

CHAPTER XV.

Officers.

467. *Settlement Officers.*—Mr. A. R. Toplis was the first Settlement Officer and held charge from October 1922 to March 1924. He had the very difficult task of getting the settlement into working order with an inexperienced staff, and of framing rules and principles for future guidance. He effected great improvement in the quality of the staff, and was also responsible for simplifying the entries of status, so that the legal position of each tenant under the Act is clear and definite, a principle which was adhered to throughout the settlement. Mr. P. T. Mansfield was Settlement Officer from April 1924 to March 1928 with an interval of leave in 1926. He carried on the work of Mr. Toplis in training the staff and inculcating the habit of accurate work, and effected much simplification and cheapening of the operations by introducing improved methods and eliminating superfluous procedure. He carried the settlement through the heavy middle period. He was mainly responsible for dispensing with the need for a regular settlement in the Khurda *khas mahal*. Mr. P. J. Scotland took over charge in March 1928 and carried on until February 1929, although hampered by ill-health. He had to cope with some difficult problems in attestation of Block E. Mr. Scotland also worked as Settlement Officer for a few months after his return from leave in November 1929. Mr. D. E. Reuben held the post of Settlement Officer for ten months while Mr. Mansfield was on leave in 1926. Rai Sahib Phanindra Nath Gupta held it for three weeks in 1925, and for five months in 1930. I took over charge from Mr. Scotland in February 1929 until November 1929 and on my return from leave was again Settlement Officer from August 1930 to April 1932. Mr. Samuel Das acted in my place for fifteen days in June 1931 and took over charge from me in April 1932.

468. *Assistant Settlement Officers.*—The officers employed in the settlement included 31 Deputy Collectors, 54 Sub-Deputy Collectors, 24 Munsifs (including probationary Munsifs), 17 non-gazetted officers and 11 junior civilians on training. The system of charges was adopted and the following officers were employed as Charge Officers, excluding those who also became Settlement Officers:—Mr. N. Senapati, Mr. S. M. Dhar, Mr. K. P. Sinha, Babu Nalini Kanta Ghosh and Rai Sahib Uma Charan Das.

The following Officers received promotion for their good work in the course of the Settlement:—

- (1) From Sub-Deputy Collector to Deputy Collector:—Babu Bhagaban Mohapatra, Babu Jadunath Mohapatra, Babu Chintamani Acharjya, Babu Ganesh Chandra Chandra, Babu Parameswar Dayal, Maulavi Musahab Khan, Babu Satish Chandra Banerjee, and Babu Udit Narayan Pandey.
- (2) From non-gazetted posts to Sub-Deputy Collectors:—Babu Sadhu Charan Sahu, Babu Jai Behari Parhi, Babu Apurba Krishna Singh, Babu Lalit Mohan Bhattacharya, Babu Tejendranath Gupta, Babu Lokanath Patnaik, Babu Durga Charan Patnaik, Babu Dibya Singh Patnaik and Babu Banamber Mohanti.

Rai Sahibs Phanindra Nath Gupta, Lauhar Singh and Uma Charan Das received their titles for good work on settlement.

Besides the officers mentioned above several others did good work in the settlement. I mentioned the following as having done useful work under me:—Mr. Samuel Das (to whom I am also indebted for assistance in writing this report). Maulavi Saiyid Wasi Ahmad Bilgrami, Mr. C. H. McNeill, Mr. Isaiah Das, Babu Krishna Chandra Ghosh, Babu Padma Charan Das and Babu Sachidanand Misra, Deputy Collectors; Babu Gopal Charan Patnaik, Babu Sudhakar Patnaik, Babu Somnath Mahapatra,

and Babu Raj Kishore Ray, Sub-Deputy collectors ; and Babu Duryodhan Mahanti, non-gazetted officer.

The civilians, on training, were given experience in *khanapuri*, attestation and recess work and derived considerable benefit from their period in the settlement. Some of them also did valuable work. The work of Mr. A. Whittaker in Sukinda deserves special mention.

I regret to have to report the death of two valuable officers in the course of the settlement. Babu Sudhir Chandra Ray, Sub-Deputy Collector, was a sound and hard-working officer, whom we could ill-afford to lose. Babu Binda Charan had done conspicuously good work and was marked out for early promotion to sub-Deputy Collector.

469. *Acknowledgments.*—Throughout the settlement the successive Directors of Land Records and Surveys supervised and guided the work. Mr. J. A. Hubback was mainly responsible for the framing of the principles of rent settlement, Mr. A. D. Tuckey took a great interest in the improvement of the rules of procedure. I am personally indebted to Messrs. Mansfield and Houlton for their guidance. The successive Commissioners and the Collectors of the three districts also gave useful assistance at several points in the Settlement.