

CHAPTEL II. HISTORY

The history of Manbhum district a portion of which was at first dhanbad subdivision and then upgraded as sub –district and ultimately separted as a district with certain additions has been outlined by Mr. coupland in chapter II of the District Gazetteer of Manbhum . Mr. couplands account was scrutinised by Mr. B.k. Gokhala I.C.S. settlement Officer of Chotanagpur who mentions in his final report of the suruey and settlement operations in the district of Manbhaum (1918-1925) published in 1928 that Mr. Coupland’s account is based on all the old records available and on the testimony furnished by archaeological ruins. The traditional family histories handed down in the families of the principal proprietors have been given at length in chapter XV of the Gazetteer;but as pointed out by Mr. coupland , very little of scientific value can be gathered from these traditions; which are coloured by the attempts of the proprietors to manufacture for themselves a Rajput origin . since the writing of the Gazetteer , the traditional histories have acquired more colour more colour merely by the passage of time and force of repetition while the value of the archaeological evidence has been further diminished by the washing away of several of the old ruins , by floods as at telkupi, and gradual deterioration of others owing to the action of the wind and sun.”

It was rather unfortunate that the Deputy commissioner’s record- room at purulia was burnt during the mutiny and no ancient documents were available in the dequity Commissioners’ office at purulia when Mr. Gokhala mentions the old documents in the commissioner’s office as well as in the offices of the board of revenue, Bengal ,which were examined did not yield any fresh material with which to supplement the history as written by Mr. Coupland or set up any alternative theory of developments in the district. In course of survey and settlement no rock inscriptions, copper-plates or old coins were discovered, though practically every corner of the district was covered by the Assistant settlement Officers. Not a single document on copper-plate or palm leaf was found which could throw any light on the past. The oldest authentic documents produced were all on paper and barely even a hundred years old.”

A brief summary of Mr.coupland’s account and his more important conclusions spear in the final report of the survey and settlement Operations and it is best to quote in extensor some of the paragraphs of this report although much of it now refers to the district of purulia in west Bengal was made over to west Bengal as an implementation of the recommendation of states Reorganizations Commission in 1956.

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The chapter on History in the Final Report of the survey and Settlement Operations in the district on Manbhum (1918-1925) published in 1928 mentions –

Early History .- Hardly anything known of the early history of the district with any degree of certainty .It cannot be definitely said how the name “Manbhum” originated . There can be, however, little doubt that Mundari of Kolarian races occupied the wild area south of Bihar in Pliny’s time . Buchannan suggests that the Mundari races are descended from that portion of the original population of Magadha, the ancient name for Bihar, which migrated south toward the great forest country of Chotanagpur, under pressure from the Aryan immigrants.

“In the seventh century A.D. some definite information is available about this part of the world from the account of the travels of Hieun Tsang. These accounts speak of a powerful kingdom ruled by S he-Shang-kia or Sasanka, who was famed as a great persecutor of Buddhists . His kingdom comprised all the petty hill states lying between Midnapore on the east and Sirguja on the west. The capital of this kingdom is variously placed by General Cunningham at or near Barabazar in *Pargana* Barahabhum , by Commissioner Mr.Hewett at Dalim in *pargana* Patkum where extensive ruins still exist and by Mr.Beglar at or near Safaran , some ten miles north-west of Dalmi on the banks of the Subarnarekha.

“Combining the theories of Colonel Dalton and Mr. Beglar, who are the two most important authorities on the subject, it would appear that the earliest civilization in the district was that of the Jains . The descendants of the Jains, the Saraks ,still exist in considerable numbers in the eastern part of the Sadar subdivision . Their ancestors are credited with having built the temples at Para, Charra, Baram and other places . Colonel Dalton places them in them in the districts as far back as 500 or 600 B.C. and ascribes them the ancient ruins at Dalmi, Telkupi, Pakbira and other places . According to Mr. Beglar the whole country was not extensively cultivated or populated like the plains of Magadha but there existed very important trade routes passing through the district and going from Tamluk (Tamralipta) to Patna (Pataliputra) , Gaya , Rajgir , and Banaras. The route from Tamluk to Patna probably passed through Raghunathpur, Telkupi and Jharia which would explain the extensive ruins at Telkupi

HISTORY.

on the banks of the Damodar. Another route from Tamruk direct to Banaras probably passed through Pakbira and Budhpur on the banks of the Kasai near Manbazar , and through Barabazar to Dalmi on the Subarnarekha; passing westwards further on through Ranchi and Palamau to Banaras . The ruins at Boram, Balarampur , Chharra , Para and Katras would then be explained by the existence of cross roads joining up these two main routes to Patna and Banaras. The fact that in these ancient times the merchants who are credited with having built these old temples, thought it worthwhile to spend such enormous sums of money at each of the big centres at each of the important river crossings, proves that the country was well governed and the roads kept free from dacoits and chuars, who in comparatively recent times gave Barabhum such an unenviable reputation. I also find it difficult to believe that at that time, Barahabhum was so full of *jungle*, as it was even at the time of Revenue Survey.

“Sometime before the seventh century A.D. the Jain civilization appears to have been superseded by Brahmins and their followers. The tenth century, judging by the evidence of such of the buildings as it is possible to date with any accuracy, saw the Brahmanical civilization at its prime . To this period is attributed the superimposition of the Brahmanical element on the old temples at Dalma, Telkupi, pakbira and other places. There does not appear to have been any fighting between the Brahmins and the Jains and probably the Brahmins gained supremacy by peaceful penetration and sheer force of intellect.

“The history of the Kolarian races in more recent times gives more than one illustration of their capacity for living for years in apparent peace with their neighbours and then suddenly rising and overwhelming them. Something of this sort must have happened sometime after the century when the Bhumij, possibly assisted by fresh migrations from the west, rose and destroyed the Brahmanical civilization , foot and branch. For the next five centuries history as such is non-existent. Under Bhumij *swaraj*, the trade routes were all stopped and the country was not even comparatively safe for the ordinary traveller . The old Hindu temples were either destroyed or what is more probable gradually became dilapidated through lapse of time and want of repairs.

DHANBAD.

“The migration of the Saraks from pargana Manbhum north-wards to Panchet , which is said to be due to and outrage committed by Man Raja on a girl belonging to their caste probably dates sometime about the beginning over the Bhumij *swaraj* which chiefly extended over the southern half of the district, south of the river Kasai.

“The Muhammadan Period :- So far as this area is concerned, there is no trace, even in tradition, of any Muhammadan invasion . To the Muhammadan historian, the whole of Chotanagpur was known as Jharkhand , being a disturbed frontier country , the barbarous inhabitants of which required special military precautions to keep them in check .In the *Bhabishyat* Puran, compiled in the 15th or 16th century, the country is described as overspread with impenetrable forests of sal and other trees and containing mines of copper , iron, and tin . The men are described as savage and irreligious, eating snakes and all sorts of flesh and living chiefly by plunder or hunting . the women are described as being in garb, manners and appearance more like *rakhasis* than human beings.

“In 1589 or 1590 during the reign of Akbar Raja Man Singh marched his troops from Bhagalpur through the western hills to Burdwan *en route* to reconquer Orissa ; and again a couple of years later he sent his troops through Jharkhand to Midnapur . On both these occasions he must have passed through portions of this district . The repairs to the old temples at Para and Telkupi which are traditionally ascribed to Raja Man Singh must have been thus effected at the end of the sixteenth century to which period also is ascribed the building of the Panchet fort . In spite of Raja Man Singh’s visits to Manbhum , however, so little was known about the country that in 1659 Prince Mohammad, son of Aurangzeb and Mir Jumla had some difficulty in getting information about the alternative route from Patna to Bengal passing through Jharkhand.

“**Panchet Estate** :- In 1632 or 1633 we get the first specific reference to Panchet in the Padi-Shah-Nama where Bir Narain, zamindar of Panchet, is described as a commander of 300 horses. In 1658 for the first time Panchet is shown as liable to a *Peshkush* or fixed tribute. In later records , references to Panchet are more numerous. The *Peshkush* was gradually increased, implying a greater degree of control from Murshidabad and it is possible that the abandonment

HISTORY.

of the Panchet fort about 1700 A.D. was a mere withdrawal of the zamindar to a less easily accessible portion of his zamindar to avoid pressure from the Nawab . The increase in the *Peshkush* was affected in the following manner as related by Sheristadar Mr.J.Grant.

“From the year 1135 to 1150 of the Bengal era (1728-43 A.D.) Raja Garur Narayan was subject to an annual tribute of Rs18,203 for the fiscal division of Panchet and the Kismat of Shergarh . In 1743 an additional charge of Rs .3,323 was levied from the estate in the form of the *abwab,chaut ,marhatta* imposed by Ali Vardi Khan . In 1170 (1763) the sarf-sikka or import imposed by Kasim Ali to cover losses on the exchange of coins,swelled the net assessment to Rs. 23,544. Muhammad Reza Khan in 1766 raised the demand to Rs.30,000, but only Rs . 5,969 was in fact collected during that year. In 1771 a *zor talab* or compulsory exaction of Rs. 1,44,954 including a *saranjami* or deduction for collection charge of Rs.17,302 was established ,and the demand enforced by military authority.

“During the Muhammandan period, it appears that Barahabhum and Manbhum were separate principalities constantly at war with Panchet but there is no mention of any of the other estates in the district or their relationship with Panchet . There is no evidence to show that any of these estates, except perhaps Pandra, paid any regular revenue to the Muhammadan rulers. The Muhammadan connection with Manbhum was thus of the very slightest .

“Early British Administration :- The territory comprised in the district of Manbhum was acquired by the British with the grant of the Dewani of Bengal , Bihar, and Orissa in 1765. Even as late as this , however, our knowledge of the district hardly extends beyond Panchet * A few years later Jhalda is described as a recent annexation of Panchet . The zamindari of Barahabhum and Manbhum were still independent kingdoms nominally attached to Midnapore, while Patkum and Baghmundi were included in Ramgarh , as also probably all the estates north the Damodar, with the possible exception of Pandra..

“The history of the district during the earlier years of British rule seems to have consisted of a series of small military

DHANBAD.

expeditions intended to bring the *chuars* and minor zamindars under control. The storm centre was at Barahabhum in the country of the Bhumij with the Raja of Manbazar or Manbhumi and the robber chiefs of Koilapal occasionally taking part with the *chuars*. In 1767 Lieutenant Fergusson led an expedition against Manbhumi and Barahabhum along with Dhalbhum as a result of which the Manbhumi and Barahabhum Rajas eventually agreed to pay Rs. 316-2-0 and Rs. 441-5-9 as revenue or tribute. In spite of this there was a succession of outbreaks up to 1773 when finally a detachment of sepoys was permanently stationed at Barahabhum to prevent a recurrence of these outbreaks.

“The history of the rest of the district seems to have followed a more peaceful but less interesting course. In 1782, the military road which is known as the “Old Benares Road” was constructed cutting right through the zamindari of Panchet. In 1782-83 Major Crawford quelled disturbances in Jhalda, Nawagarh and Jharia which by this time appear to have become subordinate to Panchet and the zamindars of which had started committing depredations and withholding rents. Disturbances continued at intervals parts of the it was not until 1796 when the Permanent Settlement of the area was finally effected that the whole district may be said to have come effectively under British control. Probably sometime before this the people in the area were disarmed on the recommendation of Major Crawford.

“As we saw in paragraph above in 1771 a *zor-talab* or compulsory exaction of Rs.1,44,954 including a *saranjami* or deduction of Rs. 17,302 was established in the case of Panchet and the demand enforced by military authority. The subsequent revenue history of Panchet may be quoted from the Gazetteer. “In the ‘gross medium settlement’ of 1777 with Raja Raghunath Narayan ‘the actual payment of Panchet, with the recent territorial annexation of Jhalda,’ is stated at Rs. 69,027. yet the amins had discovered sources of revenue amounting in all to Rs. 1,54,423 including *palatika* or revenue chargeable on lands that had been deserted by cultivators. Finally in 1783, the total assessment of same territory amounted to Rs. 76,532 charged with a deduction of about Rs. 57,000 for collection expenses. This, Mr. Grant points out, gives little more to the sovereign than the original tribute,

HISTORY.

and 'leaves a recoverable defalcation exceeding one lakh of rupees, if we take the *zor-talab* or compulsory exaction of 1771 as the proper standard.

"The early days of British rule were marked by a constant struggle between the authorities and the zamindar who was persistent in neglecting to pay the revenue demanded, and from time portions of the estate were made over, generally unsuccessfully, to farmers. Eventually the Decennial settlement was concluded in 1791 with the proprietor, and 18 months later, in March 1793, was made permanent and the revenue fixed at Rs. 55,794, this amount being arrived at by detailed assessment of every village within the zamindari, with the exception of the numerous rentfree grants, of which a list had been furnished by the zamindar as early as 1771. According to this list and the later one of rent-paying villages returned at the time of the Decennial Settlement, the whole estate consisted of 1,280 village, of which 404 only were *mal* of rent-paying, and 49 *khas khamar* or retained in the zamindar's hands. The zamindar included 388 *brahmoters*, 68 *debotars*, 2 *bhatjotars*, 2 *mahatrans* and 180 *Jagirs* held on quit rents and variously described as *moghuli*, *talabi* or *panchaki*, 57³/₄ villages were set aside as Digwari and over 200 villages were entirely rent-free; these latter form respectively the Digwari and revenue-free properties now borne on the district roll. The extent of these deductions from the area of the estate capable of paying a full rental no doubt accounts very largely for the low incidence of the revenue fixed, which works out at almost exactly half-an-anna to the acre on the total area of the estate. The revenue then assessed was made permanent in 1793 the estate being, at the same time made liable to a contribution or Rs. 1,754 annum towards the upkeep of the police a demand which continues to the present day."

After mentioning the introduction of the Permanent Settlement the Settlement Report mentions –

"Sale of Panchet in 1795 – In 1795 the Panchet estate was put up to sale for arrears of revenue and purchased by one Nilambar Mitra. The zamindar complained that the default and consequent sale was due to collusion between his Dewan and the Collectorate staff and prayed for the cancellation of the sale. But the authorities paid no attention. The zamindar then refused to allow the auction purchaser any footing in the estate and he was loyally supported by his tenantry.

DHANBAD.

Various attempts on the part of the Collector to form portions of the estate or to manage them *khas* were all defeated . By 1798 the whole of the estate was in a state of insurrection . The difficulties of the authorities were further increased by a fresh outbreak of the *chuars* in the south of the district and finally there was a complete climb down on the part of Government. The sale was set aside and the estate restored to the zamindar. It was probably this victory which emboldened his successor to adopt a defiant attitude towards Government during the Mutiny of 1857.

“The troubles in Panchet led to the transfer of the administration of this area from the Collector of Ramgarh to the Collector of Birbhum with a view to closer supervision. The Baghmundi zamindar was also indirectly benefited by having his estate restored to him though it had been confiscated a year or two before for participation in the *chuar* outbreaks . The case of Panchet seems to have forced on the notice of Government the desirability of supporting hereditary chiefs in their zamindari in view of the strong objection of the local aborigine to the rule of any but his hereditary chief . It was this fact which subsequently led to the introduction in this district of the Chhota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act VI of 1875.

“Regulation XVIII of 1805 - By Regulation XVIII of 1805 the Jungle Mahals District was constituted into separate magisterial charge with headquarters at Bankura. This Regulation made provision for police system under which, except in Panchet the zamindars themselves were made the police *darogas* and they provided and were responsible for the subordinate police . In Panchet where the area was too big for the zamindar to exercise personal supervision, the system was supplemented by a *thana* system of which the zamindar provided the cost. The next 25 years that followed were uneventful and saw the area brought under closer control . So far as the revenues administration was concerned things seem to have settled down to a certain extent though the Panchet zamindar taking advantage of his successful opposition in 1798 was almost constantly in arrears. On the whole, however, the period from 1805-1832 was one of peace and orderly progress.

“Ganga Narain’s Rebellion – Following immediately after the Kol rising in Singhbhum , Ranchi and Palamau, very serious disturbances broke out in 1832, arising out of

HISTORY.

a disputed succession in Barahabhum . The disturbances were confined more or less to the three southern *parganas*, Barahabhum , Manbhum and Koilapal and did no seriously affect the area included within the present operations . A full account of the outbreak together with a summary of its causes and results appears in the Gazetteer. The disturbances finally came to an end in 1833 the death of Ganga Narain , after which peace and order were again quickly restored .

“The state of things disclosed by Ganga Narain’s outbreak showed that Manbhum in common with Chhota Nagpur proper was not yet fit to be a regulation district .Hence Regulation XIII of 1833 was passed by which the district of the Jungle Mahals was broken up. The estates of Senpahari, Shergarh and Bishnupur were transferred to Burdwan and a new district called Manbhum with its headquarters at Manbazar constituted. This district included besides its present area the estates of Supur. Raipur, Ambikanagar, Simlapal, Bhelaidih, Phulkusma , Shamsundarpur, and Dhalbhum. In 1838 the district headquarters were removed to Purulia which was a more central and convenient place though then described as lying in the centre of the jungles Prior to the Mutiny , the only further changes were the transfer of Dhalbhum to Singhbhum and the change in title of the chief officers ,the Principal Assistant at Purulia becoming the Deputy Commissioner and the Agent to the Governor-General ,the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur .

“**The Mutiny of 1857** – During the Mutiny the Deputy Commissioner , Captain Oakes ,was obliged to abandon Purulia on account of the attitude of the local garrison consisting of 64 sepoy and 12 sowars. The garrison then looted the treasury , released the prisoners in the jail and marched off to Ranchi without creating any other serious disturbance within this district .In the absence of the sepoy and of any constituted authority, the jail birds and other bad characters led, it is said, by a member of the family of Panchet burnt the court house and the record-room and committed various other outrages at Purulia and on the road towards Raghunathpur . The Raja of Panchet, Nilmoni Singh , on being called upon to render assistance by the Deputy Commissioner had not only refused to do so but had declined to take any notice of the Deputy Commissioner on the pretext of having only a few with him who were all required to

DHANBAD.

Protect his grah . less then a month later, the Deputy Commissioner returned with reinforcements from Raniganj and arrested the Raja of Panchet and the absence of any other suitable leader, were probably the to reasons mainly responsible for the comparative freedom from trouble which Manbhum enjoyed during the Mutiny. The Santals were reported to be in a state of excitement but no actual outbreak occurred beyond a minor conflict between them and the zamindar of Jaipur which the latter was able to deal with without outside help.

“Later History – From the Mutiny onwards there has been no disturbance and the records show a steady advance in more systematic and well - organised administration.

When Hunter wrote his *Statistical Account of Manbhum*, in Hazaribagh . The causes to which he attributed this result may be quoted below :-

- (1) Large portions of Manbhum were , and still are, covered with dense forest; and the soil is not sufficiently productive to make it a profitable enterprise to clear the land for ordinary cultivation. The aboriginal and semi-aboriginal races, who subsist to a large extent on edible Jungle products, and content themselves with scanty crops which their rude systems of tillage yield, have therefore been left undisturbed in these wild tracts, which form a far larger proportion of the district of the district than the corresponding regions in Hazaribagh.
- (2) Although the Grand Trunk Road crosses both Manbhum and Hazaribagh, it passes through a comparatively small section of the former district, and had not yet exercised an influence over the southern portion, where the aboriginal races are found in the greatest strength.
- (3) The Bhumij Kols of Manbhum, the *chuars* or free booters of our early administrative history, are a stronger and more tenacious race than the Santals, who were driven from north-western Hazaribagh .In capacity for resisting the encroachments of Hindus, the Bhumij seem to stand midway between the Mundas of Lohardaga and the Larkas or Hos of Singhbhum, and to be hardly less exclusive than the latter race.

HISTORY.

- (4) In close connection with the foregoing point it may be urged that the Hindustanis, who have ousted the Santals from Hazaribagh, are more pushing and adventurous pioneers of civilization than the Bengalis of Manbhum. Indeed, it is not improbable that the tide of Bengali immigration into Manbhum dates mainly from the commencement of British rule; while it is certain that when we gained possession of Hazaribagh, we found the bulk of the landholders to be Hindus or Musalmans .
- (5) Lastly the Santal oral accounts of the various migrations of the race, after they left their original home, appear to point to the conclusion that they were driven by the gradual encroachments of Hindus to immigrate into Manbhum , where they are now settled in large numbers . Thus the expulsion of the aborigines from the former district was continually recruiting their numbers in the latter.

“A similar comparison made now would show how conditions in the two district have altered enormously during the last 50 years. It is large portions of Hazaribagh which are even now still covered with dense forest and Manbhum is for the most part devoid of jungle. The soil of Manbhum yields a far better rice crop than that of Hazaribagh and Manbhum and supports almost twice the density of population . So far as means of communication are concerned , Manbhum with its vast mileage of railway and road communications is far in advance . The Bengalis have more than made up for the lateness of their arrival in the country and Manbhum has been more nearly Hinduised than any other district in the division The total number of persons recorded as animists at the last census was 29,805 in Manbhum as against 65,869 in Hazaribagh. From the point of view of education and material prosperity Manbhum is now far in advance of Hazaribagh . Thus considered from every point of view the scales have been turned and Manbhum is now far in advance not only of Hazaribagh but in whole of Chota Nagpur. Whether Hazaribagh will again go ahead when the Karanpura and Rampur-Bokaro colfields are fully opened up is very difficult to say.

“Some of the most important events which occurred during the last 60 years will now be noticed below :-

The Revenue Survey:- The Revenue Survey Operations in the district spread over six year from 1861 – 1867 The progress of the operations will appear

DHANBAD.

from the following account taken from the note on the operations of the survey in Chota Nagapur . “The demarcations were commenced in 1861-62 . During the year nine *parganas* containing 1,715 villages covering an area of 1,072 square miles were demarcated. During 1862-63. 2,069 villages were surveyed covering an area of 1,427 square miles. 3,292 villages were also demarcated. During 1863-64, 992 square miles were surveyed of which 74 square miles were surveyed topographically . In addition 16 *parganas* were demarcated, seven *mauzawar* and nine *parganawar* equal to 195 running miles . The latter included 153 Ghatwali villages . During 1864-65, eight *parganas* were surveyed five *mauzawar* and three topographically . 390 villages containing Ghatwali lands covering an area of 400 square miles were demarcated and mapped. During . 1865-66, 1,034 square miles were surveyed comprising 941 villages two *parganas* only were surveyed *mauzawar* , the remainder of the work being topographical. During 1866-67, the survey was completed , nine *parganas* having been surveyed topographically with the exception of Ghatwali tenures which were demarcated – the remaining *parganas* were surveyed *mauzawar* .

“Considering the difficulties involved the operation were carried out with wonderful accuracy and the maps prepared were of very great help in the present operations, except in the case of village appearing on the margins of sheets where owing to the absence of margin *Milan* some glaring discrepancies were found to exist.

“The Revenue Survey disclosed some 3,000 villages in Panchet which appeared to have altogether escaped assessment at the time of the Decennial and the Permanent Settlements. In his letter now . 915, dated the 23rd April, 1867, the Commissioner solicited permission from the Board to institute resumption proceedings in respect of these villages. But this proposal was not sanctioned as it was considered inexpedient to sue under Regulation II of 1819 for the resumption of the lands in view of the insufficiency of material on which the claim was based. It appears probable that *tolas* or portions of villages were surveyed as separate villages at the time of Revenue Survey and that in reality so many as 3,000 villages had not escaped assessment. This view is supported by the recent High Court decision regarding Digwari villages

HISTORY.

in which it has been held that the Permanent Settlement was made in respect of all the lands included within the ambit of the Panchet estate excepting Digwari lands which were treated as part of the estate though excluded from assessment.

“It was during the course of Revenue Survey that Major J.R.Sherwell discovered the existence of coal in *parganas* Jharia , Katras and Nawagarh . He reported the facts with remarkable accuracy to the then Member of the Board of Revenue who was also the President of the Asiatic Society . The Sub divisional Officer of Gobindpur , Mr. C.N.Pierson, who was asked for a report on the subject corroborated Major Sherwell’s report in all particulars. Samples of the coal which were submitted were, however, declared by the Curator and Registrar of the Geological Museum , Mr. A Tween, to be of the poorest and most inferior quality and to be practically worthless, except perhaps for burning lime. Though Mr. Sherwell questioned the result of Mr.Tween’s analysis, the Local Government took a different view and thus lost for ever a glorious opportunity of acquiring the sub-soil right which the proprietors were then willing to lease out at the low rate of three rupees per *bigha* .

“Agrarian troubles in Tundi :- Agrarian troubles threatened in 1869 and 1870 between the *zamindar* of Tnndi and his Santal raiyats mainly over the question of enhancement of rent and jungle rights. Only the raiyats of 52 villages which had Santal Manjhi ijaradars were concerned in this affair but their attitude was such that the zamindar had to run away from Tundi and take refuge with his relative the zamindar of Katras . The tenants did not however so much dislike the zamindar as his Dewan who had been committing oppression on them in various ways . Finally affairs came to such a pass that the Commissioner, Colonel Dalton, had to interfere and exert his personal influence to bring about a settlement. According to the terms of the settlement which were embodied in his *rubakari* of 1870, the existing rents were made current for a further 7 or 8 years but the zamindar was assured of a moderate increase in rent at the end of that period That confirmed . The zamindar was also enjoined to have direct personal relations with his tenants and was forbidden to employ an agent . The informal settlement thus carried out was again renewed ten years later by Mr. Hewett , the Commissioner , and given effect to

DHANBAD

by Mr. Risley and again after a lapse of 20 years by Mr. Bradley Birt, both Subdivisional Officers of Gobindpur.”*

The formation of Manbhum district, the setting up of Dhanbad first as a subdivision, then as a sub-district and the ultimate creation for a separate district of Dhanbad with headquarters at Dhabad have been described elsewhere. A part of the later history has also been indicated in the texts on Law, Order and Justice and General Administration .

Regarding the formation of Manbhum district of the which the present district of Dhanbad then known as Gobindpur subdivision was a part of the district of Manbhum of which H. Coupland mentions as follows:-

“When it was first established in 1833 under Regulation XIII of that year, it included the estate of Dhalbhum, now attached to Singhbhum , besides a large of the present district of Bankura , and Shergarh , now a part of Burdwan In 1845 the estate of Dhanlbhum was transferred to Singhbhum , and in the following year, owing to a press of criminal cases, the fiscal divisions of Sherghar, Chaurasi, Mahisara , Cheliama, Chatna, Nalichanda, Bankhandi, Barpara, and portions of Banchas and Para were placed under the criminal jurisdiction of Bankura district , though remaining a part of Manbhum for revenue purposes . At this time the nominal area of the district was no less than 7,896 square miles comprised in 31 zamindariies . In 1871 Shergarh with part of Pandra (east of the Barakar river) was transferred to Burdwan , and Chatana and Mahisara to Bankura , while the criminal, jurisdiction of the remainder was re- transferred to Manbhum the civil, criminal and revenue jurisdiction being made conterminous . A further change in the jurisdiction of the district was made by the Government orders of the 27th September, 1879 by which *pargans* Supur, Raipur , Ambikanagar , Simlapal , Bhelaidiha , Phulkusma , and Shamsundarpur , comprising Raipur, Khatra and Simlapal *thanas* were transferred to Bankura district , thus reducing Manbhum to its present limits. The final change in jurisdiction originated in a representation made by Messrs. Gisborne & Co., who held a considerable portion of these *pargans* and with some reason complained of the inconvenience and hardship to people having to go to Purulia and Ranchi from these areas,

HISTORY.

the distances being great and also of the delay in disposal of cases in Manbhum which , they said was under-offecered , while work in Bankura was light.

Since 1879 no changes have taken place in the jurisdiction of Manbhum, though in 1904 it was seriously plated to cut off the whole of the northern subdivision , and form it with Raniganj into a separate district ,which would have contained within its boundaries the greater part of the existing coalfields of Bengal. Other counsels, however , prevailed and the main objections to the then existing arrangements were met by the removal of the headquarters of the Raniganj subdivision to Asansol , and more recently of the Gobindpur subdivision to Dhanbad , both of which places are more centrally and conveniently situated with reference to the actual coalfield areas.”

There are old English Correspondence Volumes in Manbhum Collect orate (now Purulia) which had been studied and some of the letters received and dispatched throw a flood of light on various matters in Govindpur subdivision for some decades after the creation of the subdivision .

Govindpur subdivision appears to have been created 1852. The first headquarters was at Bangsooma which in the old correspondence has also been spelt as Bagsooma . The headquarters was shifted to Govindpur and again a few years later to Dhanbad which used to be spelt before as Dhanbaid . Coomer Harrendra Krishna Deputy Magistrate and Post Master , Govindpur in a letter dated the 31st March, 1854 to the Principal Assistant Commissioner, Purulia had mentioned that Govindpur subdivision was created at the later end of 1852. He mentioned that “the establishment of the new police on the a Grand Trunk Road has put a stop to a vast extent the commission of crimes . The detection also has not been less. I have not yet been able to ascertain fully whether the criminal classes are protected and encouraged by the zamindars or other influential persons in this district .”

There is a statement of the Joint Magistrate of Govindpur as to the prices of labour and materials required for the annual repairs of 1853-54 to the Deputy Magistrate’s bungalow at Bangsooma on the Grand Trunk Road . It is interesting to find that carpenters and masons were available for Rs. 5 & 6 per anna per day , a woman coolie and a boy coolie for 9 pies per day. As regards prices some materials it may be mentioned that shell-lime was available at 20 seers per rupee ghooting-lime at Rs. 14 per 100 maund, grass bundles at 400 per rupee, bamboo per 100 for 1 rupee and 2 annas and nails at 5 seers per rupee. Large wooden posts (bullees) were available at 6 annas per piece while small posts for 3 to 4 annas per piece.



DHANBAD.

By 1853 it appears that a full-fledged post office at Govindpur was running under Coomer Harrendra Krishna, Post Master . On the 9th April, 1853 he had protested about the inadequacy of the contingent allowance of one rdupee per month . There are copies of several letters of Coomer Harrendra Krishna in the correspondence file for 1853 . Harrendra Krishna was the Deputy Magistrate at Govindpur and apparently the postal work was an additional function.

In one of the letters dated the 1st September 1853 he discusses the location of the police establishment on the Grand Trunk Road (station houses and Marhullahs). In this letter he mentions that “from one end to the other of the subdivision the Grand Trunk Road at places is either very high or low and places where the police has been stationed as such as the locations of them is absolutely required and the danger likely to meet with palpable. A single change to this admirable arrangement will deteriorate a great deal the usefulness of the force.”

Regarding *chuttes* and *serais* the correspondence is quite frequent, Mangles , the Magistrate at Govindpur on 21st August 1854 had reported to Captain G.N.Oakes at Purulia that there were four *chuttees* (small *bazaars* with *serais* or inns where travelers could stay) at Neersha, Govindpur .Rajabhitta and Topchancee . The Chowdhary of each of the *chuttees* in Govindpur subdivision received from Government a salary of Rs. 4 per month . The Chowdhary was the agent of the Govindpur to look to law and order and particularly to procure provision for the troops that may halt at *chuttee* or for other Government purposes . The Chowdhry of *chuttee* Govindpur claimed that he could provide for a whole regiment without previous notice . But the Chowdharies of Neersha , Rajabhitta and Topchancee could not this . At Govindpur there were 40 *moodies* , at Neersha 18 and about 23 at Rajabhitta and Topchanchiee respectively . All the *chuttees* could supply rice dal and salt in large quantities .In *chuttees* Govindpur grain of various kinds , ghee , flour , oil and tobacco could be found . Water was available at all the *chuttee* from neighboring rivers, tanks, or wells.Neersha *chuttee*, however, did not have a good supply of water and it had to be procured from a small river about a mile distant . Hackberries could be obtained at each of the *chuttees*. The four *chuttees* had encamping grounds close by . The encamping grounds were elevated and well turfed. The encamping grounds were looked after and the regiments halting there could always get necessary food water from the *chuttees*.

From a letter dated the 7th March , 1859 from A.P.S.Moucriff to Captain Oakes, Principal Assistant Commissioner of Manbhum ,it appears that Mangles had obtained in 1855 to build *serais*

HISTORY.

at all the *chutties* at a cost not exceeding to Rs. 50 each and the *serais* at Topchancee , Rajabhitta, Govindpur, Neersha, * and Neamutpur were let out to private parties and were giving a regular return. The charges made at the *serais* were for keeping of two bullocks, 1 pice, four bullocks , 2 pice and so on. Moucriff pointed out that excepting the *serai* at Govindpur which was given a *pucca* wall the other *serais* required repairs. The *serais* were too small to contain half the hackerees that wanted to stay . He thought it would be better if Govindpur instead of keeping up those *serais*, sell the ones now in their possession by public auction by and give licences to any private parties wishing to make *serais* at their own account charging 20 or 30 rupees annually for licence.

In 1855 encamping grounds were paid a good deal of attention. There is long letter from Mangles to G.N.Oakes, Principal Assistant Commissioner ,Purulia dated the 2nd June , 1855 in which he discusses the position of the encamping grounds and mentions that “the construction of encamping grounds from Calcutta to the Carumnasa ought however to be on one systematic plan and the arrangement for supplies and carriage ought to be similarly carried out.”

I. H. Mangles was a Joint Magistrate of Govindpur in 1855 and some of his letters give us a picture of the administrations of his subdivision the headquarters of which was later removed from Bagsooma to Govindpur. In a letter dated the 6th March , 1855 from Mangles to Captain G.N.Oakes ,Senior Assistant Commissioner of Purulia, it appears that there were three *thanas* in Govindpur subdivision and only one of them , viz Rajabhitta was conducted by a regular police establishment . The two other *thanas* Pandra and Tundi were under an Illakadar or zamindaree police . Mangles found the regular police establishment of Rajabhitta inefficient and “the burkandages were accustomed to consider the travelers of the Grand Trunk Road fair objects of plunder”. The zamindaree* police at Pandra and Tundi * were thoroughly useless and the police powers were being used by the zamindars for oppression of the people . Mangles noted that the quarrels about land were the cause of most of the crimes and the Illaladar or zamindar was an interested party in such quarrel, “he is certainly most unfit to investigate or repress”.Mangles took a good deal of interest to develop the roads of the subdivision . Mangles had set up on his own a modern *serai* at Govindpur on the Grand Trunk Road . He had taken a plot 121 feet by 112 feet surrounded by a mud wall covered in 8 feet high with a long shed along one side for cooking and sleeping in and a large gateway opening to the Grand Trunk Road . On the 1st May, 1855 he wrote that the *serai* had opened for one week only

DHANBAD.

and was already well patronized. He wanted Government sanction of the construction money as a loan. He mentioned that the travelers resting there commonly say “we have heretofore been obliged to watch, we can sleep in peace tonight”. From this letter appears that the Grand Trunk Road used to be patrolled by the Magistrates occasionally and dacoities were very common. Mangles was of the firm belief that the travellers would certainly prefer to property to the *serais* run by the Zamindars .

There is a letter dated the 10th September, 1855 from H.C.Bernard, Joint Magistrate, Govindpur to the Principal Assistant Commissioner at Purulia pointing out the necessity of the transfer of Chirkoondah Marhullah to Govindpur Road police establishment .From this letter it appears that although the ‘Marhullah’ of Chirkoondah was situated about 200 yards this of the Barakar river and within the Jemadaree of Neersha in Govindpur the Marhullah police were under the Joint Magistrate of Raneegunge . Bernard further pointed out that the Barakar river should be the eastern boundary of the Govindpur subdivision and that 9 *mauzas* on this side of the river within Chirkoondah Marhullah jurisdiction be added to Govindpur jurisdiction . It may be mentioned that this idea was later carried out .

1857 INSURRECTIONS

The old Correspondence Volume for 1857 and the years following naturally have some information regarding the insurrection of 1857 and its aftermath. It has to be remembered that the Record Room of Purulia has been burnt down and most of the records went into the flames and it is a wonder that these correspondence volume were salvaged . From a latter of the Inspector of Jails Lower Provinces to the District Magistrate dated the 30th September, 1857 it appears that bad characters who were sentenced above three years to serve were sent to Alipur Jail under proper guard . G.N.Oakes , Principal Assistant Commissioner, Manbhum wanted further to send the prisoners sentenced from 2 to 3 years confinement as well to some other Jail as the Purulia Jail was rather insecure for such men and requested the Inspector of Lower Provinces to suggest where they could be sent. **It may be mentioned that Capt. E.I.Dalton, Officiating Commissioner of Chotanagpur in a letter no.66, dated the 19th April, 1858 had mentioned that along with other district also in Chotanagapur had landlords who not as a body help in Mutiny of 1857 . Dalton thought that most of the rural population were favorable to Government although they could not resist the temptation of following any who will lead them on the plundering expedition . From another letter it appears that ironsmith of Jhalda and Sillee in the Sadar subdivision now Purulia**

HISTORY.

district had supplied the Porahat rebels with **mathlocks**. One aghoo Deo was arrested who made a confession and produced o matchlocks all quit new . The confession prisoner was convicted by Dalton and hanged.

From some letters in the Old Correspondence Volume for 1862 it appears that certain Sanatal had been convicted for plundering the house of many persons withhim thana Class in the wake of the troubles in 1857 . There were also similar plundering of property in villages in the subdivisions of Govindpur by the Santals . In 1862 G. N. Oakes was asked as to whether these Santals convicted for looking properties in Govindpur subdivision could be released or not as they served out a part of the offence. G. N Oakes as Deputy Commissioner said that he had no objection to their release .

POLICE ORGANISATION.

Some of the police thanas at that time were run by the zamindars and some by the Government , The zamindari police and Darogas were under a certain amount of control of the District Magistrate and the Police Chief who used to supervise their work and inspect their registers . An old document lays down certain rules relation to the conduct of cases and for commitments for the guidance of all zamindari police in the Chotanagpur division which is available in the Old Correspondence Volumes for 1858 . The *Darogas* of zamindari police were furnished with blank for a diary , the pages of which were to be signed and numbered by the Magistrate of his Assistant before it leaves the office . Daily occurrences were brought to the notice of the police officers and all orders issued and steps taken were to be recorded in this book . It appears that the Daroga used to record the statement of the prosecutor information on oath or a solemn affirmation and them the original was to be dispatched to the Magistrate . It was further mentioned that the officer in charge of the district would take every opportunity of carefully examining the original diary . No deposition of witnesses examination or confession of the prisoners were to be recorded at all by the police . The police might , however , act on admissions Voluntariy made and use them as clue to evidence . If evidence as to admission was to be sent to prisoners named witnesses on their behalf , the Daroga thought that the accusation against the prisoner was not substantiated, he would immediately admit the accused to bail and submit a concise report to the Magistrate. If appears that the police was to gradually withdraw police powers from landholders and invariably the powers were withdrawn during the period when their estates were under attachment or whenever the zamindars were found misconducting themselves.

DHANBAD.

The rural police of Manbhum could be divided into Jagirdars (TabedarsP) , Ghatwals (Sardars, suddyals, Tabedars), Digwars , Choukidars and Goraitis , The Jagirdars originally rendered a double service , one to the zamindar in guarding his castle and the other to the public and Government , viz ., in preserving the peace and assisting the regular police. Jagirdars were repaid by a grant of land with a small rent . Slowly his services rendered to the zamindar police . The tenures of the Jagirdars came into existence from before whom were five hundred Tabedars in Manbhum . The relative number of Tabadari tenures were usually hereditary *and were mostly found in panchet.*

The Ghatwals were originally the guardians of ghats or hill passes and their duty was to protect travelers , keep the Jangles clear of dacoities and to trace offenders . The Ghatwals were also expected to give aid to people . Under them were suddyals and Tabedars . The suddyals were middlemen transmitting orders from the sardar Ghatwal to the Tabedars collecting the rents of the Ghatwals lands.

The duties of the Digwars were precisely similar to that the Ghatwals except that they were not found in charge of ghats.

In 1864 the number of sardar Ghatwals and Digwars was 604, of suddyals and Tabedars 2,076 , The land held by the sardar Ghatwals and Digwars varies in extent , some holding as much as eleven mouzas while the average hold only one . At this time there were 2,772 choukidars in Manbhum. In a few instances they were paid by a small amount of land but generally by a tax levied on the villages. The choukidars who have chakran land were succeeded by sons or heirs . The choukidars rendered police work while the Goraitis were more of the zamindars over servants and merely rendered aid for the zamindars police works in a general way. The system had not worked well and had thrown more power to the zamindars. According to Money , Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum the choukidars were usually cognizant if not accessories of offences. Regulations for the control of the rural police were taken up by the Deputy commissioner in right earnest . The Digwars, sardars and Ghatwals were saddled with full responsibility with respect of crime that occurred within their own districts. The general standard in the care of rural police was lower than the regular police force . Hereditary considerations were the rule in filling up vacancies in the rural police force was not always very good . The incidence of crime had definitely gone up in 1866. poverty was one reason . There was widespread distress and more want of food and rather than want of money .

HISTORY.

Money was vigilant about the rural police. He toured extensively through the south – east of the district and found that at places the police were working inefficiently and not helping the starving people. He was particularly anxious that the growing crops should be protected “from the depredations committed by the starving people.” The letter to Capt. Judge, District Superintendent of police of Manbhum on the 17th October 1866, gave a series of instructions are promptly carried out, I hope the safety of the crops will be ensured. As the Ghatwals are just sufferers from famine and many of the lower grades are labourers and as badly off as they were starving neighbours, it is to be feared that unless sharply looked I should have sufficient constables in the pargana to go continuously round the ghats to see that these Ghatwals are at their posts.” Money was in constant touch with S.Hugg, Chairman of Bengal and Orissa Relief Committee.

R.C. Money on the 6th February, 1867 had recorded his observation on the disposition of police forces in Manbhum district and held that the matter required very great revision. He found the arrangement by which Govindpur was left to the care of an Inspector bad and the result had been shown during the famine.

If the Assistant Commissioner and the Assistant Superintendent were together at one station naturally there would be unofficial intercommunication. There was no Assistant Superintendent of police at Govindpur and the Inspector there had few ideas beyond obtaining convictions. Money found that neither the Inspector of police nor the Assistant Commissioner, had much idea of the extent of the famine in Govindpur Subdivision. The Digwars had not been properly controlled and the dacoity cases had not been properly supervision the Digwars would not have neglected their duty. Money wanted that Govindpur should have an Assistant Superintendent at headquarters with two Inspectors. He further recommended that without reading and writing Bengal no police men should rise above a post of constable. Each outpost should be under a head constable. The Inspector and the Sub-inspector and the Sub – Inspector under him would have to visit every village in his subdivision every month and so keep a record having done so.

JUDICIAL STAFF.

Inefficiency of Judicial staff was noticed and adversely commented upon. The Deputy Commissioner wanted more staff and thought the for too small staff led to inefficiency. The upper Judicial and Executive staff was also not sufficient. The staff at sadar subdivision of purulia consisted of (1) the Deputy Commissioner who was

DHANBAD.

Magistrate , Collector and Orincipal suddar Amin , (2) Assistant Commissioner with full Magisterial and Collectorate power and principal sadar Amin , (3) Assistant Commissioner who is Deputy Collector, (4) A Munsif with 1st Class Magisterial power and a Munsif as well. One Munsif was posted at each of the places Chatnah , Raghunathpur and Manbazar .

Mr. Money compared the volume of work in 1866 with the volume of work in the Inspection Report of Rickett in 1854 and showed how the work has increased. He mentioned “I think it will be seen at a glance that the increase of an establishment between 1854 and 1866 is not sufficient to provide for satisfactory performances of increase in work .” Money gave his suggestion for increasing the staff.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS

It appears that in 1858 lawyers were ordered to be retained for conducting the civil and criminal cases for and or behalf of the Government . In his letter no . 109, dated the 28th December, 1858, Dalton , Commissioner of chotanagpur reported to A.R .Young . Secretary to the Government of Bangal that considerable difficulties were being felt in Manbhum district where suite in which Government was a party were of frequent occurrence for the want of a duly competent person to assist in preparing the pleading and watching the interest of Government was engaged in Hazaribagh district for similar purposes. Dalton pointed out that in the Lohurdugga district such cases were not frequent but as several estates of rebels had recently been confiscated and there was shortly to be a settlement of pergunah Palamau in the course of which intricate question would be raised, it was desirable that the services of a good Vakil should be permanently entertained . Lohurdugga district now Ranchi at that time had the present district of Palamau as a part of it .

Dalton further pointed out that in criminal in the three district of Manbhum , Hazaribag and Lohurdugga the practice of having a counsel for the prosecution on the part of the Government was seldom resorted to and when though necessary an officer of the court was seldom resorted to and when though necessary an officer of the court was directed to undertake the duty which was very inefficient and objectionable method . Dalton recommended that “there should be a public prosecutor both for civil and criminal cases” and pointed out that “in many miscellaneous matters such as the rights of government to unclaimed property of the zamindars, Government was very badly represented”. He mentions in that letter that the interests of the zamindars are in such generally opposed to the interest of Government but as they are also the officers of the police there is no one else to report them. Dalton recommended that a Government Vakil be allowed for each of the three district mentioned before and that one for Ranchi will also look after the cases in the

HISTORY.

Commissioner's court. It will be interesting to mention that he had recommended Rs. 20 per month for the Government *Vakil at Ranchi*, Rs. 20 per month for Manbhum and Rs. 15 per month for Hazaribagh..

LANDMARKS, ADMINISTRATIVE .

The police administration of including the subdivision of Govindpur was described by G.N. Oakes, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhm to the Commissioner in a dispatch no . 27, dated the 28th January , 1862 . This is an interesting document and shows that there were 5,066 villages in the district including the subdivision of Govindpur and a population of 670, 855 souls. For the population and the villages there were 2,769 Chouridars, 629 Digwars, sardars ,Ghatwals and 2,266 Tabedars or a total of 5,664 village police and less than 1 per cent to the population. of 670 ,885 souls For this population and the villages there were 2,769 chouridars , 269 digwars, sardars, Ghatwals and 2.266 Tabedars oe a total of 5,664 village police and less than 1 per cent to the population . Oakes mentioned that there were many insignificant villages which had no choukidars at all and also some villages that had two or more choukidars . According to Oakes , the Choukidars in many instances were unpaid or very irregularly paid . The highest pay was Rs .36 per year and the lowest annas 6 per year .The villages in the which choukidar s pay does not amount to more than annas 6 did not contain more than six huts . 669 choukidars belonged to the substation of Govindpur . The digwars, sardars, Ghatwals and also a few choukidars had lands given to them instead of cash patment . Oakes proposed that the district of Mabhum with 3,696 squire miles could be will divided into nine subdivision each of which would contain one police station and eight outposts. A total number of 441 constables would be required giving to each police station one head constable and one constable and to each outpost one sergeant and four constables. The average number of villages which every constable would have to see daily would be about 14. Oakes pointed out that he would require a reserve body for any emergency and also a number for performing the duties of new road police in Grand Trunk Road and for all this he would require 300 man and so the total number of constables including head constables and sergeant would be 471. From another latter it appears that the road between Govindpur and Ranchi was under construction in 1862 and weekly reports were insisted on.

In 1864 the roads of govindpur subdivision were taking shape . The road from Govindpur to Ranchi was the particular obligation of the Assistant Commissioner who also was improving the station roads, road round ketka and Landiha. Road Mohurrirs were appointed and it was difficult to find contractors. Rupees 5,00 per year used to be spent in clearing the jungles of both sides of the Grand Trunk Road . the Commissioner Dalton had issued an order in December 1864 that the zamindars were obliged to keep the roads

DHANBAD.

within their jurisdiction clear of jungles as they were bound to afford protection to travelers. Dalton was very keen to give ever possible encouragement to settlers on the sides of the road.

GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

Grand Trunk Road was the principal trans-district artery and naturally Grand Trunk Road had to be given a certain amount of particular attention. Regulation XIV of 1807 required that the persons in charge of the public Satais should give the police daily reports of the arrival and departure of the travelers and of all persons the suspicious appearance. The *Chattis* throughout the area were patronized by thousands and thousand of travelers who were perpetually on the move specially on the roads leading to Jagarnath. Mostly they traveled on the foot and had to eat and sleep at the *Chattis* on the roadside. A letter mentions “these *Chattis* are kept most of them by *Modis*- the generality of whom are accomplices of thieves and robbers who plunder the unfortunate travelers whenever a fitting opportunity occurs. The Commissioner Young of Burdwan had suggested to the Secretary to the Government of the Bengal that the keepers of the *Chattis* should be obliged to take out a license. This license would give the privilege of receiving travelers at certain rates and compelling the payment of certain charges. It would oblige them to receive and give accommodation to all way farers and to protect and be responsible for all the property so long as it was in their premises..... It would of course be necessary to protect such men as would take out the license for loss by declaring it a penal offence for any one without license to follow the same calling.

Highway robbery case on Grand Tank Road particularly in the Govindpur subdivision was quite common. Even parcel vans going to the north-western provinces by Grand Trunk Road were subjected to highway robbery case within the Govindpur subdivision. Bullock –cart trains moving in the night were frequently attacked. There was one such serious highway robbery case at Tantua village on the Grand Trunk Road on October, 1861.

The Grand Trunk Road of course had received much more importance as the main artery because of the 1857 disturbances.

RECRUITMENT OF COOLIES.

At this time it appears a large number of coolies recruiters used to move about throughout the district and recruit coolies . R.C Money , Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum in this latter no. 797, dated the 15th June, 1863, reported to the Commissioner of Chotanagpur that as on register had been kept in this office either of coolie recruiters or of emigrants nor were licenses issued for recruitment and countersigned , he was unable to given any correct statistical information . In the Govindpur area complaints had been made and

HISTORY.

provide against recruiters. The classes that emigrated were Kols, Santhals, Bhoomiz Rajwars, Koormees, Harrees Hawrre and Jolahas. But the two classes that formed the bulk of recruiters were Bhoomiz and santhals and most of them went to Mauritius. From Govindpur subdivision a very large number of recruits used to be sent to Assam and Cochar. Money reported that the recruiters used to prowl about on the Trunk Road and pick up travellers. Money thought that the rule of paying recruiters head money on the coolies recruiters was bad and they had better be paid fixed salaries. He thought that the recruiters must be controlled and particularly mentions the case of a female emigrant who was with a recruiter against her own will and the recruiter against her own will and the recruiter said that he had bought her for two rupees eight annas.

Money wanted a ruling from the Commissioner if he had any option and was just obliged to countersing as many licenses as were brought to him by the coolie recruiters. It was the considered opinion of Money that most of the coolies were under incorrect views as to what is there in future. The coolies were imported under false pretence and hence they were later found to be insubordinate in gardens. On an arrival at the a tea plantation, Money thought the coolie found his life not to the easy one he expected, his wages were small, work extremely hard and a desertion was a breach. According to Money the coolie should be made to sign the contract in presence of the Magistrate and the magistrate should explain to the coolie the terms. Money wrote that his district was overrun with coolie recruiters and while few coolie were brought for registration much more were taken away. He also thought many girls were enticed away from their houses and husbands.

There are interesting letters to show that Money took a very strong view against the manner in which coolies were being recruited by the agent of the Labour Transport Company. There were cases where the coolies in purulia had died at deport and owing to over congestion in the coolie barracks cholera had broken out. Mr. Money wanted that coolie recruitment should abate.

An interesting document in the Old Correspondence Volume of 1867 is a report that the recruitment of the labourers for the tea district was affecting the agricultural interests. It was mentioned that the persons recruiting for labourers for the tea district instead of taking whole families took only persons fit for labour. It was suggested that it would be much better if the recruiters took away whole families.

FAMINE AND SCARCITY.

Famine and scarcity condition in 1866 was a major problem in Manbhoom district. There are quite a number of important letters about famine conditions and the steps taken to combat. Depots were opened at different places where the starving people

DHANBAD.

who were unable to work were given rice. The zamindars of Barabhum, Ambikanagar was taken up to give work for such people who were physically fit to work. The Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Money in his letter 309, dated the 5th June, 1866, reported to the Commissioner that arrangements had been made to give gratuitous relief to 450 people daily and work to 1,000 persons daily. The price of the rice at Barabazar had risen from –[12]-to 9 seers per rupee, at purulia – [12]- to 7½ seers per rupee. The dacoity cases owing to starvation had gone up tremendously. The Modis (grain merchants) were combining at most place and refusing to sell although they had sufficient stock, Relief centers at Bbarabhu were largely attended. The construction of a road between Purulia was recommended by Money as offering work to the able bodied people. Grain dacoity in Barabhum had increased to such an extent that there or four were committed every night. There was no attempt to conceal the motives and freely confessions were made that as there was no food for two or three days they could do nothing but committed robbery. In a latter 342, dated the 12th June, Money reported: “There is fearful distress among the Santhals, Bhoomiz, Harrees Bawree and such tribes known by the general terms Chauhars. Thousands of these people have nothing to feed on but the grass, roots of trees and the seed of the *sal* tree. Many have died of starvation or diseases caused by it and the distress is daily increasing.” He controverted the idea that there was any desire on the part of these Chauhars to rebel or cause disturbance. The dacoits were committed because of hunger and it was just possible that some of the Manbhum Chauhars being on the border had committed some dacoities in Midnapur district. Money felt that this distress was likely to go on increasing for two or three months and strongly urged import of grain and disposing of it among the starving Chauhars. He thought that the means taken by the Relief Committee were not adequate. The rural police had been affected by the prevailing distress and some *Ghatwals* who were poorer were mixed up with dacoity cases. He wanted grains to be imported and given to the poorer *Ghatwals* of whom there were some 2,000 or 3,000 in the districts. In another letter, dated August 8, 1866, Money informed the Secretary to the Board of Revenue that rice was selling in purulia at 4½ seers per rupee and was so dearer in other districts and the distress was rapidly increasing.

Cholera had also broken out and owing to heavy rains and impossibility of getting carts he had received only 1,001 maunds of rice that the Government had sent. He mentioned “The scarcity is so great that I am obliged to accept contracts at whatever rates they were offered and I have just asked for 100 carts at annas 13 per maund, the usual rate being annas 4 per maund.” He strongly urged the necessity of sending more rice from Calcutta. He mentioned that although the bazar rate is 4½ and 5 seers they were



HISTORY.

selling Government rice $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and there by committing a direct infringement of the rules on the subject but the emergency made him to do so . He mentioned “The Government rice to not only rising favourably and by selling at $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers I am able to afford those who were willing to buy the means of purchasing food .” On 20th August 1866 Money addressed a frantic letter to the Assistant Commissioner of Govindpur as to why he had not sent any report on the state of the people and the distress in spite of repeated request s. In this latter Money mentioned that zamindars of Jharia had reported 600 deaths in the *parghna* from starvation and the Rani of pandra was feeding 1,7000 starving people daily and there were similar reports from other quarters . He mention “ if this is the case it is evident that relief is greatly needed in some parts of the subdivision and the Committees are prepared to open fresh depots wherever needed” . He asked the Assistant Commissioner to send a weekly report as to the state of each *pargana* in the subdivision . According to Money’s information there was more distress all along the Trunk Road .

He asked the Assistant Commissioner to Bankura and make arrangements for sending immediately the remainder of Government rice . From another latter it appears that the work at the centre of Government grain at Barakar was extremely heavy and a Special officer was sent there to work the centre. It appears that this officer was one C. Dalton was asked to take to full charge of the centre and the instruction urged “ make what further arrangements may be necessary to make the contractors to bring the rice over here now to good order .” In another letter , dated the 10th September , 1866, that Money sent to the Rani of pandra, he complimented the Rani for the liberal manner in which she was treating her poor raiyats in the famine and this was in great contrast to the apathy shown by the zamindars of the other district with the exception of the Barabhum and Jharia Rajas .

In this letter 1066, dated the 31st October, 1866 , to S. Hugg, he gave a general survey of famine measures. From this letter we find that there were exclusive of the subdivision at Govindpur 22 depots . These depots . were expected to be closed towards the end of December. He discussed about the money grants and the rice subsidies and thought that it would be a calamity if the deport were closed earlier. He gave figures and wanted Rs . 13,000 for running the 22 depots till the end of December. Greatest distress had prevailed to the south – east of the district . The combination of the Modis particularly at purulia was breaking and the situation was easing up . Work was provided on the district roads and the depots were daily weeded by those who can work and was being drafted into the roads. Unfortunately , Money had to work here against the server outbreak of cholera as well. Even the courts were affected and very few of the Amlas were attending regularly. At one point

DHANBAD.

Money was asked to close the court but he would not do so and carried on the work as best as he could. As a result there was an accumulation of cases and a lamentable detention of witnesses.

TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.

Another document no. 1244, dated the 25th February, 1859, from C. I. Buckland, Junior secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the commissioner of Burdwan Division shows that the villages Bormooree, Churkoonda, Rapunshara, Doomurkoonda, Jagaradee, Notoongram, Chanch, Khyrkyaree were transferred from the criminal Jurisdiction of Ranigangj and Bankura to that of Govindpur and Manbhoom, the river Barakar constituting the boundary line between the two districts.

PRICES.

It will be interesting to give the court prices of rice and another crops in 1867. Rice was quoted at 31 seers per rupee in Katras, but if measured by the Govindpur seer would be between 27 and 28 seers per rupee.

AGRARIAN TROUBLES ---- ZAMINDARS

The documents in the record Room Old Correspondence volumes were studied. They show that there were agrarian troubles between 1869 and 1870 between the zamindar of Tundi and his santal raiyats mainly on the question of enhancement of rent and jungle right. Only the raiyats of 52 villages which had santal manjhi *izaradars* were concerned in this affair. But their attitude was such that the zamindar had to run away from Tundi and take refuge with his relatives, the zamindar of katras. Finally the Commissioner Col. Dalton had to interfere and exert his personal influence to bring about a settlement. According to the terms of settlement which were embodied in this rubkari of 1870, the existing rents were made current for a moderate increase of rent at the end of that period. The tenants had their rights in the land and in jungles confirmed. The informal settlement thus carried out was again renewed 10 years later by Mr. Hewett, the commissioner, and given effect to by Mr. Risley and again after a lapse of 20 years by Mr. Bradley Birt, both subdivisional Officers of Govindpur.

In 1881 there were again santal risings here and there in the north part of this subdivision comprising mainly Tundi P.S. The Government were taking a census, and enquiries about family affairs, as usual, tended to rouse the suspicion and anxiety among ignorant people. There were riots in several places. In one of the riots, the Magistrate's house was burnt down, and in another the Magistrate himself was held prisoner for something by the santals. Near about the same time there had been much excitement among the Santals on account of a preaching crusade carried on by a religious mendicant or Yogi known as the Babaji. Clad in wood and

HISTORY

iron, and professing to live entirely on grass and to be able to perform all types of miracle he went through the santal country preaching a new religion. He had many followers among the sandals who used to destroy their pigs and house to denounce their demon gods and showed more inclinations to Hindu orthodox. During the riots the Babaji was also suspected and he was arrested by the police. The movement, however, soon fizzled out.

In 1896-97 there was a serious failure of crops in Tundi area and the Christian Mission at Pokharia did very good work in alleviating the distress of the people. For sometime the mission had to support about 5,000 persons every day. The name of Dr. Campbell of pokharia Mission became a household work in that area. The mission also excavated two tanks at pokharia and constructed and repaired Portions of the road up to Gobindpur. Any history of Dhanbad district should have a reference to the land tenures and indication of the story of the old zamindarsies. There were five revenue – paying zamindari in the Dhanbad subdivision, namely, Jharia, Nowagarh, katras, pandra, and Tundi which have now been abolished and vested in the state of Bihar under the Bihar Land Reforms Act. The land tenures were governed by Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1869, chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 and chotanagpur Encumbered Estates Act of 1908.

DHANBAD, A DISTRICT --- COLLIERIES

As mentioned before Dhanbad continued as a part of Manbhum district from 1833 to 31st October, 1956. With the decision of the states Reorganisation Commission Dhanbad sub-district with two other thanas, namely, Chas and Chandankiari was upgraded into a district. This district has now got two subdivisions-- Dhanbad and Baghmara. Three thanas, Topchanchi, Bhagmara and Katras were excluded from the Dhanbad subdivision of Baghmara. The Deputy Commissioner and the two subdivisional officers stay at Dhanbad. The Official quarters at Baghmara are not yet ready (1962). Originally the name of Dhanbad was Dhanbaid which seems to have been derived from word 'dhan' (paddy) "baid" (3rd class), i.e., third class paddy land. When Mr. Luby was the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad in 1918, he dropped the letter "I" and made it Dhanbad, instead of Dhanbaid and by carrying on Correspondence got it approved by the Government.

Prior to 1861, there was nothing particularly noteworthy about Dhanbad then known as Govindpur subdivision, and the headquarters of the subdivision was at Govindpur, situated on the north-east of Dhanbad at a distance of seven miles lying on the Grand Trunk Road. The development of the collieries and industries among with the opening of the Grand chord line of the them East Indian

DHANBAD.

Railway in about 1901 led to an all – round development and rapid growth of population of the subdivision was 2,77,122 in 1901 as compared with 2,21,434 in 1891, the density being 345 persons to the square mile . Between 1891 and 1901, the growth of population in the Govindpur subdivision rose by 25.1 per cent. The south- eastern part of the subdivision comprising the police station of Dhanbad and Jharia and Katras, constitutes the Jharia coalfield , the rapid development of which between the years 1894 and 1901 accounts for the large increase in the population of the subdivision as returned in 1901. During the succeeding years the development had been even more marked, and there were in 1908 no less than 281 collieries at work in this area employing a daily average of 72,000 labourers. A portion of the Ranigang coalfield falls within the eastern part of the subdivision (P.S. Nirsa and Chirkunda). In 1908 Dhanbad became a subdivision , and the headquarters were transferred from Govindpur to Dhanbad . Between 1911 and 1921 the increase in population of Dhanbad subdivision is 5,71,635 . According to 1961 census the total population of Dhanbad Subdivision is 7,41,604 . The great increase is due to the areas recently added and the siting of a large number of important Government institutions in this district besides the rapid strides in industrilisation. These features have been covered elsewhere . It may be mentioned that very soon Dhanbad will be one of the most highly industrialized belts in India . Dhanbad district is now a cosmopolitan area inhabited by people from all parts of India who carry on collieries and other industries , various kinds of trades and professions in private and public sectors and under the Government . The present history of the district since its creation is covered in different chapters.

The phase of the development of coal mining in the district had started since about 1860. it is this phase which transformed the entire area from Jharia to Govindpur into one of the most important industrial zones throughout India.

This part of the country which was a jungle area once and where people only dared to move about in the nights with arms has been completely changed now with the woeking of the many coalfields. The occurrence of abundant coal in the Jharia area was first mentioned by Lt . Harrington in 1839. A Geological Survey was made by T .W.H. Huges in 1866. In 1887 Dr. V. Ball of the Geological survey drew attention to the rice coalfield. In 1890 the East Indian Railway Prospected the area and it was estimated by T. H .Ward that the area contains about 804 million tons of good quality coal. The East Indian Railway extended their lines from Barakar to Katragasgarh in 1894 and also laid down a branch line from Kusunda to Pathardih. From this year started the rush of speculators and businessman to take mining leases. In 1894 the output of coal was 1,500 tons but in 1901 it rose to 2 million tons . The Bengal-Nagpur Railway had



HISTORY.

also extended their line from Midanapur to Bhojudih in 1901. This line was further extended from Bhojudih to Gomoh by 1904. The completion of the Grand Chord line of the East Indian Railway in 1907 immediately threw open the entire country – side as the most important center of the coal trade in India. The Development of the coal industry had been traced elsewhere.

SHIFT OF THE HEADQUARTERS

The administration problems due to the rapid development of Jharia coalfield in Govindpur subdivision multiplied hundred fold and it was being felt that Govindpur was no longer a suitable place to be the subdivisional headquarters. It had further to be remembered that many of the important collieries were controlled by the Europeans and the subdivisional Officer of Govindpur wanted to be near Jharia. In 1904 it was decided by Sir Andrew Fraser, the Lt. Governor of Bengal that the headquarters of the subdivision should be transferred from Govindpur to Dhanbad. The actual transfer, however, took place on the 27th June, 1908.

The tempo of development of the collieries brought out in bold relief that the subdivisional Officer with this limited powers could hardly control the area and required much more attention from the Deputy Commissioner. In 1912 there was a proposal to transfer the headquarters of Manbhum district from Purulia to Dhanbad. This idea, however, did not get the support of Mckintosh, the Commissioner of Chotanagpur who pressed for more powers for the subdivisional magistrates. He was of the opinion that the subdivision should invariably be in charge of the senior and a specially selected officer who should not be disturbed frequently.

LATER EVENTS.

A separate province of Bihar and Orissa was created on the 1st of April, 1912 and this was followed by a further expansion of the coal industries in dhanbad subdivision. Dhanbad and her neighbourhood had more than 200 collieries being worked by about one lakh labourers. The expansion of the railway and the various institutions including technical ones that were springing up in Dhanbad gave for more prestige and importance to this place than Puruila the headquarters of the district. It was being increasingly felt that the Deputy Commissioner of of purulia was handicapped for effectively administering Dhanbad Subdivision and the difficulty was further accentuated by the creation of two more Boards – the Water Board and Mince Board of Health with the Deputy Commissioner as the Chairman.

In January, 1914 an extensively- signed public petition was presented to the Commissioner pointing out the above difficulties and suggesting the appointment of an Additional District Magistrate at Dhanbad, with a subdivision Officer or a First Class Deputy Magistrate under him to do the court and office work. This petition

DHANBAD.

gave rise to an exchange of views between various authorities which continued till 1916, the subdivisional Officer of Dhanbad mean while , having been granted some further extension of powers , such as hearing of appeals against the decisions of 2nd and 3rd Class Magistrates under section 407(2) of the Code of the Criminal procedure and power of Collector under section 3(C) of Land Acquisition (Mines) Act of 1885 . The Deputy commissioner of Manbhum Mr. Hignall in his letter on . 591, dated 25th February , 1915 , to the commissioner AT D opposed the idea of separate Additional Deputy commissioner at Dhanbad and recommended one for the whole of Manbhum , observing , “As the Dhanbad subdivision is in every respect the most important part of the Deputy commissioner charge , it would be incongruous to given the Additional Deputy commissioner charge of it and restrict ,” The Jharia water Board on the other hand , requested to the Government by their Resolution of the 24th January 1916 to place an officer on special duty at Dhanbad for the next four year to serve as Chairman of both the water Board and the Board of Health . The commissioner of chhotanagpur Mr, H . T . S Forrest discussed the question at certain length in this letter to the Government no . 957-R , dated 29 March 1916 and recommended the appointment of an Additional Deputy commissioner at Dhanbad , basing his arguments on four important grounds , firstly , that the subdivisional Officer was over - worked; secondly , that there were frequent changes in the post of subdivisional Officer ; thirdly , that the colliers people were in many ways inconvenienced, having to apply to purulia for their petrol, dynamite and motorcar licences , birth certificates , etc.; and fourthly that the work of the two Coalfield Boards was hampered by the necessity of making frequents references to the Chairman at purulia . He proposed the following duties which the Additional Deputy commissioner should perform :--

“ (1) Exercise the ordinary powers of a District Magistrate as specified in specified in

III of the Criminal Procedure Code .

(2) Be empowered to appeals under the Tenancy Act.

(3) Be given the power of a District Magistrate under the Arms and Explosives Act , petroleum Act. Motor Vehicles Act and Village police Act.

(4 – 7) Be appointed Chairman of the Jharia Water Board and Jharia Mining Board of Bihar and Orissa .

(8) Exercise the full power of a Collector under the Land Acquisition Act.”

The State Government who had already been considering the matter , decided as an experimental, to appoint Mr. T. Luby



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HISTORY.

the subdivisional Officer of Dhanbad to be also Additional District Magistrate of Manbhum and created for this purpose a temporary appointment in the third grade of Magistrate and Collector for a period of six months with effect from the 31st March 1916. vide letter no, 1720 –A , dated the 7th April 1916 to A. G. and notification no . 1725 – A of the same date. By subsequent notifications the Additional District Magistrate was gradually authorised to perform all the functions recommended in Mr. Forrests letter of 29th March ,of course , after obtaining the sanction of government of india where it was necessary as of Arm Act and Explosives and petroleum Acts. The designation of the post as notified was to be additional District Magistrate as the term ‘Additional Deputy Commissioner’ was till then unknown to the Cr. P. C. under the provisional of the appointment had been made. The notification no 7369-m dated 1st June 1961. which conferred upon him the power under Indian Motor Vehicles Act. however, designated the conferee the Deputy Commissioner Manbhum.

The term of appointment was limited to a period of six months but could be extended thereafter if the arrangement proved sates factory the appointment was accordingly renewed hereafter every six months on recommendation form the Commissioner . In their letter no .1265-a,dated 19 march ,1917 the setae Government asked the Commissioner to report by the 1st September 1917 how the arrangement had worked and, on the letter’s repotting that it had worked entirely satisfactorily. Decided to take step for the permanent sanction of the measure. They accordingly wrote to Government of India in their letter no.4955-A, dated the 9 october1917to move the secretary of state to sanction the addition of one post of Magistrate and collector, third grade, to the cadre of the India civil service in Bihar and Orissa for the Additional Magistrate at Dhanbad with effect from the 1st October 1918, the data on which the Local Government’s power of sanction to the temporary appointment expires . The Governor General permitted the continuation of existing arrangement till the sanction of the secretary of state was obtained and requested the letter to accord sanction the proposal, vide dispatch no.35 of the 23rd February 1918. The secretary of state’s sanction (vide his dispatch for India no.52-Public of 28th June, 1918) was received on the 27th August 1918 and form that date the appointment of Additional Deputy Commissioner was rendered permanent as per memo no.3315-A and 3316-A, dated the 7th October 1918.

The later history of Dhanbad is more or less the administrative history of Manbhum district to which she was attached now as a sub-district. For all purposes the additional Deputy Commissioner of the area and it is only for certain revenue purposes that Dhanbad had links with



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DHANBAD.

Manbhum district. The deputy Commissioner of Manbhum at one time used to inspect the office of the Additional deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad but with the growth of the sub-district of Dhanbad and the Building up of an exclusive prestige of the Additional Deputy Commissioner , this prerogative of the Deputy Commissioner of purulia was reduced to a convention.

Dhanbad continued as a part of Manbhum District form 1833 to 31st October 1956. The state Reorganisation commission had vested Manbhum District and there were suggestions and conuntersuggestions as to whether portins should go to west Bengal or not . With the decision of the State Reorganisation commission that the main portion of Sander subdivision of Manbhum District Should go to West Bangal, two thanas of the Sadar subdivision Chas and Chandankeari xcame over to Dhanbad sub-district and the status of Dhanbad was upgraded into a full-fledged into a district. It may be mentioned here that another small potion of Manbhum sadar subdivision went over to Singhbhum districtin Bihar as well.

Dhanbab district has got two subdivision Dhanbad and Baghmara . Three thanks, namely, Topchianchi, Baghmara and Katras were exclude from the Dhanbad subdivision and were added to the newly creted subdivision of Baghmara which was also given Chas and Chandakeari areas. As the official quarters at Baghmara are not yet ready (1962) the Subdivision officer of Baghmara continues to stay at Dhanbad .

Dhambad district and particular the colliery area is now a cosmopolitan zone inhabited by people from all parts of India who carry on collieries and other industries, various kinds of trades and professions in private and private and public sectors. The industrial potential of the district has been discussed elsewhere . Dhanbad is one of the most important district in India and has and the largest colliery belt in the world.

FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Dhanbad as a part of the old Manbhum district had participated in the *Swadeshi* movement of the first decade of the 20th century . The development of the collieries and the progress of trade-uniosim had been remarkable in this district and brought about a local touch in the struggle for freedom.

When Mahatma Gandhi with the help of the other leaders aponsored as a part of Manbhum district offered co-operation. In August, 1920 a widely attened provincial conference was hold at Bhagalpur in which a large number of people from Dhanbad took.

HISTORY.

active Part. The conference passed the resolution of Non-co-operation In September, 1920 a session of the Indian National Congress was held at Calcutta in which a resolution was passed for starting the Non-co-operation Movement through India under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi With the starting of Non-co-operation Movement in 1920 Dhanbad district saw intense political activities. During 1921 Dhanbad was visited by Shri Rajendra Prasad Mazharul haque, Swami Vishwanand, Panit Motilal Nehru and others. The early Congress leaders appreciated the necessity of organizing the coalfield areas and also to tap the rich industrialists and colliery owners of Dhanbad area for the Congress fund. Pandit Motilal Nehru paid a hurried visit to the coalfield areas on the 21st March, 1921 and addressed largely attended meeting at Dhanbad and Jharia.

The stir was created went on unabated and the arrest of Muhammad Ali and Saugar Ali, Kitchlew and others in the month of September due to the passing of the resolution of the *Khilafat* Conference on Karachi which in the opinion of the Government sought to tamper with the loyalty of the soldiers had its aftermath in Dhanbad district as well. Gandhiji intensified the campaign and hundreds of meetings began to be held in every district where the Karachi resolution was repeated word by word. There were similar meetings in Dhanbad district as well.

The Temperance movement was, however tried in Dhanbad district with little success. The colliery workers and the industrial labour had found a cheap recreation in drinking and it was difficult to wean them away from the habit. On the 29th November, 1921 the resignation of Lord Sinha, the first Indian Government of Bihar was accepted. The news of the resignation of Lord Sinha was received in the countryside with a good deal of misgiving. By the end of 1921 and almost immediately after the resignation of Lord Sinha there was a widely ramified arrest of leaders and records of Congress officers were seized. In this process, Dhanbad was no exception.

The trade Union movement in Dhanbad has been described elsewhere. It was at Dhanbad that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru received his first schooling and a vigilant industrial force for freedom would not have been successful in this district.

The first Manbhum Political Conference was held in 1929 at Ramchandrapur and the village with Shri Subhas Chandra Bose as its President and the second Conference at Jhalda on April, 1929 were Shri J.M. Sen Gupta as its President. Both these Conferences largely attended by people of Dhanbad. A strong political group had already formed with leaders of advanced national views in Purulia with Shri Nibaran Chandra Das Editor of Mukti,

DHANBAD.

a widely circulated Bengali weekly. This group ultimately came to be known as the Lok sewak sargh and wielded considerable influence on the politics of Manbhum district. Shri Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta was sentenced to simple imprisonment on the 3rd March, 1929. This imprisonment of Das Gupta added to be political agitation in Manbhum district which included Dhanbad. The third Manbhum Political Conference was held in 1930 at Dhanbad. The President elect was Dr. Rajendra Prasad who however could not appear being busy in *Satyaraha* at Patna.

Shri Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta presided. Salt Satyaraha began in Manbhum in right earnest and contraband salt used to be sold openly in the markets. The Manbhum District Satyaraha Committee was declared to be an unlawful Bhusan Das Gupta, Sheo Saran Jaiswal Mohan Das Babaji Bir Raghavacharya, Editor of the *Mukhi* and others were arrested. Dhanbad was naturally much agitated over all this.

The students of the district were imbued with the spirit of new patriotism and hundreds of them deserted the schools and colleges and a National School was established at Jharia. Political leaders from other parts of Bihar and Bengal often visited this area. Many of the hostel students also participated in the strike. The headmaster of Jharia Raj School was compelled to take action against the leading students of the hostel and they were served with notice to vacate. Shri Rangalal Choudhury and others took part in the students movement. This continued as well as other leaders, namely Shri P.C. Bose a labour leader at that time and Shib Kali Bose. In Topchanchi and other areas Shri Baikunath Nath Choudhury and others buried themselves in organizing and mobilizing the rural areas by holding meetings, processions, etc., in support of the movement and picketing were often made before the liquor shops at Jharia and Katras and even in the rural areas such as Chirkunda, Govindpur and Tochanchi. Mass arrests were made and the people were much agitated, Shri P.C. Bose was arrested and brought to Dhanbad sub-jail and thus intensified the agitation.

In 1930 the Civil Disobdience Movement gained a new momentum in the district. The Government took stern measures against it. Meetings and procession were forcibly dispersed.

Congress leaders were bound down under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. A number of leading congressmen were convicted.

Later political events and their impact on Dhanbad district were almost on the same pattern as in the other district, the story of which has been covered at some length in Monghyr and other District Gazetteers. It is necessary here only to refer to the fact

HISTORY.

that the organization of labour and trade-unionism received a great encouragement as a direct impact of the Congress and Non-co-operation Movement. Throughout Bihar there were 11 labour strikes in 1937-38 and more in the next year. Strikes had taken place at various industrial centres, viz., at Kumardubhi, Dhanbad, Katras, Modidih, Chanch in Dhanbad district. The colliery labourers and the industrial workers in the industrial units were getting organised. Mr. Manik Homi of Jamshedpur succeeded in getting his Labour Federation registered but he was opposing Prof. Abdul Bari in his negotiations for the successful settlement of the strikes. Prof. Abdul Bari identified himself with the cause of labour and the first organisation of Tata Workers' Union had its ramifications in Dhanbad district as well. The colliery labourers and the labourers in the other units were extremely excited in 1937-38 and its excitement was canalised and given a shape by Prof. Abdul Bari and others.

The political picture of Dhanbad in 1942-43 starts with the reorganisation of the old National War Front at the instance of Bihar Provincial War Committee which was organized by the British bureaucracy to counteract much of the activities of the Congress.

The idea was that the National War Front would try to evoke popular support to fight out the menace of war and the evils it produced. But the National War Front like similar other movements had flopped although there might have been a certain amount of success in localized areas due to the influence of some particular individuals. An example may be given that in May, 1942 a big meeting of 1,500 persons at Dhanbad listened to the speech of the provincial and other local leaders of National War Front Movement and they dispersed with the shouts of "Gandhiji ki Jai" !

The resolution of the Working Committee of the Congress at Wardha on the 6th of July, 1942 passing the Quit India Movement which was placed before the next meeting of the All-India Congress Committee at Bombay stiffened the attitude of the Government of India and the Provincial Government of Bihar. Armed with a series of Ordinances and new legislations, the Government of Bihar took a decision that they could not allow the situation to deteriorate any further. Active preparations were made for taking concrete steps to suppress the new movement and steps were taken for the arrest of the leaders. A tentative list classification of prisoners and even the locations of their confinement were drawn up. Before the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee began, Dr. Rajendra Prasad took necessary steps to acquaint the people of Bihar with the contents and significance of the Wardha resolution and to sound their views on it. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was ill at that time and he had to remain at Patna due to his illness. The leaders of the Province had also drawn up a tentative draft programme and had planned a *satyagraha*. In a meeting which was addressed by

DHANBAD.

Dr. Anugraha Narain Sinha at the Anjuman Islamia Hall in Patna, The students were asked to prepare themselves for the coming struggle. The situation was literally electrified and only needed a spark for an explosion.

The Quit India resolution was considered at the historic sessions of All-India Congress Committee at Bombay on the 6th and 7th of August, 1942 and was passed with an overwhelming majority and on the early hours of morning of the 9th August Gandhiji and members of the Congress Working Committee were arrested. Numerous arrests at various places all over the country followed quickly on that day. At Patna Dr. Rajendra Prasad was arrested and taken to Bankipore Jail along with other persons. Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha was arrested on the 10th of August while Shri Anugraha Narain Sinha was arrested on the next day. Ordinance rule was once inaugurated by the Government and in an extraordinary issue of Bihar Gazette published on the 9th August, the state Government issued notifications declaring a large number of Committees and Associations as unlawful. As a reaction there were widespread upheavals throughout the Province and Dhanbad was no exception. In Dhanbad area including Jharia and Katras there were hartals, strikes, meetings and processions. Shilpa Ashram Purulia which was the centre of the activities of Shri Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta, Bibhuti Bhusan Das Gupta, President of the Manbhum Pradesh Congress Committee was raided on the 10th of August and the Ashram was seized. A large number of persons including the wife and the daughter of Atul Chandra Ghosh were arrested and confined. But these arrests gave occasion for further excitement. The movement became militant and a section went underground. Throughout Purulia and Manbhum, handwritten and cyclostyled leaflets were distributed asking the people to rise equally to the occasion. At Jharia an attempt was made on the 14th August to recover the Congress Office which Government had seized on the 10th August. The Police forcibly dispersed them after arresting some. In the evening, the Police entered the police station and the Police Office to hoist the National Flag and arrested the leader. After holding a meeting there the crowd went to Modidih colliery and telephone lines at Panchghari bazaar and Katri bridge were that day. A large crowd tried to raid Katras railway station on the 16th August. The Police had to open fire to stop the raiders and there were some casualties. The local A.F.I. and E.I.R. regiments were posted to Dhanbad and Comoh railway stations. The labour population in coalfields were agitated and there were sporadic outbursts in various parts of Dhanbad district which had to be put down with brute force. The sections that went underground created a lot of confusion, hold-up, blockade of trains, etc.



HISTORY.

The students' procession at Dhanbad on the 17th August, 1942 was broken up by arrest and lathi assault. A detachment of 20 British anti-aircraft gunners under Capt. Elis was sent from Asansol and reached Dhanbda at about 6 P.M. On the same afternoon after a meeting held in the Congress Office at Jharia there was a certain amount of lawlessness and a large number of people started moving about in a militant mood cutting telegraph wires and setting fire to the Jharia Post Office and Jharia railway station. The Additional Superintendent of police with the help of the detachment of Capt. Elis arested 10 persons. Early next morning orders were promulgated prohibiting the assemblage of more than five persons in pulice places and imposing curfew between 6 P.M. and 5 P.M. in Dhanbad, Jharia and Katras areas. A company of Black-Watch Regiment consisting of four officers and 100 men were subsequently brought and devlopyed at Dhanbad. Military rule without a formal declaration had taken over. It is, however fortunate that open lawlessness in Dhanbad district was not allowed to reach that unfortunat incidence which we find in certain other districts in Bihar land was controlled with the help of the military and armed.....

Towards the end of 1943 the movement graduated and the Congress took up a constructive policy. The Government also gradually relaxed their repressive measure. In June, 1945 Manatma Gandhi and the members of the Congress Exective Committee were let off. The Second World War came to an end. In the month of September the Government removed the ban no the Congress. Political prisoners were released . the top leaders of this district started a constructive programme with its headquarters at Purulia in 1943. Khadi industries paper making, soap-making industries were started at Purulia, Hoor a Puncha and in Dhanbad. The political trends were of the same type all over the state.

At the beginning of 1946 elections to the both Central and Provincial Assemblies were held. In the Bihar Assembly the late Shri P.C. Bose who had taken a lot of interest in labour movement and the late purusottam Chauhan were elected as members. A Congress Ministry was formed again in Bihar and Shri Krishna Sinha was elected the leader and became the Chief minister of Bihar. On the 15th August, 1947 India secured her freedom and the same day everywhere in India Independence Day was celebrated. The people of Dhanbad participated in the celebration amongst great joy and nostalgic memories.

IMPACT OF STATES REORGANISATION COMMISSION ON DHANBAD DISTRICT.

On 22nd December, 1953 the Prime Minister of India made a statement in Parliament to the effect that a Commission would be appointed to examine objectively and dispassionately the question of the reorganization of the States of the Indian Union so that the welfare of the people of each constituent unit as well the nation.

DHANBAD.

as A Whole Is Promoted. This Was Followed by the appointment of the states Re-organisation Commission under the Resolution of the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs, no 53/69/53- Public, dated the 29 th December, 1953.

The Commission consisted of three members, viz., Sardar Kavalam Madhava Panikkar, Shri Hriday Nath Kunzru and Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali. Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali was the Chairman of the Commission but owing to his connection with Bihar he had refrained from taking any part in investigating and deciding the territorial disputes between Bihar and West Bengal and Bihar and Orissa.

The Commission received one memoranda each from the Government of West Bwngal, Orissa and Bihar regarding the problem of the re-distribution of certain tacts of West Bangal, Biahrr and Orissa. Besides the memoranda from the Governments,.....were also memoranda by public bodie s and a number of The Pradesh Congress Committees were also heard by Commission .The Commission visited Dhanbad on 4th/5th February 1995. The Commissionevidence of large number of persons in Dhanbad and other places. On a number of members of the Legislative Assemblies, members of the Parliament, members of the Subdivisional Congress Committee, the delegations of the local bodies, a new members of the Dhanbad Bar, some Communsits and a representative of the Jharkhand party. A few persons representing Bihar Association had also appeared before the Commission.

It will be correct to state that local feetings were very stirred up on the question of the re-distribution of certain parts of Manbhun dsirtict.

The background will appear from the following lines from paragraph 26 of Chapter III of the Memorandum submitted by the Bihar Government:-

One or two memorials were no doubt submitted to the Government of India by a few Bengal landholders of the Santhal Paranas, Manbhun, etc., and pleaders of Manbhun and Dhalbhum, in association with some British colliery-owners, also submitted memoranda for retaining these two areas within the Province of Bengal as it suited their interests best. But there was no popular desire, much less an agitation to back up the memorials. Even so, the memorials were examined carefully, and the Government of India did not find any justification for making any change in the boundaries between Bihar and Orissa and Bengal on any ground whatsoever.

HISTORY.

It is not necessary here to enter into the various controversies that. Had been raised on this issue. The Manbhum District Congresss Committee with its President Shri Atul Chandra Ghosh had taken up the question in 1948 and a resolution on the matter suggesting merger into Bengal moved by the President Shri Atul Chandra Ghosh was defeated by a large majority of votes. As the resolution was moved from the Char, the verdict of the Committee was really a vote of no-confidence in the President Shri Atul Chandra Ghosh and his supporters regined and they formed a separate association known as *lok Sevak Sangh* which went on agitating for the tranfar of the district the demand and rejected it.

The terms of deference to the states Reorganisation were very wide and the task was set out in paragraph 7 of the Resolution of the Government of India in the following terms:-

The Commission will investigate the conditions..... problem, historical background, the existing.....and the bearing of all important and relevant factors thereon. They will be free consider any proposal relating to such reorganisation. The Government expect that the Commission would in the first instance, not go into details but make recommendations in regard to the broad principles which should govern the solution of his problem and, if they so choose, the board lines which particular states should br reorganized and submit interim reports for the consideration of Government.

The state Government of Bihar gave various reasonings to show that Manbhum was ethnologically, culturally and socially an integral part of Bihar and not of West Bengal and opposed any merger. It is not necessary to go into the claims made by the state Government of Bihar or the state Government of Bengal or into the various memoranda and memorials that had been presented to the Commission.

The states Reorganisation Commission submitted their report in 1955 and the portion regarding Manbhum district rune as follows:-

“Manbhum is really composed of two different areas which are divided by the Damodar. These ares are now treated as two sub-districts, but with a population of 732,000 and 1,548,000 respectively, they are for practical purposes separate district and are administered as such. Dhanbad which is the industrialized areas, in which Hindi is predominant, differs from Purulia

Report of the States Re-organisation Commissions, 1955, pages 178 to 180.

DHANBAD.

which is comparatively less industrialised, and has a much greater concentration of the Bengali-speaking people.

There is no case for the transfer of Dhanbad to West Bengal. The Hindi-speaking majority in this sub-district is 65 per cent. Coalfield along the course of the Damodar river and the D.V.C. industrial belt are situated mostly in this sub-district and there are indications that Dhanbad like Jamshedpur, may soon attract a mixed population from all over India as it is further developed. The West Bengal claim to this area is, therefore, untenable.

In Purulia on the other hand there is unmistakable evidence of Bengal influence even today. This sub-district has the largest concentration of Bengali-speaking people outside West Bengal.

The transfer of Purulia can be justified on the ground that it will facilitate the implementation of a flood control-cum-irrigation project which has recently been taken up in West Bengal. The Kansabati (Kasai) river, which rises in Purulia, is of no real importance from the point of view of Bihar but West Bengal has already utilized it to extent in its lower reaches, and now proposes to build a dam on this river near the Bihar border,

If flood control and irrigation in the division are to be efficiently carried out in future, it will be desirable to transfer to West Bengal a major part of the catchment area because this will facilitate soil conservation measures and also provide perhaps a more appropriate dam site.

The importance of the Kasai to West Bengal will be apparent from the fact that it is supposed to derive its name from the butter from the annual devastation which its flood waters cause in and round Midnapore. This may not be a conclusive argument justifying the proposed transfer. But in this case, as the case of Bellary the other, arguments are either unimportant or are more or less balanced; in these circumstances, it can not be regarded as a minor question that the implementation of a project to which West Bengal attaches considerable importance will be helped by the transfer.

It has been claimed by West Bengal that the linguistic tabulation of the 1951 census cannot be regarded as satisfactory and that if we disregard the census of 1951 and take into account the two previous censuses at

HISTORY.

which linguistic distribution of the people was recorded, the Bengal-speaking percentage was of the order of two-thirds of the total population in the entire district; in Purulia, which as has already been stated has even today a considerable population speaking the Bengal language, it perhaps more impressive.

We do not feel called upon to enter into controversies relation to the figures of the preceding censuses. We must, however, take note of fact that even according to 1951 census, the Bengali-speaking majority in the rural areas of Purulia will be about 55 per cent (as against 28 per cent of the Hindi-speaking people) if the Chas revenue thana, which is contiguous to Dhanbad is excluded.

Considering the circumstances referred to above in which the West Bengal claim to Manbhum has been made it was proposed that the Purulia sub-district excluding the Chas thana should be transferred to West Bengal such a transfer will not seriously upset either the economy or the administrative structure of Bihar, but will, on a balance of considerations, be justified. It may be pointed out incidentally that since the area proposed to be transferred is virtually a district, the initial inconvenience if any, as a result of the transfer will be negligible.

The final decision of Government of India was contained in Clause (b) of sub-section I of section I of the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act, 1956, according to which the areas comprising in Putulia subdivision of Manbhum district, excluding Chas thana Chandil thana and the Patamda station of Barabhum thana were transferred.

Chas and Chandankeari Police thana were tagged on Dhanbad district which was formed into a separate district in October, 1956.

According to 1951 censuses the areas and population of Chas Chandankeari and Patamda are as following :-

Thana	Sq. miles.	Population.
Chas	278	64,377
Chadankeary	<u>143</u>	<u>81,178</u>
Total added to Dhanbad	<u>421</u>	<u>1,45,555</u>
Patamda	<u>310</u>	<u>64,377</u>
(added to Singhbhum district)		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

DHANBAD.

According to the area of the new Dhanbad district come to 1,114 sq. miles.

As a matter of administrative exigency a new subdivision Baghmara was created . the district now constitutes the following subdivisions:-

Dhanbad Sadar subdivision with headquarters at Dhanbad comprising the areas included in the police stations of Govindpur, Kenduadih, Dhanbad, Baliapur, Jorapokhar, Jogta, Sindri, Nirsa, Chirkunda and Tundi; and

Baghmara subdivision with temporary headquarters at Dhanbad comprising with local areas included in the police station of Chas, Chandankeari, Topchanchi, Baghmara and Katras.

A site for headquarters of Baghmara subdivision has been selected at Baghmara for the construction of the Government buildings necessary for subdivisional headquarters. The site has not yet been finalized. The subdivisional Officer of Baghmara has now his headquarters at Dhanbad.

It may, however, be mentioned that even if the States Reorganisation Commission had not been constituted and the recommendations implemented, there is no doubt that before long Dhanbad would have been raised to the status of independent district. Even as a sub-district Dhanbad had a special status and the Additional Deputy Commissioner was treated almost for purposes as District Officer and he could communicate direct with the Commissioner of Chotanagapur and the Government headquarters at Patna the immense industrial potentialities in Dhanbad sub-district had already started developing and the inferior status of a sub-district was quite an anomaly. Dhanbad is now one of the most progressive district in India because of her deposits of coal-superlatively called black diamond, it is well known throughout the world.