



ON THE

REVISED SETTLEMENT

OF THE

SHAHPOOR DISTRICT

IN THE

RAWULPINDEE DIVISION

EFFECTED BY

MR. G. OUSELEY, B. C. S.,

AND

CAPTAIN W. G. DAVIES, B. S. C.

1866.

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ERRATA.

Page VIII, "Table of Contents"—13th line for "Hubuns Lal" read "Hurbuns Lal."

- „ 11, line 15 (from bottom) for "caracature" read "caricature."
- „ 13 „ 5 ditto for "great" read "greater."
- „ 27 „ 11 (from top) for "poplotion" read "population."
- „ 29 „ 2 ditto for "immigation" read "immigration."
- „ 39 „ 5 (from bottom) for "new" read "newly."
- „ 42 „ 1 (from top) *dele* second "having."
- „ 74 „ 15 ditto for "detemined" read "determined."
- „ 108 „ 9 (from bottom of text) for "were" read "was."
- „ „ 4 of note for "latter" read "later."
- „ 120 „ 19 (from bottom) for "is" read "are."
- „ 124 „ 7 (from top) for "rates" read "rate."
- „ „ 12 (from bottom) for "had" read "has."
- „ 128 „ 23 (from top) for "officers" read "officer."

Appendix V line 7 (from bottom) for "Goonjral" read "Goonjial.?"

- „ X under column of "Total of Judicial measurement and miscellaneous cases" opposite name of Captain Davies, for "171" read "1071."

Page xi, of Commissioner's review, line 2 (from top) for "same" read "some."

- „ xvii, Colonel Lake's memo., lines 19 and 20 (from bottom), for "Abâd Kôrân or Bunjur Shijâfan" read "Abâd-Kârân or Bunjur Shigâfan."
- „ „ Ditto, line 9 ditto, for "Zijl Moosa" read "Zyl Moosa."

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REPORT
ON THE
REVISED SETTLEMENT
OF THE
SHAHPOOR DISTRICT.

INTRODUCTION.

1. Probably there is no district in the Punjab, the territorial limits and constitution of which have undergone so many changes as that of Shahpoor; and as it has been in a great measure due to these changes that the Settlement of the district has been protracted over so long a period, and has passed through so many hands, and as the information may be of use for future reference, I shall not be doing wrong perhaps, if, by way of introduction to this report, I note down the more important of these alterations.

Status at
annexation.

2. At annexation, the whole of the Chuj Doab, from the boundary of the Jummoo territory to the junction of the rivers Jhelum and Chenab, was placed under the charge of Mr. E. C. Bayley, and administered by him as one district.

First forma-
tion of the
District.

3. But the charge was found too extensive. Accordingly, in June of the same year (1849), this tract of country was divided and formed into the two districts of Goojrat and Shahpoor; the latter comprising the four Kardarships of Mianee, Bhera, Saiwâl and Qadirpoor, to which were added the three lowest zails of the Kardarship of Qadirabad, viz: Midh, Ahmdanugger, and Kaloowal on the Chenab.

Changes be-
come neces-
sary.

4. As time wore on, however, and our acquaintance with the newly conquered country became closer, defects were discovered in the first apportionments of territory into circles of administration, and in respect to Shahpoor and the surrounding districts speedily led to changes.

The Qadir-
poor Tahseel
transferred to
Jhung.

5. The first took place in 1851, when the whole Tahseel of Qadirpoor was transferred to Jhung, on the ground that the Talooquas of which it was composed had always been subordinate to that place, that it was more conveniently situated with respect to the head-quarters of that district, and that the inhabitants were chiefly Syâls, closely connected with others of the same tribe in Jhung.

Introduction.

6. For somewhat similar reasons, the Talooqua of Khoshab was made over to Shahpoor from Leia, from the commencement of the financial year 1853-54, and the following year saw the transfer back to this district of the Ferooka Illaquá. Khoshab and Feroka are received.

7. The district now consisted of the three Tahseels of Bhera, Saiwâl, and Kaloowâl, of which all but the narrow strip made up of the Trans-Jhelum Pergunnahs of Khoshab, Girôt and Jowra, attached to the Saiwâl Tahseel, were situated between that river and the Chenab; and it was of the district so constituted that Mr. Ouseley made the Settlement.* Constitution of the district in 1853-54.

8. Before, however, the Settlement could be completed, further additions were made to the district. Early in the year 1857, as the Chief Commissioner was marching across the Sind Saugor Doab, the leading men of Mitha Tiwana came to him in a body praying that the Talooqua might be transferred to Shahpoor; urging, as their reason for desiring the change, the great distance from the headquarters of their own district (Leia), and the comparative proximity of Shahpoor. The application was favorably entertained, and the transfer took place from the commencement of that financial year. Mitha Tiwana received from Leia.

9. A still more important revision of territorial jurisdictions was made during this year. To use the words of Mr. Thornton, then Commissioner of the Division, a difficulty had always been experienced in providing for the effectual administration of that portion of the Sind Saugor Doab which lay within a radius of fifty miles from Kalabagh. Circumstances originally led to the selection of Rawulpindee, Jhelum, and Leia as sites for stations, and between these places the intervening territory was parcelled out in 1848 as best it might be; but soon it became apparent that they were far too remotely situated to allow of the exercise from them of an efficient control over this tract; and a proposition to create a fourth district having been negatived, on the score of expense, a committee, composed of the Commissioner Mr. Thornton, Major Taylor, Messrs. Ouseley and Brandreth, met to consider the best way of surmounting the difficulty. The result, as regards this district, was the transfer to it from Jhelum of the following Talooquas and villages:— Further changes.

* A map exhibiting the limits of the district as settled by Mr. Ouseley, with the then existing fiscal divisions, forms one of the appendices to this report.

Introduction.

<i>In the Salt Range.</i>	{ The whole of Talooqua Soon,	19 villages.
	{ " " of " Khubbukkee,	6 "
	{ Part of " Noorpoor Sehti,	4 "
<i>North of ditto.</i>	{ " of " Jubbee,	8 "
	{ The whole of " Myâl,	13 "
	{ Part of " Pukkhur,	4 "
<i>South of ditto.</i>	{ The whole of " Kutha,	5 "
	{ Part of " Ahmedabad,	6 "

In all sixty-five villages, paying a revenue of nearly a lac of rupees.

A fourth Tahseel created.

10. These extensive additions to the area of the District Trans-Jhelum having rendered the creation of a fourth Tahseel on that side of the river absolutely necessary, the recently transferred tracts were formed into a new fiscal division, which received the name of the Jaba Tahseel, from the small village of that name in the Salt Range, where the head quarters were established.

The Kaloowal Tahseel broken up.

11. From this time the limits of the district remained unaltered till the year 1861, when the revision of establishments led to the absorption of the Kaloowal Tahseel, and the distribution of its villages between the Bhera and Chineôt Tahseels; the latter a Sub-Collectorate of the Jung District.

Final changes.

12. The last and most important changes I have to record were carried out in 1862, when the Talooqua of Noorpoor, in the Thull, was received from Bunnoo; the Pukkhur Talooqua, extending from Sukeysur to Nikkee, was cut off and attached to the Mianwalee Tahseel of that district, and the remainder of the Jaba Tahseel lying north of the Salt Range was transferred to Jhelum.

Interior Sub-Divisions remodelled.

13. These interchanges of territory between Shahpoor and the surrounding districts necessitated a complete remodelling of the interior fiscal divisions, which was effected by forming the whole of the country still attached to the district, Trans-Jhelum, into one Tahseel, the head quarters being moved to Khoshab; and by the transfer from the Bhera to the Saiwâl Tahseel of an equivalent for the villages which had been added to the former on the breaking up of the Kaloowal Tahseel, as described above; at the same time, as Saiwâl was now no longer central, the head quarters of that Tahseel were removed to the sudder station.

Introduction.

14. Having thus passed in rapid review the chief alterations by which the district has acquired its present shape and dimensions, it is time to turn to the more immediate subject of this report, viz : (I) a description of the tract of country the revenue settlement of which has undergone revision ; and, (II) a detailed account of the manner in which that revision has been effected, involving the adjustment of the Government demand an account of land revenue, and grazing tax ; the adjudication of all disputes connected with the soil or its produce ; and, lastly, the formation of a complete record of all such rights and interests, the existence of which was either admitted by the parties concerned, or judicially established during the progress of the Settlement.

The main body of the report, the subjects it will embrace.

PART I.

DESCRIPTIVE, STATISTICAL, AND HISTORICAL.

Boundaries.

✓ 1. The river Jhelum divides the Shahpore district into two almost equal portions, of which the southern half is the richest and most thickly populated; along the north lie the Tallagung and Pind Dadun Khan Tahseels of the Jhelum District. The Goojrat and Goojranwala districts with the Chenab river form its eastern boundary. 'Jhung adjoins it on the south; and, on the west and north-west, the district is contiguous with those of Jera Ismail Khan and Bunnoo.

Area.

✓ 2. The area contained within these limits, extending from Lat. $31^{\circ} 31'$ to Lat. $32^{\circ} 42'$ and Long. $71^{\circ} 35'$ to Long. $73^{\circ} 25'$, amounts, according to the calculations of the Revenue Survey, to 4,682 square miles, of which 530 square miles are cultivated, 2,210 square miles are culturable, and the rest barren waste—including hill slopes, the beds of rivers, streams, &c.

The greater part waste.

× 3. Thus, it will be seen, that of this vast tract no less than 89 per cent is in a state of nature, but it may confidently be stated, that the want of the means of irrigation is the sole obstacle in the way of its gradual reclamation from this state; for, if we except the "Thull" of the Sind Saugor Doab, there is little land in the district that would not amply repay the labor of the husbandman, could he but ensure a regular supply of water at a moderate cost,* and this is especially true of the Bar, the soil of which, as a rule, is exceedingly fertile. As it is, however, cultivation in the southern half of the district is for the most part confined to a strip of land, varying from three to fifteen miles, along the banks of both rivers.

Physical features of southern half of the district.

4. ✓ At first sight it would seem that there is little to describe in this part of the district, so much of sameness is there in the general aspect of the country, but closer observation reveals features worth noting down. First, there is the general slope upwards from the low cultivated lands to the high and dry expanse of the Bar. This ascent, though of course common to both sides of the Doab, is far from uniform. In places it is so gradual as to be almost imperceptible, the fact revealing itself to the traveller inland only by the increase of waste and jungle, and the decrease

* If any evidence of the truth of this statement be required, it will be found in the marked success with which large tracts of waste land have been brought under the plough during the last five years by means of inundation canals.

of life and cultivation. In others, the transition is so abrupt as to be almost startling. The latter is the case on the Jhelum, at intervals, from the boundary of Goojrat westward to Shahpoor; but after leaving this point, a marked change takes place, the belt of cultivation rapidly increasing, from three or four miles, the average width hitherto, to two or three times as much by the time the southern boundary of the district is reached. Again, on the side of the Chenab, the rise in the surface level is more gradual than on that of the Jhelum, and, as a consequence, cultivation extends further inland along the former river. The people account for this, by affirming that the river itself, at no very remote period, flowed considerably to the west of its present course; and the explanation is probably correct, as the remains, of what appears to have been the former bed of the stream,* or at least of a very important branch, are still plainly visible, winding along at distances varying from six to ten miles, almost parallel to the present course of the river. It may also be worth noting, that, on the Jhelum side, the otherwise continuous rise of the land is interrupted in the most capricious manner by a series of abrupt depressions. These are met with at intervals of two or three miles, and extend in places to distances of not less than fifteen miles from the present position of the river, of which they also were probably at one time branches. From these and other indications there is reason to believe, that both these rivers have been gradually receding from their original positions, the one to the east, the other to the west.

5. The zones of cultivation, on both sides of this Doab, are divided by the people into the "Hethar" and the "Nukka." The former is the alluvial tract immediately bordering on the rivers. It contains the finest villages, almost every acre of it is under cultivation during the Rubbee harvest, and little or no artificial irrigation is required to bring its luxuriant crops to maturity. The latter is the strip of country lying between the "Hethar" and the "Bar," beyond the fertilizing influence of the inundations of the river, yet not so far as to render artificial irrigation unprofitable. Tillage in this tract, may be said to be entirely dependent on wells, water is found at distances varying from 35 to 50 feet from the surface, and both spring and autumn crops are grown. Villages, as might be expected, are fewer, smaller, and, as a rule, not in such

Cultivated
portion divided into the
"Hethar" and
"Nukka."

* Known by the name "Boodhee nai" or old stream; the Lahore road crosses it between Bhagtanwala and Lukseen.

Part I]

Descriptive, Statistical and Historical.

flourishing condition as those in the more favored tracts bordering on the rivers. ✓

The "Bar."

6. The space intervening between these belts of cultivation, is occupied by an expanse of jungle known by the generic title of the *Bar*. No lengthened description of this inhospitable region is required, as, in its principle features, it closely resembles the allied tracts in the Rechna and Baree Doabs. As before stated, the soil is good, but water is so far from the surface,* that irrigation from wells would be too expensive for adoption were even the water sweet; as a rule however, this is not the case, and the utmost that is ever attempted in the way of tillage, is the raising of an occasional rain crop in hollows, which, from receiving the surface drainage, are, in favorable seasons, kept sufficiently moist to allow of the ripening of the crops. But the main use to which the Bar is put, is as a pasture ground for cattle, immense herds of which are to be found roaming at will through these prairie jungles, and in ordinary seasons, finding ample sustenance in the rich crops of grass which spring up after rain. Population is scanty and villages here few, and separated from each other by great distances.

Character
of vegetation
south of the
Jhelum.

7. In a region so generally arid as the one I am describing, tree-vegetation is as a matter of course very limited, and such as is to be met with is confined to the more hardy varieties, those which require comparatively little moisture for their spontaneous growth. Accordingly, we find that the only trees indigenous to this district are the "Keekur" (*Acacia Arabica*), the "Ber" (*Zyzyphus Jujuba*), and the "Furrash" (*Tamarix Indica*) in the low lands; and in the Bar, the "Kureel" or Wild Caper, (*Caparis Aphylla*), the Jund, (*Prosopis Spicigera*) and the "Peeloo" (*Salvadora Oleoides*), these latter form a dense jungle in which the "Peeloo" largely predominates. In addition to the foregoing, in favorable situations near the rivers and by the sides of wells, may be found specimens of the Sheeshum, (*Dalbergia Sissoo*), Sirus, (*Acacia Sirus*) and other kinds, but they are nowhere to be seen in any numbers, and the probability is, that they are not of natural growth. Much has been done, since our occupation of the country, to promote the growth of useful trees, and every day the results are becoming more apparent. No measure with this object has met with so much success as one initiated by Mr. Thornton, by which each owner of a well is bound, under penalties, to plant with cuttings of valuable trees, the ducts used for distributing water to his fields.

* From 60 to 75 feet.

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In the Midh and Moosa Choocha Talooquas especially, thousands of fine Sheeshum trees have been produced by these means.

√ 8. I now pass on to the northern half, by far the most interesting portion of the district, containing as it does such varieties of scenery and climate, such contrasts of soil, vegetation, and natural capabilities.

The tract
north of the
Jhelum.

√ 9. The low lands along the right bank of the Jhelum, have little to distinguish them from the corresponding tract on the opposite bank of the river, but on leaving these, and moving inland, all resemblance to the country south of the river ceases. Looking to the north, a hard level plain, in places impregnated with salt, and throughout almost devoid of vegetation, occupies the foreground; beyond it, extends a zone of a few miles of cultivation, and the view is shut in by a barrier of rugged and apparently barren hills;—while on turning to the east and south, is seen an interminable plain, the soil of which, changing from the hard clay of the “Mohar” to the sand of the “Thull,” gradually loses itself in the horizon. The area included within this general description, is made up of three strongly marked natural divisions—I. The Salt Range; II. The cultivated plains along the base of these hills, subdivided popularly into the “Mohar” and “Dunda;” and III. The “Thull.” Each of these deserves separate notice.

General as-
pect.

10. The portion of the chain of hills called the Salt-Range, included within the limits of this district, commences at the village of Bhudrar on the east, and ends on the west at the Sukeysur hill, the highest peak in the range, a total length of about forty miles. At its narrowest part, opposite Kutha, the range does not exceed eight miles in width, but from this point it rapidly increases, till at Jubbee, the interval between the plains on both sides cannot be less than twenty miles; thence it narrows again, rapidly, and the external ridges, on both sides of the range, closing round the Soon valley, unite and form the Sukeysur hill. The area between these limits, is made up of a number of rock-bound alluvial basins, of which the largest, the Soon, and the Khubbukkee valleys, occupy the northern half of the range, while the lower portion is cut up into a number of very diminutive valleys and glens, by a succession of limestone ridges and their connecting spurs; of these, the Patial and Sukeysur mountains with the intermediate chain of lower hills, form the central watershed, issuing from which the surplus drainage passes off, to the south, into the plains below, but to the north, finding no outlet, it collects in the

The Salt-
Range.

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Descriptive, Statistical and Historical.

lowest parts of the valleys and there forms lakes. In this part of the range, there are three of these sheets of water, of which the Oochalee lake, or "Sumoondur" as it is called, is by far the largest; of the other two, one is situated between the villages of Khubbukkee and Murdwal, and the other in front of the small village of Jahlur. The southern face of the range exhibits a very rugged and broken appearance, its distorted strata, rent cliffs, and huge detached masses of rock telling plainly of the violence of the commotion which must have attended the birth of these hills. The irregularity of the outline on this side is further increased by the occurrence of a succession of deep indentations, through which the surplus waters of the range empty themselves into the plains below. But on the north, the contour of the hills is for the most part smooth and undulating, and the descent into the plains of Pukkhur and Tullegung easy and gradual.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Scenery. | 11. The scenery of the Salt Range, throughout pleasing, in places is grand and picturesque, and its hills and valleys, situated at elevations varying from 2,500 to 5,000 feet above the sea-level, enjoy a climate many degrees cooler than that of the plains, and not unlike that of Cashmere. The soil |
| Climate. | formed of the gradual disintegration of the lime-stone and sand-stone rocks, of which the upper surface of the range is chiefly composed, is exceedingly fertile, and its powers are being constantly renovated by fresh deposits of alluvium brought down by the torrents, which discharge into the valleys the drainage from the surrounding hills. Cultivation here is almost entirely dependent on rain, but owing to the comparative coolness of the climate, which by reducing the evaporation from the surface economizes the supply of moisture, the crops in ordinary seasons ripen without the want of artificial irrigation being felt; so much is this the case, that it is a common saying among the people, that the Rubbee crop in the Soon valley (the richest and largest in the range) has never been known to fail. These hills moreover are not without the attractive influence on clouds which similar masses exert elsewhere, and as a consequence the fall of rain in the range is far greater than in the plains to the south; this fact of course materially contributes to the stability of its cultivation. |
| Soil. | |
| Character of cultivation. | |
| Rain-fall. | |
| Vegetation of Salt Range. | 12. The vegetation on the southern face is of the scantiest description, being confined to a few stunted Phoollee trees (<i>Accacia Modesta</i>), and the Salsolas and other plants peculiar to soils impregnated with salt. In the interior of the range, however, a notable change in this respect is observable, for although it is nowhere well wooded |

yet trees of many kinds are to be met with in considerable numbers,* and the hill sides are everywhere green with bushes of the Bog Myrtle (*Dodonea Burmanniana*) and a plant (*Adhatoda Vassica*) called by the natives "Baheykur." The trees which are found in the greatest numbers and appear indigenous are the Wild Olive (Kão), the Phoollâee above spoken of, the common Indian Mulberry, and the "Kungur" (*Rhus Kulkur Singhi*); a great number of other varieties are to be seen as single trees, here and there, in the beds of torrents, or by the side of water-courses. It must not be omitted from mention that the Sheeshum thrives well in the valleys, without however attaining to any great size, but the climate is too cold for the Sirus, and I doubt if there is a single specimen of this tree in the whole range.

13. The plains extending along the base of the Salt Range, known to the people as the "Mohar," present a marked and disagreeable contrast to the valleys above. The main features of this tract are, a fertile strip of alluvial land from three to four miles in width, sloping rapidly away from the hills, and closely intersected by the beds of torrents, succeeded by level plains in places impregnated with salt, and barren, in others formed of good culturable soil. The only approach to vegetation consists of Kureel bushes, thinly distributed over the surface, with, here and there, trees of the "Furrash" and "Keekur" varieties, found in the greatest numbers in the beds of torrents. Tillage is almost exclusively confined to the upper portion (the "Mohar" proper), the land there being of better quality and in quantity more than sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants; the lower part (the "Dunda") is chiefly used by the villagers as pasture grounds for cattle.

The "Mohar," including the "Dunda."

Vegetation.

14. The most important of the streams which permeate this tract, are, the "Vahee," which debouches on to the plains near the village of Kutha; the "Sirukkha," which waters the fine estates of Jhubbee and Dhokree; and the "Dhodha," which after receiving the drainage from Sukeysur and the hills round "Umb," fertilizes the lands of the border village of Kiree Golawalee. But of all the many channels by which the drainage of the Salt Range is conducted into the plains, the first named is the only one that holds a constant supply of water.

Streams.

* Trees that can stand frost grow luxuriantly in the valleys if they are allowed, but the zemindars find that they interfere with cultivation and hence it is the exception to find them in such positions. The exceptions are in the cases of graveyards and tombs of saintly characters, where superstition steps in to guard the spontaneous growth.

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Scarcity of
good water in
the "Mohar."

15. The scarcity of good water is one of the marked characteristics of this part of the district. The springs of good water which here and there are to be found trickling out of the clefts of the rocks above, become in their passage through the inferior salt strata so brackish, as to be quite unfit for use by either men or animals; and the subsoil everywhere throughout this tract is so thoroughly impregnated with saline matter, that all attempts to obtain good water by means of wells have hitherto failed; hence the population are driven to store up supplies of this necessary of life in tanks, but the heat, increased by radiation from the adjacent rocks, is so intense, that not infrequently these reservoirs dry up before they can be replenished; when this occurs the people are put to great straits, having often to perform a daily journey of many miles to obtain water sufficient for themselves and their cattle. It may be added that these tanks are indiscriminately used by men and animals, and hence in course of time the water becomes so impure, as to be a fruitful source of disease, of which guinea worm is not the least distressing as it is the most common form.

The Thull.

16. In common parlance, the entire expanse of country south of the Salt Range, beyond the influence of the rivers, is called the "Thull," but in speaking more discriminatingly, this word is used to indicate that portion of the district, which is situated south of the road from Khoshab to Dera Ismail Khan. A casual observer would say of this dreary region, that it resembles nothing so much as an angry sea, sand-hills being substituted for waves; and to a certain extent the remark would be true of a portion of the Thull, and yet such a description would convey a very imperfect notion of the country known by this name, for it leaves out some important features, without which the sketch is wanting in truth, and degenerates into a caricature. To render the likeness complete we must add, that the waves or hillocks of sand possess this peculiarity, that they all run in one direction, north-west and south-east, that in the intervals between these waves occur patches of hard soil, which produce good crops of grass, while the whole surface is covered by stunted bushes. Nor is this all, the general sandy and undulating character of the Thull is in places broken by long stretches of perfectly level ground (called Puttee), which under artificial irrigation produce excellent crops. One of these belts occurs west of Noorpore, and is said to extend without a break as far as Mozuffurgurh; its average width in this district is about two miles. Here the best villages are to be found, and throughout the Thull it is only in the "Puttee" that masonry wells are to be met with.

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17. The vegetation of the Thull consists almost entirely of low brushwood and grasses. The few trees may be counted on the fingers, and with rare exceptions are to be found only round villages. The "Ber" seems to be the only tree that survives in any numbers the scorching heat and long continued droughts of this arid region. The bushes to be seen everywhere are the "Phôg" (*Calligonum Polygonoides*), the "Lana" (*Caroxylon Fœtidum*), and the "Booe" (*Panderia Pilosa*), on which camels browse. The "Mudâr" (*Calatropis Gigantea*), and the "Hurmûl" (*Peganum Harmala*), which nothing will touch. But of the two last, the former yields a fine floss, which has been successfully worked into rugs, and might be utilized in other ways, and the latter is used by the people as a medicine, and is supposed by them to possess many virtues, a belief however which European adepts do not share. As before stated, the yield of grass in favorable seasons is considerable, but still, owing to the prevalence of sand-hills, on which little or none is to be found, the same area will not support so many cattle as in the Bar. Of the many varieties of grass produced, the "Khubbul" (the "Doob" of Hindoostan), the "Dhamun," and "Chheembur," all prostrate grasses, are the most prized.

Vegetation of
the "Thull."

18. It has been already stated that masonry wells are not uncommon in the "Puttee." These are all sunk in the immediate vicinity of villages, and are used both for domestic purposes and to raise a small crop of wheat or vegetables. In other parts of the Thull, "kutchas" wells are dug and periodically renewed as required, it having been found that wells of this class fall in after being used for twelve or eighteen months. They are never employed by the people for irrigation, but solely for supplying drinking water for themselves and their cattle. The water of the Thull is all more or less brackish, and it is only after long use that it can be consumed without producing injurious effects. It is found at distances varying from 45 to 60 feet from the surface.

Supply of
water.

19. From the foregoing description it will be seen that Nature has formed this tract to be the abode of a pastoral population alone, and it is by such that we find it peopled; but the change from anarchy to settled government has so far modified the habits of the people, that whereas, prior to British rule, they subsisted entirely on the produce of their flocks and herds, having no fixed abodes, but moving from place to place wherever a good supply of grass was to be found;—they are now to be seen gradually settling down

Habits of the
population.

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into permanent habitations, and availing themselves of every opportunity offered by the seasons to add to their other resources, by cultivating the patches of good soil with which the ridges of sand are everywhere interspersed. A marked change has taken place in this respect, and with the growth of settled habits an attachment to the soil is being rapidly developed.

The district
generally
healthy.

✓ 20. The general climatic conditions of the Shahpore district, have little to distinguish them from those of other tracts of country similarly situated with reference to the Himalayas. In India the heat in the plains being practically the same everywhere, the healthiness of a place appears to depend mainly on the quantity of moisture deposited on the surface, combined with the efficiency of the machinery for drainage, that is, the capacity of the soil to absorb or convey away rapidly the water falling on it; the rule apparently being, that the less the moisture, and the better the natural drainage, the healthier the place, and *vice versa*.

Average
rain-fall low.

Now the average rain-fall here throughout the year being only fifteen inches, and the texture of the soil in most parts of the district sufficiently loose* rapidly to absorb water, it should follow, if this rule is a true one, that the district is generally healthy; and such I think it may be pronounced unhesitatingly. The only exceptions are the tracts immediately bordering the rivers, where, in the autumn months, after very heavy floods, fever prevails and commits great ravages. ✓ The health of towns I say nothing of, as it is affected by so many causes peculiarly local, and can therefore form no criterion whereby to test the salubrity of the tract of country of which the towns constitute so infinitesimal a part.

Prevalent
diseases.

✓ The most prevalent diseases, among those of an endemic character, are stone in the bladder, the sufferers from which seem to come from all parts of the district; guinea-worm, confined exclusively to the tract at the foot of the Salt Range; and goitre, which is peculiar to the Midh Talooqua on the Chenab, where even the dogs do not escape. ✓

* The upper-crust is composed of a tolerably stiff clayey soil, but it is not thick, and the sub-soil is sand. It will of course be understood that I am speaking exclusively of the plains. It may be added, that the average rain-fall having been deduced from observations made exclusively in the plains, no information can be given as to the actual difference in this respect between the hills and plains, but there is little doubt of the fact before noticed, that the balance is largely in favor of the former tract. In the matter of temperature the Salt Range possesses still great advantages, the valleys being certainly not less than 10 degrees, and the highest peaks probably 20 degrees, cooler than the plains all the year round; perhaps during the dry weather immediately preceding the rains the difference in temperature is not so great.

21. The success of agriculture in this district is so largely dependent on the annual floods from its rivers, that a report on the settlement of the land revenue would be incomplete without a passing notice of the latter. The district is traversed throughout its length by the Jhelum. This river, otherwise known as the Vidusta and Behat, rises in the south-eastern corner of the Cashmere valley, after traversing which it is joined by the Kishengunga, and the united streams from this point, flowing nearly due south, enter British territory a few miles above the town of Jhelum. The river, from the moment that it enters the plains, following the general slope of the country, adopts a more westerly course, which it maintains without much variation till it mingles its waters with the Chenab at Trimmoo, a few miles below the town of Jhung, having traversed in its passage through hills and plains, a distance of not less than four hundred and fifty miles, of which about two hundred have lain in British territory. In the plains the Jhelum is a muddy river, with a current of about four miles an hour. The average width of the stream in this district, at flood, is about 800 yards, dwindling down, in the winter months, to less than half this size. Fickle, as all Indian rivers are, from the circumstance that they flow through a flat clayey soil, unable to resist the action of water, perhaps none can surpass the Jhelum in this respect, nor in the damage which it annually causes by its vagaries. This fact, combined with the comparative narrowness of its channel, has probably led to the existence of a custom, which will be fully described in its proper place, by which the integrity of estates on both banks of the river is preserved. A similar usage, be it remarked, prevails on the Ravee, due probably to the same causes. A remarkable feature of this river is the sudden freshets to which it is subject. These occur after very heavy rain in the hills, when the swollen stream, overleaping its banks, inundates the country for miles on either side, and then gradually subsides within its normal bounds. These freshets, or "kangs" as they are called by the people, are very different in their character to the floods caused by the melting of the snows, as they seldom last more than one or two days. In favorable seasons, several of these inundations take place, and it is not easy to exaggerate the beneficial effects produced on the large area thus submerged. The soil becomes thoroughly saturated, and its productive powers often greatly enhanced, by the deposits of alluvium left by the receding waters.

Rivers.

The Jhelum.

22. For twenty-five miles the Chenab forms the boundary between this district and Goojranwala; draining,

The Chenab.

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Descriptive, Statistical and Historical.

as it does, a larger area, the volume of its waters is greater than that of the Jhelum, but then its stream being broader, the current is more sluggish, and it is not liable to shift its channel so frequently or so rapidly as that river. Its width, during the rains, at the ferry opposite Pindee Bhuttian, is considerably over a mile. Impetuous while in flood, its average velocity does not exceed two and a half miles an hour. As an agent for adding to the productive powers of the soil, the Chenab is decidedly inferior to the Jhelum, the deposits left by its floods being inferior both in quality and quantity.

Ferries.

23. The communications across these rivers are kept open by a number of ferries, of which the ferries on the Chenab, five in number, are under the management of the Goojranwala authorities; while of those on the Jhelum, three, including the important ferry and bridge of boats opposite Pind Dadun Khan, are administered by the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum. The remaining fifteen are attached to this district. The income from these fluctuates considerably, but averages about six thousand rupees a year, of which nearly half is derived from the one ferry of Khoshab, where the road between Lahore and the frontier stations of Dera Ismail Khan and Bunnoo crosses the river. A large proportion of the income of this ferry is due to the traffic between the south-eastern districts of the Punjab and the Salt Mines of Wurchha. In one of the appendices will be found a list of the ferries and the income realized during the past five years.

Canals.

24. Inundation canals may now be counted as a distinct feature in the agricultural system of the district, and will find appropriate mention here. Although by no means new to the district, as evidenced by the many remains of such works to be met with along the edge of the Bar on the Jhelum side, all that ever existed had been allowed to fall into disuse, and had long ago become silted up. At length, in 1860, one of these was experimentally cleared out by Mr. McNabb, then Deputy Commissioner of the district. The partial success of the trial, combined with judicious encouragement, led Sahib Khan, Tewana, a wealthy and enterprising native gentleman, to excavate an entirely new canal, to water a grant of waste land of which he had obtained a long lease. Fortunately for the future of the district, the work was completely successful, and the Mullick's gains large, and from that time it has been the duty of the District Officer, rather to control within reasonable bounds, than to foster the spirit of enterprise which

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has arisen in consequence. It has already resulted in the partial opening out of the "Raneewah," the largest of the old canals, and the excavation of several new ones, and there is every reason to believe that this system of irrigation will ere long be largely developed.

25. I now propose to notice briefly the chief natural products of the district, and this will perhaps be most conveniently effected by classifying them under the heads of I. Mineral, II. Animal, and III. Vegetable products. Under the first class will come Salt, Saltpetre and Sujjee. The second will comprise Ghee, Wool and Hides, and the third will be composed almost exclusively of agricultural produce; these last will demand fuller notice as having a more immediate bearing on the main subject of this report.

✓ Natural products of the district.

✓ 26. Salt is found throughout the hills which derive their name from this mineral, concealed in the red marl which gives to the range one of its most characteristic features. Experiment has shown that the Salt is exceedingly pure, and as the average thickness of the beds is probably not less than 150 feet, the supply would appear to be inexhaustible. During the Sikh times the revenue from this source was realized by means of farms, but owing to general bad management, seldom exceeded six lacs of rupees a year, the price of the mineral at the mines being then one rupee per maund. Since the introduction of British rule the increase in this branch of revenue has been very rapid, viz. from seven and a half to upwards of thirty-three lacs of rupees; this has partly been due, it is true, to the price having been gradually raised from two to three rupees per maund, but much more to improved administration, which has rendered such a thing as smuggling impossible, and which, by the construction of good roads, by the removal of all restrictions, and by ensuring the safety of life and property, has given an impulse to trade such as it never received before.

Salt.

✓ 27. Saltpetre is found native mixed with the earth throughout the Bar. It is met with, in the greatest quantities, in the earth of the numerous mounds, called "Ahlis," scattered over the district, marking the sites of what probably were once thriving towns and villages. The salt is obtained by lixiviation of this earth. The rude process by which this is effected is well known: the solution is afterwards boiled in large iron pans till it approaches saturation, and is then allowed to cool and crystallize. ✓ The average produce of a pan is thirty seers, and as the manufacture of Saltpetre is only carried on during the seven dry months,

Saltpetre.

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the annual out-turn of each cauldron may be roughly set down as one hundred and fifty maunds. The Crimean war appears to have given a great impulse to the trade in this Salt, for I find that the number of licenses to work pans began rapidly to increase from 1855, when they were 694, till they amounted, in 1858, to no less than 4,856, representing an annual production of 7,28,400 maunds or 26,014 tons, the selling price being at this period four rupees per maund. From that time the trade in this article has been steadily declining, so that during the past year only 185 licenses were taken out, and the Salt can now be had for a little more than one rupee per-maund.

Sujjee.

✓ 28. Sujjee, or impure carbonate of soda, is the incinerated ash of the *Salsola Griffithsii*, a plant found in great quantities in the Bar south and east of the road leading from Lahore to the frontier. The mode of obtaining the crude soda, is almost identical with that adopted by the Spaniards in the manufacture of the same substance, called by them *Barilla*. Circular-pits, five or six feet in diameter, and about two feet deep, are dug at convenient distances, according to the requirements of the crops, and into these, the half dried sheaves of the plant are successively thrown, until the pit is nearly filled with the ashes of the plant in a state of semi-fusion. ✓ The operation lasts about twenty-four hours, and the quantity burned, during this time, is about two hundred bundles, each of about half a maund. The contents of the pit are then well stirred and allowed to cool, a little dry earth being scattered over the surface to prevent evaporation. The pits are opened on the fifth or sixth day, when the Sujjee is found concreted together into a hard cellular mass. The selling price of Sujjee is now one rupee two annas a maund, during the Sikh time the price varied from two to three maunds for the rupee. Sujjee is exported from this district chiefly to the north and east, towards Rawulpindee, Sealkote, and Cashmere. It is extensively used in the manufacture of soap, paper, and glass, and as a substitute for soap by the poorer classes, it is also largely employed in the process of bleaching; lastly, native practitioners use it as a medicine. The demand for Sujjee has been steadily rising, and consequently the sums realized from farming the monopoly of manufacturing this alkali, have increased from thirteen hundred to upwards of eight thousand rupees.

Animal products—Wool.

29. As before stated, the chief animal products are Wool, Ghee, and Hides. It is estimated, that the shearings of the large flocks of the Thull and Bar yield annually not

less than twelve thousand maunds, or upwards of four hundred tons of wool. Of this, probably two-thirds are exported, and the remainder consumed in the manufacture of blankets and felts. The fleece of the Thull sheep has the reputation of being the finest in the Punjab.* The sheep are sheared twice in the year, in the months of Cheyt (April) and Kartik (October), the average yield of each separate shearing, called a "pothee," being about three quarters of a seer. The wool is bought by the "pothee," so that, in speaking of the market price, it is customary to quote the number of "pothees" obtainable for the rupee. The selling price just now (1866) being four "pothees" per rupee, gives eight annas as the annual yield in cash per head of sheep to the owner; this will sufficiently account for the great rise in price of these animals of late years. The head quarters of the trade in wool is Noorpore, in the Thull, where a superior kind of blanket called "Loee" is also manufactured. A good deal of the wool produced in the Bar, is made into felt at Bhera, which supplies a good part of the Punjab with this article.

✓ 30. Ghee is also largely produced in the district, the annual out-turn being probably not less than fifteen thousand maunds, of which about a third is consumed on the spot, and the remainder exported. ✓ In former days nearly the whole of the surplus produce found its way to Lahore and Umritsur, but of late years the trade in this article has been diverted towards Scinde and the frontier. Like that of almost all articles of consumption, the price of Ghee has risen wonderfully since the country passed into our hands, and, whereas, prior to that event, five or six seers could be obtained for the rupee, now, the same money will not purchase a third of the last mentioned quantity. Regarding Hides there is nothing more to be said than that many thousands are annually sent down the river for export to England, nearly all in their raw state.

Ghee.

Hides.

✓ 31. I now come to the last division of this subject, which will be devoted to a description of the chief products of agriculture. The description given of the district will have shown, that it is better adapted, by circumstances of soil, climate, and natural irrigation, to the growth of spring than of autumn crops; and the results of collating the statistics, bearing on this point, collected during the progress of the settlement, so far accord with this, as to show, that of the whole area under tillage, 61 per cent, or nearly two-

Vegetable products.

* The specimen of Thull wool sent from this district to the Punjab Exhibition carried off the first prize.

thirds, were under Rubbee crops. ✓ The staple produce is Wheat for the spring harvest, and Bajra and Cotton for the autumn crop. Wheat predominates so greatly as to cover no less than 47 per cent of the entire cultivated area. Bajra* (20 per cent.) is the next most extensively grown crop, after which follow at long intervals, Cotton (10 per cent.), Gram † Barley and Joâr ‡ (not 4 per cent.), and the ordinary millets and pulses. Of the more valuable crops, Sugar-cane is grown exclusively along the Chenab, and the poppy plant on wells, chiefly along the left bank of the Jhelum between Shahpoor and Bhera. The latter is a very paying crop, and its cultivation has made such rapid strides as to have become quadrupled since Mr. Ouseley made the settlement of that part of the district. ✓ In Appendix No. II will be found a complete summary of the agricultural produce of this district, and I now proceed to describe briefly the localities in which the chief articles are grown, and any peculiarities that may seem deserving of notice in their modes of culture.

Wheat.

32. Wheat for its successful culture requires plenty of moisture; accordingly, it thrives best in the low lands along the rivers, and here it is almost the only crop grown, for very soon after it is cut and carried, the streams, swollen by the melting of the snows, rise and inundate the area lately occupied by the crop, and only recede in time for a fresh sowing. The valleys of the Salt-Range are peculiarly adapted, with reference both to quality of soil and climatic conditions, to the production of this staple, and thus we find it covering no less than 62 per cent of the whole area under tillage in that part of the district. In lesser quantities it is raised on land artificially irrigated in the tracts called the "Nukka," but in the plains along the foot of the Salt-Range, owing to the deficiency of moisture and excessive heat of that region, the proportion of this crop grown is very small and liable to frequent failures. In the still more arid parts of the district it may be said to be unknown. Wheat sowings commence, in the plains, in the month of Kartik (middle of October), in the hills nearly a month earlier. The seed is sown with the drill, § about a maund to each acre of land. The yield varies greatly. In choice spots in the Salt-Range actual trials have shown it to reach the almost incredible

* *Holcus Spicatus.*† *Cicer Arietinum.*‡ *Sorghum Vulgare.*

§ The only exception to this is in land artificially irrigated, where, owing to the necessity of dividing the area to be sown into beds, in order to ensure a regular distribution of the water, the better mode of putting the seed into the ground cannot be adopted, and, recourse is had to hand-sowing.

quantity of thirty-five maunds, and the produce of an acre of good sailab land, when assisted by artificial irrigation, cannot be less than twenty-four maunds. The average yield of every kind of soil, taken one with the other, I should be inclined to fix at, at least, twelve maunds. The crop ripens in the plains during the month of April, in the Salt Range it is not ready for the sickle till nearly a month later.

33. Bajra is one of the hardiest of the cereals, and thrives everywhere as a rain crop. Throughout the Khoshab tehseel, it forms the staple food of the agricultural population. In the plains round the base of the Salt Range, it is the chief crop grown during the Khurreef harvest; but, owing to the early setting in of the cold weather in the valleys, above, Bajra can only be successfully cultivated there, in years when the rains set in early. In unfavourable seasons its place is taken by Till,* Moong,† Mâsh,‡ &c. South of the Jhelum, Bajra is much less grown, having a formidable rival in Joâr, the stalks of which supply valuable fodder for cattle, while those of Bajra are useless. The fine seed of this plant is sown broad-cast (about 2 seers to the acre,) and afterwards is ploughed into the ground. Ten maunds to the acre is considered a good crop.

Bajra.

34. Cotton has always been very largely grown in this district. Few wells are there without their patch of two or three acres of this plant, more than this cannot ordinarily be set apart for its culture, as it is a crop that requires constant attention in weeding and watering. Ripening, as cotton does, late in the year, all attempts to raise it in the Salt Range have hitherto failed; but in the plains immediately below, where the temperature is exceptionally high all the year round, the plant is successfully cultivated as a rain crop, and in favorable seasons yields abundantly. The seed is put into the ground in March, at the rate of eight seers to the acre, and the pickings, commencing in October, last to the end of December, and even later. The average out-turn is about one and a half maunds of clean cotton per acre. The same plants are often made to yield three crops, by cutting them down level with the ground each year after the cotton has been gathered, at the same time the soil is well ploughed up between the roots and manured. During the last four years, the amount produced in the district, has averaged thirty-two thousand maunds, of which about half, it is estimated, has been retained for home consumption, and the other half exported.

Cotton.

* *Sesamum Orientale*. † *Phaseolus aureus*. ‡ *Phaseolus radiatus*.

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Opium.

35. The only other agricultural product, that requires detailed notice at my hands, is Opium. The cultivation of the poppy plant being unrestricted, and the price of the drug extracted therefrom being kept up at a high figure by the system of taxing consumption in force, the profits realized in this district have been very large, and this has led, as before stated, to a very remarkable increase in the area devoted to the growth of this crop ; so that I doubt much if there is now any district in the Punjab that produces more Opium than Shahpoor. The poppy plant requires a rich soil and abundance of moisture. The mode of culture is this : the land, which it is proposed to sow with this crop, is allowed to lie fallow for one season at least, during the rains it is repeatedly ploughed and well manured. It then remains untouched till the beginning of November, when it is prepared to receive the seed, which, at the rate of half a seer to the acre, is sown broad-cast, mixed with equal parts of sand to ensure equal distribution. Water is supplied as often as the surface shows signs of dryness. The young plants begin to show themselves about the twelfth day, and from this time, till the pods begin to ripen, the successful cultivation of the crop depends on the attention paid to watering, weeding and manuring. The pods begin to swell in March, and towards the end of this month, an estimate can be framed of the probable yield of Opium, and Khutrees then come forward, and buy the standing crop, after which the zemindars have nothing to do but supply water as required.

Extraction
of the drug.

36. The drug is obtained by making incisions in the pod with a three bladed lancet. The incisions are made vertically, about half an inch in length, in the centre of the pod. Three strokes are made with the instrument each time, making nine cuts, and this is repeated four times at intervals of as many days, making 36 incisions in all ; the whole operation extending over about a fortnight. The work is carried on during the middle of the day, as it is found that the heat assists the exudation of the juice. The morning following the making of each set of incisions, the juice which has exuded from the cuts is scooped off with shells, and collected in cups made of the leaves of the plant itself.

Cost of ex-
traction.

37. It is estimated that one man, (women and children are not much employed in this work here) can, on an average, incise the pods and collect the juice of about 10 merlas of the crop ; and as this is repeated four times, and the laborers are paid from two to four annas a day, the cost of extraction varies from eight to sixteen rupees an acre.

The produce of an acre is from four to eight seers, the selling price from eight to twelve rupees. In the process of drying, the extract loses about a fourth of its weight.

38. The area under poppy cultivation is now little below three thousand acres, the produce of which, at an average of six seers per acre, amounts to four hundred and fifty maunds! Even reducing this by a fourth to allow for loss by drying, we have still the enormous quantity of three hundred and forty maunds, which, at ten rupees a seer, represent no less a sum than one lac and thirty thousand rupees! Careful enquiry has shown that, of the produce of the district, all but a few maunds leaves it, the destination of by far the greater part being those centres of Sikhism, Lahore and Umritsur.

Estimated
out-turn.

39. The subject of rotation of crops and other means of increasing the productiveness of land have lately attracted attention; I shall therefore add here the results of my observations on these interesting topics. It is almost needless to remark, that nothing approaching scientific farming can be looked for in a country where the people are both ignorant and firmly wedded to traditional rules and customs, and where (from the fact that while for centuries the population has not sensibly increased, land has been available in quantities more than sufficient to supply the wants of all), the same stimulus to exertion has not existed as in our own country, with its limited extent of arable land, and rapidly increasing population. But it must not therefore be assumed that the people are ignorant of the ordinary processes of husbandry. The fact is that experience here, as elsewhere, has taught them all that is perhaps needful for them to know in their present circumstances. That such is true as regards this district, and that the practice of the agricultural population has modified itself everywhere throughout this tract, to suit the particular conditions of each portion, I will now endeavour to show.

Rotation of
crops.

40. The ordinary means by which the productive powers of land are economized, increased, and renewed, are (1) rotation of crops, (2) manuring, and (3) fallows. Let us now see how far the conditions under which agriculture is carried on in this district, compel a resort to any of these aids. And first, as regards the sailab cultivation along the rivers. Here, nature allows of no interference, but makes and mars as she wills. As soon as the crop is cut, the river rising, inundates the land, and when she retires it is found that a deposit of sand, or one of alluvium, of more or less richness, has been left. If fit for cultivation *at all*, the land

Rotation of
crops, manur-
ing and fallows
as aids to cul-
tivation.

Not neces-
sary in the
"Hethur."

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is practically new, and as such requires no extraneous help to increase its fertility, and the crop that is most valuable, (wheat), is grown year after year without intermission.

Indispensable in the "Nukka."

41. But on passing out of the range of the river floods, and entering the tract where tillage depends on artificial irrigation, the case becomes altogether altered. Here we have a number of fixed circles (with wells as their centres) beyond the circumference of which cultivation cannot ordinarily pass, and the area being limited, each of the aids to agriculture enumerated above is successively brought into play, to obtain from the soil as large a return as possible. It will perhaps not be uninteresting to describe briefly the system generally pursued to effect this. Suppose for example that fifty acres of land are attached to a well: of this twenty acres will be sown with spring crops, the same extent of land is lying fallow, prepared for cultivation, together with ten acres sown during the preceding khureef. After the spring crop is cut, half of the same land will be sown with autumn crops, and for the next Rubbee there will be the twenty acres which have been lying fallow. This will leave half the land lately under spring crops, and ten acres of the previous khureef, to form the fallow, which will receive repeated ploughings and manurings, till its turn comes round to be cultivated again. By this means each plot of land receives rest alternately, once for three, and the next time for four harvests. On a well of this size the proportions in which the ordinary crops are grown would be as nearly as follows:

Rubbee,	{ Wheat,	14 Acres
	{ Barley,	2 "
	{ Poppy,	1 "
	{ Turnips for feeding bullocks,	3 "

Total, 20 "

Khureef,	{ Cotton,	3 Acres
	{ Cheena,	1 "
	{ Bajra,	1 "
	{ Churree for bullocks,	5 "

Total, 10 "

The above exhibits the internal economy of a well in regard to the matters under discussion, and one general rule may be deduced from it, that an autumn crop may, and often does, follow a spring crop in the same land, but the converse of this is never seen.

42. I pass on to the Salt Range, and the tract at its base. In the former the soil is ordinarily too rich to require a lengthened repose; that within the immediate influence of the hill torrents, called Hâil, like the alluvial tracts bordering the rivers, is fertilized at short intervals by the deposits brought down by the streams, and yields double crops in never-ending succession; and for the remainder, experience has shown, that a fallow extending over twelve months, during which the surface is repeatedly turned up by the plough, is amply sufficient to restore it to full vigour. The invariable rule in these lands is that an autumn follows a spring crop, and then the land is allowed to lie fallow for a whole year. The zemindars say, that the Bajra, which usually follows wheat here, restores the productive powers of the soil, but this must not be understood too literally; they mean, probably, that Bajra is the one crop of all others which least unfits the land to produce wheat; and here experience has doubtless taught them aright. It may be added, that the use of manure is little known throughout this part of the district. In the plains along the base of this range land is so plentiful, that the site of cultivation is shifted very often; three years fallow succeed three years cultivation, but the crops are nearly always the same; wheat and gram for the spring, and Bajra with, perhaps a little cotton and pulses, for the autumn crop. The only exception to this rule is in the "Naladar" land, the "Hâil" of the plains, which from being twice in the year covered with a rich deposit of alluvium, brought down by the torrents after rain, is enabled to produce annually two crops without requiring any rest. Here also the use of manure is ignored, nature having provided a better substitute.

Little needed in the Salt Range.

Or "Mohar."

43. The subject of population and its divisions by creed, tribes, &c. will next be treated of. The census returns of 1854, which agree pretty closely with those prepared during the progress of the Settlement, give as the total population of the district the low number of 3,02,700 souls, which, divided by the total area, yields an average of only 64 persons to the square mile; but this will scarcely be a matter of surprise when the peculiar circumstances of the district are remembered, and the following figures will show that, while not so well off in this respect as some of the adjoining districts, Shahpoor is more densely populated than others to which it bears a close resemblance:—

Population.

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District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Average of persons to each square mile.
Goojranwala, ...	4,042	5,99,889	148
Rawulpindee, ...	5,994	5,33,550	92
Googaira, ...	5,553	3,08,026	55
Jhung, ...	5,532	2,11,496	38
Shahpoor, ...	4,682	3,02,700	64

Unequally distributed over the district.

44. It is almost superfluous to state, after what has already been written, that the population is very unequally divided over this tract of country. The following table shows what the actual distribution is, the information being arranged according to the natural divisions of the district, the distinctive features of which have been described in the foregoing pages :—

Natural divisions.	No. of villages.	POPULATION.			Total area in acres.	Area in square miles.	Average of population to the square mile.
		Hindoo.	Mussulman.	Total.			
Hethur, ...	210	23,393	92,677	1,16,070	3,73,925	584	198
Nukka, ...	172	17,655	50,810	68,465	3,05,210	477	143
Salt Range, ...	34	1,796	26,811	28,607	2,48,980	389	74
Mohar, ...	30	4,077	34,866	38,943	5,63,137	880	44
Bar, ...	177	2,987	35,069	38,056	9,17,736	1,434	26
Thull, ...	24	2,144	10,415	12,559	5,87,772	918	13
Total, ...	647	52,052	2,50,648	3,02,700	29,96,760	4,682	64

Agricultural divisions not thinly populated.

45. Thus it will be seen that the divisions of the district exclusively devoted to agriculture are far from being thinly inhabited. The population of the Salt Range appears less dense than it really is, owing to the culturable area in that part bearing so small a ratio to the hills themselves,

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which are only used as pasture grounds for cattle. It will not fail to be noticed how largely the Mahomedan prevails over the Hindoo element in the population.

46. There is yet another point from which to view this subject: the distribution of the population by religion and tribes, with reference to the extent of land in the occupation of each tribe, and the revenue for which they are severally liable. All this information will be found exhibited in the subjoined table, which, together with the map prepared to illustrate it, will form a suitable introduction to a brief account of each tribe:—

Distribution
of population
by tribes.

RELIGION.	Tribes.	No. of villages.	Area in acres.	Jumma, including Tirnee.	REMARKS.
MUSULMAN.	Gondul, ...	63	2,67,229	23,847	Converted Hindoos.
	Ranjha, ...	64	1,16,050	33,129	
	Jhummut, ...	15	28,181	15,250	
	Mekun, ...	27	54,342	8,089	
	Tiwana, ...	13	1,97,044	11,892	
	Junjooha, ...	5	50,641	9,400	
	Khokhur, ...	72	2,08,375	55,754	Mahomedan im- migrants from the west.
	Awan, ...	65	4,91,205	82,280	
	Beloch, ...	41	1,64,541	15,750	
	Miscellaneous, ...	269	13,57,526	2,12,849	
	Total, ...	634	29,35,134	3,67,940	
HINDOO.	Brahmins, Khutrees, and Aroras, }	13	61,626	8,572	
	Grand Total, ...	647	29,96,760	3,76,512	

47. It will be seen then that the agricultural population is almost entirely made up of tribes professing the Mahomedan religion, whether these be converted Hindoos, or foreigners holding that creed, who, from time to time, have immigrated from countries lying beyond the Sooleyman range.

Agricultural
population al-
most exclu-
sively Maho-
medan.

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Rajpoot
tribes.

48. The Gonduls, Jhummut, Mekuns, and Tiwanas, all claim to be descended from a branch of the "Sooryavansa" Rajpoots, and their traditions describe how they were all converted to Mahomedanism by the famous Baba Fureed, of Pak Puttun. It is not improbable therefore, that they may be all descended from the same ancestor, though, owing to the lapse of time, and the absence of anything in the shape of family records, all attempts to clear up this point have failed. This much we may perhaps infer from the coincidence above noticed, in their traditions, that this large section of the existing population of the district, migrated to its present abodes within the last six hundred years.*

The Gonduls.

49. The Gonduls occupy the central portion of the Bhera Tahseel, and are a pastoral people, subsisting almost entirely on the produce of their flocks and herds. Physically they are a fine race, owing doubtless to the free and active life they lead, and the quantities of animal food they consume, and if we except their inordinate passion for appropriating the cattle of their neighbours, which in their estimation carries with it no moral taint, they must be pronounced free from vice. The tribe is subdivided into the Bhoollowanas and Deowanas, and from the latter proceed the Boodhakas, Mumnanas and, other less important off-shoots.

Jhummut
and Mekuns.

50. The Jhummut and Mekuns are found in great numbers throughout the Shahpoor Tahseel. The former are a quiet industrious race, devoted chiefly to agriculture, the latter are a more turbulent people, certain members of the tribe having always taken a prominent part in the troubles that agitated the district prior to the advent of settled Government. The leading men of this tribe are Khunjur Khan and his brother Bhai Khan, of Kot Bhai Khan. Both these tribes are descended from the same ancestor, from whom come also the Chachurs, Dhoddhee, and Hurguns; these last, as being numerically few and holding comparatively little land, have been ranged in the foregoing statement under the head "miscellaneous."

Chachurs,
Dhoddhees
and Hurguns.The Tiwana
tribe.

51. The Tiwanas are a half pastoral, half agricultural tribe, occupying the tract intermediate between the "Thull" and "Mohar" of the Khoshab Tahseel. Their traditions tell how that, after their first migration from Hindoostan to the banks of the Indus, they returned under their leaders, and successively founded the villages of Oakley Mohlan,

* Sheikh Fureed-odeen, better known as Baba Fureed, is stated in the "A'een-i-Akbari" to have died at Pak Puttun in A. H. 668, which corresponds with the year 1269 of our era.

Bijâr, Bootala, Hudâlee, and Mitha Tiwana. They are a fine hardy race of men, and make good soldiers, but their good qualities are sadly marred by a remarkably quarrelsome disposition, which is a source of never ending trouble to themselves, and all with whom they are brought in contact. The chiefs of this tribe have always held a commanding position in this part of the country, as will be seen when I come to treat of the former history of this part of the Punjab.

52. The Ranjhas, together with several other less important off-shoots,* constitute a branch of the great Bhuttee tribe, Rajpoots of the Chundravunsa race. They occupy the greater part of the Midh and Moosa Choocha Talooquas, and are on the whole a peaceable and well disposed section of the population, subsisting chiefly by agriculture. In physique they resemble their neighbours the Gonduls, with whom they intermarry freely. The leading men among the Ranjhas are Daim of Buddur, Hayat Khan (Choocha) of Rân, Allabuksh of Midh, Rihan of Nuseerpoor, and Raja of Ghaiwala.

Ranjhas and others a branch of the Bhuttee tribe.

53. The Junjoochas are descendants of Rajpoot immigrants from Chatourgurh. The early history of this tribe has been so fully discussed by Mr. A. Brandreth that it will be sufficient if I say, that they trace their descent from the Raja Mull who is said to have built the fort of Mulôt in the Jhelum district, and that the members of the tribe found in this district are stated to be the progeny of his great grandson Sunpâl. From at one time having been masters of nearly the whole of the Salt-Range, they have been reduced by the aggressions of the Awans to the occupancy of a few villages, mostly situated at the foot of those hills. In this district the only remnants of their former extensive possessions, are five estates in the eastern corner of the Khoshab Tahseel. Their spirit appears to have been crushed by continued misfortune, and they are now a listless apathetic people, at the same time they pride themselves on the purity of their blood, and will not allow their daughters to marry out of their own tribe. The chief, or Raja as he is styled, of this tribe is Sooitân Shuruf, of Kutha.

The Junjoochas tribe.

54. The Awans and the Khokurs both claim to be descended from Qootub Shah,† who is himself said to have

The Awans and Khokurs.

* The following are the principal divisions, Kulus, Kanjoo, Noon, Kuliâr, Hutar, Tatree; these have been classed as "miscellaneous."

† The claim of descent from Qootub Shah may possibly, as regards the Awans, be a valid one, as two pedigree tables of the tribe, prepared at different times, viz: one at Sealkote in 1855, and the other in this district ten

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been a descendant of Ali, the son-in-law of Mahomet. The date of immigration of the former tribe is not known, but was probably quite recent, as when the Emperor Baber passed through the Salt-Range, the Junjoo has occupied it almost exclusively, and he makes no mention of any such tribe as the Awans, who are now in possession of nearly the whole of that portion which lies in this district, as well as the greater part of the plains at its base. ✓ The Awans are a brave high spirited race, but withal exceedingly indolent. In point of character there is little in them to admire; head-strong and irascible to an unusual degree, and prone to keeping alive old feuds, they are constantly in hot water; their quarrels leading to affrays, and their affrays not unfrequently ending in blood-shed. As a set-off against this, it must be allowed that their manners are frank and engaging, and although they cannot boast of the truthfulness of other hill tribes, they are remarkably free from crime. The Khokhurs, judging from their peculiar social customs, are of Hindoo origin; they are found scattered all over the Punjab, and hold land in every part of this district. The tribe has become split up into innumerable sections, among which the Nissowâns of the Kaloowal Talooqua, notorious for their theiving propensities and generally lawless character, are the only powerful branch.

The Beloches.

55. I now come to the Beloches, the last of the tribes that require special notice. ✓ These are the descendants of immigrants from Kech Mekran on the shores of the Persian Gulf, where the tribe appears to have been settled previous to the Mohomedan invasion of Persia.* ✓ The families found in this district are probably descended from the founders of the three Deras, Mullick Sohrâb, and his three sons Ismail, Ghazee, and Futteh Khan, who migrating from their native country in A. H. 874 (A. D. 1469), took service under Sooltan Hoosein, Governor of Mooltan, and obtained from him charge of the country along our present frontier.† The possessions of the tribe are situated in a circle round Saiwal, which was founded by one of its chiefs. Another branch has its head quarters at Khoshab.

years later, exhibit a remarkable coincidence as regards the first four generations from the common ancestor. The long interval, in time and place between the preparation of the first and second tables would seem to preclude the suspicion of fabrication, and the close correspondence between the two documents bears testimony to the remarkable powers of memory possessed by the members of the "Meerasee" class.

* See Elphinstone's India, 3rd Edition, page 259.

† See a paper by Lieutenant R. Maclagan in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for November 1848.

56. I propose now to describe somewhat minutely, the manners and customs of the people, as regards the houses they live in, the food they eat, the dress (including ornaments) they wear, and the mode in which they pass their time. I shall make no apology for introducing all this into a settlement report, for, apart from its intrinsic interest, the subject possesses peculiar value for all in any way concerned in the administration of the country, and especially for those so employed in the district itself.

The population viewed in its social aspect.

57. The dwellings of the common people, throughout the district, consist of one or more rooms called "kothas," with a court-yard in front. This court-yard, named "verha," is often common to several houses. These rooms are built ordinarily of clay, gradually piled up in successive layers and then plastered. The roofs are invariably flat, and are used as sleeping places during the hot weather. In the court-yard is generally seen a manger ("khoodlee"), and a house in which the cattle are sheltered from the cold in the winter months, which structures (called "suth" in the Bar, where they are very capacious) consist generally of four walls covered with a thatch. (The only exceptions to the above general description, are the habitations of the people in the Thull, and in the hills. The former are often composed of nothing but wood and grass, and the latter are built entirely of boulders cemented together with clay; as however walls of this kind have little or no power of resisting rain, the roof is always supported on strong posts driven into the ground, the walls acting merely as a defence against the weather. As a rule the houses of the zemindars are built for them by the village carpenter ("Turkhan"), or potter ("Koomhar,") who receive their food while the work is going on, and a present of clothes or money when it is finished; payment for work at a fixed rate is only made by Khutrees and other non-proprietors. The timber used for roofing is usually "Keekur" or "Ber" in the plains, and "Kâo" in the hills, the first two being usually the produce of the zemindars' own fields; beams of Deodar or Sheeshum are only to be seen in the houses of the rich.

Houses.

58. The requirements of a population low in the scale of civilization are few, and we see this exemplified in the furniture of their houses, which consist almost entirely of necessaries. It would be tedious, though not perhaps devoid of use, to give a complete description of all the articles in every day use in a household of this part of India, I shall therefore only enumerate the more important. First there are the receptacles for storing grain, of various

Furniture.

meal either vegetables or "Dal" (lentils) is served according to the season. In the Thull during the cold weather water-melons enter largely into the ordinary food of the inhabitants, and the seeds are commonly parched and eaten mixed with other grain.

60. The male portion of the agricultural population, is more or less employed in some one or other of the operations of husbandry all the year round, and this is especially the case in the tracts where crops are artificially irrigated; but the men of the pastoral tribes lead a comparatively lazy life, the demands on their labor being limited to drawing water for the cattle, and milking the cows. Women, on the other hand, are everywhere hard worked, the drudgery of their domestic occupations leaving them, scarcely any leisure for rest or amusement. They must be up before it is light to churn the milk of the night before, and then sweep the house, throw away the rubbish, and make cakes of the cow-dung. Water has then to be fetched, an operation of great labor, involving as it sometimes does the carrying of two or three large jars several miles;* when this is over, it is time to commence cooking the morning meal, which when ready has to be taken to the men working in the fields. If after this their services are not required to watch the crops and frighten away the birds, they are expected to spin cotton or wool, to be made into clothing for the family, indeed the two occupations are often combined. Again, early in the afternoon preparations have to be made for the evening meal, the vegetables or "dal" are placed on the fire, and a second trip made to the well or village tank for water. By the time they return it is time to knead the flour, make it into cakes, and cook it for their husbands, sons and brothers, for these lords of the creation will be wrath if everything is not ready for their reception on their return from work; they will however unbend so far, as to assist in tying up and milking the cows. This done, the milk is put over a slow fire to warm, and the family sits down to dinner, and so the days pass with little variation from year to year, bringing no rest for the household drudge, till her girls are old enough to take her place, or age unfits her for further labor.

Occupations.

61. Closely connected with this subject, is the mode of reckoning time in vogue among the people. They divide the day into twelve parts: some of the divisions vary with the seasons, while others are fixed and constant; but as nearly all have reference to some one or more of their habitual

Modes of reckoning time.

* In the Salt Range and along the foot of it.

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sizes from the dimensions of a small room to those of a beer barrel; these are made by the women of the house, of fine clay mixed with chopped straw. The larger kind, called "Sukar," are square, and hold from forty to fifty maunds; the smaller description, "Kulhotee," are cylindrical in form, and hold but a few maunds. Next are to be seen some spinning wheels, as many as there are women, apparatus for churning milk, an instrument for cleaning cotton ("Belna"), a number of circular baskets, with and without lids, made of reeds ("Kharee" "Towng" &c.), in which are kept articles of clothing and odds and ends. Trays of reeds ("Chhuj," "Chhukor") used in cleaning grain. A goat-skin water bag ("Koonce"), used on journeys, or when employed in the fields at a distance from home. A set of wooden measures for grain ("Topa," "Puropee" &c); a leather bag ("Khullur") for carrying flour when away from home; a variety of cooking vessels some of iron, and others of a composition resembling bell-metal. A number of earthen pots and pans in which are stored grain, condiments and other articles of food. A coarse iron sieve ("Puroon"). A pestle and mortar ("Dowree"), in which to pound spices and condiments. These with a few stools ("Peerha," "Peerhee"), and cots, complete the list of the fittings up of an interior here, and the same, with a few minor changes, would probably answer as a description of the furniture of a peasant's house in any part of the Punjab. It must not be supposed that all these things are disposed without order: space has to be economized, and everything, not in use, is therefore carefully arranged on shelves resting on pegs, driven into the walls round the rooms.

Food.

59. The food of the common people is very simple, consisting, in the hot weather, of cakes of wheaten flour moistened with butter-milk, for which butter, or "goor" (raw sugar) is sometimes substituted; and, in the cold weather, of Bajra with the same accompaniments. During the hot months the dough, after being kneaded, is taken to the village ovens, kept by a class called "Machhees," who live on the perquisites derived from baking food for the rest of the village community; but in the cold weather every family cooks for itself. The regular meals are taken twice a day, the first between 9 and 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and the other in the evening as soon as it becomes dark, the time varying with the seasons from 6 to 8 P. M. (In addition to these regular meals, in the hot weather the remains of the previous days' food with a little butter-milk, is taken to the men working in the fields about an hour after sunrise, and parched grain is eaten in the afternoon: with the evening

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employments, it necessarily follows, that the divisions of the day are more minute than those of the night. The following table gives the nomenclature adopted respectively by Mahomedans and Hindoos, and opposite each recognized division of time will be found the corresponding period according to our method of computing time :—

Number.	DIVISIONS OF TIME AS RECOGNIZED		Corresponding English time.
	Among Mahomedans.	Among Hindoos.	
1	Dhumme weyla,	Purbhât, ...	The time when the day is about to break, before objects can be clearly distinguished.
2	Nimâz weyla, ...	None, ...	About half an hour before sunrise.
3	Wudda weyla, ...	None, ...	Sunrise—a little before or a little after.
4	Rotee weyla, ...	Rotee weyla, ...	Varies with the season, from 8 A. M. to between 10 and 11 A. M.
5	Dôpahur, ...	Dopahur, ...	Noon.
6	Pesheen weyla,	Pichhlapahur, ...	3 P. M.
7	Nuddhee Pesheen,	None, ...	"Little Pesheen," half way between "Pesheen" and "Deegur."
8	Deegur weyla, ...	None, ...	About an hour before sunset.
9	Nimâshan weyla,	Tirkâlan weyla, ...	The "Neemshâm" of the Persians—a little after sunset.
10	Khooftân weyla,	Sôta weyla, ...	Sleeping time, varying with the season from 8 to 10 P. M.
11	Adh-rât, ...	Adhee-rât, ...	Midnight.
12	As-hoor, ...	None, ...	Corruption of "Sahoor," 3 A. M.

Dress of the male population.

62. The every-day dress of the male portion of the Mahomedan population living north of the Jhelum river consists of four garments—a "Mujla," a "Koorta," a "Châdur," and a Turban or "Pug" as it is here called.) The first is a piece of cloth about three yards long, and a yard and a half wide, which is tied tightly round the waist, and allowed to hang in loose folds over the lower part of the body. The "Koorta" is a full cut tunic, with large open

sleeves reaching a little below the waist. The "Châdur" is made of three breadths of cloth, in length about as many yards, and is worn something in the manner of a plaid. Of the Turban nothing further need be said, than that its size depends much on the social position of the wearer, and increases with his importance. South of the Jhelum the "Koorta" is discarded, in the *Bâr* it is *never* seen, indeed the man who would wear such a garment there must be possessed of more than ordinary moral courage, to endure the jokes that would certainly be made at his expense. The material of which this simple clothing is made, is the ordinary coarse country cloth, except that along the rivers, especially the Chenab, colored Loongees are often used as "Mujks." The "Kuliars," the chief camel owners of the Shahpore Tahseel, are also much given to wearing "Loongees." (The Hindoos to a great extent follow the fashions of the Mahomedans among whom they live, in regard to the use of the "Koorta," but their mode of tying the turban is somewhat different, and the "Dhotee" replaces the "Mujla," the difference between these garments being in the manner of putting them on.)

63. (The Mahomedan women also wear the "Mujla" (tying it somewhat differently to the men), and this is usually a colored "Loongee." Their other garments are two, the "Cholee," and the "Châdur.") The former has short sleeves, and fits closely round the breasts, leaving the remainder of the body bare, except where a small lappet hangs down and hides the stomach. The "Châdur" is a piece of cloth about three yards long and one and a half wide, worn as a veil over the head and upper part of the body, from which it falls in graceful folds nearly to the feet behind. The "Cholee" is generally made of strips of many colored silk, the "Châdur" of a coarse but thin description of country cloth called "Dhotur," sometimes dyed, but more often plain. (To this the "Thull" is an exception, where veils of many colors, the patterns formed by spots disposed in a variety of ways on a dark ground, are the rule. In the hills, colored garments are scarcely ever seen. The Hindoo women of the Khutree class wear full trowsers called "Soothun," made of a striped material called "Soosee," the ground of which is usually blue. Over the head is thrown a "Châdur" of coarse cloth, prettily embroidered in many colored silks, called "Phoolkaree," and round the upper part of the body is worn a loose "Koorta" of silk or muslin. The women of the "Arora" class are clothed like the Khutranees, except that, in place of the trowsers, they wear a skirt called a "Ghuggra," and sometimes the

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"Mujla." It may be added, that it is the invariable rule, even among Mahomedans, that a girl shall wear a "Koorta," and plait the two front tresses of her hair, until she is married.

Ornaments.

64. The ornaments worn by the people are chiefly of silver, and are of so many shapes and sizes, that no mere description would serve to convey even an approach to a correct idea of them; I have therefore thought it best to attach to this report, a sheet containing drawings of all the ornaments in general use, with a brief note under each, giving the name by which it is known, and other particulars regarding it. The workmanship of all is most rough, but it will I think be admitted, that the designs of some are not inelegant. It may be mentioned here, that the large silver ornament worn on the head, somewhat resembling in size and shape a shield, and called a "chotee phool," is worn only by women of the "Arora" class, and is nowhere to be seen east of Shahpoor.

Political history of the district.

Divisible into three periods.

65. I now propose, as a fitting sequel to the foregoing account of the tribes inhabiting the district, to put together in a connected form such facts as have been gleaned from various sources, bearing on the political changes which have affected the same tract of country. These, for convenience of narrative, will be grouped into *three periods*. The first, that which preceded the downfall of the Moghul Empire; the second, the brief space occupied by the successive inroads of the Affghans, followed by the rapid acquisition of power by the Sikhs; and the last, the period during which, by a happy admixture of boldness and artifice, the young leader of the Sookruchukeia Misl, succeeded in making himself master of the whole of the Punjab, from the banks of the Sutlej to the mountains of Sooleyman. ✓

First period.

66. The first may be dismissed with a few words. A tract of country not naturally rich, and far removed from the high road between Hindoostan and the countries beyond its northern frontier, would not be the scene of events of sufficient magnitude to leave a lasting impress on the minds of the people, and hence tradition has preserved little that refers to so remote a period. All that is known is, that during the latter years of Mahomed Shah's reign the affairs of Bhera, and the surrounding country as far south as Shahpoor, were administered by Raja Salamat Rae, a Khutree of the Anund caste; * that Khoshab and its dependencies were under the management of Nawab Ahmed-yar Khan; that the tracts lying to the south of the district,

* The descendants of this man still reside in Bhera, and plume themselves on the greatness of their ancestor.

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and along the Chenab, formed part of the territory delegated to the charge of Maharajah Kowra Mul, then Governor of Mooltan; and that the "Thull" formed part of the jageer of the descendants of the Beloch founders of the two Deras.

67. To this succeeded a period of anarchy, during which many events worth recording took place. The weakness of the Moghul Government had both invited attack from without, and fostered insurrection within its limits; wave after wave of invasion for nearly thirty years poured down over the defenceless country, and in the intervals the Sikhs made good every opportunity afforded them by the weakness of the Government, to enrich themselves at the expense of their more peaceable neighbours. The remote position of this tract of country even, did not altogether save it from the calamities incident on such a state of things. In the year 1757 a force under Noorooddeen Bâmiziye was deputed by Ahmed Shah to assist his son Tymoor in repelling the Mahrattas, while he was himself engaged in subduing the rebellious chief of Kelât. The proceedings of this man may be taken as a type of the excesses committed by the invading armies, and some idea will be formed of the amount of misery caused by these inroads. Crossing the river Jhelum at Khoshab, Noorooddeen marched up the left bank of the river, and finding that the inhabitants would not pay the large ransoms demanded of them, he successively plundered and laid waste with fire and sword, three of the largest towns of the district. Two of these, Bhera and Mianee, rose again on their ruins, without however completely recovering the shock they had sustained; but of the third, Chuck Sânoo, the foundations alone are to be seen.

Second period one of anarchy.

Noorooddeen ravages the country.

68. About this time Nawab Ahmedyar Khan died, and Khoshab was added to the territory under the charge of Raja Salamut Rae. But the latter had not held it many years before he was treacherously put to death by Abbâs Khan, Khuttuck, who held possession of the Salt Range and Pind Dadun Khan, on the part of Ahmed Shah. Abbâs Khan then seized Bhera, but his attempt to make himself master of the surrounding country, was foiled by the determination shown by the widow of the murdered Governor, who shut herself up in the fort of Châwa, while her nephew, following her example, held out in his stronghold of Futtelgurh, close to Bhera itself. These events occurred in 1760, and before Abbâs Khan had time to subdue his opponents, he was himself thrown into prison as a revenue defaulter, when the former status was restored; Futtel

Raja Salamut Rae obtains charge of Khoshab, and is soon after put to death by Abbâs Khan Khat-tuck;

Who is himself cast into prison.

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Sing obtaining possession of the tract previously held by his uncle, and Mahomed Mowaz Khan succeeding his father in the government of the country north of the Jhelum.

Ahmed Shah's last invasion and retreat.

The Sikhs over-run the country.

69. In the year 1867, Ahmed Shah made his last descent on the Punjab, and having failed in his attempt to recover the province, retired, hard pressed by the Sikhs, who finding themselves free from their once dreaded enemy rapidly made themselves masters of the greater part of the plains between the Indus and the Chenab. After the capture of Rhotas, the whole of the Salt Range was over-run and appropriated by the Sookurchukkeias under Chuttur Sing, while the Bhungees took possession of the tract of country between those hills and the Chenab, as far nearly as Saiwâl, parcelling it out among themselves after their usual fashion. The division of the portion comprised within this district was as follows: the Zails of Midh and Moosachoocha, as dependencies of Kadirabad, were retained as their own share by Gunda Sing and Jhunda Sing the leaders of the misl. Mianee was assigned to Tara Sing, and Bhera with Ahmedabad fell to the lot of Mân Sing, from whom they passed in 1769 to Dhunna Sing and Churut Sing, of the same confederacy.

Certain Mahomedan chiefs hold out against the Sikhs.

70. The Mahomedan Chieftains of Saiwâl, Mitta Tiwana, and Khoshab, had some time previously assumed independence, and, though hard pressed, were able generally to resist the encroachments of their new neighbours the Sikhs. South of the Jhelum, however, the Bhungees had succeeded in wresting from Mahomed Khan of Saiwâl the greater part of his possessions, but, after the Chief's death, his son Futteh Khan drove out the Sikhs, and by degrees established his authority over nearly the whole of the tract afterwards included in the Shahpoor Tahseel.

Anarchy still prevails.

71. But these changes brought no repose: might was the only test of right, and, in the absence of any general controlling authority, the country became a prey to the ambition of rival chiefs struggling for supremacy. It would be tedious and profitless to record all this petty warfare, I shall therefore, confine myself to a mention of those occurrences only, from which permanent changes of possession resulted.

The Tiwana chiefs add to their possessions across the Jhelum.

72. Across the river Jhelum, the Tiwanas under Mullick Shere Khan made themselves masters of Noorpoor and the surrounding country, and after the death of Gool Jehanneah of Wurchha, succeeded in establishing a partial authority over the Awans along the base of the Salt-Range,

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They also wrested Sheikhôwal and several other villages on the right bank of the Jhelum from the Beloch Chief of Saiwâl. But the Mullick's attempt to reduce Khoshab was unsuccessful, for although Lâl Khan was killed in the defence of the town, the Tiwanas were driven off, and Jiaffer Khan, the deceased chieftain's son and successor, thenceforth remained in possession, until Runjeet Sing absorbed the Talooqua into the rest of his dominions.

73. South of the Jhelum, as described above, the Bhungees had possessed themselves of the whole Doab east of Shahpoor, while to the west of that place as far as Nihung, the country owned the authority of the Chief of Saiwâl.* But in Shahpoor itself, a colony of Syuds, under Gholam Shah, established a semi-independent authority,* and this they were allowed to retain unmolested by their more powerful neighbours, owing doubtless to the reverence in which they were held as the descendants of a renowned saint. The remainder of the Doab, to the junction of the two rivers, was held by the Syâl Chiefs of Jhung, Izzut Buksh Rehân, a powerful zemindar of those parts, being their Deputy in Kâlowlal.

Status of possession south of that river.

The Shahpoor Syuds.

The Syâls of Jhung.

74. Such was the status of possession when the Sookur Chukkeia confederacy under Maha Singh began to acquire the ascendancy, and the power of the Bhungees to decline. A map to illustrate this portion of the report has been prepared and will be found among the appendices.

Status of possession illustrated by a map.

75. The remainder of the history of the tracts of country comprised within the limits of this district, consists of nothing but a series of encroachments on the part of Maha Singh and of his renowned son, until the whole country was incorporated with the dominions of the latter, and these will best be described in the order in which they were made.

Third period. Encroachments of Maha Singh and his son.

76. By the deaths of Sirdars Jhunda Singh and Gunda Singh the Bhungee confederacy was left without a head; and Maha Singh, having joined his forces to those of the Kunheya misl, found no difficulty in making himself master of Kadirabad. By this event, which occurred in 1781, the Talooquas of Midh and Moosa fell into his hands, and two years after, he succeeded in taking Mianee and its dependencies from Tara Singh Bhungee.

Maha Singh takes Kadirabad.

And Mianee.

77. For some time now there was a pause in the tide of conquest. Ten years after the event last recorded, Maha

Bhera is taken in 1803.

* The descendants of Gholam Shah and his father Nuthoo Shah still hold the greater part of the land in Shahpoor and its neighbourhood.

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Singh died, leaving his son Runjeet Singh, a boy of thirteen years, and it was long before the latter had sufficiently established his authority round Lahore, to allow him to think of making conquests so far from the capital. But the process of annexation though slow was sure, and the wily young chief was never in want of a pretext, for adding to his possessions. Bhera was coveted, and the reason assigned for interference in its affairs, was the tyranny of Jodh Singh, who had succeeded to the family conquests on the death of his father Dhunna Singh; with this plausible excuse, Runjeet Singh marched from Mianee in 1803, and having obtained possession of the fort by means of a stratagem, the person of Jodh Singh was secured, and the young Maharaja entered unopposed into possession of the country lying on both sides of the river as far as Jhawryan.

Saiwâl and
Khoshab fall
to Runjeet
Sing in 1809.

78. The next move was against the Beloch chiefs of Saiwâl and Khoshab. In 1804 Runjeet Singh had placed the former under contributions, and the tribute, which at first was almost nominal, was afterwards raised to twelve thousand rupees a year. The increased demand was not met with promptitude, and this furnished the Mahahrja with the pretext he was in search of. Accordingly, in 1809, a force was organized, and Runjeet Singh marched for Saiwâl. Having taken up a position at Mângowal, one march from that place, he sent Sirdar Uttur Singh to bring the Beloch chief to his presence; but Futteh Khan, taught by experience, suspected treachery, and excused himself from obeying the call: on receiving however the Sirdar's solemn assurance that no harm should befall the boy, he sent his son Lungur Khan with a handsome offering to the camp of the Maharaja. To divert suspicion Runjeet Singh received the boy very graciously, and having dismissed him with rich presents and the assurance of his continued friendship for his father, he retraced his steps and marched against Jiaffer Khan. Futteh Khan, falling into the trap laid for him, dismissed his forces to their homes, and before he had time to make fresh preparations for resistance, Runjeet Singh, flushed with his success before Khoshab, of which place he had made himself master after a siege of only eight days, suddenly appeared before Saiwâl and took the place by a coup-de-main. The chief was himself carried off a prisoner to Lahore, and the new conquered territory given in jageer to the heir apparent Khurruk Singh.

The remain-
der of the
country south

79. Thus fell Khoshab and Saiwâl, and at the same time the smaller possessions of the Shahpoor Syuds and of Boodh Singh Bhungee around Bukkhar, were added to the