

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL

REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT OF BHAGULPOOR.

BY

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(REVENUE SURVEYOR.)

Calcutta;

THOS. JONES, "CALCUTTA GAZETTE" OFFICE.

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which were cut by Mr. Pontet, who is in charge of this tract of country, and which extends for upwards of 300 miles in length, are perfect.

Cattle.—The principal draught cattle in the District are buffaloes, and the common grey bullock; horses, mules, and asses are almost unknown; cows, pigs, poultry and pigeons are common.

Wild Animals.—The wild animals of the District are tigers, leopards, panthers, and all the smaller felinae; rhinoceros, elephants, bears, badgers, rusa stags, hog-deer, wild hog, barking deer, antelope, jungle fowl; of partridge there are the black, painted, grey and double spurred; two sorts of quail, ortolan, boa constrictor, most of the deadly ophidia, water-snakes, turtle, a great variety of fish, two sorts of alligators, porpoises; besides numerous birds, reptiles, and smaller mammalia.

The Revenue Survey general operations of this District commenced in 1846, and terminated in 1850. The total expense incurred amounts to rupees 1,31,387-15-2, and the average rate per square mile to rupees 15-4-9.

The Maluncha series of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India passes through the centre of the District, the several points of which have been laid down where met with.

KURRUKPOOR.

This Pergunnah is divided into two portions, the Northern or hilly tract the property of Roodur Buhaidoor Sing, the Maharaja of Dhurbunga, and the Southern or partially cultivated portion, also including a portion of the Kurrukpoor hills as well as a large portion of the plains at the foot of the hills and the capital town of the same name.

The Northern portion, containing an area of 103 square miles, is a mass of hill and jungle, with a small belt of land below the hills on the Northern face, containing two small hamlets of wood-cutters and gowallahs.

A full and detailed account of these hills will be found in my Geological Report, attached to these Notes.

In the hills are seven small hamlets containing about 250 hill men and their families, who cultivate a moderate quantity of land which produces junera, Indian corn, capsicums and beans; they are principally herdsmen, wood-cutters, or iron smelters, the jungles affording excellent pasturage for cattle, as well as producing good timber both large and small, and the soil being rich in iron-ores, the smelters find full occupation for their forges; the iron is taken to Monghyr, where it is considered very good. The jungles also produce large quantities of grass, building stone, slate, mill-stones, red chalk or reddle, bamboos, roots, barks, gums of various kinds, and wild yams.

Of the Southern portion, only one-fifth of the whole area is under cultivation; the remainder of the land is occupied by hills and dense jungle. The rivulet Mun flowing from the hills through a deeply wooded and rocky valley, flows past the town of Kurrukpoor, which is situated on the right and high bank of the stream. The town is a fine substantial-

KANKJOLE.

This is a very irregularly shaped Pergunnah, extending for 32 miles North and South, varying from one and a half to nine miles in width ; the lands of the following Pergunnahs of zillah Bhaugulpoor, are intermixed with the lands of Kankjole, and as they partake of the same soil, have the same people and produce the same crops, a separate notice will not be given of these lands ; the intermixed Pergunnahs names are Sooltangunge, Akbernuggur, Buhadoorpoor, Inayutnuggur, Chitowleea, Jumoonee and Mukraeen, besides which, there are intermixed several detached villages of five Pergunnahs of Moorshedabad.

Kankjole is bordered on the West by the Rajmahal hills, and to the East by the Ganges and zillah Moorshedabad ; about one-half of the whole Pergunnah area, is liable to inundation from the Ganges, and there are extensive tracts of jheel which never dry up, but retain deep water all the year round ; these jheels, which commence at Sukree Gullee or where the Ganges river turns to the South after having travelled in a South-easterly course for upwards of a thousand miles, can be traced through Pergunnahs Jumoonee, Kankjole and through zillah Moorshedabad to a few miles below Nuddea on the Bhaugerutty, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles ; these jheels are at present disconnected with each other, but tradition asserts, that they occupy the former bed of the Ganges which flowed in that direction when the present Ganges or Podda did not exist.

These jheels occupy the line of Country, through which it was proposed in the year 1832, to cut the Rajmahal canal.

The principal produce of these Pergunnahs is rice, indigo, Indian-corn and junera, a small quantity of wheat, mustard and the pulses.

The jheels afford an abundance of fish, which are exported to Moorshedabad, Jungipoor and other towns on the Bhaugerutty.

About 5,760 acres are covered with coarse grass jungle, principally in the neighbourhood of the large Jheels, and immediately under the Rajmahal hills, the whole of which is subject to inundation ; about 6,000 acres are covered with low bushes and tree jungle, the former habitation of rhinoceros and elephants, and still filled with pigs and deer ; of the former large animals, the rhinoceros have retreated to the Northern and North-eastern face of the Rajmahal hills, where they find cover in the dense forest ; the elephants have retreated to the South.

About four square miles are occupied by small hills, out-liers of the Rajmahal range, some of which are on the immediate banks of the Ganges.

The principal towns and villages are Rajmahal, Sikree Gullee, Oodwa nallah, Unmohutpoor and Phoodkeepoor.

At Rajmahal there is a fine bazaar for grain, iron-ware, cloth, fish, wood, toys and many other things found in native bazaars.

There is also a police thannah, a moonsiff's cutcherry, post office, an indigo factory, a serai, several coal godowns, for the Government and private steam companies coal ; and a

No.	Description of Locality.	Discoverer's Name.
4.	Seven miles North of No. 3, are the extensive beds of the Gopikandur and Doobrajpoor valley. The coal hitherto produced is a bituminous slaty mineral.	Mr. Pontet, 1841.
5.	Four miles South-west in a small nullah (under the Dhunnia Puharee hill) which falls into the Goomra Nullah, is a bed of coal.	Mr. Pontet, 1841.
6.	Two miles North of No. 5, and half mile North of the Nargunjo bungalow, a in nullah, is a bed of coal.	Mr. Pontet, 1841.
7.	Situated immediately at the eastern foot of the Koondapuhar hill, which is one mile removed from the southern or right bank of the Bansbooe Nuddie, which flows through the Puchwara Pass, and one mile West from the village of Mudhobun, is a bed of coal.	Captain Sherwill, 1851.
8.	At the western entrance of Puchwara Pass, at the village of Burgo, and on the left bank of the Bansbooe Nullah, is a coal bed.	Mr. Pontet, 1844.
9.	One mile due North from No. 8, situate in an enclosed valley, is a coal bed.	Mr. Pontet, 1844.
10.	At the entrance to the hills on the western flank by the Chuperbita Pass, and under the lofty spur of a hill of the same name, and in the bed of the Goomani or Jumoonee Nullah, are three beds of coal extending to a distance of two miles, and one mile further North-east are traces of coal in the same nullah.	Captain Sherwill, 1851.
11.	North sixteen miles of No. 10, and twenty-four miles South of the Ganges, is the great Hurrah basin, with several outcrops of a slaty coal, associated with and underlying columnar basalt.	Captain Tanner, 1831.
12.	At the Bora Ghaut on the Gundaisree hill, which forms the northern boundary to the Hurrah basin, are traces of coal.	Captain Tanner, 1831.
13.	At the Motee Jhurna waterfall, overhanging Sikregullee on the Ganges, are traces of coal, but in small quantities. The coal appears to have been charred and disturbed by the basalt, in the heart of which igneous rock the coal in several instances appears enclosed in detached nests, twelve feet in length. A large rhinoceros-looking fossil-skull is seen embedded in the basalt. The summit of the hill, from whence the small stream forming the waterfall at this spot flows, is composed of basaltic columns, resting on non-columnar basalt which latter rock envelopes the coal.	Captain Tanner, 1831.

N. B.—There is an untraced bed of fresh-water limestone in the northern portion of the hills, four miles South of the Teleaghurhee Fort; and situated between the two small hamlets, Gurytee and Simurtollah.