

CHAPTER IX.

Statistical Account of Cuttack District.

181. *Situation and area*—The district of Cuttack is bounded on the north by Balasore, on the south by the district of Puri, on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the west by the Tributary States of Athgarh, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar.

There are three subdivisions, Cuttack Sadr, Kendra para and Jajpur, with 10 revenue thanas in the district, and the area is covered by 25 police-stations jurisdictions

As regards village administration, there are 268 *chaukidari* unions. There are 268 *daffadars* and 3,023 *chaukidars*

Of the total number of 5 609 *mauzas* only 5,394 came under the present settlement.

The total area of the Cuttack district is 3,659 square miles. The areas excluded from settlement cover 597 square miles. Thus an area of 3,062 square miles have come under the present settlement. This area is classified as follows;—

permanently-settled	...	...	974	square miles
Temporarily-settled	...	...	1,783	ditto.
Revenue-free	...	...	244	ditto.
Government lands	...	...	61	ditto.

The district is for the most part a flat alluvial plain. There is a belt of low jungle on the sea coast in Killas Kanika, Kujang, Bishunpur and Harishpur, while along the western border there is a line of hilly estates:—Sukinda, Kalkala, Madhupur, Darpan, Dalijora, Patia, Dompara and Banki.

182. *Communications*—The following roads are maintained—

	Metalled.	Unmetalled.
1. Provincial roads in charge of the Public works Department	66	...
2. District board roads	180	365
3. village roads in charge of union boards	...	416

Among the provincial roads, the most important is the Orissa Trunk Road which traverses the district from north to south. It bifurcates south of Cuttack town, one branch going to Puri and the other to Ganjam.

The principal district board roads are—(1) Cuttack-Taldanda road, (2) Cuttack-Machgaon road, (3) Cuttack-Chandbali road. and (4) Fulna-khara-Madhab road.

The large rivers such as the Mahanadi and the Brahmini carry traffic during the rains. In other seasons the waters are very shallow except in the tidal reaches.

The Taldanda, the Kendrapara. and the Gobri canals are also available for navigation.

The Calcutta-Madras-Puri line of the Bengal Nagpur Railway traverses the district, and a branch line has recently been opened from Nirgundi, a few miles north of Cuttack, to Talcher. The opening of a light railway from Jagatpur, near Cuttack, to Kendrapara has been contemplated.

183. *Fair-weather road across Kathjori*—The river Kathjori to the south of Cuttack town is an impassable barrier to traffic from the commencement of the monsoon until the middle of the cold weather. Thereafter it

is possible to make a *kutch* road across the dry sand, and to construct a temporary bridge across the narrow stream of water that still remains, thus opening the Puri road to traffic. The river bed lies within the estate of a private landlord. The municipality used to construct the fair weather road and levy tolls until 1895, when the proprietor also put up a rival road. There was then a breach of the peace and the proprietor was prosecuted and convicted in the criminal court. But on appeal the High Court acquitted him and held that he was acting within his rights as proprietor of the land. The landlords have constructed roads and levied tolls on wheeled traffic ever since. They have not, however, attempted to set any restriction on the passage of pedestrians, which would indeed be impracticable. The public would, therefore, appear to have a general right to cross these river beds on foot. But the landlords claim that they retain the right to fence any particular part of the river bed, provided that they leave a convenient route open to the public for crossing. In this they appear to be justified, as there is no permanent or well-defined track across these river beds and the route taken by the temporary roads varies from year to year.

An informal conference on this subject was called by Mr. N. F. Peck, I. C. S., as Collector in 1928, at which a certain scale of tolls was laid down and it was agreed by the proprietors that public servants travelling on duty should be exempted from any payment.

184, *Population*.—The following table shows the population figures of thanas at the last three censuses:—

District, subdivision and thana.	Area in square mile	Population.			Percentage of variation		Number of persons per square mile		
		1931.	1921.	1911.	1921 to 1931	1911 to 1931.	1931.	1921.	1911.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cuttack district.	3,654	2,176,707	2,064,678	2,109,139	+5.11	—2.11	396	565	577
Sadr subdivision.	1,562	1,087,991	1,043,301	1,068,772	+4.28	—2.38	697	688	684
Cuttack thana.	298	237,148	2,14,872	228,193	+10.37	—5.84	796	721	766
Banki „ ...	193	84,406	70,110	78,604	+20.39	—10.81	426	354	397
Salepur „ ...	303	266,449	289,245	291,852	—8.54	—0.89	879	955	963
Tirtol „ ...	391	193,491	181,549	183,739	+6.58	—1.19	498	464	470
Jagatsingpur Thana.	372	336,497	287,525	286,384	+6.60	+0.40	824	773	770
Kendrapara subdivision.	977	496,498	478,773	485,918	+3.70	—1.47	508	490	497
Kendrapara Thana.	301	248,069	249,369	250,406	—0.52	—0.41	824	828	832
Patamundai Thana.	302	127,112	120,707	120,352	+5.31	+0.29	422	400	399
Aul „ ...	374	121,317	108,697	115,160	+11.61	—5.61	324	291	308
Jajpur sub division.	1,115	592,218	542,604	554,449	+9.14	—2.14	531	487	497
Jajpur Thana.	320	281,789	259,877	270,080	+8.64	—3.96	881	811	844
Dharamsala „	795	310,429	283,227	284,369	+9.60	—0.40	353	856	358

The fall in population between 1911 and 1921 is attributable to the various epidemics of cholera and influenza in 1919 and 1920, as well as to the spread of malaria in that decade. This fall reduced the total population of the district in 1921 almost to the same figure as in 1901. The decade 1921 to 1931 has seen an advance by 5.43 per cent on the whole. This advance has been most marked in those thanas where the drop in the previous decade had been greatest, viz. Cuttack, Banki, Aul and Jajpur. In

Dharamsala, however, there was also a large advance although the drop had been comparatively slight. The incidence of population, however, is comparatively low in Dharamsala. The increase of population in Jajpur and Jagatsingpur is rather striking in view of the large proportion of population to the square mile already existing in those thanas. On the other hand, Salepur thana the enormous population of which was commented upon by Mr. James, has suffered a large decrease in the last decade and indeed has a smaller population now than in 1901. Jajpur thana now has a slightly heavier incidence of population than Salepur, Kendrapara thana, in which there was an advance by 8 per cent between 1901 and 1911, has since then remained almost stationary suffering a slight decrease in both decades

185. *caste*—The castes which have the largest numbers in the 1931 census are as follows, the 1921 figures being given for comparison—

			1931	1921
Khandait	...	...	548,664	482,542
Brahman	...	...	186,021	191,476
Chasa	...	...	153,663	178,688
Gour	...	...	145,132	134,192
Pan	...	...	116,105	98,986
Kandra	...	...	97,356	88,325
Bauri	...	...	78,553	70,188
Keut	...	...	78,498	48,471

The fluctuations are rather remarkable, particularly, the large increase of Keuts. The Khandaits form a large part of the population of the district.

There are 66,093 Muhammadans and 2,873 Christians.

Some interesting castes are found. The Chatras attribute their origin to the great famine of 1865 when many people were outcasted because they had taken food from the various relief kitchens. Those who did not succeed in gaining readmission to caste formed themselves in to this new caste. The Maharas, found in village Kundal of police-station Barchana are said to be descendants of the Marhattas. Inter-marriage is permitted among them within close degrees of relationship. They speak a mixed *patois* of Maharathi, Hindustani, and Oriya.

186. *Education*—The figures for 1899 are not available but there can be no doubt that literacy has greatly advanced since the last settlement. The following table shows the number of schools and the pupils in the district—

standard.			schools	pupils
High English	...	...	8	1,899
Middle English	...	...	33	3,377
Middle Vernacular	...	...	4	499
Upper Primary	...	...	148	8,110
Lower Primary	...	...	2,837	76,595
Elementary Training	...	...	7	117

Cuttack is an important educational centre and contains many schools and colleges. Chief among them is Ravenshaw College, which is affiliated to Patna University. The standard of literacy, however, among the village population remains low. According to the census of 1931, only 162,945 persons are literate, i. e. 7½ per cent of the entire population. There are 12,867 persons literate in English.

187. *Trade and industries*—The main exports are rice and other agricultural products, hides, and brassware. The main imports are cotton piece-goods, metal articles, spices, tobacco, kerosene oil, sugar and salt. There are no industries which flourish on any large scale. The bell-metal industry, has its chief centre in Bhatimunda, near Kapilas Road Station

in thana Cuttack. Ropes are made from cocoanut fibre or jute and sold. Low-caste people, such as the Pans weave baskets and do cane-work. The area in the neighbourhood of the large town of Cuttack has more opportunities for trade, for instance the sale of bena-grass for thatching of houses in the town. In village Bidyadharpur, a few miles east of Cuttack, there are reported to be 200 families of goldsmiths who earn their livelihood by working in the shops in Cuttack. people in this region, in the villages along the Mahanadi, find it profitable to grow potatoes and other vegetables and hawk them in the town.

In Prathamkhandi village of Jajpur subdivision the weaving of *tassar* silk is carried on by Bengali settlers. An attempt is being made to stimulate this industry in Orissa in general.

Cloth manufacture attains some importance in villages Kisnagar, and Kendupatna of the Sadr subdivision and Haripur and Narsingpur of the Jajpur subdivision. The weaving of cotton cloths in the villages is reported to be reviving.

In Cuttack town the manufactures of silver filigree and horn work still flourish. There are several tanneries. The larger Utkal Tannery does not appear to be prospering. A rice-mill, ice factory and match factory have been started since last settlement, But the last-named has recently suspended work. The cuttack Electric Supply Company has come into existence within the last few years, There has been much evidence of increased building activity in recent years, and in village Tulsipur and Biranasi within the Cuttack municipality many brick-kilns are now to be seen. In the same region there is now a large godown at Chahata ghat, to which bamboos are floated down the Mahanadi from Angul. to be transported to Calcutta for the manufacture of paper. This concern belongs to the Calcutta firm of Messrs Heilgers & Co, Agents for the Titagarh Paper Mills.

A peculiar profession has quite recently grown up in thana Aul and some parts of Jajpur. In these areas a considerable proportion of the male population work in calcutta. In order to provide a cheap and convenient means of sending articles from Calcutta to their native villages these people employ carriers, locally known as *Hundiwalas*, who go from the villages twice or thrice in each month by steamer from Chandbali to Calcutta, and bring from there the various commodities which the emigrants desire to send home, The *Hundiwala* brings these articles as his personal luggage.

188. *Drinking water*—In some areas, particularly near the coast there is difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of drinking water in the dry weather. In the fifteen years from 1913 the district board excavated 15 tanks and 57 wells to improve the supply.

189, *soils*—In the plains ordinarily the soil called *dorasa natal* is predominant. Near the hills there are varieties of *gorimati*, a soil containing particles of rock, and *genguti* composed of clay and small particles of laterite stones. In the villages near the sea, the soils are saline in varying degree.

190. *Agricultural stock*—According to the figures prepared at *khanapuri* the number of draught cattle in the area under survey is 349,388, or one in $3\frac{1}{2}$ cultivated acres, and the number of ploughs 164,686 or one in 7 cultivated acres. The proportion of ploughs is rather higher than in the other districts (one in $8\frac{1}{2}$ in Balosore and one in 9 in Puri) The number of carts is 14,605.

191. *Agriculture*—The area of land under rice is 1,00,531 acres and the proportion of such land to the cultivated area is 91.6 per cent.* This is less than the average of the three districts (93 per cent) but shows a large advance on the district's proportion at Provincial Settlement (85.1 per cent) In Kendrapara thana it is as high as 97 per cent while in other thanas it varies from 90 to 93 per cent.

* The figures are for the area under settlement.

Beali rice is grown on 149,908 acres of 12½ per cent of the cultivated lands. The proportion is considerably higher than the average of the three districts (8.1 per cent) but shows a slight decrease from the Provincial Settlement figure (13.1 per cent). *Sarad* is less widely grown in this district than in the others, viz. on 78.3 per cent of the cropped area as compared with an average of 84 per cent. There is, however, a considerable advance on the Provincial Settlement percentage of 70.2. The present area under this crop is 940,271 acres. The area under *dalua* is now 10,352 acres. The proportion is only half what it was at Provincial Settlement. It is greater than in Balasore but less than in Puri Sadar subdivision.

The decline in cultivation of *mandia* is most pronounced in this district. The proportion has fallen from 30 to 12 acres in every thousand. The area is 14,209 acres.

Cereals and pulses such as *mung*, *biri*, *kulthi* and *harar* cover 207,519 acres or 17 per cent of the cropped area. The proportion is the same as in Provincial Settlement and is higher than in Puri and Balasore (11 per cent and 1 per cent respectively). *Harar* alone accounts for 98,341 acres.

Oilseeds are grown on 15,595 acres. Here also the proportion is higher than in the other districts and shows a considerable advance over that of Provincial Settlement from 9 to 13 acres in every thousand.

The decline in cotton is most marked in this district, as 1,782 acres were found under this crop at Provincial Settlement and only 99 acres now.

Jute, on the other hand, has advanced most strikingly from 6 acres to 40 acres in every 10,000. The present area is 4,940 acres in this district, the total area in the three districts being 5,862 acres.

Sugarcane has advanced slightly but is still insignificant, the area being 1,282 acres, or about 1 in every thousand cultivated acres.

Pan cultivation has extended to 370 acres as compared with 174 acres at Provincial Settlement.

Most of the tobacco-growing area is in this district,—1,321 acres out of a total of 1,460 acres.

The proportion of twice-cropped area shows a slight advance from 14.3 per cent to 15.9 per cent and the area is now 190,352 acres. There has been a much greater advance in Puri Sadr subdivision, while in Balasore the twice-cropped area remains insignificant.

192. *Outturn of paddy*.—In paragraph 51 of Mr. James's report the figures of crop-cutting experiments by the Public Works Department in irrigated and unirrigated areas between 1899 and 1911 are given. The averages were 23 maunds and 18 seers of paddy on irrigated land and 17 maunds 36 seers on unirrigated land. The figures of such experiments from 1917 to 1929, which are given in detail elsewhere in this report, are not widely different, viz. on irrigated lands 23 maunds 33 seers and on unirrigated land 17 maunds 16 seers. The result of 2,014 experiments done by officers of the settlement was on average of 16 maunds 19 seers per acre.* This is exclusive of the experiments done in the seasons 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 by Mr. Hubback's method of random sampling, which showed an average yield in the irrigated area of Cuttack Sadr subdivision of 23 maunds 16 seers and in the non-irrigated area of the same subdivision of 23 maunds 3 seers, and in the non-irrigated area of Kendrapara subdivision of 19 maunds 3 seers.† These experiments were done in good years in which rainfall was adequate but there were no serious floods. The high figures of 1930-31 are partly explained by the fact that the experiments were only made in the latter half of the harvesting season, which of course means that they do not give a correct indication of the average yield. The high figure of outturn in the non-irrigated area of Cuttack Sadr subdivision illustrates the fact that in such areas the crop obtained in a year of adequate and well-distributed

* After making allowance for ridges and dryage.

† See table in Appendix.

rainfall may be as good as in the irrigated area. Many flood-affected areas also attained good crops in the seasons from 1928 to 1930 as a result of the silt deposited in the flood years 1926 and 1927. On the other hand, the unprotected areas are not secure from an occasional disastrous flood or from failure of the crops through drought.

The mean figures of random sampling experiments in the Sadr-subdivision in the years 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 were 21.03 maunds, 22.47 maunds and 25.10 maunds, respectively. It was noticed that experiments done by random sampling generally gave higher figures than those done by the ordinary chain method even in the same season.

An analysis of the figures obtained by crop-cutting experiments by the ordinary chain method by Attestation Officers appears to me to give a fairly accurate idea of the difference in outturn between the irrigated and unirrigated areas. The following are the figures :—

Irrigated area.		Non-irrigated area.	
Number of experiments.	Average outturn.	Number of experiments.	Average outturn.
	Mds. srs. ch.		Mds. srs. ch.
441	19 21 7	1,020	15 28 11

The difference is about 4 maunds.

The experiments in some of the principal flooded areas of the district produced the following results :—

Season.	Thana.	Number of experiments.	Average outturn.		
			Mds.	srs.	ch.
1925-26	Jajpur	62	13	34	15
1926-27	Dharamsala	58	12	24	10
1927-28	Kendrapara	33	14	17	10

193. *Extension of cultivation.*—In the temporarily-settled area of district Cuttack there is general increase of 5.9 per cent in cultivated area, the percentage of the assessed area to the total area being 75 per cent as compared with 70 per cent at the Provincial Settlement. The following table shows the increase in the different blocks in this settlement :—

Block.	Thanas.	Last settlement.		Present settlement.		Percentage of increase in assessed area.	Percentage of assessed area to total area.	
		Assessed area.	Total area.	Assessed area.	Total area.		Last settlement.	Present settlement.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
C ...	Jajpur	Acres.	Acres.	Acrea.	Acrea.			
	Aul (portion).	169,247	215,266	177,370	214,466	+ 4.8	78	83
D ...	Dharamsala salepur.	192,944	284,129	206,696	281,206	+ 7.1	68	74
E ...	Portions of Jagatsingpur.	204,469	267,322	214,267	266,523	+ 4.8	76	80
	Tirtol. Kendrapara.							
F ...	Pattamundai.	253,325	402,553	270,429	393,768	+ 6.8	63	69
	Ditto and Cuttack.							
	Total ...	819,985	1,169,970	868,762	1,155,923*	+ 5.9	70	75

*The decrease of about 0.9 per cent. is only apparent, and due to shrinkage of the maps.
P. T. M.

The increase of cultivation has been largest in Blocks D and F. Considerable areas have been reclaimed in the thanas of Dharamsala and Cuttack, where the temporarily-settled estates contain a part of the jungle country on the western fringe of the district. In the centre of the district, especially in the irrigated parts, cultivation has practically reached its limit.

194. *Embankments*.—An area of 420 square miles is protected from inundation by embankments (apart from the area protected by canal embankments). Since the last Provincial Settlement most of the class IV and of the class III embankments have been abandoned. Originally embankments extending for a length of 510 miles were maintained, but this had been reduced to 382 miles at the last Provincial Settlement. The existing length of embankments in Cuttack is only 212 miles, excluding canal embankments.

195. *Flood problems*.—An elaborate net-work of rivers is spread over Cuttack district, and a large part of the district is affected by floods in a greater or less degree.

The Baitarani river forms the northern boundary of the district. For about 10 miles above the Trunk Road it is not embanked on the Cuttack side and the villages on the bank of the river in pargana Sargara suffer from floods although the damage is not usually severe. Below this the Baitarani is embanked on the Cuttack side, and the Bura-Kharsua is embanked on the left, so that the triangle of land in thana Jajpur lying between those rivers is protected.

Pargana Jodh, lying in the angle between the Burha and Kharsua is rather badly flood-affected, especially in the south-west. There are several *ghais* in this area which scour the villages and deposit sand.

The Brahmini enters the district a few miles above the head of its delta, and flows between Killa Sukinda on the left and Killas Balaram pur and Chousathipara on the right. The right bank is protected by the Pingua embankment, but the left is unprotected. The southern part of Killa Sukinda has suffered much from floods of the Brahmini, which is eroding its left bank and depositing sand.

The head of the Brahmini delta presents one of the most difficult problems in Orissa. The Patia-Kharsua which goes off on the left is very uncertain in its course, and its vagaries have caused a good deal of damage. The Brahmini itself has developed a tendency to break away to the left into the Patia-Kharsua channel, and has made four gaps in its left bank, the greatest of which is known as the Janardan *ghai*. An escape had been constructed here by Government in 1903. It was outflanked in 1926, and repaired, but was again outflanked in the extraordinary flood of 1927, which also caused the other three *ghais*, known as Sahara, Manika and Bisai. These *ghais* have remained open since 1927, and the damage done to pargana Olas by scouring and sand deposit from these *ghais* is very great. It is estimated that about 18,000 acres are flooded from them. A project is under preparation for closing the *ghais* by a strong embankment and making a high level spill just below the Brahmini anicut on the left bank.

The Flood Committee of 1928 attributed the present condition of the head of the Brahmini delta in part to the existence of the two anicuts, in the Brahmini and Patia respectively, and also observed that serious deterioration had taken place in the Brahmini by the deposit of a vast quantity of sand at the head of the delta in the flood of 1920. The dismantling of the Brahmini weir and the remodelling of the Patia weir were advocated.

The situation in this area is aggravated by the fact that the embankments on the Burha-Kharsua left and on the Birupa and Brahmini right converge to a sort of funnel-mouth only about 5 miles wide, through which the discharges of five major streams, the Burha, Kharsua, Brahmini, Genguti and Birupa, have to pass out. Hence the whole of this area is annually flooded, but the effects vary greatly from one part to another. The western portion of pargana Beruan is badly affected, and further south, in the centre of pargana Alti, where the Genguti joins the Kimiria.

a *ghai* of recent formation has done much harm, depositing a thick layer of sand in Alikana and other villages. The Routra *ghai* in the Kharsua right near Binjharpur has caused damage to a large area in parganas Tisania, Kalamatia and Hatimunda. It is not proposed to close this breach as this will endanger other embankments. The unauthorized closing of it in 1931 caused several breaches elsewhere and the embankment closing the *ghai* was also partially washed away. Most of this region between the Kharsua and Brahmini only suffers damage in exceptionally high floods, and in many parts good *rabi* crops are grown when the paddy crop fails.

To the east of this region lie the Aul Ring Bundh and the Utikan, Gajaria and Damarpur embankments, which were condemned by the Flood Committee as holding up the discharge of the Kharsua and Brahmini to the sea. The Aul Ring Bundh breached in 1920, remained open for the next two years, was repaired in 1923, was breached again in 1926, and has remained so since then. The country inside the embankment is below the level of the surrounding country, and the yearly floods are disastrous to the crops. The year 1924 is the only year in the last 12 in which a good crop has been reaped in this area. This embankment, however, when in repair, has a harmful effect in preventing the speedy discharge of floods to the sea, and its abandonment has been recommended. The same applies with greater force to the Gajaria embankment on the Brahmini right. A project is under consideration for removing these embankments and allowing the Brahmini to find a short outlet to the sea through the Hansua creek or through an alternative channel further to the west.

South of the Birupa and Brahmini lies a protected and irrigated area enclosed between the Pattamundai canal embankment and the Kendrapara canal embankment. Some parts are subject to water-logging by the river Gobri, which flows through the middle. In 1925 the area suffered a little from an excess of rain-water, which could only be drained off through the Jambu river at Gandakia. In 1926 the eastern portion suffered severely by the breaching of the Pattamundai flood bank below Indupur. This breach has been repaired in 1927 and such a calamity is not likely to recur. The area was somewhat compensated for the damage of 1926 by bumper crops in the next season due to enriching of the soil by silt deposit.

Between the Kendrapara and Taldanda canals there is a belt of country traversed by the main stream of the Mahanadi and its branches the Nuna, Chitratola and Paika. This region is only protected piecemeal by various minor embankments. One or two parts of this area were found to have suffered rather severely in recent years. For instance the Mardha *ghai* has done damage in the north of pargana Painda. The breaches in the Chitratola left at Baranaiguan cause damage in high floods, and a good deal of sand has been deposited here. The part of pargana Painda south of the Chitratola has suffered by the Nuapara *ghai*. It is not proposed to close this breach, as its effects are considered beneficial on the whole. Except for such isolated cases, the general condition of affairs in this region was not found to be very bad. The people already realize the advantages of *rabi* cultivation, and the tendency to grow *rabi* crops is being encouraged.

South of this there is another protected and irrigated area between Taldanda and Machgaon canals.

To the south-west of the Machgaon canal there is another strip of country covered with a net-work of streams, which are embanked in a partial and haphazard fashion. The long embankment on the Biluakhai and Devi left protects a considerable area in the eastern portion of parganas Saibiri, Deogaon and Kate. The island between the Kathjori and Surua receives a rush of water from the Kathjuri, which is only partially embanked, and there has been a good deal of sand deposit in the central portion of this island. Pargana Sailo is largely protected by the embankment on the Surua and Devi right, but there have been serious breaches at Korkor and Manko, which have caused considerable damage. The remaining part of this region is somewhat similar to the region between the Kendrapara and Taldanda canals. The rice crop is uncertain and it is a suitable area for the encouragement of *rabi* cultivation. The Flood Committee of 1928 recommended the gradual removal of the embankments in both these parts of the district, leaving only those that protect the noses of islands.

from the onrush of floods. A further suggestion about the southern tract is that the Alanka river, which has been closed by the Machgaon canal embankment, should be reopened and the old Jatadhar estuary revived. This estuary previously took a considerable volume of the discharge from the Kathjori branch.

The Kathjori immediately to the south of Cuttack town has eroded its right bank and rendered a considerable area in Killa Patia unproductive by depositing sand. There have been occasional breaches in the Kuakhai right in pargana Bakhrabad.

196. *Revenue settlement*.—The total revenue of the temporarily-settled estates as assessed at the last settlement was Rs. 10, 99, 165 representing 53 per cent of the gross assets. The present revision has raised the revenue by 33 per cent to Rs. 14, 61,593 * representing 52.7 per cent of the gross assets. The advance in revenue is slightly less than the rate of increase in assets which is 34.9 per cent.

In some 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 short steps spread over periods not exceeding four years. In other estates owing to temporary deterioration of soil by floods, concessions were granted for period of fifteen years. The ultimate revenue demand therefore, does not come into full effect until 1944. The difference of revenue in the intervening period will not exceed Rs. 5,000.

The total revenue demand includes a sum of Rs. 24, 412 payable to the *chaukindari* fund, as compared with Rs. 20, 859 at last settlement.

The incidence of revenue per acre of assessed land is now Rs. 1-10-11, as compared with Re. 1-5-4 at last settlement. Calculated on total area the incidence is now Re. 1-4-2 as compared with Re. 0-15-0 at last settlement.

The total *malikana* allowed to the proprietors at last settlement was Rs. 8, 97, 758. The proprietor's income had increased in the course of the settlement to Rs. 10, 77, 380. The *malikana* now allowed to them is Rs. 12, 02, 176. Their income thus advanced by 20 per cent during the term of the last settlement. This settlement brought an increase of 12 per cent over the existing income and the final result is an advance by 34 per cent over the income of last settlement.

Partitions since last settlement have led to an increase in the number of private estates from 4, 452 to 8, 374.

197. *Sub-proprietary tenures*.—There are 1, 124 sub-proprietary tenures in Cuttack district. Of these 613 are *makaddams*, 265 are *sarbarakars*, 7 are *pursethi kharidars*, 23 are *koth kharida*, 202 are *shikmi zamindars*, 5 are *padhans* and 9 are *tanki*.

Their assets advanced from Rs. 2, 37, 790 to Rs. 2, 66, 242 during the currency of the settlement, and to Rs. 3, 15, 936 as a result of this settlement. The settled assets exceed the pre-existing assets by 18.7 per cent and those of last settlement by 32.9 per cent.

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

			Last settlement.		Present settlement.	
			Percentage.	Amount.	Percentage.	Amount
				Rs,		Rs,
Sub-proprietor	...	...	32	75,977	31.1	98,109
Proprietor	...	...	16.8	40,061	16.4	51,855
Government	...	...	51.2	1,21,652	52.5	1,65,972

*This and the succeeding figures are not absolutely exact as this is written before final confirmation of a few *tauzis*.

The Government revenue advances by 36.4 per cent. The income allowed to the sub-proprietors is 29.1 per cent more than at last settlement, but it is 6 per cent less than that which they possessed immediately before this settlement. The share now allowed to the proprietors has advanced by 29.4 per cent over that allowed at last settlement.

198. *Sairat*.—The total *sairat* assessment on the temporarily-settled estates at last settlement was Rs. 16,600 and at this settlement Rs. 26,708. The details are as follows:—

						Rs.
Fishery	...	...	...	...	...	10,349
Fruit, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	8,517
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	3,526
Jungle and miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4,316
Total						26,708

The largest increase is in income from fishery and fruits. In the miscellaneous income is included such items as fees for mooring boats, income from quarries, ferries and jungle produce.

199. *Nijjote and nijchas*.—There are 68,789 acres of *nijjote*. Of these 52,529 acres are recorded in cultivating possession of the proprietors or sub-proprietors* while 12,951 acres are held by tenants on cash rents and 3,309 acres by tenants on produce rents. The *nijchas* area is 34,738, making a total of approximately 87,000 acres nominally in cultivating possession of landlords.

200. *Produce-rented lands*.—There are 18,642 acres held on produce-rents directly under the proprietors and sub-proprietors, including the 3,309 acres of *nijjote* mentioned above. There are also 6,788 acres held by *raiya*ts under tenure-holders and 6,350 acres held by under-*raiya*ts on produce-rents. In all there are 64,006 holdings covering an area of 28,471 acres on produce-rents, the average size of such holdings being 0.44 acres. The area represents 2.5 per cent of the temporarily-settled area. Of the area held by under-*raiya*ts, 40 per cent is held on produce-rents.

201. *Rent-free area*.—The total area held rent-free, apart from *minha* lands is 17,409 acres, of which 4,898 acres are in ordinary tenures, 5,435 acres in holdings of occupancy *raiya*ts. 2,982 acres held as ordinary *jagir* and 4,094 acres as *desheta jagir*.

202. *Cash-rented tenants and rent settlement statistics*.—The areas under the different main classes of tenants on cash rents, and the effect of rent settlement, are shown in the following table—

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>	34,501	28,077	44,734	61,418	37	1 9 6	2 3 0
<i>Bajyasti</i> tenures and tenancies.	173,114	108,224	1,20,735	1,94,769	61	1 1 10	1 12 10
Settled and occupancy.	854,420	581,501	16,11,347	19,85,718	23	2 12 4	3 6 7
<i>Sthitiban babat nijjote</i> .	29,976	12,951	...	45,533	...	...	3 8 3
Non occupancy ..	2,688	2,226	4,036	4,944	21	1 13 5	2 3 6
<i>Chandna</i> ..	22,369	3,552	18,212	22,706	25	5 2 0	6 6 3
<i>Chaukidari</i> resumed <i>jagir</i> .	18,643	9,251	23,165	28,683	24	2 8 1	3 1 7
Ordinary tenures ...	5,337	8,117	13,974	18,890	35	1 11 7	2 5 1

* As is explained elsewhere a good deal of this area is actually cultivated by *raiya*ts on produce-rents.

Out of 3,975 villages in all, 2,794 received the normal enhancement of 4 annas, 205 received a larger enhancement, 530 received 3 annas, 251,2 annas and 52 one anna. In 54 there was no enhancement and in 89 the rate of enhancement was varied in different portions.

203. *Reserved and communal lands.*—At Provincial Settlement there were 55,300 acres, recorded as reserved, 48,800 acres being for grazing and 6,500 for cremation grounds and other purposes. At Revision Settlement 89,382 acres were recorded as reserved or communal. The figures at this settlement are :—

	Reserved	Communal.	total
1	2	3	4
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
In temporarily-settled area	63,600	11,526	75,133
In permanently-settled area	4,342	3,458	7,718
Total	67,942	14,984	82,926

The figure of Revision Settlement is swelled by some areas of land recorded as communal which are not strictly of that nature, as also by a large area so recorded in Madhupur and Darpan, which were not included in this settlement.

204. *Revenue-free estates.*—The total area in the district under revenue-free estates (excluding Patia) is 133,703 acres. Of this area no less than 76,232 acres, or 57 per cent are recorded as *nijchas* and *nijdakhal* of the landlords. Of this area, 41,333 acres are under cash-rented holdings and 8,650 acres under produce-rented holdings. The area under produce-rents is greater than in Balasore but much less than in Puri.

The total rental of 41,333 acres under cash-rented holdings was Rs. 1,26,155 at the commencement of this settlement. The average incidence was thus Rs. 3-0-10, which is a little higher than the average in the temporarily-settled estate, Rs. 2-14-0

As a result of cases under section 128, affecting 6,812 tenancies rents amounting to Rs. 18,563 were enhanced to Rs. 22,607, an advance of 22 per cent.

205. *Khas mahals.*—There were nine estates held *khas* by the Government at the advent of the settlement. These are as follows :—

1. Tauzi no. 2844.—This is Banki Government estate which was not included in the settlement.
2. Tauzi no. 2616.—Cuttack town *khas mahal*.
3. Tauzi no. 1458.—Cuttack Cantonment *khas mahal*.
4. Tauzi no. 1970.—Cuttack Cantonment *khas mahal*.
5. Tauzi no. 4018.—Jambu, Hukitola and Light House.
6. Tauzi no. 7113.—This tauzi includes the roadside lands of the Ganjam Trunk Road. The lands were recently identified and put under the tauzi at the instance of the Collector. The Collector is in the position of a trustee, and the revenue is credited to the Public Works Department.
7. Tauzi no. 5842 and 8. Tauzi no. 5844.—These two estates were held by proprietors at the last settlement, but were sold for arrears of revenue and there being no bid, Government purchased the estates under section 58 of the Sale Law in 1912 and 1911 respectively.

9. **Tauzi no. 2602**—The estate is in Cuttack town with an area of 21 decimals only. As the proprietors were recusant at last settlement, the lands were held *khas*. In the present settlement the *mahal* has been restored to the proprietors on their executing *kabuliyat* for a revenue of Re. 1-1-0 based on assets of Rs. 2.

206. *Cuttack town and cantonment khas mahals*.—In the Cuttack town and cantonment *khas mahal* the tenants hold on written leases for a term of years. In the town *khas mahal* the leases granted in 1913 expired in 1923. The existing rents were settled in 1913. It has been decided by Government to renew these leases for a further term up to 1943, without enhancing rents. The leases of tenants in the cantonment *khas mahal* were last granted in 1910 and expired in 1928. Government have ordered a revision of the leases and enhancement of rents for a term ending in 1943, so that in that year the lease in both *khas mahals* may be renewed and rents resettled for a further period of 30 years. It was decided after some discussion that the enhancement of rents in the cantonment *khas mahal* should be done by the agency of the Collector and not by the Settlement Department.*

The leases granted to *khas mahal pattadars* do not allow them to transfer their holdings in whole or in part without taking previous permission of the landlord.

They have no right to the timber of trees standing on their holdings, whether self-grown or planted by them, and they have to take previous permission for cutting them.

The 1910 leases of cantonment *khas mahal* tenants and the 1913 leases of town *khas mahal* tenants contained a clause prohibiting the sub-letting of holdings without the previous permission of the Collector. This, however, is frequently evaded, and many unauthorized sub-lessees were detected at this settlement.

The rents of sub-lessees are restricted to a maximum of 100 per cent above the *pattadar's* rent. In practice this does not really protect the sub-lessees. Rents are kept artificially low and the advantage is reaped by the superior tenants in the shape of large *salamis*.

The transfer or bequest of holdings without the Previous permission of the Collector was also prohibited by the leases of 1910 and 1913. A rule is observed of not allowing transfers to persons who are already tenants. This is frequently evaded by means of *benami* transactions.

207. *Sale of occupancy rights*.—The statistics prepared for the last 12 years by the Attestation Officers show that in rural areas settled and occupancy rights covering an area of 71,331 acres were transferred for an aggregate value of Rs. 73,29,156, i.e. at the rate of Rs. 103 an acre. The selling rate reported by Mr. James for the decade preceding his settlement was Rs. 58 an acre. Thus the value of occupancy rights has greatly advanced since the last Revisional Settlement.

The sale rate in thana Salepur is Rs. 178 an acre, in Jagatsingpur Rs. 134 and Cuttack Rs. 121. Lands in the irrigated areas command a higher price than land in the unirrigated thanas. This can be explained by their greater security as well as by the greater pressure of population and the scarcity of new lands open to reclamation. In thana Aul the rate is as low as Rs. 48. In the remote areas near the coast land is very cheap, due to its poorer quality, its inaccessibility and the presence of extensive waste lands still open to reclamation.

208. *Mortgage of holdings*.—In the district of Cuttack an area of 5,389 acres is found to have been mortgaged for a sum of Rs. 4,19,955 during the last twelve years. Mr. James reported an area of 4,288 acres to have

* It was not strictly an enhancement, but a taking of fresh leases. One of the Assistant Settlement Officers was appointed as a Special Sub-registrar for the purpose.

been pledged during the ten years prior to his settlement. Regarded proportionately there is not much difference between the figures. The following statement shows the percentages of areas mortgaged to different classes:—

					Revisional Settlement	Present Settlement
Landlord	...	...	...	...	8	4
Raiyat	...	...	...	...	54	78
Money-lender	...	...	...	...	38	17
Lawyer	...	...	...	...	...	1

The proportion of mortgages to money-lenders shows a decline.

The amount advanced per acre in the rural area is Rs. 78 against the sale rate of Rs. 103 in the district.

209. *Sales of proprietary rights.*—The statistics of the Revision Settlement showed the value of proprietary rights as obtained on sale to be twelve times the amount of the revenue demand on the property transferred. The figures of voluntary sales collected at this settlement show the proportion to be 24 times, while in thana Salepur it is 50 times, in thana Jagatsingpur 31 times and in thana Cuttack 35 times. Of the 1,259 voluntary transfers, 943 were to *zamindars*, 163 to *raiya*s, 137 to money lenders, and 16 to lawyers.

During a period of fifteen years (1914—1928) there were 481 sales of estates or shares of estates for arrears of revenue. The aggregate revenue of the estates sold was Rs. 35,173 and the sale price Rs. 4,08,387 or twelve times the revenue.

The average annual amount of arrears of revenue for which estates were sold is Rs. 882 in a revenue roll of about 12 lakhs of rupees.

210. *Redemption of estates.*—Twenty-six estates were found in this district paying revenue of Re. 1 or less. These were redeemed for a total payment of Rs. 670-5-0.

211. *Utikan estate.*—The Utikan estate, the largest temporarily-settled estate in the district, covering 37,500 acres, belongs to Rai Bahadur Manmatha Nath Mitra of Calcutta. Although surrounded by rivers it is well protected by embankments, some of which are maintained by Government and some by the estate. The lands are fairly fertile. The assets as calculated at this settlement are Rs. 98,688 and the revenue has been settled at Rs. 54,169. Suppression of tenants on *nijchas* and *nijjote* lands took place on a large scale at this settlement and 2,644 acres were recorded as in cultivating possession of the proprietor, who is an absentee, and gets these lands cultivated by *raiya*s, generally on produce-rents.

The estate is in its origin akin to the adjoining Killajat estates, but was not granted permanent settlement. In many respects the management resembles that of a Killajat estate, for instance in the yearly conferring of titles on leading tenants. The management is left to the local officials, who are oppressive.

212. *Mandal estate.*—Tauzi no. 1449 is the largest of the estates formed by partition of the original Killa Dalijora. It is generally known as the Mandal estate as it belongs to the Mandals of Hughli district. Killa Dalijora is a temporarily-settled area in spite of its name and its situation in the hilly tract adjoining the Feudatory States of Dhenkanal and Athgarh. The Mandal estate contains extensive jungles. The cultivated area increased from 5,100 to 8,220 acres in the course of the last settlement, and there is still an unassessed area of 21,000 acres. The jungle also yields a considerable *sairat* income. Thus the revenue, as now assessed (Rs. 10,211) shows an advance by 57 per cent over that of last settlement in spite of very lenient treatment in the *sairat* valuation and a deduction of Rs. 1,734 from the assets in consideration of recurring expenditure of improvements. Subsequent to rent settlement the proprietors have given a lease of 4,000 acres of jungle to the Raja of Pachkote (Manbhum district) at a rent of Rs. 855-9-0. This was not included in the assets for purpose of revenue settlement.

No village notes were prepared in this area as it is temporarily-settled. But the Attestation Officer reported that in the Mandal estate the tenants are allowed to take wood for their own purposes free of cost from the estate jungles, while outsiders are charged fees at varying rates. My own observations while touring in this area bore this out. The Mandal proprietors appear to have allowed their tenants too free a hand in cutting jungle, so that there is danger of its disappearance. The Raja of Pachkote has now moved for the application of some sections of the Forest Act to the area held by him.

213. *Rattan estate*.—The name of Rattan estate is given to a group of tauzis owned by Mr. S.M. Bose of Calcutta. The largest is tauzi no. 147, which lies in Kendrapara subdivision. The lands are for the most part protected and to a great extent also irrigated. Assets had increased substantially and the revenue has advanced from Rs. 12,038 to Rs. 16,733. The *nijchas* and *nijjote* lands were reported to be cultivated by *raiya*ts on produce-rents, but the estate succeeded in suppressing these tenants.

The estate is organized in circles with a manager in each and a head manager in the Cuttack office. The landlord is an absentee but makes periodical visits to the property.

Immediately after the Revision Settlement the estate brought a civil suit to obtain a declaration that the lands recorded as *sarbasadharan* and *rakhit* were ordinary landlord's *anabadi* and this was decreed *ex parte*. In this settlement the rights of the public have again been recorded.

Mutation fees were found to be charged at rates varying between 5 annas and 13 annas per rupee of the sale price according to the decision of the landlord's agents, after taking into consideration the suspected understatement of the price and delay in applying for mutation. A marriage fee of Rs. 2 is realized in the estate. Some cases of failure to grant proper rent receipts were reported to the Collector. In general the management is oppressive, as is usual in large estates with absentee proprietors.

214. *Pandua estate*.—The Pandua estate, tauzi no. 2484, covering 18,400 acres in thana Tirtol, belongs to the well-known Tagore family of Calcutta. Lying near the coast it is liable to saline inundation. The cultivated area increased by 7 per cent in the course of the settlement and revenue has been advanced from Rs. 18,601 to Rs. 25,408 although the percentage of assets taken is only 50. Rents of ordinary tenants are rather high, the average being Rs. 3-14-0 per acre. Only a very small area is recorded as in cultivating possession of the proprietors.

The estate is owned in three equal shares and the co-sharers have been at loggerheads for the last four or five years. Two managers were found installed at Pandua and their disagreements caused some difficulty in the settlement operations. The management of the estate is left to the local agents, who were reported to be somewhat rigorous in their rent collections to adopt arbitrary methods of charging mutation fees when they consider the sale price to have been understated, and to realize at the same time *amla kharcha* of Rs. 3 per *kabala*, but in other respects not to be oppressive.

215. *Resumption cases*.—As a result of boundary disputes between villages Talpada and Termanpur, thana Tirtol nos. 331 and 328, in the temporarily-settled area and the adjoining villages of Killa Kujang it was found that an area of 107 acres was at present held by the proprietor of Kujang although not included in the Killa and were liable to be assessed to revenue. After proceedings the Board of Revenue ordered their resumption. The lands have been made into a separate estate with tauzi no. 8728, and revenue of Rs. 12 has been assessed.

A small area of 18 decimals in mauza Baharnal of Cuttack town was resumed, as it appeared from the General Register of revenue-free claims of 1837 that it was then found to be resumable on the death of the incumbent and it had been recorded as *hinhayati* at last settlement. The land was annexed to a contiguous estate and assessed to rent.

A resumption proceeding was held in 1929 regarding a strip of land on the north border of Killa Patia. An order had been passed by Mr. Mills,

as Collector in 1836, on the award of arbitrators that the boundary between Patia and Cuttack Haveli should run parallel to the stone embankment and the north bank of the Kathjori at a distance of 150 *dasti padikas*. As a fact however, the revenue-free proprietors of the Patia villages hold the whole area up to the river bank (except for a small portion). Neither the Revenue Settlement nor the Provincial Settlement maps gave effect to Mr. Mill's order and the proprietors succeeded in casting some doubt on its validity. Resumption was therefore not recommended.

216 *Relations between landlords and tenants*—In the temporarily-settled area the relations between landlord and tenant rarely become seriously strained. The state of affairs is not at all uniform. In the large estates, such as Utikan, Rattan and pandua, where the landlords are residents of Calcutta, the local officials are oppressive, and the tenants are unable to contend against the superior strength of the management. The reverse is the position in the very small estates, in which the landlords are scarcely better off than the *raiyats*, and the latter can defy any attempt at oppression. Some of the resident landlords, however, obtain a powerful hold over the tenants by combining the functions of landlord and *mahajan*, and several instances were reported of the evil effects of this system. The more powerful landlords eject their tenants arbitrarily without recourse to law. The tenants were found to be still remarkably ignorant of their rights under the law. An effort was made to educate them in these matters at this settlement, and a printed booklet, the *Hal Bandobast Katha*, explaining the rights of various classes of tenants, was sold in the camps.

In the Pachikote estate the relationship is reputed to be satisfactory on the whole but the *jagirdars* complain of the exactions of the landlord in respect of manual labour.

In the Killadari estates of Kantajhar where the landlord is the Raja of Keonjhar and Balarampur, the relationship is good.

In the properties of Babu Ganesh Lal pandit some discontent is reported at the long periods for which mutations are kept pending after transfer.

The Bhinjarpur estate was well managed and contented while under common management. It has now been released. The landlords are still unable to agree among themselves and are not popular with their tenants. The estate is under partition proceedings.

The tenants of Chaudhuri Ismail Khan were reported to be suffering oppresson by the local agents of the proprietor, who is an absentee.

217. *Transfer and subdivision of estates*—The figures of estates transferred from Cuttack to the other two districts and vice versa, of those subdivided, and of lands still remaining on the tauzi roll of a district other than that in which they are situated, can be gathered from the chapters on Puri and Balasore.

218. *Cuttack town municipality*—In 1901 the Cuttack municipality extended over $6\frac{3}{4}$ square miles and had an estimated income of Rs. 56,000. It now contains $18\frac{1}{2}$ square miles and its estimated income is 2 lakhs of rupees. Nearly 12 square miles of the municipal area consist of river bed and open lands. In 1901 the municipality had $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles of *pukka* road, $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles of *kutch*a road, and 10 miles of drains. There are now 40 miles of *pukka* roads (exclusive of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles maintained by the Public Works Department), and 26 miles of *kutch*a roads and 17 miles of drains. It was declared to be a second-class municipality in 1897 and still retains that status.

The population of Cuttack town according to the census of 1931 is 66,253, whereas in 1901 it was 51,364, in 1911, 52,523 and 1921, 51,007. The decline between 1911 and 1921 is attributed to the cholera and influenza epidemics of 1920. The area included in the town at the 1931 census was greater than on previous occasions. The 1931 population over the area covered by the previous censuses was 58,419. This represents an increase between 1921 and 1931 by 14.5 per cent, a much higher rate of increase than in the average rural area.