of 1958, and the same area is envisaged to be irrigated this year as well. If the meteorological conditions are favourable about 1,200 acres of *rabi* and 50 acres of hot-weather crops will be irrigated this year as well.

Chordanda Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of this scheme is located in the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,75,839 against which Rs. 1,85,756 has been spent over the scheme. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 1,200 acres, out of which 1,005 acres could only be irrigated last year.

Sadabah Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme falls in village Nageshar on the river Sadabah, P.-S. Patan, of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 2,51,612 against which Rs. 1,98,876 has so far been spent. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 5,000 acres against which 5,000 acres could only be irrigated from this scheme in 1958.

Six numbers of schemes, namely, Chako, Sonre, Jinjoi, Adra, Phulwaria and Birha Irrigation Schemes have been taken up for execution in this district in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Chako Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme is located on the river Chako in village Garu, P.-S. Panki, of the district. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 4,500 acres. About 1,000 acres are expected to be irrigated during this year. The estimated cost of the scheme is 15.22 lacs, against which about 8.4 lacs have been spent so far. The works of headworks and the canal are in full progress and the scheme is expected to be completed by the 30th June, 1959.

Sonre Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme is located on river Sonre in village Maran, P.-S. Panki of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 9.78 lacs, against which Rs. 3,20,347 has been spent so far. The execution of the headworks and the irrigation channel is in progress and the scheme is expected to be completed by July, 1959. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 5,290 acres of *kharif* and 525 acres of *rabi*. About 1,000 acres of *kharif* are expected to be irrigated this year. The special feature of this scheme is that the Main Canal which is about 5 miles long has been designed as contour canal, and is probably the first of its kind so far planned in Chotanagpur area.

Jinjoi Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme is located in village Nawadih, P.-S. Patan, of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 14,82,000 out of which Rs. 8,00,000 has been spent so far. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 7,000 acres and the scheme is expected to be completed by 1959.

Adra Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme is located in village Karua Kalan, P.-S. Garhwa, of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 2,55,500 against which Rs. 1,98,314 has been spent so far. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 1,300 acres, out of which 500 acres will be irrigated during this year. About 2 miles length of the canal has been completed and the execution of the rest work is in full swing.

Phulwaria Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme falls in village Aunraiya on the Phulwaria river in Garhwa P.-S. of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3,68,000. The scheme is under execution and about 25 per cent of the work has been completed so far.

Birha Irrigation Scheme.—The headwork of the scheme falls in village Durardih in Mahuadanr P.-S. of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 2,56,000. The irrigation potential of the scheme is 1,800 acres. The earthwork is under execution and about 20 per cent of the work has been completed so far.

The following schemes have been further prepared to be taken up in Second Five-Year Plan :—

(1) *Piri Irrigation Scheme.*—The headwork of the scheme has been prepared to be located in village Bhuwaridah. The estimated cost of the scheme is about Rs. 8,00,000 and it will irrigate 3,000 acres of land during *kharif* season. The detailed investigation of the scheme has been completed. Design is in progress.

(2) *Utmahi Irrigation Scheme.*—The headwork of the scheme has been proposed to be located in village Katahar, P.-S. Nagar Untari, of the district. The scheme when completed will provide irrigation facilities to 1,500 acres, during *kharif* season. The scheme has been submitted to the Government for sanction. Administrative report for Rs. 3,57,000 against this scheme has been received.

(3) *Kukahi Irrigation Scheme.*—The headwork of the scheme has been proposed to be located in village Janwan, P.-S. Hussainabad, of the district. The scheme when completed will provide irrigation facilities to 3,100 acres during *kharif*. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 7,95,000. Detailed investigation has been completed.

(4) *Sarswatia Irrigation Scheme.*—The headwork of the scheme has been proposed to be located in village Bankheta, P.-S. Garhwa, of the district. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3,50,000 and will irrigate about 1,500 acres net area in the vicinity of Garhwa proper. The detailed investigation has been completed and the design is in progress.

The following Irrigation schemes have been proposed for Third Five-Year Plan :—

—	Cost (in lakhs).	Net area to be benefited.
	Rs.	Acres.
1. Batane Reservoir Project	178.60	48,000
2. Arraj Irrigation Scheme	16.25	6,000
3. Banki (Left) Irrigation Scheme	25.00	8,000
4. Banki (Right) Irrigation Scheme	20.00	8,000
5. Maila Irrigation Scheme	20.00	8,000
6. Sunary Irrigation Scheme	24.00	8,000
7. Barahi Nala Dam Scheme	20.00	5,000
8. Uria Danro Reservoir Project	28.00	7,000
9. Sukri Irrigation Scheme	12.00	4,000
TOTAL ..	343.85	1,02,000

The four completed schemes which have cost the State Exchequer Rs. 15,38,672, so far have provided irrigation facilities to 17,023 acres (net area) which is about 2.83 per cent of the total culturable area of the district. The average incidence of cost worked out to Rs. 90 per acre. On the completion of the seven numbers of schemes, which have been taken up for execution under Second Five-Year Plan, a further net area of 23,000 acres will be brought under irrigation at an estimated cost of Rs. 52,18,000. This will add another 3.83 per cent to the irrigated areas bringing the total area to 40,023 acres under irrigation and will cover up 6.70 per cent of the total culturable area of the district.

The Third Five-Year Plan envisages expenditure of Rs. 3,43,85,000 on the irrigation projects as mentioned above and a further area of 69,000 acres of land will be brought under assured irrigation which will cover 11.5 per cent of the total culturable area of the district. By the end of Third Five-Year Plan it is expected about 17.33 per cent of the total culturable land of the district will be brought under assured irrigation.

DISTRICT BOARD.

The District Board is now in the charge of a senior and experienced Deputy Collector designated Special Officer. He has taken up a comprehensive development programme. There are four categories of development work under execution through the agency of the Palamau District Board, namely :—

(1) Construction of village roads and paths in the tribal areas under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

(2) Improvements of District Board roads, Bazar roads in non-municipal and non-notified areas and improvement to District Board Dak and Inspection Bungalows under the Second Five-Year Plan.

(3) Construction of hostels for aboriginal students at Daltonganj, Garhwa and Latehar and other welfare work of the Welfare Department of the State Government.

(4) Improvements to District Board roads, bridges and culverts from augmentation grants and L. S.-G. subsidy grant.

The progress under the above four categories of development work till the end of 1959 is as follows :—

(1) District Board received a Government grant of Rs. 2,50,000 for constructing roads from Latehar to Harganj, Chhaya to Nawada, Netarhat to Mahuadanr and Chandwa to Nindra. A sum of Rs. 2,12,048 has been spent over them and the unspent balance of Rs. 37,952 has been diverted to general purposes by the ex-Board. This money is not available now in the District Board Fund. The completion of these works is, therefore, delayed. The Special

Officer has applied for a loan of Rs. 2½ lakhs to complete the work.

(2) (*a*) Under Second Five-Year Plan improvement of two District Board roads, one from Untari to Maurisemar and the other from Japla to Chhatterpur were taken up and the Government have given a grant of Rs. 1,23,975 against the total scheme of Rs. 6,57,255 for this district. After doing some collection of road metal, the Untari-Maurisemar Road was transferred under Government orders in May last to P. W. D. Collection of metal and soling stone on Japla-Chhattarpur Road is in progress but very slowly. Out of the total Government grant of Rs. 1,23,975, Rs. 70,411 has been diverted by the ex-Board to other purposes and Rs. 30,472 has so far been spent on the schemes. Now Rs. 22,952 only is available and, the work is progressing with this money only. Further progress will be subject to receipt of loan applied for or when further Government grant is received.

(*b*) Regarding improvement of Bazar roads in non-municipal and non-notified areas, the District Board has received a grant of Rs. 10,548 in shape of Government grant and Government loan, against the total scheme of Rs. 45,000. Out of this amount Rs. 1,404 has been diverted by the ex-Board to other purposes and Rs. 3,396 has so far been spent on improvement of Bazar road in Japla Bastee. The work is progressing very slowly and the attention of the District Engineer has been drawn to it.

(*c*) *Improvement to Dak and Inspection Bungalows.*—The Government has so far given a grant of Rs. 5,310 for bringing in general improvement, purchase of furniture and for providing sanitary fittings. The scheme is for making improvement to all the 21 District Board Inspection Bungalows at the rate of Rs. 2,600, for which District Board has to contribute 50 per cent of the total cost. District Board has got no money to fulfil this condition. It has, however, provided Rs. 16,000 in its budget estimate of 1959-60 for general improvement and providing sanitary fittings, furniture and crockeries.

(3) Regarding construction of hostels for aboriginal students, the construction of the buildings at Daltonganj and Latehar is almost complete. The construction of Garhwa hostel building has also been taken up.

(4) *Improvement of District Board roads, bridges and culverts from augmentation and L. S.-G. subsidy grant.*—A total sum of Rs. 2,03,591 was received for different works in the last five years. Out of it Rs. 1,32,733 was spent on the sanctioned schemes and Rs. 62,558 was diverted to general purposes by the ex-Board. Balance of Rs. 8,300 is now available in the District Fund. Unless the loan applied for is received, there is no prospect of completing these works.

On taking over charge of the District Board on 28th of March last, the Special Officer had carefully examined its financial position and submitted a detailed report to the Government in which he had requested the State Government to sanction a loan of Rs. 2½ lakhs to tide over the financial difficulties and to complete all development works soon which have been taken up so far. Till this script is compiled (October, 1959) the sanction of the Government had not been received.

On 31st of March, 1959 Government gave loan of Rs. 75,000 to the Board. With this amount and the amount then lying in the cash balance of the Board, the Special Officer was able to clear the pending bills to the tune of about a lac which were pending from the time of the previous Board. He has now made arrangements to keep the normal expenditure of the Board within its income. No part of the grant since received, for specific purpose has been allowed to be diverted to any other work. Vigorous attempts have been made by the Special Officer to enforce the Food Adulteration Act. A census of all manufacturers and dealers in the articles of food has almost been completed and they are given licenses under the Act. So far 1,150 numbers of licenses have been issued and about Rs. 11,000 has been realised as license fee within these 4½ months, it is expected that this fee may go up to Rs. 25,000 in a year. The depleted financial condition of the Board was a road-block to the Special Officer. Huge sums of earmarked grants had been spent for other purposes. The Special Officer has been regularising the internal budgeting and paucity of funds has been a handicap to him for fulfilling the development programmes.

Name of works.	Amount of estimate.
List of Schemes of Welfare Department under execution through the District Board at the end of 1959.	
	Rs.
1. Construction of welfare hostel at Daltonganj	1,60,954
2. Construction of welfare hostel at Latehar	86,981
3. Construction of welfare hostel at Garhwa	59,413
4. Construction of grain-*gola* at Bariatu	10,290

Name of works.	Amount of estimate.
CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AND HILL PATHWAYS UNDER CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME.	
	Rs.
5. Construction of Hutar-Loharsi Road (5 miles road) ..	13,182
6. Construction of a culvert on Hutar-Loharsi Road ..	3,772
7. Construction of Satbarwa-Murma Road	6,385
8. Construction of approach road to Parahiya Colony at Damodar	2,296
9. Construction of Chetuag pathway	909
10. Construction of Nagar pathway	1,216
STATE SCHEME.	
11. Constructing a road from Chakla to Mahuamillan (8 miles road)	26,998
TOTAL ..	3,72,396

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Administration.

The district was very backward educationally and so the organisational set up has had to be strengthened. In order to keep constant effective control over the Secondary Education in each district one post of the District Education Officer in Class I and for each subdivision, a Subdivisional Education Officer in Class II of the Bihar Educational Service were created and in this district too the District Education Officer and two Subdivisional Education Officers at Garhwa and Latehar joined.

For the development of social education, the posts of District Social Education Organisers in Class II (Junior) have been created but the District Social Education Organiser has not joined here by this time.

One post of the District Inspectress of Schools in Class II (Senior) for each district and one Deputy Inspectress of Schools in the Upper Division of the Subordinate Educational Service for each muffassil subdivision were created. In this district the District Inspectress of Schools and one Deputy Inspectress of Schools at Latehar joined. The post of a Deputy Inspectress of Schools at Garhwa is still vacant.

One post of a Deputy Inspector of Schools in Upper Division of the Subordinate Educational Service was created at Garhwa in 1955 and the officer has joined there.

For the basic education, one post of the Deputy Superintendent of Basic Education in Upper Division of the Subordinate Educational Service was created for this district and the officer also joined.

For physical education, one post of the Deputy Superintendent of Physical Education in Upper Division of the Subordinate Educational Service was created and the officer also joined in this district.

For the development of primary education, one post of District Superintendent of Education in Class II of the Bihar Educational Service was created for each district in the year 1954 and the officer joined then. For the assistance of the District Superintendent of Education one post of the Deputy Superintendent of Education in Upper Division of Subordinate Educational Service was created for this district and the officer also joined.

The number of Sub-Inspectors of Schools in the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan was only six. At the end of the First Five-Year Plan the number came up to 14 and during the Second Five-Year Plan the number became 30.

The position of the development of Secondary Education is as indicated below :—

—	1951-52.	31st March 1956.	31st March 1959.
Number of Higher Secondary ..	9	13	34
Enrolment	3,144	4,287	7,715

Besides this, during the Second Five-Year Plan two high schools were converted into Higher Secondary Schools.

Primary Education—

Development Position.

—	Number of M/S including Basic.	Enrolment.	Number of Primary schools including Junior Basic.	Enrolment.
1951-52 ..	54	8,639	592	23,548
31st March 1956	78	11,799	620	34,479
31st March 1959	130	17,787	842	56,528

The number of Primary and Middle school buildings constructed and under construction in the rural areas is 254.

Physical Education.—During the Second Five-Year Plan 52 *Vyayamshalas* or gymnasiums were functioning in the district, out of which 13 have received grant-in-aid. Besides this, Boy Scouts, Girls' Guides, Subdivisional and District Sports Tournaments, Subdivisional Coaching Camp of the teachers have been organised from time to time.

Social Education.—The number of social centres in the beginning of the Plan was 72 and the enrolment was 1,866. At present there are 254 centres and the enrolment is 7,224. Four Community Centres have been organised. The number of libraries has gone up to 70, besides one Central Library at the district headquarters. The number of social education organisers is 16.

Development of Education in Pilot Project Block, Panki.

—	Target.	Achievement.
Pilot Project Block—		
(a) Number of villages without a Primary school (where schools have been proposed in the Survey Report) provided with school during 1958-59—		
(x) between April—December 1958 ..	Nil	Nil.
(y) between January—March 1959 ..	13	13
(b) Number of villages still without a Primary school ..	Nil	Nil.
(c) Number of new teacher units provided to schools in these areas during 1958-59—		
(x) between April—December 1958 ..	Nil	Nil.
(y) between January—March 1959 ..	14+32	14+32
(d) Increase in enrolment in classes I—V—		
(x) between April—December 1958 ..	319	
(y) between January—March 1959 ..	3,728	
(e) Percentage of children of age-group 6—11 in schools—		
(x) 31st December 1958—32 per cent.		
(y) 31st March 1959—75 per cent.		
(f) Percentage of children of age-group 6 years in schools on 31st March 1959—80 per cent.		

Progress of Elementary Education (Primary and Middle) in the Rural Areas of Palamau District.

—	Position on 31st March 1953 (prior to First Five-Year Plan).	Position on 31st March 1956 (at the end of First Five-Year Plan).	Position on 31st March 1959.	Increase.
1. Number of Middle schools..	36	65	101	75
2. Number of Upper Primary schools.	65	272	299	234
3. Number of Lower Primary schools.	386	359	503	117
4. Number of teachers in all institutions.	1,122	1,422	1,698	576
5. Number of pupils in all institutions.	32,087	39,558	61,093	29,006
6. Amount spent over salaries of teachers.	Rs. 8,67,861.14		Rs. 18,93,005.48	

Up-to-date position of new school buildings taken up for construction.

1. No. of building units taken up for construction 254
2. No. of building units completed 110
3. Amount spent so far up to 31st March 1959 Rs. 3,34,269.39

Up-to-date position of Lady Teachers' quarters under construction.

1. No. of quarters sanctioned up to 31 March 1959 17
2. No. of quarters taken up for construction ... 12
3. No. of quarters completed 4
4. No. of quarters under construction 8
5. Amount spent up to 31st March 1959 ... Rs. 16,500

Up-to-date position of school buildings repaired.

1. No. of school buildings taken up for repairs ... 117
2. Amount spent so far ... ... Rs. 17,000

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

There is an Executive Engineer for Daltonganj Division with headquarters at Daltonganj. He is under the Superintending Engineer, Chotanagpur with headquarters at Ranchi.

Roads.—Prior to 1949 the Public Works Department had almost no constructional activities in this district. There were only a few Government buildings at Daltonganj and Latehar which were looked after by the District Board on behalf of the Department.

A stretch of mere 10 miles of road near the Ranchi border was maintained by the Public Works Department at Ranchi.

A programme of road construction was taken up during 1949 with the creation of P. W. D. Subdivision at Daltonganj to be followed on by the opening of a P. W. D. Division in November, 1955.

By the end of First Five-Year Plan Period this district had 137 miles of fully black topped and bridged roads as given below :—

	Miles.
1. Daltonganj-Ranchi Road (up to district border) ...	66½
2. Daltonganj-Hariharganj Road	44
3. Chandwa-Balumath Gonia Road	24
4. Rehla-Bishrampur Road	2½
Total	137

A more ambitious programme of roads and bridges construction was taken up in the Second Five-Year Plan. By 1959, 65 miles of roads have been added and yet another 118 miles as detailed below will be completed by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan :—

	Miles.
1. Daltonganj-Garhwa-Ranka Godermana Road ...	36½
2. North Koil Bridge Link Road	12½
3. Daltonganj-Lesliganj Panki Road	28
4. Bhusar-Ketchki-Barwadih and Bhandaria Godermana Road.	22
5. Balumath-Harhanj Panki Road	30
6. Garhwa-Nagapuntari-Murisemar Road ...	29½
7. Rorma Budna Road	2½
8. Kahri-Patan-Mantu Road (upto Padma) ...	22
Total	183

Thus by the end of Second Five-Year Plan this district will have 320 miles of improved roads.

By now, as many as 18 numbers of small and big causeway of a total length of 2,036 ft., have been constructed on various roads at a cost of Rs. 12,71,788.

A major bridge on the river North Koil at Garu spanning of a gap of 455 ft., has been completed and opened to traffic.

A still longer bridge of a total span of 1,615 ft., on the same river at Garhwa Road has been completed.

It will appear that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan this district which has an area of 4,914 square miles and a population of nearly 10 lakhs, will have on the average 6.5 miles of P. W. D. road per hundred square miles of its area and 32 miles of such roads for every lakh of population.

Buildings.—The following important buildings have been constructed :—

	Cost of the buildings Rs.
1. Subdivisional Court and Jail buildings at Garhwa	5,03,581
2. District Jail building at Daltonganj ...	5,08,676
3. New R. P. Line at Daltonganj	3,10,314
4. Girls' High School at Daltonganj (K. G. K. Pathshala).	1,74,373
5. Girls' Middle School at Latehar	1,73,122

The following important buildings are in progress and will soon be completed :—

	Rs.
1. Construction of 30 bedded Subdivisional Hospital Building at Garhwa.	3,11,000 A/A
2. Construction of 20 bedded Maternity Ward in Sadar Hospital at Daltonganj.	1,04,900 A/A
3. Construction of Tasar Seed Supply Station at Chinki.	28,200 A/A

The District Development Committee has also recommended the following roads to be taken up during the Third Five-Year Plan Period :—

	Miles.
1. Daltonganj-Chainpur Road with a bridge over river Koil at Shahpur, Daltonganj.	3
2. Garhwa-Majhiaon Road	12
3. Padma-Manatu Road	6
4. Bhandaria Barwadih Road	25
4(A). 4 numbers causeways between Aksi to Mahuadanr on Kutmu Garu-Mahuadanr Road.	
5. Padma-Tarhasi-Udaipur Road up to Sonepura ...	18
6. Nagar-Bhawnathpur Road	9
7. Nagar-Dhurki Road	15
8. Japla-Pathraghat Road	18
9. Latehar-Banari Road	30
10. Saraidih Chatterpur Road	6
Total	142

GRAM PANCHAYATS.

The district of Palamau has been divided into 25 *Anchals* and 250 *Halkas*. The total area of this district is 4,914 square miles and the total population according to the last census is 9,85,824. There are 3,212 villages in the district. The idea is to cover all the villages and the people by the Gram Panchayats.

The District Panchayat Officer is the incharge of this department who is managing the work with the assistance of Supervisors, Instructors of Village Volunteer Force, clerical staff and *Gram Sewaks* under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner, Palamau.

Till the end of 1959, the Gram Panchayat Department has been able to form 344 *Gram Panchayats* covering the total area of this district. On the average, one *Panchayat* stands for nine villages. All the 344 *Panchayats*, 341 have been duly notified by the Government and published in the *Bihar Gazette*. Others are to be notified soon.

Out of 341 Notified *Gram Panchayats* first election has been completed in 308 *Panchayats* while election is yet to be completed in the remaining 33 Gram Panchayats. The election has been suspended

under Government instructions as the Bihar Panchayat Election Rules are being amended. The election is expected to reopen and be completed by February, 1960. At present 97 *Panchayats* are pending for re-election.

Under recent Government instructions each *Panchayat* is to be divided into four wards. The operation for carving out wards has been started and up till now the work has been taken up in 68 *Gram Panchayats* while it has been finished in 22 *Gram Panchayats*.

So far 278 *Gram Sewaks* have been appointed in this district against a sanctioned strength of 341 *Gram Sewaks*. Other *Gram Sewaks* will be appointed soon. Due care has been taken to fill up the reserved quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes according to Government instructions. The *Gram Sewaks* already appointed have been posted in the *Panchayats*, where they are giving due assistance to the *Panchayat Mukhiyas* in their day-to-day work. Out of total strength of *Gram Sewaks* on the roll 240 are trained while 38 are untrained.

Under the Government programme regarding organisation of Village Volunteer Force, 207 trained and 102 untrained Chief Officers are working in this district. There are 24,000 enrolled volunteers in this district out of which 4,568 have been trained and certificates were given to them since 1950-51 when this operation started in this district up to June, 1959.

The volunteers have been trained by the Head Instructor and three Second Instructors working in this district. 126 Chief Officers and 1,033 volunteers are expected to be trained during this year.

In order to strengthen the financial position of the *Panchayats* the following sources are tapped :—

Leavy of labour, professional tax, collection of rent and loans on commission basis, management of forests, execution of local works programme, hard manual labour scheme and other developmental schemes. The income out of the resources goes to the *Panchayat* fund and utilised for the public benefit according to the decision of the executive committee of the respective *Gram Panchayat*.

A short review of the work undertaken by *Gram Panchayats* is given below :—

(A) *Disposal of cases* :—

Financial year.	Total cases for disposal.	Cases disposed of—				
		Compromised.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59 ..	5,698	2,809	302	404	1,085	1,098

(B) *Disposal of suits* :—

Financial year.	Total suits for disposal.	Suits disposed of—			
		Compromised.	Decreed.	Dismissed.	Pending.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59 ..	1,652	537	590	236	289

(C) *Tree plantation*.—The *Gram Panchayats* take up three plantation programme every year in the beginning of the rainy season. During 1958-59 the tree plantation competition was organised in order to increase the interest of the *Panchayat* people in this work.

(D) *Rent collection work*.—So far 38 *Gram Panchayats* of this district have received the approval of the State Government for taking up rent collection work. The work has been entrusted to the 12 *Gram Panchayats* up to date while action is being taken to entrust it to the remaining 26 *Gram Panchayats*. Steps have also been taken to obtain the names of such able *Panchayats* for obtaining Government approval to entrust the rent collection work. During the year 1958-59, 12 *Panchayats* did the collection work and the progress achieved by them is as follows :—

Total demand of the 12 Gram Panchayats.	Total collection.	Percentage of collection.
Rs.	Rs.	
63,386.51	36,739.59	58 per cent.

The *Panchayats* doing revenue work have received their commission up to the year 1957-58. Steps have been taken to finalise payment for the year 1958-59 also.

(E) *Loan collection work*.—During the last loan collection drive held between February, 1959 to April, 1959, two *Gram Panchayats*, that is, Kosiara and Makari were entrusted with the loan collection work and their achievement in this respect was much encouraging. The following will show the progress of loan collection by them :—

Name of Gram Panchayat.	Demand.	Collection.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Kosiara	12,925.83	11,174.80	86.4 per cent.
2. Makari	11,226.75	7,991.25	78.27 per cent.

(*F*) *Organisation of blind relief camp.*—So far four blind relief camps were organised in this district at *Panchayat* level during the years 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59. The camps were organised twice at Panki and once at Lesliganj and Garhwa.

(*G*) *Management of forest by* Gram Panchayats.—According to Government programme the management of forests is entrusted to the *Gram Panchayats*. Accordingly three *Gram Panchayats*, i.e., Rud, Ladhupsenha, Nawabetar Tanr falling within Chandwa police-station have been entrusted with the management of 12.131 square miles, 6.299 square miles, and 6.299 square miles of forests respectively on the 24th May, 1958 at Opa by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar. These *Panchayats* have been given 23 right-holder coupes for the use of the villagers in a year. The work of management is being done by the *Gram Panchayat's* personnel under the supervision and direction of the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.

Apart from this the *Gram Panchayats* take up constructive works like construction and repair of roads, village lanes, drains, soakage pits, trench latrines and disinfection of wells besides maintenance and repair of *pynes*, *bandhs*, *ahars* within their respective jurisdictions. The *Gram Panchayats* are trying to keep pace with the activities of the Welfare State and to be helpful to the cause of the community as far as practicable.

Animal Husbandry Department.

Although Animal Husbandry is a Department separate from Agriculture it has been treated in the Chapter "Agriculture and Irrigation". Here the organisational set-up and some of the work done till the end of June, 1959 will be indicated.

The District Animal Husbandry Officer has his headquarters at Daltonganj. There are smaller animal husbandry sections in the different Blocks that have been set up in the district. There are now 13 Animal Husbandry Supervisors in the Blocks while there are 15 Veterinary dispensaries in the district besides one mobile veterinary dispensary. There are 2 Artificial Insemination Main Centres in the district. Among the 13 Blocks there are 2 Poultry Extension Centres in the Blocks. There are 2 *Gosadans* in the district which are managed by the State. These *Gosadans* are meant to accommodate absolutely decrepit and useless cattle. There are 11 *Goshalas* in the district while there are 2 Hay-making Centres. The Department has also sponsored 2 Poultry Extension Centres and 1 Wool Shearing and Grading Centre.

In 1958-59, the number of cases treated in the district was 69,897 while the progress up to June, 1959 indicates that 80,464 cases were treated. The number of vaccination and inoculation for these diseases up to June, 1959 showed 80,550 cases against 50,684 cases in 1958-59. In order to improve the breed of species there have been more bulls, bucks, boars, sows and rams distributed in the district up to June, 1959.

The Department has also been able to distribute more of better type of poultry birds and eggs to improve the poultry wealth of the district. The number of animals artificially inseminated for the six months up to June, 1959 shows a bigger output than the total figure for 1958-59. There is now clearly more of demand for poultry farm birds and eggs for table purposes.

Agriculture Department.

The subject of agriculture in the district of Palamau forms a separate Chapter. In this section we have only to mention the organisational set-up and the achievement claimed by the Department till the middle of 1959. There is a District Agricultural Officer with his headquarters at Daltonganj. He is subordinate to the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Chotanagpur Range, Ranchi and the Director of Agriculture, Bihar, who has his headquarters at Patna. The District Agricultural Officer is supported by three Subdivisional Agricultural Officers at the three subdivisions, a few subject-matter specialists, a Fisheries Inspector, a Well Boring Supervisor, a District Engineering Supervisor, five Junior Horticultural Inspectors, 10 Agricultural Inspectors, 14 Field Assistants, one Weights and Measure Inspector, one Plant Protection Inspector, a number of borers, Farm Assistants, *Kamdars*, Office Assistants, etc. The Department runs one District Farm and two Subdivisional Farms in the district.

The Department distributes fertilizers, but the achievements fall far short of the target. Against the target of distribution of about 600 tons of ammonium sulphate, superphosphate and bone meal in 1958-59 only about 400 tons were distributed. Till June, 1959 only 155 tons had been distributed against a target of 1,498 tons. Not much success has either been achieved in making the cultivators green manure minded. *Sanai* and *Dhaincha* have yet to be popularised.

The Agriculture Department had taken up 10 medium irrigation schemes in 1958-59 and was able to complete six of them within the year. In 1959-60 40 such schemes were taken up.

The Japanese method of paddy cultivation is calculated to bring in higher yield and the Department has been trying to make this method of paddy cultivation more popular. It is much more expensive and requires closer supervision although it assures a much higher output. In 1958-59, 13,760 acres were brought under the Japanese method of cultivation as against the target of 27,000 acres. In 1959-60 till the month of June, 1959 only 130 acres had been brought under this method as against the annual target of 25,000 acres. This small figure is, however, no index of the work done as paddy cultivation follows the rains in July and August.

The Department is also charged with special training programme. There is an Agricultural School which has a student population of near about 60 while Revenue *Karamcharis*, *Mukhiyas*, Members of Co-operative Societies and village Leaders are regularly trained according

to a drawn up programme. Agricultural Inspectors, Agricultural Extension Supervisors, Block Development Officers, Village Level Workers and *Gram Sahayaks* are also given training.

Public Health Engineering Department.

There is a Subdivisional Officer in charge of Public Health Engineering Programme for Palamau district with his headquarters at Daltonganj. He works under the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering whose headquarters is at Ranchi.

The main work of this section is to work out the water-supply schemes. Daltonganj town is the only urban area in Palamau district which is supplied with water under a regular scheme. Rough cost estimates for working out water-supply schemes for Latehar and Garhwa towns are pending with the Government for sanction.

The town of Daltonganj receives its water-supply from river North Koil. The scheme provides for 2 numbers of low lift pumps electrically driven having capacity of pumping 15,000 gallons per hour each, and 2 numbers of high lift electrically driven pumps having capacity of 12,500 gallons per hour each. The supply of water given at present is not sufficient to meet the demand of the present requirement of the population of the town. On the average 4.5 lakh gallons of water are supplied to the town. It is not a fact that all the lanes of the town receive a water-supply or have water taps at close distance. The water-supply scheme at Daltonganj has to be largely supplemented as the population of the town is rapidly multiplying.

Very few private houses have got pipe water supply. Some of the Government quarters have been provided with pipe water-supply.

Public Health Department.

This subject has been treated in a separate chapter and in this section only the progress of work for the year 1959-60 till the end of June last is indicated. The Senior Executive Medical Officer who was designated as Civil Surgeon before is the administrative head of the Department at the district level. There is a District Medical Officer of Health under him, and both of them are under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioner. The Senior Executive Medical Officer is also under the administrative control of the Regional Director of Public Health for Chotanagpur Range with headquarters at Ranchi. As has been indicated elsewhere the subdivisional hospitals are in charge of separate Civil Assistant Surgeons.

For the purpose of anti-epidemic work the district is divided into two areas—Block area and non-Block area. In the Block area the responsibility of anti-epidemic work has been fixed on the Village Level Workers of the Blocks and the Block health staff under the supervision of the Medical Officer, Mobile Unit of the Block. In the non-Block area the responsibility of the anti-epidemic work is fixed on the trained

Gram Sewaks as well as the District Board health staff under the supervision of the Assistant Health Officer of the subdivision.

The main item of work is to carry out inoculation, vaccination and disinfection of wells. The vaccination statistics do not show how many of the vaccinations are cases of re-vaccination and, therefore, it is difficult to check up if vaccinated people are attacked with small-pox. In 1959-60, there was a minor epidemic of small-pox. There were sporadic cases of cholera from four police-stations of the Sadar subdivision.

Two B. C. G. squads were working in the district, one at Daltonganj Sadar police-station and the other at Ramna (Marbania) at Garhwa police-station. It is rather peculiar that a number of students of Girbar H. E. School at Daltonganj developed complications and had to be hospitalised. There was a great opposition to the carrying on the B. C. G. work after these cases were hospitalised and the squads had to be immediately withdrawn from the district in the month of September 1959. Luckily there was no case of fatality among the students. An anti-malaria drive unit has been functioning in the district with headquarters at Daltonganj from the 1st August, 1956. The following figures have been supplied by the Anti-Malaria Officer to show the incidence of malaria at the start of the unit and later after the unit has been working for some time :—

———	1956.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1. Spleen rate	60	30	18	8
2. Children parasite rate	25	15	7.6	1
3. Infant parasite rate	20	13	5.8	Nil.
4. Malaria pt's incidence treated in the dispensaries and hospitals.	50	30.8	16.3	7
5. Vector species	3.8	2.5	Nil.	Nil.

The development programme under health and medical also includes the provincialisation of subdivisional hospitals and District Board dispensaries, etc. Both Garhwa and Latehar subdivisional hospitals were provincialised on the 15th July, 1955. The following District Board dispensaries were provincialised during 1956 and 1957 :—

Nagar Untari, Hariharganj, Garu, Balumath, Mahuadanr, Panki, Ranka and Chainpur.

During the present Second Five-Year Plan the District Board Dispensaries at Paton, Bishrampur and Manatu will be provincialised. The remaining District Board dispensaries, namely, at Hussainabad,

Hydernagar, Chhatterpur, Maujhion, Bhandaria and Chandwa will be provincialised in the Third Five-Year Plan. A new dispensary had been opened at Chhipadohar in 1954. During the Third Five-Year Plan a dispensary will be opened at Dhurki which has a Block headquarters and where there is no dispensary at all. The other development items during the Second Five-Year Plan include opening up of a dispensary at Bhawanathpur, construction of a 20 bedded maternity and child welfare centre at Daltonganj, construction of a 30 bedded hospital at Garhwa and opening up of maternity and child welfare centres at Garhwa and Latehar. Some of them have already been implemented and other items are under execution. The maternity and child welfare centre at Daltonganj is likely to be provincialised within the Second Five-Year Plan.

During the Third Five-Year Plan it is expected that there will be a further enlargement of the sadar hospital and the subdivisional hospital at Latehar. The Sadar Hospital is expected to have a proper District Pathological Laboratory and a Blood Bank while the Latehar subdivisional hospital will have 32 beds instead of 24 beds.

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

There is a District Industries Officer with headquarters at Daltonganj. He works under the administrative control of the Director of Industries, Bihar with headquarters at Patna. The District Industries Officer has been able to start a number of training-*cum*-production centres at different places for the following crafts :—

Carpentry, tailoring, calico printing, knitting and embroidery, wool weaving, blacksmithy, soap making, carpet making, basket making, rope making, cotton weaving and toy making.

Some of the centres have not been very successful as many trainees are found to be leaving before completing the training. Some of the centres for ear-marked places have not yet been started. Palamau has abundant resources for such small industries and it is expected that the Department would be able to make all the training-*cum*-production centres run with success.

The Department has not met with much of success so far in organising co-operative societies among the hand-loomers. It is reported that 22 such co-operative societies were organised in the district till the end of June, 1959 but they could not develop their work to expectation. Regarding sericulture three tasar reeling and spinning demonstration centres and one eri silk demonstration centre are working. The Department distributes disease-free layings and mulberry cuttings. 80 industrial co-operative societies were organised in the district but their work till the end of June, 1959 was reported to be unsatisfactory.

It is reported that only four schemes are running by the Khadi and Village Industries Board in the district, namely,—

(1) *Village Oil Industry.*—Twenty-three oil co-operative societies have been organised of which some are giving production.

(2) *Gur and Khandsari.*—Six co-operative societies had been registered but they had not yet started work till the end of June, 1959.

(3) *Palm Gur Industry.*—Two co-operative societies were organised.

(4) *Ambar Parishramalya.*—Two such centres for popularising *Ambar Charkha* were running in the district till the end of June, 1959.

The Industries Department has been responsible for the distribution as loan Rs. 2,35,475.30 nP. as State aid to industries.

FOREST DEPARTMENT.

Daltonganj Forest Division.

There are three Divisional Forest Officers to manage the forests of this district. They are posted at Daltonganj, Garhwah and Latehar.

This Division which is one of the three Divisions of the district has an area of 715 sq. miles. It lies partly in Latehar Civil Subdivision and partly in Sadar Civil Subdivision. It is one of the major bamboo-producing areas of this State. After meeting the local demands, large quantities of bamboos get exported to South Bihar, part of Uttar Pradesh for use as house building materials and to several paper mills, viz., Dalmianagar Paper Mills, Naihati Paper Mills, Titaghur Paper Mills and Bengal Paper Mills for use as raw materials for paper pulp. The southern part of the area is also rich in timber and firewood and considerable quantity of the same, after meeting the local demand get exported to various markets inside and outside the State, viz., Patna, Gaya, Benaras, Hisar, Rohtak, Mahindragarh, etc. Besides the above, large quantities of *kath* manufactured from *khair* trees growing in these forests, *salai* wood for packing cases, *kendu* leaves for manufacture of *Biris*, hay and some lac are also exported from this Division. The following table gives an idea of the annual output of bamboos, timber and firewood from 1955-56 to 1957-58 :—

Year.	Timber in thousand c.ft.	Firewood in thousand c.ft.	Bamboos in number.
1955-56	3,62	10,54	18,99,294
1956-57	5,37	7,51	34,57,318
1957-58	3,03	10,24	58,30,717

The Revenue and expenditure figures of this Division for the last five years are given below :—

Year.		Revenue (in rupees).		Expenditure (in rupees).
1954-55	...	12,97,207.00	...	4,81,302.00
1955-56	...	9,05,760.00	...	3,84,190.00
1956-57	...	13,92,061.00	...	4,36,624.00
1957-58	...	10,13,619.00	...	4,72,297.00
1958-59	...	12,44,928.00	...	3,58,406.00

There has been a general decline of revenue on account of steep fall in the price of *kendu* leaves and sudden drying of *sal* trees in parts of the forests. The malady is under investigation of experts from Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

The entire area of this Division has been demarcated and a systematic Working Plan has been prepared for the management of the forests. Annual coupes are laid out according to the prescription of the Working Plan and fellings are restricted to such areas only.

Under Second Five-Year Plan some development schemes have been taken up out of which the following deserve mention :—

(*i*) *Teakwood Plantation Scheme.*—An area of 400 acres is to be planted up with teak at a cost of Rs. 40,000 within the period of Second Five-Year Plan. Betla forests have been selected as the site for the plantation. So far 323 acres have been planted with teak and the balance of 77 acres will be taken up for plantation during the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan.

(*ii*) *Matchwood Plantation Scheme.*—In order to supplement the supply of matchwood timber, plantation of *semal* is to be raised in 400 acres at a cost of Rs. 40,000 within the period of this plan. Betla forests have been selected as the site for this plantation scheme as well. So far 341 acres have been planted up with *semal* and the remaining 59 acres will be taken up during the remaining period of the Second Five-Year Plan.

For raising Teak and *semal* stumps a nursery has been established at Betla.

(*iii*) *Housing accommodation.*—For providing housing accommodation 17 Forest Guard's quarters, one R. O.'s quarters, six R. I. huts and one Forest Rest House have been constructed in the first three years of the Second Five-Year Plan. During 1959-60, seven Forest Guard's quarters, two R. I. huts and one Magazine have to be completed. Works are in progress.

(*iv*) *Improvement of communication in forest areas.*—During Second Five-Year Plan so far 30 miles of roads have been constructed during the first three years of Second Five-Year Plan. During 1959-60, 11 miles of roads will be taken up for construction just after the rains.

(*v*) *Protection from fire.*—In the Second Five-Year Plan a scheme to protect the forests from fire is also being implemented. The following table shows the amount spent and the success achieved in this direction :—

Year.	Allotment.	Percentage of the total area protected from fire.	Remarks.
	Rs.		
1956-57	7,085	94.9	From the allotment under A-Conservancy and Works.
1957-58	6,500	92.3	Ditto ditto.
1957-58	24,554	..	A sum of Rs. 19,617.09 was spent on purchase of a truck.
1958-59	9,255	92.7	..

(*vi*) *Constitution of National Park.*—A National Park, namely "Palamau National Park" has been constituted during this financial year and a sum of Rs. 66,700 has been provided. The aim and object of this National Park is to give proper shelter and protection to Wild Life and to attract tourists.

Construction of one dam has been taken up in hand and the second costing Rs. 25,000 will be taken up on receipt of Government sanction.

Besides above the normal activities of the Division, viz., laying out of coupes, their sale, other silvicultural works, establishment of natural regeneration, repairs of roads and buildings, maintenance of boundaries, etc., are in progress.

Out of total allotment of Rs. 3,33,016 in non-Planned budget and Rs. 1,80,060 in Planned Budget, Rs. 92,149 and Rs. 37,126 respectively have been so far spent.

Garhwah Forest Division.

The area of the forests of this Division is 790.61 square miles, situated partly in Sadar Civil Subdivision and covering the entire of Garhwah Civil Subdivision of the Palamau district. On its southern

and western border are situated the two adjoining States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. This Division contains only Private Forests. Except Binda and Bhandaria protected forests, the area of which is 11.56 square miles, the rest were ex-zamindari forests. There are good bamboo forests in this Division and after meeting the local demands, the rest of the bamboos are supplied to the different paper mills as for example, Dalmianagar, Titagarh and Bengal Paper Mills for use as raw materials for the paper pulp.

The exploitation of *kendu* leaves for the manufacture of *biris* is one of the most important business in this Division.

The revenue and expenditure of this Division for the last five years are as follows :—

Year.		Revenue.		Expenditure.
		Rs.		Rs.
1954-55	...	2,30,481.00	...	35,341.00
1955-56	...	5,79,014.00	...	3,63,113.00
1956-57	...	7,03,428.00	...	2,77,711.00
1957-58	...	6,30,385.00	...	2,85,014.00
1958-59	...	8,41,832.00	...	2,51,793.00

Systematic Working Plans have been prepared for the management of this Division. The annual coupes have been laid out according to the prescriptions of the Working Plan and the working of the forests are restricted to such areas only.

The following development schemes of the Second Five-Year Plan have been taken up in this Division :—

Housing Accommodation.—For providing housing accommodation to Forest staff the following buildings have been constructed in this Division in the last three years of Second Five-Year Plan :—

Forest Guards' quarters	...	...	15
Foresters' quarters	...	...	4
Range Officer's quarters	...	...	1
Range Inspection huts	...	...	5
Forest rest houses	...	...	5

and the following buildings are under construction during the year 1959-60 :—

Foresters' quarters	...	...	1
Forester's quarters	...	...	1
Ranger's barrack	...	...	1

Improvement of communication in Forest Areas.—So far 22½ miles of roads have been constructed during the last three years of the Second Five-Year Plan. During the year 1959-60, 16 miles of roads are proposed to be constructed.

Fire protection.—This calamity is almost a recurring feature of this Division. Fires spread out from the villages situated in this Division and they also infiltrate from the contiguous areas of the adjoining States. Handicapped by the limitation of funds and consciousness on the part of the right-holders of this area much could not be done in the direction of forest conservancy.

Welfare Work.—Apart from carrying on routine work of this Division, the Department has taken up the welfare work also. The work done under welfare projects is indicated.

1958-59—Rs. 19,800.00—23 units of Scheduled Tribes' quarters constructed at Bisrampur.

1959-60—(*i*) Rs. 23,438.00—25 unit quarters at Kumbhakhurd.

(*ii*) Rs. 15,000.00—For construction of road from Bisrampur to Baligarh.

(*iii*) Rs. 6,320.00—For construction of eight wells.

The total budget of this Division during 1959-60 is Rs. 2,95,222.00 out of which Rs. 74,000.00 have so far been spent.

Latehar Forest Division.

This Division started functioning from 1st November, 1954 after having been split up from the old Palamau Forest Division. The area is 655 square miles. The revenue received and expenditure incurred are shown below :—

Year.	Revenue received.	Expenditure incurred.	
		General (non-plan budget).	Plan budget (Development scheme).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1954-55	3,20,842	73,213	..
1955-56	7,61,710	3,42,064	..
1956-57	9,82,238	2,41,232	1,59,856
1957-58	11,79,087	2,17,234	1,06,676
1958-59	16,35,537	2,02,537	77,331
1959-60 up to July 1959 ..	2,44,960	59,416	19,096

With the taking up of the development schemes in the forest, the revenue has been increasing gradually.

This Division has taken up afforestation of small patches of lands and plantation of teak and *semal* has been taken up. Nurseries have been established at Maromar, Kumandih and Garu for raising teak and *semal* plantation. On an experimental basis Sarpagandha (Rawolfia serpentina) is being planted on a small scale. This has been a success.

Communication was a problem in this Division and during Second Five-Year Plan a sum of Rs. 57,232 has been spent for the construction of 11 causeways and two culverts. Out of the relief fund the following roads have been constructed :—

	Miles.
(1) Mahuadanr-Chormorwa-Netarhat Road ...	13½
(2) Karmahi-Maltlong-Kurid Road	6
(3) Damodar-Mahuamilan Road	5
(4) Phulsu-Latu-Balubhang Road	6
(5) Bakoriya-Barwaiya Road	5

Management of 26 square miles of forests of this Division was handed over to three Notified *Gram Panchayats*, viz. (1) Rud, (2) Ladhup and (3) Betar on the 24th May, 1958. The area of the forests made over to these *Panchayats* for management is as below :—

	Sq. miles.
(1) Rud Gram Panchayat	6.32
(2) Ladhup Gram Panchayat	6.45
(3) Betar Gram Panchayat	13.61*

*The text of this chapter was written mostly in 1959-60 and the references should be taken to mean this year generally unless a specific year has been mentioned (P. C. R. C.).

CHAPTER XIV.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

History of Local Self-Government in the District.

Nothing is authoritatively known as to whether there were any institutions like modern local self-Government in Palamau District in the ancient and mediæval times. In the modern period too the institutions are only 80 years old. On 1st July, 1888 the Daltonganj Municipality was constituted, which is the earliest local self-Government unit in the district. The District Board was established in 1900 under the Bengal Local Self-Government Act (1885). The two Union Boards at Garhwa and Hussainabad were created on 6th May, 1924. There have never been any Local Boards or Union Committees in the district. The most significant and rather revolutionary step was taken to foster the spirit of local self-Government in 1947, when the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act was passed. It was implemented in the district of Palamau in April, 1940, and since then up to 1959, altogether 341 *Gram Panchayats* have been established. The Notified Area Committee for Garhwa was established on 9th August 1957. Election system was introduced in the district under the Bihar and Orissa Amendment Act of 1923. The voters, however, had to qualify themselves by professional or property requirements. The adult franchise in the electoral system was introduced only with the enforcement of the Republican Constitution of India in 1950.

Daltonganj Municipality.

The *District Gazetteer of Palamau* by L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S. (1907) mentions the following condition of Daltonganj Municipality during his time :—

> "Daltonganj is the only municipality in the district. It was constituted a municipality in 1888 and has a Municipal Board consisting of 10 Commissioners, of whom five are *ex-officio* members and five are appointed by Government. The area within municipal limits is 2¾ square miles and the number of rate-payers in 1905-06 was 1,160, representing 24.9 per cent of the population, the highest percentage in Chota Nagpur. The average annual income during the decade ending in 1901-02 was Rs. 5,700 and the expenditure was Rs. 4,900. In 1905-06 the municipality had an opening balance of Rs. 2,500 and the income from

other sources was Rs. 15,000. The main source of income is a personal tax, realized at the rate of ¾ per cent on the annual income of the assessees; Government buildings are assessed at 6 per cent of their annual value, and other taxes are a latrine tax, a water-rate, a tax on professions and trades, a tax on animals and vehicles and taxes on roads and ferries. The total incidence of taxation is higher than in any other municipality in Chota Nagpur, amounting to Rs. 1-11-8 per head of the population. The expenditure in the same year, excluding the sums expended on deposits and advances, was Rs. 12,300 of which 29.87 per cent was expended on conservancy and 15.36 per cent on water supply. Daltonganj is the only municipality in Chota Nagpur which has been furnished with a good pipe water-supply. The water is obtained from the Railway Company's pumping station, the source of supply being the Koil river, and is given by the Railway Company at the rate of 2 annas per 1,000 gallons. The cost of maintaining the waterworks is covered by the levy of a water rate at 5½ per cent on the annual value of holdings."

Two decades later when P. C. Tallents, I.C.S., compiled the revised *District Gazetteer of Palamau* in 1926, he found improvements in the municipality and observed :—

"The elective system was first introduced in 1913, and the first elections under the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act (Bihar and Orissa Act VII of 1922) were held in 1923. The Committee now consists of fifteen members of whom 12 are elected (two by each of the six wards) and three nominated, the Chairman being an elected non-official. The area within municipal limits is 3½ square miles and the population 9,817 of whom 1,719 or 17.8 per cent are rate payers. When the municipality was first constituted the average income was rather above and the average expenditure rather below Rs. 5,000 a year. In 1923-24 there was a total income excluding opening balance of Rs. 86,000 of which Rs. 58,000 came from the market, Rs. 14,000 from rates and taxes, and Rs. 8,000 from grants.

The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 1-6-10 as compared with the provincial average of Rs. 1-14-1, but the municipal income distributed among the population gave each person Rs. 8-11-11 as compared with the provincial average of Rs. 2-11-3. The tax-payers of Daltonganj are in fact far more favourably situated than those of other municipality in the province.

'O fortunati nimium,

Sua si bona noriut.'

For this they have to thank the Government for handing over to the municipality the income from the bazar. Personal tax is levied at the rate of ¾ per cent of the assessees' incomes and 6 per cent on the annual value of public buildings, latrine tax and water rate are also levied and small sums are realised from tolls, from taxes on animals and vehicles, and on certain professions and trades. The total expenditure for the same year came to Rs. 61,000 of which Rs. 12,000 were spent on roads and similar sum on maintaining the hospital, Rs. 8,000 on conservancy and Rs. 5,000 each on water-supply and education. Water is supplied to the town from the bed of the river Koil. It is pumped up from their pumping station by the East Indian Railway Company and supplied by them to the town at the rate of 2 annas per 1,000 gallons. At present a scheme is under contemplation for increasing the capacity of the pumps and providing a settling tank in order to regulate and purify the supply."

The present Municipal Committee (1959) consists of 21 members of whom four are nominated and 17 are elected. The S. D. O., Revenue is an *ex-officio* member of the Committee. In 1951 elections were held for the Municipal Committee. The last election was held in 1956 when out of 9,313 the total number of voters, 6,375 votes were polled. The Chairman is elected. The first election for Chairman was held in 1920. The number of rate-payers in 1955-56 was 2,417 or 12.57 per cent of the total population as against 2,639 or 13.54 per cent of the total population.

The main heads of income are municipal taxes, municipal registrations, licenses and other fees, realisation under special Acts—pounds, ferries, and bridges, vaccination fees, revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation, grants and contribution for general and special purposes, miscellaneous and extraordinary and debt, etc. These broad heads have so many sub-heads. The statement below shows the annual income of the municipality during the period from 1948-49 to 1958-59.

Receipts of the Municipality of Daltonganj.

Heads of receipt.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A. Municipal taxes	40,540	44,169	45,880	41,491	43,004	44,196	55,391	56,566	56,018	52,505	58,914
. Municipal registrations, licence and other fees.	1,070	4,661	3,973	5,246	2,404	5,057	6,097	7,913	13,026	11,423	13,505
C. Realisation under Special Acts—pounds, ferries and bridges, vaccination fees.	161	136	2,852	7,167	36	2,145	889	298	510	836	4,429
D. Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	24,863	24,850	18,157	27,281	47,942	3,765	45,451	37,347	28,318	31,776	38,400
E. Grants and contributions for general and special purposes.	38,188	1,39,065	38,353	2,42,815	1,16,649	1,50,628	83,693	3,76,757	95,759	71,773	1,15,562
F. Miscellaneous ..	2,737	822	823	773	1,355	773	7,414	1,711	561	2,893	19,667
G. Extraordinary and debt.	6,928	5,014	3,307	6,738	4,204	13,300	28,552	3,15,493	25,550	6,992	16,454
Opening balance	48,994	23,472	16,080	21,875	24,415	60,963	13,967	29,949	37,953	19,572	13,676

The main heads of expenditure of the municipality are General Administration and Collection Charges; Public Safety; Public Health; Medical; Public Convenience; Public Instructions, Contribution for General Purposes; Miscellaneous; Extraordinary and Debt, etc. These main heads have got some sub-heads. The statement below shows the annual expenditure of the municipality during the period from 1948-49 to 1958-59.

Expenditure of the Municipality of Daltonganj.

Heads of expenditure.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A. General Administration and Collection Charges.	7,612	4,254	9,828	11,397	9,894	11,850	12,823	16,125	14,281	17,199	20,326
B. Public Safety ..	4,084	2,435	2,942	2,753	2,720	3,328	9,835	7,730	12,195	10,566	12,149
C. Public Health ..	54,909	1,55,978	46,939	2,68,710	1,21,812	2,02,417	92,326	6,90,964	91,932	85,069	1,05,590
D. Medical ..	200	200	200	200	..	21	100	200	300	100	
E. Public Convenience.	43,744	23,248	10,764	8,296	29,101	1,31,934	31,976	26,259	52,648	14,226	29,007
F. Public Instructions.	24,095	27,147	29,213	25,483	19,722	28,132	28,957	34,506	38,233	42,228	43,846
G. Contribution for General Purposes.	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	5	..	..	26
H. Miscellaneous ..	3,059	2,824	1,399	5,997	4,210	5,039	6,275	6,291	8,212	6,171	7,807
I. Extraordinary and Debt.	8,730	6,270	3,553	6,093	3,780	17,138	29,200	6,362	19,001	8,594	14,315
Closing balance ..	23,473	16,080	21,875	24,415	60,963	13,967	29,949	37,593	19,572	13,676	47,468

The area within the municipality is 3½ square miles and the population according to the 1951 census is 19,223. In 1959 the total road mileage within its limits was 16 miles, which consisted of roads with tarred surface 6.46 miles, concrete roads 11 miles, macademised and pavements with bricks and stones 6.15 miles, gravelled roads 2.54 miles and *Kutcha* roads, .75 mile. The expenditure on the improvement and maintenance of the roads has been in 1955-56 Rs. 22,014, in 1956-57 Rs. 45,484, in 1957-58 Rs. 8,128 and in 1958-59 Rs. 18,404, respectively. The marked increase in the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1958-59 has been due to the increased Government grants for the purpose. During 1954-55, the electrification of the street lights was taken up. Till April, 1954 there were 110 electrified street lights in this municipality. The number has increased to 1,969 electrified street lights in 1959. Expenditure incurred towards this electrification of street lights has been in the following order: Rs. 9,835 in 1954-55, Rs. 7,730 in 1955-56, Rs. 12,193 in 1956-57, Rs. 10,566 in 1957-58 and Rs. 12,149 in 1958-59, respectively. The supply of the drinking water to the citizens of the municipality was a problem during the hot season, which the municipality could not cope. The Public Health Department took up the responsibility of water-supply of the municipality in 1944. A scheme of reorganising the waterworks at Daltonganj was made in 1948 and finally an estimate of Rs. 1,13,295 was recast in 1955 for supply of pipe water to the inhabitants. So far, 325 house connections have been given till 1959. The water is supplied to the town from the bed of the river Koil. One reinforced concrete tower of one lakh gallon capacity, one remodelled settling tank and pressure filters with chlorination equipments have been installed. The municipality had its compost trenching grounds near Nimia and Kandakhad before July, 1954. These being occupied by Harijans the trenching grounds had to be given up. A fresh compost scheme was started from December, 1954 at Nimia trenching grounds. These areas had again to be abandoned from April, 1955 because of reoccupation by Harijans. All the composts that are even now being sold by the municipality were prepared during December, 1954 to April, 1956 period. At Bairiya and Bhiskutia, composts are made but they only profit the private land owners of these lands. A negotiation is going on to purchase some land near about Bhiskutia and the plan for the acquisition has already been submitted. Till April, 1956 about 781 tons of composts were produced for sale by the municipality and composts were sold in 1955-56 33 tons, in 1956-57 120 tons, in 1957-58 160 tons and in 1958-59 134 tons, respectively. The town composts are sold at the rate of Rs. 7-4-0 only per ton.

There was a general revision of the assessment in 1951. The modes of assessments in vogue are :—

(*i*) Holding tax at the rate of 7½ per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.

(*ii*) Latrine tax at the rate of 5 per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.

(*iii*) Water tax at the rate of 7½ per cent on the annual valuation of the holding.

In 1955-56 the incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 2-14-0 and the income per head was Rs. 10-4-0 only, which in 1959 became Rs. 2.73 naye paise and Rs. 8.99 naye paise, respectively. The short fall in the income has been attributed mainly due to bad collection.

District Board, Palamau.

It was the original idea that through the working of the District Boards the people will learn their first lessons of Local Self-Government. In pursuance of such a policy the Bengal Local Self-Government Act was passed in 1885 and its provisions being extended later to the district of Palamau also; the first District Board of Palamau was established in 1900, the district having been carved out in 1892. G. Balthasan, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Palamau was the first Chairman of the District Board. It was found that though too much of official control was annoying, nevertheless it could not be said that official Chairman was an unmitigated evil. The District Officer's care at that early stage of the institution at a comparatively backward area had its good points as well. But it was later realised to be an unhealthy practice. Therefore, the Montagu-Chelmsford Report (1919) recognising these defects, proposed that these self-Governing bodies should be as representative as possible. It was felt necessary to remove unnecessary restrictions regarding taxation, the budget and the sanctions of works, to bring the franchise as wide as possible and to replace the nominated Chairman by an elected non-official member. But the Chota Nagpur Division was excluded from having an elected Chairman though the elective system was introduced in 1924 in other Divisions of Bihar. For Chota Nagpur Division it was laid down under Special Notification of the Government, no. 3675-P., dated 21st June 1923 that "a person shall be appointed by the local Government either by name or by virtue of his office to be the Chairman of a District Board". In Palamau the Deputy Commissioner was the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Board by virtue of his office.

However, under the Bihar and Orissa Amendment Act of 1923, the first elections were held in 1924 and eighteen members were elected. Provision was also made for representing special interests through nominations. Accordingly, seven nominations were made to the District Board. The Deputy Commissioner continued to be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the District Board till the month of November, 1939, since when the members began to exercise their right of voting to elect their Chairman. The last official Chairman was D. P. Sharma, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner and Raj Kishore Singh, M.L.A., was elected the first non-official Chairman on the 18th November, 1939. The number of members of the District Board was expanded to 33, 9 nominated and 24 elected. Another election was held in 1947 and the new Board was constituted in 1948 with 33 members. Each police-station had a member besides the five bigger thanas, viz., Daltonganj,

Garhwa, Balumath, Bhownathpur and Hussainabad had returned two members each. After that no election was held.

Gradually the level of efficiency of the administration of the District Board deteriorated along with its counterparts in the whole State of Bihar. The State Government had to take note of the disquieting administration. Therefore, the constitution of the District Boards received a set-back by the Ordinance no. VI of 1958, promulgated by the Governor of Bihar. This Ordinance was promulgated under Clause (I) of Article 213 of the Constitution of India. By notification no. 8001-L. S.-G., dated the 12th September 1958, it was proclaimed that "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (I) of section 2 of the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 (Bihar Ordinance no. VI of 1958), the Governor of Bihar is pleased to direct that all the members of the District Boards and Local Boards including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of such Boards constituted under the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885 (Bengal Act III of 1885) shall vacate their respective offices with effect from the 15th September, 1958. In pursuance of this Ordinance all the District Boards of the State including Palamau District Board were taken over by the Government. The reasons for this step are given in the Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Bill, 1958 as follows :—

"The District Boards and Local Boards constituted under the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1885, have outlived their utility under the completely changed circumstances. On attainment of independence, there have been developments on a very large scale in the various fields of activities, viz., Agriculture, Industry, Co-operation, *Gram Panchayats*, etc. These developments call for a complete re-orientation in the conception and constitution of District Boards and Local Boards so that these bodies could fulfil their role effectively in the changed circumstances. This is not possible unless the existing law is carefully examined in the light of these developments and amended suitably to meet the present needs of the society.

"The Balvantrai Mehta Committee on the Community Development and National Extension Service have made a number of recommendations specially with regard to future set-up of District Boards. These recommendations require detailed examination and careful consideration before the State Government could come to a definite decision in the matter, which will obviously take some considerable time. Besides, some of the sister States in India are considering legislation regarding the constitution and powers of these local bodies and it is necessary to examine the provisions of these laws and their actual working for sometime before we embark on a comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act.

"It is, therefore, clear that the new set-up of District Boards undoubtedly requires comprehensive amendment of the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act, 1885. It was accordingly decided by the State Government to take over temporarily for three years, the control and management of District Boards and Local Boards, pending consideration of their future set-up. The Bihar District Boards and Local Boards (Control and Management) Ordinance, 1958 has been promulgated to give effect to this decision.

"The Bill seeks to convert an ordinance into an Act of the State Legislature as the ordinance will cease to have effect after six weeks from the commencement of the present session of the State Legislature."

In Palamau, the Deputy Commissioner took over the charge of the District Board on 15th September, 1958 and on the 28th March, 1959 handed it over to the Special Officer, who belongs to the State Civil Service, was particularly deputed by the Government to carry out the administration of the District Board on behalf of the Government.

With the assumption of the office by the Special Officer, all powers vested in the Deputy Commissioner were transferred to the former. The District Board under the new system continues to have the same powers and functions and the Special Officer inherits them from the ex-Board and functions independently of the District Office. The District Officer is only exercising his usual supervisory powers as he used to do under the Local Self-Government Act.

On taking over charge of the District Board the Special Officer's first act was to scrutinise the state of affairs of the District Board. He found the situation rather disquieting and submitted a report to the Secretary to the Government of Bihar, Local Self-Government Department in his no. 16, dated 4th April, 1959. He found that the Board was running a deficit of about Rs. 9 lakhs, accumulated in over a decade. For the two years prior to the assumption of the office by the Special Officer on average the Board had an expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs against an income of 3¼ lakhs and had to run with an annual deficit of Rs. 75,000. He suggested a few proposals to ameliorate the alarming situation and to ensure a sound future for the Board. They are under the active consideration of the Government.

The area of the District Board extends to 4,902 square miles with a population of 9,86,228 according to the 1951 census. During the year 1955-56, the Board maintained 74 miles of metalled road, 246.87 miles of unmetalled road and 47.15 miles of village road and spent Rs. 1,06,818 only for their repairs and improvements. During 1956-57, the Board maintained 77.50 miles of metalled road, 203.35 miles of unmetalled

road and 47.15 miles of village road and spent Rs. 1,34,007 for their repairs and improvements. In 1957-58, it maintained 60.50 miles of metalled road, 192.35 miles of unmetalled road and 47.15 miles of village road and spent Rs. 1,54,797 for their repairs and improvements. In 1958-59 the Board maintained an identical mileage of these roads and spent Rs. 87,868 only for their repairs and improvements. In 1955, the Board maintained 19 Allopathic dispensaries of which 7 were provincialised in the middle of the year and 11 *Ayurvedic* dispensaries at a cost of Rs. 1,15,363 only. In 1956-57, the Board maintained 13 Allopathic, 11 *Ayurvedic* and 1 *Tibbi* dispensaries at a cost of Rs. 92,326 only. In 1958-59, for an identical number of dispensaries the Board spent Rs. 1,01,884 only. The Board maintained veterinary dispensaries at Daltonganj, Garhwa and Hussainabad, respectively. In 1955-56, these dispensaries treated 8,147 heads of cattle suffering from various diseases. From 1957 these veterinary dispensaries have been taken over by the Animal Husbandry Department. The Board maintained in 1955-56 129 pounds from which it had an income of Rs. 11,618 only. The number of pounds for successive years has been 130 in 1956-57 with an income of Rs. 10,362, 131 in 1957-58 with an income of Rs. 13,080 and 132 with an income of Rs. 12,983 in 1958-59, respectively. Till 1954 the Board maintained 35 Middle Vernacular, 113 Upper Primary, and 268 Lower Primary schools, in which year it spent for them an amount of Rs. 4,44,462. Besides, in the same year, it gave aids to two Middle Vernacular and one Lower Primary schools to the tune of Rs. 17,495. The Board managed 18 Basic schools at a cost of Rs. 52,260 only. Since 1954, educational institutions so far maintained by the District Board have been transferred to the District Superintendent of Schools, Palamau.

The statement below gives the different sources of income for this District Board from 1956-57 to 1959-60 :—

Actual (income).

Heads of accounts.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Opening balance ..	2,08,330	1,71,501	36,047	83,570
2. Cess	2,37,755	22,42,290	2,16,192	3,14,544
3. Interest on cess collection	572	Nil	Nil	Nil.
4. Law and Justice ..	68	106	114	3,000
5. Education	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.
6. Medical	39,331	26,000	5,764	8,350
7. Veterinary	78	181	109	137
8. Miscellaneous, including Public Health.	1,44,035	1,68.415	1,68,725	2,29,617
9. Civil work	3,02,304	85,479	78,348	62,958
10. Suspense	3,32,551	20,205	1,22,136	1,35,000
Total ..	12,65,024	8,78,023	6,27,435	10,17,356

It will be seen that the main sources of income are cess, interest on cess collection, Law and Justice, Health and Civil work. The Revenue from cess is the major income of the Board. Government contributions have become very sizeable and constitute a substantial portion of the total income of the Board. During the year 1955-56, the income of the Board was Rs. 11,58,480 including the opening balance of Rs. 1,65,778 only. The total income of the Board fluctuates due to amount received from Government from year to year.

The statement below shows the expenditure of the District Board under different heads from 1956-57 to 1959-60 :—

Expenditure.

Heads of accounts.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.	1959-60.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Administration ..	61,497	56,996	48,027	42,663
2. Police	167	431	137	500
3. Education	51,527	563	38	54,019
4. Public Health, including water-supply.	1,28,650	1,42,009	1,43,779	1,63,732
5. Medical	1,28,100	96,457	1,04,224	1,25,703
6. Veterinary	6,269	6,900	7,333	13,365
7. Superannuation and pension	10,474	11,532	3,390	14,620
8. Stationery and printing ..	1,482	4	962	1,500
9. Miscellaneous ..	332	Nil	Nil	686
10. Famine relief ..	2,10,508	20,465	2,129	Nil
11. Civil works	2,03,518	2,32,658	1,72,522	5,03,244
12. Suspense	2,90,999	2,73,861	61,210	70,000
13. Closing balance ..	1,71,501	36,047	83,684	25,324
Total ..	12,65,024	8,78,023	6,27,435	10,17,356

The main heads of expenditure of the District Board are General Administration, Police, Education, Public Health including water-supply, Medical, Veterinary, Superannuation and Pension, Stationery and Printing, Miscellaneous, Famine Relief and Civil Works. During the year 1955-56, the Board incurred expenditure to the tune of Rs. 9,50,110 leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,98,330 only. Besides, the Board received special grants from the Government a sum of Rs. 36,04,135 only for the improvements and repairs of various schemes

under Civil Works, Medical, Public Health and Education. In subsequent years also the Government allowed some grants which are included in the respective heads of expenditure. A separate District Education Fund was constituted in 1954 and all receipts of the educational grants are credited thereto. A District Superintendent of Education has been made incharge since 1st April 1954, who administers the fund and pays the salaries to the teachers. Besides there are District Engineer and the District Medical Officer of Health to look after the works pertaining to Civil Works and the Public Health respectively. These executive officers and their offices are manned by the Technical Assistants and field staff. The Special Officer, District Board, Palamau co-ordinates their work. The expenditures incurred by these executive officers are met from the fund allotted by the Government.

The District Board of Palamau has undertaken quite a few number and schemes for various development purposes under the Second Five-Year Plan. There are four categories of development works under execution through the agency of the Palamau District Board, namely :—

(1) Construction of village roads and paths in the tribal areas under Article 275(*i*) of the Constitution. (2) Improvements of District Board roads, Bazar roads in non-municipal and non-notified areas and improvements to District Board Dak and Inspection Bungalows under the Second Five-Year Plan. (3) Construction of hostels for aboriginal students at Daltonganj, Garhwa and Latehar and other welfare works of the Welfare Department of the State Government. (4) Improvements to District Board roads, bridges and culverts from augmentation grants and L. S.-G. subsidy grant.

The District Board received a Government grant of Rs. 25,000 for constructing roads from Latehar to Hariharganj, Chaya to Nawada, Netarhat to Mahuadand and Chandwa to Nindra. "Latehar-Hariharganj Road and Chaya-Nawada Road are practically complete, earthwork on construction of Netarhat-Mahuadand Road and Chandwa-Nindra Road had been partially completed. The completion of these roads has been delayed due to the fact that after an expenditure of Rs. 2,12,048 the balance of Rs. 37,952 had been diverted to general purposes by the ex-Board. Improvements of two District Board roads, one from Untari to Mauri and the other from Japla to Chatterpur were taken up and the Government have given a grant of Rs. 1,23,975 against the total scheme of Rs. 6,57,255 for this district. Out of the total Government grant of Rs. 1,23,975, Rs. 70,411 has been diverted by the ex-Board to other purposes and Rs. 30,472 had so far been spent on the schemes which are progressing very slowly. Towards the improvement of Bazar roads in non-municipal and non-notified areas the District Board received a grant of Rs. 10,548 in shape of Government grant and loan, against the total scheme of Rs. 45,000. Out of this an amount of Rs. 1,404 had been diverted by ex-Board to other purposes and

Rs. 3,396 had so far been spent on improvement of Bazar road in Japla Bastee, the work is progressing rather slowly. For improving the Dak and Inspection Bungalows the Government had given a grant of Rs. 5,310. The scheme is for making improvement to all the 21 District Board Inspection Bungalows at the rate of Rs. 2,600 each. The District Board has to contribute 50 per cent of the total cost. It has provided Rs. 16,000 in its budget estimate of 1959-60 for general improvement. Construction of hostels for Adibasi students of Daltonganj and Latehar is almost complete. The work on construction of Garhwa hostel building is very slow. Here also the ex-Board diverted a sum of Rs. 12,134 out of the total sum of Rs. 2,68,657 received from the Welfare Department to the general purposes. A sum of Rs. 2,03,591 was received for improving the District Board roads, bridges and culverts, in the last five years. Out of it Rs. 1,32,733 was spent on the sanctioned schemes and Rs. 62,558 was diverted to general purposes by the ex-Board. Balance of Rs. 8,300 is now available in the District Board fund.

Just before the vesting of the District Board in the Government, the Board had diverted amounts in the above manner from specific purposes to other items. This naturally had upset the financial position and the Special Officer had reported this matter to the Government. In his letter no. 16, dated 4th April, 1958 mentioned before, he had observed :—

"I enclose an appendix marked 'B' showing the total amount of the bills under different heads of account which were pending in the office for payment. These bills amounted to Rs. 96,683. Since provisions for the items covered by these bills are made in the last budget estimate of 1958-59 and for some of these items even Government had already made specific grants which, due to financial stringency were diverted by the previous Board for general purposes, and also because of the fact that now when the Board had come under Government management, it appeared highly improper that duly accounted for bills should remain unpaid causing wide clamour and dissatisfaction among all sections of the people including the staff of the Board whose Provident Fund, D. A. and T. A., etc., to the tune of Rs. 42,717 were not paid since June, 1958. I considered it my first duty to clear off such arrears."

The District Board has made a considerable improvement under the Special Officer, Mr. M. Shariff.

Observing generally upon the condition of the District Board, it is still found remarkably in the same state of affairs which drew the observations of P. C. Tallents in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* :—

"The District Board of Palamau has had an uphill fight. Its income has been small, and the cost of constructing roads

in a country full of hills and rivers has been great. A large part of its income and the time of its staff have been spent in maintaining a passable state of repair roads, bridges and buildings originally constructed for economy's sake of inferior quality. With increased income it is to be hoped that the existing works will in time be replaced by others more durable, so that more money and attention may be available for new works."

His observations unfortunately were applicable to a major extent before this District Board was vested in the Government.

Garhwa Notified Area Committee.

On 9th August, 1957 Garhwa Union Board was abolished and in its place a Notified Area Committee was established by the Government notification no. 6991-L.S.-G., dated 14th June 1957. The N. A. C. area consisted of these villages : Garhwa (thana no. 339), Tanrwa (thana no. 338), Sahijna (thana no. 345), Dipwa (thana no. 341), Nagwa (thana no. 340), Pipra Kallan (thana no. 342), Uchari (thana no. 241) and Sonpurwa (thana no. 242). The N. A. C. is bounded on the north by villages Sukhbana and Ursugi, on the south by the river Danru and villages Pipra Khurd, Tenar and Narayanpur, on the east by villages Chatma, Bhapatiya, Garhauts and Nawadi and on the west by villages Sukhbana, Jobraiya, Nawadih and Bishunpur respectively.

The Garhwa Union Board was created on the 6th May, 1924 under the Village Administration Act of 1922. Before that it was Garhwa Union and had nine members in its committee. But after it became Union Board, its Board consisted of five elected and two nominated members and they worked under Part IV of the above mentioned Act. In 1923-34, when it was a union, it had an income of Rs. 4,750 including Rs. 3,600 from taxation under section 118 of the Act, spent Rs. 2,050 on establishment and Rs. 2,200 on village roads. Garhwa Union also had the advantage of the Garhwa Bazar improvement fund, which was administered by the Deputy Commissioner.

The Union Board administered the functions of conservancy and sanitation including drainage of local area, street lighting and the prevention of public nuisance therein.

During 1955-56, the demands of Garhwa Union Board amounted to Rs. 4,820, out of which the amount of collection was Rs. 4,163 only. The total income including the opening balance of the Garhwa Union Board was Rs. 13,589 as against Rs. 15,942 in 1954-55. During the same year the District Board contributed pound receipts amounting to Rs. 4,538 to Garhwa Union Board. The expenditure incurred by the

Board was Rs. 12,589 only. Following is the statement showing the income of Garhwa Union Board for the years from 1954-55 to 1956-57 :—

Income.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Opening balance	1,818	1,072	1,001
2. Union Tax under section 46 ..	4,510	4,163	4,201
3. Penalty under section 34	166	61	70
4. Pound receipt	93	238	146
5. Contribution from D. B. Fund ..	3,800	4,300	3,804
6. Contribution from Government ..	3,794	2,941	3,405
7. Receipt from other sources ..	1,761	814	699
Total ..	15,942	13,589	13,326

The expenditure incurred by the Board during these years had been Rs. 12,589, Rs. 12,323 and Rs. 14,870 with Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,003 and Rs. 1,072 as closing balances, respectively. Expenditures were incurred under the heads of establishment charges, collection charges, road repairs, water-supply, drainage, conservancy, sanitary measures, medical, miscellaneous and suspense.

Since its inception in 1957 the Notified Area Committee has been working with the Subdivisional Magistrate of Garhwa as the Chairman and is trying to meet the problem of sanitation and conservancy within their limited finances. Garhwa is a growing township and the bazar portion has not yet reached the incidence of the ill-effects of over-congestion. The area where the Government offices and the residential quarters of the Government officers are located has been deliberately kept at some distance from the bazar and the gap is not being settled for occupation. This is a wise move because the subdivisional head-quarters is bound to grow and with it the usual complication of bad sanitation.

Hussainabad Union Board.

The Union Board at Hussainabad was created on the 6th May, 1924 under the Village Administration Act of 1922. The Board is consisted of five elected and two nominated (by the District Board) members and they exercise their functions under Part IV of the Act. It has an area of 5.32 square miles with a population of 8,252 and the number of tax-payers in 1955-56 was 1,301. The Village Police Administration is extended to the Hussainabad Union Board only.

Before being converted into the Union Board, Hussainabad had one union under the Local Self-Government Act. That union had nine members. In 1923-24 Hussainabad had a very small income. Apart from opening balance of Rs. 1,650, Rs. 1,380 was spent on establishment.

During 1955-56 the demands of Hussainabad Union Board amounted to Rs. 8,161 out of which the amount of collection was Rs. 1,222 only. The total income including the opening balance of Hussainabad Union Board was Rs. 7,930 as against Rs. 9,779 in 1954-55. During the same year the District Board contributed pound receipts amounting to Rs. 1,466 to Hussainabad Union Board. The expenditure incurred by the Board was Rs. 5,651 only. Following is the statement showing the income of Hussainabad Union Board during the years from 1954-55 to 1958-59 :—

Income.

Serial no.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	3,064	2,933	2,287	2,259	3,638
*2	2,781	1,760	2,206	2,719	3,468
†3	x	x	77	x	x
4	x	266	456	x	x
5	1,112	1,200	1,100	1,213	1,000
6	2,713	1,716	1,213	3,071	1,599
7	109	63	497	295	835

*—Chaukidari Tax under section 30 plus Union Tax.
x—Nil.
†—Penalty under section 34.

The sources of income of the Board are Union Tax under section 46, Chaukidari Tax under section 30, Penalty under section 34, Pound Receipt Contribution from District Board Fund, Contribution from Government and Receipt from other sources.

The expenditures incurred by the Board during these years have been Rs. 6,846 in 1954-55, Rs. 5,651 in 1955-56, Rs. 5,577 in 1956-57, Rs. 5,920 in 1957-58 and Rs. 7,260 in 1958-59 with Rs. 2,933, Rs. 2,287, Rs. 2,259, Rs. 3,637 and Rs. 3,280 as closing balances, respectively.

The broad heads of expenditure are Establishment charges, Collection charges, Road repairs, Water-supply, Drainage, Conservancy, Sanitary measures, Medical, Miscellaneous and Suspense.

The Union Board administers the functions of conservancy and sanitation including drainage of local area, street lighting and the prevention of public nuisance. The arrangement for sanitation and lighting of streets is reported to be unsatisfactory.

Gram Panchayats.

The Bihar Gram Panchayat Raj Act, 1947 was passed in 1947. The Act was put into operation in Palamau district from 1949. The *Gram Panchayat* is entrusted with multifarious powers and functions. It undertakes planning and construction of works, such as, roads, wells, culverts, etc., necessary for the village. The *Panchayat* is to organise a voluntary force to check crime and to give protection. The *Panchayat* is vested with judicial powers but the *Panchayat* is enjoined to try to bring about a compromise first and only if it fails in bringing about a compromise to decide a case.

Generally a *Panchayat* is formed in an area which has a total population of 2,000 persons. Normally a number of villages falling within the radius of 2 miles are grouped together under one *Panchayat*. The *Gram Panchayat* is headed by a *Mukhia* who is assisted by an executive committee consisting of 13 to 15 members elected on the basis of adult suffrage. The Executive Committee controls the annual budget and acts as a check on the *Mukhia*. The *Mukhia's* post has become a coveted one in the village life and it seldom goes uncontested.

There is a panel of 15 *Panches* or members which has a head known as the *Sarpanch*. The chief job of the *Sarpanch* is to preside over the *Gram Cutchery* meetings and to try cases with the help of two *Panches* who are selected by the contesting parties.

There are 25 *Anchals* in this district within which 250 Revenue *Halkas* or units have been created. Within these Revenue *Halkas*, 344 *Gram Panchayats* have been formed till 1958-59. These *Panchayats* between themselves cover the entire area of 1,914 square miles of this district. Till August, 1959 out of 344 *Panchayats* formed 341 have been duly notified by the Government and their names published in the *Bihar Gazette*.

In reference to those 341 notified *Gram Panchayats* first election has been completed in 308 *Panchayats* while election is yet to be completed in the remaining 33 *Gram Panchayats*. The election has been suspended under Government instructions as the Bihar Panchayat Election Rules is being amended. It has been decided to divide each *Panchayat* into four wards. So far, in 22 *Gram Panchayats* the ward system has been completed and in another 68 *Gram Panchayats* the scheme is being implemented.

The District Panchayat Officer, who is a gazetted officer, is the administrative head of this institution and works under the superintendence, direction and control of the Deputy Commissioner. He is also under the administrative control of the Director, Gram Panchayats, with headquarters in Patna. The District Panchayat Officer manages the work with the assistance of 10 Supervisors, four Instructors of

Village Volunteer Force and five clerical staff besides 278 *Gram Sewaks* (1959). The main functions of the Instructors are to organise night patrolling and impart training to Village Volunteer Force or the Chief Officers. They also function as the police in the rural areas. The *Gram Sewaks* are at the lowest level of the *Panchayat* organisation and are paid Government servants. They assist the *Mukhiyas* in maintaining registers and statistics and also function as a bench clerk of the *Sarpanch*. So far 278 *Gram Sewaks* have been appointed in this district against the sanctioned strength of 341 *Gram Sewaks*. Out of the total strength of *Gram Sewaks* on the roll 240 are trained while 38 are untrained. Government have started refresher training course since 1958-59 which imparted training to 16 *Gram Sewaks*. Chief Officer is the head of the Village Volunteer Force of a *Gram Panchayat*. Till 1958-59, 207 trained and 102 untrained are working in this district. The Chief Officers are imparted training at the Training Institute at Brambay (12 miles west of Ranchi town on the Ranchi—Daltonganj Road). 24,000 volunteers have been enrolled in Palamau district till 1958-59, out of which 4,568 have been trained and certificates were given to them since 1950-51 when this operation started in this district up to June, 1959. The volunteers were trained by the Head Instructor and three second Instructors. It is proposed that 126 Chief Officers and 1,033 volunteers will be trained within 1959.

The total number of *Gram Panchayat* courts, known as *Gram Kutcheries*, was 141 in 1958-59. The *Panchayat* courts try civil cases of the value not exceeding 100 rupees and in special cases up to Rs. 200 if concerned with moveable properties. They also try petty criminal cases. In civil cases these courts are under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective Munsif and in criminal cases of the Subdivisional Officer. Up to 1958-59, in these courts out of a total of 5,698 cases, 2,809 were compromised, 302 acquitted, 404 convicted, 1,085 dismissed and 1,098 were left pending. Up to the same year, out of a total of 1,652 suits in these courts, 537 were compromised, 590 decreed, 236 dismissed and 289 were left pending.

The *Gram Panchayats* are vested with powers to raise taxes, e.g., property tax, professional tax, that is, tax on any business conducted within the area. There is compulsory labour tax payable by all able-bodied males between the age of 18 to 50 years. The minimum tax payable by every tax payer is 12 units or 48 hours of manual labour per annum. Cash payment in lieu of labour tax is permissible, in case of invalids or those who are incapable for manual labour. The proceeds of the tax are mainly utilised in development works. Each *Panchayat* receives a Government grant of Rs. 50 towards its establishment of office after the *Mukhiya* is elected. So far, 307 *Gram Panchayats* have received a total grant of Rs. 15,350 up to 1957-58. No grant

was made in 1958-59. Income for the last three years of the *Gram Panchayats* is given below :—

Income.		1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Labour Tax (in units)	..	78,650	1,25,512	Under compilation.
2. Property Tax (in units)	..	1,235.31	1,694.46	Ditto.
3. Donation (in units)	..	2,174.16	1,303.15	Ditto.
4. L.S.-G. Grant (in units)	..	1,31,925	87,500	68,560

As to the constructive work by the *Panchayats* it is reported that from 1950-51 to 1955-57 the *Gram Panchayats* took up construction of 72 wells, out of which 63 were completed. Vaccination of persons and inoculation of cattle, sinking of soakage pits, bore-hole latrines and trench latrines were also undertaken by them. The *Gram Panchayats* contributed to the running of four blind relief camps. The camps were established at Panki in 1955-56 and 1956-57, at Lesliganj in 1957-58 and at Garhwa in 1958-59, respectively. The Government gave a total grant of Rs. 5,483 against which a sum of Rs. 477.87 nP. was spent. 1,097 patients were examined and given preliminary treatment while 458 cataract operations were conducted. Under the tree plantation scheme undertaken by the *Gram Panchayats*, so far 41 *Gram Panchayats* of this district planted 12,726 trees in total. During the year 1958-59, a tree plantation competition was held among the *Panchayats* in which Pandepura, Mahuagawan, and Mahuari *Gram Panchayats* of the Sadar subdivision were declared I, II and III for planting 2,000, 1,500, 1,455 trees respectively in their *Panchayats*. Out of 38 approved *Panchayats* only 12 have taken up rent collection work since 1953-54. A statement is given below to show the progress made in this regard till 1958-59 :—

Year.	No. of Gram Panchayats entrusted with rent collection work.	Total demand.	Total collection.	Percentage.	Commission paid.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
1. 1953-54	2	8 579.60	2,082.84	24.00	..
2. 1954-55	2	6.768.69	5,740.74	84.8	125.93
3. 1955-56	2	18.606.83	9,780.99	52.2	205.65
4. 1956-57	5	39,492.44	26,246.57	66.4	1,646.76
5. 1957-58	8	43,934.33	22,538.54	51.2	671.00
6. 1958-59	12	69,280.51	36,739.59	61.00	..

The *Panchayats* doing revenue work have received their commission up to the year 1957-58. During the loan collection drive held between February, 1959 to April, 1959, two *Gram Panchayats*, Kosiara and Makari were entrusted with the loan collection work and their achievement in this regard is shown below :—

Name of Gram Panchayat.	Demand.	Collection.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	
1 Kosiara ..	12,925.83	11,174.80	86.4
2. Makari ..	11.226.75	7,991.25	78.27

Under a new scheme an experiment is being tried to entrust the *Gram Panchayats* in managing the forests in the neighbourhood. As man is the greatest enemy of the forests this experiment has particularly been sponsored to teach the people their responsibility for preserving the forests which are fast denuding. Under this scheme the management of forests is entrusted to three *Gram Panchayats*, viz., Rud, Ladhupsenha and Nawabetar Tanr, falling within Chandwa police-station. They have been entrusted with the management of 12.131 square miles, 6.299 square miles and 6.299 square miles of forests respectively on 24th May 1958 at Opa by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar. The management is done by the *Panchayat* personnel under the supervision and direction of the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.

CHAPTER XV.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

There is practically very little of historical background on facilities for education in Palamau district before 1892, when Palamau was separated from Ranchi District and given the status of a district. Palamau was at first, an outlying and rather inaccessible unit in Ramgarh district from 1780 to 1833. From 1833 to 1892 it formed a part of Lohardaga district with headquarters at Kishanpur; later known as Ranchi. Lohardaga district later came to be known as Ranchi district. Parganah Palamau was made into Kornda subdivision with headquarters at Kornda in 1853. Kornda is located at Jameera Pat, which is now a part of Sirguja in Madhya Pradesh. The subdivisional headquarters was later shifted to Lesliganj. During the movement of 1857 administrative difficulties were felt and it was decided to shift the headquarters to another site where the town of Daltonganj grew up. The 1857 movement also decided that the administration in Palamau should be strengthened and formed into a district for better administration. This was, however, done in 1892.

In the *East India Gazetteer* by Walter Hamilton published in 1815 Palamau has been described as a hilly and jungly district and that "on the north it is bounded by Rohtas; on the south and west by different wild districts in the province of Gundwana and on the east by Ramgur. This is one of the least cultivated and most thinly inhabitated territories in the Company's dominions, a great proportion of land consisting of hills covered with the jungle." Considering the fact that Palamau Parganah was purchased for arrears of revenue from Churaman Rai in 1813, this description within two years of the Company's direct rule over the area is of importance. The very description will show that the country and the people were both treated as wild and one can imagine the absolutely low incidence of education.

Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, had made out a report consisting of "Notes Geographical, Statistical and General, on that portion of Lohardugga or Chota Nagpur district, known as Pergunnah Palamow", a summary of which was published in *Annals of Indian Administration*, Part II, Vol. XI, March, pages 100—106 (Serampur 1867). From this report it is found that out of 3,650 square miles; the approximate area of the Pergunnah, only 456 square miles could be said to be cultivated. Major Thompson did not consider Daltonganj, the headquarters, to be a healthy place if Palamau was to be made into a separate district. He has given a description of physical geography, the very poor nature of communications, finds of minerals like coal and iron, the crops and the population but there is not a word on education. Even in his treatment on the population there is no mention about the incidence of education. He mentions that

"the Khairwars, Cheeroos, and Bhooktas are the oldest and most turbulent aboriginal tribes". He mentions "the Birhores and Paraiyas are the wildest people then in Palamau". There is not a word about the educational incidence of the population. We can almost deduce from this that practically there were hardly any schools or other arrangements even for primary education of the inhabitants.

There is another report by H. Ricketts, Member of the Board of Revenue on "Purulia or Manbhoom, Chota Nagpur, Subdivision of Kornda, Hazareebagh, Sumbhalpore" which was published in 1855. In this book Ricketts mentions: "In Palamow, the property of Government, there are persons holding lands yielding from Rs. 1,000 to 10,000, but none of these persons are at all educated. They are capable of reading and writing Hindee. They have none of them been instructed to any schools; what little information they possess, they have acquired at their own house." Ricketts does not mention of any arrangements by the Government for imparting education. In his report regarding Chota Nagpur Ricketts has mentioned that "It having come to my knowledge that nearly all in the employment of Government, of all classes and grades, were Foreigners I call for a statement showing the district, in which every person drawing Government pay resides. The Return has not been received, but I know that it will show, that the Moonsif of Lohardugga is the only educated native of Nagpore, in the service of the Government, and that nearly all the places in which a knowledge of reading and writing is not required. Burkundazes, Chuprassies and Peadahs are filled by the people from the district of Bihar.

This state of things appears to be pregnant with mischief, and I regard it as exceedingly unjust. So long as the inhabitants of Nagpore shall see all the advantages, to be derived from the Government service in the hands of others, there must be feeling of estrangement on their part, alienated and ignorant, they will remain quiet only, till some one shall again preach to them, that they may better themselves by burning and pillaging their neighbour's houses."

This deplorable state of affairs, more or less, continued till 1872-73 and it was but natural that when Sir George Campbell's Education Reforms were introduced in Palamau there was very poor response from the people. Regarding this experiment W. W. Hunter had mentioned that "Throughout the District, however, and especially in Palamau, a considerable amount of passive resistance was offered to this measure. Free education was so strange an idea of the people that a suggestion, commonly made by the landlords and grain merchants, found ready belief, to the effect that Government was educating children with the ulterior design of deporting them to Calcutta."[1] However, there was some increase in the number of schools as mentioned in *Statistical Accounts of Bengal*, Vol. XVI.

1. Hunter's *Statistical Account of Bengal*, Vol. XVI. The volume was compiled by H. H. Risley.

Under these circumstances, it was not an easy matter to take steps to diffuse education. The inaccessibility of the different parts of the district, the scattered population and the presence of the large percentage of extremely poor Adibasis did not make the problem any easier. A proper appreciation of the difficulties could be realised when we are told that even now (1959) for a population of about 10 lacs out of which about 25 per cent are Adibasis and Scheduled Caste men and in a total area of 4,921 square miles, there is only ont degree college and one girls' high school in the district.

The first *District Gazetteer of Palamau* by L. S. S. O'Malley published in 1907 mentions that some progress had been made since 1892 when the district was first constituted. It was mentioned that in that year there were 200 schools with 4,317 pupils and the proportion of scholars to the population of school-going children are 9.2 per cent in the case of males, and 0.5 per cent in the case of females. Ten years later in 1901-02, the number of schools had risen to 290 and the number of pupils to 7,530 and 15.3 per cent of the boys and 1.8 per cent of the girls of school-going age were receiving instruction. In spite, however, of this advance, the census of 1901 showed that only 11,851 persons, representing 1.9 per cent of the population (3.7 males and 0.1 females), could read and write any language.

LITERACY.

According to the census of 1921, the population of the district was 7,33,394. Out of this 20,302 persons, only 19,239 males and 1,063 females were literate that is capable of reading and writing letters. This shows a very poor literacy for men and almost nil incidence for women. Out of 20,302 literate men only 10,355 were literate in English. This means that, not counting the children under five years of age, only 32 persons in the district out of over 1,000 were literate. The corresponding figures for the other districts of the Chotanagpur Division for the same year were as follows:—

Number of literate persons per mille population aged 5 and over.

Hazaribagh	35
Ranchi	40
Manbhum	59
Singhbhum	45

Within the district the incidence of literacy was higher in Daltonganj thana (6,022), Hussainabad (3,860), Garhwa (3.397) and Patan (3,011) which together account for four-fifths of the literate population of the district. But if the aforesaid figure is compared with the number of literate persons in 1901 it does not make an encouraging impression. In 1901 the number of literate persons of lower qualifications was only 11,851. Although in 20 years the number of literate persons had almost doubled itself, it has to be observed that the progress of education was very slow.

Education had made a somewhat rapid progress within the period of next twenty years. In 1941, the total number of literate persons in the district was 51,580 of which 46,754 were males and 4,826 females. The figures show that within the period from the year 1922 to 1941, there was an increase in the number of male literates of the district by 143 per cent whereas the number of literate females had increased by 356 per cent over the percentages for the literate males and females of the district in 1921. The incidence of increase in literacy among the females cannot be said to be satisfactory but the same among the males was no doubt much more encouraging. But the percentage of literacy in 1941 of males and females taken together was only 6.6. This is a poor record for a district.

During the decade from 1941 to 1951, the State Government co-operated with the efforts of the local bodies of the district towards the spread of education. As a result, a number of mass-literacy centres and schools specially reserved for the backward communities were started and were subsidised by the State Government during this decade. They worked side by side with the Primary and Middle schools under the different local bodies of the district. As a result 1,42,977 persons were enumerated as literate in 1951[1] out of the total population of 9,85,767. Of these literate persons 1,28,355 were males and 14,622 females. These figures show that within a period of one decade the percentage of literacy increased from 6.6 (in 1941) to 14.5 (in 1951). This is more encouraging.

The next five years, i.e., the years from 1951 to 1955 were a further marked period of development in the field of education along with other post-war development schemes. This period shows the increase in the number of literate persons of the district by 40,729 over the number of 1951 of which 36,834 were males and 3,895 females. The number of literate persons by the end of financial year 1955-56 had increased to 1,83,706 of which 1,65,189 were males and 18,517 females. The percentage of literacy both for males and females taken together was 18. But if the same for males and females be taken separately, it is calculated that the percentage of male literates to the total male population of the district was 31.8, while the same for female literates to the total female population was nearly 3.7 only.

Educational Institutions.

In 1901-02 there were 290 schools with 7,530 pupils. Ten years later, again in 1911-12, the total number of schools was 390 with a total of 8,716 pupils. In 1922-23 the number of institutions had fallen to 345 which was mainly due to a decrease in the number of unaided schools caused by non-co-operation movement, but the number of pupils had risen to 9,585. The total number of recognised schools had risen to 484 and of pupils to 15,266 by 1924-25. This gives an average of one school to every ten square miles and of 32 pupils to each

1. The statistics have been supplied by the District Education Office, Palamau (P. C. R. C.).

school. The increase was mostly in the number of primary schools. By the end of 1931-32 the total number of educational institutions of the district was 499 with 15,363 pupils in them.

The decade ending in 1941-42 witnessed the gradual increase in the number of educational institutions as well as of pupils. The number of educational institutions in the year 1941-42 had risen to 527 and of pupils to 21,817. During the decade, though the number of educational institutions had increased by 28 only, there had been a remarkable increase in the number of scholars by 6,454. The aforesaid increase in the number of institutions was mostly in Middle and Primary schools. The next decade ending in 1951-52 showed some increase both in the High and Middle schools. But the number of Primary schools recorded a fall by 25 which was partly due to the reduction in the number of unaided Primary schools and partly to the conversion of a number of managed and aided Primary schools into Basic institutions. In 1950, 22 Middle and Primary schools of the district were converted into Basic schools which henceforth began to function side by side with the High, Middle and Primary schools. In 1951-52, the total number of educational institutions was 558 with a total enrolment of 35,893 pupils. Thus, though by the end of this decade the total increase in the number of educational institutions was only 31, the total enrolment of students in the institutions taken together had increased by 13,865.

In 1953-54 the total number of educational institutions had risen to 598. There was a considerable increase in the number of all kinds of educational institutions excepting the Basic schools which had remained stationary at 22. The total number of scholars in all the educational institutions was 36,482.

In 1953-54 the Educational Improvement Programme was introduced in the district in order to bring about an improvement in the traditional Primary schools and the Junior Basic schools. According to this programme, all the Primary schools have to be converted into the Basic schools by 1961. The programme aims at an all round development of the children. The greater number of the newly started schools, selected under the Educational Improvement Programme, are located in the backward area of the district such as the thanas of the Latehar subdivision and Ranka, Bhandaria and Nagar thanas of the Garhwa subdivision. The Block Development Officers are now charged with the task of putting the cause of education within their blocks.

The subsequent progress in the number of institutions and students will be found in the section under general education which has covered all the different educational institutions of the district.

Educational Standard.

In the *District Census Handbook of Palamau* (1951) the educational standard has been shown under the section "livelihood classes by educational standard". The figures for literate population given in the

census statistics widely differ from the figures given before. The difference is mainly attributed to that the census figures do not include the semi-literates, both male and female while the Education Department includes them. The educational standard of the people given in the census of 1951 is as follows :—

Educational Standard.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Literate	63,309	56,116	7,193
Middle school	7,940	7,403	537
Matriculate or S. L. C.	2,941	2,844	97
Intermediate (Arts and Science) ..	1,018	1,014	4
Graduate (Arts and Science) ..	498	490	8
Post-graduates	151	150	1
Teaching	361	358	3
Engineering	18	18	..
Agriculture	47	47	..
Veterinary	110	110	..
Commerce	5	5	..
Legal	20	20	..
Medical	170	170	..

From these statistics also it is apparent that the educational standard of the women is extremely poor.

Spread of Education among the Women and Backward classes.

Education of the women has been treated along with the general education. The spread of education among the women in a backward district like Palamau is comparatively at a lower level than the other districts of Chotanagpur Division. In the past, very little co-ordinated effort was made to remove the illiteracy and backwardness of the women. Through the efforts of Srimati Kamla Godbole, wife of Sri Godbole, a Deputy Commissioner, a girls' school was started at Daltonganj which is now a full-fledged Girls' High School known as Kamla Godbole Girls' High School. An attempt has been made now under the Education Improvement scheme for re-orientation of female education. Since the introduction of the scheme, the incidence of female education has shown improvement. Apart from the girls' schools, co-education is also becoming popular and the enlightened guardians seldom hesitate to send their female wards in the boys' schools. In 1958-59 out of the total of 15,297 girl scholars, 7,524 were found to be studying

in the boys' schools. The total number of institutions for girls in 1957-58 was 76 as against 113 in 1958-59. The break-up figures are as follows :—

Kinds of schools.	1957-58.	1958-59.
High school	1	1
Senior Basic school	1	1
Middle school	9	10
Junior Basic school	7	9
Primary school	58	92
Total ..	76	113

The total number of girl scholars in different educational institutions in 1957-58 was 10,317 which rose to 15,297 in 1958-59. The girl students were distributed in the different educational institutions as follows :—

Kinds of institutions.	1957-58.	1958-59.	Incidence.
High school	398	373	—25
Middle and Senior Basic school ..	1,537	2,664	+1,927
Primary and Junior Basic school ..	7,544	11,532	+3,988
Professional school	8	44	+36
Special school	830	684	—146
Total ..	10,317	15,297	+4,980

Female education has suffered a lot partly due to the shortage of female teachers and partly owing to the indifference towards female education in general. In the census of 1951 only 3 females were found in the teaching avocation and in the other avocations the females were conspicuous by their absence. After the lapse of only six years, i.e., in 1957-58 there were found 95 female teachers in the different educational female institutions out of which 51 were trained and 44 untrained. The number rose to 118 in 1958-59, out of which 68 were trained and 50 untrained. The dearth of trained female teachers especially

in rural areas is keenly felt and to remove this obstacle, a girl training school has been started at Daltonganj from 1958-59.

Backward Classes.—The population of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in the district in the census of 1951 was 2,19,615 out of the total population of 9,85,767 or they formed about one-fourth of the total population. The educational backwardness of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes was even more pronounced than the women. The Christian Mission which had been started as early as 1890 in the Chhechhari Valley, had made an attempt for the removal of the illiteracy and the social backwardness of the Backward Classes. They did receive some results but their effect on the overall picture is negligible.

The State Government has now posted a District Welfare Officer at Daltonganj to look after the welfare and uplift of the Backward Classes. Apart from the Government, the Voluntary Social Service Organisations like the *Adim Jati Sevamandal* are also doing some work towards the same end.

The aboriginal population in the Mahuadanr and Garu thanas is predominant and after investigation it was found that due to topographical situation of this region, which is full of dense forests and inaccessible hills, the educational backwardness of the people, who are mostly aboriginals, is most pronounced. The Mahuadanr-Garu Scheme is functioning to remove the educational disabilities of the people since 1955-56. The State Government is making liberal grant for the success of the scheme. Under this scheme, 5 Lower Primary schools were functioning in the Mahuadanr police-station and 5 Lower Primary schools and one middle school in the Garu area in 1957-58. The number of scholars in these schools was 376 out of which 334 belonged to the aboriginal classes, 17 to Harijans and 25 were of other Backward Classes. The number of teachers in these schools was 23.

For educational purposes, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes are treated as special classes and communities. Special attempt is being made by the Education Department to encourage the spread of education amongst them. They are usually exempted from payment of all the fees up to the Secondary School Examination standard. Besides, various stipends and other assistance are also available to them for their college education.

In 1958-59 the number of special schools for Harijans was 21 and for the aboriginals 49. Apart from the special schools they are also found in the general schools. The statement below gives the number of students of these classes in the different educational institutions of the district.

Kinds of schools.	1956-57.								1957-58.								1958-59.							
	Scheduled Tribes.		Scheduled Castes.		Backward Classes.		Scheduled Tribes.		Scheduled Castes.		Backward Classes.		Scheduled Tribes.		Scheduled Castes.		Backward Classes.		Scheduled Tribes.		Scheduled Castes.		Backward Classes.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19						
High schools including post-basic.	165	..	301	..	1,248	53	224	..	315	..	1,227	21	324	2	841	22	2,401	109						
Middle schools including senior basic.	589	65	587	51	2,707	364	749	185	1,330	78	5,049	443	1,235	311	1,873	190	7,208	1,056						
Primary schools including junior basic.	5,883	887	5,611	537	18,533	324	6,060	846	5,794	537	19,194	3,338	7,017	1,370	7,669	1,346	18,234	5,017						
Professional schools	..	21	1	46	..	200	7	38	1	63	..	154	2	34	5	120	5	250	21					
Special schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	895	125	1,125	223	2,614	299	711	65	926	142	2,342	206					

The statistics show that there had been improvement in spread of education among the special classes and communities. The Government is keenly interested in the educational development of Adibasis, Harijan, Backward Muslims and other Backward Classes. A large number of aboriginal students have been attracted to educational institutions by the award of special scholarships, grants and book grants.

General Education.

Primary Education.

Primary education consists of teaching in classes first to fifth. Primary education is the responsibility of the local bodies like the District Board and the Municipality. Some Primary schools of the district have been opened by the *Adimjati Sevamandal* under the *Thakkar Bappa* Scheme and the Christian Missions. The District Superintendent of Education whose post has been created in 1954 now controls the Educational Fund of the District Board. The District Superintendent of Education is the Secretary of the District Education Planning Committee. With the appointment of the District Education Officer in November, 1958 the administration of the general education of the district up to a certain stage has vested in him.

The statistics of the institutions and scholars of the Primary education from 1955-56 to 1958-59 are given below :—

Year.	Number of institutions.		Number of scholars.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1954-55	505	41	22,794	1,498
1955-56	546	51	30,194	2,259
1956-57	633	59	35,148	2,553
1957-58	658	58	32,023	6,803
1958-59	653	108	38,075	10,210

From the statistics it is apparent that both the institutions and scholars have increased steadily. The number of girls' schools in a quinquennium has increased from 41 to 108 and of scholars from 1,498 to 10,210. The schools for boys have also shown an upward tendency except in the last year in which the number has decreased by 5. This decrease is due to conversion of the Primary school into Junior Basic school.

Compulsory Primary Education.

The compulsory primary education has been introduced in the municipal area of Daltonganj from 1958. In 1958-59 it is reported that the number of children of school-going age under the age-group 6 to 11 in Daltonganj was 2,798 out of which 2,749 had been brought to school. The percentage of attendance of the boys was 92. The number of institutions in the municipal area in 1958-59 was 13 and of teachers 44. Free and compulsory primary education has also been introduced in the Panki Pilot Project. The total number of children of the school-going age under the age-group 6—11 in Panki Project area in 1958-59 was 4,823 for boys and 2,811 for girls out of which 3,953 boys and 1,792 girls had been brought to school. Even if absolutely correct figures have not been recorded, the trend is clear.

Middle Schools.

In Palamau a large number of Middle schools have classes from I to VII and IV to VII and a few have only two top classes, i.e., only classes VI and VII. The administrative set up of Middle school is similar to that of Primary school and the only difference is that the Sub-Inspector of Schools has no power to inspect the middle schools. The progress of institutions and scholars is shown in the following table :—

Year.	Institutions.		Scholars.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1954-55	41	5	6,660	590
1955-56	49	5	7,250	657
1956-57	77	9	7,802	745
1957-58	78	9	7,949	1,125
1958-59	83	10	10,416	1,725

From the statistics, it is seen that the number of both schools and scholars has shown an upward tendency.

High Schools.

The high schools generally have classes from VIII to XI and a few from VI to XI. The High schools are mostly managed by the Managing Committee and a few by the Government. The District Education Officer controls the Government High schools, and other schools for boys and the girls' high schools are controlled by the Deputy Directress of Public Instruction, Bihar who has her headquarters at Patna. The administrative head is the Director of Public Instruction at Patna. The following figures will show the progress of secondary education from 1954-55 to 1958-59 :—

Year.	Number of institutions.		Number of scholars.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1954-55	11	1	3,618	227
1955-56	16	1	4,009	278
1956-57	18	1	4,865	297
1957-58	18	1	5,187	400
1958-59	22	1	6,007	361

Considering the area and population of the district the number of High schools appears to be far too inadequate.

Basic Schools.

Under secondary education, comes the Post-Basic school. The number of Post-Basic school in the district is only one which is at Jhagarakhanr in Bhaunathpur police-station. At Satwarba, recently a Post-Basic school has been started, but it is still unrecognised. Besides Post-Basic school there are other Basic schools, the statistics of which from 1954-55 to 1958-59 are given below :—

Year.	Number of institutions.				Number of scholars.			
	Senior Basic.		Junior Basic.		Senior Basic.		Junior Basic.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1954-55 ..	21	1	22	..	3,499	186	1,088	..
1955-56 ..	23	1	31	2	3,710	182	1,913	115
1956-57 ..	33	1	51	6	3,667	210	2,557	404
1957-58 ..	33	1	61	7	3,377	412	2,848	741
1958-59 ..	34	1	72	9	4,700	939	3,924	1,322

Higher Education.

In the matter of higher education Palamau lags much behind in comparison to the other districts of Bihar. There is only one Degree College. The college was started at Daltonganj only in 1954 through the munificence of Sri Ganesh Lal Agrawal, a merchant of Daltonganj and the college is named after him. The college now stands affiliated to the Bihar University up to the degree standard in Arts and Science. Co-education is prevalent in the college. In the session of 1958-59 the strength of students was 723 out of which 687 were male students and 36 female students. There is only one lady in the teaching staff.

The higher secondary education scheme leading to college course has been introduced in two high schools, viz., in the Zila School, Palamau and Garhwa High School from the session of 1958-59. The strength of students in these schools was 1,223 out of which 12 were girls.

Professional Schools.

The number of professional school is quite meagre. The previous elementary *guru* training schools have been converted into the Senior Basic training schools and the Junior Basic training schools to suit the new changing situation. There are (1958-59) five professional schools in the district, one is the Senior training school at Satwarba, three Junior training schools at Rehla, Latehar and Daltonganj of which the last is for females. There is only one commercial school at Daltonganj where training in shorthand, typewriting, book keeping and telegraphy is given. Recently an agricultural school has been started at Daltonganj. The strength of students in the professional schools was 240 in 1954-55 as against 449 in 1958-59. This shows a poor response.

Oriental Schools.

Under oriental schools, come Sanskrit *tols*, *madarsas* and *maktabs*, the indigenous old institutions which withstood the ravages of time. Previously these schools were not much patronised by the State Government. An attempt to revive the old institutions of the land by giving equal status and also making necessary modifications in the curriculum of teaching in the Sanskrit schools has been made. Some modern subjects have been added in the syllabus of the Sanskrit schools and *madarsas* to suit the general educational pattern. In Palamau there were 11 Sanskrit *tols* with 624 pupils, one *madarsa* with 150 pupils and 71 *maktabs* with 3,815 students in 1958-59. At Daltonganj there is a Government Sanskrit High School where general subjects along with Sanskrit are taught.

Social (Adult) Education.

In 1938 Dr. Sayed Mahmud, the Minister of Education, Bihar had sponsored the scheme of social education to tone up the low percentage of literacy. Mass literacy campaign was launched and a Mass Literacy Board was formed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sayed Mahmud. Apart from the extensive scheme, one thana in each district was selected for intensive literacy campaign. Lesliganj thana was first selected in Palamau for implementation of the scheme. The scheme got response from the general people. Later the scheme was introduced in Hariharganj and Bishrampur thanas.

The scheme of mass literacy was reorganised during 1951-52. The reorganised scheme took the subject of social education in a comprehensive scale so as to include not only literacy but also health and civic education. The seven principal items of social education programme are as follows :—

(1) Literacy to adults and education to children deprived of normal education in schools;
(2) Individual and community cleanliness;
(3) Health sanitation and medical aid;
(4) Recreation and culture;
(5) Campaign against social evils;
(6) Economic improvements and
(7) Publication and publicity.

During 1951-52, 72 centres were functioning in the district with 1,866 enrolments of whom 1,487 were made literate.

Since the establishment of National Extension Service Blocks and community projects, special attention has been paid to social education programme with a view to make the public more conscious about their duties and responsibilities. A large number of centres have been started in the project area, a sum of Rs. 70,000 was to be spent over social education in course of three years. Now Social Organisers for Education, both ladies and men are being appointed in each Block of the district for the success of the scheme (1959). The progress of Social Educational Scheme is as follows :—

Year.	Number of institutions.		Number of scholars.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1954-55	54	1	2,096	26
1955-56	178	1	4,152	24
1956-57	177	1	4,102	27
1957-58	316	21	7,997	825
1958-59	Not available		6,824	592

The progress of the scheme does not appear to be up to the mark.

Education by Religion.

According to the investigation made by the District Education Office, the total number of pupils attending all kinds of institutions for general education in 1955-56 was 51,156, out of which 6,529 were Scheduled Castes, 6,941 Scheduled Tribes, 5,274 Mohammedans and 32,412 Hindus. These figures show that the Scheduled Castes students form 12.7 per cent, Scheduled Tribes students 13.6 and the Muslim students 10.3 per cent of the total number of students, attending the different types of institutions for general education in the district.

CULTURAL AND LITERARY SOCIETIES.

There are very few cultural and literary societies in Palamau and their impact on the social life is very small. They have a moribund existence and depend on State aid or charity. Out of the ten such associations in 1958-59, seven were at Daltonganj. They are as follows :—

Bhartiya Kala Mandir, Bharat Sevak Samaj, Old Scouts and Guides Club, *Sangeet Niketan, Samajik Urdu Nritya Mandali*, Pokhraha, Bablolwa *Sanskritik Nritya Mandali* and Jainagra *Sanskritik Nritya Mandali*. At Lesliganj there is a *Joru Gram Adibasi Nritya Mandali, Khairatoli, Latehar Nritya Mandali* at Latehar and *Ladheep Nritya Mandali* at Chandwa.

These associations have been formed for the cultivation of fine arts of music and dance. They are all rather poorly organised and not well patronised. In a number of villages, youth clubs and *akharas* have been formed for the physical development of the youths. In almost all the villages of the aboriginals a *dumkuria* or dormitory is found. The *dumkurias* could very well be utilised for advancing the spread of culture.

The *Abhudaya Hindi Sahitya Samaj* at Daltonganj is now adopted as the central library of the district.

LIBRARIES.

There are altogether 67 libraries in the district. Considering the area and population of the district, the number of libraries seems to be quite inadequate. The proportion comes to one library for 74 square miles and for 14,713 persons. The District Central Library which is also known as *Abhudya Hindi Sahitya Samaj* was established in 1915 and became the District Central Library in 1955. The library has three sections viz., main library, mobile library and the children section. It has a reading hall. The average daily number of readers comes to about 60.

CHAPTER XVI.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE EARLY TIMES.

There is not much information of any survey of public health and medical facilities in this district till about the middle of the 19th century. The Adibasis of Palamau who form the majority of the population had been utilising some of the roots, leaves and herbs found in abundance in the forest for medicinal purposes. Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent of the Revenue Survey (1862-66) had mentioned that the wild tribals like Birhors and Paraiyas had the chief source of livelihood in the collection and sale of the jungle medicinal herbs, plants and roots along with the catching of the birds and wild animals.

Sorcery had a tremendous hold on the Adibasi population and was widely believed in for remedial and curative purposes. The *ojhas* or the witch doctors were supposed to be the antidote for the diseases of men, animals and birds. Even wide-scale failure of crops would be attributed to the witch and the witch doctor was supposed to have some medicine for that also.

D. H. E. Sunder in the *Survey and Settlement Report of Palamau* (1894-95 to 1896-97) published in 1898 has given the names of the following roots and plants used by the people for medicinal purposes :—

Vernacular name.	Botanical name.	Use of the plant.
Amaltas, Bandarlati, Dhanras.	Cassia fistula ..	The fruit is used as a purgative.
Amra ..	Spondias mangifera	The ripe fruit is used as a whet to the appetite. The leaves are ground and applied as a poultice over the forehead for cure of headache.
Aonra ..	Phyllanthus Emblica	The ripe fruit is eaten as a whet to the appetite. Is also used with other articles as a purgative. Is fried, powdered and used as a remedy for dysentery.
Asan ..	Terminalia tomentosa	The bark is burnt and mixed with *til* oil, and used for curing itch.
Asog ..	..	The leaves are boiled, and the infusion is taken medicinally for curing jaundice.
Babul ..	Acacia arabica ..	The fruit is ground and mixed with sugar and given in cases of weakness. The leaves are crushed and given as a febrifuge. The juice is given in cases of dry cough.

Vernacular name.	Botanical name.	Use of the plant.
Baher or *Bahera* ..	Terminalia belerica	The kernel of the seed is ground, mixed with water, and given as a remedy for worms. The seed is boiled with *aonra* and *harre*, and the infusion is taken as a purgative. Oil is expressed from the seed and rubbed on the body to cool it.
Bahuar ..	Cordia myxa ..	The fruit is boiled in water, and the infusion, mixed with honey, is given in cases of consumption.
Bakain ..	Melia azedarach ..	The seed and bark are ground and given in cases of weakness, and are also used for poultices for curing pain.
Barhar ..	..	The seed is ground and given to children as a purgative.
Bhabherung ..	Embelia ribes ..	The fruit is used as a purgative.
Bharhul ..	Chloroxylon swietenia.	The leaves are crushed, and used for cure of sores in cattle.
Bhela or *Bhelwa* ..	Semecarpus anacardium.	Is fried in *til* oil. The oil is used as a remedy for rheumatism.
Bokchi ..	..	Oil is expressed from the seed, and is used for curing itch and sores.
Dahial or *jaljamni*	..	A creeper. The roots are supposed to be a good antidote for snake-bite.
Dhawai ..	..	The flower is steeped in warm water and the infusion is given to people suffering from diarrhoea. It is also dried and mixed with *bhang* and is said to be cooling.
Harre ..	Terminalia chebula	The fruit is ground and used as purgative.
Ghor-karang ..	..	The bark is powdered and eaten for cure of rheumatism.
Ingun	Barringtonia acutangula.	The fruit is put round the neck of children to keep off the evil eye.
Kaj or *Kajhi* ..	Briedelia retusa ..	The gum is ground and mixed with water and given in cases of weakness.
Kankar ..	Zizyphus xylopyrus	The leaves are ground and used as a poultice for cure of swellings.
Karaunj or *Kanoud*	Carissa carandas ..	Oil is expressed from the seed, and is used as a remedy for itch. The fruit is eaten both ripe and green as a whet to the appetite. The green fruit is ground and mixed with salt, and taken as a remedy for dysentery.

Vernacular name.	Botanical name.	Use of the plant.
Karipari	..	The root of this tree is ground and cooked in mustard oil. This oil is rubbed on the bodies of people as a cure for cold and swellings.
Katela	..	Oil is expressed from the seed, and is used for curing sores on cattle.
Keonji	Sterculia urens	The gum called *katila* is given in cases of dysentery and weakness.
Koto dumar	..	The dried fruit, mixed with sugar, is given in cases of diarrhoea.
Kusum	Schleichera trijuga	It is used as a remedy for itch.
Madar	Calotropis gigante	The flower is ground and mixed with pepper, and given as a remedy for cough.
Mahua	Bassia latifolia	The oil of it is rubbed on infants to warm them.
Med(Meda)	Tetranthera laurifolia.	The bark is crushed, and used for curing pain. It is also dried and ground, and given to weak cows to strengthen them.
Mendi	..	The seed of it is used as a medicine in cases of weakness.
Nim	Melia azadirachta	The leaves are boiled and used for curing pain. The twigs of branches are used as tooth-brush.
Palas or *Paras*	Butea frondosa	The flower is ground, and used on castor-plant leaves as a remedy for swellings. The gum is used as a remedy for cough.
Raipan	..	Rice eaten on the leaves of this plant for three days successively by people suffering from night-blindness is said to effect a cure.
Sakua	Shorea robusta	The gum is used for cure of dysentery. The leaves and bark are burnt and mixed with *til* oil and used for healing burns.
Sidha	Lagerstroemia parviflora.	The bark is burnt, powdered and mixed with *til* oil, and is used for curing itch.

After acquisition of Palamau by the East India Company in 1813 no attempt was made to introduce the allopathic system of treatment for a pretty long time. The earliest was the establishment of Daltonganj Hospital in February, 1867. W. W. Hunter has mentioned in

the *Statistical Account of Lohardaga District* published in 1877 that "Daltonganj Dispensary, in the Palamau subdivision established in February 1867, was in 1872 under the charge of a native Sub-Assistant Surgeon. The dispensary building, which can accommodate eight indoor patients, was repaired and improved during the year. The attendance increased, and several important operations were performed. The year was healthy, and no epidemic prevailed. The funds subscribed locally to the dispensary hardly suffice for its maintenance. Statement of indoor patients in 1872 was total cases treated, 94; relieved or cured, 79; died 6, or 6.38 per cent of the total cases; remaining at end of year, 9; daily average number of sick during the year 7.5. Outdoor patients: total treated, 2,229; the average daily attendance at the dispensary being 36.4". This appears to have been the only hospital in Palamau till 1896, when a dispensary was started at Ranka, by the liberality of Raja Gobind Prasad Singh. The dispensaries at Garhwa and Latehar were subsequently opened in 1902. The *Imperial Gazetteer of India* (Edition, 1903) has mentioned that "The District contains four dispensaries, of which Daltonganj has accommodation for 20 in-patients. Altogether, the cases of 12,495 out-patients and 341 in-patients were treated at these institutions in 1903, and 534 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 5,000 of which Rs. 1,700 was met from Government, Rs. 2,500 from local funds, Rs. 400 from municipal funds, and Rs. 1,100 from subscriptions".

"Vaccination is not compulsory except in Daltonganj. In 1903-04 the number of persons successfully vaccinated was only 1,800 or 29.3 per thousand of the population. The mortality from small-pox is higher than in most Bengal Districts."

The number of allopathic hospitals and dispensaries in 1926 was 18. There are 30 such institutions in 1959. The allopathic system of treatment is becoming popular in the areas covered by hospitals and dispensaries. But inadequate number of medical institutions and expensive allopathic treatment coinciding with the poverty of people often form formidable obstacle for many to take recourse to allopathic system of treatment. The *Vaidyas* are reported to have more practice in the northern and eastern parts of the district. Homeopathy is popular only in the urban areas.

Vital Statistics.

In Bihar, registration of deaths in rural areas was started in 1869. The *Chaukidars* were entrusted with the duty of reporting deaths. Both birth and death registration was introduced in towns in 1873. Three years later in 1876, birth registration was extended to rural areas also. But the returns obtained were very incomplete, and it was slowly given up.

The present system of registration of births and deaths and of compilation of vital statistics was introduced for the first time in 1892. Under this system, compulsory registration is enforced in towns. In

rural areas, the *Chaukidar* or the village watchman is expected to report at the police thana all births and deaths occurring in his area on parade days. The statistics thus obtained are compiled at the police-stations and submitted monthly to the Civil Surgeon who prepares a monthly return for the whole district, and forwards them to the Director of Economics and Statistics who compiles the total figures for the State as a whole.

Doubt has often been thrown upon the accuracy of the statistics, obtained through the agency of the village *Chaukidars*. It is beyond question that the diseases to which death is ascribed are often incorrectly stated. The *Chaukidar* has no medical knowledge and indiscriminately classes a number of deaths under the general heads of fever, cholera, etc. They class all eruptive fevers as small-pox, and all cases of vomiting as cholera. Besides, at times when the village *Chaukidar* himself falls ill, the very reporting agency remains suspended. In epidemics it is hardly expected that the *Chaukidar* will keep a correct record. The vital statistics, thus obtained cannot ascribe to be quite accurate. It is expected that with the spread of institutions like *Gram Panchayat*, this inaccuracy will slowly disappear. Apart from this agency occasional health surveys in particular area are conducted for the survey of particular diseases. The reports of such health surveys also give some data for the vital statistics. An Anti-Malaria Survey team visited Palamau in July, 1951 to find out the incidence and intensity of malaria, as for long the malarial fever became endemic in Palamau. After proper survey it was found that the area was "moderate endemicity", as the recorded spleen census was about 13.2 per cent. In 1956 a full-fledged National Malaria Eradication Unit was established at Daltonganj. A Leprosy Survey has recently been (1959) conducted by the District Medical Officer of Health and the Block Development Officers to find out the incidence of leprosy in the district. After investigation it was found that the incidence of leprosy is higher in Garhwa, Ranka and Hussainabad Blocks.

From the vital statistics given in the different censuses it appears that both birth-rate and death-rate had shown downward tendency. In 1892 when the district was constituted, the birth-rate was 30.34 per mille which rose to 56.81 per mille in 1904. In 1911 the birth-rate per mille was 53.45 as against 34.9 per mille in 1921. The decade 1911-21 was exceptionally unhealthy due to the severe epidemics of fever and influenza. But on the whole birth-rate exceeded death-rate. The total number of deaths that occurred in the decade was 2,47,000 which was 79,000 less than the number of births. The census of 1921 showed that the population of the district had increased by 45,684 or 6.64 per cent over the preceding census.

The first year of the 1921—30 decade was very unhealthy. There were a large number of deaths from fever alone. Cholera and small-pox were also present that year in epidemic form, and the death-rate exceeded the birth-rate by 9.5 per cent. From 1922 onwards, however, public health improved though severe outbreaks of cholera occurred in 1924, 1927 and 1929 and small-pox was also fairly active from 1927 to 1929. The 1931 census showed an increase in the population of 11.6 per cent. W. G. Lacey, I.C.S., had mentioned in the *Census of India*, 1931 (*Report*), published in 1933 that "The annual death-rate for the district worked out an average of 32 per mille, whereas for the whole natural division the average rate was only 22.5; but the birth-rate in Palamau was also exceptionally high, being 45 against the divisional average of 36.5".

The decade 1931—40 showed better public health incidence than the previous decade. Cholera appeared in epidemic form in 1934, but did not trouble the district seriously as in other years. There was also a sharp fall in death-rate from small-pox. The number of deaths from fever was still quite high but there was a fall also in the fever death-rate as compared with the preceding decade. The 1941 census showed an increase of 11.5 per cent over the previous census. The registration figures show that the growth of population was due mostly to natural increase. The birth-rate of the district in 1941 was 33.73 per mille.

In the decade 1941—50, the population of Palamau had increased by 8 per cent only in spite of the favourable circumstances. The registered figures of births and deaths show that the natural increase was 7.7 per cent which was exactly the same as was the decennial growth rate calculated on the mean population of 1951 and 1941. There was a large reduction in the death-rate in this decade as compared with the preceding decade. In 1952 the birth-rate reported to be 20.3 per mille. In 1952 cholera spread out in epidemic form and took a toll of 2,015 lives, fever caused 12,490 deaths and small-pox 438. In 1954 the birth-rate was 25.12 per mille as against 30.84 per mille in 1955. The incidence of cholera, small-pox and fever was on the wane.

The figures of births and deaths have always been doubtful owing to the defective reporting agency, but the vital statistics of the last census (1951) are all the more unreliable as the Superintendent of Census Operations, Bihar, 1951 had mentioned in his report that "the registered birth-figures during 1941—50 are wholly unreliable as there was a virtual collapse of registration arrangement particularly after the upheaval of 1942".

The death-rate was 47.87 per mille in 1900 as against 24.54 per mille in 1913. For several years it hardly rose above 30 per mille till it reached the appalling figure of 71.8 in 1918 owing to a severe epidemic of influenza. As stated before the annual death-rate during the decade 1921—30 was 32 per mille as against 22.73 in 1941. The death-rate decreased further in the decade 1941—51. In 1952 the death-rate per mille of the population was 16.0 as against 13.85 and 11.27 per mille in 1954 and 1955 respectively.

The statement of vital statistics as mentioned in the *Census Tables of* 1951 and in the *Bihar Statistical Hand-Book* from 1941 onwards is given below :—

Year.	Birth (registered).			Death (registered).		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941	30,676	15,642	15,034	20,723	10,832	9,891
1942	30,264	15,225	15,039	19,727	10,364	9,363
1943	21,625	10,990	10,635	23,089	12,602	10,487
1944	23,556	11,900	11,656	19,242	10,397	8,845
1945	28,568	14,438	14,130	23,325	12,064	10,261
1946	24,705	12,618	12,087	15,803	8,579	7,224
1947	21,097	10,700	10,397	15,215	8,179	7,036
1948	23,697	12,106	11,591	13,789	7,367	6,422
1949	21,404	11,012	10,392	11,013	5,925	5,088
1950	21,965	11,300	10,665	13,705	7,399	6,306
1951	20,671	..	..	14,647	..	..
1952	19,973	..	..	15,732	..	..
1953	21,226	..	..	13,671	..	..
1954	24,755	..	..	13,654	..	..
1955	30,404	..	..	11,075	..	..

From the statistics it is apparent that the birth-rate during the decade 1941—50 had decreased largely, being 30,676 in 1941 to 21,965 in 1950. The mean birth-rate in the quinquennium 1941—45 was 29.5 per mille as against 23.1 in the quinquennium 1946—50. In the last quinquennium 1951—55 the mean birth-rate was 23.8 per mille. The mean birth-rate in the first quinquennium 1941—45 was 23.2 per mille of the population as against 14.1 in the quinquennium 1946—50. In the last quinquennium the death-rate was 14.0 per mille. As mentioned before these statistics generally indicate the trend and may not always be very precise. For reasons given before the population in 1951 census appears an under-estimate.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

Fever.

Tallent's last *District Gazetteer mentions* :—

Of all the diseases common in the district fever causes the greatest mortality. But fever covers a number of ailments which the ignorant *Chaukidars* as stated before are unable to identify. Even allowing for the element of error due to want of medical knowledge on the part of the reporting agency, there is no doubt that fever is really responsible for the greater number of deaths every year. An account of different types of fever met with in the district and given in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau*, 1926 on a note supplied by a former Civil Surgeon, Rai Bahadur Tripura Charan Guha is given below :—

"Daltonganj, the headquarters station of the district, is fairly healthy except during the rainy season when cases of malarial fever (and diseases of the digestive system) are very prevalent. In some rural areas specially in thanas Kerh, Garu, Mahuadand[1] and Bhaunathpur malarial fever is more or less prevalent throughout the year and very severe during the rains. New comers in those areas suffer more than the permanent residents owing to the immunity the latter obtain from their long residence. The quotidian quartan, and tertian types of malarial fever are prevalent in the district and are the result of being infected with different kinds of malarial parasites introduced into the system by mosquito bites. The onset of fever in these cases is preceded by a fit of ague followed by a rise of temperature which at times reaches even 106° and remission takes place with profuse perspiration. These types of malaria are readily cured by quinine. Malignant subtertain and quotidian malaria are also frequently met with in this district and are also cured by a judicious use of quinine and arsenic. Double types of these fevers are rare, but are sometimes met with in Daltonganj town. Remittent fevers are occasionally observed in different forms; these are mostly malarial, but are at times difficult to differentiate from kala-azar and enteric fever. Typho-malarial fever, as described by former writers, appears to be nothing but typhoid fever which is prevalent in this district, most of the cases occurring in Daltonganj town from June to September. Kala-azar has also lately made its appearance in the district and is frequently noticed in the thanas of Kerh, Garu, Mahuadand and Bhaunathpur. The characteristic of this fever is that it is accompanied by extreme anaemia with enlargement of the spleen and liver and that it is not amenable to treatment by quinine.

1. A visit to Mahuadand and halt in May, 1960 without a mosquito-curtain was possible. There were no mosquitoes seen. (P. C. R. C.).

One hundred and sixty cases of kala-azar were treated at the Daltonganj Hospital in the year 1924 with injections of antimony. This fever used to be mistaken in former years for malarial fever with enlargement of the spleen and liver, but has now been found to be due to a parasite entirely different from malarial parasites (Leishman Donovan). Malarial remittent fever is not fundamentally different from intermittent fever, being merely due to the continuity of the attacks without the usual period of intermission. Such a fever lasts for a short time and is now and then attended with hyper-pyrexia, delirium and coma.

"Two types of non-malarial remittent fever are found. In one variety the temperature is usually low, rising from 99° to 101°. This variety persists for a definite period, sometimes seven days, sometimes twelve and is not relieved by quinine. In the second variety the temperature is high from the beginning, rising from 101° to 105°, the liver is invariably congested, and the spleen considerably enlarged. There is occasionally delirium and coma, and fever subsides on the 14th, or 18th or more usually on the 21st day. Quinine treatment does no good. The anaemia and enlargement of the spleen persist for sometime after the remission. These types of fever are at times mistaken for typhoid when they are accompanied by diarrhoea, delirium and coma.

"Simple continued fever or ephemeral fever due to indigestion and to exposure to sun and cold is at times met with, and cases of sun-stroke with hyper-pyrexia are not uncommon. Cases of 'nasha' fever also occur. This is a febrile disturbance lasting for three or four days, with congestion of the mucous of one nostril or of both. Injection of cold water in the nostril and packing the inflamed nostril are the modes of treatment adopted.

"Cases of dengue and seven-days' fever have also been observed, but these are mostly imported and have been found in persons who carried the infection from some places outside the district.

"Rheumatic fevers due to acute rheumatism, with joint troubles and heart complications and hyper-pyrexia, are not uncommonly met with. Diphtheria is now quite a common disease in Daltonganj town, especially among children. Chicken-pox and measles are very common at the latter part of the cold weather and at the beginning of the hot season."

In order to eradicate the scourge of malaria, an Anti-Malaria Survey Team visited Palamau in 1951 and made extensive survey. In

the survey it was detected that the area was "moderate endemicity" as the recorded spleen cases were found to be 13.2 per cent. Malaria season is from June to December. A culicifacies, a well known vector species of this area was found to be predominant among other species collected. A full-fledged National Malaria Control Unit is functioning at Daltonganj since 1956 with Daltonganj, Garhwa and Nagar sub-units of Palamau and Bhabua sub-units of Shahabad district. For the purpose of anti-malaria eradication scheme, the Latehar subdivision is under the jurisdiction of Ranchi National Malaria Control Unit. After the establishment of the National Malaria Control Unit at Daltonganj it appears that the incidence of malaria is on the decline and to large extent has been controlled. The entomological vector species which were responsible for the spread of malarial fever in Palamau are found to be on the decline. After assessment it was found that the incidence of entomological vector species in 1956 was 3.8 per cent per ten man hour which came down to 2.5 per cent per ten man hour in 1957. In 1958 and 1959 the incidence is reported to be 0.0 per cent per man hour. The annual assessment of the incidence of malaria as reported by the Daltonganj Malaria Eradication Unit is as follows :—

Spleen rate—2 to 10 years children.

1957-58.	1958-59.
30 per cent.	12.0 per cent.

Children parasite rate—2 to 10 years.

1957-58.	1958-59.
3.2 per cent.	1.9 per cent.

Dispensary statistics.

	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
All cases	26,789	34,123	48,564
Malaria	4,876 (18.1 %)	3,528 (10.1 %)	3,957 (8.0 %)

Thus from the above statistics it is apparent that the incidence of malaria in Palamau is definitely on the decline.

Kala-azar.

The incidence of kala-azar has also decreased now. The disease is now not considered fatal and is curable. According to the hospital and dispensary figures the incidence of kala-azar was 98 in 1955, which rose to 167 in 1956. Its incidence in 1957 was 73 as against 31 in 1958.

Influenza.

The details of fever will not be complete without mention of influenza. The epidemic of influenza which swept over Northern India

in the wake of the First World War in 1918 also caused havoc in Palamau. The details of the outbreak of this epidemic are quoted below from the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) :—

"No part of the province suffered so severely from this epidemic as Palamau and the neighbouring districts of Shahabad, Gaya and Hazaribagh. No definite statistics of the incidence of the disease are available as influenza was simply included under the head of "fever", but the death-rate from "fever" in 1918, when the epidemic was worst, was 59.4 per cent or more than twice as high as that of the preceding year. The annual sanitary report of the district for 1918 shows that, as in other districts, the disease was imported first into the towns and thence spread through the villages where it found its readiest victims. Its presence was first noticed at the end of July but the first wave subsided during August. In September the second and by far the worse outbreak started, the number of deaths from fever as shown in the margin mounted rapidly during September and October and reached its maximum of nearly 13,000 in November. By the end of January, 1919 it had practically subsided. A rough calculation puts the number of deaths directly attributable to influenza during these months at 25,000. The disease was usually accompained by pneumonia and it was generally the latter that proved fatal. The number of deaths was greatest in November when the first touch of the cold weather would predispose towards pneumonia. The towns, where there are greater facilities for remaining in bed and being attended to by other people, were less affected than the purely rural areas. It is an established fact that in India as a whole the disease was most fatal to persons in the prime of life, who would be the most difficult to keep in bed. The north of the district escaped comparatively lightly. The death-rate for the year was highest in Bhandaria (99.1 per mille), Mahuadanr (87.1 per mille), and Ranka (83.9 per mille). It was lowest in Hussainabad (61.7 per mille), and Daltonganj town (42.4 per mille). An epidemic on this scale which affected every village inevitably outran the resources of the District Board. Three extra doctors were employed. The village *chaukidars* distributed quinine, eucalyptus oil, and turpentine by way of preventive. Leaflets of instructions prepared by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals were circulated. Influenza tablets, quinine pills, and liniments were also distributed as widely as possible through the police, the vaccination staff, the veterinary assistants and a number of the local gentry. But the careful nursing and dieting that the disease required could not be provided, and no epidemic has left a deeper mark on the population of the district. Since 1918 influenza has been very prevalent in the district, the outbreaks occurring at the beginning of the hot and cold seasons".

Number of deaths from "fever" in the district during certain months of 1918 and 1919.

1918.	
June	1,272.
July	1,917.
August	1,505.
September	2,887.
October	7,778.
November	12,773.
December	6,043.
1919.	
January	2,420.
February	1,584.

The incidence of influenza as an epidemic has abated but there are usually stray cases every year.

Cholera.

The last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) mentions :—"In 1894 there occurred a particularly violent outbreak of cholera which caused over 6,500 deaths. Thereafter outbreaks occurred with some regularity every two or three years. In more recent times there were outbreaks of some severity in the four consecutive years from 1918 to 1921, after five years of comparative freedom. "The conditions favouring the spread of the disease' remarks a former Civil Surgeon, 'are only too patent—filthy, sodden villages, and a water-supply polluted in every possible way, the latter evil being specially intensified by deficiency of rain for a long time before. The weekly *bazars* held in large villages, bringing a large concourse of people together, contribute to its spread.' " The remarks above still hold good to some extent. Barring Daltonganj town, the source of drinking water-supply is not satisfactory. In the south of the district the usual source of water-supply is the *dhari* or common village spring. It is a square hole, usually about two feet square, sunk in one of the lower terraces of the rice fields. This hole is kept from falling in by alternate layers of planks. Often there is only one such source for the whole village, and it is used by both cattle and men while the rice fields themselves are contaminated by the cattle that graze there. The *pucca* wells in the district are far too inadequate to supply pure water in the rural areas and the chief sources of water-supply are still *nalas*, river and *dhari*.

Cholera has never been totally absent from the district and there have been very few years in which it did not claim some deaths. From the statistics of fifteen years (1941—55) which will be given later it appears that the average annual deaths from this disease in the decade 1941—50 was 1,156. During this decade cholera broke out in epidemic form in 1941, 1943, 1945 and 1950 when it took 1,135; 5,332; 2,460 and 540 lives respectively. After 1950 the incidence of cholera seems to be small except in 1952 when it caused 2,015 deaths.

Small-pox.

Like cholera the disease of small-pox is also endemic in the district. Hardly any year passes without a stray case of small-pox. But the death-rate from small-pox is usually small. The average annual deaths

from small-pox in the decade 1941—50 was 322. In 1951 small-pox broke out in epidemic form and caused 1,579 casualties. Since then the incidence of small-pox is on the decline. Vaccination was first made compulsory in Daltonganj Municipality and was later extended throughout the district. The allergy of the masses towards vaccination has disappeared to a very large extent.

Bowel complaints.

Bowel complaints, dysentery and diarrhoea are quite common. Broadly speaking the reasons are the impurity of the drinking water. Throughout the district pipe water-supply is available only in Daltonganj town and that also in an inadequate quantity. The low economic condition of the poorer sections forces them to consume various kinds of undigestive foods, particularly at times of scarcity. During the period of distress the poorer sections depend on forest leaves, roots and such fruits they would not normally take.

The statement below will show the incidence of death caused by principal diseases of the district from 1941 to 1955 :—

Year.	Death caused by—				
	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Dysentery.	Respiratory diseases.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1941	1,135	473	16,025	13	12
1942	135	638	16,117	6	5
1943	5,352	171	15,671	30	5
1944	461	317	16,176	52	8
1945	2,460	794	16,235	43	10
1946	596	228	12,691	24	18
1947	367	93	12,826	38	6
1948	393	67	9,765	36	13
1949	126	32	10,998	23	15
1950	540	417	12,770	32	26
1951	19	1,579	11,510	18	28
1952	2,015	438	12,490	47	42
1953	61	44	12,126	21	53
1954	16	8	11,894	45	32
1955	26	12	9,371	26	11

These figures are compiled from the report of the Civil Surgeon and *Bihar Statistical Hand-Book*, 1953—55.

Plague.

The last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) mentions :— "Plague first broke out in the district in 1901, when there were 168 deaths. Up to the present, this disease has not obtained a firm hold on the district, the total number of fatal cases in the last ten years being only just over 100. Such cases as occur on the Gaya border near Hariharganj, the infection being imported". After that the virulence of plague has not occurred in the district except in 1941 when stray cases of plague were reported from the Hariharganj thana, the casualty being one.

OTHER DISEASES.

Yaws.

This is a typical disease in the district. It causes ulcers on the body of the people. The disease is infectious and spread through flies. It is widespread among the poorer section of the people in Garu and Manatu and Hariharganj police-stations. These ulcers are commonly called by them as "*Sawaiya ghao*". About 0.75 to 1.2 per cent of the people in the first two thanas are affected with this disease. This has been revealed by a survey conducted in the year 1955 by the Public Health Department. It is a highly infectious disease and cripples the person suffering from such ulcers in the long run if left untreated. In Garu the majority of the people suffering from yaws belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They do not go to hospital and prefer their own crude way of treatment with indigenous medicines and *ojha*. It was found that few among the ailing in advanced stages of the disease had a few days attendance at the hospital but as soon as they got slight relief they left attending the dispensary. They want that the treatment be taken to their doors. The scheme by the Government for free medical aids with drugs and appliances is still under consideration.

Tuberculosis.

Due to poverty, ignorance, mal-nutrition and unhealthy and unhygienic environmental sanitation the incidence of tuberculosis was on the increase in the district and was responsible for the death of a large section of the people. In 1938, a T. B. Clinic attached to Sadar Hospital, Daltonganj was started with aid from King George V Memorial Fund and now is functioning under the State Tuberculosis Association, Bihar. A ten-bedded T. B. ward (six for male and four for female) has been started since 1950 for indoor treatment of tuberculosis patients. The incidence of tuberculosis is now not large due to the activities of the World Health Organisation and the State Tuberculosis Association, Bihar. The total indoor patients treated in the Sadar Hospital was 66 in 1953, 52 in 1954, 35 in 1955, 30 in 1956, 31 in 1957 and 31 in 1958. The statistics reveal that the incidence of tuberculosis is decreasing.

Venereal diseases.

Venereal diseases are very common in the district. It is prevalent both in rural and urban areas of the district.

MEDICAL ORGANISATION.

The Civil Surgeon (now called the Senior Executive Medical Officer and the Civil Surgeon) is the head of the medical organisation in the

district. He is the Inspecting Officer of all Government hospitals and dispensaries and the District Board dispensaries. He is the Superintendent of the Sadar Hospital, Daltonganj. He has also the responsibility of the preventive side of the diseases. For this purpose he is assisted by the District Medical Officer of Health. One of the main responsibilities of the Civil Surgeon is to prevent the outbreak of epidemics, and in case of an outbreak to control it. He is also the authorised Drugs Inspector for the district.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Prior to 1945, hospitals and dispensaries of the district were maintained by the local bodies and Government only from time to time used to give grant to them. In April 1945 the Sadar Hospital, Daltonganj was provincialised which means that it became entirely a Government institution. The Latehar Subdivisional Hospital was taken over by the State Government in 1955 and in the same year the Garhwa District Board Dispensary was provincialised. After the abolition of Zamindari by the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950 the Ranka and Chainpur Dispensaries managed by the zamindars were taken over by the Government in 1956. The total number of dispensaries maintained by the Government in 1959 was 15. They are as follows: (1) Sadar Hospital, Daltonganj, (2) Garhwa Subdivisional Hospital, (3) Latehar Subdivisional Hospital, (4) Chainpur, (5) Ranka, (6) Police Hospital, Daltonganj, (7) Nagar Untari, (8) Garu, (9) Hariharganj, (10) Panki, (11) Mahuadanr, (12) Balumath, (13) Patan, (14) Bishrampur and (15) Manatu Dispensary. The District Board maintains dispensaries at Lesliganj, Majhiaon, Kandi, Haidernagar, Hussainabad, Chhattarpur, Bhandaria, Barwadih, Chhipadohar and at Chandwa. Besides, the Eastern Railway maintains a dispensary at Barwadih for the treatment of the railway staff. There are also dispensaries at Japla, Rajhara and Mahuadanr which are maintained by the Japla Cement Factory, Rajhara Colliery and the Catholic Mission respectively. Japla Factory has a small hospital. Besides there is a dispensary at Netarhat which for all purposes is under the jurisdiction of the Civil Surgeon, Ranchi.

Sadar Hospital, Daltonganj.—It is the oldest medical institution in the district which was opened in 1867. It was previously maintained by the Daltonganj Municipality. It was taken over by the Government in 1945. The Civil Surgeon is the Superintendent of the Sadar Hospital. There is a Deputy Superintendent of the rank of the Civil Assistant Surgeon, one Civil Assistant Surgeon and one Lady Civil Assistant Surgeon. The hospital is also the centre for the training of the *dais*. Facilities for general treatment and aids to diagnosis exist in the hospital in the shape of Pathology, Radiology, Dental, Optical, Ear, Nose and Throat diseases. Besides there is a ten-bedded ward for indoor treatment of the tuberculosis patients. The hospital has earned popularity and remains overcrowded, throughout the year. The total strength of beds in the hospital is 60 for males and 10 for females excluding the

ten beds for tuberculosis patients. The statistics of indoor and outdoor patients for the last five years is as follows :—

1954.		1955.		1956.		1957.		1958.	
Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2,304	31,819	2,407	29,470	2,746	31,750	2,987	33,505	2,611	27,468

The hospital still lacks many modern equipments for a specialist treatment.

Subdivisional Hospital, Latehar.—This hospital was established in 1902 and was provincialised in 1955. The upper medical staff consists of the Civil Assistant Surgeon and one Lady Civil Assistant Surgeon. The facilities in this hospital are for general treatment only. There are no facilities for specialists' treatment. The strength of beds in the hospital in 1959 was 15 for males and 9 for females. The statistics for indoor and outdoor patients are as follows :—

1954.		1955.		1956.		1957.		1958.	
Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
571	15,736	600	13,431	915	17,081	936	17,825	814	15,167

Garhwa Subdivisional Hospital.—The Garhwa Dispensary was opened in 1902 and was maintained by the District Board. After the creation of the Garhwa subdivision it became the subdivisional hospital and was provincialised in 1955. The hospital has four beds for males and two for females. The facilities are for general treatment only. The upper medical staff consists of a Civil Assistant Surgeon and a Lady Civil Assistant Surgeon. The statistics for indoor and outdoor patients are as follows :—

1954.		1955.		1956.		1957.		1958.	
Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.	Indoor.	Out-door.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
128	16,167	177	16,167	539	22,348	388	16,406	323	15,248

Facilities for a specialist treatment are not available.

Police Hospital, Daltonganj.—The Police Hospital was established in 1902 for the treatment of police staff. The total strength of beds is 25. Bad cases requiring specialised treatment are removed to the Sadar Hospital.

The chart below will show the number of treated patients in the different hospitals and dispensaries of the district from 1954 to 1958 :—

Name of the institutions.	1954.						1955.					
	Fever.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Respiratory.	Venereal diseases.	Fever.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Respiratory.	Venereal diseases.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Sadar Hospital ..	2,870	2	9	719	107	401	1,501	..	..	787	767	332
2. Latehar Hospital ..	1,289	..	4	1,334	2,935	158	311	2	2	421	2,907	228
3. Garhwa Hospital ..	2,980	..	9	687	1,110	285	2,606	..	8	829	792	243
4. Chhipadohar Dispensary ..	582	..	..	103	54	43	768	..	1	84	186	69
5. Ranka Dispensary ..	1,158	..	..	152	369	17	1,145	..	..	178	887	28
6. Chainpur Dispensary ..	1,186	..	..	238	934	26	1,054	..	..	255	1,360	33
7. Nagar Dispensary ..	2,225	..	..	86	257	93	1,766	..	..	101	365	82
8. Garu Dispensary ..	526	..	..	41	138	241	286	..	..	28	140	91
9. Hariharganj Dispensary ..	3,836	..	5	236	1,028	461	3,169	..	7	404	938	537
10. Balumath Dispensary ..	1,618	..	2	191	745	8	644	..	..	138	460	8
11. Panki Dispensary ..	3,333	..	17	952	68	325	3,382	..	18	770	234	216
12. Mahuadanr Dispensary ..	Not available.						Not available.					
13. Chhattarpur Dispensary ..	1,250	..	..	101	515	18	846	..	..	63	210	7
14. Chandwa Dispensary ..	584	..	..	109	565	47	288	..	..	131	198	28
15. Bhandaria Dispensary ..	406	1	2	82	413	13	799	..	..	120	449	51
16. Police Hospital ..	Not available.						Not available.					
17. Barwadih Dispensary ..	Not available.						Not available.					
18. Hussainabad Dispensary ..	1,828	..	..	205	1,190	168	1,843	..	13	192	1,228	51
19. Haidarnagar Dispensary ..	3,803	..	..	403	2,139	70	3,261	..	..	292	2,126	92
20. Lesliganj Dispensary ..	Not available.						Not available.					
21. Majhiaon Dispensary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	436	..	..	92	201	7
22. Kandi Dispensary ..	877	..	..	134	315	33	776	..	..	81	319	24
23. Manatu Dispensary ..	1,244	..	..	56	321	62	993	..	..	82	72	66
24. Bishrampur Dispensary ..	1,795	..	..	326	1,083	57	780	..	..	134	892	51
25. Patan Dispensary ..	2,444	..	..	680	817	69	1,849	..	..	604	443	60

Name of the institutions.	1956.						1957.						1958.					
	Fever.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Respiratory.	Venereal diseases.	Fever.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Respiratory.	Venereal diseases.	Fever.	Small-pox.	Cholera.	Dysentery.	Respiratory.	Venereal diseases.
1	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1. Sadar Hospital ..	1,047	5	3	726	354	309	1,268	..	48	677	1,138	175	2,782	1	..	1,052	1,203	206
2. Latehar Hospital ..	205	..	..	621	3,003	160	519	..	..	247	3,501	78	539	..	..	Not available.		
3. Garhwa Hospital ..	1,696	..	8	420	470	162	607	..	14	1,015	286	558	553	..	..	1,072	270	456
4. Chhipadohar Dispensary ..	906	1	..	48	174	73	631	..	..	100	..	53	531	..	..	106	1	41
5. Ranka Dispensary ..	898	..	..	181	1,158	64	975	..	..	205	1,070	79	694	..	..	500	1,105	70
6. Chainpur Dispensary ..	1,204	..	..	393	1,801	53	1,963	..	6	285	1,730	34	1,769	3	..	456	1,134	34
7. Nagar Dispensary ..	1,564	..	..	238	462	104	2,148	..	..	603	1,008	125	1,437	..	..	576	1,071	62
8. Garu Dispensary ..	93	..	..	21	119	58	454	..	..	45	115	64	487	..	..	36	268	39
9. Hariharganj Dispensary ..	3,074	..	11	423	440	529	2,759	..	12	667	646	612	2,339	..	..	739	670	589
10. Balumath Dispensary ..	724	..	..	202	775	11	614	..	..	202	402	159	319	..	..	135	734	31
11. Panki Dispensary ..	2,607	..	..	341	216	38	2,058	..	..	507	170	389	2,046	..	..	490	106	480
12. Mahuadanr Dispensary ..	591	..	..	97	169	10	422	..	..	207	489	6	137	..	..	312	346	2
13. Chhattarpur Dispensary ..	738	..	..	320	561	15	Not available						515	..	..	256	432	14
14. Chandwa Dispensary ..	298	..	..	99	255	52	1,028	..	..	127	817	26	Not available.					
15. Bhandaria Dispensary ..	720	..	..	344	413	131	356	..	1	52	181	35	199	..	4	45	229	17
16. Police Hospital ..	Not available.						Not available.											
17. Barwadih Dispensary ..	318	..	..	191	354	133	555	..	1	116	268	65	374	..	..	115	302	346
18. Hussainabad Dispensary ..	679	..	..	367	687	28	860	..	..	384	481	36	378	..	..	470	341	52
19. Haidarnagar Dispensary ..	2,259	..	..	357	1,590	26	4,149	..	..	489	2,695	15	2,619	..	..	330	2,300	6
20. Lesliganj Dispensary ..	1,854	..	..	743	1,698	144	824	..	..	619	1,186	102	523	..	..	551	637	107
21. Majhiaon Dispensary ..	733	..	..	210	450	46	850	..	140	225	400	190	1,551	..	..	573	603	46
22. Kandi Dispensary ..	694	..	..	92	575	30	321	..	84	135	539	16	269	..	..	95	381	9
23. Manatu Dispensary ..	1,849	..	..	250	351	514	Not available.											
24. Bishrampur Dispensary ..	785	..	..	175	829	21	1,950	..	13	170	432	255	458	..	5	79	200	27
25. Patan Dispensary ..	841	..	..	213	514	67	1,599	..	24	124	1,320	42	816	..	3	1,138	2,440	27
							1,569	..	..	266	427	37	551	..	..	274	272	28

Besides the above-mentioned hospitals and dispensaries provision is being made to provide medical facilities in each Block of the State. In Palamau there are now 13 Blocks out of which 10 have medical facilities. The medical staff consists of one Medical Officer of the rank of the Civil Assistant Surgeon, one Lady Health Visitor, one Sanitary Inspector, three Midwives and three Health Workers. The Lady Health Visitor usually visits the expectant mothers and conduct labour cases. There are Health Sub-Centres in each Block with a Health Assistant and a *Dai* and the Medical Officer of the Block visits the Health Sub-Centres on fixed dates. The Block Medical Officer has been given transport facilities so that he could make himself available in different Health Sub-Centres and other parts of the Block. It is a duty of the Senior Executive Medical Officer and the Civil Surgeon to inspect the Block medical units.

Child Welfare and Maternity Centre.

Since 1949 one Child Welfare and Maternity Centre is functioning at Daltonganj which is attached to the female section of the Sadar Hospital. It is financed by the State Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau. Under the scheme of U. N. I. C. E. F., a Child Welfare Centre has been started at Latehar and Garhwa. Anti-natal and post-natal services are conducted in these clinics. The Lady Civil Assistant Surgeon regularly visits these centres which have Lady Health Visitors and other staff attached to them. The U. N. I. C. E. F. works its milk-feeding programme for school children and maternity cases through this and other units.

Family Planning.

A family planning centre is now functioning at Daltonganj under a Lady Health Visitor. The centre is at its initial stage and has not made much headway. There is a scheme to open such centres at Chainpur, Ranka, Nagar, Garu, Hariharganj, Panki, Mahuadanr, Balumath, Chhipadohar and at Bhaunathpur. A good deal of pioneering work has still to be made. Till now (May, 1960) very little headway has been made.[1]

World Health Organisation.

A Tuberculosis Survey in Daltonganj police-station was sponsored in 1955 by the World Health Organisation. At present an anti-malaria campaign is being fully run by W. H. O. Other W. H. O. programmes such as fighting against filaria, tuberculosis, etc., are also subsidised by the State Government.

In 1959 an intensive B. C. G. campaign was organised in Palamau district. Unfortunately either due to infective needle or some other cause there were a number of cases of bad after-effect among the students of a high school at Daltonganj. The campaign had to be called off.

1. A B. C. G. campaign in 1959 had some unsatisfactory and unexpected results in Daltonganj town. A rumour spread that under a garb, the State was pushing in a Birth Control Government (B. C. G.) movement. (P. C. R. C.)

Indigenous Dispensaries.

Under indigenous dispensaries come *Ayurvedic* and *Unani*. There are 13 *Ayurvedic* dispensaries in the district. They are at Ramna (Nagar police station), Kisunpur (Patan), Saraidih (Barwadih), Ataula (Majhiaon), Loharsi (Panki), Ghaghra (Hussainabad), Amraura (Bhaunathpur), Matlang (Latehar), Dandarkala (Panki), Dumaria (Garhwa), Babhandi (Hariharganj), Newra (Daltonganj) and Bishrampur Pithaura in Hariharganj police-station. All the *Ayurvedic* dispensaries are maintained by the District Board except the last two which are only subsidised district board dispensaries.

There is only one *Tibbi* (*Unani*) dispensary in the district which is at Nawa Bazar in Bishrampur police-station. It is also maintained by the District Board.

Homeopathy.—Homeopathic system of treatment is now becoming popular in the urban areas. The District Board maintains two homeopathic dispensaries—one at Nawagarh in Panki police-station and the other at Sobha in Hussainabad police-station.

Public Health.

The low economic level of the common men in this district does not give them much opportunity to lead a clean living and eat good food. Inhabitants of the rural areas in the district are more backward in regard to hygiene and public health than in other districts of the State. They have very poor knowledge of principles of sanitation and hygiene. There is still a general belief among the villagers that spirits bring about disease. During cholera for example it is a common experience that as soon as some people get affected there is a mass exodus of the population leaving their homes and even their near relation who had the attack inside their homes, sometimes even locking them from outside. Some of the infected persons moving to different places through common routes infecting water-supplies and villages in the way and thereby spread the epidemic widely in the district. Bad drinking water is another reason for bad living. The facilities for supply of good water are very poor and absolutely inadequate.

Public Health Organisation.

The District Medical Officer for Health is the head of the health organistaion of the district. In his work he is assisted by three Assistant Health Officers posted at three subdivisions of the district. Besides them, there are seven Sanitary Inspectors, 21 Health Inspectors, 33 Vaccinators and 42 Disinfectors. The work of public health of the Daltonganj Municipality is looked after by a Municipal Medical Officer for Health. He is assisted in his work by a Sanitary Inspector and Vaccination establishment. The main function of the Health Department is to control the spread of epidemics like cholera, small-pox and plague. Without underground drainage and slum clearance the problem is difficult in Daltonganj and it can be imagined how difficult the problem will be in the rural areas.

A statement showing the figures of work done by Public Health staff working in Palamau district for 10 years from 1949 to 1958.

Years.	Cholera.					Small-pox.		
						Vaccination.		
	No. of affected villages.	No. of inoculation.	No. of wells disinfected.	No. of houses disinfected.	No. of affected villages.	Primary.	Re-vaccination.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1949 ..	60	Not available.	4,02,610	503	32	19,255	15,486	34,741
1950 ..	105	2,14,244	44,207	905	204	9,555	26,031	35,586
1951 ..	..	1,55,237	45,850	5	423	38,998	85,001	1,23,999
1952 ..	279	7,73,034	80,202	2,212	139	26,170	53,695	79,865
1953 ..	9	5,61,488	97,444	247	15	41,646	1,36,396	1,78,042
1954 ..	1	4,39,838	79,034	10	..	65,549	3,88,853	4,54,402
1955 ..	20	3,95,161	86,553	174	..	74,472	2,90,658	3,65,130
1956 ..	13	3,89,670	71,881	45	1	49,334	73,978	1,23,312
1957 ..	50	5,54,987	25,169	1,120	1	26,318	2,58,535	3,20,853
1958 ..	9	5,58,523	1,48,988	130	46	59,741	3,35,346	3,95,087
Total ..	546	40,42,182	7,19,588	5,351	861	4,11,038	16,63,979	20,75,017

Assistant Health Officers, Sanitary Inspectors and Health Inspectors have to work as Food Inspectors also throughout the district to check food adulteration. They visit the vendors of the different foodstuff to check adulteration. Mustard oil is tested to detect adulteration. The Food Inspectors also take samples of the variety of foodstuff and send them to Chemical Analyst, Bihar for analysis. The work done is rather inadequate. Very nominal fines are imposed usually in cases of conviction which do not have any deterrent effect.

Sanitation during fairs and *melas* has to be carefully watched and controlled to check epidemics. The weekly *bazars* held in large villages and important annual fairs where there is a large assembly encourage the spread of infectious diseases. In order to check epidemics the health staff has to be alert. Vaccination and inoculation against small-pox and cholera are given in fairs and *melas*. Popular talks are

given to spread the knowledge of sanitation. The important annual *melas* of the district that are watched are those held at Panki, Balubhang, Satbarwa, Balumath, Deori, Hariya, Nagar Untari and Latehar.

WATER-SUPPLY.

Water-supply is a big problem in Palamau due to its topographical situation. In a number of villages there are no *pucca* wells and people have to take water from filthy *nalas*, river and *dhari*. The sources of water-supply occasionally become the main cause of the spread of epidemics and bowels diseases. The District Board whose responsibility is to supply pure water in the rural areas has no sufficient fund to sink a large number of *pucca* wells. The District Board upto 1959 has sunk only 450 *pucca* wells in the rural areas. The number of wells seems to be quite inadequate, the proportion of which comes to one well for eight villages. Pipe water is available only at Daltonganj, the district headquarters.

The review of the medical facilities shows that although there has been a great improvement in providing them, the district is still very backward. The number of beds now provided for throughout all the hospitals and dispensaries is extremely inadequate if the total population is considered. It cannot be said that there is still an allergy of the people against hospitals and dispensaries. Very much depends on the drive, the medical and surgical skill of the doctor and particularly the human element in him. If a doctor is good and has the human element in him he will get patients even in the remotest corner of the district. A way-side dispensary in this district under a capable doctor attracted hundreds of patients every day and there was a crowd on every day in the winter. The doctor was conducting surgical operations of a difficult nature. The next way-side dispensary within another fifteen miles was deserted at the same time.* As long as the common man is so very poor as he is in Palamau district, eats indifferent food of low caloric values, drinks foul water and has to rough out bitter cold and a very hot summer, there will be the incidence of poor health. The district needs more of doctors of human touch with the zeal of a missionary. It is sad to think that in a district there should hardly be any well-equipped hospital and nursing homes, specialists in different areas and research Centres. There are still a number of quacks and witch-doctors who have their clientele.

*This was the Editor's personal experience (P. C. R. C.).

CHAPTER XVII.

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.

In the history of representation of Palamau, like other districts of India, the first General Election of 1952 for the representation in the Bihar Legislative Assembly and the House of People, conducted on the basis of adult franchise was a unique feature and a new experiment. It was a new experiment because prior to this event for the public representation either of local bodies or of Provincial Assembly or Council, there were various restrictions, viz., property-tax, educational qualification and social status, etc. The 1952 election which was conducted on the basis of adult franchise also provided equal opportunities for men and women of all classes including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes to exercise their right of casting votes and co-operate in the country's scheme of democratic set-up of Government by electing their representatives.

General Election of 1952.

Legislative Assembly.

After delimiting the boundaries of the constituencies by "The Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (Bihar) Order, 1951", and preparation of the electoral rolls, four all-India parties, viz., the Indian National Congress, Socialist Party, Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party and Bhartiya Jan Sangh and two State Political Parties—Jharkhand and Janata besides the Independents contested all the Assembly seats. The details of the constituencies comprising the areas with the number of seats and their distribution among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given below :—

Constituencies.	Area comprised.	Total no. of seats.	Scheduled Castes.	Scheduled Tribes.
1. Hussainabad-*cum*-Garhwa	Hussainabad, Bhaunathpur and Garhwa police-stations.	2	1	..
2. Nagar Untari ..	Nagar Untari, Ranka and Bhandaria police-stations.	1	..	..
3. Daltonganj ..	Daltonganj police-station	1	..	..
4. Lesliganj-*cum*-Chhattarpur	Lesliganj, Bishrampur, Patan, Chhattarpur and Hariharganj police-stations.	2	1	..
5. Latehar-*cum*-Manatu ..	Latehar subdivision and Manatu and Panki police-stations of Palamau Sadar subdivision.	2	..	..

There were, therefore, five constituencies and eight seats. Three of them were plural and two were single-member constituencies. Two seats were reserved for Scheduled Castes and one was for Scheduled Tribes. All these eight seats were secured by the Congress candidates.

A detailed result of the parties, total number of electorates, votes polled and percentage, etc., is given below :—

Constituencies.	No. of seats.	Total candidates.	No. of candidates contesting after retirement.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes.	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliation.	No. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of col. 10 to col. 7.	Party won.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hussainabad-*cum*-Garhwa.	2	11	8	1,02,136	2,04,272	72,906	35.84	Congress ..	15,961	21.89	Congress.
								Congress ..	18,086	24.80	Ditto.
								Socialist ..	10,425	14.29	
								Socialist ..	8,721	11.96	
								Janata ..	5,917	8.11	
								Independent ..	5,671	7.77	
								Janata ..	5,321	7.29	
								Jharkhand ..	2,804	3.84	
Nagar Untari	1	4	4	55,347	55,347	20,057	36.23	Congress ..	8,935	44.54	Congress.
								Independent ..	5,633	28.08	
								Janata ..	3,671	18.30	
								Socialist ..	1,818	9.06	
Daltonganj ..	1	12	8	47,232	47,232	19,823	41.96	Congress ..	6,931	35.11	Congress.
								Jharkhand ..	3,309	16.61	
								Socialist ..	2,067	10.42	
								Janata ..	1,891	9.55	
								Independent ..	1,719	8.67	
								Independent ..	1,459	7.86	
								K. M. P. P. ..	1,272	6.41	
								Independent ..	1,175	5.92	

Constituencies.	No. of seats.	Total candidates.	No. of candidates contesting after retirement.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes.	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliation.	No. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of col. 10 to col. 7.	Party won.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lesliganj-*cum*-Chhatterpur.	2	15	11	99,057	1,98,114	65,148	32.88	Congress ..	13,023	19.98	Congress.
								Congress ..	9,478	14.54	Ditto.
								Jharkhand ..	6,878	10.55	
								Independent ..	6,693	10.27	
								Janata ..	5,600	8.59	
								Socialist ..	4,835	7.42	
								Socialist ..	4,739	7.27	
								K. M. P. P. ..	3,935	6.04	
								Independent ..	3,471	5.32	
								Janata ..	3,327	5.11	
								Jan Sangh ..	3,169	4.91	
Latehar ..	2	12	7	1,13,831	2,27,662	67,932	29.83	Congress ..	15,444	22.73	Congress.
								Congress ..	18,205	26.99	Ditto.
								Jharkhand ..	12,318	18.13	
								Jharkhand ..	10,884	16.02	
								Independent ..	4,817	7.09	
								Independent ..	3,275	4.82	
								Independent ..	2,989	4.39	

On an analysis of the results of 1952 General Election given above, it is seen that only 35.35 per cent of the total electorates had cast their votes. The causes of the low poll were many, but it may be concluded that the civic consciousness and the incidence of the political education among the masses were not high. The valid voted votes polled in favour of all the eight seats secured by the Congress candidates were lesser than the votes polled against. It appears that the success of the Congress candidates was more due to the Congress organisation and not to the merits of the individual candidates. The oppositionists could not combine as a single unit.

House of People.

In the General Election of 1952 for the House of People, there was a Palamau-*cum*-Hazaribagh-*cum*-Ranchi plural constituency consisting of the whole district of Palamau and some portions of both Hazaribagh and Ranchi districts. The details of the territories and the distribution of seats according to "The Delimitation of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies (Bihar) Order, 1951" was the following :—

Constituency.	Area comprised of—	Total no. of seats.	Scheduled— Caste.	Scheduled— Tribe.
Palamau-*cum*-Hazaribagh-*cum*-Ranchi.	Palamau district, Hunterganj, Pratappur and Chatra police-stations of Chatra subdivision of Hazaribagh district; Bishunpur, Chainpur, Raidih, Sisai and Ghaghra police-stations of Gumla subdivision and Lohardaga police-station of Ranchi Sadar subdivision of Ranchi district.	2	..	1

The Indian National Congress, Socialist Party and the Jharkhand Party contested both the seats, but the Janata Party and one Independent candidate contested the general seat only. The result was as follows :—

Constituency.	No. of candidates.				Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes.	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliation.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of col. 10 to col. 7.	Party won.
	No. of seats.	Total.	Contesting after retirement.	No. of electors.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Palamau-*cum*-Hazaribagh-*cum*-Ranchi.	2	8	8	6,49,178	12,98,356	4,63,405	35.7	Congress ..	96,034	20.92	Congress.
								Congress ..	85,340	18.41	Ditto.
								Jharkhand ..	73,671	15.81	
								Jharkhand ..	69,349	14.96	
								Janata ..	52,089	11.24	
								Socialist ..	33,308	7.18	
								Socialist ..	27,031	5.83	
								Independent ..	26,583	5.73	

The Indian National Congress got both the seats but, it will appear that the votes polled against the Congress were greater than the votes polled in favour. The Indian National Congress secured 1,81,374 as against 2,82,031 secured by the opposite parties.

General Election of 1957.

Legislative Assembly.

The Second General Election was held in 1957 on the basis of the electoral rolls prepared in 1952 and in subsequent years. For keeping an up-to-date record of the electorates there is one District Election Office at the district headquarters with its subordinate subdivisional election offices.

For 1957 elections the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies were delimited afresh on the basis of the latest census figures of 1951 under the provisions in Articles 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution. The territorial division of the Assembly constituencies with the number of seats and their distribution among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is given below :—

Serial no.	Name of constituency.	Extent of constituency.	Total no. of seats.	Scheduled Castes.	Scheduled Tribes.
1	Latehar ..	Latehar subdivision and Panki police-station in Daltonganj Sadar subdivision.	2	..	1
2	Daltonganj ..	Daltonganj police-station in Daltonganj Sadar subdivision and Bhandaria police-station in Garhwa subdivision.	1	..	..
3	Garhwa ..	Garhwa and Ranka police-stations in Garhwa subdivision.	1	..	..
4	Bhaunathpur	Bhaunathpur, Majhiaon and Nagar Untari police-stations in Garhwa subdivision and Hussainabad police-station in Daltonganj Sadar subdivision.	2	1	..
5	Lesliganj ..	Hariharganj, Chhatarpur, Bishrampur, Patan, Manatu and Lesliganj police-stations in Daltonganj Sadar subdivision.	2	1	..

So this time also there were five constituencies for the Assembly with eight seats, but there was some minor re-distribution in the territories and fresh names were given to these constituencies. There were three double-member and two single-member constituencies. In Latehar one seat was reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates and in Bhaunathpur and Lesliganj constituencies for Scheduled Caste candidates. The details of the assembly election are given below :—

Constituency.	No. of seats.	No. of candidates. Total.	Contesting after retirement.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliation.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of col. 10 to col. 7.	Party won.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Latehar ..	2	10	8	94,530	1,89,060	57,171	30.24	Independent ..	1,364	2.40	
								Congress ..	6,555	11.46	
								Janata ..	10,965	19.17	Janata.
								Janata ..	11,861	20.74	Ditto.
								Jharkhand ..	9,715	16.99	
								Jharkhand ..	9,192	16.07	
								Congress ..	6,005	10.15	
								Independent ..	1,514	3.02	
Daltonganj ..	1	11	5	58,366	58,366	22,751	39.00	Jharkhand ..	6,659	29.26	
								Congress ..	5,751	25.27	
								P. S. P. ..	7,047	30.97	P. S. P.
								Janata ..	2,949	13.00	
								Independent ..	345	3.50	
Garhwa ..	1	8	6	64,310	64,310	19,775	30.74	P. S. P. ..	902	4.55	
								Congress ..	8,993	45.53	Congress.
								Janata ..	4,789	24.21	
								Independent ..	3,641	18.46	
								Independent ..	799	4.00	
								Jharkhand ..	651	3.25	
Bhaunathpur	2	10	8	1,06,004	2,12,008	73,683	34.70	Congress ..	14,267	19.36	Congress.
								Congress ..	17,754	24.09	Ditto.
								Janata ..	11,620	15.77	
								Jharkhand ..	2,813	3.81	
								Janata ..	10,248	13.90	
								P. S. P. ..	8,153	11.06	
								P. S. P. ..	7,375	10.04	
								Jharkhand ..	1,453	1.97	
Lesliganj ..	2	11	9	1,20,889	2,41,778	64,207	26.56	Janata ..	9.501	14.79	
								P. S. P. ..	3,280	4.00	
								Jharkhand ..	5,815	9.05	
								Independent ..	3,407	4.82	
								Congress ..	8,840	15.76	
								P. S. P. ..	3,970	6.07	
								Janata ..	11,242	17.15	Janata.
								Jharkhand ..	7,147	11.13	
								Congress ..	11,005	17.13	Congress (General seat).

So out of the eight Assembly seats, four seats came to the Congress, three to the Janata Party and one to the Praja Socialist Party. In Latehar double-member constituency both the seats and in Lesliganj plural constituency one reserved seat were captured by the Janata Party. Both the seats of Bhaunathpur, general seat of Lesliganj and Garhwa single-member constituency were captured by Congress and from Daltonganj the Praja Socialist Party returned. None of these winners had polled over 50 per cent of the total votes polled.

It is not necessary to enter into the creeds of the different parties at any length. The Indian National Congress through their provincial and district organisations had secured all the eight seats of the district in the General Election of 1952. The heavy loss of seats for the same party in 1957 General Election was due to the concerted action of the two other parties, viz., Janata and Jharkhand. Shri Kamakhaya Narayan Singh, commonly known as the Raja of Ramgarh, is the sponsor of the Janata Party. He had a very large estate in Chotanagpur Division which vested in the State after the passing of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950. He utilised the elements that were dissatisfied with the abolition of zamindari and the particular forest policy followed by the State Government. The Jharkhand Party continues to be under the leadership of Shri Jaipal Singh, M. P., a man of Ranchi. Broadly speaking the Jharkhand Party wants to have all the tribal areas put under one administration. They also speak of other grievances like forest policy, etc. The Jharkhand Party could not get a single seat but by dividing the votes they were able to weaken the Congress Party and helped indirectly the return of the Janata candidates. Praja Socialist Party consists mostly of persons who belonged to the Congress Party before. This party could secure only one seat.

The total number of all the valid votes polled and its distribution among the parties was as below :—

Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Votes polled by Congress.	Votes polled by Janata Party.	Votes polled by Jharkhand Party.	Votes polled by P. S. P.	Votes polled by Independent.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7,65,522	2,37,587	79,270	65,893	43,445	30,727	11,110

So the result shows that during the course of five years, Janata Party had made a considerable headway in the political life of the district. Although no candidate of Jharkhand Party returned from any of the assembly seats in Palamau, but this party was third in the political order of the district. The K. M. P. P. of 1952 became the

P. S. P. in 1957 Election and got one seat and was fourth in number. Independent candidates fared worst on almost all the five seats that they contested. The Socialist Party did not contest even a single seat from this district.

Parliamentary.

After delimination order of 1956 for Parliamentary constituencies, the Palamau-*cum*-Hazaribagh-*cum*-Ranchi constituency has been delimited and the following arrangement in the territorial adjustments had been made with the number of seats and its distribution for general, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Latehar subdivision and Panki police-station in Daltonganj Sadar subdivision of Palamau district along with other territories of Ranchi district had been tagged with Lohardaga Parliamentary constituency for one Scheduled Tribe candidate and Daltonganj Sadar Subdivision (excluding Panki police-station) and Garhwa subdivision of Palamau district constituted Palamau Parliamentary constituency for one general seat. The electors numbering 94,530 of Latehar plural assembly constituency which consisted of Latehar subdivision and Panki police-station of Daltonganj Sadar subdivision voted for Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency.

A picture of how polling went in the Parliamentary seats, viz., Lohardaga and Palamau is given below :—

Constituency.	No. of seats.	No. of candidates. Total.	Contesting after retirement.	No. of electors.	Total no. of votes.	Total no. of valid votes polled.	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 6.	Party affiliation.	No. of votes polled by candidates.	Percentage of col. 10 to col. 7.	Party won.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lohardaga ..	1	4	4	3,29,578 (2,35,048 + 94,530)	3,29,578	1,14,376	34.7	Congress ..	34,691	30.3	
								Independent ..	10,510	9.2	
								Jharkhand ..	50,185	43.9	Jharkhand.
								Independent ..	18,990	16.6	
Palamau ..	1	6	5	3,49,569	3,49,569	1,15,601	33.07	Congress ..	47,202	40.8	Congress.
								Jharkhand ..	17,512	15.1	
								P. S. P. ..	15,354	13.3	
								Janata ..	27,822	24.1	
								Independent ..	7,711	6.7	

From Lohardaga Parliamentary constituency, one Scheduled Tribe candidate of Jharkhand Party came out successful securing 43.9 per cent of the total valid votes polled. Besides the Congress Party, two Independent had also contested for this seat.

In Palamau Parliamentary seat, Congress came out successful securing 40.8 per cent of the valid votes polled. This seat was contested by Congress, Jharkhand, P. S. P., Janata Party and one Independent.

In both these constituencies, the votes polled against the winning party was greater than the votes polled in favour.

On a study of the result of the two General Elections it is evident that Congress in Palamau secured all the eight Assembly seats in 1952, but could get only four in 1957. Janata Party which had not secured even a single seat in 1952 General Election for Assembly got three seats and the Jharkhand Party although got none, but seemed a good political rival. The Janata and Jharkhand Parties have been declared by the Election Commission to be a State Party for Bihar and it seems that because of some local reasons their hold in the political life of the district has grown very considerably during the course of five years. A P. S. P. candidate also got one seat in Palamau, but the Independents had considerably lost in 1957 General Election. In 1952 all the votes polled by the Independent candidates for eight Assembly seats were 36,902 which sank to 11,110 in 1957 General Election. There is a general trend not to vote for any Independent candidate who has no affiliation with any party, unless the independent candidate contesting the seat has local importance and pull. One lady candidate on Congress ticket had been returned in both the elections for Assembly seat.

There has been no bye-election during 1952 to 1957.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

In a district like Palamau where the population is small and the incidence of literacy is very small, publication of local newspapers and periodicals is hardly expected. The first Hindi periodical was published in 1932. This was the *Kisan Mitra*, a monthly magazine sponsored by Shri Y. A. Godbole, I.C.S., the then Deputy Commissioner of Palamau. The price was fixed at one pice per copy. Shri Y. A. Godbole took keen interest in the amelioration of the Adibasis and other backward sections in the district. Shri Godbole's ideas in starting this paper was to make propaganda for village uplift and rural reconstruction. The magazine *Kisan Mitra* had a very short existence. Similar has been the fate of several other pioneer ventures in journalism. A monthly Hindi magazine named *Roniyar Bandhu* started in 1946 was closed down by 1951. A Hindi weekly magazine *Naya Samaj* sponsored in 1958 was the mouthpiece of Socialist Party and the venture had to be closed down after a few months. Two other Hindi weeklies *Siksha* and *Dharti* sponsored in 1953 and 1954 respectively had to be closed down within a few months.

In 1950 a weekly Hindi periodical *Haldhar* was started at Daltonganj. This weekly is still in circulation and is locally popular. The periodical has local news, stories, and advertisements. The circulation is confined more or less within the district.

A number of periodicals published elsewhere have a fairly good circulation in this district. The two English dailies of Patna, namely, *Indian Nation* and *Searchlight* have a fairly good circulation while *Statesman* and *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta have some sale. The Patna Hindi daily *Aryavarta* has a good sale.

VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

There are very few voluntary social service organisations in this district. The Arya Samaj sponsored in the district about five decades before had its branches at Daltonganj, Garhwa, Barwadih, Nagar Untari and Chainpur. As is well known the Arya Samajists took a lot of interest in moral re-armament of women, re-marriage of widows and amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes. The Samaj maintains a primary school for girls known as Arya Kanya Pathshala and Dayanand Vedic Anglo High School at Garhwa.

There are three small institutions for women at Daltonganj, Baria and Chainpur where training in craft is given. They are known as *Mahila Silpa Kala Kendra*. They are all of recent origin. In 1954 an institution named *Mahila Bhawan* was started at Daltonganj to impart training in tailoring, knitting and embroidery to poor and destitute women of the town. The institution was registered in 1957 under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. In 1957-58 the Central Social Welfare Board sanctioned an annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 2,000 for the development of the institution. The State Government have also sanctioned a recurring grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,200 annually. The institution is in its initial stage and has not made much headway. There are at present 40 trainees on the roll.

From November, 1959 it has started women's condensed course training school in mahalla Hamidganj in which 25 women of the age-group 20 to 35 years are taken for training up to the junior high school course. Out of the 25 trainees 15 are residential and 10 non-residential. The former gets the monthly stipend of Rs. 40 and the latter Rs. 20. The Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, is taking keen interest for the success of the institution.

Palamau Harijan Sewak Sangh.

The district unit under a Committee is the branch of the Bihar Harijan Sewak Sangh with the main object of eradicating untouchability. There is also a paid worker called *Zila Pracharak* who has to make regular tour in the villages and propagate the tenet for the removal of the virus of untouchability. Social meets are frequently arranged to discuss the evils of untouchability. Two social centres, one at Bishrampur and the other at Chainpur are run by the Sangh.

Harijan Sewa Samiti.

This social service institution was established in 1953 in the district. The main object of the *Samiti* is to persuade the Harijans to send their children to schools.

Bhartiya Kala Mandir.

For the cultivation of music, dance and drama it was started at Daltonganj in 1952 due to the efforts of Mr. N. D. J. Rao, I.A.S., the then Deputy Commissioner. It stands affiliated to Bihar Academy of Music, Dance and Drama and Song and Drama Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. The institution is making headway and making the indigenous songs and dances known outside.

Bharat Sewak Samaj.

This has been functioning with its headquarters at Daltonganj since 1957. As is well known this is an all-India organisation with several objectives and one of which is to secure public co-operation in the successful implementation of the Five-Year Plans. The Samaj also aims at creating an atmosphere under which voluntary labour for constructional work should be available. The Samaj also works for public health and sanitation, fights corruption and tries to help rural reconstruction. The District Branch is running five night centres in the rural areas to give primary education to the adults. At Garu there is a night centre giving training in sewing, embroidery and other handicrafts to the girls.

Bharat Scouts and Guides.

The Association is an all-India organisation and has its branch in Palamau also with its headquarters at Daltonganj. Like all other branches, the Palamau branch of the association trains its members, both boy-scouts and girl-guides in volunteer service and tries to inculcate a sense of discipline in them. It renders help to the public on the occasion of fairs and *melas*. The association has a club called the Scouts' Club at Daltonganj where there are facilities for indoor and outdoor sports including game facilities for children.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PLACES OF INTEREST.

Alinagar.—A small village situated in the extreme north-east of the district, five miles east of Hussainabad.

The village contains a small fort, of which the following description is given in the *Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey, Bengal Circle*, for 1903-04 : "This fort is called by the villagers Rohilla Killa, and its erection is ascribed to a certain Musafi Khan, whose real name, perhaps, was Muzaffar Khan, although I do not know which person of that title is meant. The fort certainly is of a late period, and very likely built by a Muhammedan. It stands on a small hill north-east of the village. Its shape is rectangular, with a square chamber in each corner. The walls inside measure 55 feet 8 inches by 45 feet 10 inches, and 65 feet 8 inches outside between the corner rooms. The latter measure 18 feet by 19 feet 3 inches outside. Inside are five arched niches in each wall, some of which are open. Stairs led to the roof, which was protected by loopholed battlements. In the inner court is a square well, and another one is a little below on the eastern slope of the hill with a vaulted tunnel leading to it. The walls are made of stones, mixed with concrete and bricks. The building is in ruins, but does not call for any repairs, as it is of very little archaeological or architectural interest."

The area of the village according to the census of 1951 was 155 acres with 69 occupied houses. The total population was 393 consisting of 195 males and 198 females.

Amhar Tappa.—A *tappa*, subordinate to *tappa* Untari, situated in the west of the district. It adjoins *tappa* Untari at the north-east corner of the latter.

Amjharia.—A village at a distance of seven miles from Chandwa on the way from Barsidar to Ranchi. There is a forest rest house constructed on the summit of the hill commanding a picturesque view of the area. The place is capable of development and should be a great attraction for the tourists. The area of the village in 1951 census was 618 acres, number of occupied houses 14 with 74 souls consisting of 35 males and 39 females. The villagers are mainly cultivators.

The place is of considerable interest for the motorists and those who want a quiet rest. One should be well provided with provisions. There is no electricity in the bungalow.

Balumath.—A village situated 14 miles away from Chandwa on Chandwa-Chatra Road. From Latehar the place is 30 miles and is connected by an all-weather road. There is a police-station, a high school, District Board dispensary which is likely to be provincialised and Forest Range office. The village is also the headquarters of the National Extension Service Block which was started in July, 1955.

According to 1951 census, the area of the village was 961 acres, number of occupied houses 234 with a population of 1,410 souls consisting of 726 males and 684 females. It is growing into a place of importance due to the development plan undertaken in the area. There is also a grain-*gola* of the Welfare Department. It has a District Board inspection bungalow and construction of another inspection bungalow by the Public Works Department has recently been sanctioned.

Balumath is also the headquarters of the revenue thana of the same name containing the jurisdiction of the two police-stations, viz., Balumath with a population of 47,995 and Chandwa with a population of 29,989.

Banda Pahar.—It is a picnic spot about two miles from Garhwa town. A *mela* is held once a year on the *Rathayatra* day.

Baresanr Tappa.—A *tappa* in the south of the district consisting of a small valley, traversed by the Barwe river and forming a complete basin surrounded by lofty forest-clad hills. There are only seven villages in the *tappa* of which the most important is Baresanr which has a forest bungalow and was formerly a police outpost. The forest road from Lat and the District Board road from Garu converge at this point; from Baresanr a road goes south to Mahuadanr. The area has big game.

Bargarh.—A small but a locally important village at a distance of 10 miles from Bhandaria towards the south. A weekly market is held. It is incorporated in Khajuri *Gram Panchayat*. The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,437 acres, number of occupied houses 128 with 965 souls. It has a library.

Bariatu.—A village in Balumath police-station, four miles away from Balumath towards Chatra. It has a grain-*gola* of Welfare Department and is the junction of village link roads connecting most of the villages of the area. It has also a Missionary dispensary. According to the census of 1951 it has an area of 1,767 acres, the number of occupied houses 199 with a population of 1,040 consisting of 451 males and 589 females. It has a lower primary school and a library.

Bari Tappa.—A large *tappa* in the centre of the district, lying on the east bank of the Koil and on the north bank of the Auranga. It contains much broken and hilly ground in the south where numerous streams flow into the Auranga. Daltonganj is situated in this *tappa* and the Ranchi Road passes through the middle of it. It includes 77 villages.

Barkol Tappa.—A *tappa* on the south-western boundary of the district along the right bank of the Kanhar river. It is a hilly, jungly tract of great natural beauty, including the high plateau of Sarwat. A *bazar* of some local importance is held at Bargarh on Sundays, but this *bazar*, like others in this part of the *district*, has lost much of its business.

Barwadih.—Headquarters of the police-station of the same name in Latehar subdivision and is now also the headquarters of the Circle Officer. It is a railway junction on Dehri-Gomoh line of the Eastern Railway. There is a proposal to connect this place with Katni by rail which would provide the shortest route to Bombay and Western India. The Hutar Collieries which also provide electricity to Daltonganj are approachable through this place. It has a railway colony, providing residential accommodation to its employees. There is a dispensary of the Eastern Railway. The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,121 acres, number of occupied houses 558 with 1,536 souls consisting of 865 males and 671 females. It has a post office, library, lower primary, upper primary, middle and a high school.

Belaunja Pargana.—This *pargana* forms a long strip of broken, hilly country, varying from 10 to 12 miles in breadth, between Palamau Pargana on the south and the Son on the north. It is bounded on the west by Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh and on the east by the Koil, but Khaira Tappa is on the east bank of that river. Until 1871 the *pargana* belonged to the district of Gaya. The former Dema or Sonpura estate extends over the greater part of it.

Betla.—A village situated at a distance of 18 miles from Daltonganj and falls in the Barwadih police-station. It has a dense forest with tigers, wild elephants, leopards, blue-bulls, wild pigs and deer. There is a bungalow of the Forest Department. It is a good game sanctuary. The Forest Department maintains a school for training of the Forest Guards. In the forest of Betla there is an old well, believed to be built by the first settlers of the district, the tribe of Mals.

Betla could be developed into an attraction for the tourists who are particularly interested in big games.

Bhandaria.—It is the headquarters of police-station of the same name. The police-station has an area of 229 square miles with a population of 16,431 according to 1951 census the jurisdiction of which is bounded on the south and west by Surguja. The road connecting it with Ranka and Barwadih has been taken over by the P. W. D. A National Extension Service Block has been opened at Bhandaria under a Block Development Officer. With the creation of National Extension Service Block, extensive development work has been started for the economic development of the backward and tribal people residing in the area. A weekly market is held on Saturday. A new railway line which was to pass close to it has been abandoned. There is a District Board dispensary. The Government have taken over the management of the middle school. A forest inspection bungalow has been constructed. The village Bhandaria has an area of 1,425 acres, number of occupied houses 88 with a population of 537 consisting of 292 males and 245 females.

British Churches of Christ Mission with their headquarters at Daltonganj opened a branch at Nawa Bhandaria in the early thirties.

Mr. Penry Pryce and his colleagues took up the responsibilities and established the Mission. Till the Block was started this Mission did useful work in the field of adult literacy, sanitation and medical relief. In 1953 an eye camp was set up and hundreds of patients were treated by the specialist surgeon. A health unit is still maintained by the Mission. The Mission also teaches by practical demonstrations the making of water-seal latrines and villagers have been encouraged to make smokeless mud stoves.

Bhandaria Block has been started in 1956. It is 75 miles from Daltonganj via Garhwa Link Road and it is only 36 miles from Ramkanda through jungle road. This Block has got only 78 villages out of which nine villages are uninhabited. The entire area is full of dense forests and the height from sea-level of some of the hills and villages are noted below :—

(1) Bhandaria village—1,558 ft.

(2) Bucha Pahar—2,659 ft., 10 miles from Bhandaria.

(3) Lamba Pahar—1,750 ft., 6 miles from Bhandaria.

(4) Ambohi Pahar near Nagnaha—1,875 ft. 8 miles from Bhandaria.

(5) Kholu Pahar near Parro—1,621 ft. 10 miles from Bhandaria.

(6) Gulgulpath—3,819 ft. 25 miles from Bhandaria.

(7) Paraswar village—1,729 ft. 14 miles from Bhandaria.

(8) Lohargarha Pahar—2,998 ft. 16 miles from Bhandaria.

(9) Chapia Madgari village—1,212 ft. 20 miles from Bhandaria.

(10) Khaira Pahar—1,942 ft., 21 miles from Bhandaria.

(11) Village Kanjia Madgari—1,449 ft. 6 miles from Bhandaria.

(12) Situa Pahar—2,142 ft. 15 miles from Bhandaria.

(13) Kara Pahar—3,206 ft. 25 miles from Bhandaria.

The hill which is called Gulgulpath—3,819 ft.—is said to be the second highest peak in Bihar after Parasnath.

Bhandaria Block offers a wide range for shooting. All the forests are reserved and for shooting, permission of the Divisional Forest Officer has to be taken.

Besides the peaks there are two big rivers, one is Koil river and the other is Kanhar. Koil flows through dense forests and offers water-sheds for the wild animals including elephants. The river Kanhar separates the State of Bihar from Madhya Pradesh. Kanhar river is accredited to be full of river snakes.

The Block offers wonderful sight seeing. A village Saruat situated on the hill Gulgulpath is well worth a visit by the hikers. The village is occupied mostly by Korwas, a tribal people. One has to cover eight miles on foot from village Tehri to reach Saruat. The village has a population of 15 to 20 families who grow *marua*, *bajra* and some paddy.

Another village, Kutku, 16 miles away from Bhandaria situated by the side of Koil river is also well worth a visit. The hikers to Kutku will be profited by meeting the aboriginals at the villages who mostly live on the jungle products.

Bhandaria was rather inaccessible in the rainy season before. Now a portion of the road from Garhwa to Bhandaria has been black topped but the last lap remains in a bad condition and the rivulets are unbridged. The road to Bhandaria via Ramkanda is not properly metalled and bridged. This dusty road has a number of *ghats* and runs mostly through jungles. It is only jeepable now.

Bhandaria Block has two health sub-centres. The Block has a particular importance as it touches Madhya Pradesh and controls a lot of interchange of trade and commerce between Sirguja district in Madhya Pradesh and Palamau district.

Bhaunathpur.—A village at a distance of 10 miles from Untari. It contains a police-station, Forest rest house, Forest Range office, *Gram Panchayat*, Supervisor's Office, and Circle Inspector's office, etc. Government have sanctioned a subsidised high school and the building has been completed by the Revenue Department. It has been selected for the headquarters of a National Extension Service Block. A *hat* is held on every Wednesday.

The jurisdiction of the Bhaunathpur police-station lies in the angle between the Son and Koil rivers, it includes a population of 86,443 according to 1951 census. The area of the village was 675 acres, number of occupied houses 180 with 1,036 souls.

Bhusar.—A village in Chandwa police-station, which has a Soil Conservation Demonstration Centre under the Damodar Valley Corporation. The place is on Chandwa-Chatra Road, about three miles from Chandwa. The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,561 acres, number of occupied houses 80 with 434 souls consisting of 218 males and 216 females. The majority of the population derive their livelihood from agriculture.

Bishrampur.—A village situated 10½ miles north-east of Garhwa and five miles from Garhwa Road Station. The village in which a market is held on Sundays, is an important centre for local trade. It contains a police-station and is now the headquarters of a National Extension Service Block. It contains also the residence of *garh* of a Babuan family which traces back its descent to the Maharajas of Palamau, the founder of the family being Narpat Rai, a brother of Jaikishun Rai, who held a sway over Palamau about 1750. Gajraj Rai, son of Narpat Rai assisted the British in the capture of the Palamau forts in 1772 and another member of the family, Bhawani Baksh Rai, rendered good service in quelling the Kol rebellion in 1832. The popularity of the family is on wane with the abolition of zamindari. Under development scheme one high school, one primary school for girls, one *panchayat bhawan* and a hospital building have been recently constructed in the village. Bishrampur police-station has a population of 61,962 persons with 30,794 males and 31,168 females. Its area is 226 square miles.

The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,218 acres, number of occupied houses 414 and a population of 1,964 consisting of 993 males and 971 females.

With the opening of the Bishrampur Block with headquarters at Bishrampur, the village is likely to get back some of its old importance. The area of Bishrampur Block is 229.36 square miles. The important bridge over the river Koil at Rehla is within this Block. A famous *Sivaratri mela* is held at Bulbulia and Jharatia.

Borsidar.—A village in Chandwa police-station situated on Daltonganj-Ranchi road and is only about two miles from Chandwa. The place has been of recent importance due to Soil Conservation Demonstrations undertaken by the Damodar Valley Corporation. The area of the village in 1951 census was 846 acres with 36 occupied houses. The population of the village was 238 with 124 males and 114 females. The entire villagers are shown in the 1951 census under "cultivators of land wholly or mainly owned and their dependents".

Chainpur.—A village situated two miles south-west of Daltonganj. It is one of the largest villages in the district with a population of 2,394 persons in 1951 and the centre of a considerable trade; *daries* or coarse carpets and brass utensils are manufactured here. A market is held on Sundays.

Chainpur contains the ruins of an old fort and is the residence of the influential family of the Thakurais of Chainpur who are the descendants of the Diwans of Chero Chiefs and have on many occasions displayed great public spirit and loyalty to Government. The family belongs to the Surwar sept of Chandrabanshi Rajputs, in full Chhattri Chandrabanshi Gours. The family traces back its descent to Raja Dohsasan Singh, who left the ancestral home at Surpur, about 300 miles south-west of Delhi, took service under the Emperor and became a commander of the imperial forces. His son, Sarandhar Singh migrated to Shahabad district, where he was put in charge of the fortress of Rohtasgarh and obtained grant of the *talukas* of Dhaudanr and Tilouthu. He built a fort for himself at Dhaudanr and was succeeded by Makhain Singh *alias* Deo Sahi, who gave shelter to the Chero Chief, Bhagwat Rai, when flying before the Emperor's forces. Thakurai Puranmal, the son of Deo Sahi, accompanied Bhagwat Rai to Palamau and assisted him in its conquest, the agreement between them being that in return for his services, the Thakurai and descendants should be the *Sarbarakhars* of Palamau, i.e., be given authority to manage the country and should also have sole power to select its Rajas from among the descendants of Bhagwat Rai. The power they continued to exercise until the British conquest and during the period

of Chero rule, this influence was recognised by the Mughal Government, which conferred on the heads of the house the honour of a place near the imperial throne and also made them several *jagir* grants; *farmans* of Emperor Alamgair, Muhammad Shah and Farrukhsiar making these grants are still in existence. One of the most famous of the line was Thakurai Amar Singh who in 1721 headed a rebellion against the ruling chief, Ranjit Rai defeated him in battle and set up Jaikishun Rai in his place. Amar Singh is also said to have defeated the Pindaris during one of their raids on the border of Palamau and his descendants still possess a *nagara* or kettle drum which he took from them. On his death dissension again broke out, Thakurai Sainath Singh being treacherously put to death by the Raja and his cousin, Jainath Singh, thereupon collected an army with which he defeated Jaikishun Rai near Chetma hill and the latter being shot in the fight, placed Chitrajit Rai on the *gaddi* in 1764. When the British conquered Palamau, the Thakurais lost the position of Diwans and the virtual king makers but gave loyal aid to the Government. In the Sirguja campaign of 1802 the eldest son of Thakurai Ram Bux Singh accompanied the British troops; in the Kol rebellion of 1832 Chattardhari Singh rendered good service and took a part in a fight at Latehar and in the mutiny of 1857 Raghubar Dayal Singh gave valuable assistance to Government which was acknowledged by a *jagir* grant of 26 villages, a *khillat* and the title of Rai Bahadur. The title of Raja was conferred as a personal distinction upon the father and also the grand-father of Brijdeo Narayan Singh. The area of the estate was 395 square miles.

The village now has a dispensary which was started by the family of the Thakurais. The village has also grown in importance due to the establishment of several lac factories. The Chainpur estate has since vested in Government and Chainpur is now the headquarters of a *Gram Panchayat*.

Chandandih.—Latehar police-station is divided into two parts, viz., Latehar East and Latehar West Anchals. It is in Latehar East that Chandandih Block is situated. This Block comprises of 176 villages with a good number of tribals like Oraons, Paraiyas, Kharwars, Cheros, etc.

The Block is a part of Chotanagpur plateau and three rivers Oranga, Tabed and Gala flow to this Block besides a number of small rivulets. The Block has various spots of beautiful wild scenery and big games. The office of the Block is at Latehar.

Chandwa.—Besides being the headquarters of the police-station of the same name, is also growing into a business centre. It is connected by rail on Dehri-Gomoh line. The name of the railway station is Tori. It is the junction of Ranchi-Daltonganj and Chandwa-Chatra Road which connects the area with all the districts of Chotanagpur, Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions. It is said that this route would be shorter to Patna from Ranchi than the one via Ranchi Road and Hazaribagh. The place also provides a good halting station, being nearly the central

point of 104 miles road from Daltonganj to Ranchi. It is 57 miles from Daltonganj and 47 miles from Ranchi and 42 miles from Chatra. There is an inspection bungalow, a District Board dispensary, police-station, grain-*gola*, Forest Range office building and is also the headquarters of the Subdivisional Officer of Public Works Department. It has a population of 1,533 and is growing into a little township.

Chhatarpur.—Chhatarpur is 29 miles north of Daltonganj on the Hariganj Road at a point where it is joined by the road from Hussainabad. This is the headquarters of a revenue thana consisting of two police-stations, viz., Chhatarpur and Hariharganj. The area of the Chhatarpur police-station is 255 square miles with a population of 42,199. A *bazar* is held on every Tuesday. There is an Anchal Office, a *Gram Panchayat* and a District Board dispensary. There is also an inspection bungalow which is situated north-west of the police-station building and a middle school towards east of the Chhatarpur-Hariharganj Road.

There is an Afforestation Division Ranger as well as a Territorial Forest Ranger at Chhatarpur. For afforestation work it is under the Gaya Afforestation Division. Chhatarpur has local importance for milk preparation, particularly for *rasgolas*.

Chhechhari Tappa.—A *tappa* situated in the extreme south of the district, consisting of a large valley closed in on every side by hills. On the north is a spur crowned by the ancient fort of Tamolgarh, which is said to have been built by the Raksel Rajputs; below this is a narrow gorge, through which the whole drainage of the valley escapes by the Burhi or Barwe river. On the south are the hills which divide Palamau from the Barwe in Ranchi district. The hills on the east are crowned by the plateau of Netarhat and Pakripat; and those on the west by the Jamira Pat plateau in Sirguja. The valley has a radius of about seven miles, and presents the appearance of a great bowl of which the sides are almost perpendicular. It seems probable that this valley must once have been a lake. It contains a number of villages, the property of the former Bhaiya Sahib of Chhechhari.

Chinia.—It is a village situated at a distance of about seven miles from Garhwa and is not connected by good road. A weekly *hat* is held on Wednesdays. There is an upper primary school sanctioned under the Local Development Works. Water scarcity occurs in the village for which wells have been constructed by the Government. The village is also called Belri. The village comprises an area of 3,464 acres, number of occupied houses 750 with a population of 781 according to 1951 census. The village has very thin population and some of the houses are *be-chiragi* (unoccupied).

Chipadohar.—As we travel east from Daltonganj towards Latehar on Daltonganj-Ranchi Road, there is a road bifurcating it seven miles towards south which leads to Chipadohar. It is a fair-weather road connecting Mahuadanr and Garu police-stations with the district headquarters. The village is growing into importance due to being the

export centre of forest products. A large number of bamboos are exported from here to Dalmianagar for the paper factory. It has a grass farm and the centre of the wood export. It has a forest rest house which is frequently visited for game shooting. The place has also a railway station on Dehri-Gomoh line of the Eastern Railway. It is an important timber sawing centre.

Daltonganj.—Headquarters of the district, situated in 24°3′ north and 84°4′ east on the Koil river. The population of the town has gone on increasing as follows :—

Year.	Persons.
1901	5,837
1911	7,179
1921	9,817
1931	12,040
1941	13,943
1951	19,223

The area of the town is 3½ square miles. Daltonganj was founded on Government land in 1862 by Colonel Dalton, Commissioner of Chotanagpur, after whom it was named. The name is, however, commonly corrupted into Laltenganj.

The name of the place before Daltonganj was Bajirabagh. The village was full of dense forests. Local people say that its name was also Mednibad after the name of its great king Medni Rai. A common maxim is still heard even from the adolescents "*Raja Mednia ghar-ghar baji malhania*", i.e., in the reign of Raja Medni Rai, the sound of the milk churning wheel was heard from every household". Raja Medni Rai was supposed to be a very liberal-minded and kind king.

It was a terminus of a branch line running south from Barun or Son East Bank (Son Nagar) on the Grand Chord of the Eastern Railway. This line has since been carried further south beyond Daltonganj to meet the coalfields railway at Barwadih. This town is also the focus of the road system of the district. It contains the usual public offices, hospital and District Jail; it also contains a large market, the property of Government but the income derived from the market goes to the municipality. Daltonganj is well drained and healthy though hot. It was before better provided with roads lined with avenues of teak, mango and cork trees. Arboriculture is now neglected.* The water-supply is derived from the bed of the river Koil; whence it is pumped by electricity. The town is a centre of local trade and its importance has had an increase with the development of the lac trade. There are several lac factories at Daltonganj at the outskirts of the town and a large number of *pucca* buildings and residential quarters have been built in recent years. Daltonganj has now very much outgrown the Government village in which it was originally founded.

A big *hat* is held on Wednesdays where a considerable number of people assemble to buy and sell agricultural commodities. A large

*The official bungalows have still patches of magnificent trees (P. C. R. C.).

number of goats are purchased and are exported from here to coalfield areas. Rice, wheat, pulse, *ghee*, vegetable and coarse cloth have good sale on the *hat* day. The *hat* is being well utilised by the middle men for purchasing *ghee*, chickens, vegetables, grains, etc., at a wholesale rate and send the articles to Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad and other industrial centres. The local people have already started feeling the pinch of the high prices and scarcity of stuff for local consumption. With the rapid industrialisation of Ranchi, the market of Daltonganj will be tapped all the more.

Daltonganj railway station has a good turnover particularly in bamboos, timber, pitprops, lime-stone, iron-ore and *biri* leaves. On the average daily ten wagons of bamboos are sent from here to Dalmianagar. About 50 wagons of bamboos are sent monthly to Titagarh and Kankinara paper mills. One wagon of timber is sent daily to Bhabua in Shahabad and New Delhi respectively. Pitprops are generally sent to coalfields and their average turnover is one wagon daily. About 50 wagons of lime-stone per month are sent to Baliganj (Calcutta). About 500 wagons of iron-ores monthly are exported from here to Khidirpur Dock for the foreign supply. *Biri* leaves have the average turnover of 20 wagons per month. Shellac which was an important outward traffic of the railway has now been replaced and is transported by the trucks. This diversion and consequently the enormous loss of railway is mainly attributed to the shortage of wagons and the quicker transportation by the trucks. Salt and kerosene oil are the main items of inward traffic of Daltonganj station.

Daltonganj has a Circuit House and a dak bungalow. There is also a *dharmashala* for the stay of the non-officials and a *jain mandir* which is particularly meant for the Jain community. The town has a vast scope for its expansion. There is also a Roman Catholic Mission which maintains a chapel and an *ashram* (halting station).

A branch of the British Churches of Christ Mission was opened in Palamau early in 1909 by establishing a small Church in Daltonganj. The first Indian teacher was Shri Paul Singh who extended the ministry at Garhwa and Latehar. The administrative authority and responsibility has now passed into the hands of Indian Christians who conduct their affairs through the *Mandaliyon-ki-Pratinidhi* Council, a body registered in India and the foreign missionaries are now serving only in an advisory capacity. A middle girls' school with a boarding is run by the Mission.

Opposite Daltonganj on the west bank of the Koil is the village Shahpur in which Gopal Rai, the Raja of Palamau built a palace in the end of the 18th century. Shahpur stands on a high tract of land and the ruined palace, the white temple and the masonry buildings present a picturesque view from Daltonganj. A nearer view of the palace is disappointing for what looks in the distance like an imposing edifice is seen to be half-finished building of little architectural importance.

Besides the Zila High School there are four high schools for boys and one high school for girls in the town. One degree college has also been recently established through the help of Shri Ganesh Lal Agarwal, a business man after whom it has been named. The town has now been electrified and telephone service also established.

The town has a municipality which was established in 1888. This is the only municipality in the district. The area of the municipality is 3½ square miles and has a population of 19,223 according to 1951 census. Details of the municipality have been given separately.

Daltonganj Subdivision.—After the movement of 1857 Palamau or Sadar subdivision was formed into a separate subdivision with headquarters first at Lesliganj and afterwards at Daltonganj in 1862. The subdivision of Palamau was changed into a district from 1st January, 1892, vide Bengal Government notification dated the 30th October, 1891, and Lt. Colonel A. E. Gordon was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the second grade, and Deputy Commissioner of Palamau vide Government notification dated the 27th October, 1891, published in *Calcutta Gazette*, 1891, part I, page 231.[1] There were no subdivisions for a long time and the whole district was under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner. The subdivisional system was introduced in 1924, when Latehar subdivision was sanctioned.

The area of the Sadar subdivision was 3,250 square miles in 1951 census. Its population in 1901 was 4,85,951; 5,30,505 in 1911; 5,85,837 in 1921; 6,41,122 in 1931; 7,19,179 in 1941 and 7,84,207 in 1951. With the creation of the Garhwa subdivision in 1955 consisting of the five police-stations, viz., Garhwa, Nagar Untari, Ranka, Bhandaria and Bhaunathpur there had been a decrease in the area of the Sadar subdivision. The area of the Sadar subdivision is now 1,683 square miles with 4,90,037 souls, consisting of the nine police-stations, viz., Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Panki, Chhatarpur, Hariharganj, Patan, Bishrampur, Manatu and Hussainabad.

Demu.—In this village there is a place known as Saptavahini. At this spot river Pandi falls from a height of 12 to 15 feet. There are several idols of goddess Durga and Mahavir. The place is considered to be sacred.

Deogan.—An ancient village of past importance situated in the north-east of the district. It has the remains of an interesting old Chero fort and it is said that it was once a flourishing town with 52 streets and 53 bazars. It used to be the headquarters of a private estate belonging to the heirs and descendants of Maharaja of Palamau. It has now vested in the State of Bihar under the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950. The area of the village in 1951 census was 411 acres, number of occupied houses 29 with 144 souls.

1. The last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* published in 1907 and 1926 has mentioned that the 1st Deputy Commissioner was Mr. W. R. Bright, I.C.S.

Dhurki.—A village situated about 14 miles from Nagar in the Dakhin Dehat. A small market is held on every Friday in which about 500 people assemble. In the *District Census Handbook of Palamau*, 1951 it has been mentioned as Tendra *alias* Dhurki. The area of the village was 1,560 acres, number of occupied houses 74 with a population of 281 souls.

With the opening of Dhurki National Extension Service Block with headquarters at Dhurki the village has gained importance. Most of the Block area consist of jungles and the inhabitants are mostly Adibasis, and Harijans. The area has no proper facilities for communication. The Sukhahaldi waterfall on the Kanhar river is at a distance of six miles from Dhurki. Bamboos, wood, etc., are exported from here.

Duldulwa.—This village joins Peska village in Garhwa subdivision. The jungles are full of bamboos but rapid exploitation is going on. Tigers are available in this forest.

Dundu.—A village within Manatu Block at a distance of 16 miles from the Block headquarters has small population the majority of whom is of the Dhank caste. There is a *mahua* tree in the north-east corner of the village with a tradition that after the Dhanks dance under the *mahua* tree for some time the bottom of the tree begins to dazzle like mercury. The Block Development Officer reported that he had seen this himself on the night of the 28th November, 1959. The Block Development Officer was told that this phenomena mainly occurs between *Karma* and *Jiwatputrika brat*.

Durjag Tappa.—A *tappa* south of the district, bounded on the west by the Koil river and on the south and east by reserved forests. It has a fine scenic beauty consisting of a small valley surrounded by forest clad hills. Government owns 23 villages with an area of 60 square miles. In the centre of the *tappa* is a large hill called Kandhi, the scene of the worship of the spirit called Durjagia Deota, the officiating Baiga resides in the village of Harnamanr.

Duthu Tappa.—A hilly *tappa* in the south-west of the district, inhabited chiefly by Oraons. A range of hills, forming a sort of plateau, runs from south-west to north-east through the *tappa*, of which the most prominent peaks are Bijka, with a dome-like crest forming a landmark for many miles round, Harta, Bhagi, and Nauka—all offshoots from the Galgal Pat.

Garhwa.—Garhwa is situated at the confluence of the rivers Danro and Saraswati, and is said to derive its name from the fact that it is built on low ground. Garhwa Road is the nearest railway station which is at a distance of six miles and is connected with a metalled road, maintained by the Public Works Department. A bridge has recently been constructed over the river Koil. There is 19 mile long District Board road connecting it with Daltonganj. The Public Works Department has recently constructed a bridge on the Danro on the

Garhwa-Ranka Road. It is the oldest town of the district having a population of 9,467 in 1951 census. Formerly it had a municipality and a bench of honorary magistrates sat here, but these had been abolished long ago. It may be mentioned that before and sometime after Daltonganj was made the headquarters of the district, Garhwa continued to be the principal town. The Report of Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, a summary of which was published in the *Annals of the Indian Administration*, Part II, Vol. XI, March, 1867 mentions "Gurwa is the principal town of the present day. It contains 3,000 inhabitants and through it all the trade passes to and from Behar. Formerly there used to be 5,000 inhabitants in Gurwa, but nearly one-half of the people have died from cholera within the last two years. The town and vicinity are in a very filthy state, and some sanitary arrangements are much required. The main lines of communication cannot yet be called roads, as they are mere clearances through the jungle with ditches cut, here and there, on either side." With effect from the 24th June, 1955 a new subdivision has been created with headquarters at Garhwa. It is expected that the creation of the subdivision will restore the old prosperity of Garhwa. New court building, forest office and quarters for gazetted ministerial officers have recently been constructed. The District Board dispensary has been provincialised by the Government under a Civil Assistant Surgeon. The town has two high schools, a girls' upper primary school, one District Board dak bungalow and other Government offices. There is a public library known as Shri Krishna Pustakalaya. The Public Works Department has recently constructed an inspection bungalow.

There is a Notified Area Committee which was constituted in 1957 replacing the former Union Board comprising Garhwa, Tarawa, Sonpurwa Uchri, Nagwa Sahijna and Dipwa. The area of the Notified Area Committee is four square miles. The town is likely to get electricity, telephone and waterworks in the Second Five-Year Plan period. A survey is going on to construct a railway line from Garhwa Road to Garhwa, Ramuna, Nagar and Murisumer. This will open up a rather inaccessible area.

After the abolition of zamindari the economic condition of the ex-zamindars of Garhwa who had a *garh* in the town has deteriorated. The family was the *Khorposdar* of Bhaiya Shaheb. In village Sonpurwa a *mela* is held on Falgun 13 which is known as Sheo Dhorha *mela*. There is a small temple of '*Shiva*' where the *mela* is held. A Kali *mandir* is at village Dipwa where people come to worship the image of goddess Kali. A fair is held on *Nagpanchami* day when Mahabiri *jhandas* are taken out and there are large gatherings. Garhwa *bazar* was one of the biggest and most flourishing *hats* of the district but the condition of the *bazar* has become unsatisfactory chiefly due to several unauthorised encroachment and unwise settlements by the ex-landlords. Government auction the *bazar* now whose income is Rs. 12,000 per year. The *bazar* can improve if its present site is changed and spacious ground is found out. Since the vesting of the *bazar* into the

State construction by Garhwa *bazar* improvement fund has been stopped and improvements are made from the State Zamindari fund. The *hat* is held on each Thursday when about 10,000 people come from far and near. Lac, cattle, *ghee*, hides and oilseeds are the chief items for export. The chief imports are foodgrains, brass vessels, cotton piece goods, woollen goods, salt, kerosene oil, spices, etc. With the construction of bridge over Koil and railway line, the town has attained great potentiality for developing into a big town. Another *mela* is held at Banda Pahar on the last day of *Bhado* every year at a distance of two miles from Garhwa town. A fair is also held on the bank of river Koil near village Danda known as Matihara *mela*. There is a *Shivalingam* at Matihara.

Garhwa Subdivision.—Garhwa subdivision was created in 1955 comprising an area of 1,567 square miles consisting of the police-stations of Garhwa, Nagar Untari, Ranka, Bhandaria and Bhaunathpur. Later Bhaunathpur was split into two police-stations, viz., Bhaunathpur and Majhiaon. The subdivision includes the north and west portions of the district. It is bounded on the north by the river Son, which separates it from the district of Shahabad, on the east by the Sadar subdivision, on the south by Surguja and Madhya Pradesh, and on the west by Uttar Pradesh. The subdivision includes both plain and the hilly ranges. Similar to the district the general line of drainage is from south to north.

Garu.—A village on the south bank of the river Koil, 16 miles south of Kerh, is the headquarters of a police-station with a population of 9,446 according to 1951 census. The area of the village in 1951 was 708 acres, number of occupied houses 16 with a population of 60. The country in this area consists chiefly of hills and jungles and the population is sparse. The area is renowned for game shooting. In the forest of Garu wild elephants are found which usually cause great destruction to standing crops of the nearby villages. A bridge has recently been constructed across the river which has given an all-weather access to the Garu and Mahuadanr thanas. The District Board maintains a dispensary at Garu.

Godarmana.—This is the popular name of village Chutia situated in the Bihar side of river Kanhar. The village contains an inspection bungalow under the control of the Revenue Department. A weekly *hat* is held on Sundays. The P. W. D. has also an inspection bungalow of its own. The proposal to construct a bridge over the river Kanhar connecting it with Ramanujganj on the Surguja side is likely to be finalised. It is connected by pitched road with Ranka and is at a distance of 16 miles from Ranka. It is assuming great importance in trade due to the export of oilseeds, *ghee*, maize and *gur* which chiefly come from Madhya Pradesh and pass through Godarmana to Garhwa Road by road.

Gorganwan.—There is a cave in village Gorganwan which is situated on the west of village Bhaunathpur. There is a temple which contains the idol of Lord Shiva. A fair is held on the *Shivaratri* day. The village is a small hamlet comprising of an area of 564 acres, number of occupied houses 13 with a population of 62 according to 1951 census.

Goswal Tappa.—A *tappa* situated in the centre of the district, along with west bank of the Koil. The tract comprised within it is undulating and broken up by numerous streams, which rise from the hills to the south and flow northwards into the Koil, irrigating the rice fields through which they pass. It is traversed by two roads leading from Daltonganj on the east and Ranka on the south to the town of Garhwa. It contains 26 Government villages with an area of 10½ square miles.

Haidarnagar.—A village, situated on the north-east of the district on the little used Garhwa-Baroon Road, five miles south-west of Japla railway station. The village was founded in 18th century by Saiyid Nabi Ali Khan, the son of Nawab Hedayat Ali Khan, after his father has founded Hussainabad. It is provided with a railway station, a dispensary, a new inspection bungalow constructed by the District Board. A large market is held on every Tuesday. It also has a library, post office, lower primary school, upper primary school and a middle school. It is one of the big villages of the district comprising an area of 1,433 acres, number of occupied houses 672 with a population of 4,399 consisting of 2,176 males and 2,223 females according to 1951 census.

Hariharganj.—Hariharganj is 43 miles north of Daltonganj, on the metalled road to Gaya district. It is right against the Gaya border and adjoins the village of Maharajganj in that district. It is the headquarters of a police-station with a population of 25,523 persons (1951 census). It has an inspection bungalow, a District Board dispensary, a library and a high school. A big market is held on every Monday and Friday. The area of the thana is 85 square miles. The area of the village was in 1951 census 576 acres, number of occupied houses 459 with a population of 2,694.

Hariharganj is a good marketing centre for rice, *kendu* leaves, hides, *ghee*, and *gur*. There is a class of Muslims here known as Dabgars, who deal in hides. They collect hides from the interior places and bring them to Hariharganj from where they are sent by road to Aurangabad Road in Gaya district for transportation by rail. Trucks loaded with goats are sent from here to different places in and outside the State. Around Hariharganj in absence of a sugar mill juice is extracted from sugarcanes for the manufacture of *gur* which is exported from here. Hariharganj has also an agricultural extension centre.

Near the village Balara the river Batane falls at the height of 30 feet. The place is worth visiting.

Heranj.—A village in Balumath police-station 14 miles west of Balumath connected by Forest Department link road. It is also connected by a link road with Latehar which is 24 miles. Heranj is the headquarters of a *Gram Panchayat Halka* and has a Forester's office. It has prospects of growing into importance when the Public Works Department takes up construction of road from Balumath at Panki in Sadar subdivision of the district. A *mela* is held every year during *Poos Purnima*. The area of the village in 1951 was 2,376 acres, number of occupied houses 117 with a population of 601.

Hussainabad.—A town in the extreme north-east of the district, near the bank of the Son and opposite the fort of Rohtas in Shahabad. The population of the thana in the last census was 81,138. It has a Union Board and has a Registration Office. It is also the headquarters of the police-station which has an area of 188 square miles. The place, which is so named after Hussain, one of the grandsons of the prophet was founded in the early parts of the 18th century by Nawab Hedayat Ali Khan, Deputy Governor of Bihar and father of the author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*. There is also a big cement factory named as Son Valley Portland Cement Co., Ltd., at Deorhi a village situated at a distance of about three miles from Hussainabad on the bank of the river Son. A *bazar* is held twice a week at Hussainabad on every Sunday and Thursday. Hussainabad was raised to a town in the census of 1951 mainly on population basis which was 8,317.

Imli Tappa.—A *tappa*, situated a little to the east of the centre of the district, bounded on the south by the Amanat river and on the north by a range of hills, from which many streams flow southwards to that river. The *tappa* contains some of the most fertile land in the district and is well served by irrigation works; Government owns 12 villages entirely and is part owner of three others, with an aggregate area of 12½ square miles. The principal village is Patan, the headquarters of a police-station and a Block and the most important Government village is Murma, where there is a belt of protected forest.

Jaipur.—A village, six miles east of Patan police-station which contains the *garh* or house of the proprietor of the former Deogan Estate. A *bazar* is held in adjacent village of Nawa on every Tuesday. The area of the village in 1951 census was 240 acres, number of occupied houses 66 with a population of 318.

Japla.—The ancient name for Hussainabad, from which the *pargana* lying to the north of the district along the Son also derives its designation. It was the seat of some local chiefs, probably belonging to the Kharwar tribe, who are still found in this district and formerly occupied the plateau of Rohtasgarh and the adjacent high lands in Shahabad. As stated before, records have been found of two of these chiefs dating back to the 12th and 13th century A. D., when they held possession of the fortress of Rohtas and of the country to the north of Palamau. Japla comes up again in Shah Jehan's time among the *parganas* forming the *jagir* of the commander of Rohtasgarh and is also mentioned in Todar Mall's rent-roll in the *Ain-i-Akbari*. The *pargana*, which has an area of 182 square miles, was transferred to Palamau from the Gaya district in 1871.

Japla area is also very suitable for citrus cultivation. The great Patna Barrister, the late Shri Hasan Imam whose mausoleum is at Deori, was one of the pioneers of citrus cultivation in this area.

Kala Pahar.—It is in Patan police-station, three miles from Kishunpur. It is a hill of black granite resembling the iron. There is a big old well which is said to have been built by the Mughals. It is believed that much wealth is hidden in the well. Exploration by the Archæological Department or any other institution may lead to discovery of relics.

Kanjia.—A village about five miles from Bhandaria noted for a Catholic *Ashram* which was started in 1937. The Roman Catholic Fathers at Mahuadanr had started this as a sister institution finding the area extremely backward. With a few years gap owing to serious illness the *Ashram* has been in charge of Father Schill from 1937 onwards. At the *Ashram* there is a middle school with co-education, a dispensary and a fruit garden where some fruit trees have been acclimatised. The dispensary receives quite a large number of patients every day and it was unfortunate to find that the incidence of venereal patients was quite high. Within the jurisdiction of this *Ashram*, spread over a number of villages the number of Roman Catholics is claimed to be at 1,500. Father Schill is a radiosthesist and traces many of the diseases of the area to earth radiation. He has also made excellent water divinations with reed and pendulum.

Kanri.—Village Kanri is situated at a distance of seven miles from Mohammadganj railway station. It contains a police *shivir*, a District Board dispensary and a middle school. Recently the Revenue Department has sanctioned the establishment of a subsidised high school. A weekly market is held here. The place is gaining importance. The area of the village in 1951 census was 277 acres, number of occupied houses 145 with a population of 725.

Kechki.—A village in the extreme point of the angle formed by the Koil and Auranga rivers. It has a forest bungalow close to the Auranga bridge. It is an important centre for export of the forest produce especially bamboos. The forest bungalow which is situated close to the river site commands a picturesque view and is a favourite place of picnic for the people of Daltonganj and the outsiders. This is a place well worth a visit by tourists.

Kerh.—A village, 10 miles of the Auranga bridge contains a forest bungalow. It provides a good resting place for officers on duty and for those who are out on sports for game shooting. Kerh was previously the headquarters of the police-station but it has since been replaced by Barwadih, a more suitable and accessible place.

Ketar.—There is a temple in this village where *mela* is held during *Ram Navami* day. The fair continues for about a month. The temple has the idol of goddess Durga which was found in the valley known as Bhaisahat *ghat* near about 1850. It has a middle school. The area of the village in 1951 census was 803 acres, number of occupied houses 162 with a population of 1,040.

Khaira Tappa.—A *tappa* in Belaunja *pargana* but lying east of the Koil. The name is doubtless taken from the Khaira Pahar standing in the village of the same name, a most conspicuous hill which forms a landmark for many miles round.

Khamhi Tappa.—A *tappa* situated in the south of the district. It comprises a small valley surrounded on all sides by hills and reserved forests, except to the west, where a small portion is bounded by Tappa Saneya. It contains 13 Government villages with an area of six square miles. There is a very picturesque view at Nuranago, where the Koil, flowing from east to west, bends almost at right angles round a long range of hills, and then pursues a northerly course through the heart of the district.

Khonhar.—It is situated at a distance of seven miles from Garhwa. A *mela* is held during the *Shivaratri* festival. The village comprised an area of 607 acres, number of occupied houses 55 with 259 souls in 1951 census.

Kot Tappa.—A *tappa*, situated in the valley of the Amanat in the centre of the district; it comprises some of the richest lands in the district and is almost entirely under cultivation. It contains 37 Government villages with an area of 25 square miles; the principal markets are Daltonganj and Lesliganj.

Kotang.—A village about 10 miles from Garhwa subdivisional headquarters situated in the midst of scenic grandeur. There is a hillock about 1,000 ft. high which is by the side of village Kotang. This hillock is about a mile from the Forest Road—Garhwa-Chinia Road and is the abode of wild boars and occasional tigers. There is a small statue of a goddess riding on horse back kept at the top of the hill. People worship it once a year during winter.

Kumardih.—A conspicuous range of hills and a block of forest in the Latehar range about 12 miles west of Latehar. The highest point on these hills is 2,530 feet above sea level. The range has a beautiful scenery and affords game shooting.

Kutku.—A village where the Koil turns north and forces its way through the hills. There is a forest bungalow here, with a fine view up and down the river.

Ladi.—A village in Daltonganj police-station, four miles south-west of the town. It contains the *garh* of Kuar Ambika Prasad Singh, who succeeded his father, late Rai Bahadur Amar Dayal Singh as proprietor of the Ladi Estate in 1925 which has since vested into the State of Bihar under the Land Reforms Act, 1950. The family who are Biswen Rajputs claims to be descendants from a junior branch of the Manjhauli Raj family of Gorakhpur district and to have come to Palamau in the second half of the 18th century where they rendered various services to

the Maharajas of Palamau. The village has an area of 301 acres, number of occupied houses 101 with 469 souls according to 1951 census.

Lat.—A village, eight miles west of Mundu on Kerh-Garu Road. It contains a bungalow of the Forest Department and is connected with Mundu and Baresanr. The village has an area of 1,070 acres, number of occupied houses 66 with a population of 328 in 1951 census.

Latehar.—It is the headquarters of the subdivision of the same name since 1924 and is situated 40 miles east of Daltonganj-Ranchi Road, with a population of 2,089 according to 1951 census. The subdivisional buildings consist of court and office, sub-jail, Subdivisional Officer's and Second Officer's quarters and quarters for the staff. The village also has a State hospital, Circle office, District Board inspection bungalow, a Post and Telegraph office with public telephone call office, a grain *gola*, Anti-Malaria Unit, Subdivisional Agriculture office besides other public offices. It is accessible all the year round by the bus services and train.

Latehar Subdivision.—Latehar subdivision has been named after the village of the same name on Ranchi-Daltonganj Road, 40 miles east of Daltonganj, i.e., the headquarters of the district of Palamau. The subdivision has been classified as the Scheduled area of the district due to major population of aboriginals. Latehar has been the headquarters of the subdivision since 1924.

For the purpose of general administration the area has been divided into six police-stations which includes Balumath, Barwadih, Chandwa, Garu, Mahuadanr and Latehar. The distribution of population with areas according to 1951 census is as follows :—

Name of the police-station.	No. of villages.	Population.	Area in sq. miles.
Balumath	174	47,995	407
Barwadih	81	23,397	276
Chandwa	85	29,989	228
Garu	67	9,466	200
Latehar	272	63,330	305
Mahuadanr	106	27,383	255
Total ..	785[1]	2,01,560	1,671

1. The number of villages varies with the census figures of 1951 according to which the number of villages in Latehar subdivision is 722. These villages have been enumerated blockwise.

It can thus be seen that the average population per square mile is only 121.

Besides the six police-stations, there are three *shivirs* located at Sibla in Balumath police-station, Netarhat in Mahuadanr police-station and Manika in Latehar police-station. Due to growing importance of Netarhat, a separate police-station for Netarhat and the adjoining areas is being considered.

For the purpose of revenue administration, the subdivision is divided into three revenue thanas, viz., Balumath thana comprising of Chandwa and Balumath police-stations, Latehar thana comprising of Latehar and Barwadih police-stations and Mahuadanr thana comprising of Mahuadanr and Garu police-stations. The system of revenue administration, however, has been considerably improved upon and to make this tally with the Development Block, the entire subdivision has been divided into seven Anchal-*cum*-Blocks. Each Anchal has again been divided into *Halkas*. The position now remains as follows :—

Name of Anchal.	No. of Halkas.	Area of Anchal in sq. miles.	Population of Anchal.	No. of villages in the Anchal.
Balumath	12	407	47,995	174
Barwadih	10	276	23,397	81
Chandwa	10	228	29,989	85
Garu	8	200	9,466	67
Mahuadanr	10	255	27,383	106
Latehar East	10	305	36,658	176
Latehar West	8		26,672	96
Total ..	68	1,671	2,01,560	785

The area is sparsely populated and the villages, i.e., *bastis* are widespread. There are very few villages in the subdivision which have a population of more than 1,000.

Except for Latehar itself, which has a population of 2,089, no other village in the subdivision has a population of more than 2,000.

Since the last publication of the Gazetteer the place has achieved major improvements, namely, an all-weather road connecting Daltonganj and Ranchi, a telephone office with telephone, provincialisation of the District Board dispensary, a high school, besides other improvements in trade and business.

The greater part of the subdivision consists of hilly broken country, covered with jungles and forests and cut up in all directions by numerous streams and rivulets, which dry up during hot weather and come down in spate during rains. The streams and rivulets are thus only rain-fed.

The population is chiefly composed of aboriginals, namely, Kharwars, Cheros and Oraons. But there has been gradual mixing of population and immigration from other districts, namely, Shahabad, Gaya and neighbouring districts of Madhya Pradesh. The aboriginals still form the majority and offer excellent anthropological investigation.

There has been a marked improvement in the means of communication. A few decades back it was said that the nearest railway station was Gaya. Even in respect of roads it was said that all roads were third class ones, i.e., *kutcha* and unbridged. Now there is a railway line connecting Latehar, Barwadih and Chandwa with Gomoh for people travelling east and south and Dehri-on-Sone for people travelling west and north. Besides, there is a net-work of roads, namely, Daltonganj-Ranchi Road which connects Latehar with all the other districts of Chotanagpur and Patna Divisions by road besides a net-work of many link roads connecting the villages with Latehar most of which are motorable.

The subdivision is bounded on the south by the district of Ranchi, on the east by the district of Hazaribagh, on the west by Madhya Pradesh and on the north and west by the Sadar subdivision of the district of Palamau.

The area forms a net-work of rocky hills covered with jungles and forests. The average elevation is 1,800 feet above sea level but some of the loftier peaks and plateaus obtain height of over 3,000 ft.

The scenery of the subdivision is varied, often beautiful and occasionally grand. There are no level plains and the general appearance is that of a mass of rocky hills, springing in isolated peaks and stretching in irregular ranges. The villages are usually small and scattered. From the summit of a hill the area appears covered by a sheet of low forests, with glimpses of red tiled roofs and occasional herd of cattle. The hills are highest in the south and gradually decrease in size towards north. The principal peak is the Netarhat which is 3,356 feet above sea level.

The general line of drainage is from south to north towards river Son. The principal river of the area is Koil and its tributaries. This river is the most important river of Palamau, for it drains the entire area except for Tori *pargana*, the drainage of which sets to the east

towards the Damodar. Most of the areas of Balumath and Chandwa police-stations form part of the catchment areas of the Damodar Valley Projects and the Soil Survey Camps of the Damodar Valley Corporation have undertaken the survey of the area to safeguard against soil erosion and conserve the fertility of the soil.

All the rivers of this subdivision are exceedingly dangerous in the rains on account of violence and force of the currents which gain speed due to steep falls. The rivers do not provide any scope for navigation. At times people have to wait for hours to cross over such rivers or its tributaries whenever they are in spate.

In contrast to Daltonganj, the headquarters of the district of Palamau, which has extreme climate during summer, Latehar subdivision on the whole has a temperate climate. Some of the places are good summer stations, viz., Netarhat, Amjharia, etc.

The area provides ample scope for game shooting. The wild animals consist of tigers, leopards, bears, hyaenas, wild dogs, wild cats, bisons, sambhars, spotted deer, *nilgais*, barking deer and other smaller animals. Wild pigs are numerous in all parts of the subdivision and do an enormous damage to crops which have to be carefully watched. Deer are also source of damage to the crops. For these reasons "*Ghuran*" system is prevalent in the area. *Ghuran* is a sort of fencing put round *bari* lands round about or near the houses of the cultivator. The fencing is made of thorny bushes which the local forests provide in abundance.

The forests, which cover major portion of the area of the subdivision, provide employment in the period of slack season and is also a source of revenue to the State. The chief exports of the forests are bamboo and *sal* timber. *Sabai* grass is also traced on the hills near Chhipadohar and other places. Lac cultivation, *palas*, *kusum* and *bair* trees also add to the revenue and provide ample scope of trade. The manufacture of *kath* from *khair* trees is also an important industry in the district. The forest also provides export of *biri* leaves.

Kharif and *rabi* crops are not important in this subdivision. The population is mainly dependant for its sustenance on *bhadai* crops like maize and *marua* which are grown during rains, besides minor crops like *kurthi*, *surguja* and *gondali* which are grown on uplands and need little water.

Lesliganj.—A village just south of the Daltonganj-Manatu Road, 10 miles east of Daltonganj. It was founded by and is named after Mr. Matthew Leslie, Collector of Ramgarh, who effected the decennial settlement with Thakurai Sheo Prasad Singh in 1789. At that time a detachment of troops was quartered here and for that reason it is locally known as *Chhauni*, i.e. Cantonment. From 1859 when Koranda was abandoned, till 1862, when Daltonganj was opened, Lesliganj was the headquarters of the Palamau subdivision. The village contains a

police-station, located in an old military building that was besieged in the Mutiny of 1857, a District Board bungalow and a *tahsil* of the Government estate. It has a high school also.

The importance of Lesliganj has increased with the opening of a Circle Office under Land Reforms Department for the management of the vested zamindaris with effect from 1st September, 1955. A beautiful tank with *pucca ghat* has been constructed by the Revenue Department and several *pucca* buildings raised by the Veterinary Department in the year 1955-56 have added beauty to the area. Thrice a week, a market is held which serves the local needs of the people and it attracts people from distant areas. A big *mela* is held in the month of *Magh* in the market area close to the tank. A *pucca bazar* shed for the convenience of the shop-keepers on bazar days has been constructed after vesting of the 8 zamindaris.

The population of the police-station is 37,301 and area being 91 square miles. The village has an area of 250 acres, number of occupied houses 213 with a population of 1,141 according to 1951 census.

Mahuadanr.—A village situated 64 miles south from Daltonganj in the Chhechhari valley. Mahuadanr is like a saucer being surrounded all round by mountains except at one place from which all the rivers pass. This place is known as *Sugha Bandh*. There is a folklore that Mahuadanr region was once a big lake. An unprecedented spate due to torrential downpour raised the level of the water of the lake to the summit of the hills. The parrots who had their nests in the hills got no alternative but to make big holes in the hills with the result that the entire water of the lake drained out and the place became fit for human habitation. It is also said that Mahuadanr is named after *mahua* trees which at a time were found in abundance. Mahuadanr is on the border of Surguja in Madhya Pradesh and Ranchi district of the Chota-Nagpur Division.

Mahuadanr is the headquarters of the police-station of the same name and the revenue thana comprising Mahuadanr and Garu police-stations. It is now the headquarters of a Multi-purpose Project since 1957. It is one of the eight Multi-purpose Blocks of the State. It has a post office, a District Board dak bungalow, one senior basic training school, one residential high school and two middle schools maintained by the Christian Mission, a provincialised dispensary, a veterinary hospital, information centre, library and a club. It is also the headquarters of the Community hall. A big *hat* is held on Mondays where agricultural products and vegetables have a good turnover. Mahuadanr may be turned into a good market provided the means of communications develop. It is the chief clearing house of the oil-seeds, maize, *gundali* and rice coming from Surguja side and interior of the Mahuadanr police-station. The trade is carried on by packed bullocks and ponies. Due to the hills and hilly rivulets on the Mahuadanr-Daltonganj Road, the place is practically cut off from the district headquarters and other parts of the district during rainy season. During rains the people have to go through the difficult and dangerous 14 miles passage to reach Netarhat and thence to Daltonganj.

Mahuadanr is the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Mission under the care of the Australian Fathers of the Society of Jesus. They carry on the work which was begun by Father Dehon who was the pioneer of the Mission. In February, 1896 Father Dehon was well-established here as mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau*. It was Father Dehon who built the bungalow, school, and most remarkable, the Church dedicated to St. Joseph, which is to this day only Church in the district. This building remains as a striking memorial to the enthusiasm and skill of the Father. Miles from any town or any road, it was built brick by brick by the local converts under his inspiration and guidance. Today it stands as he left about six decades before, a tall red brick building, 100 feet long, 45 feet wide, surmounted by a steeple 90 feet high, and altogether still a notable landmark in the Chhechhari valley. Among the new building is a large hall which was subsidised by the Block Development Project. There is a cemetery in the premises of the Mission. The mortal remains of Father Dehon were first interred at Daltonganj, but were subsequently removed to Mahuadanr. The Mission maintains one girls' middle school and one boys' middle school at Mahuadanr and one middle school at Sale village. Besides it maintains several Mission schools in the Chhechhari valley. It also maintains a dispensary at Mahuadanr. The Christian population is predominant in the Chhechhari valley. The converts are mostly Oraons. There are thousands of Christians in this area.

The *Adimjati Sewa Mandal*, an institution liberally supported by the State Government has a hostel where the aboriginal students reside. The Mahuadanr-Garu educational scheme has been sponsored by the *Adimjati Sewa Mandal* for the benefit of the Adibasis. To make the aboriginals economically self-sufficient a large number of *charkhas* have been distributed through the *Adimjati Sewa Mandal* and the aboriginals wear cloth woven by their own hands and the cotton grown in their own fields. At Mahuadanr there is an industrial-*cum*-production centre where training is given in carpentry, blacksmithy, tin smithy, soap-making, tailoring, rearing of bees, and cane and bamboo basket making under the supervision of an Industrial Supervisor.

There are two important beauty spots within the Mahuadanr police-station, one is Netarhat and the other is Orsapat with an altitude of about 4,000 feet from the sea level. The sight of the sunrise near the Palamau dak bungalow and the sunset at Mangolia point about six miles from the Public School, Netarhat in the west attract visitors. The details of Netarhat have been given separately. At Orsapat there is a large waterfall known as Lodh fall which falls from a height of 468 feet. This is the biggest fall in the State and it never becomes dry. Orsapat which is about six miles from Netarhat commands business

importance, being at the border of Madhya Pradesh. The development of the area will bring more tourists to this area.

Majhiaon.—This village is situated at a distance of 12 miles from Garhwa on the bank of the river Koil. It contains a beat house, a District Board dispensary and the office of the Circle Inspector. The Revenue Department has also constructed an inspection bungalow. It has been selected as the headquarters of a National Extension Service Block. Majhiaon has now become the headquarters of a police-station of the same name. Majhiaon contains two hamlets, viz., Majhiaon Kalan and Majhiaon Khurd, the area of which in the census of 1951 was 645 acres, number of occupied houses 335 with a population of 1,542.

Manatu.—A village, 36 miles north-east of Daltonganj on the old "Bihar Cotton Road" to Sherghati. It is the headquarters of the Manatu police-station. It contains a District Board dak bungalow and a dispensary. The population of the entire thana was 32,626 and area 214 square miles in 1951 census. The *garh* of Babu Pravagjit Singh, Mawar Shaheb of Manatu is also in the village. The hill of Goralataka, with its tooth-like peak, a mile or two west of the village is visible for many miles. The existing road which runs through Manatu is maintained by the District Board. This is not an all-weather road. River Amanat is a great obstacle in the way as there is no bridge over it.

A new National Extension Service Block has been opened here since July, 1956.

Besides the hills of Goralataka, Tanda-Chhatar and Gomerami are remarkable. Tanda-Chhatar is the highest peak visible for many miles. A *hat* is held here every Wednesday. Manatu has also a good and rich forest. The village Manatu has an area of 2,022 acres, number of occupied houses 79 with a population of 370. The village is very thinly populated which is mainly due to infertility of the soil owing to rocky sub-stratum.

Manika.—A village, 26 miles from Daltonganj towards east and 14 miles from Latehar towards west on Ranchi Road had figured in the movement of 1857. The zamindars, a Chero family, remained loyal to the British and their villages were destroyed. It has since been provided with a Police *Shivir* and Forester's office. It has also been selected for the headquarters of the proposed Latehar West National Extension Service Block-*cum*-Anchal. A *bazar* is held here on Fridays. The area of the village in 1951 census was 2,190 acres, number of occupied houses 144 with a population of 635.

Mankeri tappa.—A *tappa* in the south-east of the district, of which the greater part lies immediately south of Latehar and the Auranga river. Many of the villages in this *tappa* belong to the Government estate. There is a small fort at village Narayanpur. It is said that, if any descendant of the proprietors approaches it, he will meet a sudden death there, because his forefathers neglected to make the due offerings to the soul of its founder. It is consequently neglected and overgrown with jungle.

Meral.—It is a big village and has a Notified *Gram Panchayat.* Meral is now the headquarters of Garhwa West Block. A weekly *hat* is held on Sundays. It is an important trading centre on Garhwa-Nagar District Board Road. There is an upper primary school and a library. The area of the village in 1951 census was 3,155 acres, number of occupied houses 477 with a population of 2,361.

Muhammadganj.—A village and railway station, situated 12 miles south of Japla. A fair is held on the *Makar Sankranti* day near the railway tunnel. The tunnel is called *Bhimchulah* by the people of Palamau and a legend is prevalent here that the great hero of *Mahabharat*, Bhim along with other Pandavas came to this place during their exile and Bhim cooked here and so the place is called *Bhimchulah* or the oven of Bhim. A market is held on every Sunday. It contains a middle school. The village comprises an area of 4,534 acres, the number of occupied houses is 230 and the population 1,119 according to 1951 census.

Nagar Untari.—The police-station Nagar Untari comprises an area of 290 square miles with a population of 62,138 according to 1951 census. Untari is situated on the north-west of the district and is connected by a 24-mile long District Board road with Garhwa. The area of the village in the census of 1951 was 258 acres, the number of occupied houses 500 and a population of 2,360. It contains a police-station, a high school, a girls' upper primary school, a library, a District Board dak bungalow and the *garh* of Bhaiya Saheb of Untari. The dispensary maintained by Bhaiya Saheb has since been taken over by the District Board and there is a District Board doctor. The Government has established a Circle Office with a Circle Officer. The office is at present situated in a rented building. A weekly market is held on every Tuesday which is famous for sale of cattle, sugarcane, oil-seeds and lac. There is a temple behind the *garh* of Bhaiya Saheb containing the idol of Shri Bansidharjee. Rani Saheba Shrimati Sheomani Kuar of Nagar Estate is said to have brought this idol from village Manuli, P.-S. Untari. The idol is made of '*Ashta Dhatu*' (eight metals) and is one of the beautiful idols of its kind in Northern India. An annual fair is held and oblations are offered in the month of March. The idol weighs about 30 maunds.

The family of the Bhaiya Saheb of Untari is a branch of Sonepura family of Surajbanshi Rajput, being descendant of an elder wife of the 44th Raja of Sonepura. Her son lost his right to succeed the Sonepura estate through being absent on a pilgrimage when his father died. On his return he was given an estate in Belaunja with the title of Bhaiya or brother. The 3rd Bhaiya subdued Untari under the order of Mughal Emperor at the end of the 17th century and received it from the Emperor as a rent-free *jagir*. This grant was confirmed by the

British Government a hundred years later. The *Khorposhdars* of Bhaiya Saheb live in villages Silidag, Adhaura, Kochea, Ramna, Marwania and Kathar, etc., all situated in Nagar police-station.

Nawa.—A village, 20 miles north of Daltonganj on the Hariharganj Road in Bishrampur police-station. The village contains a District Board bungalow.

Twelve miles south-east of this place is the village of Nawa-Jaipur which has a dilapidated *garh* of the proprietors of the Deogan estate, who were the descendants of the Maharajas of Palamau. The village has an area of 1,335 acres, the number of occupied houses 108 and a population of 573 according to 1951 census.

Netarhat.—A plateau, four miles long and two and a half miles broad. It is in the extreme south of the district, the highest point of which is 3,800 feet above the sea level. It is in Mahuadanr police-station and is 96 miles west of Ranchi across seven hills. This is the highest point on the plateau of Chotanagpur. Netarhat is a place of peculiar charm which has laid its spell on many casual visitors. The stillness of the jungle and the cool and refreshing air brings relief from the dust and heat of the plains. Netarhat has a game sanctuary amidst pine forests that bestow a singular arboreal interest in this part. Sometime back it used to be the permanent summer station of the Governor.

In November, 1954 a public school was started at this place by the State Government, admission to which is received on merit alone. The admission fees are charged according to the parent's income. The wards of parents drawing below Rs. 100 per month are taught free and the fees of other income groups vary from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,500. The present number of the boys is 114. The admission age is 10 to 12 years and the education is imparted for preparing the boys for higher Secondary Examination, Jamalpur Railway Engineering and various other technical and vocational pursuits. The medium of instruction is Hindi but English and Sanskrit are also taught from the beginning to secure a satisfactory standard.

The temperature of Netarhat is cooler than Ranchi all the year round. It can be said that this place is the coolest in the whole of Bihar State. The place has also been provided with an Agricultural Farm. There are inspection bungalows and various rest houses.

The plateau of Netarhat in Palamau district is comparatively unknown to the tourists from outside although it is one of the rare beauty spots which is capable of great development. About a century back, it is understood, there was a military camp at Netarhat. The camp had to close down because sufficient good water was not available.* It was left to Sir Edward Gait, Lt. Governor of Bihar and Orissa to give a great importance to the plateau. Sir Edward and after him many of the Bihar and Orissa and later Bihar Governors used to spend a part

*A buffalo farm started here had also to closedown because of bad water and endemic malaria.

of the summer exodus at Netarhat. Netarhat although situated in Palamau district is more easily accessible from Ranchi, the summer headquarters of the Bihar Government. It is at a distance of 96 miles from Ranchi, the last 12 miles of which commencing from Banari runs through the hilly section and is typical of any of the other hill stations. There is an excellent all-weather road of morum which is capable of widening at some places. The cars can pass conveniently.

Sir Edward loved the spot, the natural beauty, the *sal* forests and the panoramic view of ranges of hills below. He visualised that this plateau of about 12 square miles could well be developed into a beautiful hill-station without the disadvantages of usual dampness and heavy rains of higher altitude. He also loved the aboriginal tribes, namely the Birhors and Birjias. Some Birhors are still seen living in small leaf-huts with an opening through which one could crawl in and frequently shifting their camps to jungle patches where there are more of edible fruits, roots and monkeys to catch and eat. The Birjias have now been reduced to a total population of a few hundreds only in Palamau district. The only changes that have come over the Birjias is that they are no more nomadic but they still have not taken to cultivation.

The excellent pasturage available induced the Government to start a stud-buffalo farm about forty years back but this had to wind up because of malaria and want of good water. Fortunately malaria control measures have gone a long way to make the place mosquito free but the water problem still remains. Steps are, however, being taken to ensure better water-supply.

The base of the plateau is formed of massive felspathic granite and laterite. The boulders of trap are within 180 feet of the summit. There are stretches of *sal* forest with natural bamboo groves and wild bisons occasionally are found grazing. At one time there was an attempt to grow tea and coffee on the plateau.

The entire plateau is owned by the Bihar Government. At present their are no private houses on the plateau. The best building is of course the Governor's Chalet and then comes the Palamau Forest rest bungalow. There are four other Public Works Department bungalows and a Palamau District Board bungalow. These are available for the tourists but prior reservation from the Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi or the Chairman of the District Board, Palamau is desirable. The Palamau District Board bungalow has the best situation as it overlooks several ranges of hills and the winding Koil river below.

Netarhat has a wonderful climate and in July and August it does not become moist. In summer Netarhat has a very cool climate. The plateau is ringed by forest and the rainfall usually does not exceed 60 inches per year. There are patches of pines and cypresses grown by the Forest Department and both the species have taken to the soil very kindly. Apples and peaches are grown but the fruits are not very big. English vegetables could easily be grown. The place has now been freed from malaria.

There are a number of flowering trees particularly of Bauhinia and Cassia species. Season flowers could be grown throughout the year. It has been held that the flowering trees of different species could be very well grown on the plateau which will ensure a feast of flowers throughout the year.

There are bus services both from Ranchi and Daltonganj to Netarhat but they are not very comfortable and take a long time. The development of Netarhat will open the neighbouring Chhechhari valley and other hill tops such as Jamirapat (3,747 feet above sea level) and Gulgulpat (3,819 feet above sea level). Bihar's second highest fall, the Burhaghagh with a sheer drop of 466 feet is also near Netarhat but at present accessible only to the hiker. Netarhat offers plenty of big game shooting with permission from the Forest Department. Tigers are common in certain sections. With the development of Netarhat which has been taken up, it will have great attraction to the general tourist, hiker, *shikari* and the anthropologists.

Pachparwa.—A village about four miles from Garhwa belonging to *Khorposhdar* of Bhaiya Saheb. This was confiscated during the Mutiny.

Palamau.—Palamau on the Auranga river, 20 miles south-east of Daltonganj as the crow flies, from which the district takes its name is for the historian and archaeologist the most interesting place in the district, for it was for many years the seat of the Chero chiefs and it contains the ruins of the two great forts built by them, the capture of which by Mughals and later by the Biritish resulted in the collapse of the Chero resistance, the forts lie within the reserved forests and in order to preserve them the jungle has to be cut back at intervals. They are a favourite haunt of tigers, whose pug marks may nearly always be seen in and around the old fort. The walls which are in fair preservation, are about 5 feet in thickness and those of the old fort bear marks of cannon balls and bullets in many places. In the new fort the Nagpuri gate is of great beauty. It is said to have been imported at great expense by Medni Roy, the greatest of the Rajas of Palamau, after he had sacked the place of the Maharaja of Chotanagpur; but the side of the fort on which it was erected was declared to be unlucky and the entrance was bricked up, the carving being left where it was. The gate has now been opened and some of the adjoining masonry has been demolished in order to preserve it. The following account is taken from the *Report of the Archæological Survey, Bengal Circle* in 1903-04: "There are two forts at Palamau, inside the jungle, close to each other. They are distinguished by the name of Purana Kila and Naya Kila, although both appear to be of about the same age. The style of the walls and buildings so closely resembles that at Rohtasgarh and Shergarh that both forts may safely be put down at the same time, viz., the beginning of Mughal period. The old fort is of rectangular shape, about one mile in circumference. The ground upon which it stands rises in terraces, the higher part is divided from the lower one by a cross wall. The walls are in places of considerable thickness, about 8′ the path way on the top between the battlements measuring 5′-6″. In other places they are thinner. The four gates are strongly fortified with inner and outer courts and provided with watch towers. The outer battlements of the walls are loop-holed. Inside are the remains of four two-storied houses and a mosque with three domes. The inner cross wall has one gate, in front of which is a deep well cut out of the rocks with a vaulted tunnel leading down to it. The walls are built of stones and concrete, like those at Rohtasgarh and Shergarh. The houses are plastered over and remains of paintings and stucco ornamentation are seen here and there. In all these respects, the buildings closely agree with those in the other hill forts, already referred to. I observed one statue of Buddha close to the eastern gate and another broken Hindu or Buddhist idol, but no temple was found by me.

"The new fort is built around the slopes of a conical hill. There are two lines of walls, each making up a square. The inner line clusters around the peak of the hill; the outer line is somewhat lower down. The walls are of the same kind as in the old fort. The outer walls are of considerable breadth, the passage along the roof between the battlements measuring 14′ and the total breadth amounting to 18′. There are no separate building inside the enclosure, but the walls have galleries, open to the interior, sometimes of several stories. The most interesting object is fine stone-carved window about 15′ high. There is nothing to match this either at Rohtasgarh or Shergarh. The carving is distinctly of the Mughal type. Another similar window close to it is broken and some wall near it also have fallen down and now block up the passage so that it is difficult to get a view of this excellent piece of carving". The above note still holds good.

Palamau is now often mistaken as Palamau District. It may be mentioned here that the *East India Gazetteer* by Walter Hamilton (1815) has the following description of this district:—"A hilly and jungly district in the province of Bihar, situated between the 23rd and 25th degrees of north latitude. On the north it is bounded by Rohtas; on the south and west by different wild districts in the province of Gundwana; and on the east by Ramgur. This is one of the least cultivated and most thinly inhabited territories in the Company's dominions, a great proportion of the land consisting of hills covered with jungle. The soil in many parts is strongly impregnated with iron. The principal towns are Palamau and Jaynagur; there are no rivers of any considerable size, but many small streams."

Palamau Pargana.—The largest of the four *parganas* occupying the centre and south-west of the district. It was formerly the Raj of the old Chero Rajas of Palamau.

Panki.—A village, 28 miles due east of Daltonganj. It is the headquarters of a police-station lying on the south bank of the Amanat and in the village there is also a District Board dispensary which has

now been provincialised and a bungalow. It also contains a high school and a library. The Panki Road, which branches off from the Manatu Road near Lesliganj has not been bridged so far. Public Works Department have taken up the road work which will connect Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Panki to Balumath and touch Chandwa to Chatra Road.

Panki police-station was the first in the district to be taken up for development work either as a National Extension Service Block or a Community Development Block. A 25-acre Government farm has been established at the Block headquarters.

Raja Medini Roy had an estate in this police-station also at village Kakarigarh about three miles to the west from Panki. The remains are there.

The thana has a population of 41,715 persons. Its area is 146 square miles. Panki is a big village. The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,440 acres, and the number of occupied houses 356 with a population of 1,940.

Paraspani.—It is a village situated at a distance of 16 miles from Nagar in the south. In river Kanhar bordering this village there is a very beautiful fall in the river bed itself which is known as *Bukhal Dari.* It is a beautiful site specially during the rains.

There is another fall also known as Ghaghra fall near the village Untari. The water comes out like a spring from the bottom of the hill and after going to a certain distance falls below.

Near village Untari there is a garden known as *Gosain Bagh* where armies in the Mughal period used to camp.

Patan.—A village, 15 miles north-east of Daltonganj contains a police-station. It is joined by road with Daltonganj, but the road is not bridged over the river Amanat and so forms aformidable obstacle. To cross this obstacle a diversion road via Kajari which meets in the Hariharganj-Daltonganj Road has been opened. A bi-weekly market takes place at Patan.

A new National Extension Service Block has been opened here since October, 1956. The area of the village in 1951 census was 546 acres, number of occupied houses 54 with a population of 324. With the opening of the Patan Block with headquarters at Patan the village has assumed some importance. There are a State subsidised High English School and a Middle English School besides a State dispensary and a police thana.

Patan Block comprises of 186 villages and spreads on an area of 149 square miles. There is a dam called Sadabah Dam which irrigates about 2,000 acres of land. Another dam is nearing completion on Jinjoi river which would irrigate about 8,000 acres of land. At village Chhechhauri about 6 miles away from Patan there are ruins of an old

temple known as "Sadhu Manars". Rajhara colliery noticed elsewhere lies at village Pandawa within Patan Block 9 miles west of Patan. At village Semri there is a ruin of an old fort. Patan Block has also the one important village of Nawa which was the seat of Deogan estate.

Peska.—A thickly populated village where the headquarters of the Garhwa South Block are located. It has, however, been decided to shift the headquarters of this Block to another place called Maral at a distance of 7 miles from Garhwa towards west. Peska is at a distance of 8 miles from Garhwa-Chinia Forest Road. There is a Seed Multiplication Farm in the adjoining village of Chama. It has a *tehsil kutchery* called Ramgarh belonging to the Raja of Ranka. The quarters for Forest subordinate staff have been built there.

Pundag Tappa.—A *tappa* in the east of the district which roughly corresponds with the jurisdiction of Panki police-station.

Rajhara.—A village and railway station, 10 miles north of Daltonganj. Here is situated the oldest colliery of the Bengal Coal Company, which was opened in 1847 and is working. A weekly market is held on Sundays. A middle school building has recently been constructed there from the Development scheme of Government.

Ramkanda.—It is an important village having a middle school and important market. A weekly *hat* is held on Tuesdays. It is the headquarters of the Halka office. It is not connected by a road with Ranka and one has to go to Ramkanda by jeep via Godarmana. The area of the village in 1951 census was 2,632 and the number of occupied houses was 165 with a population of 706.

Ramna.—It is an important village lying on Garhwa-Nagar Road at a distance of 15 miles from Garhwa. Weekly *hats* are held on Wednesdays and Sundays in which about more than 1,000 people assemble. There is a District Board dak bungalow at Ramna.

Ranicheri.—A village situated adjacent to Chinia and separated by a small river. It has a lower primary school. The village comprises an area of 818 acres, number of occupied houses 66 with a population of 340 according to 1951 census.

Ranka.—It is the headquarters of a police-station. This police-station has an area of 386 square miles with a population of 37,791. Recently a National Extension Service Block has been opened and a Block Development Officer has been posted. There is also a Circle Officer who works under the Block Development Officer. A Forest Ranger has his headquarters here and a Sectional Officer of the P. W. D. also resides. The ex-proprietors of the Ranka estate have their *garh* which is now in a dilapidated condition. The dispensary founded by the late Raja Govind Prasad Singh of Ranka has been taken over by the Government after the abolition of the zamindari. It is under the charge of a Government doctor. There is a District Board dak

bungalow. Weekly *hats* are held on Tuesdays and Saturdays in which a large number of people come for purchases. Lac and *makai* are sold and purchased in great quantity. There is a Government grain *gola* for giving loan to the aboriginal and backward people. There is a senior Basic school at Ranka. The Government has also established a subsidised high school whose building is under the Revenue Department.

Raja Giriwar Prasad Singh mentioned in the last *District Gazetteer of Palamau* (1926) is still alive and passes most of his time in temple which lies in front of his *garh*. After the abolition of zamindari the economic condition of the family has suffered a set-back. The family is one of the Surwar sect of Chandrabanshi Rajput. Raja Giriwar Prasad Singh is a descendant of Pooran Mal, the 1st Dewan of Palamau who with his descendants played a very prominent part in the history of the district. Like their relatives, the Chainpur family, the Thakurais of Ranka gave loyal assistance to the British since the conquest of Palamau. In 1780 Thakurai Shiva Prasad Singh helped Major Crawford in restoring order in the district, and in 1802 he served in the Surguja campaign under Colonel Jones. For some years he was the virtual ruler of the district and it was with him as manager on behalf of the minor Churaman Rai, that the decennial settlement was concluded. His grandson Thakurai Kishun Dayal Singh rendered good service in the Mutiny of 1857. The family was loyal to the Britishers who conferred the title of Raja on the late Thakurai Govind Prasad Singh in 1907.

The area of the village in 1951 census was 1,247 and the number of occupied houses was 491 with a population of 2,029.

Ranpura.—A village situated in the middle about 20 miles from Ranka having an upper primary school. A weekly *hat* is held on Mondays. It has also an excise *bhathi*. The village comprises an area of 1,677, number of occupied houses 69 with a population of 250.

Sarait.—A very small village situated at a height exceeding that of Netarhat. Unfortunately there is no road connecting otherwise it can be developed into a hill station.

Satbarwa.—A village 17 miles from Daltonganj along the Ranchi Road. It contains old ruins and is an important trade centre particularly for lac with a weekly market on Wednesdays. It is alleged that the fourth Maharaja of Palamau, Medni Rai surnamed the Just, made himself Lord Paramount of large portions of Hazaribagh, Gaya and Surguja and undertook an expedition against the Maharaja of Chotanagpur and sacked the palace Doisa, and built with the plunder the old fort of Satbarwa near Palamau. One of the gates of this fort is still called the *Nagpuri darwaza*. But the story is not proved.

There is a Basic training school in the village. One *Panchayat Bhawan* has recently been constructed from the Development scheme of Government.

Sima Tappa.—The *tappa* which lies in the angle formed by the Koil where it changes its course from northerly to westerly direction between Rud and Garu. It includes also Netarhat. This is perhaps most picturesque part of the whole district. A large part of it belongs to the Government Estate.

Sirhe Tappa.—A small *tappa*, subordinate to *tappa* Untari, situated to the west of the district. The principal market in this *tappa* is Garhwa.

Sonepura.—A village on the south bank of the Son about four miles above its junction with Koil. The village has been devastated by the floods in 1923, 1953 and 1956. The *garh* of the ex-proprietors is now a complete ruin. There are about 50 families residing in the village at present who are also anxious to leave the village which is in the danger of being eroded by subsequent Son floods. The history of the family of this estate is given in the last Gazetteer as follows :—

> "In this village is the *garh* of the proprietors of the Sonpura or Dema estate, the present proprietor being Babu Bisambharnath Sahi. The origin of this family, according to family tradition, is traced back to a certain Raja Nar Narayan, who resided at Mahuli in the district of Gorakhpur. Raja Ram Narayan, the 9th of the line, migrated to Shahabad, where he obtained possession of *parganas* Chainpur and Chausa and established his family seat at Tori Bhagwanpur. These *parganas* were granted as a reward for good service to the ancestor of the present Raja of Bhagwanpur by the 11th Raja, Dhavala Pratapa, who then went to Rohtasgarh and ruled there. This is presumably the Raja who is mentioned in the inscriptions at Rohtasgarh and elsewhere referred to. At the beginning of the 18th century Kindra Sahi, who is said to have been the 50th of the line, acquired the *parganas* of Japla and Belaunja by a *sanad* from the Emperor of Delhi and migrated to Sonpura, where his descendants have resided ever since. The family have records in their possession dating back to the time of Mughal government and the early days of British rule. When the British force marched into Sirguja in 1801 under Col. Jones, it was joined by a detachment under Raja Bhup Nath Sahi of Sonpura, and *Captain Roughsedge* acknowledged his services with the remark that 'from beginning to end he fought under me and assisted me in every engagement, accompanied by his own armed men and force."

A letter from the Marquis of Wellesley, dated August 1803 shows that the Raja was directed to guard the passes in his estate against any force that might be sent by Raghoji Bhonsla; and some years later he was directed by the Marquis of Hastings to guard them against the Pindaris 'displaying his usual zeal and bravery'. The family has long

since lost the greater part of its estates, and what remains was until recently managed under the Encumbered Estates Act by the Deputy Commissioner. The estate extends over 360 square miles, but much of it is in the hands of *mukarraridars*.

Taleya Tappa.—A *tappa* is on the west bank of the Koil opposite Daltonganj and containing the village of Chainpur. The northern half is well cultivated and the southern half is chiefly jungle.

Tappa Tappa.—A *tappa* situated in the south-east of the district, bounded on the south by the Auranga river and on the north by the Tori *pargana*. It obtains its name from a high hill in the centre; the principal market is Latehar. Government owns 19 villages with an area of 11½ square miles in this *tappa*.

Temple of Ugra Tara Devi.—A temple situated in the midst of dense jungle at a distance of 60 miles from Daltonganj and six miles from Chandwa. It is said that the temple was built by Ahalya Bai as a symbol of victory of the Marathas and is believed that a detachment of the Marathas encamped here. But these facts are not corroborated by historicity.

Tori Pargana.—A *pargana* in the south-east of the district extending over an area of 664 square miles, conterminous with the Balumath thana. It formed part of the Chota Nagpur estate, being the *khorposh* or maintenance grant of a half-brother of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur. Its tenures, people and customs approximate to those of the neighbouring *parganas* of the Ranchi district, from which it was transferred in 1892 to the newly formed district of Palamau.

Untari.—Please see Nagar Untari.

ENCLOSURE I.

Extract on Land Revenue Administration from the "District Gazetteer of Palamau" (1907).

PALAMAU PARGANA.

The district of Palamau is divided into four *parganas* or fiscal divisions, viz., Palamau, Belaunja, Japla and Tori, each of which has a separate revenue history and a separate system of land tenures. The Palamau *pargana* comprises the territory formerly held by the Chero chiefs, a wild hilly region, which was conquered by the British in 1773. When the British had taken possession of the *pargana*, a settlement for five years was entered into by Mr. Camac, the Government Agent, with the Chero Raja, Gopal Rai, and two others, who undertook to pay a revenue of half a lakh within that period. The effect of this settlement was to reduce the Chero chief to the position of an ordinary zamindar paying revenue to Government, for the *sanad* or *patta* granted to the lessees contained no provision allowing them the exercise of judicial or police powers or the enjoyment of any advantages beyond those of ordinary zamindars. In 1786 another settlement was made with Sheo Parshad Singh, the regent of Churaman Rai, a minor, who had succeeded in 1784, the *sanad* granted on this occasion also being in no way different from an ordinary zamindari lease. This settlement was the work of Mr. Mathew Leslie, Collector of Ramgarh, to which district the *pargana* was attached; and in 1789 he effected another settlement, in which he fixed the revenue payable by the Raja to Government at Rs. 12,181, and also drew up a list of *jagirdars* and other tenure-holders, and fixed the revenue due from them to the Raja.

Shortly after this, Churaman Rai attained his majority and assumed the direct management of his estate; but he proved extravagant and incapable, and the revenue having fallen into arrears, his estate was put up to public auction in 1814 and bought in by Government for the amount due. Two years later Government bestowed it upon Ghansham Singh, Raja of Deo, as a reward for services rendered; but owing to the oppressions committed by his servants in collecting the revenue, and to a system of interference with the tenure-holders, the people broke into revolt. Government consequently resumed the grant in 1818, and has since then held the estate. From that year until 1839, the land revenue of the *pargana* was Rs. 25,234, of which Rs. 12,181 were assessed on the *khalsa* villages, i.e., the villages under direct management and Rs. 13,053 were payable by the *jagirdars*. In 1839 another settlement was made for 20 years by Mr. Davidson, the Principal Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, and this was followed by various short settlements till 1864, when a regular ryotwari settlement of the Government estate was commenced, which was completed by Mr. L. R. Forbes in 1872. The last settlement, carried out by Mr. D. H. E. Sunder between 1894 and 1896, has a term of 15 years commencing from the beginning of the Fasli year (which is current in Palamau) in September, 1896.

The Government estate.

Prior to the British conquest, the Chero rulers had created a number of *jagirs* and other tenures, resumable on failure of male heirs of the grantees, retaining the remainder of the *pargana* as their *khalsa* or personal property. When Government came into possession the *jagirdars* were allowed to retain their *jagirs*, the *khalsa* villages alone remaining in the direct possession of Government, and it is these which now form what is known as the Palamau Government estate. This estate comprises 399 villages with an area of 425 square miles, of which 294 square miles are cultivated and 131 square miles are jungle and waste.

At the settlement concluded by Mr. Forbes in 1872, the total rental assessed was Rs. 40,843, the assessment being based on the *pariadari* and *utakkar* system described in Chapter VIII, and on a definite classification of rates. The lands were settled with the cultivators or ryots, but over them were placed *thikadars* or farmers, who were paid 10 to 15 per cent commission on their collections of rent, supplemented in some cases by grants of *manjhihas* or *nij-jot* lands at nominal rates of rent. The usual evils inseparable from the *thikadari* system continued, for by the simple expedient of abolishing these rates and ignoring the distinction between the two systems above referred to, and then settling relinquished and new lands at higher rates, the *thikadars* forced up the settled rental from Rs. 40,842 to Rs. 57,693.

The result of the settlement of 1896 was to raise the rental from cultivated land to Rs. 74,432, the increase being chiefly due to the extension of cultivation; and by the additional assessment of *mahua* and lac-bearing trees, this was raised to Rs. 87,790. The rental is payable in three instalments or *kists*, viz., one quarter or 4 annas on the 28th October, one-half or 8 annas on the 28th January and one quarter or 4 annas on the 28th April, these instalments being paid respectively from the sale-proceeds of the *bhadai* crops, of the winter rice and other *kharif* crops, and of the *rabi* crops. Rents for *mahua* and lac-bearing trees are payable in one instalment on the 28th May.

The *thikadari* system was abolished in 1896, and the system of direct (*khas*) management introduced, the *manjhihas* or *nij-jot* lands held by the *thikadars* being resumed and assessed to rent at the ordinary rates. Another important measure carried out after the completion of the settlement was the marking off of protected forests in the Government estate. By a notification of the 17th July 1894, all waste lands, the property of Government in the *khalsa* villages, with the exception of lands used by the villagers for cultivation or habitation, had been declared "Protected Forests". The village areas were marked off in blocks of a convenient shape, adding to the cultivated lands such quantity of waste land as would be sufficient for the needs of the villagers; and the blocks of waste land left over were, if of suitable size, constituted Protected Forests.

The tenants.

The tenants are, in common parlance, divided into three classes—*jeth* raiyats, *khuntkatti* raiyats and *asamis*. The *jeth* raiyat is the headman of the village; the term *khuntkatti* raiyat means a man who first cuts the tree stumps (*khunta*), i.e., cleared the forest and introduced cultivation, and is hence applied to tenants or the descendants of tenants who have reclaimed and held land in the village since its foundation; the *asami* is the ordinary cultivator occupying a holding other than a rent-free holding.

Nearly all the rent-free holdings are service tenures, resumable by Government, and the majority are *baigai* and *pujari* lands, i.e., holdings given to the *Baiga* or *Pujari* in remuneration for his services in propitiating the village deities. They are purely service lands which the holder has no right to sell or mortgage, and the same remark applies to the *chaukidari* and *goraiti* tenures held by the village *chaukidar* or *gorait*. *Baigai* lands, by custom, descend from father to son, unless the villagers become dissatisfied with the *Baiga*, when they frequently replace him by a person who seems more suitable for the position. The only rent-free tenures not resumable by Government are called *khairat*, i.e., petty maintenance grants given by the former Chero Rajas to *fakirs* or religious mendicants, Brahmans and others. *Khairat* tenures here, as in the *jagirdari* villages, are heritable and transferable by sale, gift or otherwise, and, in fact, many of them are no longer in possession of the original grantees.

Administration.

The Government estate is administered by the Deputy Commissioner with the assistance of a Manager, called a Khas Tahsildar, who is generally a Sub-Deputy Collector. It is divided into four circles (*tahsils*), each of which is under the control of a *tahsildar* or rent-collector assisted by a *peshkar* and a messenger or chainman. In each village there is a headman, called a Mahto or Gaowan, i.e., the chief man of the village, who is the immediate respresentative of Government. His duties are to guard the village boundary marks and report their condition; to regulate the use of irrigation reservoirs and to get them repaired, if necessary, with the help of the villagers; to report any changes in the occupancy of land, any new cultivation of unsettled waste land, desertions of holdings, damage done to reservoirs or trees, and any other matter affecting the interests of Government. In return for these services, the Mahto is given a rent-free grant of rice land, the area so granted being one acre for every 100 acres, or part thereof, under cultivation in the village, subject to a maximum of 4 acres; if no such land is available or the Mahto refuses the offer of land in return for his services, he is allowed a yearly remission from the rent of his ryoti holding equal in amount to that which could be assessed, at the rate of Rs. 4 an acre, on the area of *mahtoi* land to which he

would be entitled. A Mahto is liable to be dismissed by the Deputy Commissioner for misconduct or neglect of duty, and may on dismissal be ejected from the land granted to him during his tenure of office. This land is not transferable, and is held by each successive holder of the office of Mahto; it is accordingly known as *mahtoi* land.

Private estate.

Outside the Government estate there are a number of estates which were originally tenures known as *jagirs*, *ijaras* and *khorposhdari* or maintenance grants. These tenures were created by the native rulers of Palamau, who alienated a large part of the *pargana* by granting such tenures at quit rents, subject to a right of re-entry in default of male heirs. The majority date back to the time when the Chero chiefs were continually engaged in feuds and petty wars amongst themselves. The necessity of keeping a sufficient number of adherents in a constant state of readiness, to defend themselves against sudden attack, and also to make reprisals upon their neighbours, gave rise to the custom of bestowing lands in *jagir* or fief. These *jagirdars* obtained *sanads* from the Rajas for the grant of lands under an engagement of vassalage, or, in other words, of being at all times ready to assist the Raja with a certain proportion of armed followers, whom they maintained upon their *jagirs*. Besides these military grants, there were *khorposhdari* grants made to relatives for their maintenance, grants for services of a civil or political character, grants in lieu of official salaries, grants for charitable purposes, and the like.

The following is a statement of the various tenures. The *jagirs* included (1) service *jagirs* or grants made by the rulers of Palamau for services rendered, whether civil, military or political; (2) *jagir kanungo* and *jagir kazi* or grants made in virtue of the office of *kanungo* or *kazi* and in lieu of an official salary; (3) *jagir babuan*, grants made by the chiefs to their relatives, for whose maintenance the proceeds of the land were intended; (4) *Jagir Cheroan* and *jagir Kharwar* or lands assigned in return for military services to members of the Chero and Kharwar tribes, the old fighting clans of Palamau; (5) *jagir inami* or grants made in reward for services rendered during the rebellion of a Chero chief in 1802; (6) *jagir mutfarka* or miscellaneous grants, the main provision of which was the payment of a fixed quit rent; and (7) modern *jagirs*, also called *jagir inami*, granted by the British Government in recognition of loyal services rendered during the Bhogta rebellion and the Mutiny.

The *ijara* tenures have been classified as (1) simple *ijaras* or ordinary leases, i.e., tenures held under no definite terms or conditions except the payment of a fixed rent, some being leases for specific term of years and other leases without limitation of time; (2) *ijara baipatta* or lands purchased out-and-out by the occupants; (3) *ijara khairat* or charitable grants; (4) *ijara jagir* and *ijara inami* or grants given in reward for miscellaneous services; (5) *ijara jama brit* or grants made in consideration of an advance of money, subject to the payment of some

nominal rent; and (6) *ijara mukarari* or grants which have descended from father to son for many generations without any variation of the *jama* or rent.

The *jagirdars* were originally of superior standing and importance to the holders of *ijaras* and proved themselves a thorn in the side of the Raja of Palamau. Thus, in a petition presented in 1813 by Raja Churaman Rai, praying that his estate might not be sold, he says, "they (i.e. the *jagirdars*) consider the portion of my estate held by them in jagir as their own patrimony; they adopt no measures for liquidating the arrears of revenue, and do not obey my orders". It is at least clear that as long as Churaman Rai held the *pargana*, these *jagirdars* were masters of the situation. When, however, he fell into arrears with his rent, and it was determined to put the estate up to auction, the following proviso was published as one of the conditions of the sale :—"Whereas there are several tenants in the *pargana* Palamau, commonly termed *jagirdars*, who have for a long period held their lands at a fixed and easy rent, it is hereby notified that the above mentioned persons are to be continued in possession by the purchaser and his heirs or by whatever person the estate may be hereafter possessed in consequence of private or public sale, or any other kind of transfer, on their agreeing to such an equitable *jama* as may be determined by the Assistant Collector at Ramgarh; should be proprietor of the estate and the *jagirdars* disagree as to the term of settlement, subject to an appeal to the Court of Justice." Government, having purchased the estate, succeeded to the rights and interests of the old rulers of Palamau in respect of these tenures, and did not resume them, but proceeded to give effect to the conditions of the sale by assessing them to rent. No distinction was made between the different classes of *jagirs* and *ijaras*, and in practice they were recognized as both heritable and permanent.

In 1894 it was found that they had been freely transferred either in whole or in part by sale; in every case but one, male heirs of the original grantee were in existence, and while in the case of the larger fiefs the custom of primogeniture had been followed, in the smaller ones, which form the majority, the tenures had been freely divided amongst members of the family like any ordinary property. This being the state of affairs, it was decided in 1895 (1) that whatever might have been the origin of the various classes of *jagirs* and *ijaras*, there was no longer any necessity for maintaining any distinction between them, because in practice they had, for a long series of years, been virtually recognized as both heritable and permanent; (2) that the transferability of all such tenures should be recognized, the right of Government to resume on the failure of male heirs of the original grantees being abandoned once for all without any payment of compensation, and that all transferees should be admitted to registration; (3) that the tenures (both *jagirs* and *ijaras*) should thenceforth be raised to the position of revenue-paying estates, that the sale law should be applied to them, so as to facilitate the realization of Government revenue, and that the joint responsibility of all the holders of a tenure for the payment of the Government dues

should be maintained. This may be regarded as the Permanent Settlement of Palamau.

Revenue-paying tenures.

The next link in the chain of infeudation is formed by those rent-paying sub-tenures which are immediately subordinate to these estates and intervene between them and the peasant holdings. First in order come those tenures which, in name and nature, resemble those *jagirs* which have been raised from the status of tenures to that of estates. The *jagirdars* of the *pargana*, following the example set them by the Raja, in their turn, gave portions of their estates in *jagir* on identical terms. Each jagirdar had to provide the younger branches of his family with maintenance, so that each large *jagirdari* estate represents, as it were, a facsimile of the original estate or zamindari held by the Rajas of Palamau. These *sub-jagirs* and other tenures of old date are nominally liable to resumption by the superior tenure-holder on failure of heirs male in the male line; it is only those estates created in later times, such as *mukarari* leases, mortgages, etc., granted for a consideration, which are not liable to resumption by the superior *jagirdars*. As in the case of the *jagirs*, the rents of the sub-tenures are merely nominal, and they are generally held on a quit rent.

Madad.

The proprietors of Palamau, in distributing their possessions among their immediate relations and followers, had less regard to the fixed revenue due from each estate than to the assistance, either in money or supplies, which each of these sub-proprietors was bound to give to his chief. Accordingly, the *sanads* stipulated for a mere trifle in the way of revenue, but the grantee was liable to furnish aid (*madad*) to his chief in case of need. This exaction of *madad* was not confined to the Rajas or ruling chiefs, but the grantees of estates, *jagirdars* and others, in distributing their estates, also stipulated for *madad* in the *sanads* granted by themselves, and grantees of a lesser degree and farmers recouped themselves by similar demands upon the cultivators. At present, *madad* mostly takes the form of assistance rendered at births, deaths and marriages, and of yearly contributions at the time of the Dasahara.

Leases.

After these tenure-holders come the several classes of lease-holders, holding permanent and temporary leases, which in themselves require no special explanation. There is a peculiar form of lease bearing no special name, though it might with propriety be called a *jangalburi* lease. It consists in the separation from the rest of the village area of a certain tract of jungle land, and provides that the lessee shall clear the jungle and bring the land under cultivation. Sometimes the leases provide for a quit-rent, and give the land to the lessee and his heirs to hold as long as the rent is regularly paid; in others, the lease is temporary and not hereditary; while in others, again, there is a clause providing for right of enhancement. Many of these lease-holders have been in possession for several generations, and no longer consider their tenures as a portion of the parent village.

Rent-free tenures.

The rent-free tenures of Palamau may be broadly divided into two classes—those created by the ruling chiefs, and those created by the *jagirdars* and other superior tenure-holders within their estates. They include a large number of religious grants given for charitable purposes or the maintenance of Brahmans, *fakirs* and others, simple rent-free tenures, grants made in reward of service, and other somewhat quaint grants, such as grants made to commemorate recovery from leprosy (*kusht sant nimartik*), and grants of villages and land given as compensation to the relatives of those killed in the service of their masters and hence called *khun baha*, i.e., 'blood price'.

Many of these tenures contain revenue or rent-free estates of considerable extent. The latter, which are known as *Minhai Mahals*, consist generally of a single village, though some contain more than one hamlet. They are heritable and transferable, and have in fact been inherited, subdivided and sold to as full an extent as the *jagirs* and *ijaras*. The most important is the estate known as the Nagar Untari Mahal, consisting of 301 villages. This estate seems to be as ancient as the original Palamau estate, and to have been separate and distinct from it. The proprietors, who hold the title of Bhaiya, do not appear to have been originally vassals of the Chero Rajas, the estate having been constituted an imperial grant, even prior to the creation of *parganas* Japla and Belaunja into an *altamgha* grant, and given to the Bhaiyas as a *ghatwali* tenure for the protection of the Bihar boundary. The *sanad* of the Untari estate provides for the maintenance of the police; and up to the present date the cost of the police force within the estate is met from its revenues, the Bhaiya paying a fixed sum annually for the purpose.

Transferability of tenures.

Outside the Government estate, grants and tenures, such as *khorposh*, *jagir* and other subordinate tenures, other than ordinary *chakran* lands, are by custom heritable and also transferable, so long as a male heir in the male line of the original grantee exists. On failure of male heirs, the tenure is resumable, without encumbrances, no matter who the transferee, who has obtained the tenure for consideration, may be. The claim that such tenures are only transferable with the consent of the grantor has been rejected by the Courts; and the small *nazr* or *salami* customarily rendered by tenure-holders cannot be regarded as rent.

Belaunja Pargana.

Belaunja, which is divided into four minor fiscal divisions or *tappas*, viz., *tappas* Paranra, Pahari, Dema, and Khaira, forms an estate belonging to the Rajas of Sonpura, an ancient Rajput family, which held *parganas* Japla and Belaunja on the east bank of the Son, and also some land in Shahabad on the west bank of the river, in the early part of the 18th century. The Mughal Government styled the Rajas the sole zamindars of this tract, which appears to have comprised a revenue-paying estate assessed to Rs. 2,459. For some act of disloyalty, as it would seem, the old Hindu Raja was dispossessed, and the two *parganas* of Belaunja and Japla were confiscated and created into an *altamgha* estate by the Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah, in favour of the ancestor of the Nawabi family of the latter *pargana*. The Rajas fought every inch of the ground to keep their patrimony, and eventually the British Government intervened to put a stop to the constant quarrels and fights, and made a permanent settlement of the Belaunja *pargana* with the then Raja in 1816.

The principal subordinate tenures in Belaunja consist of maintenance *jagirs*, service grants, *mukarari*, *istimrari* and other hereditary tenures, both rent-paying and rent-free, similar to those found in Palamau. There is, however, this to distinguish them, that the majority of the *mukarari* tenures were created by the intervention of the British Government. The Rajas, unable to pay their revenue asked that, in recognition of their loyalty, special steps might be taken to save their property; and the measure adopted was to settle on *mukarari* leases a sufficient number of villages to pay the revenue, the lessees agreeing to pay their rent regularly to Government, which collected it direct from them. This system of realizing the revenue was given up in 1866. The peasantry of the *pargana* hold their lands, as a rule on the *bhaoli* system described in Chapter VIII, both the *danabandi* and *batai* modes of paying rent in kind being in vogue.

Japla Pargana.

Pargana Japla formerly belonged, as mentioned above, with *pargana* Belaunja, to the Rajas of Sonpura, but was granted by Muhammad Shah as an imperial *altamgha* grant to Amat-ul-zohra Begam, wife of Nawab Hidayat Ali Khan, and mother of Ghulam Hussan Khan, the author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*. The Rajas did not submit quietly to this summary ejectment, and it was only after a long and protracted struggle that the Nawabs succeeded in securing possession of Japla, their possession being eventually confirmed by the British Government. The Nawabi family has now lost almost the whole of it, and more than three-fourths is held by aliens. As Japla formed a Muhammadan estate, there are no extensive Hindu rent-free tenures, though there are many petty rent-free holdings granted by Rajput landlords. The chief rent-free tenures are those granted by the Nawabs, such as *mussajia* for the guardianship of mosques; *mukabir* or the guardianship of ceremonies; *wakf* or charitable bequests; and *niyaz-i-dargah* or grants to particular shrines. As in the adjoining *pargana* of Belaunja, the ryots for the most part hold their land on the *bhaoli* system. The pargana having been originally given as an *altamgha* grant, no revenue is paid.

Tori Pargana.

The Tori *pargana*, which extends over 664 square miles in the south-east of the district and is conterminous with the Balumath thana, was originally part of the estate of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur, and was given as a maintenance grant to his half-brother in comparatively recent times. The tenures in this *pargana* are very different from those of the rest of the district, and here the *manjhihas* and *rajhas* tenures of the Chota Nagpur plateau are found. The origin of these tenures is traced to the formation of a village as it is still to be seen in this *pargana*. First comes the Bhogta who clears jungle here and there for his *jhum* or shifting cultivation, and then deserts it to clear more virgin land, whence he can with less trouble get a larger produce. When a few acres have been cleared in this way, the solitary Ahir or herdsman appears on the scene with his herd of buffaloes, and builds huts in the clearing, the soil of which is gradually enriched by the manure from his cattle. When the land yields more than enough for his requirements and becomes rich enough to grow maize, one or two settlers come and build their huts by the side of his; then generally some substantial cultivator, finding the land he has in his own village not equal to his necessities, and looking about for a new home, thinks this a likely spot, and offers the landlord a small rent for the right to make what he can of the place, and sets to work preparing low rice land. Some he keeps for himself, the rest he gives on rent to newcomers, whom he thereby induces to settle; they prepare more land, and so the village is founded. Sooner or later the landlord discovers that the village can afford to pay a higher rent, and sends for the founder, finds out from him the amount of land in cultivation, allows him so much rent-free, and fixes rent on the remainder. This is, of course, a modern version of the rise of a village, but the process must have been somewhat similar in all times. *Manjhihas*, a term literally signifying the land in the middle (*majhi*) of the village, is the rent-receiver's old private land, which he often seized from the original settlers; *rajhas* is the land let by him, on which he got rent from cultivators; and *bhuinhari* is the land of the original founder, for which he got either no rent or a little rent and some predial service.

The system of tenures generally prevailing is as follows :—The *don* or low rice land of the village is divided into shares called *pattis*, each of which is supposed to contain three *bighas*, though the actual area varies considerably. With the *patti* is incorporated a certain quantity of *bari* or homestead land, including the house of the cultivator, and some *mahua* trees—the whole forming what is known as the *jiban*, on

which rent is paid; with the *don* often goes *lagan* or complementary *tanr* land of a definite or indefinite amount. In general, where the portion of *don* land is fully three *bighas*, one *bigha* of *bari* land is included; if less than this, one *bigha* or *bari*, and one of *bhita* or high land go to make up the *patti*. Occasionally, in a backward village, the *patti* contains no *don*, but is made up entirely of *bari* lands. In some villages the *bari* has been regularly measured and apportioned to the ryots as a *bigha*; and in a piece of land is pointed out to the ryots as a *bigha;* and in some cases, any man holding more *bari* than the quantity belonging to his *jiban* has to pay rent called *utakkar* for the excess area. No rent is chargeable for outlying *tanr* land, called *bahir chaur* or land outside the cow path, which does not get manured, nor for new cultivation in the jungle by villagers; but outsiders are charged rent for *daha* or *jhum* lands, where the jungle-burning system of tillage is restored to. This rent is also called *utakkar*, a term which is locally applied to all rents which are not *jiban*. In addition to the money rent, there are a number of *negs* or cesses levied on each house, so that the rate falls heavily on a man holding a small amount of land; in some cases however *neg* is levied on the amount of land held.

Relations of Landlords and Tenants.

On the whole, relations between landlords and tenants are satisfactory, and even when strained, do not result in open rupture. This state of affairs is largely due to the fact that the district is sparsely populated and the competition for tenants is exceedingly keen. If cultivators are oppressed or rack-rented, they simply move on to one of the numerous zamindars who have need of them. In brief, the ryots are protected from oppression by the fact that at present there is a competition for tenants rather than for land, and have thus, by custom, security of tenure. In the north, however, the intricacies of the *bhaoli* system naturally leave much room for friction.

Predial Services.

To the south there is dissatisfaction in some cases with the predial services and *begar* or unpaid labour, which the villagers are bound to give by customary obligation, receiving in return a daily subsistence allowance of 3 seers each of some coarse grain. Under this system the landlord is entitled to three days' labour in the year from each of his ryots, one day's labour being supplied at each of the harvests of the year, *kharif*, *rabi* and *bhadoi*. The ryots are also bound by ancient custom to give *harai*, i.e., each villager possessing ploughs has to supply one to plough the landlord's *khalsa* or private lands for one day at each harvest, and *ropni*, i.e., at the time of transplantation to transplant seedlings for the latter. The village artisans are similarly bound to work for the landlord when needed; and when marriage takes place in his family or he goes on a journey, the villagers have to give their labour free. This system has often led to considerable evils, caused not so much by the system itself as by its abuse. Thus, instead

of three days in the year, the ryots are sometimes forced to work for the landlord a week or longer; sometimes they are taken from their homes, and compelled to accompany a marriage procession or carry baggage to distant places, without any remuneration except their daily food. An unscrupulous zamindar, again, instead of confining his demands to one plough for one day, may press into his services as many ploughs as a ryot owns for two or three days together; or at the time of transplantation or harvesting he may force the villagers to work, not for one day, but until the transplantation or harvesting of his own crops is complete, before allowing them to turn to their own fields. All these are critical periods in the agricultural year, when the neglect of their own fields may entail great loss to the ryots. The discontent which may be caused by such abuse of the system is obvious.

Effects of the Feudal System.

It must not be imagined that this state of affairs is at all general. The landlords, as a body, live on their ancestral estates and are much more in sympathy with their tenants than landlords in more advanced parts of the country. Some of the best features of the old feudal system are still preserved; and it is most refreshing to see the amity and good-will that exist between the members of one of the leading families and their people. When they go into their villages, they are often accompanied by 500 or 600 of their tenants, who gladly turn out to carry their baggage or to beat for game, the only remuneration they get being their daily meals; should the beat be successful, the owner of 300 villages may be seen personally supervising the cutting up of game for the beaters. It must be remembered, moreover, that though a tenant is bound to render so many days' work in the year in return for his daily food, he gets a *auid pro quo* in being allowed a valuable plot of homestead land rent-free. Although it is liable to abuse, the system, if fairly carried out, is an ideal one in Palamau; but already signs of change can be seen, and it seems doomed to disappear.

The effect of the feudal system may also be seen in the attitude of the landlords towards Government. Government succeeded to the rights of the Maharaja of Palamau in the greater portion of the district, and here the landlords are alive to the fact that till recently they held their estates in *jagir* and were its vassals. The memory of the services they and their ancestors have rendered, when called on by Government to quell disturbances, is still fresh in their minds, and even as late as 1877 they supplied an armed force to put down a Korwa rising in Sirguja. On all sides they show a keen pleasure in meeting Government officials, in showing them the most courtly hospitality and in combining with them in schemes for the welfare of the people. When occasion has arisen in recent years for the Deputy Commissioner to visit Sirguja to break up troublesome bands of Korwa dacoits, the leading zamindars have insisted on accompanying him, with such retainers as they can muster, and forming a bodyguard to protect him from all possible danger; when he tours through the property of one of the larger

land-holders, the latter welcomes him at the boundary of his estate with a picturesque following of retainers and servants, with his elephants and horses in the background, and the falconers in the foreground. Their public spirited conduct during recent famines had earned high praise from Government, and though poor in comparison with landlords in other districts, the leading zamindars show the greatest readiness to place their purses at the disposal of Government and to assist in its schemes for the improvement of the district. Government, has, however, now abandoned the position of feudal superior, by granting their *jagirs* to them as permanently settled estates; and the difficulty of keeping up such cordial relations must necessarily increase as the state of affairs in which they originated loses its freshness in the memory of the people.

Encumbered Estates.

In concluding this sketch of land revenue administration, reference may be made to the working of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act. It had been found that a number of large hereditary land-owners in Chota Nagpur had fallen into a serious state of indebtedness, with the immediate danger of their being sold up, and of their estates passing into the hands of usurers. The measure decided upon to meet this danger was no innovation, for such cases had hitherto been met by executive action on the part of the local authorities, on practically the same lines as those proposed in the Bill. When one of these zamindars was approaching a state of bankruptcy, the District Officer used to take over his affairs including the management of his estate. A schedule was prepared of his debts, their gradual liquidation arranged for, an appropriate allowance for the maintenance of himself and his family being meanwhile provided from the estate's assets. But with the advance of time, it had become necessary that this simple and effective procedure should be legalized, and this was done by the present Act (VI of 1876) being passed. This measure has been instrumental in preserving the extensive and cherished rights and peculiar tenures of the simple aboriginal and semi-aboriginal tribes of Chota Nagpur from the foreign adventurers or local Baniyas who would otherwise have bought up the estates; and protection has been afforded not only to the landlord but also to the tenant. The Act has been the salvation of many of the old families of Palamau, and at present the estates managed by the Deputy Commissioner under its provisions extend over 1,631 square miles or one-third of the entire area of the district.

ENCLOSURE II.

Extract on Land Revenue Administration from the "District Gazetteer of Palamau" (1926).

The Parganas, Tappas, and Revenue Thanas.

The district is divided into four *parganas* or fiscal division, viz., Palamau, Belaunja, Japla, and Tori, each of which has a separate revenue history and a separate system of land tenure. The *parganas* are further divided into *tappas*, of which there are over 30 in Palamau, five (Paranra, Pahari, Dema, Rampur, and Khaira) in Belaunja, two (Mahul Mahal and Mathur Mahal) in Japla, and none in Tori. A map showing all the *parganas* and *tappas* will be found in the Settlement Report. This old division into *parganas* and *tappas* is of little practical importance nowadays, but the history of the Land Revenue Administration of the district naturally arranges itself on this basis. Nowadays the division of the district into thanas is the usual basis of administration : the district includes nine revenue thanas arranged in two subdivisions as follows :—

Subdivision and Revenue thana.

Sadr—
- Daltonganj.
- Garhwa.
- Ranka.
- Chhattarpur.
- Patan.
- Husainabad.

Latehar—
- Balumath.
- Latehar.
- Mahuadanr.

The nine revenue thanas are further subdivided into the 20 police-stations shown in Table I at the end of this book. The relation between the *thanawar* and *parganawar* division of the district is as follows: Balumath revenue thana corresponds with Tori *Pargana*. Husainabad revenue thana includes Japla and Belaunja *Parganas* : this thana is divided into two parts, east and west, by the Koil, of which the north of the eastern part is Japla *Pargana*, and the rest, i.e., the whole of the western part and the south of the eastern part (Khaira *Tappa*) is Belaunja *Pargana*. The other seven revenue thanas are included in Palamau *Pargana*.

PARGANA PALAMAU.

The *pargana* of Palamau comprises the territory formerly held by the Chero chiefs. In the 18th century an annual tribute of Rs. 5,000 was payable in respect of it to the Mughal representative. After the capture of Palamau fort by the British in 1771, Gopal Rai was made Raja of Palamau, though with the status of an ordinary zamindar, and a revenue of Rs. 12,000 a year, was settled for three years. In 1773 a further settlement for five years was made with Gopal Rai, with whom were associated two of his relatives, by which he engaged himself to pay Rs. 6,000 in the first year, Rs. 8,000 in the second, and Rs. 12,000 for the remaining three years making a total sum of Rs. 50,000. In 1776 Gopal Rai was deposed. In 1786 Mr. Leslie, the Collector of Ramgarh, made a settlement with Thakurai Shiva Prashad Singh on behalf of the minor Raja Churaman Rai, by which the Thakurai bound himself to satisfy the cultivators, to maintain the right of the *jagirdars*, and to do various other things conducive to the good government of the *pargana*. A further similar settlement was made for ten years in 1789, by which the revenue payable to Government by the Raja was fixed at Rs. 12,182 and to which was appended a list of the old *jagirdars* and the amounts payable by them to the Raja. By the terms of this settlement the Raja had to maintain the local police, the cost of which amounted to about Rs. 3,000 a year. The Government revenue was paid by assigning to it the rents of certain villages and tenures which were collected on its behalf by a *sazawal*, until the system came to an end in 1800. Churaman Rai, who had assumed personal charge of his estate in 1793, had meanwhile fallen into financial difficulties, and the revenue rapidly fell into arrears. An Assistant Collector was appointed to assist in its realization, and in 1812 he claimed to have re-established the settlement of Mr. Leslie by annulling *sanads* subsequently granted by the Raja which were inconsistent with it. What exactly resulted from this action is not clear. But things got to such a pass that the *pargana* was put up to sale for arrears of revenue in 1814 and bought in by Government for Rs. 51,000. Two years later, in 1816, it was settled with Ghansham Singh, Raja of Deo in Gaya district, on a reduced revenue of Rs. 9,000 a year with the stipulation that the rights of the old *jagirdars* should be maintained according to the decennial settlement of 1789. But this arrangement failed to give satisfaction, and in 1819 Government brought the estate under direct management and has so retained it since then, for rather more than a hundred years.

The Government Estate.

The *khalsa* villages, i.e., the villages under direct management, which now constitute the Government Estate or Khas Mahal, were settled on annual leases with *thikedars*, and by them in some cases with *katkanadars*. In 1824 these villages, 150 in number, were again settled with *thikedars* for five years on a total annual rental of Rs. 11,629. In 1830 a further settlement of them was made for two years for Rs. 10,798, and this arrangement lasted till 1835, when they

were settled for another five years for Rs. 8,906. Various villages were added to the *khalsa* lands after the disturbances of 1831-32, and further additions were made by resumption in 1835-36. In 1839, Dr. Davidson arranged for a settlement of the *khalsa* villages with *thikedars* for 20 years; the settlement was made by auction and the total of the rents stipulated by the *thikedars* amounted to Rs. 10,367-2-0 rising to Rs. 12,333-12-0. In 1859-60, after the expiration of Dr. Davidson's settlement, Mr. Campbell made a summary settlement with *thikedars* for three years of the *khalsa* villages, the number of which had again been increased by confiscations after the Mutiny of 1857, on a total rental of Rs. 22,293-3-2.

Mr. Forbes' settlement.

By this time it was realized that the well-being of the cultivators of the villages was sacrificed by the system of settlements with *thikedars*, which contained no stipulation with regard to the rents payable by the tenants. In 1864, therefore, the first *raiyatwari* settlement of the Government Estate was taken in hand, which was completed in 1870 by Mr. L. R. Forbes. The *thikedars* were not abolished but the rents payable to them by the tenants were definitely fixed. The permanent cultivation of each village was divided into *parias* of about three bighas each. Rice-land and upland were both classified as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class, and the cultivation of a *paria* or portion thereof of permanent cultivation carried with it the right to a corresponding share of fluctuating cultivation: within the limit of fluctuating cultivation so assigned the cultivator could change his uplands without charge. Actually this system was not given a fair trial, for in 1872 Mr. Forbes stated that there was scarcely a village in which the old system had not been restored and the annual measurement and assessment required by the new system abandoned. The total rent roll according to this settlement amounted to Rs. 40,843, of which Rs. 4,413 went to the *thikedars* by way of commission: during the term of the settlement this total increased to Rs. 57,693. The reserve forest was originally constituted at this settlement.

Mr. Sunder's settlement.

In 1896 was concluded Mr. Sunder's settlement. On this occasion *thikedars* were abolished; the rent was assessed not on the *paria* but on the field; and it was decided that the cultivators should pay excess rent for any new upland cultivated by them without any remission on account of lands abandoned. The rent roll rose on this occasion to Rs. 74,433. The increase was justified by an alleged increase in the area cultivated since Mr. Forbes' settlement, but it is doubtful if this allegation can be substantiated. In any case, events proved that the new settlement pressed hardly on the cultivators; holdings were freely abandoned and certificates for arrears of rent issued in their thousands, till Government allowed considerable remissions and permitted the increase of rents to be made progressively with retrospective effect. In 1894, during the

progress of this settlement, was issued the notification constituting the protected forest on the principles explained in Chapter V.

Mr. Bridge's settlement of 1913—20.

At the recent settlement that was concluded in 1920, after much discussion, it was decided that fair rents should be settled in the Government Estate at the standard of 12½ per cent or one-eighth of the value of the gross produce of the lands, with a maximum of 15⅝ and a minimum of 5⅜ per cent provided that, except in the case of large and recent extensions of area, no rent should be enhanced to a figure exceeding 50 per cent of the finally published rent. The effect of these orders was that the total rent roll was reduced by Rs. 6,495 or 7 per cent below the figure to which it had risen during the period of Mr. Sunder's settlement, though it exceeded by 5½ per cent the sum fixed by Mr. Sunder in 1896.

Rent of trees.

In addition to the rent of the land, considerable sums are derived from the rent of lac-bearing and *mahua* trees standing outside the tenants' holdings as explained in Chapter VIII.

The estate now extends to 357 square miles and includes 382 villages. There is a string of Government villages from Daltonganj to Garhwa, but most of the villages are in the south of the district or towards Lesliganj. The current demand of rent and cess is Rs. 85,000 and miscellaneous Rs. 55,000 a year. The staff maintained for the administration of the estate consists of a Khas Mahal Deputy Collector, four *tahsildars*—one for each of the Daltonganj, Lesliganj, Garu, and Latehar circles, and each with a *muharrir*—an irrigation expert, a forester, seven forest guards, 21 peons, and a staff of five clerks at Daltonganj. In each village there is a *mahto* or headman, who has been given various responsibilities, such as the reporting of excess cultivation and of vacant holdings, and who is generally consulted with regard to his village.

The jagirdars.

Here it is necessary to revert to the year 1819 when Government resumed the *pargana* of Palamau from Ghansham Singh. While the Cheros were still Rajas of Palamau they created a number of subordinate estates in the shape of *jagirs*, *ijaras*, and *khorposh* or maintenance grants. A large part of the *pargana* was alienated by the creation of such tenures at quit-rents and of *minhai* grants free of all rent, the latter mostly to Brahmans. The majority date back to the time when the Chero chiefs were continually engaged in feuds and petty wars among themselves. The necessity of keeping a sufficient number of adherents in a constant state of readiness to defend themselves against sudden attack and also to make reprisals upon their neighbours, gave rise to the custom of bestowing lands in *jagir* or fief. These *jagirdars* obtained *sanads* from the Rajas for the grant of lands under an engagement of vassalage, or in other words of being at all times ready to assist the Raja with a certain number of armed followers whom they maintained upon their *jagirs*. Besides these military grants, there were *khorposhdari* grants made to relatives for their maintenance, grants for services of a civil or political character, grants in lieu of official salaries, grants for charitable purposes and the like. The *jagirs* included (1) service *jagirs* or grants made by the rulers of Palamau for services rendered, whether civil, military, or political; (2) *jagir kanungo* and *jagir kazi* or grants made in virtue of the office of *kanungo* or *kazi* and in lieu of an official salary; (3) *jagir babuan* or grants made by the chiefs to their relatives, for whose maintenance the proceeds of the land were intended; (4) *jagir cheroan* and *jagir kharwar* or lands assigned in return for military services to members of the Chero and Kharwar tribes, the old fighting clans of Palamau; (5) *jagir inami* or grants made in regard for services rendered during the rebellion of 1802; (6) *jagir mutfarka* or miscellaneous grants, the main provision of which was the payment of a fixed quit-rent; (7) modern *jagirs*, also called *jagir inami*, granted by the British Government in recognition of loyal services rendered during the Bhogta rebellion and the Mutiny.

The ijaradars.

The *ijara* tenures have been classified as (1) simple *ijaras* or ordinary leases, i.e., tenures held under no definite terms or conditions except the payment of a fixed rent, some being leases for a specific term of years and others leases without limitation of time; (2) *ijara baipatta* or lands purchased outright by the occupants; (3) *ijara khairat* or charitable grants; (4) *ijara jagir* and *ijara inami* or grants given in reward for miscellaneous services; (5) *ijara jama brit* or grants made in consideration of an advance of money, subject to the payment of some nominal rent; and (6) *ijara mukarrari* or grants which have descended from father to son for many generations without any variation of the *jama* or rent.

The holders of these feudal estates were an important class of the community, and it was largely the skill with which Thakurai Shiva Prashad Singh, himself a *jagirdar*, had played into their hands during the period of his management that led to the final collapse of the Chero Raj. When the *pargana* was put up to sale and bought in by Government in 1819, Government did not resume these tenures but declared that they would be maintained on an equitable *jama*. The status of the *jagirdars* and *ijaradars* and the amount of their rent was for many years a source of constant difficulty. In the decennial settlement of 1789, Mr. Leslie had given a list of the ancient *jagirdars* and their rents, and the list was often appealed to on subsequent occasions as authoritative. But what with alienations, inheritance—in some cases by the eldest son, in others not—encroachments, and intended resumptions, it was impossible to find a final answer in Mr. Leslie's list to the numerous questions raised. The matter was not set at rest till orders were passed in 1895. The orders of

1895 that (1) whatever might have been the origin of the various classes of *jagirs* and *ijaras*, there was no longer any necessity for maintaining any distinction between them, because in practice they had for a long series of years been virtually recognized as both heritable and permanent; (2) that the transferability of all such tenures should be recognized, the right of Government to resume on the failure of male heirs of the original grantees being abandoned once for all without any payment of compensation, and that all transferees should be admitted to registration; (3) that the tenures, both *jagirs* and *ijaras*, should thenceforth be raised to the position of revenue-paying estates, that the sale law should be applied to them so as to facilitate the collection of Government revenue, and that the joint responsibility of all the holders of a tenure for the payment of the Government dues should be maintained. This may be regarded as the permanent settlement of Palamau. At about the same time the *minhai* or rent-free tenures were entered in the general register of revenue-free lands.

Present-day tenures.

Beneath the *jagirs* and *ijaras* of Palamau *pargana* which were elevated into permanent, heritable, transferable and non-resumable estates by the orders of 1895, were other sub-tenures, created in the same manner and with the same motives, which by those same orders became tenures of the first degree. Such tenures, which are found in all four *parganas*, may be classified under the following heads :—

(1) *Jagir* tenures were originally granted for services which are for the most part no longer either demanded or performed. They are generally on a fixed rent and heritable, but resumable on failure of male heirs.

(2) *Khorposh* tenures are granted for the maintenance of members of the proprietor's family. Where estates are governed by the law of primogeniture, such grants are made to younger sons and are only resumable on the failure of male heirs. Grants made to females are generally for their lifetime. Concubines and illegitimate children are also provided for in this way.

(3) *Khairat* tenures are made for charitable purposes and include the grant of land to Brahmans and to idols. Such grants are as a rule permanent, non-resumable, partible, and transferable. They are often of small extent.

(4) *Mukarrari* tenures are most numerous and important under the Sonpura estate. They are as a rule non-resumable, partible, heritable, and alienable. In Tori pargana a few such tenures are resumable.

UNTARI ESTATE.

Before dealing with the three *parganas* other than Palamau, allusion should be made to the revenue-free estate of the Bhaiya Sahib of Untari. This family is a branch of the Sonpura family of Surajbansi Rajputs, and legend says that the Untari property was given to the elder son of the 44th Raja of Sonpura who lost his opportunity of succeeding to Sonpura through being absent on a pilgrimage when his father died. This estate appears always to have been distinct from the Palamau Raj, though it is included, except for Rampur *tappa*, in the Palamau *pargana*, and to have been assigned originally by the Mughals as a kind of *ghatwali* tenure for the protection of this frontier of Bihar. The estate still pays no revenue, but the proprietor pays a fixed sum for the maintenance of the local police.

PARGANA BELAUNJA.

The other three *parganas* are less extensive. Belaunja *pargana* consists of the five *tappas* of Paranra, Pahari, Dema, Khaira, and Rampur, the first four which form the estate of the Sonpura family of Surajbansi Rajputs which held the *parganas* of Japla and Belaunja on the east bank and also Son land in Shahabad on the west bank of the Son in the 18th century. The Mughal Government styled the Rajas the sole zamindars of this tract, which appears to have formed a revenue-paying estate assessed at Rs. 2,459. For some act of disloyalty apparently the old Hindu Raja was dispossessed, and the two *parganas* of Belaunja and Japla were confiscated and created into an *altamgha* estate by the emperor Muhammad Shah in favour of the ancestor of the Nawabi family of the latter *pargana*. The Rajas fought every inch of the ground to keep their estate, and eventually the British Government intervened. In 1804 the Nawabs were compelled to give a lease of the four *tappas* to the Sonpura Raja for a term of years: but when the lease was due to be renewed in 1813, the quarrel broke out afresh and it was only composed finally by Government in 1816 when the *pargana* was permanently settled with the Sonpura family. Belaunja and Japla *parganas* were transferred to the subdivision, as it then was, of Palamau in 1871.

PARGANA JAPLA.

Pargana Japla formerly belonged together with *Pargana* Belaunja to the Rajas of Sonpura, but was granted by Muhammad Shah as an imperial *altamgha* grant to Amat-ul-Zohra Begam wife of Nawab Hedayet Ali Khan and mother of Ghulam Husain Khan, the author of the *Sair-ul-Mutakharin*. The Rajas did not submit quietly to this summary ejectment, and it was only after a long and protracted struggle that the Nawabs succeeded in securing possession of Japla of which their possession was eventually confirmed by the British Government. The Nawabi family has now lost almost the whole of it, and the greater part is held by aliens. As Japla formed a Muhammadan estate, there are no extensive Hindu rent-free tenures, though there are

many petty rent-free holdings granted by Rajput landlords. The chief rent-free tenures are those granted by the Nawabs for the guardianship of mosques and ceremonies, or for particular shrines, or as charitable bequests. The *pargana* having originally been given as an *altamgha* grant no revenue is paid in respect of it.

Pargana Tori.

Pargana Tori extends over 666 square miles in the south-east corner of the district and is conterminous with Balumath revenue thana. The original Rajas of Tori were declared by order of the Patna Council to be *jagirdars* of the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur and to be liable to pay him an annual sum of Rs. 2,007. In 1804 the then Raja, Durgijoy Sahi, died and the estate was resumed by the Maharaja after litigation with the widow, the Chakla estate being left to the family of the strongest male claimant. The Maharaja had at the same time to pay up considerable arrears of revenue to save the estate from sale. Local agitation resulted from his attempt to resume all the under-tenures created by the Tori Rajas, but his attempt was withstood by the local officers. In 1866 the estate was granted as a *khorposh* by the Maharaja to his half-brother, Kumar Jagat Mohan Nath Sahi Deo. When the district of Palamau was formed in 1892, Tori was included in it, but it still pays revenue as part of the Chota Nagpur estate in Ranchi district.

Extension of Government intervention.

The foregoing account of the revenue history of the different *parganas* will show how Government have been led on step by step to intervene in order to preserve their proper rights to the various strata of the agricultural population. The final stage of this process was reached in the survey and settlement of 1913—20. In 1789, by the record in the settlement with the then Raja of the names of and the sums payable by the old *jagirdars*, the first step was taken towards securing the holders of the under-tenures created by the Chero Rajas. These tenures were finally elevated into estates rather over 100 years later in 1895. In the Government Estate the actual cultivators of the soil had already been secured by the *raiyatwari* settlements of Mr. Forbes and Mr. Sunder, so that in their case the last settlement came only as a revision. Outside the Government Estate no detailed steps had been taken to secure the cultivators in their holdings, though the Raja had been adjured as long ago as 1876 to satisfy the raiyats. The last settlement marked the extension of the protecting arm of Government beyond the *jagirdars*, *ijaradars*, and other middlemen to the actual cultivators of the soil throughout the district.

Revenue-paying estates and revenue-free properties.

As the result of the promotion of the Palamau tenure-holders in 1895 to being proprietors of estates, there are 258 revenue-paying estates in the registers of the district, with 728 separate accounts, paying a revenue of Rs. 1,09 157. The highest revenue is paid by the Sonpura

estate (Rs. 7,884), the Deogan estate (Rs. 2,071), and the Chainpur estate (Rs. 1,096). The total number of revenue-free properties is 378 with 266 separate accounts.

Encumbered estates.

The Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act (Act VI of 1876) has been extensively applied in this district and at one time as much as 1,631 square miles, or one third of the district was being administered under its provisions by the Deputy Commissioner. In the old days, before the Act came into force, executive action used to be taken by the local officers in Chota Nagpur to save the estates of the old zamindars from the bankruptcy and disruption with which they were so often threatened. Such action was originally taken to prevent the disturbances that were likely to follow on the ousting of the old families from their estates, but afterwards it was sometimes taken in the interests of the tenants who found their ancestral landlords more to their liking than the speculators who succeeded to their interests. In Palamau the Act has often been applied to save estates from bankruptcy with little discrimination as to the origin of their proprietors: the properties of Brahmans, Rajputs, Kayasths, and Baniyas, who were comparatively newcomers into the district, have been protected in this way. In the larger estates succession is ruled by primogeniture; but in the smaller estates it is not; and they are therefore bound to disintegrate in the course of time. Many of the estates protected were already so small that they had a total rent-roll amounting to less than Rs. 1,000 a year, and there were often large numbers of co-partners to be provided for. At the time of writing the number of estates managed under the Act has been greatly reduced.

ENCLOSURE III.

Extract from the book "The Annals of Indian Administration", March 1867, Part II, Vol. XI, pages 100—106.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF PALAMOW, 1862—1866.

This report consists of Notes Geographical, Statistical, and General, on that portion of the Lohardugga, or Chota Nagpore District, known as Pergunnah Palamow, written, during 1862 to 1866, by Major G. Hunter Thompson, Superintendent, Revenue Survey.

Position and Area.—Palamow, generally called a *Pergunnah*, because it was held under that designation by the Rajah before the estate was purchased by Government, is a subdivision of the Lohardugga, or Chota Nagpore District. It is situated between the parallels of 23°15′, and 24°35′, North Latitude, and Meridians 83°20′ and 84°40′ East Longitude. Palamow is bounded on the north by districts of Mirzapore and Behar; on the East by Hazareebaugh and Lohardugga; on the south by Lohardugga and Sirgoojah; and on the west by Sirgoojah and Singrowlee. The Soane river runs about fifteen miles to the north, of the northern boundary, and the Kunhur river (an important feeder of the Soane) is the boundary between Palamow and Sirgoojah on the south-west. The approximate area of the *Pergunnah* is 3,650 square miles, of which 456 square miles may be said to be cultivated; 2,399 square miles jungle fit for cultivation; 608 square miles entirely hills; and 187 square miles unculturable waste. There are twenty-five large estates, locally termed *tuppehs* in Palamow. A detailed account of each of these is given.

Administration.—Daltongunge, the present headquarters, and residence of the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Palamow, is situated in Latitude 24°42′ N. and Longitude 84°07′ E. on the right bank of the Koel river, opposite to Shahpoor, the old capital of the *Pergunnah*. The height of the station above the sea, barometrically calculated, is 54 feet. The station is about 100 miles distant north-west from Ranchee, the sudder station of the Lohardugga district. As a central situation, it could not have been better selected, but Daltongunge is not considered a healthy place. If Palamow be made into a separate district. Major Thompson recommends one of the following as a site. "Ranki" in the centre of Baree, elevation above sea 744 feet. "Turhursee" in Poondag, on the right bank of the Amanut river, elevation 690 feet. "Pudma" in Poondag, elevation 991 feet. "Boorhee", in Deogun, elevation 1,253 feet. "Gurwa" in Oontaree, elevation 586 feet. "Bisrampoor" in Turringa, elevation 579 feet. "Neturhaut", in Seemah, elevation 3,335 feet. There is but one Assistant Commissioner, with limited powers, in charge of the whole *Pergunnah*, the duties of which are very multifarious, and extended, and altogether too much for any one officer. There is ample work in Palamow for a

Deputy Commissioner, and two Assistants, and until it is made into a separate district, and adequately officered, the detailed administration must remain, as at present, neglected and undone. The Moonsiff resides at Lohardugga, and the Deputy Commissioner at Ranchee, so that parties to civil suits, and to such criminal cases as are appealed, have unusually long distances to travel, before their suits or cases can be disposed of. Lohardugga is 100 miles, and Ranchee 150 miles distant from Oontaree.

Physical Geography.—The Palamow country generally is of a very broken and hilly nature, particularly the southern and western portions, which may be said to consist of detached groups from the Chota Nagpore, and Sirgoojah elevated plateaus. One portion of the south-west boundary of Palamow (Tuppeh Cheecharee) runs along the top (eastern edge) of the "Jummera Pat", elevation upwards of 3,400 feet above the sea. The Jummera and Myne Pat are two very extensive plateaus in Sirgoojah, which reach an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet above the sea. The Neturhaut range in Tuppeh Seemah, of Palamow, on the top of which there is a plateau of table land, measuring about four miles long, and two and a half miles broad, is considerably over 3,300 feet in height above the sea. There are many other high ranges of hills in the *Pergunnahs*, the most conspicuous peaks of which are "Bulbul" on the south-east boundary, 3,329 feet; "Booree" on the south-west boundary, 3,078 feet; "Kootam" (Tuppeh Seemah), 2,791 feet; "Kumandee" (Tuppeh Baree) 2,530 feet and "Toongaree" (Tuppeh Khamee) 2,108 feet. The hills and in many places the valleys, are densely covered with tree and bush jungle, and this, added to the fact that the cultivated and inhabited portions of the country are chiefly in the valleys which are very low, although some are broad, accounts for the climate being generally unhealthy. The "Amanut" valley, Tuppeh Poondag Imlee, and Kote, is tolerably open, and contains the richest cultivation in Palamow. The average breadth of the valley is eight miles, and as it has been cleared of all heavy jungle, and the ground is of an undulating nature, it is one of the most healthy and flourishing parts of the *Pergunnah*. The valleys retain moisture until late in the cold season, it is consequently damp and feverish all October and November, and it is not considered safe to go out into camp till December. Nor can any one remain out very late, with safety; because, as soon it becomes dry, intense heat sets in, and jungle fever and cholera are prevalent in April and May. The rains appear to be healthy. The average indoor temperature, at noon, throughout the seasons may be noted as follows:—During the hot weather 100°F.; during the rains 90°F.; during the cold weather 70°F. The geological formation of the eastern and southern portions is gneiss, and of the western portion old red sand stone superlying non-fossiliferous mountain limestone. The country bears evident signs of severe volcanic and igneous action. Granite protrudes at many places, especially towards the north of the *Pergunnah*, and here and there huge broken masses of quarts, hornblende, and felspar are apparent,

often in a conglomerate form. In the beds of the Kunhur and Koel rivers, the jasper and trap rocks are to be seen cropping out at some places. There is abundance of lime and coal. Coal was formerly quarried, by the Bengal Coal Company, at a place called "Rajhurra" in Tuppeh Turriya, two miles below the junction of the Amanut with the Koel, but the undertaking was given up, after the mutiny of 1857, when the Palamow rebels destroyed the buildings and machinery and as the means of transport were bad and unprofitable, the works have never been started again. The Bengal Coal Company raised the coal at the pits for 8 pie, or ¾ths of an anna, per maund; and after carrying it to the Soane, first by boats down the Koel, and afterwards when they found that the river route did not answer, by carts along a rough road which they made close to the right bank of the river, they sold it for 4 annas a maund. The distance from Rajhurra, to the point where the Koel runs into the Soane, is less than 40 miles, and a good road on the line formerly adopted by the Bengal Coal Company, could easily be made. Any other line of road would be difficult of construction, as it would have to pass over hill ghauts, that skirt the river, for long distances, on either side. Iron, also, is as plentiful as coal; and when it is considered how much both of these valuable minerals are required on the Railways that are now in progress in the N. W. Provinces and that the cost of both, if brought from Palamow, Sirgoojah, Rewah, and Singrowlee, would be far less than is now paid for what is brought from Bengal, it is surprising that up to this date nothing has been done to open out, by good road or canal communication, the vast resources of these provinces. It has been stated that antimony, copper and lead, are to be found in Palamow, but no indications of these ores were seen during the survey operations; and from careful enquiry nothing was heard about them. The natives state that copper is plentiful in Rewah.

The Soil, when well tilled, is productive. The soils of the higher lands and hills are rich in decayed vegetable mould, which is added to yearly by the fall of leaf from the jungle and forest, and are consequently best adapted for cotton. The iron and the lime are powerful stimulants to the soil, and with care, and proper attention to the seasons, almost any kind of crop can be successfully reared. The well manured land immediately round the homestead is called "Baree". On this spices, tobacco and vegetables are grown. Good land a little further off, which is also manured, and on which wheat and barley are grown, is called "Beetta". All the other up-land, on which gram, mustard, *dhalls*, oil seeds, etc, are grown, but which is never manured, is called "Tand". The cotton lands are generally in the jungle, or on spurs of hills, and are frequently changed. Palamow is the only district of the Chota Nagpore Division that produces extensive cold-weather or "Rubbee" crops of wheat, barley, gram, *khesaree*, or field pea, *rehur* and other *dhalls*, mustard, *til*, *sirgoojah*, and opium. Cotton, sugarcane, and hemp are largely produced; as are also rice, Indian-corn, *oorid*, *murwa*, *jowar*, *kodo*, *koorthee*, etc., etc. Indigo has been tried, but did not succeed. The chief natural productions, in addition to coal and iron, are lac, resin, catechu, *mahooa*, petals, honey, *tikhoor*, *cherounjee*, silk, cocoons, with a variety of medicinal plants and herbs, also several kinds of timber including ebony and "kohsoom".

Tenures.—When Government became the proprietor of the *Pergunnah* in 1812, the Rajah's affairs were in great disorder, and no correct lists of the different holdings were forthcoming. Government only laid claim to the Rajah's rights, viz., the Khalsa lands, the quit-rents or other fixed dues on the *Jaghir* and *Ijarah* lands, and to all lands that may have been surreptitiously alienated, or that may have been found to have escheated. With such data at his disposal, as was available in 1812, the Collector of Ramghur could not possibly have correctly determined the rights of Government in Palamow. Even now, with the aid of the survey data, such an investigation would be difficult and tedious; but the true extent and limits of each tenure might be clearly ascertained, with a view to assessing all lands (except new villages reclaimed from jungle) found to be held in excess.

Population.—The population of the *Pergunnah* is 1,56,876 souls. This with the total approximate area of 3,650 square miles, gives a general average of about 43 persons to the square mile; but this average cannot be accepted for any particular part, the centre of the *Pergunnah* being twice as thickly inhabited as any other portion. The races in possession are Rajpoots, Brahmins, Joolahirs, Khairwars, Cheoroos, Aheers, Koormees, Koerees, Ooraons, Moondas, Pahuns, Khoorwas, Paraiyas, and Birhores. The Rajpoots, Brahmins, Joolahirs, Bhooiyas and Koerees are chiefly confined to the east, centre, west, and north of the *Pergunnah*, the other tribes inhabiting the southern and most jungly portions. The Khairwars, Cheeroos, and Bhooktas are the oldest and most turbulent aboriginal tribes now in Palamow, particularly the Bhooktas, who have always been at the bottom of the local rebellions that have taken place. Before them again, it is said, that tribes called Bhurs, and Marhs occupied all the wildest and most hilly parts of Palamow. As civilization has advanced, the Bhurs and Marhs have receded westwards into the wilds of Singrowlee and the Kymore hills, where a few of them are still to be found, their chief occupation being to smelt iron. The wildest people now in Palamow are the Birhores and Paraiyas. These tribes confine themselves entirely to the hills, and gain their livelihood chiefly by bird catching, and the snaring of wild animals. They also collect and sell the jungle medicinal herbs, plants and roots. The only thing they ever attempt to cultivate and this always on the sides of the hills, is the castor oil plant. There are very few Mussulman villages, but the Joolahirs, or weaver class, are to be found in all the larger villages. If the Cheeroos, Bhooktas and Khairwars are to be classed as agriculturists, which they at present really are, four-fifths of the population are agricultural. On the whole the condition of the people is good. The zemindars are well off in every respect, and generally they treat the ryots well. The Palamow people have much to be thankful for, and little to complain of. A productive soil, plenty of cattle and cotton, a very light assessment, very few police or

other officials, and a geographical position that exempts them from all calls for carriage or supplies; the latter being a privilege that is generally appreciated by the natives. With one or two more European officials resident amongst them, to listen to their complaints, and to administer justice speedily, also to open up more and better lines of communication, improvements which the *Pergunnah* could easily pay for, Palamow could soon be converted from what it now is into a model district.

Trade is slight from the isolated position, the natural difficulties of transit, and the almost utter want of communications. The imports into the *Pergunnah* in 1866 are estimated at Rs. 2,87,625 in value, and the exports at Rs. 6,84,000.

Towns and Communications.—The chief towns in Palamow are "Moharajgunge" on the extreme north (the Behar and Palamow boundary runs right through the town, leaving half in Behar and half in Palamow). "Shahpore", (the old capital) in the centre, "Gurwa" and "Runka" both in the west centre; and "Oontaree" on the extreme north-west. Gurwa is the principal town of the present day. It contains 3,000 inhabitants, and through it all the trade passes to and from Behar. Formerly there used to be 5,000 inhabitants in Gurwa, but nearly one half of the people have died from cholera within the last two years. The town and vicinity are in a very filthy state, and some sanitary arrangements are much required. The main lines of communication cannot yet be called roads, as they are mere clearances through the jungle with ditches cut, here and there, on either side. The principal rivers in the *Pergunnah* are the Amanut, the Aurunga, the Koel, and the Kunhur, all flowing in a N. N. W., direction and becoming feeders of the Soane.

Animals.—Palamow is rather famous for its cattle. It is a fine grazing country, and large herds are brought to graze on the hills and wilds, during the dry months, from Behar and Shahabad. The survey statistics show that there are 59,290 bullocks, 70,035 buffaloes, and 38,895 cows, the property of the zemindars and people in the *Pergunnah*. A good bullock sells at Rs. 12 to 14, a buffalo at Rs. 14 to 18, and a cow at Rs. 6 to 8. A good Palamow buffalo, if well fed, will give three seers of milk a day besides feeding its calf: A cow will not give more than one seer and feed its calf besides. There are no horses in Palamow and but few ponies. An occasional donkey is seen. There are a good many sheep and some goats; dogs, cats, pigs and poultry are plentiful. Of wild animals, tigers, leopards, wolves, hyenas, pigs, jackals, porcupines, foxes, deer, monkeys, cats, hares, inchneumon and squirrels are plentiful. Bison and bears are to be found on the southern parts, but are not numerous; and an occasional pack of wild dogs are met with on the northern and western portions of the *Pergunnah*. Of deer, the sambur, the neelgaie, the spotted deer, a small kind of antelope and the ravine deer, are plentiful. Game birds abound. Of fish, there is the *mahseer*, several kinds of trout, the *rehoo*, the *kutla*,

the *pooteea*, the *gueaie*, the *chulwa*, and several other kinds of less note. Of reptiles, there are the alligator, the crocodile, the *gohsaup*, the *geekorane biscopra*, chameleon, centipede, scorpion, and various kinds of lizards. The boa constrictor, cobra capella, damu, *korait*, and a variety of water and other snakes. The natives believe in a very large kind of serpent said to exist in the Kunhur, which attacks travellers whilst wading across the river, by twisting itself round the legs and body, and settling, with its mouth, on the nostrils, through which it sucks out the brains of its victim.

General Statistics.—In 1866 there were in Palamow 25 estates with 2,749 villages. The area under cultivation was 456 square miles, fit for cultivation 2,399, hills 608, lamen waste 187 or 3,650 square miles in all. The average size of villages was 849 acres. The number of ploughs was 24,761, of bullocks 59,290, of buffaloes 70,035, of cows 38,895; of liquor shops 196; and of *mowah* trees for liquor 1,32,584. There were 85,313 males and 71,563 females or 1,56,876 in all inhabiting 34,299 houses with 4.5 to each house and 43 to each square mile. There were 6 police *thannahs* and 6 *chowkees*.

Appendices

APPENDIX.

LIST OF MARKETS.

(Held weekly except as shown otherwise in column 2.)

Village in which held.			Day of week.
1			2
DALTONGANJ POLICE-STATION.			
Adar	...	...	Monday.
Chainpur	...	...	Saturday.
Chando	...	...	Thursday.
Chunga Banasdih	...	...	Sunday.
Daltonganj	...	...	Wednesday.
Dhawa	...	...	Sunday.
Hutar	...	...	Tuesday.
Khura	...	...	Wednesday.
Pathra	...	...	Sunday.
Polpol	...	...	Tuesday.
Salatua	...	...	Monday.
Satbarwa	...	...	Wednesday.
LESLIGANJ POLICE-STATION.			
Bhakasi	...	...	Monday.
Dhanganu	...	...	Friday.
Haratua	...	...	Tuesday.
Lesliganj	...	...	Sunday.
Ramsagar	...	...	Tuesday.
Tenar	...	...	Saturday.
PANKI POLICE-STATION.			
Duwarika	...	...	Saturday.
Harlaung	...	...	Wednesday.
Kunwai	...	...	Saturday.
Nawagarh	...	...	Monday.
Panki	...	...	Friday.
Tetrain	...	...	Tuesday.

Village in which held.	Day of week.
1	2
GARHWA POLICE-STATION.	
Banda	Friday.
Garhwa	Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
Jarhi	Friday.
Lakhna	Saturday.
Meral	Sunday.
Nawadih	Saturday.
Obra	Sunday.
Peska	Wednesday.
Sonehara	Saturday.
UNTARI POLICE-STATION.	
Bishunpura	Monday.
Dhurki	Friday.
Nagar Untari	Tuesday.
Ramna	Wednesday.
RANKA POLICE-STATION.	
Bhauri	Sunday.
Chinia	Tuesday.
Kanjra	Monday.
Puregara	Monday.
Ramkanda	Tuesday.
Ranka	Tuesday and Saturday.
Ranpura	Monday.
Sewadih	Sunday.
BHANDARIA POLICE-STATION.	
Bargarh	Sunday.
CHHATTARPUR POLICE-STATION.	
Chhattarpur	Tuesday.
Kerki	Wednesday.
Naudiha	Saturday.
Saraidih	Thursday.
Susiganj	Friday.
HARIHARGANJ POLICE-STATION.	
Hariharganj	Monday and Friday.
Pipra	Wednesday.

Village in which held.	Day of week.
1	2
PATAN POLICE-STATION.	
Churadohar	Sunday.
Dulhi	Friday.
Imli	Friday.
Janghesi	Wednesday.
Kariahar	Tuesday.
Kishunpur	Saturday.
Lamipatra	Sunday.
Nawa	Tuesday.
Palhe	Monday.
Patan	Thursday.
Sole	Thursday.
BISRAMPUR POLICE-STATION.	
Bisrampur	Sunday.
Gurha	Tuesday.
Nawa	Wednesday.
Rajhara	Sunday.
Sigsigi	Saturday.
MANATU POLICE-STATION.	
Chak	Wednesday.
Kasmar	Monday.
Korda	Tuesday.
Loharsi	Wednesday.
Manatu	Wednesday.
Padma	Monday.
Tarhasi	Thursday.
HUSAINABAD POLICE-STATION.	
Dangwar	Monday and Friday.
Haidarnagar	Tuesday.
Husainabad	Sunday and Thursday.
Koshiara	Saturday.
Muhammadganj	Sunday.
Panra	Thursday.
Poldih	Sunday and Wednesday.

Village in which held. 1	Day of week. 2
BHAUNATHPUR POLICE-STATION.	
Arsali	Thursday.
Bardiha	Sunday.
Kanri	Friday.
Ketar	Friday.
Kharaundha	Thursday.
Kharaundhi	Saturday.
Kushaha	Tuesday.
Majhiaon	Wednesday.
Morbay	Saturday.
LATEHAR POLICE-STATION.	
Barwala	Sunday.
Koili	Friday.
Korid	Thursday.
Latehar	Tuesday.
Manika	Friday.
Namudag	Monday.
Nawagarh	Saturday.
Zalim	Monday.
KERH POLICE-STATION.	
Barwadih	Friday.
Kerh	Tuesday.
Lat	Friday.
Nawadih	Thursday.
Pokhari	Saturday.
BALUMATH POLICE-STATION.	
Balubhang	Saturday.
Balumath	Tuesday.
Balunagar (Balu)	Saturday.
Bariatu	Monday.
Chiru	Monday.
Herhanj	Sunday.
Holang	Wednesday.

Village in which held. 1	Day of week. 2
Latu	Wednesday.
Murpa	Thursday.
Murup	Thursday.
Patratu	Wednesday.
Phulsu	Thursday.
Serandag	Wednesday.
Seregara	Sunday.
Sibla	Wednesday.
CHANDWA POLICE-STATION.	
Bharila (Sasang)	Sunday.
Chakla	Monday.
Chetar	Wednesday.
Haraya (Chandwa) ...	Friday.
Loharsi	Tuesday and Saturday.
Rampur	Thursday.
MAHUADANR POLICE-STATION.	
Gothgaon	Friday.
Mahuadanr	Monday.
GARU POLICE-STATION.	
Sarju	Friday.

TABLE I.

Normals and Extremes of Rainfall.

Station.	No. of years of data.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*.	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*.	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours. † Amount. mm.	Date.
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daltonganj	50	A	26.9	33.8	20.1	10.2	15.2	153.4	350.8	362.7	196.9	53.3	14.2	4.6	1242.1	149	50	290.8	1920 July 23.
		B	2.0	2.6	1.9	0.9	1.5	7.8	16.2	16.5	9.9	3.4	0.8	0.4	63.9	(1946)	(1903)		
Balumath	48	A	22.9	40.9	22.3	11.9	32.0	169.2	364.7	407.9	218.7	70.6	17.5	5.8	1384.4	162	64	316.2	1949 July 19.
		B	1.7	2.7	2.0	1.0	2.1	8.9	16.7	17.8	10.4	3.9	1.0	0.5	68.7	(1919)	(1912)		
Hussainabad	44	A	28.5	27.9	13.7	7.6	11.7	113.3	288.0	336.5	186.9	54.4	8.1	2.5	1079.1	179	41	220.2	1905 September 1
		B	1.7	1.9	1.2	0.5	1.1	5.5	12.8	14.5	8.6	2.8	0.5	0.2	51.3	(1942)	(1908)		
Garhwa ..	47	A	29.0	33.8	18.0	6.9	17.8	141.7	336.0	345.4	206.0	51.8	15.2	4.8	1206.4	123	61	228.6	1906 July 28.
		B	2.2	2.6	1.7	0.9	1.5	7.3	15.2	16.2	10.3	3.0	0.8	0.5	62.2	(1946)	(1903)		
Panki	46	A	24.9	29.2	16.0	7.9	16.5	136.9	343.4	381.8	181.6	45.7	15.5	3.8	1203.2	150	45	322.3	1917 August 2.
		B	2.0	2.3	1.7	0.7	1.4	7.5	15.7	17.2	9.5	3.1	0.9	0.4	62.4	(1923)	(1906)		
Latehar ..	46	A	26.4	36.1	20.1	10.9	23.9	176.5	358.4	368.5	209.0	71.1	14.7	7.1	1322.7	161	61	201.4	1929 July 23.
		B	1.9	2.4	2.0	1.1	2.2	8.4	16.5	16.2	10.7	4.1	1.0	0.5	67.0	(1907)	(1903)		
Nagar Untari.	44	A	25.9	34.3	14.7	6.9	12.7	129.8	342.7	344.7	184.9	49.5	14.7	5.6	1166.4	131	58	217.4	1933 August 22.
		B	2.0	2.4	1.5	0.6	1.3	7.3	16.6	17.2	9.8	2.8	0.8	0.4	62.7	(1922)	(1903)		
Ranka ..	48	A	27.9	41.1	22.6	12.2	21.6	160.0	374.4	382.5	216.7	57.9	15.5	5.3	1337.7	159	73	306.6	1922 August 7.
		B	2.0	2.9	2.1	1.1	1.6	8.3	17.4	16.5	10.0	3.5	1.0	0.4	66.8	(1913)	(1914)		
Chattarpur	45	A	23.6	30.5	16.0	7.9	12.2	156.5	319.3	385.8	222.0	48.8	15.2	4.6	1242.4	139	64	261.9	1931 July 29.
		B	1.9	2.3	1.6	0.8	1.1	7.7	15.3	17.0	10.1	3.0	0.8	0.4	62.0	(1907)	(1914)		
Bhaunathpur.	42	A	24.4	30.5	12.9	7.4	10.2	121.2	344.7	369.8	195.6	43.4	10.4	3.3	1173.8	142	53	287.0	1933 August 22.
		B	1.7	2.0	1.3	0.7	0.8	5.6	13.7	14.9	8.4	2.4	0.5	0.2	52.2	(1949)	(1912)		
Patan ..	44	A	28.7	33.8	18.3	8.4	12.2	157.7	344.7	406.4	208.3	41.1	14.5	5.3	1279.4	160	46	323.9	1908 August 19.
		B	1.9	2.6	1.6	0.7	1.2	7.4	15.8	16.2	9.6	2.8	0.9	0.5	61.2	(1943)	(1908)		
Manatu ..	41	A	33.5	35.1	17.5	11.2	15.2	185.7	389.4	474.0	253.7	52.8	16.0	6.1	1490.2	165	45	225.5	1929 August 31.
		B	2.0	2.5	1.4	1.0	1.3	8.2	16.7	17.9	10.1	2.9	0.8	0.5	65.3	(1939)	(1906)		

A—Normal rainfall in mm.
B—Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).
*Years given in brackets.
†Based on data up to 1958.

TABLE 1.—*concld.*

ormals and Extremes of Rainfall.

Station.	No. of years of data.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.	Highest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*.	Lowest annual rainfall as % of normal and year*.	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.† Amount. mm.	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours.† Date.
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Lesliganj..	41	A	22.1	34.8	16.5	8.9	9.1	164.3	357.4	353.3	190.5	41.4	17.0	5.3	1220.6	145	55	229.4	1907 August 24.
		B	1.8	2.5	1.9	0.8	1.1	7.2	15.7	15.6	9.0	2.9	0.9	0.4	59.8	(1920)	(1914)		
Barwadih	22	A	31.0	38.6	20.1	8.4	9.9	177.8	389.1	372.4	193.5	68.6	16.5	8.4	1334.3	136	69	206.3	1956 September 9.
		B	1.9	3.0	1.9	0.9	1.2	7.8	18.2	17.0	9.5	4.1	1.0	0.6	67.1	(1943)	(1935)		
Garu ..	36	A	31.0	43.9	29.2	17.8	23.6	241.3	421.6	459.2	232.4	77.0	19.8	6.3	1603.1	135	70	355.6	1911 June 20.
		B	2.3	3.0	2.2	1.3	2.0	9.7	17.5	18.9	11.6	3.9	1.1	0.4	73.9	(1925)	(1914)		
Chandwa..	39	A	25.9	36.6	22.9	11.2	29.2	186.7	381.0	409.2	232.9	104.9	23.9	6.3	1470.7	172	65	198.1	1926 September 5.
		B	1.9	2.5	1.9	1.1	2.2	9.8	17.5	17.5	11.3	4.7	1.4	0.5	72.3	(1937)	(1912)		
Hariharganj	33	A	23.4	25.4	14.0	5.1	11.2	149.9	338.3	438.9	230.9	50.5	18.5	5.1	1311.2	181	64	292.1	1948 September 15.
		B	1.7	2.1	1.2	0.6	1.1	6.0	14.0	16.0	8.4	2.7	0.9	0.4	55.1	(1948)	(1947)		
Bhandaria	33	A	30.2	43.4	22.1	10.7	18.3	165.3	414.5	418.3	244.9	70.9	25.9	7.4	1471.9	149	50	217.4	1925 July 1.
		B	2.1	2.7	1.8	1.0	1.6	8.5	17.1	17.3	11.3	4.0	1.3	0.4	69.1	(1943)	(1912)		
Bishrampur	36	A	27.2	33.8	15.5	7.4	12.9	152.7	364.7	380.0	199.6	51.8	17.8	6.1	1269.5	161	60	188.9	1917 August 2.
		B	1.9	2.3	1.5	0.7	1.2	7.8	15.7	15.2	9.2	3.0	0.9	0.4	59.8	(1936)	(1912)		
Netarhat..	32	A	32.0	42.9	33.3	13.2	42.4	243.8	504.2	511.6	251.2	108.7	26.2	7.9	1817.4	136	65	191.3	1934 August 22.
		B	2.0	3.4	2.1	1.1	3.0	11.0	21.5	20.1	13.0	5.6	1.4	0.5	84.7	(1943)	(1920)		
Mahuadanr	45	A	28.2	40.1	23.6	10.2	32.0	189.7	380.2	388.9	208.8	82.8	22.3	5.8	1412.6	149	63	364.0	1945 June 26.
		B	2.1	3.1	2.1	1.2	2.4	9.2	17.2	17.9	11.1	4.8	1.1	0.4	72.6	(1946)	(1903)		
Kerh ..	22	A	21.8	39.4	20.3	11.4	15.0	221.0	322.1	424.9	186.2	43.7	23.4	3.1	1332.3	143	58	229.9	1927 July 31.
		B	1.4	2.9	1.6	1.1	1.6	10.3	15.3	18.0	10.0	2.8	1.4	0.3	66.7	(1917)	(1915)		
Palamau.. (district).		A	27.0	35.7	19.5	9.7	18.4	167.9	365.0	396.4	211.4	61.0	17.4	5.5	1334.9	124	61		
		B	1.9	2.6	1.7	0.9	1.6	8.0	16.3	16.9	10.1	3.5	0.9	0.4	64.8	(1943)	(1903)		

A—Normal rainfall in mm.
B—Average number of rainy days (days with rain of 2.5 mm. or more).
*Years given in brackets.
†Based on data up to 1958.

TABLE 2.

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the District.

(*Data* 1901—1950.)

Range in mm.	No. of years.	Range in mm.	No. of years.
801—900	2	1301—1400	8
901—1000	4	1401—1500	9
1001—1100	1	1501—1600	6
1101—1200	6	1601—1700	3
1201—1300	11	1701—1800	0

TABLE 3.

Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity.

DALTONGANJ.

Month.	Mean daily maximum temperature.	Mean daily minimum temperature.	Highest maximum ever recorded.		Lowest minimum ever recorded.		Relative humidity*.	
							0830	1730
	oC	oC	oC	Date.	oC	Date.	%	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
January ..	24.3	8.8	32.2	1902 January 31.	0.0	1923 January 3.	80	50
February ..	26.6	11.1	35.6	1914 February 15.	0.6	1905 February 3.	74	41
March ..	32.9	15.5	42.8	1931 March 28.	5.6	1898 March 5.	55	28
April ..	38.4	21.2	45.0	1898 April 29.	11.7	1907 April 1.	39	22
May ..	41.3	25.9	46.7	1956 May 5	17.8	1932 May 6	39	24
June ..	38.0	27.2	46.7	1897 June 2.	20.0	1900 June 15.	59	51
July ..	32.7	25.6	43.3	1902 July 1	19.4	1928 July 8	80	80
August ..	31.4	24.9	37.2	1903 August 2.	20.6	1916 August 12.	83	82
September ..	32.1	24.1	38.0	1958 September 5.	17.2	1899 September 29.	79	77
October ..	31.6	19.3	37.2	1899 October 6.	10.0	1921 October 30.	76	61
November ..	28.1	12.5	33.9	1918 November 2.	5.0	1912 November 30.	76	52
December ..	24.7	8.2	31.1	1957 December 13.	1.7	1913 December 30.	80	52
Annual ..	31.9	18.7	..	..	..	..	68	52

*Hours I. S. T.

TABLE 4.

Mean Wind speed in Km/hr.

DALTONGANJ.

January	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
2.9	3.9	4.5	5.6	6.9	7.2	5.8	5.3	4.5	3.2	2.4	2.4	4.5

TABLE 5.

Special Weather Phenomena.

DALTONGANJ.

Mean no. of days with—	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Annual.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Thunder	2.6	3.5	5.2	3.5	5.2	12.7	15.4	13.7	12.6	2.9	0.3	0.1	77.7
Hail	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4
Dust storm ..	0	0	0.5	0.6	1.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.4
Squall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.7

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY.

Abwab	...	... An illegal imposition on the tenants in addition to the actual rent.
Amla	...	... An employee of the zamindar for rent collection.
Amladari	...	... Services rendered by an *amla*.
Anchal	...	... Unit of revenue administration below subdivisional level and above the *halka* level. An Anchal has about ten to twelve *halkas* and each *halka* comprises ten to twelve villages.
Bakast	...	... Land, other than the proprietor's private land known as *Khamar*, *Zirat*, *Sir*, *Nij* which is in the cultivating possession of a proprietor or a tenure-holder.
Begari	...	... Services not remunerated for.
Bhita	...	... Land for *Bhadai* and *Kharif* crop but not paddy.
Buha	...	... An irrigation channel.
Danpatras	...	... A deed of gift.
Gairmazurwa	...	... Land not covered under a plough.
Ghatwals	...	... Special chaukidars who used to give protection to the travellers at the mountain passes. Later with the development of communications, they were charged with realisation of rents and taxes.
Halka	...	... Lowest revenue unit, consisting of about ten or more villages.
Hathia	...	... Rain in spring and winter which are very helpful to the crops.
Ijaradar	...	... A kind of mortgagee.
Ilakadar	...	... An agent of the landlord for doing collection work in a certain area.
Imdad	...	... Grant to a rent collector.
Jagir	...	... A royal grant of rent-free land in recognition of certain loyal services.

Jagirdar ... ... One who holds a *jagir*.

Kabuliat ... ... An agreement reduced in writing in form of a document defining the rights and obligations of the tenant against the landlord for taking certain patch of land.

Kamia ... ... Agricultural labourer.

Kamiauti ... ... A system of bonded labour in lieu of paltry advances made which was abolished by an Act.

Kharif ... ... Autumn crops.

Kistbandi ... ... Instalments.

Khilat ... ... Investiture or title.

Khillut ... ... A kind of grant of land in the form of *jagir*.

Mahal ... ... A unit in an estate.

Malgujar ... ... Those who pay rent either as tenure-holder or as *raiyat*.

Mansabdari ... ... A military title given to a person in lieu of rendering military service to the king when called for.

Mokaridar ... ... Lease-holder.

Mukhiya ... ... Elected executive head of the *Gram Panchayat*.

Paila ... ... A measurement containing 1½ *kacha* seers equivalent to about one seer.

Parganas ... ... Fiscal units consisting of a number of villages.

Parwanas ... ... Written orders or command.

Patwari ... ... An agent for collecting rent.

Peshkash ... ... A kind of tax.

Pradhan ... ... The village headman who has to render some obligatory police and revenue duties.

Rabi ... ... Spring crops like wheat, gram, linseed, etc.

Raiyati ... ... Right and interests of an occupancy tenant.

Sairat ... ... Temporary income derived from tanks, orchards, etc., which are settled by Government on temporary basis through auction.

Salami ... ... Payment to the landlord for the settlement of land.

Sanad ... ... A court order conferring some privilege or monetary consideration.

Sazwal ... ... Rent collecting agent.

Tahseeldar ... ... A rent collector.

Tanr ... ... Uncultivated waste land.

Tappas ... ... A fiscal unit smaller than *parganas*.

Tikaiteen ... ... Wife of the *Tikait* (small Raja or tenure-holder) or a proprietor of an estate.

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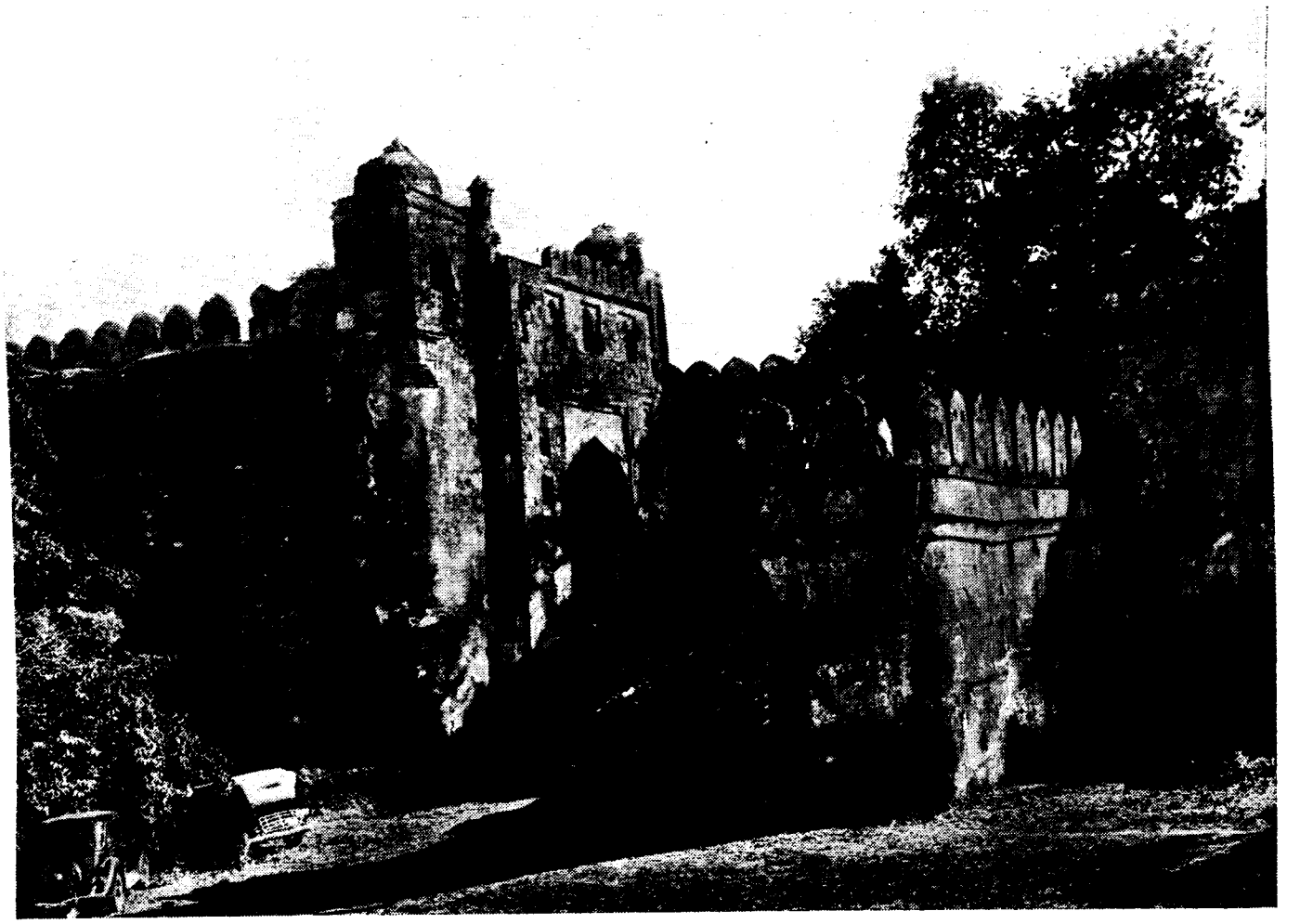


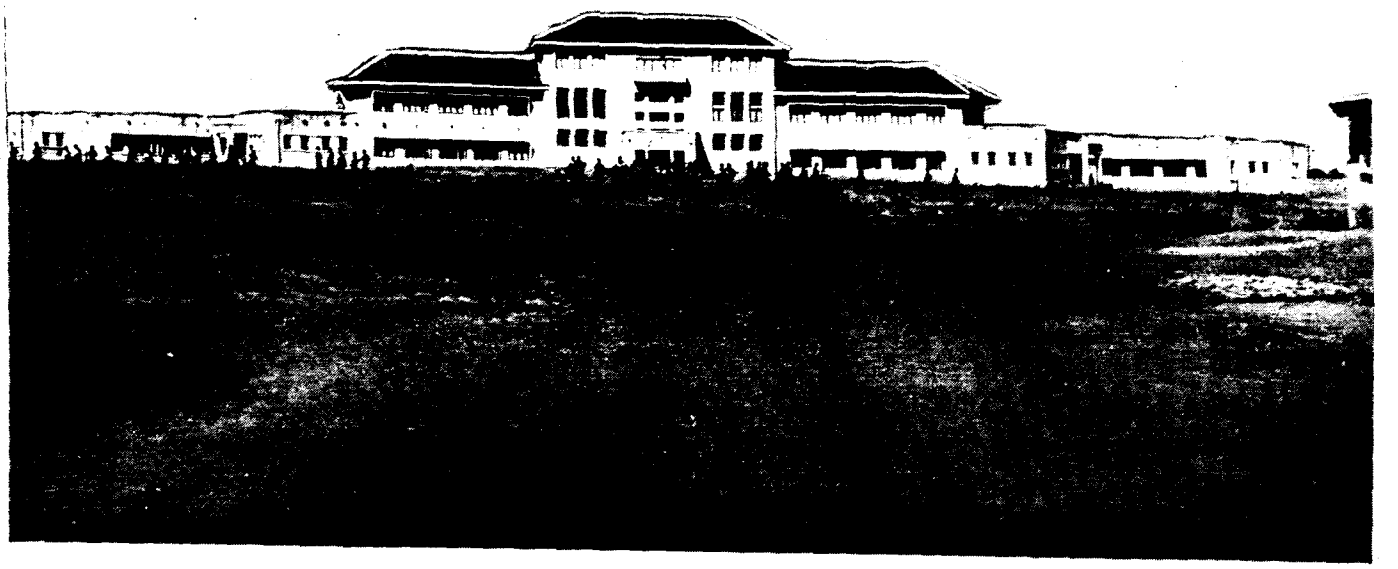
1. Old Fort, South Gate.

2. New Fort, Nagpuria Gate.

3. Bison in freedom in Palamau Forest.

4. Bamboo at Chhipadohar Rail head.

5. Mahuadanr Church.



6. Netarhat Public School.

7. Lodh Water fall.

8. Lodh Waterpool.

9. District Board Bungalow at Netarhat.

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