

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

The Early Stone Age sites of this district are mostly located in the Baitarani river valley. The important Early Stone Age sites are located at Champua and at Ramala. PREHISTORY

Champua is situated on the Baitarani near the borders of Orissa and Bihar while Ramala is just 5 km. downstream from Champua. In this region hand-axes and scrapers are mainly found. The early stone industries show a gradual development in technique ranging from the crudest to the most developed ones.

The Middle Stone Age sites are found in Champua, Ramala, Jagannathpur and Patana, all situated in the Baitarani valley. Jagannathpur is hardly 7 km. from Champua while Patana, a big village, is located in the southern subdivision of the district. There are large varieties of tools belonging to this age. Tools like scrapers, borers, points and nodules are generally found in suitable proportions. Manufacture of blades was also fairly known.

The Late Stone Age culture comes next when microliths and polished stone celts are generally noticed. There is an important microlith site near the village, Patana. Microlithic industries of this area are mainly non-geometric in character. The materials are quartzite, jasper, chert and opal. The polished stone celts represent Neolithic culture and those are mainly agricultural implements. Along with those celts, we find a fairly large number of ring-stones which were probably used with digging sticks for ploughing the fields. Primitive type of agriculture is even now prevailing in this district among the primitive tribes.

Asanpat Stone Inscription*

The Asanpat inscription paleographically belongs to the Gupta period and may be ascribed to about 5th century A. D. The donor Maharaja Satrubhanja, son of Maharaja Manabhanja, was of Naga lineage born of Mahadevi Damayanti. Maharaja Satrubhanja was the ruler of the INSCRIPTIONS

* This inscription was discovered in 1963 by Dr. N. K. Sahu, the then State Editor, Gazetteers, who deciphered it and published its gist in Mayurbhanj District Gazetteer. It was later removed to the Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar in 1965.

territory known as Vindhyatavi and earned great merit by donating lakhs of cows in places like Pataliputra, Gaya, Krimila, Dandavardhana, Pundravardhana, Vardhamana, Gorhati, Khadranga, Tamralipti and Ubhaya-Toshali. He also donated lakhs of gold coins at Samkhakara Math of Ahichhatra, Manibhadra Math of Lakshesvara and at other Maths. He constructed dwellings and Viharas for Brahmacharis, Charakas, Parivrajakas, Nigranthakas, Bhikshus and Barnantakas and was himself well versed in Mahabharata, Puranas, Itihasa, Vyakarana, Upasiksha, Nyaya, Mimamsa, Chhanda, Vedopakarana, Sankhya, Vigyana, etc.

Inscription from Sitabinji

In the cave-shelter Ravanachhaya, a small inscription is found below the fresco-paintings which reads as Maharaja Sri Disabhanja. This inscription as well as the paintings have been attributed to cir 5th century A. D. Maharaja Shri Disabhanja, like Maharaja Satrubhanja of Asanpat inscription, may be attributed to the Naga dynasty.

There are as many as 14 votive inscriptions inscribed on boulders strewn in an area of Sitabinji where once existed a temple of Lord Siva. The inscriptions are written in southern variety of Brahmi scripts belonging to 5th century A. D. Out of those fourteen inscriptions, five refer to a Saivacharya who is variously known as:

Sasalanchnanadhara-Pada

Sasidhara-Pada and Sasadhara Vansa.

Some inscriptions are read as:

- (1) Ganga Paramadhisa,
- (2) Paramjaya-Gangapara, and
- (3) Gangavadi-Ganga

It appears that the Saivacharya named Sasidharapada came on pilgrimage to Sitabinji from Gangavadi, modern Karnatak.

EARLY HISTORY

The early history of Kendujhar, more or less, coincides with that of Mayurbhanj district. The discovery of Asanpat inscription throws fresh light on the history of Kendujhar in the 5th-6th century A. D. It is known from this inscription that the territory during that time was known as Vindhyatavi and it was under the rule of a branch of the Naga dynasty. Different branches of this dynasty ruled over Ahichhatra, Kausambi (both in Uttar Pradesh) and Padmavati (in Madhya Pradesh). The Nagas jointly fought against the Kushana Murunda rulers and defeated and ousted them from power in northern India. Their wars against those foreign powers have been referred to by the Asanpat inscription where it is mentioned that Maharaja Manabhanja, father of Satrubhanja, defeated the Devaputras 'Kushana Murundas' in hundreds of battles.

The Naga confederacy was, however, crushingly defeated by Samudra Gupta who succeeded in building the Gupta empire in northern India. Some Naga chiefs like those of Vindhyatavi continued to rule under the Gupta suzerainty. In course of time friendly relation developed between the Guptas and the Nagas and Chandra Gupta II, the son of Samudra Gupta, is known to have married Kubernaga, a Naga princess. Maharaja Satrubhanja, the ruler of Vindhyatavi, was very likely a contemporary and a subordinate ruler of Chandra Gupta II. The Asanpat inscription reveals that Satrubhanja travelled various parts of the Gupta empire and made rich donations to some Saiva Mathas and Saiva Acharyas. The modern Sitabinji was a famous centre of Saivism in this territory. A magnificent Siva temple was built there, the remains of which are still extant. A finely carved Chaturmukha Siva Linga is found there and a large number of votive inscriptions inscribed on boulders indicate that pilgrims mostly from South India visited that place of Saiva pilgrimage. One such pilgrim was the illustrious Acharya Sasidharapada, who came here from the Western Ganga territory of Gangavadi.

After Satrubhanja, the next ruler of this dynasty was Maharaja Disabhanja, whose name appears in the fresco-painting of the Ravanachhaya cave-shelter in Sitabinji. This king is depicted in painting as marching in a procession on the occasion of a religious function. Nothing more, however, is known about this dynasty after Disabhanja.

The history of this district remains obscure till the time of Adibhanja of Khijjinga Kota, who flourished in the early 10th century A.D.

The Bhanjas of Khijjinga Kota ruled over an extensive territory comprising the modern district of Mayurbhanj and parts of Kendujhar and Singhbhum districts. This territory was known as Khijjinga Mandala. The records of the Bhanja rulers indicate that their territory was divided into two parts—Uttar Khanda (northern part) and Dakhina Khanda (southern part) and very probably the Kendujhar region formed the southern part of the kingdom. The history of the Bhanja kings of Khijjinga Mandala has been discussed in the history chapter of Mayurbhanj district gazetteer, where it has been pointed out that the Bhanja kings ruled from their capital Khijjinga Kota up to about the middle of the 14th century A. D. In 1361 A. D. Sultan Firuz Shah invaded Orissa through Khijjinga Kota which was very probably destroyed by him. This apparently led the Bhanjas to transfer their political headquarters from Khijjinga Kota to

BHANJA
DYNASTY

Hariharpur and it was probably by that time that the Kendujhar region became a separate dominion under a Chief named Jyoti Bhanja who was a scion of the Bhanja ruling family of Khijjinga Mandala.

L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, on the basis of a recent tradition, states that one Jai Singh, son of Man Singh, a Kachua Rajput of the Solar race and a Chief of Jeypore in Rajputana, came to Puri in 1098 A. D. and married the daughter of the then Gajapati Chief of Puri and received as dowry the territory of Hariharpur. Two sons were born of this union and the father before his death divided the territory of Hariharpur between them. The elder son Adi Singh received the Mayurbhanj portion and ruled from Adipur and the younger called Jyoti Singh received the Kendujhar portion and ruled from Jyotipur. These two headquarters were in opposite banks of the Baitarani and later on the brothers shifted their respective political seats to more centralised places. The fallacy of this tradition has already been pointed out in Mayurbhanj district gazetteer. It may here be said that the Kachua Rajput family as well as the town of Jeypore were not existing as early as 1098 A. D. and so also a Gajapati King of Puri is not known in history as early as that time. The poet Narasingh Misra who has discussed about the early history of Kendujhar in his Sanskrit drama "Bhanja Mahodayam" written in early 19th century A. D. has not given any hint regarding the Kachua Rajput origin of the Bhanjas. This tradition was very probably given shape during the later part of the 19th century.

A local tradition of Kendujhar reveals that the Bhuyans of Kendujhar not able to keep contact with the Raja ruling over them from Khijjinga Kota (Khijjing) desired to keep a ruler close to them at Kendujhar and stole away a boy named Jyoti Bhanja from the ruling family whom they installed as king. It appears that the Bhuyans have played some important part in the early history of the Bhanja dynasty of Kendujhar, as even up to the time of the present Chief, the Bhuyans were considered indispensable at the time of coronation of a king who was to be installed on the *gadi* being ceremoniously carried on the back of a Bhuyan.

The early history of the Bhanja kings of Kendujhar belonging to the family of Jyoti Bhanja is not yet properly known. It is said that Jyoti Bhanja had his headquarters at a village named after him as Jyoti Bhanja which was located on the right bank of the Baitarani but as this place was close to the border of his territory he shifted the capital to the place which is now known as Kendujhar. A ruined fort containing an old throne as well as the shrine of Danda Devi, the tutelary goddess of the royal family, is seen near the present town of

Kendujhar and it is believed to have been originally built by Jyoti Bhanja. The successors of Jyoti Bhanja till the time of Gobinda Bhanja, who flourished during the early part of 17th century A. D. are known to us only by their names. Their genealogy, as known from the records of the royal family as well as the drama "Bhanja Mahodayam" of Narasingh Mishra, is presented below.

- (1) Jyoti Bhanja
- (2) Udaya Bhanja
- (3) Gadeshwar Bhanja
- (4) Ananta Bhanja
- (5) Dayanidhi Bhanja
- (6) Ratnakar Bhanja
- (7) Champakeshwar Bhanja
- (8) Santha Bhanja

The family records and the "Bhanja Mahodayam" agree so far. But after Santha Bhanja, the family records present 10 rulers whose names do not occur in the above drama. These rulers are as follows—

- (9) Narahari Bhanja
- (10) Jadunath Bhanja
- (11) Gobardhan Bhanja
- (12) Gangadhar Bhanja
- (13) Jagannath Bhanja
- (14) Sridhar Bhanja
- (15) Srikara Bhanja
- (16) Hrusikesh Bhanja
- (17) Gopinath Bhanja, and
- (18) Hadu Bhanja

After this, no divergency is noticed between the above two sources so far as the genealogy of the kings of Kendujhar is concerned. Hadu Bhanja, the 18th ruler, was succeeded by Chandrasekhhar Bhanja who is referred to as Sikhara Bhanja in the "Bhanja Mahodayam". After Chandrasekhhar, his son Joginath Bhanja came to the throne and the latter was succeeded by his grandson Trilochan Bhanja who was the father of Gobinda Bhanja.

According to Cobden-Ramsay, Gobinda Bhanja fell out with his father and left Kendujhar. He "joined the services of the Puri Ruler and for his victory in the battle of Kanchi Kaveri (Kanjeeveram, Madras Presidency) obtained as a reward on his accession to the *gadi* the Zamindari of Athgarh, better known as the Anandapur subdivision, which still forms a part of this State¹".

1. Feudatory States of Orissa, (1950), p. 214.

The time of Gobinda Bhanja cannot be as early as that of the Gajapati Purusottam Deva (1467—1497 A. D.), the victor of the battle of Kanchi Kaveri. His date can more correctly be ascertained from the drama "Bhanja Mahodayam" written by Narasingh Mishra, the court poet of king Sibanarayan Bhanja of Kendujhar, the son of Gobinda Bhanja. It is known from this work that the drama was staged at Puri (Sripurusottam Khetra) and was witnessed by the Gajapati King Balabhadra Deva and King Sibanarayan Bhanja of Kendujhar. Thus, Balabhadra Deva who ruled from 1648 to 1659 A. D. was a contemporary of Sibanarayan Bhanja of Kendujhar. It may be said that the fathers of these two rulers—Purusottam Deva and Gobinda Deva were also contemporary rulers. Very likely, Purusottam Deva (1600—1621 A. D.), the ruler of Khurda kingdom, has been confounded with the great Purusottam Deva (1467—1497 A. D.) who fought the battle of Kanchi Kaveri and became victorious against the king of Vijaynagar. The date of Gobinda Bhanja may, tentatively, be assigned to the first quarter of the 17th century A. D. It was during the time of this ruler that the territory now comprising the Anandapur subdivision was conquered and incorporated with the kingdom of Kendujhar. Gobinda Bhanja was a devotee of Rama. He set up a village named after him as Biragobindapur where he constructed a temple and installed the images of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita. It is said that Govinda Bhanja was daily coming on horse-back from his headquarters Kendujhar to Biragobindapur a distance of 72 km. for the worship of the god. This village is still famous as a place of Rama worship.

Gobinda Bhanja was succeeded by his son Sibanarayan Bhanja who ruled up to 1654 A. D. and after him his son Lakshmi Narayan Bhanja came to the Gadi. It was during the rule of this king that the source of the river Baitarani was discovered and a temple of Brahmeshwar Siva was constructed close to it. From that time onward that place is considered to be very sacred and people gather there on many occasions to take bath in the reservoir known as Brahmakunda which has been built near the temple of Brahmeshwar. The magnificent temple of Baladeva was built by Lakshmi Narayan Bhanja in the headquarters town of Kendujhar. It is said that the images of Jagannath and Subhadra were brought by the king from Puri while that of Baladeva was brought from the village Badancha near Anandapur and these three images were installed in this temple. He excavated a tank named Lakshmisagar and laid out a big mango garden which was called 'Madhuban'. Four Brahmin villages were established by this king and those have been named after him.

MUGHAL
RULE

Khan-i-Dauran, the General of the Mughal Subadar, invaded Kendujhar in 1660-61 A. D. and defeated Lakshmi Narayan Bhanja who acknowledged the over-lordship of the Mughals. But this appears to be a formal acknowledgement and the successors of Lakshmi Narayan Bhanja continued to rule in semi-independent status.

Lakshmi Narayan Bhanja was succeeded by his son Jagannath Bhanja who ruled for a short time and after him Raghunath Bhanja ascended the *gadi* in 1700 A. D. The Brahmin village Raghunathpur in modern Anandapur subdivision was established by the king Raghunath Bhanja. He was a patron of the Brahmins and during his rule a large number of 'Atharvavedi Brahmins settled in different parts of his territory getting royal patronage. Raghunath Bhanja was succeeded by his son Gopinath Bhanja in 1719 A. D. and the latter is known to have ruled till 1727 A. D. Gopinath Bhanja had two queens, each of whom had a son—Ghaneswar Bhanja, who was the son of the second queen, was older than Nrusingha Narayan Bhanja, the son of the first queen. And when the king decided to nominate Ghaneswar as the successor, a serious quarrel took place between him and the younger prince Nrusingha Narayan Bhanja. The prince was driven out of the headquarters after which he took shelter in a village 4·8 km. from the town of Kendujhar and that village was named as Narayanpur (Naranapur) after him. This quarrel took a serious turn as the kingdom was divided between the two factions—one supporting the king and the other supporting the prince. But before the issue was decided, Gopinath Bhanja died in 1727 A. D., and a fratricidal war took place between Ghaneswar Bhanja and Nrusingha Narayan Bhanja. Subsequently, Nrusingha Narayan succeeded in occupying the capital, and Ghaneswar had to flee to save his life.

Nrusingha Narayan Bhanja had a religious turn of mind but he had to kill five Brahmins during his fight against Ghaneswar Bhanja. For expiation of this sin, he constructed five temples having five Sikharas each enshrining a Siva Linga, and it is said that the heads of the five Brahmins were placed under the foundation of these Sikharas. He established a Brahmin village at the place where the five Brahmins were killed and a copper plate which was issued by him donating lands to Brahmins in that village has been preserved in the royal family. The Brahmin village was named after him as Nrusingha Narayan Sasan.

Nrusingha Narayan Bhanja was succeeded by his son Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja in 1764 A. D. Orissa by that time was under the rule of the Marathas who were the virtual master of this province since 1751 A. D.

MARATHA-
RULE

But some feudatory chiefs of western Orissa refused to submit to the Marathas and Prataprudra Deva, the ruler of Bamra, openly challenged their authorities. When the Maratha Subadar Rajaram Pandit (1778—82 A. D.) invaded Bamra, Prataprudra Deva received help and co-operation of Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja of Kendujhar and the combined strength of these two chiefs successfully repulsed the attack of the Marathas. Sudhal Deva, the son and successor of Prataprudra Deva, being ill-advised by his uncle Jadumani could not retain the friendship of the Chief of Kendujhar and a battle between these two kingdoms took place on a very feeble cause. Bama Deva, brother of Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja, who married the princess of Bamra was insulted by Jadumani during the marriage ceremony and this led to a bitter quarrel and ultimately to a serious fight between the two kingdoms. The battle took place for four days and subsequently Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja became victorious and occupied the fort of Barkote which was by that time the headquarters of Bamra. A detailed description of this battle has been given by poet Nilakantha in his drama 'Bhanja Mahodayam' from which we know that a number of subordinate chieftains had rendered assistance to the ruler of Kendujhar during the battle. They were the chieftains of Sukinda, Ambo, Dhenka Dasapur, Kantajhari, Pal-lahara, Bamanghati, Pachhikote, etc.

Balabhadra Narayan also fought with the Raja of Dhenkanal and took possession of a border estate called Kaliahata. During his rule there took place a serious trouble in Pal-lahara regarding succession to that estate. Balabhadra Narayan suppressed the trouble with a strong hand and restored peace in that territory.

Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja died in 1792 at Anandapur and his body was cremated on the bank of the Baitarani where a memorial tomb was built. The tomb was washed away by the flood of the river in 1927.

BRITISH RULE

Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja was succeeded by Janardan Bhanja in 1792. The early years of rule of this king were not peaceful owing to family feud between the royal houses of Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar. In 1796 Damodar Bhanja, the Raja of Mayurbhanj, died and was succeeded by his widow Rani Sumitra Devi. Janardan Bhanja put forward the claim of his brother Tribikram Bhanja to the throne of Mayurbhanj but failed to achieve his end as he was defeated by the army of Sumitra Devi. The East India Company was by that time making vigorous preparation for occupation of Orissa and the British administrators in Bengal attempted to have friendly relations with the royal houses of Mayurbhanj and Kendujhar. They acknowledged the rule of Sumitra Devi who agreed to accept Tribikram Bhanja as her adopted son.

Janardan Bhanja was successful in Pallahara affairs. His queen Krishnapriya was the daughter of Munipal, the ruler of Pal-lahara. When Munipal died without a son, the estate came under the possession of Rani Krishnapriya and Janardan Bhanja claimed it as a piece of dowry. After the death of the Rani in 1825, Pallahara was brought under the administration of Raja Janardan Bhanja. The East India Company in 1805 acknowledged the joint rule of Kendujhar and Pallahara and fixed the revenue of the combined estates. But Pal-lahara began to pay revenue directly to Government from 1825 onward and gradually became a separate State.

Janardan Bhanja is said to have occupied a place called Bandhagoda situated on the borders of Kendujhar and Sukinda estates. He was a warrior ruler and was a patron of art and culture. He was succeeded in 1831 by Bishweswar Bhanja who ruled up to 1838 and was followed by Gadadhar Bhanja. During the rule of this king the War of Independence otherwise called the "Revolt of 1857" took place and great trouble occurred in Singhbhum due to the rebellion of Arjun Singh, the Raja of Podahat. Gadadhar Bhanja helped the British Government in suppressing the rebellion of Podahat. He died in 1861 on the banks of the Ganges, where he had been on a pilgrimage.

Gadadhar Bhanja had two queens. The chief queen Bishnupriya was barren while the younger queen had a son named Dhanurjay Bhanja. Rani Bishnupriya was trying her best to set aside the claim of Dhanurjay after the death of Gadadhar Bhanja. So the Raja before his death had left a will in favour of the succession of Dhanurjay. After his death Rani Bishnupriya made an attempt to make Brundaban Bhanja, a grandson of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, the successor to the *gadi* declaring him to be the adopted son of her deceased husband. But T. E. Ravenshaw, the then Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, recognised the claim of Dhanurjay whereupon an appeal was made to the High Court of Calcutta on behalf of Brundaban. When the appeal was rejected, the Raja took the case to the Privy Council. Meanwhile, Dhanurjay who was receiving education at Cuttack attained majority in 1867 and was crowned as the ruler of Kendujhar. Rani Bishnupriya was not disheartened and attempted to achieve her aim through open rebellion of the Bhuiya Sardars. She appealed to the Sardars to recognise Brundaban as the Raja of Kendujhar and sent a deputation of the Bhuiya Sardars to meet the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. But the Lieutenant Governor could not recognise Brundaban as the Court of Law was in favour of Dhanurjaya. On the 5th December, 1867 Ravenshaw personally came to Kendujhar to attempt reconciliation between the two factions. The strong attitude of Ravenshaw cowed down the Rani who agreed to recognise

the claim of Dhanurjaya. Thus, Dhanurjaya was crowned for a second time on the 13th February, 1868 attended by the Rani and the Bhuiyan Sardars who performed the customary rites of the ceremony. Among the British Officers Colonel Dalton and T. E. Ravenshaw were present at the installation ceremony.

Shortly after this, the Dewan Nanda Dhal started oppressing the Bhuiyan Sardars who had supported the cause of Brundaban. The Bhuiyans suspected that the Dewan was organising a rule of tyranny at the connivance of the British officers. Towards the end of April 1868, the Bhuiyan Sardars revolted. The town of Kendujhar was invaded and the Dewan along with some of his associates was abducted. The rebellion took a serious turn in May and a detachment of troops from Singhbhum as well as from Calcutta advanced towards Kendujhar to save the situation. Col. Dalton and Dr. Hayes came from Chota Nagpur with large forces while Ravenshaw proceeded to Anandapur with a contingent of the Madras Native Infantry. The rebellion was suppressed with a strong hand and most of the Bhuiyan Sardars surrendered during the months of June and July. Ratna Naik, the leader of the rebellion, was captured by the Paiks of Pal-lahara on the 15th August. Ravenshaw tried the case of Bhuiyan leaders at Kendujhargarh and the judgement, being tainted by political considerations, was extremely severe and cruel. Seven persons were sentenced to death, 21 persons were transported for life, 13 were transported for 12 years and above, 10 underwent transportation or imprisonment for 10 years, 30 got imprisonment for 7 years and 51 were sentenced to imprisonment for less than 7 years. Rani Bishnupriya was taken away from Kendujhar and was allowed to stay at Puri till her death. The Bhuiyans were thus suppressed by strong and inhuman measures.

But the Durbar Government continued to oppress them through various ways. They were economically exploited and were required to contribute physical labour without payment. Dharanidhar, one of the Bhuiyas, had some education and having studied at the Survey School at Cuttack got employment as Surveyor under the Durbar. He was, however, being looked with suspicion and when there was boundary dispute between Kendujhar and Singhbhum he was sent to the borders so that he would be out of touch from his kinsmen. While Dharanidhar was busy in surveying the borders between Kendujhar and Singhbhum, the Durbar Government forced the Bhuiyans to work for excavating a canal from the river Machhakandana to Kendujhargarh through hills and forests. One Bichitrananda Das who was the Assistant Manager of the State, greatly oppressed the Bhuiyan labourers and forced them to work even without food and rest for

hours together without payment. Some labourers who protested against the oppression were arrested by the Government and Dharanidhar came to know that his brother and some of his friends were among the persons arrested. The spirited youngman resigned his job and instigated the Bhuiyans to rise enmass against the tyrannical rule of the Raja. The Bhuiyans looted the granaries and procured guns and cannons to wage war. When the Raja proceeded towards Ghatagan to suppress the rebellion, the Bhuiyans entered Kendujhargarh and attacked the palace. On the 12th May, 1891 the palace was besieged but the Bhuiyas were repulsed after heavy gunfire. The Raja hastened back to Anandapur and sent his Assistant Dewan Fakirmohan Senapati with a small detachment to Kendujhargarh. Fakirmohan was, however, ambushed and brought to Raisuan where Dharanidhar had his camp. This Bhuiyan leader was then being respected by the Sardars as King of Kendujhar. Fakirmohan by dint of his courage and skill won the heart of Dharanidhar who put confidence in him and made him his Manager.

The plain and simple Bhuiyan chief, however, was easily deluded by the crafty Fakirmohan who taking advantage of the shortage of stock of betel leaves persuaded the chief to allow him to requisition for him some betel leaves and areca nuts from his own farm agent Bholanath. Permission was readily given and Fakirmohan wrote a diplomatic letter which was carefully worded to admit of secret meaning for mobilisation of troops to capture the Bhuiyan stronghold. The Bhuiya who carefully examined the contents of the letter could not find anything suspicious in it and the messenger who was a man of Fakirmohan managed to deliver it safe to the Raja who was then at Anandapur. The English translation of the letter is given below.

16th May, 1891

Place—Raisuan

Bholanath, the farm-agent,

Know ye that this is very much needed for the queen's son—send immediately at least a hundred pieces of betels and two hundred areca nuts. Irrigate the sugarcane field without delay by making furrows from the north, otherwise you know that the sugarcane field would perish. This much.

Fakirmohan Senapati

The Raja and his officers could interpret the secret meanings of the letter. They could know that betels and nuts stood respectively for sepoy and bullets and that the sugarcane field was no other than the headquarters of Kendujhargarh to which relief should immediately be sent from the northern side. Things were done accordingly and while sepoy marched from Chaibasa side to Kendujhargarh, the troops sent by the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals cleared the rebels off the road from Anandapur to Kendujhar.

Dharanidhar, acting upon the advice of Fakirmohan, met the officer in charge of the military force who arrested him and sent him to Cuttack jail. Mr. Toynbee who was then the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals tried the case of the Bhuiya rebels and unlike his predecessor, showed due justice and kindness towards them. Dharanidhar was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and Toynbee accused the Raja of Kendujhar of having irresponsible and oppressive system of Government. H. Wylly, the manager of Mayurbhanj, took charge of the administration of Kendujhar for sometime. The Raja represented the case before the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal who came to Bhadrak and met the Raja as well as some Bhuiya Sardars. Utkalgourab Madhusudan Das pleaded on behalf of the Raja who was subsequently reinstated on the *gadi*. But according to the terms of settlement an agent to the Government was to look after peace and order in that State. Nandakishore Das was made the first Agent and after him, H. Wylly was appointed in that post for sometime.

Dhanurjay Bhanja was eager to make the land revenue settlement of his State. He started the settlement work in 1889 but owing to the Bhuiyan rebellion in 1891, the work was suspended for sometime. The settlement was completed in 1898 by Ajay Chandra Das who worked in the capacity of the Government Agent and Settlement Officer. Dhanurjay Bhanja excavated many wells and tanks in his kingdom. He constructed a stone embankment on the Kushabhadra to protect the ancient temple of Kusaleshwar Siva. It was during his rule that the palace of Kendujhargarh was reconstructed and the ramparts as well as ditches round it were made. The ruler was also eager to introduce in the State the western system of education and established two Middle English schools at Kendujhar and Anandapur. He opened allopathic dispensaries and maintained a printing press at Kendujhar. He also made donations to various educational institutions outside his State, particularly to the Pyarimohan Academy, Ravenshaw College and the Girls' school at Cuttack. The golden *kalasa* on the temple of Raghunath Jiu at Balangir was contributed by him in commemoration of his marriage with a Chauhan princess

of the Patna royal family. Raja Dhanurjay Bhanja died on the 26th October 1905, and was succeeded by his son Gopinath Narayan Bhanja. The new ruler had a religious bent of mind and he was spending most of his time in prayer and worship rather than in administration. He made considerable improvement in the daily offerings of god Baladev Jiu in Kendujhar town. He was also eager to improve the roads of the town and constructed some buildings to beautify it. He abdicated his *gadi* after ruling about a year with a view to devoting full-time to the worship of God. He died at Cuttack in 1926.

The administration of Kendujhar from 1907 to 1928 was placed under the Government who managed the State by appointing one State Superintendent. D. A. Macmillan who was working as Dewan under Gopinath Narayan Bhanja was appointed as the first State Superintendent. He was a liberal administrator and during his time the State improved in many respects. It was during his administration that the settlement work of Kendujhar was conducted in 1911 and completed in 1915. In course of the settlement the old system of measurement by Padika was substituted by that of chain survey. The settlement recorded the income of the State at Rs. 5,10,892 as against the previous revenue of Rs. 2,24,110. Macmillan constructed new buildings for jail and dispensary at Kendujhar and improved the road from Anandapur to Champua and ordered to make this road all weather. The river Baitarani was bridged near Champua at a cost of Rs. 3, 10, 274 equally borne by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, and Kendujhar State. A telephone line was opened from Ramachandrapur to Champua and it was during his rule that motor car was introduced for the first time in Kendujhar. After Macmillan, Rai Sahib Baikunth Nath Das was appointed as the State Superintendent. He had no higher education and had no knowledge of English. He was a self-made man and starting his career from a low paid teacher became the highest officer in the State. Although not properly qualified he was considered to be an intelligent and capable officer.

J. H. Price became the State Superintendent on 8th January, 1919 and continued till 1928. It was during his time that the Kacheri building and the Town Hall at Kendujhar were constructed and a bridge was made across the river Aradei. Price made some improvement in the education and forestry of the State and established a Middle Vernacular Basic Training school and a Forest Training school. In July 1927, Kendujhar was affected by high flood of the Baitarani and the loss of the State was reported to be heavy. Price gave relief to the people in a very liberal manner.

W. J. Kolly succeeded Price as State Superintendent. Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja, the son of Raja Gopinath Narayan Bhanja, attained majority and was installed as King on 12th January, 1929. The new ruler had a formal installation ceremony at Cuttack immediately after the death of his father on the 12th August, 1926. During his rule Kendujhar made good progress in education as well as in health and sanitation. Several roads and branch roads and many bridges were constructed during his time. The Cuttack- Ranchi road was greatly improved and a bridge was constructed across river Kumbhai. Balabhadra Narayan Bhanja like his father was very religious minded. He constructed a temple of god Raghunath at Bira Gobindapur and of god Baladev at Rajanagar. He was the last ruler of Kendujhar and the State merged with Orissa on the 1st January, 1948.