

## CHAPTER IV.

### HISTORY.

#### ANCIENT PERIOD.

The district of Hazaribagh has been named after the town of Hazaribagh, its present headquarters, which has in turn derived its name from the mango grove at Hazari, one of the villages which make up the town. This village is still on the western edge of the town.<sup>(1)</sup> In the earliest maps of the district published in 1779 by Major James Rennell, the first Surveyor General of India, the present town appears as Ocunhazari. A print of this map available in the Survey Office, Gulzarbagh, Patna has been included in this book. It owes its existence to the raising of the Ramgarh Battalion about 1780, and the decision to station it permanently near the villages of Okni and Hazari, on the road from Chatra to Ichak, which had become an important place after the Raja of Ramgarh had made it his capital in 1772.<sup>(2)</sup>

The district forms the north-eastern portion of the present Chotanagpur Division which, it is generally believed, was in very early times covered with inaccessible hills and forests to which many non-Aryan tribes who refused to surrender to the steadily advancing Aryans, retired at different times. We do not know the name by which the tract was known to the ancient Aryans. All through the long centuries of Hindu rule in India Chotanagpur appears to have remained unmolested, though foreign invaders on rare occasions might have succeeded in exercising nominal overlordship over it. It might have acknowledged for the first time the suzerainty of the great Asura Maharaja, Jarasandha, who is described by the Epic writers as a highly powerful effulgent and preserving Lord Paramount, like the sun, he robbed all other kings of their splendour and obtained the suzerainty of the whole world. It is just possible that Mahapadmanand Ugrasena of Magadha, who waged several wars against the Kshatriyas, ultimately conquered the whole of eastern India including Kalinga and proclaimed himself Ekraat or sole monarch. It is stated that during Asoka (C. 273—C. 232 B.C.) the *Atari* or Forest States too acknowledged Magadha supremacy, and this may justify the conclusion that Chotanagpur was included in the Mauryan empire at least in his reign.

There are clear evidences to show that this tract was in touch with many other parts of India. There was frequent intercourse between Kashi and Hazaribagh. Parsvanath, the 23rd Jaina Tirthankara, attained nirvana at the summit of the Parsvanath Hill in the Hazaribagh district probably in the 8th century B.C.<sup>(3)</sup> After the downfall of the Imperial Mauryas in 185 B.C. King Kharavela of Kalinga led his

army across Chotanagpur and sacked Rajgir and Patliputra. Samudragupta (C. 335—C. 380 A.D.) also must have passed through Chotanagpur when he led his expedition to the Eastern Deccan.<sup>(4)</sup> The invader (Samudragupta) "marching due south from the capital through Chutia Nagpur, directed the first attack against the kingdom of South Kosala in the valley of the Mahanadi".<sup>(5)</sup> Itsing, the Chinese traveller, who reached Tamuk in 673 A.D. traversed the uplands of Chutia Nagpur to reach Nalanda and Bodh Gaya.<sup>(6)</sup>

The various non-Aryan tribes that had settled in Chotanagpur had no kings in the beginning. They were under patriarchs. In course of time as their number increased and as there were regular wars against foreigners, they decided to elect one of their chiefs as king. Most scholars think that kingship in Chotanagpur began soon after the fall of the Imperial Guptas in the 5th century A.D. The family chronicle of the Chotanagpur Raj published in Hindi verse and the traditions of the Mundas agree in stating that the latter voluntarily superseded the son of their own patriarch Madra Munda of Sutiamba (in Ranchi district), in favour of Madra's foster-son, Phani Mukut, in consideration of his superior intelligence and elected him as their king. Phani Mukut, just after his birth, had been found by the side of a tank under the protection of a huge *nag* or serpent. For this reason, his descendants later on called themselves as Nagbanshi or members of the Naga dynasty.

The name 'Nagpur' is probably taken from the Nagbanshis who ruled the country. 'Chota' is a corruption of Chutia, a village on the outskirts of Ranchi where the remains of the old fort of the Nagbanshi Rajas can still be seen. It was one of their earliest capitals. Even in the beginning of the present century this tract was known as Chutia Nagpur. The name 'Chutia' has now been changed into "Chota" probably for the sake of convenience. According to the late Mr. S. C. Roy, "the name Chotanagpur is one of comparatively recent origin and appears to have been first coined by the early British administrators of the country to distinguish it from the other Nagpur possessed by the Marathas."<sup>(7)</sup>

#### MUHAMMADAN PERIOD.

To the Muhammadan historians the whole of Chotanagpur was in the tract which they knew as Jharkhand or forest country. It appears to have remained practically independent throughout the Turko-Afghan rule (1206—1526 A.D.) in India. The Delhi Sultans generally attempted to conquer the accessible parts and stationed their governors and garrisons in cities and strategic centres. The fortress of Rohtas was the farthest limit of actual penetration made by them towards it. *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* of Shamsi-Siraj Afif tells us that Sultan Firuz

Shah Tuglaq, after his second campaign against Bengal (1359-60 A.D.), marched from Jaunpur against the Rai of Jajnagar (modern Orissa) and after making peace with him, returned by some route through Jharkhand. (8) From the seventeenth canto of *Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita* we learn that the great Shri Chaitanya, Vaisnav reformer and devotee of Nadia in Bengal (b. 1485 A.D.), on his way to Madhya Pradesh in the second decade of the 16th century A.D. passed through Jharkhand and made conversions among the aboriginal population. It is said that Sher Shah passed through Jharkhand while returning to Delhi after his second attack on Gaur (Bengal) in 1538 A.D. Professor Quaintance mentions that "Sher Shah threaded his way to Rohtas through the thick jungles of Jharkhand as best he could." (9)

The accession of Akbar to the throne of Delhi in 1556 A.D. opened a new chapter in the history of Chotanagpur or Jharkhand. To the Mughals it was also known as Kukrah. It excited the cupidity of the Mughal Emperors by reason of the report of the diamonds to be found in its rivers. The late Professor Blochmann gave extracts from Persian works, the *Akbarnamah* and the *Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri*, in an article in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* for 1871 as quoted by Mr. S. C. Roy in his *Mundas and Their Country*, page 151, which show that Kukrah remained independent Muslim suzerainty till about the thirtieth year of the reign of Emperor Akbar. In 1585 A.D. Akbar sent an expedition commanded by Shahabaz Khan Turbati who reduced the Raja of Chotanagpur to the position of a tributary. In 1591 A.D. this Raja took part in the Mughal expedition to Orissa. During Akbar's second campaign against the rebellious Afghan chiefs of Orissa in 1591-92 A.D. Man Singh, then Akbar's Viceroy of Bengal and Bihar, set out from Rohtasgarh and ordered all the Bihar troops to proceed "by the western road called the Jarcond route, to Midnapore," while he himself went by the usual way down the Ganges. It is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari* that Chotanagpur or Kukrah was included in the Subah of Bihar.

In 1616 A.D. Ibrahim Khan Fatah Jung, the brother of Qasim Khan Noorjahan and the then Governor of Bihar, under Jahangir, invaded Kukrah which had, it seems, regained independence during the disturbances that followed the death of Akbar in 1605 A.D., defeated and captured Durjan Sal, the 46th Raja of Chotanagpur who was deprived of all his riches and later on, imprisoned in the fort of Gwalior for two years, at the end of which his success in distinguishing a real from a false diamond was rewarded with his release and restoration to his former dignity. The annual tribute to be paid by him was fixed at Rs. 6,000. In 1632 A.D. Chotanagpur was given out as a  *jagir*  to the Governor

Patna in return for an annual payment of Rs. 1,36,000. This was raised to Rs. 1,61,000 in 1636 A.D.

In the reign of Muhammad Shah (1719—1748 A.D.), in 1724 A.D., Sarbuland Khan, the Governor of Bihar, marched against the Raja of Chotanagpur and without a struggle obtained his submission and he returned with a huge amount in cash and diamonds. Tribute was afterwards withheld, and in 1731 A.D. Fakhrud Dowlah, the then Governor of Bihar, came with a large army. He met with a considerable resistance, and was glad to compromise his claims by receiving Rs. 12,000 from the Raja of Ramgarh who owed allegiance to the Raja of Chotanagpur. In 1735 A.D., Alivardi Khan with some difficulty enforced this payment and it was continued afterwards till the British occupied the country. (11)

During the Muhammadan period, Ramgarh, Kunda, Kendi, Chai and Kharagdiha were the chief states in the area now known as the Hazaribagh district. The founder of the Ramgarh Raj was one Bagdeo Singh who along with his elder brother, Singdeo Singh, was in the service of the Raja of Chotanagpur. In course of time, they quarrelled with their lord and with a body of adventurers came to pargana Karanpura (i.e., thana Barkagaon), defeated the local Raja, one Kapper Deo and took possession of the said pargana. They gradually conquered over twenty-one other parganas. Bagdeo Singh became their Raja at about 1368 A.D. with Sisia as capital. It was later on transferred to Urda, then to Badam and then to Ramgarh. Hemat Singh, the sixth Raja of the dynasty, invited a mason from Patna to build a fortified residence at Badam. His residence still stands in partial ruin at Badam. The doorway has an inscription that it was built for him in 1642 A.D. by a Patna builder. In the neighbourhood is Mahudi Hill which contains some sandstone caves which were excavated for Hindu ascetics. One of them was made at about 1660 A.D. It was probably due to the inconvenient proximity of Badam to the route by which the Muhammadans reached Chotanagpur, that the capital was transferred from there to Ramgarh, thirty miles east in 1670 A.D.

The Kunda estate was founded by one Ram Singh, a personal servant of the Emperor Aurangzeb. In 1669 A.D. he was granted a *thanadari jagir* by Daud Khan and Mangal Khan, subordinates of a subordinate of that emperor, "for the care and guarding of the roads". (12) He was compelled to take a *sanad* from them "to guard the four passes of Babaltar, Pinjri, Banwadib and Nagdarra from the inroads of the Marathas, Bargis and Pindaris."

The early history of Kendi and Chai is not known. At about 1770 A.D. the former was reduced by the Muhammadans to the position

of a zamindari. Chai was subjugated by Mukund Singh of Ramgarh about 1770 A.D. and was partitioned among five chieftains of whom apparently four paid tribute to the fifth, Raja Lal Khan of Jagodih.

It is said that Kharagdiha was founded in the 15th century A.D. by one Hansraj Bhut Deo who came from Southern India, expelled a Raja of the Bandawat caste, and conquered for himself a kingdom in Gaya and Hazaribagh, 600 miles long. The family intermarried with the Babhan zamindars of North Bihar. Direct interference by the Muhammadans in its internal affairs is not heard of prior to 1765 A.D. in which year Akbar Ali Khan, a son of Kamgar Khan, zamindar of Narhat Samai in eastern Gaya, carried the attack on Raja Mod Narayan Deo into his last possessions in Hazaribagh district, and expelled him from Kharagdiha. Mod Narayan and his son died in exile at Ramgarh, but in 1774 A.D. his grandson, Girwar Narayan Deo, assisted the British in expelling Akbar Ali Khan.

The Raja of Ramgarh proved hostile to Alivardi Khan, Subadar of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In 1740 A.D., the latter sent a special expedition under the command of Hidayat Ali Khan, the father of Gulam Hussain, the Patna historian and author of *Siyar-ul-mutakherin* to bring the refractory Raja of the jungly district of Ramgarh under subjection. Hidayat Ali Khan, with the co-operation of Raja Sunder Singh and Raja Jaikisan Singh, both zamindars of Palamau, and the zamindars of Seres, Cotomba and Sherghati, brought under subjection the powerful Hindu Raja of Ramgarh.

#### BRITISH PERIOD.

The year 1765 A.D. opens a fresh chapter in the history of Chotanagpur. On 12th August 1765, Emperor Shah Alam II granted the Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the British East India Company. As Chotanagpur formed a part of Bihar, the company now got the right to receive the tribute of Ramgarh, the land revenue of Kharagdiha and Kendi and the services of Kunda.

The actual exercise of the authority by the British, however, began some time later. It seems that the British authorities at Calcutta were, in the beginning, not inclined to take any immediate and strong measures against the different Rajas of Chotanagpur, although they were creating disturbance in matters of revenue collection. The letter of the 4th August 1769 A.D. from Mr. T. Rumbold of Patna to the President and Governor at Calcutta clearly indicates that the latter had issued strict orders not to make any attempt in Ramgarh and Palamau (*Select Committee*, 1769, page 432). It was only in 1769 A.D. that the British first came into contact with the district. In that year, a British Officer

of the name of Captain Camac appeared to establish some sort of order in the "Junglebury district" which was the name of Hazaribagh. The revival of the Maratha power under Madhao Rao (1761-1762) once more threatened both Bihar and Bengal. The Marathas had, in the past, made Chotanagpur and specially Ramgarh, as one of their bases of invasion on Bihar and Bengal. The British realised this fact and they now seriously considered the question of bringing the different Rajas of Chotanagpur under control.

Captain Camac first subdued the Rajas of Kharagdiha and Kunda. In 1771 he was made Military Collector of Ramgarh district which included Nagpur and Palamau and Chakye as well as the present district of Hazaribagh and had his headquarters at Chatra.<sup>(13)</sup> Next year, he appeared at Kunda on his way to Palamau. Raja Dhrij Narayan Singh of Kunda, the fourth in succession from Ram Singh with whom Daud Khan and Mangal Khan, the two officers of Aurangzeb, had made a settlement, rendered a valuable service to the British in the Palamau campaign and in return, Captain Camac renewed the old agreement according to which Kunda was exempted from paying the land revenue.

The Raja of Ramgarh in those days was Mukund Singh whose behaviour was unpalatable to the new masters, who ultimately decided that either he should give proper security for his future good behaviour and for the payment of a sum of money yearly to the Government or he should be reduced to submission and obedience. In its letter of the 16th September 1771 A.D. addressed to the Hon. John Cartier, President and Governor at Calcutta, the Council of Revenue at Patna, while transmitting copies of three letters from Captain Camac and translation of Persian accounts of Nagpur, Ramgarh and others and complaining of the conduct of Mukund Singh, expressed that "Mukund Singh, the present Ramgarh Raja, has always been very deficient in the payment of his revenue and endeavoured as much as possible to maintain an independence of the Government, and his troops have frequently infested the neighbouring parganas with incursions, if he would give proper security for his future good behaviour and for the payment of a revenue of 20,000 or 30,000 sonaut rupees a year to the Government, it might perhaps be advisable to leave him undisturbed. But if not, we apprehend it would be proper to deprive him of the territories he usurped from Nurrat Samoy and Sherghatty and bring him under subjection, which at this juncture we believe Captain Camac would easily effect and we imagine that these measures would be in any case of Maratha troubles contribute much to the security of the south-east side of this province and of Bauglexore and Beerdwan in the Bengal province." (O.C. 3rd January 1772, no. 6 (a), pages 16-17).

In his letter (O.C. 3rd January 1772, no. 9) Captain Camac, the Military Collector of Ramgarh, pointed out to the Chief and Comptrolling Council of Revenue at Patna, the vulnerability of the territory of Ramghur, the Raja's unpopularity and his past conduct in opposing Palamau expedition. Regarding the latter he wrote that "there he not only openly assisted the enemy with men and money but had the temerity to cut off the *Harcarrak* who carried the Government's Perwanahs..... He gave passages and protection to a French man with ten or twelve followers who was going from the Dekkan up the country notwithstanding I repeatedly wrote him to send him to me.....the greatest merit with the Raja was his declaring himself an enemy to the English". (15) Captain Camac was convinced that the Raja would make trouble in Palamau and destroy the garrison there and "oblige to abandon that conquest."

During the operations in Palamau Raja Durpnath Shahi of Chotanagpur visited Captain Camac and gave some useful service, whilst on the other hand Raja Mukund Singh of Ramgarh had intrigued to thwart him. Consequently the Raja of Chotanagpur had no difficulty in persuading the Provincial Council at Patna to terminate the arrangement whereby his tribute was being paid through the Raja of Ramgarh. The British were dissatisfied with the latter and soon an action was taken against him. There was a quarrel between Mukund Singh and Tej Singh, a descendant of Singdeo Singh, over the question of succession and the British supported Tej Singh. Lieutenant Goddard attacked Ramgarh; Mukund Singh fled and Tej Singh was installed, not at first as Raja but as *mustajir* and the revenue was fixed at Rs. 30,000, to which in 1777 a *nazrana* of Rs. 10,000 was added. He made Iohak his capital in 1772.

In 1780 Captain Camac was succeeded by Mr. Chapman, who was the first civilian administrator of Chotanagpur. The "conquered provinces" as they were called, were formed into a British district, which included Ramgarh, Kendi, Kunda and Kharagdiha (which together constitute the present Hazaribagh), the whole of Palamau, Chakai on the east of Kharagdiha and Pachet on the east of Ramgarh, and the area round Sherghati. The present district of Ranchi was added under the designation of the Tributary Mahal of Chotanagpur. Mr. Chapman who combined in himself the functions of a Judge, a Magistrate and a Collector of Revenue, held his court alternately at Sherghati (now in the Gaya district) and Chatra (now in the Hazaribagh district) and his authority was enforced by a newly formed native infantry called the Ramgarh Battalion under an European Commander and stationed at Hazaribagh.

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In the beginning, the Bengal Regulations were in force in this unwieldy district which covered an area of about 18,000 square miles, without any consideration for the widely different conditions of these parts from that of Bengal. Appeals from the civil and criminal judgments of the District Officer lay to the Governor-General and in revenue matters his work was supervised by a Committee of Revenue in Calcutta. In 1793 A.D. civil and criminal appeals were transferred to a Provincial Court of Appeal in Patna. In 1800 A.D. the Collectorship of Ramgarh was abolished, and the Board of Revenue, by their letter of the 15th April, 1800 to the Collector of Bihar, informed him that the Ramgarh Collectorship was annexed to his district. It appears that the great social reformer and the founder of the Brahma Samaj Raja Rammohan Roy was in Ramgarh in 1805-06. He went there with Mr. William Digby who was then acting Magistrate and Registrar of Ramgarh. Raja Rammohan Roy was the Sheristedar of the Collectorate and lived both at Chatra and Ramgarh in this capacity. When Mr. William Digby was transferred elsewhere he took Rammohan Roy with him to his new place of work.

It appears that the first phase of British administration of this area proved somewhat a failure. There was only one officer with diverse functions to look after a huge district. A letter written by Captain Roughsedge, commanding the Ramgarh Battalion, to Mr. C. T. Sealy, Magistrate of Ramgarh in May, 1809 A.D. gives a vivid picture of the state of the district in those early days and of the difficulty in enforcing law and order. He writes that " scarcely an individual in the whole country has remained unchargeable with some act of arbitrary violence; the origin of which is to be found in the notion, only now destroyed, of peculiar privileges and exemptions from the usual course of justice. " (16)

The unrest in the district was also due to the fact that the administration had been applied unscrupulously over an unwieldy extent of country by officials who had the scantiest knowledge of the people with whom they were dealing. With foreigners from Bengal and Bihar, unacquainted with the customs, land tenure, and the languages or dialects of the people in all the subordinate Government posts and with alien landlords almost supreme in the villages, the British rule was made particularly distasteful to the aboriginal races. In 1789 A.D. there was an insurrection in Tamar which was suppressed by Lieutenant Cooper. In 1811 A.D. there was a rising of the Mundas and Uraons in Chotanagpur and six years later, it had to be brought under the direct administration of the East India Company as part of the Ramgarh district. (14) In 1820 A.D. another rising in Tamar was put down by Major Roughsedge with the help of the Ramgarh Battalion.

In 1831 A.D. there was a more formidable rising which is known as Kol rising. It did not seriously affect Hazaribagh. In his letter of the 13th June, 1832, the Secretary to the Governor-General advised the Government at Fort William to carry out the policy with great caution to avoid disturbances, sanctioned an increase in the Ramgarh Battalion by one thousand men and 200 irregular horses and also suggested to obtain the opinion of the local agent on the expediency of recruiting from the native of that part of the country who were also to be accustomed to that climate (*Foreign Consultation*, 2nd July, nos. 10—12). (15)

The Kol rising was eventually suppressed but it ushered in a new epoch in the administration of the country. The administrative system was entirely changed. By Regulation XIII of 1833 A.D. the Parganas of Ramgarh, Kharagdihā, Kendi and Kunda, which compose the present area of the district, became part of the South-West Frontier Agency and were formed into a Division under the name of Hazaribagh. Hazaribagh was made the administrative headquarters. The Chief Executive Officer at Hazaribagh was now styled the Principal Assistant to the Governor-General's Agent who was in charge of the district of Ramgarh and the Jungle Mahals with the estates of Dhalbhum till then included in Midnapore.

The Ramgarh Battalion at Hazaribagh was enlarged. A letter, dated the 16th July, 1832, from Fort William, Calcutta, asked Captain Wilkinson, Officiating Political Agent, South-West Frontier, to recruit the number of men required to complete the Battalion at Ramgarh, Gaya and Bhagalpur (*Foreign*, 1832, 16th July, page 58). There is evidence to show that the Battalion of Ramgarh occasionally visited Sambalpur area too. Captain Wilkinson, Commandar, the Ramgarh Battalion, camp Sambalpur, informed the Calcutta authorities on the 21st October, 1833, that the Battalion would move out on the 22nd October, 1833, from there and commence marching towards Hazaribagh under Lieutenant Higgan, leaving one Naik and twelve sepoy's for the protection of the treasury and the post office (*Foreign*, 1833, consultation 15th Nov., no. 69).

From the creation of the Agency the ordinary laws for the sale of land for debt or arrears of rent were regarded as inapplicable to the province and the rules proposed by Captain Wilkinson (the Agent) provided that no sale or alienation, or even mortgage of hereditary or immovable property was to take place without the sanction of the Agent. In criminal and civil justice the Principal Assistant was guided by Regulation XIII issued in 1833 A.D. It is stated that the police

was brought partially under the control of the Government and in 1837 A.D. the district was divided into twelve thanas, in four of which the police were appointed and paid by Government. In Hazaribagh the cost was divided. The old English Correspondence Volumes in Hazaribagh Collectorate show that the Government thanas in 1837 A.D. were Chatra, Kanha, Chatti, Sirampur and Kharagdiha and the remainder consisted of zamindari thanas at Gawan, Kodarma, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Pagar, Hunterganj, Ikhori and Chatra. In 1838 A.D. the new Grand Trunk Road was opened and the old Banaras Road was closed down. The Chatra thana was moved south-east to Gumia and Kanha Chatti was closed, new thanas being opened at Barhi and Bagodar on the new road. (16)

*The Rushton's Gazetteer*, published in 1841 A.D. mentions that Hazaribagh had European Regiment with two Companies of the native infantry. (17) The tour diaries of Captain Simpson (1852-53 A.D.) found in the old English Correspondence Volumes maintained in the Hazaribagh Record Room, show that Hazaribagh had ceased to be Military station and this had led to the deterioration of some of the roads. The incidence of dacoity on the Grand Trunk Road and some other roads was very high. The Grand Trunk Road played a very important role and a Magistrate was posted at Barhee to control crime. There were bullock-cart trains run by the Government. After some road dacoities had been committed, these bullock-cart trains used to be protected by Sowars with open swords. Simpson's memoirs also indicate that two types of police thanas existed in Hazaribagh—one run by the Government and the other set run by the zamindars. Chuttra, Simpson describes as a city in 1853 A.D. with about twenty thousand population. (18)

In 1853 A.D. Reverend Henry Batson of the Gossner Mission at Ranchi came to Hazaribagh to preach the Christian Gospel among the Santals. He built a station at Singhani on the Hazaribagh-Bagodar Road which has remained till this day the headquarters of the Gossner Mission (Gossner Church since 1919 in this district).

In 1854-55 Mr. Henry Ricketts, a Member of the Board of Revenue, made an inspection tour through Chotanagpur and submitted a report. From this report it appears that the area of the Hazaribagh district was 12,444 square miles with a population of 6,67,585 souls. More than half of the district was held by the Raja of Ramgarh. The criminal justice was administered by the Court of the Principal Assistant at Hazaribagh, the Court of the Deputy Magistrate at Barhee on the Grand Trunk Road and the Court of the Principal Sadar Amin at Gola. The Civil Justice was administered by the Principal Assistant

at Hazaribagh, Principal Sadar Amin at Gola and three Munsifs at Hazaribagh, Chuttra and Kharagdiha. The district had five Government thanas at Chuttra, Burhee, Kharagdiha, Gola and Bagodar. Seven of the zamindari thanas were in the zamindari of the Raja of Ramgarh. The Deputy Magistrate at Burhee controlled the five Government thanas. Incidence of crime was generally high and higher in the zamindari thanas.

As a result of the Report of Mr. Ricketts a further change was introduced in administration. By Act XX of 1854, the designation of the South-West Frontier Agency was changed to Chulia (Chota) Nagpur and it began to be administered as a non-regulation province under the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. At the same time the title of the Chief Executive Officer was changed from Governor-General's Agent to Commissioner.

In 1855-56 there was a fierce rising of the Santals against the British administration. The ringleaders were Lubia Manjhi, Bairu Manjhi and Arjun Manjhi. Their insurrection in Hazaribagh was connected with the Santal Rising of 1855-57 A.D. in the Bhagalpur Division. The rising was cruelly suppressed and Santal villages were burnt, Santals chased from jungle to jungle and imprisoned. Even Santal women were put to imprisonment. The bow and arrow of the Santals were no match for the guns of the British Army.

#### MOVEMENT OF 1857-58.

More significant than the Santal Rising was the uprising commonly known as the Movement of 1857-1858. The Ramgarh Battalion consisting of the two companies of the 8th Native Infantry at Hazaribagh decided on the 30th July to start mutiny from the evening of the following day. Captain Simpson, the Deputy Commissioner, got the news of the actual hour fixed for the outbreak from one of his servants. The only safety lay in immediate flight. Captain Simpson, Dr. Dalpratt and Mr. Liebart of Sitagarha hastily set out on foot across the forest towards Ichak which they reached at nightfall. They were hospitably received by the Brahmans of a monastery. They were supplied with horses and after a few hours' rest, they set out for Bagodar.

When the news of the impending outbreak reached Ranchi, Captain Dalton, the Commissioner, at once sent Lieutenant Graham with a detachment of Ramgarh Light Infantry, some cavalry and two guns to disarm the regiments at Hazaribagh. On the way his own infantry mutinied and hurried back to Ranchi to join the Hazaribagh mutineers, who were proceeding to Ranchi by the Old Ranchi Road *via* Badam.

it was removed to Pachamba and finally in 1881 to Giridih. The first railway lines in the district were built in 1871 from Madhupur on the Chord Line to Giridih, for the convenience of the Railway's colliery there.

Sir George Campbell, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal (1871-1874) had a fascination for Hazaribagh. The present circuit house was built for his use and the road from Bagodar to Hazaribagh was made for his tours. It was during his time in 1874 that the Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, came to Hazaribagh and then to Ranchi. The journey was accomplished from Giridih partly on horseback, partly by *paliki* and partly in carriages.

On December 12, 1912, Bihar, Orissa and Chotanagpur were separated from Bengal by a Royal Proclamation to form a separate province under a Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. In November, 1914, the Chatra subdivision consisting of the thanas Simaria, Chatra, Hnatergunj and Chauparan, was formed with Chatra as its headquarters. Orissa was separated as a province in 1938. All through Hazaribagh district has formed a part of Chotanagpur Division, Bihar.

With the end of the first World War (1914-18) began the present phase of political life in the district. It appears that there was not much of political life in the district before 1920. There was some unrest among students who had organised the Bihari Students' Association with its centre of activities at Patna. The Non-Co-operation Movement started by Gandhiji in 1920 profoundly affected this district too. A number of students gave up their studies and threw themselves in the movement. A few lawyers suspended their practice to join the movement. The District Congress Committee was formed.

The movement went on with greater momentum in 1921. Shri Rajendra Prasad, now President of the Indian Republic, visited this district and addressed meetings at Chatra and Hazaribagh. There was a riot at Giridih which was suppressed immediately by the police. There was also an attempt to boycott local schools. National schools were set up at Chatra, Hazaribagh, and Dhanwar. These new schools, however, collapsed due to financial strain.

After the tragedy of Chauri Chaura, early in 1922, there occurred a split in the All-India Congress Organisation and a party known as the Swaraj Party was formed under Shri C. R. Das and Shri Motilal Nehru to contest elections. It had its repercussion on this district as well. In 1923, there was the election for the Provincial Legislative Council and Shri Krishna Ballav Sahay, the Swaraj Party candidate, was elected from this district, by an overwhelming majority.

The Congress came to be the only effective political party in the district. It captured the District Board. In 1925, Mahatma Gandhi visited Hazaribagh for the first time. His visit followed by the visits of other leaders gave a great support to the Congress movement.

In 1930 the Civil Disobedience Movement gained a new momentum in the district. The Government took stern measures against it. Meetings and processions were forcibly dispersed. Congress leaders were bound down under section 108, Indian Penal Code for one year. A number of leading Congressmen were convicted.

The movement was joined by the Santals under Shri Bangam Manjhi of village Boroberra, police-station Gomiyam. He claimed to have some supernatural power and he became a sort of religio-political leader of the Santals of police-stations Mandu, Ramgarh, Bagodar and Gomia. The Government apprehended in this movement the seeds of another Santal rising and made a number of arrests with the result that the movement declined. Most of the Congress leaders of Bihar were lodged in 1930 in the Hazaribagh Central Jail. Mahatma Gandhi came to Hazaribagh again in 1932 in connexion with the Harijan Movement and visited certain rural areas of the district.

According to the Government of India Act, 1935, the Chotanagpur Division and the district of Santal Parganas were declared a "Partially Excluded Area". In the election to the Central and Provincial Legislatures in 1937 in the district the Congress Party swept the polls. One of its representatives, Shri Krishna Ballav Sabay, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the new Government of Bihar. There was an election of the District Board also in 1938. It resulted in the victory of the Congress Party and for the first time in 1939 a non-official Chairman was elected.

In March, 1940, the Indian National Congress held its 53rd session at Ramgarh under the presidentship of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. Side by side with the Congress Session, was the Anti-Compromise Conference with Shri Subash Chandra Bose as President. There was a heavy rain and the session had to be cut short. Ramgarh saw the rise of the All-India Forward Block with Shri Subash Chandra Bose as President and the Radical Democratic Party under Shri M. N. Roy.

Individual Satyagraha was organised in this district also. Then came the 1942 Movement. Kodarma railway station was set on fire and firing had to be taken recourse to. This resulted in one death and several injuries. An attempt was made to burn the local District Record

Room. In Hazaribagh and other parts of the district students took part in organising processions and in tampering with telephone and telegraph connections. This resulted in several arrests and imprisonments. One of the most significant events of the year was the escape of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan and seven others from the Hazaribagh Central Jail where most of the important Congress leaders of Bihar were lodged, on the Diwali night. All efforts for their detection failed.

In the post-war election to the Provincial Legislature the Congress Party won all the seats in the district and Shri Krishna Ballav Sahay, an elected member, was included in the Bihar Cabinet as a Minister of Revenue and Forest. Soon after, the Bihar Private Protected Forest Act of 1946 was enacted and extended to this district. This was followed by an agitation sponsored by the Raja of Ramgarh and some other landlords of the district. This agitation had led to the formation of a political party known as the Kisan Forward Block with Shri Kamakshya Narayan Singh, the Raja of Ramgarh (Padma) as the leader. It opposed the Congress Party in the District Board election of 1947. The party is now known as the Janata Party.

In the latter part of 1946 and in the early part of 1947, several agrarian troubles took place in the Santal areas of the district. The Santal Manjhis claimed that they were the first settlers of the land and that the local zamindars and mahajans by dishonest means had appropriated their lands. Several paddy cutting cases took place in villages Tulbul, Siari, Hardiamo and Jala. Quick administrative measures had brought the situation under control.

The transference of power under the Indian Independence Act of August 15, 1947, and the enforcement of the New Constitution on January 26, 1950, have changed the character of the administration of the district. The district of Hazaribagh is no longer included within the Scheduled Area.

One of the events which has created a certain amount of excitement in the district was the abolition of zamindaries after the passing of the Zamindari Abolition Act of 1947. Government have taken over the principal zamindaries and an elaborate machinery has been set up for this purpose. A very large number of ameliorative measures have been taken up for the prosperity of the common man.

The election to the Central and State Legislatures according to the new Constitution was held in the district in January, 1952. There was a keen contest between the Congress party led by Sri Krishna Ballav Sahay and the Janata Party led by Sri Kamakshya Narayan Singh.

While the Congress won all the seats in the Giridih subdivision, the Janata Party had a more successful contest in the Sadar and Chatra subdivisions.

The Damodar Valley Corporation in the recent years with its multi-purpose projects has greatly changed the district. Dams have been constructed at Tilaiya, Konar and Charwa. They are to supply electricity and water for drinking and irrigation and facilitate fish-rearing. There has been erected a huge Thermal Power Station at Bokaro to generate and supply electricity. The Charwa Dam is supplying drinking water to the Hazaribagh town. The Damodar Valley Corporation have tried to rehabilitate the people of the district who have been displaced by the submerging of their villages and lands.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

The earliest human settlement in the Hazaribagh district as indicated by a palaeolith tool which was found by Hughes in the Bokaro Coal-field (V. Ball, *Stone Implements Found in Bengal, Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 1865, pp. 127-28) is a boucher made of micaceous quartzite, now kept in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. The scarcity of neolithic implements within the confines of the district while many of these have been noticed in the adjoining regions may perhaps be attributed to the lack of adequate exploration.

The Chalcolithic phase is represented by copper artefacts discovered from two sites. At Bargunda was found a flat copper celt as well as a copper armlet (Robert Bruce Foote, *The Foote Collection of Indian Pre-historic and Proto-historic Antiquities*, 1914, page 248). They are now lodged in the Madras Government Museum. Pachamba (Giridih), a subdivision of the district, has yielded three flat copper celts, now in the Indian Museum (J. Goggin Brown, *Catalogue of Pre-historic Antiquities in the Indian Museum*, pages 140 ff.) The date of the copper artefacts is difficult to determine since they were not found in association with any dateable object. So far as typology is concerned it is well to remember that some of them closely resemble the copper-plate grants of the historical period (*Indian Antiquary*, Vol. 1, page 355, also plate XIV).

There is not a single protected monument in the whole of the Hazaribagh district. This may be ascribed partly to the fact that it was never the seat of a powerful empire and possibly, not many buildings big and strong enough to survive through ages, had ever been built here. But at the same time it may be mentioned that no systematic exploration has yet been made to assess the character of the existing ruins in the district.

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Large dolmens or flat stone slabs planted upright abound in the district; the exact significance of these is still unknown. There are also other ruins, in the form of dilapidated brick structures, which await exploration. One of such sites, the temple ruins near Itkhori may belong to the mediæval period.

The remains on Kulua and Parasnath Hills are of recent date and do not come under the purview of archæology. According to tradition, the former was the birth-place of the tenth Jain Tirthankar Sitala Swamin and the latter is associated with the life and activities of Parasvanath. Twenty out of the twenty-four Tirthankars of the Jains had attained their *nirvana* at Parasnath Hill.

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