

CHAPTER X.

Statistical account of Balasore district.

219. *Situation and area.*—Balasore district extends over 2,085 square miles and is bounded on the north by Midnapore district of the Bengal Presidency, on the south by Cuttack district, on the west by the Feudatory States of Mayurbhanj, Nilgiri and Keonjhar, and on the east by the Bay of Bengal. The district is 90 miles long from north to south but at its narrowest part it is only 10 miles broad. It is mainly an alluvial plain with a strip of land along the coast covered partly by scrub jungle and partly by grassy ridges and sand hills.

The district is divided into two subdivisions, Balasore Sadar in the north and Bhadrak in the south. There are 9 revenue thanas and 16 police-stations.

The area included in the present settlement operations covered 2,056 square miles, i.e. the whole of the district that is contained in villages, some coastal jungle and river bed only being excluded. It is made up as follows :—

permanently-settled	...	...	336	square miles
Temporarily-settled	...	...	1,512	ditto.
Revenue-free	...	...	172	ditto.
Government lands	...	...	36	ditto.
Total	...	...	2,056	ditto.

220. *Communications.*—The main road of the district is the Orissa Trunk Road which is metalled throughout. It passes through the whole length of the district. There is a ferry over the Subarnarekha river, which is not bridged. A bridge is now being provided for the crossing of the Burabalang river. This has already been done for the Salandi river in 1917. The crossing of the Baitarani, where the road passes into Cuttack district is also unbridged. There is a metalled road connecting Balasore with Chandipur, the site of the proof range on the coast. A bridge has been constructed on this road to cross the Coast canal. An important road more than half of which is unmetalled is that connecting Bhadrak and Chandbali, but owing to floods it is impassable for several months in the year. The Flood Committee of 1928 recommended that it should be lowered and metalled throughout with vented causeways for passage of flood water. Other unmetalled roads run between Bhadrak and Dhamnagar, between Bhadrak and Kupari, between Kupari and Brahmapur, between Kupari and Soro, between Basudebpur and Balasore via Soro, and between Bahanaga Bazar and Talpada. The Keonjhar-Bhadrak road is metalled, and the Bhadrak-Basudebpur road is metalled for 5 miles out of 20.

The following table shows the mileage of roads under the different authorities :—

		Metalled.	Unmetalled.
Government Public Works Department	...	104 miles.	2 miles.
District board	...	76 "	260 "
Village roads under union boards	...	...	198 "

Motor buses run along the main roads from Bhadrak and Balasore, but the bullock cart is still the most common means of transport. In North Balasore pack bullocks are largely used for transport of goods.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway traverses the district parallel to the Trunk Road. There is a light railway from Rupsa to Baripada in Mayurbhanj State. Another light railway was constructed to connect Balasore town and Nilgiri State but this has been abandoned.

221. *Population*—The following table shows the population figures of the last three censuses—

Population of Balasore.

Name of district, sub-division and thana	Area in square miles.	Population.			Percentage of variation.		No. of persons per square mile.		
		1931.	1921.	1911.	1921 to 1931.	1911 to 1921.	1931.	1921.	1911.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Balasore District	2,085	990,600	980,504	1,055,568	+1.03	—7.11	475	470	506
Bhadrak sub-division.	930	446,771	438,601	460,632	+1.86	—4.78	480	472	495
Bhadrak Thana	292	171,884	181,841	186,353	—5.48	—2.42	589	623	638
Basudebpur „	192	78,757	71,026	78,222	+10.88	—9.20	410	370	407
Dhamnagar „	233	133,711	129,056	134,623	+3.61	—4.14	574	554	578
Chandbali „	213	62,419	56,678	61,434	+10.13	—7.74	293	266	288
Sadar subdivision	1,155	543,829	541,903	594,936	+3.6	—8.91	471	469	515
Soro Thana	402	191,755	218,633	226,514	—12.29	—3.52	477	544	564
Balasore „	227	111,759	102,364	121,636	+9.18	—15.34	492	451	536
Jalleswar „	134	56,899	53,027	61,866	+7.32	—14.29	425	396	462
Baliapal „	207	108,107	100,106	104,522	+7.99	—4.22	522	484	505
Basta „	185	75,309	67,773	80,298	+11.12	—15.60	407	366	434

There has actually been a decrease by 6 per cent since 1911. The fall in the decade 1911—1921 was due to the epidemic of influenza and the spread of malaria. The decrease in thana Soro between 1921 and 1931 by 12.3 per cent is very striking and difficult to explain. In Bhadrak also there has been a decrease of 5½ per cent. In all the other thanas, except Dhamnagar, the increase since 1921 is substantial.

222. *Caste*—The following castes number more than half a lakh in the district, according to the 1931 census—

	1931	1921
Khandait	199,750	194,273
Brahman	110,658	107,664
Gour	69,157	66,546
Pan	59,545	55,333

There are 31,735 Muhammadans, 1,375 Christians and 12,272 Santhals.

The Khandaits are the most numerous caste in the district. Their main profession is agriculture. A certain number among them are proprietors. Babu Ratnakar Das of Tihari and Babu Bhaskar Chandra Mohapatra in Ertal in the Bhadrak subdivision, who are engaged in business in Calcutta, are purchasing big *zamindaries* in this district.

Next to Khandaits in numerical strength are the Brahmans. The old Brahman *zamindar* families are decaying, for instance the Paharaj family. The only Brahman *zamindar*, of importance who retains some prosperity is Babu Radha Kanta Pardhi of Iram in thana Basudebpur.

The Karans though only 22,354 in number are an influential class. There are some Karan *zamindars*, of whom the wealthiest, Babu Radha Prasan Das of Sunhat, is now under the Court of Wards.

The Tamil community occupies a position of some influence in Balasore town. Although their original occupation was growing betel leaf, many of them have become educated and have taken service under Government. Rāi Bahadur Manmatha Nath. De, one of the premier *zamindars* of the district, belongs to this race.

The Telis chiefly employ themselves in trading by means of pack bullocks. They are generally well-off and many of them have purchased *zamindaries*. The designation Teli does not satisfy them and some of them have got themselves recorded as "Kubera", a mythological term signifying the lord of wealth. The leading man among them is Babu Bhagban Chandra Das of Balasore, who has, however, adopted Brahmoism.

There is a peculiar caste, practically confined to this district, known as the Rajus. They are found in thanas Baliapal and Bhograi as well as in the neighbouring part of Midnapore district. Tradition associates their origin with the expedition of Raja Mukund Deb of Orissa to these parts in the 12th century to meet the Muhammadan invasion. The Rajus are said to be the offspring of this king and of two women, one of *dhobi* caste and one of *bania* caste. Another account is that this caste is the result of inter-marriage between some Marhatta settlers and Baisya and Sudra women. They live by cultivation. The Custom of remarriage of widows prevails among them.

There are some Muhammadan *zamindars* in Bhadrak town and Dhamnagar, but they are declining in wealth.

The Bhuians of Gurpara were formerly Brahmans, and are said to have embraced Muhammadanism to gain the support of the Emperor Aurangzeb against the Chief of Mayurbhanj who had occupied some of their lands. They are still *marfatdars* of some Hindu deities, and they do not inter-marry with other Muhammadans, but only among themselves.

The Muhammadans are generally cultivators. They also trade in hides and cattle.

A peculiar community known as Sualgiris is found in villages Sugo and Dhansimali of thana Jalsore. They speak a peculiar language and eat the flesh of jackals.

S. I. In North Balasore there are a large number of Santhals. They generally live on the outskirts of the jungle and earn a livelihood by day labour and by selling jungle produce. Some however, have settled down and reclaimed the jungle for cultivation.

223. *Education*.—According to the census of 1931, the number of literate persons is 81,404, i. e. 8 per cent of the total population. The number of literates in English is only 4,593.

The following accounts is given of the number of schools existing in 1929-30:—

Standard.			Schools.		Pupils.
High Schools	...	...	4	...	762
Middle English school	...	...	20	...	1,445
Middle vernacular school	...	...	...	...	...
Upper primary school	...	...	118	...	6,409
Lower primary schools	...	...	1,164	...	33,203

There is only one High English school managed by the Government and the other three are aided by Government. These high school have been in existence since the last settlement.

There are one upper primary school and 370 lower primary schools with a total strenght of 8,457 pupils which are maintained by private persons or bodies entirely at their expense.

224. *Industries*.—Not many articles are manufactured in the district. The Industrial school in Balasore town, conducted by American missionaries, turns out furniture and ironware. The rice-mill at Jellasore, started by a Marwari in 1918, was the first of its kind in the district. Others have been started at Basta and Balasore, also by Marwaris. I understand that others are contemplated. A good deal of the rice trade is in the hands of Marwaris, who do business at the railway stations. In this district most of the rice area is easily accessible to the railway stations, the distances being less than in the other two districts.

Bell-metal is manufactured in various parts. That of Remuna is noted for its workmanship and commands a wide market even beyond the district. The business is reported to be declining.

Fine mats manufactured in the villages of Jellasore thana are not only sold locally but also exported.

There are a number of dealers in *pan* in Bhograi thana where the leaf is grown and exported on a fairly large scale.

In Mugunipur, Barikpur and other villages of thana Soro the industry of making stone utensils is said to be making progress.

225. *Chandbali port.*—The Coast line of Balasore at one time contained several ports, but of these Chandbali alone remains and it is dwindling in importance, as the following figures show:—

Value of imports.			Value of exports.		
1909-10.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1909-10.	1927-28.	1928-29.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Ri.	Rs.
25,15,246	17,33,754	2,10,828	35,63,696	6,59,851	2,38,245

The sudden drop after 1928 is explained by the fact that the Indian General Navigation Company, Limited, discontinued their service between Calcutta and Chandbali at the end of that year. The number of vessels that entered the port in 1928-29 was 13 with a tonnage of 2,062 as compared with 156 with a tonnage of 33,452 in 1909-10. The bonded warehouse for salt was closed in 1921.

226. *Drinking water.*—The district depends largely on tanks for its supply of drinking water, but wells are also found in the southern portion of Bhadrak subdivision. The district board has spent Rs. 11,692 in excavating tanks and sinking wells in the sixteen years up to 1927. In the same period the Public Works Department spent Rs. 18,246 in sinking wells. Insufficient attention seems to have been paid to the villages on the sea coast, where as reported by officers there is water famine in many places in the hot weather.

227. *Soils.*—The predominant soils are *balia matal* and *balia*, while *matal* is also common in the areas that are inundated by rivers.

228. *Agricultural stock.*—The number of draught cattle in the district according to the figures prepared at *khanapuri* is 231,031, or one in four cultivated acres. The number of ploughs is 110,132 or one in 8½ cultivated acres. But in the cattle census of 1930 the figure for ploughs was 143,325, so that our figure is possibly an under-estimate. The number of carts is 3,924, which is slightly higher than the figure of the 1930 census—3,694. The number of carts is much smaller than in the other two districts. This is mainly due to the greater use of pack bullocks which are the commonest means of transporting goods especially in the northern part of the district.

229. *Agriculture.*—The most striking feature of this district agriculturally is the large extent of rice cultivation, particularly of the *saradh* variety: The area under rice, 886,985 acres, represents 96.2 per cent of the net-cropped area, showing a considerable advance over the proportion at Provincial Settlement—92.5 per cent. In Baliapal thana, where the proportion is lowest, it is 92.5 per cent, while in Basudebpur and Chandbali thanas it is as high as 98.2 per cent.

The rice grown is nearly all *sarad*. The areas are as follows :—

						Acres.
Under <i>sarad</i>	...	...	...	...	...	862,332
Under <i>beali</i>	...	...	...	...	...	22,785
Under <i>dalua</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1,879

Sarad covers 93.6 per cent of the cropped area, as compared with 91.3 per cent at Provincial Settlement. In Basudebpur and Soro thanas the proportions of *sarad* area to total rice area are 98.8 per cent and 99.7 per cent respectively. *Beali*'s proportion to cropped area has advanced from 1.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent but is still very small, while *dalua* is quite insignificant.

The areas under *rabi* and other crops are correspondingly small. Eight acres were found under *mandia* at this settlement (there were only 14 at last settlement). There are 10,831 acres under cereals and pulses such as *biri*, *mung*, *kulthi* and *harar*, the proportion of 1 per cent having remained constant.

Oilseeds show a considerable advance but still only cover 4,130 acres. Cotton has fallen to 27 acres. Jute has advanced its proportion from 2 to 9 per 10,000 but still only covers 795 acres. Sugarcane has also increased its proportion slightly but covers only 740 acres. The area under tobacco is only 47 acres.

Pan cultivation has extended to 369 acres, as compared with 121 at Provincial Settlement. It is mostly done in the coastal tract in the extreme north of the district and in the area south of Bhadrak town.

230. *Outturn of paddy*.—As a result of 1,225 crop-cutting experiments in the district by officers of the settlement the average outturn of paddy per acre was calculated to be 13 maunds 12 seers per acre. This shows little variation from the figure of experiments at Revision Settlement, which was 13 maunds 30 seers.

Random sampling experiments, however, in the seasons 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 in the Sadar subdivision, showed mean outturns of 17.49 maunds, 17.06 maunds and 11.17 maunds, respectively.

231. *Extension of cultivation*.—In the temporarily-settled area a comparison of the assessed areas of the provincial and the present settlement shows an increase by 9.1 per cent in the area under cultivation, the previous assessed area being 678,393 acres, and the present 739,804 acres, covering 79 per cent of the total temporarily-settled area. The increase is by 13 per cent in the Sadar subdivision, and 3.5 per cent in Bhadrak subdivision.

232. *Reclamation on the coast*.—A large area that was previously scrub jungle in the coastal parganas has been opened up for cultivation since last settlement. Until recently this area had never really recovered from the terrible cyclone of 1831, which depopulated the coastal tract. The Oriya cultivator has never ventured to resettle here, and it was left for speculators from Midnapore to bring the land under cultivation by taking settlement of large blocks and getting them reclaimed by the labour of Santhals from Mayurbhanj and Muhammadans from Midnapore. These settlers were known as *chakdars*. At first the *salami* paid was only Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per acre and the rents Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2. Although small embankments had to be erected the cost of reclamation was not great and that of cultivation was low, the soil being very good. The productivity of the land led to keen competition and the rates of *salami* rose to Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 per acre. The landlords have tried to retain as much of the land as possible under their own control and have ceased to let it out to *chakdars*. The more unscrupulous among them have attempted by litigation and by instigating the under-tenants, to oust the *chakdars*.

The extent to which the spread of cultivation has taken place in the different parganas is as follows :—

Satmalang (Thana Basta)	...	...	...	77 per cent.
Dasmalang (Thana Balasore)	...	...	...	136 " "
Chanua (Thana Basta) ...	...	...	...	42 " "
Sahabandar (Thana Baliapal)	...	...	...	33 " "
Daradachar (Thana Basta)	...	...	...	14 " "
Bhograi (Tkana Baliapal)	...	...	...	11 " "
Basta ...	...	...	...	8 " "
Routra (Thana Balasore)	...	...	...	40 " "

In the Bhadrak subdivision the largest increase in cultivation is noticed in parganas Ambahata (16 per cent), Saheb Nagar (18 per cent) and Tappamalianch (8 per cent).

233. *Further extension of cultivation.*—The percentage of cropped area to total area in the different thanas is as follows :—

					Present settlement
Soro	...	...	...	...	77.7
Bhadrak	...	...	...	...	76.2
Dhamnagar	...	...	...	...	73
Basta	...	...	...	...	68.1
Baliapal	...	...	...	...	67.6
Basudebpur	...	...	...	...	66
Balasore	...	...	...	...	65.3
Jellasore	...	...	...	...	63.2
Chandbali	...	...	...	...	60

The proportion is very high in Soro, Bhadrak and Dhamnagar, where the population is dense. In the whole district there are 1851,71 acres recorded as culturable waste, including 137,871 acres of old fallow and 28,989 acres of jungle. In the temporarily-settled estates there are 165,083 culturable acres, of which 113,165 acres are old fallow and 22,700 acres are jungle. The additional area available for cultivation is 16 per cent of the total area. The area actually brought under the plough since last settlement is 49,404 acres in the temporarily-settled area of the Sadr subdivision alone, although Mr. Kingsford estimated that only 40,000 acres were open to future cultivation in the whole temporarily-settled area. Restrictions on the erection of embankments in certain areas have come into force from about the time of the last settlement, but cultivation has nevertheless extended substantially. There are still large areas on the sea coast available for reclamation.

234. *Flood problems.*—The parts of Balasore district most severely affected by floods are the extreme north and the extreme south. In the north the lands of the Kamarda and Nayapal area have no protection from the floods of the Subarnarekha, which are held up by the Bhograi and Joki embankments (the latter in Midnapore district). In times of high flood the people of this area generally succumb to the temptation to cut the Bhograi embankment, thereby passing the flood on to the people living further to the east. It has been proposed by the Flood Committee of 1928 to abandon the Joki embankment and the part of the Bhograi embankment north of the Orissa Coast canal, and to construct a new embankment running north or slightly north-east from about the Bhograi Lock. This would protect the larger part of the area now inundated. This project has been taken up, and a survey has been made for it.

On the west of the Subarnarekha mouth lies a flooded area known as the Salsa Pat, where water accumulates from a drain near the Jamkunda Lock and from the Haskura group of streams, and is held up by the line of sand hills on the sea-coast. People of this area have been enterprising enough to excavate a drainage channel through the sand hills, but without a sluice this is useless and allows salt water to enter. A design for a sluice has now been prepared. The situation here has recently been aggravated by the Subarnarekha straightening out a loop at Chormara and causing a spill into the Haskura group.

The district is traversed by a number of minor streams, the Panchpara, Burabulang, Kansbans and Gumai. The first two do not do much damage. Floods are frequent on the Kansbans and Gumai owing to the fact that their estuaries have deteriorated by the construction of the Orissa Coast canal. The area to the south-east of the Bhadrak-Basudebpur road is affected by flood from the Matai and its tributaries. In the south-east corner of pargana Ankura the high river floods are held up by the sea embankment, and the villagers have recourse to cutting this embankment to drain the water off.

It has been proposed by the Flood Committee to abandon the Coast canal so far as it lies in Balasore district. It has long ceased to be worth maintaining for purposes of transport, and it aggravates the flood problem by preventing the drainage of water into the sea.

The southern end of the district is flanked by the Baitarani river and traversed by its tributaries the Salindi and Genguti. The parganas to the east of the High Level canal are more or less affected by floods. The floods of the Salindi are not on the whole harmful except in the lower reaches. Parganā Kaima is damaged by floods from the Salindi and Baitarani, but the south-east corner of that pargana in the vicinity of Chandbali, is a comparatively fertile area. The part of pargana Bayang lying to the east of village Deuldihi is flood-affected. *Dalua* paddy is widely cultivated in this area. A portion of western Bayang, in particular village Nadigan, was reported at attestation to be deteriorated by sand deposit from the Dobandhi *ghai*. Pargana Ahyas and the adjoining part of Dhamnagar suffer considerable damage to the rice crop in high floods but the soil is favourable to *rabi* crops. The villagers in this area are prone to construct unauthorized embankments which have to be discountenanced as they cause danger to the Baitarani embankment of the Jajpur side. The Baitarani is embanked on its right for about 18 miles below the High Level canal. This embankment has closed up three old channels which used to take a part of the river's discharge in floods. The people of Dhamnagar have always felt a grievance on this account and have prayed for the reopening of these channels. On the recommendation of the Flood Committee of 1928 a scheme is under preparation for reopening the Benga and Patpur channels with sluices. It is not expected, however, that the relief thus afforded to thana Dhamnagar will be very great. The flooded part of south Balasore is also liable to drought in years of scanty rainfall.

The coastal area of the district is in danger of flooding by the sea. Protection is afforded by a salt embankment running from village Mandari to the Dhamra estuary. This is a Government embankment except for the portion in Killa Kanika, which was constructed and is maintained by the Raja. It is evident that this embankment obstructs the flow of flood water from the land side, and in 1927 it was actually breached in more than 60 places from that side. The provision of a means of escape by sluices appears to be the best solution of this problem. Survey works have been completed for this purpose.

The area west of the High Level canal is protected by the embankment on the left bank of the Baitarani. This, however, was breached in the great flood of 1927, which destroyed about 11 miles of the railway and inundated thana Dhamnagar and the land round Bhadrak. It was proposed by the Flood Committee to construct an escape in this embankment, to increase the openings in the railway line and to shorten Range III of the High Level canal so as to provide a wider gap between this and the

Salindi at Bhadrak. These measures will provide for the discharge of an exceptionally high flood in the Baitarani and prevent the repetition of the catastrophe of 1927. The scheme is at present under consideration.

235. *Embankments*—The length of the existing embankments under the Public Works Department is 53 miles; these protect an area of 105 square miles. There are 14 embankment sluices which afford irrigational facilities.

The main embankments are (1) the Bhograi embankment on the left bank of the Subarnarekha, (2) the Baitarani left embankment above the High Level canal; (3) the Salindi embankment protecting the Civil Station of Bhadrak; (4) the salt water embankment in thana Basudebpur.

236. *Revenue settlement statistics*—There are 2,394 estates (excluding *khas mahals*) in Balasore district which were assessed to revenue during this settlement.

The following statement shows the area of these estates, assessed and unassessed, as surveyed at this settlement, compared with the figures of the last revenue settlement;—

	Assessed.	Unassessed.	Total
Provincial settlement	679,296	263,267	942,563
Present settlement	741,703	198,199	939,902

the gross assets at last settlement amounted to Rs. 11,19,674. They were found to have increased during the term of the settlement to Rs. 12,54,454, i.e. by Rs. 1,34,780.

As a result of the settlement of rents at this settlement the assets rose to Rs. 15,45,438. The settled assets show an increase of 23.2 per cent over the existing assets and 38 per cent over the last settlement assets.

The total revenue of the temporarily-settled estates as assessed at last settlement was Rs. 5,96,737 representing 53.3 per cent of the gross assets. The present revision has raised the revenue by 37.5 per cent to Rs. 8,20,404, representing 53.1 per cent of the gross assets. The advance in revenue is practically commensurate with that of the assets. The proportion of assets taken as revenue remains practically unchanged, as the proportion taken at last settlement was already in keeping with the policy laid down at this settlement—that normally the revenue percentage should lie between 50 and 55 per cent.

In Some 50 estates, owing to abnormal increase of assets, the revenue demand at this settlement had risen in so high a proportion that to avoid hardship temporary concessions were allowed and the revenue was advanced in stages spread over periods not exceeding ten years. The ultimate revenue demand of Rs. 8,20,404, therefore, does not come into effect until 1910. The demand in 1928, however, amounted to Rs. 8,10,558.

The total revenue demand includes a sum of Rs. 12,712 payable to the *chaukidari* fund, as compared with Rs. 10,450 at last settlement.

The incidence of revenue per acre of assessed land is now Rs. 1-1-9, as compared with Re. 0-14-0 at last settlement. Calculated on total area the incidence is now Re. 0-14-0 as compared with Re. 0-10-1.

The total *malikana* allowed to the proprietors at last settlement was Rs. 491,366. The proprietors' income had increased in the course of the settlement to Rs. 6,12,095. The *malikana* now allowed to them is Rs. 6,81,148. Their income thus advanced by 25 per cent during the term of last settlement. This settlement brought an increase of 11.1 per cent over the existing income and the final result is an advance by 38.6 per cent over the income of last settlement.

237. Partitions since last settlement have led to an increase in the number of private estates from 1,398 to 2,394. Mr. Kingsford in his report on Balasore at the Provincial Settlement gives the number of estates as 1,417 including 19 *khas mahals*, as against 803 at the previous settlement.

238. *Sub-proprietary tenures.*—There are 1,046 sub-proprietary tenures in Balasore. Of these 157 are *makaddams*, 802 are *sarbarakars*, 49 are *pursethi kharidadars*, 36 are *kharida jamabandars*, and 2 are *shikmi zamindars*.

Their assets advanced from Rs. 1,18,639 to Rs. 1,31,789 during the currency of the settlement, and to Rs. 1,61,791 as a result of this settlement. The settled assets exceed the pre-existing assets by 22.8 per cent and those of last settlement by 38 per cent.

The distribution of the assets at last settlement and at this are shown below :—

	Last settlement.		Present settlement	
	Percentage.	Amount	Percentage.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.		Rs.
Sub-proprietor	26.6	31,571	27.1	43,886
Proprietor	19.3	22,934	18.4	29,739
Government	54.1	64,134	54.5	88,166

The Government revenue advances by 37.5 per cent. The income allowed to the sub-proprietors is 39 per cent more than at last settlement, but is about 2 per cent less than that which they were found to possess at the advent of this settlement (Rs. 44,721). The share allowed to the proprietors has advanced by 29.7 per cent over that allowed at last settlement.

239. *Sairat assessment.*—The total *sairat* assessment on the temporarily-settled estates (including *khas mahal*) at last settlement was Rs. 12,200 and at this settlement Rs. 21,909. The details are as follows :—

	Last settlement	Present settlement
	Rs.	Rs.
Fishery	6,580	12,555
Fruits, etc.	1,050	1,588
Markets	760	5,577
Grazing fees	1,810	930
Jungle and miscellaneous	2,000	1,259
Total •	12,200	21,909

The largest increase is in income from fishery and markets, while grazing fees and income from jungle have fallen considerably.

The number of local markets has increased, and those near the railway centres have grown in importance.

The falling-off in income from jungle and grazing is mainly due to the reclamation of much of the land on the sea coast. Considerable income is still derived from the jungles on the border of Nilgiri State by the proprietors of Mangalpur and neighbouring estates.

There has been a large development of the sea fisheries since last settlement. The fisheries have been recognized as appertaining to the coastal landlords.*

The opening of the railway has greatly encouraged the trade in fish by providing easy access to the large markets in Kharagpur and Calcutta. Some Bengali middlemen export the fish by rail from Bahanaga Bazar and Balasore to Calcutta

*When the land was acquired for the proof range at Chandipur the fishery rights also had to be purchased. The income of the landlord is presumably derived ultimately from the fact that the fisherman pay for the use of the fisheries for drying and fixing their nets.

240. *Fishery mahals*.—The two fishery *mahals* referred to in paragraph 94 of Mr. Kingsford's report were reassessed to revenue. The assets of these *mahals*, in the shape of rents paid by the fishermen to whom leases are granted, were found to have fallen considerably. Even after these had been enhanced by a compromise at this settlement they were still, in the case of tauzi no. 764, less than at last settlement, and the revenue of that tauzi has been reduced from Rs. 325 to Rs. 266, while that of tauzi no. 765 remains constant at Rs. 25. The fisheries appear to have declined and to have suffered from the keen competition of sea fisheries.

241. *Statuses and rents*.—The statuses and rents in the temporarily-settled estates are as described below.

242. *Nijjote and nijchas*.—There are 26,642 acres of *nijjote*. Of these 19,058 acres are recorded as in cultivating possession of the proprietors or sub-proprietors, while 6,404 acres are held by tenants on cash rents and 1,180 acres by tenants on produce-rents. The *nijchas* area is 30,857 making a total of approximately 50,000 acres in cultivating possession of landlords.

243. *Produce-rented lands*.—There are 7,050 acres held on produce-rents directly under the proprietors and sub-proprietors, including the 1,180 acres of *nijjote* mentioned above. There are also 4,323 acres held by *raiyyats* under tenure-holders and 3,966 acres held by under-*raiyyats* on produce-rents. In all there are 22,582 holdings covering an area of 15,337 acres on produce-rents, the average size of such holdings being 0.68 acres. The area represents 1.6 per cent of the total temporarily-settled area. Of the area held by under-*raiyyats*, 32 per cent is held on produce-rents.

244. *Rent-free area*.—The total area held rent-free, apart from *minha* lands, is 8,489 acres, of which 269 acres are in ordinary tenures, 4,206 acres in holdings of occupancy *raiyyats*, 1,615 acres held as ordinary *jagir* and 2,399 acres as *desheta jagir*.

245. *Cash-rented tenancies and rent settlements statistics*.—The areas under different classes of cash-rented tenants, the level of cash rents and the enhancements made at rent settlement are shown in the following statement :—

Class of Tenancy,	Number of holdings	Area under present settlement.	Rents.		Percentage of increase over existing rent.	Rental incidence per acre.	
			Existing.	Settled.		Existing.	Settled.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Acres.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Kharida <i>jamabandi</i>	4,493	11,330	13,920	18,216	31	1 3 8	1 9 9
<i>Baiyafiti</i> tenures and tenancies.	71,999	97,495	86,501	1,26,239	46	0 14 2	1 4 9
Settled and occupancy.	373,108	542,575	9,62,259	12,05,349	25	1 12 5	2 3 7
Sthitiban <i>babat nijjote</i> .	9,323	6,404	—	15,778	...	...	2 7 6
Non occupancy ..	2,864	5,816	8,524	10,925	28	1 7 5	1 14 1
<i>Chandna</i> ..	8,453	1,758	7,515	9,402	25	4 2 10	5 3 8
<i>Chaukidari</i> resumed <i>jagir</i> .	4,207	7,026	12,127	15,118	25	1 11 7	2 2 5
Ordinary tenures ...	4,183	18,404	25,223	31,298	24	1 5 11	1 11 3

In 2,826 of the total of 3,400 villages the normal enhancement of four annas in the rupee was applied to the rents of ordinary *raiyyats*. In 129 villages a larger enhancement was made while in 247 three annas was given, in 112 two annas, in 37 one anna and in 32 no enhancement. In 17 villages the rate of enhancement was varied according to the quality of different areas.

246. *Communal and reserved lands.*—The reserved area shows an increase of 54 per cent over that of the Provincial Settlement. The proportion is 4.6 per cent of the temporarily-settled area. Communal and reserved lands together have increased by 23 per cent since the Revision Settlement. At Provincial Settlement there were 37,500 acres recorded as reserved, 36,000 for grazing and 1,500 for cremation grounds and other purposes. At Revision Settlement the total was 55,665 acres. At this settlement the total of reserved and communal lands is 65,044 acres. Of this 55,665 are *rakhit* and 9,379 are *sarbasadharan*.

247. *Revenue-free estates.*—There are 34,627 revenue-free estates and the total area under them is 109,841 acres. The average area of a revenue-free property is 3 acres. The area recorded as *nijchas* or *nij-dakhal* of the proprietors is 50,471 acres.

An area of 49,378 acres is under cash-rented holdings and 3,604 acres under produce-rented holdings. The proportionate area under produce-rents is much smaller than in other districts.

The total rental of the 49,378 acres under cash-rented holdings was Rs. 90,304 at the commencement of this settlement. The average incidence was, therefore, Rs. 1-13-3 per acre, which was slightly higher than the level of rents in temporarily-settled estates—Rs. 1-11-0,

There were 922 cases in the revenue-free area for settlement of fair rent under section 128, and these resulted in an enhancement of rent from Rs. 18,460 to Rs. 22,892 by 23 per cent. The proportion of rents for which cases were filed was only one-fifth of the total. In general the rents are too insignificant to make it worth the *baheldar's* while applying for enhancement.

248. *Khas mahals.*—Mr. Maddox gives a list of 19 *khas mahals* in district Balasore at page 505 of Volume II of his report. Since the Provincial Settlement seven of those estates, namely Mahapada, Nalkul, Rasalpur, Gandhina, Padanpur, Panichhatra and Kanheigalpur, have been sold. These were very petty estates covering less than 5 acres in all. The Motto *khas mahal*, which covered 2 acres within the bounds of the Kanika estate, has been made over to the Raja of that estate under orders of the Board. The other estates remain, but Birso has been amalgamated with the Noanand estates. To the Shortt's Island estate has now been added another group of four islands which were recently found to have been formed in the sea and which have been named Wheeler Islands after the then Governor of the Province. These islands were at first claimed under section 116 by the Raja of Kanika as reformation *in situ* of a part of his estate, but his claim was disallowed, and the islands have been treated as Government property and placed in *khas mahal* tauzi no. 1676.

Three new *khas mahals* have come into existence in the course of the settlement, but two of them, which had been the sites of Haldipada and Baghmira police out-posts, have since been sold to private parties. The third, Kantia, originated in a separate account (part of tauzi no. 987) which was purchased by Government in a revenue sale. It was formed into a separate *khas mahal* tauzi, but was later amalgamated with the Noanand *khas mahal*.

There are now 11 *khas mahals* in the district. Their total assets before the settlement amounted to Rs. 40,918, and as a result of the settlement they advanced to Rs. 50,412.

The largest of them is that of Noanand bearing tauzi no. 1316. It has a total area of 17,975 acres in 104 villages, and was purchased by Government for Re. 1 at a sale for arrears of revenue in 1818. The area under assessment has increased since last settlement from 12,756 acres to 14,920 acres. The assets advanced during the term of the last settlement from Rs. 31,457 to Rs. 38,387, and after this settlement they amounted to Rs. 47,229. The estate contains the important market at Mirzapur.

The Chandbali *khas mahal* covers a non-agricultural area at the port of that name. The holdings, 135 in number, are of *pattadari* status, and cover an assessed area of 72 acres.

The Bichitrapur *khas mahal* is really a permanent lease taken by Government from the proprietors of *mahal* Berapal for the purpose of salt manufacture, for which it was never actually used. Government has paid the rent of Rs. 799 from 1809, but derived no income from the estate until 1872, when it was sub-let to Babu Kaliash Chandra Ray Mahasaya as an *ijaradar*.

249. *Sale of occupancy rights.*—As regards the sale of occupancy holdings, in order to compare the ten years' figures of the Revision Settlement report with our figures of the last twelve years, the former figures have been proportionately increased and the result is given below:—

	Number of sales	Area sold	Price paid	Rate per acre
1	2	3	4	5
			Rs.	Rs.
Revision settlement ...	61,478	58,977	26,37,088	44
Present settlement ...	60,999	48,286	30,95,899	64

This shows an advance of about 10 annas in the rupee in the last 30 years. The rise in prices in the same period has been by 15 annas in the rupee. The area sold is about 5 per cent of the area held by *raiya*ts.

A very large proportions of the purchasers are themselves *raiya*ts. The proportions are as follows:—

Landlords ...	3.3 per cent
Lawyers ...	0.6 " "
Money-lenders ...	4.4 " "
Raiyats ...	91.7 " "

The sale price of lands in the irrigated area, which is not extensive, is Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 an acre, very much above the average of the district. In the area irrigated by the Salandi river, a few miles to the south-east of Bhadrak town, it was found to be as high as Rs. 250 per acre. On the other hand in the flooded tracts of thanas Basudebpur and Chandbali, where salt water inundation also affects the soil, the average sale rates are Rs. 32 and Rs.25 respectively.

In the Balasore portion of Killa Kanika the sale value of lands is as low as Rs.23 but this is partly accounted for by the proprietor's policy of discouraging sale to people from outside the estate.

In the flooded tracts of North Balasore, however, the sale rates are found to be slightly above the average of the district. In thana Baliapal it is Rs. 72, in Bhograi Rs. 77 and in Singha Rs. 78.

250. *Mortgage of holdings.*—Statistics on this subject are given in the Appendix. The figures are taken from the registers at attestation of usufructuary mortgages of the last twelve years. A certain proportion of cases have probably escaped detection. The total sum involved is Rs. 3,81,649 on an average of Rs. 55 per acre as compared with an average sale price of Rs. 64. The number of transactions is 6,452 and the number of acres mortgaged is 6,952, only 0.7 per cent of the total cultivated area. The figures at the Revisional Settlement, which were for ten years only were 6,736 mortgages affecting 10,152 acres. This indicates some slight decrease in mortgages of land since the introduction of the Orissa Tenancy Act,

In the great majority of cases the mortgagees are themselves *raiya*s. The following table shows the numbers as compared with those of the Revisional Settlement :—

Classes of mortgages.	Settlement of 1911.		Present settlement.	
	Mortgages.	Percentage.	Mortgages.	Percentage.
1	2	3	4	5
Landlord	626	9.3	211	3.2
Money-lender	1,928	28.6	771	11.9
lawyer	19	.3	49	0.8
Raiyat	4,163	61.8	5,421	84.1

The percentage of mortgages to landlords and money-lenders has dropped from 38 to 15.

251. *Sales of proprietary rights.*—During the last twelve years before settlement estates or shares of estates with a revenue of Rs. 35,823 were sold for an aggregate price of Rs. 7,62,890. The price is 21 times the revenue transferred. Of the number of transfers 76 per cent were to men of the landlord class, 12 per cent to men of the money-lending class and 9 per cent to *raiya*s.

As regards involuntary sales, i.e., sales of proprietary rights on account of arrears of revenue, the following are the statistics for a period of fifteen years from 1914 to 1928 :—

Number of sales	...	...	...	...	...	257
						Rs.
Government revenue of estates sold	...	...	...	...	...	40,162
Arrears of revenue for which sold	...	...	...	...	...	15,236
Sale price	...	...	...	...	...	4,87,370

The purchase money is twelve times the revenue of the estates transferred. The average amount of arrears of revenue for the year is Rs. 1,000 in a revenue roll of 7 lakhs of rupees.

252. *Amalgamation and redemption of estates.*—In this district 11 *tauzis* were reduced to 5 by amalgamating very small estates with their larger neighbours. The separate existence of these small estates was inconvenient. Later the policy was introduced of allowing the proprietors of such insignificant estates to redeem them and have them recognized as revenue-free.

Six estates were found paying revenue of Re. 1 or less. These were redeemed for a total payment of Rs. 90-10-0.

253. *Transfer and subdivision of estates.*—There were 96 entire estates with an area of 7,699 acres and revenue of Rs. 9,734 transferred from Cuttack to Balasore. Similarly 33 estates with an area of 2,054 acres and revenue of Rs. 1,611 were transferred from Balasore to Cuttack.

There were also several estates which had lands in two districts. By subdivision, portions of 62 estates were transferred from Cuttack to Balasore *tauzi* roll and portions of 11 estates were transferred from Balasore to Cuttack. As a result an area of 4,028 acres with revenue of Rs. 5,534 was transferred from Cuttack to Balasore and an area of 834 acres with revenue Rs. 1,153 from Balasore to Cuttack.

There are still some estates on the *tauzi* roll of Balasore, and others on the *tauzi* roll of Cuttack, which have lands partly in Cuttack

and partly in Balasore. As the proprietors objected no subdivision of the estates was made so as to transfer the lands to their respective districts. A statement is given below showing area and assets of such lands:—

(a) Lands situated in the district of Cuttack but still included in the tauzis of Balasore:—				
Number of estates	...	...	...	109
				Acres.
Area	...	...	...	5241-02
				Rs. a. p.
Assets (valued at revenue settlement)	...	...	...	10,267 7 1
(b) Lands situated in the district of Balasore but still included in the tauzis of Cuttack:—				
Number of estates	...	...	...	158
				Acres
Area	...	...	...	5496-34
				Rs, a. p.
Assets (valued for revenue settlement)	...	...	...	11,726 4 6

254. *B. L. Mukherjee Trust Estate.*—The B. L. Mukherjee Trust Estate was created by the will of the gentleman of that name in 1870, by which he left some lands in Hughly, Midnapore and Balasore to his widow, the surplus proceeds to be devoted to charitable purposes, such as the establishment of schools and dispensaries. The widow died without issue and the estate was then taken over by the Secretary of State. The whole estate was managed by the Collector of Hughly until 1910, when it was decided that the Collector of Balasore should look after the lands in that district, but should pay Rs. 7,000 out of the surplus income to the Collector of Hughly. This contribution was raised in 1922 to Rs. 8,000. The existing *mufassal* assets of the estate in Balasore amount to nearly Rs. 21,000. The revenue and cess payable are Rs. 5,400. Several dispensaries and schools are maintained out of the surplus income.

255. *Resumption case of Becher's estate.*—Becher's estate was a *mahal* covering 91 acres in villages Baghmara, Bahanaga, Mulida and Markona of Balasore district. The lands were granted to Mr. George Becher, Superintendent of the Trunk Road, in 1823 for the purpose of establishing bazars along the road. Mr. Becher transferred the land by a deed of gift in 1888 to his cousin, Frederic Marsac, who in the next year on his return to England sold the estate to his agent, Babu B.N. Das Gupta, although his departure was so hurried that no formal deed of conveyance was executed. The estate had remained in the hands of Babu B.N. Das Gupta and his heirs. At the present settlement it was resumed and assessed to revenue as it was found that it was not being used for the purpose for which it had been granted to Mr. George Becher. It bears tauzi no. 4373. It was assessed to revenue at the low rate of 25 per cent of the assets, in order to avoid hardship to the proprietor.

256. *Mobarakpur estate.*—The Mobarakpur estate, tauzi no. 924, is the largest estate in the temporarily-settled area and covers 59 square miles. The lands lie in nine parganas, the bulk of them in thana Soro. They suffer from no serious physical disadvantages.

Babu Tara Charan Deb Mandal and his brother and cousins are the 10 annas shareholders of the estate. They are residents of Chinsura. They however, spend about six months in the year at Balasore. They are well-to-do. The remaining 6 annas belonged to Babu Bhagaban Charan Das and others of his family, who were big local merchants controlling the trade of the port of Balasore but are now in reduced circumstances. They have now begun to sell away their interest. Samanta Radhaprasana Das is a co-sharer. He is a minor, now under the Court of Wards. A suit for partition of the estate was instituted before *khanapuri* but the proceedings were stayed at the commencement of the settlement operations. The case is now in progress again.

The management of the estate is slack rather than oppressive but there was some suppression of tenants on *nijjote* land.

In the *hastabud* portion collection is made by the *gumastas* or *tahasildars* of the proprietors. In villages in direct possession of sub-proprietors the collection is made under their direct supervision.

The *sairat* assets have advanced from Rs. 109 at last settlement to Rs. 1,115 now. The sea fishery alone accounts for Rs. 1,100, having increased greatly in value since the last settlement.

The net result of revenue assessment in this estate has been an increase of revenue from Rs. 23,941 to Rs. 31,897.

257, *Kasba estate*—The Kasba estate, tauzi no. 1373, is the second largest of the temporarily-settled estates of district Balasore.

The river Subarnarekha is silting up at its mouth, and consequently there has been alluvial accretions of about 850 acres to the estate. The *pal* lands on the river-side are very fertile. There are two distinct divisions in the estate. About two-thirds of the estate is protected by the Bhuan embankment, and about one-third is open to the floods of the Subarnarekha. Some lands were formerly acquired by Government for the manufacture of salt along the left bank of the Subarnarekha. The tract was, however found unsuitable for the purpose and was transferred to the original estate before last settlement.

The proprietors belong to a family of four brothers who are landed magnates of Panchetgarh in the Midnapore district. The management is efficient and well organized after the manner of the Court of Wards from which the estate was released about thirteen years ago. The landlords are not oppressive but somewhat exacting in the realization of their dues. They take a personal interest in the estate. The management is divided into collection circles with an agent to collect about Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 8,000. There is an important *hat* at Bhograi which yields about Rs. 350 and the ferries have been greatly improved since the last settlement and yield about Rs. 1,228. The *sairat* assets amount to Rs. 1,600 against about Rs. 315 at last settlement. The revenue has been advanced from Rs. 14,908 to Rs. 21,969.

258. *Dograi Dolsahi estate*—The Dograi Dolsahi estate, tauzi no. 124, originally covered an area of 8,256 acres, of which 7,779 acres were in Balasore and 477 acres are in Cuttack. The estate is now subdivided so as to transfer the lands of Cuttack to the revenue roll of that district. Nearly 50 per cent of the estate is under sub-proprietors. The lands of the estate are very scattered.

"The history of the estate is rather peculiar. "The lands were originally held as *jagirs* by the *dogras* (i.e. messengers or spies) of the Moghal Government but were subsequently resumed and assessed to rent. "The rents were collected by a *sardar* who was permitted to enter into agreement for payment of revenue at the time of the British annexation. Certain *dogras* were constituted *sarbarakars* and assisted the *sardar* in collection of rents. The *sarbarakars* appear to have been in existence at the time of annexation, but in 1807 the estate was managed *khas* by the *zamindar* for a few years and the *sarbarakars* were ousted. They were called in about 1812 to execute agreement for collection by the *zamindar*. The *sarbarakars* having been found out of possession for a few years were definitely held to have no *maurasi* title" * At time of the last settlement, however, the *sarbarakars* were found to have attained a right not inferior to that of *maurasidars*. The tenures passed freely by inheritance and purchase and *kabuliats* were accordingly taken from them in that settlement. At present also no distinction is observed between these *sarbarakars* and the *maurasi sarbarakars* in other estates of the district. In the last settlement there were 453 *sarbarakari* tenures comprised in the estate; but at present these number 467. Many of the present tenures are

*From last settlement assessment report; see also Mr. Maddox's report, Volume I. paragraph 291

very small, paying revenue of a few annas only. These are mostly in the hands of purchasers of the *raiyat* class, who held them in *khas* possession. The sub-proprietary tenures all lie in the district of Balasore and mostly in pargana Senaut.

The chief proprietor of the estate is Chaudhuri Mrutunjay Narayan Paharaj Mandhata, of Irda in North Balasore, a minor.

The existing revenue of the estate was Rs. 9,887. It has been enhanced to Rs. 11,926, of which sum Rs. 672 is borne by the Cuttack tauzi and Rs. 12,254 by the Balasore tauzi.

259. *Other estates*.—Babu Radha Kanta Parhi and his co-sharers have got *zamindari*s in Basudebpur and other parts of the district. These wealthy and powerful landlords are regarded with fear by their tenants, whom they treat oppressively.

The Paharajas of Daradachour belong to an ancient hereditary *zamindari* family of the district. The largest co-sharer is at present a minor and the estate is under the Court of Wards. The other co-sharers are not in prosperous circumstances and their relationship with the tenants is not very satisfactory.

The *kanungoe* of Nadigan belongs to an old family. He lives at Dhamnagar away from his estate, which is badly managed.

The Kothar estate is at present managed by Susilabala Dasi, widow of the late proprietor, Ramkrishna Bose. She is an executrix and her three sons-in-law are executors to the estate. The trustees live in Calcutta and are not in direct touch with the affairs of the estate which is looked after by a manager assisted by *tahsildars* and *sarbarakars*. The *zamindari* staff are highly oppressive. They realize a very high rate of mutation fee, collect more than the actual rent of *raiyati* holdings, foment disputes among the *raiyats*, realize forced labour from the low-class *raiyats*, and generally disregard the law. The *raiyats* are highly dissatisfied with the present officers of the estate. The undesirable state of things in this estate was reported to the Collector. Some improvement is expected since a retired Sub-Deputy Collector has recently taken over management.

260. *French territory*.—The area once occupied by the French factory in Balasore still remains as French territory. Some account of it is given by Mr. D. H. Kingsford in the Final Report of the Provincial Settlement Volume II. page 397. At last settlement the area was in dispute and Government on the recommendation of Mr. Maddox held it to be 38 acres.

In 1907 the area was privately demarcated. A map was prepared and cylinders put down to mark the boundary. In 1917 a proceeding was held to determine the title to certain accretions. As the French were already found to be in possession of these accretions their claim to hold them was admitted on the analogy of the law of alluvion. At the new survey one newly-formed island two uncultivated accretions were found on the north side of the French loge. The Government of India ordered that one of these accretions, which was contiguous to the loge, should be assigned to the French, but that the other two should be treated as British possessions. The French were also found to be in possession, according to the demarcation of 1907, of a small area at the south-west corner of the loge, in excess of that assigned to them at Provincial Settlement. The Government of India ordered their possession to be left undisturbed. The area of the loge is now 45 acres.