

CHAPTER II.

HISTORY.

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History.

Early history

The antiquities and ancient history of Ambála, and especially of the Kurukshetrá or battle-field of the Pándavas and Kauravas and of the numerous traditions connected with it that centre in Thánesar, have been discussed very fully by General Cunningham in his Archæological Survey Reports I., 245; II., 212-231; XIV., 72-106. Ambála and its neighbourhood are intimately connected with the earliest dawn of Indian history. The strip of country included between the Saraswati and Drishadvati (the Sarassutí and the Ghaggar) is the "Holy Land" of the Hindu faith, the first permanent home of Aryans in India, and the spot in which their religion took shape. Hence the sanctity, even in modern times, of the waters of the Saraswati, which attracts worshippers from all parts of India, even from Orissa and remote portions of Bengal. The towns of Thánesar and Pihowa are the chief centres of attraction, but its whole bank is lined with shrines. At Thánesar as many as 100,000 persons have been known, even of late years, to assemble on the occasion of an eclipse; and a tank, filled from the Sarassutí, is yearly bathed in by double or treble that number. Nor has subsequent history failed to supply food to keep alive the associations of remote antiquity. Thánesar and its neighbourhood, the Kurukshetrá, teem with traditions of the great conflict of the Pándavas and Kauravas, and this fact, without doubt, has done much to stir up in the Hindu mind a lively desire to visit the sacred spots. The Mahábhárata, recording as it does the exploits of these heroes of antiquity, has exercised, and still does exercise, an unbounded influence over the masses of the people. It is always in their thoughts, and such religious ideas as they have are drawn exclusively from its pages. The scenes therefore whereon the great drama was played out cannot fail to interest and attract them. Modern rules of sanitation have done much to render unpopular the fairs at which pilgrims congregate, and the numbers have of late years undoubtedly fallen off. It is probable, however, that only idle lookers-on will be deterred by such measures, and Thánesar will always continue to be a resort of the faithful from all parts of India.*

The name Kurukshetrá, or "field of Kuru," is derived from Kuru, father of Santanu, great grandfather of the heroes of the Mahábhárata. Kuru is said to have become an ascetic on the bank of the great holy lake to the south of Thánesar. The true limits of the holy tract cannot be ascertained with certainty.

* See account of the towns of Thánesar and Pihowa.

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According to popular belief the number of places of pilgrimage in it is 360, but no complete list of them is given. Its circuit is variously said to be 20, 40 and 48 *kos*, and these accounts would make it include the town of Jind, which is 65 miles distant from Thánesar. This account General Cunningham * rejects as a late invention of interested Bráhmans, wishing to curry favour with the *Sikh Rájá* of Jind, by bringing his capital within the range of the holy circuit; and he concludes by accepting as the probable boundary a line drawn from Ratan Jaksh on the Sarassutí, westwards to Pihowa, from Pihowa southwards to beyond Púndri, from thence eastward to Naráina, and from Naráina northward again to Ratan Jaksh. This circuit is as nearly as possible 80 miles, or 40 *kos*; and within its limits lie all the famous places connected with the history of the Pándus. It may therefore be accepted as approximately correct.

Of the later period of Hindu history there is but little to record. The capital of the country at this time was the town of Srughna, the site of which General Cunningham has identified† with the village of Sugh, situated in a bend of the old bed of the Jamná, now utilized for the Western Jamná Canal, and close to Jagádhrí and Buria. Srughna is mentioned by Hwen Tshang, the Chinese pilgrim of the 7th century, as a town $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles in circuit, the capital of a kingdom and a seat of considerable learning, both Budhistic and Bráhminical. He describes the kingdom of Srughna as extending to the mountains on the north, and to the Ganges on the east, with the Yamuna or Jamná flowing through the midst of it. The capital he represents as having been partly in ruins; but General Cunningham thinks that there is evidence in the coins found on the spot to show that it was occupied down to the time of the Muhammadan conquest. He thus describes the extent and position of the ruins:—

“The village of Sugh occupies one of the most remarkable positions that I have seen during the whole course of my researches. It is situated on a projecting triangular spur of high land, and is surrounded on three sides by the bed of the old Jamná, which is now the Western Jamná Canal. On the north and west faces, it is further protected by two deep ravines, so that the position is a ready-made stronghold, which is covered on all sides, except the west, by natural defences. In shape it is almost triangular, with a large projecting fort or citadel at each of the angles. The site of the north fort is now occupied by the castle and village of Dyálgarh. The village of Amádalpur stands on the site of the south-east fort, and that of the south-west is unoccupied. Each of these forts is 1,500 feet long and 1,000 feet broad, and each face of the triangle which connects them together is upwards of half-a-mile in length, that to the east being 4,000, and these to the north-west and south-west 3,000, feet each. The whole circuit of the position is therefore 22,000 feet, or upwards of 4 miles, which is considerably more than the $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Hwen Tshang's measurement. But as the north fort is separated from the main position by a deep sandy ravine, called the Rohára Nálá, it is possible that it may have been unoccupied at the time of the pilgrim's visit. This would reduce the circuit of the position to 19,000 feet, or upwards of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and bring it into accord with the pilgrim's measurement. The small village of Sugh occupied the west side of the position, and the small town of Buriah lies immediately to the north of Dyálgarh. The occupied houses, at the

* Archæological Report, 1863-64, p. 215-216.

† Arch. Surv. Rep., 1863-64, pp. 226 and ff.

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time of my visit, were as follows: Mándalpur 100, Sugh 125, Dyálgarh 150, and Buria 3,500, or altogether 3,875 houses, containing a population of about 20,000 souls.

"Of Sugh itself the people have no special traditions, but there is a ruined mound to the north-west of the village, and several foundations made of large bricks inside the village. Between Sugh and Amadalpur there is a square tank called the Surajkund, which is probably old, but the temple on its bank is a modern one. On the east and south-east faces, the earthen ramparts still form huge mounds on the crest of the high bank. A line of similar mounds extends from north-north-east to south-south-west nearly across the middle of the position, and towards the east there are several isolated mounds. But on none of these could I find any ancient remains, excepting broken bricks of large size from $9\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. These large bricks are unmistakable evidences of antiquity; but the great number of ancient coins that are found all over the place affords evidence equally certain and much more interesting. The place was said to have been visited only six weeks before by Lieutenant Pullan's coin collector; but so plentiful is the yield, that I obtained no less than 125 old Hindu coins of all ages, from the small Diliál pices of the Chohán and Túnar Rájás of Debli, to the square punch-marked pieces of silver and copper, which are certainly as old as the rise of Buddhism, and which were probably the common currency of India as early as 1,000 B.C. According to the traditions of the people the city of Mándar or Mándalpur formerly covered an extent of 12 kos, and included Jagádhri and Chaneti on the west with Buriah and Dyálgarh to the north. As Jagádhri lies 3 miles to the west, it is not possible that the city could ever have extended so far, but we may reasonably admit that the gardens and summer houses of the wealthier inhabitants may possibly have extended to that distance. At Chaneti, which lies two miles to the north-west, old coins are found in considerable numbers; but it is now entirely separated from Buriah and Dyálgarh by a long space of open country."

Thánesar, also, is mentioned by Hwen Thsang as the capital of a *quasi*-independent kingdom. Only a small portion of this, however, would fall within the boundaries of the present district of Ambála. Thánesar was sacked by Mahmud of Ghazni.

The Sikhs.

The history may now pass on at one stride to the time of the fall of the Muhammadan Empire of Delhi. Its practical interest begins with the rise of the Sikh principalities south of the Sutlaj during the latter half of the last century. As the central power of the Empire relaxed under the blows of the Marhata on the one side and the Duráni on the other, the Sikh marauders of the Panjáb proper began to extend their encroachments beyond the Sutlaj and ere long acquired for themselves the heart of the country between that river and the Jamná. (At the time of the fall of the Marhatas before the English in 1803, the whole tract was parcelled out among Chiefs of various grades of power, from the Phulkián Rájás of Patiála, Jínd, and Nábhá, down to the petty Sardár who had succeeded in securing, by violence or fraud, the possession of a few villages. When all that was to be had for the mere taking was assumed, each leader began to look upon his neighbour. The less powerful were absorbed by the stronger, and the stronger fought among themselves. The smallest acquisition made by one Chief was a source of jealousy to his neighbours, and a headlong spirit of grasping was everywhere rampant. Thus matters went on, till

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Ranjit Singh made his appearance on the south bank of the Sutlaj. He had already made one raid upon the most northern of the Cis-Sutlaj States. Tribute had been exacted, and where this was not forthcoming, the recusant had been deprived of his estates. The next year would probably bring another visitation. Thus pressed, and fearing the fate which was already overtaking their Trans-Sutlaj brethren, the disconnected chiefs at last, in 1808, combined to apply to the British Government for aid. The Government, which was at the time engaged in negotiations with Ranjit Singh, accepted the responsibility, and took the Cis-Sutlaj Chiefs under its protection.

By the treaty of 1809 between the Government and Ranjit Singh, they were for ever secured from encroachment from the north. Internal wars were sternly forbidden by a proclamation issued in 1811. But with this exception the powers and privileges of the Chiefs remained untouched. Each Chief, great and small alike, had within his own territory absolute civil, criminal, and fiscal jurisdiction, subject only to the general authority of the Agent to the Governor General. No tribute was taken from them, and, though they were required, in the case of war, to aid the Government, yet no special contingent was fixed. The right to escheats was the sole return for its protection, which the Government demanded. There followed a long period of peace, during which, while north of the Sutlaj every vestige of independence vanished before the encroachments of Ranjit Singh, the Cis-Sutlaj Chiefs enjoyed a complete immunity from invasion, and retained undiminished rights of sovereignty. After thirty-six years, with the exception of a few states which had lapsed from failure of heirs, each Chief still found himself the ruler of the territory which he or his fathers had held at the time when they passed under British protection.

No occasion for testing the gratitude of the Chiefs for these benefits occurred, until the declaration of the first Sikh war, and the Sutlaj campaign of 1845. But when tested, it miserably failed. Throughout the war, few of the Chiefs displayed their loyalty more conspicuously than by abstaining from open rebellion. Their previous conduct had not been such as to encourage the British Government in its policy towards them. Almost without exception they had abused its indulgence, and made the security of its protection a means of extortion and excess of every kind. There was nothing whatever to admire in the internal management or administration of their estates, as was amply testified by the universal satisfaction with which the peasants of those estates which, from time to time, had lapsed, came under direct British management. It has been well said that "independence, for these Sikh Chiefs, had no nobler significance than the right to do evil without restraint, and to oppress the people who were so unfortunate as to be their subjects."*

* Griffin, "Rajas of the Punjab," p. 218.

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British rule.**

Having thus already lost the confidence of the Government, the Sikh Chiefs in the Sutlaj campaign forfeited all claim to consideration. It was seen that the time had arrived for the introduction of sweeping measures of reform; and the Government unhesitatingly resolved upon a reduction of their privileges. Several important measures were at once adopted. The police jurisdiction of most of the Chiefs was abolished, the existing system being most unfavourable to the detection and punishment of crime. All transit and customs duties were also abolished, and, thirdly, a commutation was accepted for the personal service of the Chief and his contingent. The despatch of the Governor-General, embodying this resolution, was dated November 7th, 1846. The only States exempted were : Patiala, Jind, Nábha,* Faridkot, Maler Kotla, Chhachhrauli (Kalsia), Raikot, Buria and Mamdot. With these exceptions, the police jurisdiction was made over to European officers. The Political Agency of Ambála was transformed into a Commissionership, under an officer styled the Commissioner of the Cis-Sutlaj States. His subordinates, however, under the titles of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners, while taking over the judicial and executive functions of the Chiefs, still retained, for a time, their powers as political officers.

It soon became apparent that the Chiefs, deprived of their police jurisdiction, were unable to collect their revenue. A proposal was therefore made for a regular settlement of the land revenue. But before final orders had been passed upon this point, the second Sikh campaign commenced. It ended in the annexation of the Panjáb, and in the removal of the political reasons which had hitherto complicated the question of the amount of power to be left to the Cis-Sutlaj Chiefs. In June 1849, it was accordingly declared that, with the exception of the States already mentioned, all the Chiefs should "cease to hold sovereign powers, should lose all criminal, civil, and fiscal jurisdiction, and should be considered as no more than ordinary subjects of the British Government in the possession of certain exceptional privileges."† The revenues were still to be theirs, but were to be assessed by British officers, and under British rules. The whole administration now vested in the British Government, and was placed under the superintendence of the recently formed Board of Administration at Lahore. The district officers ceased to exercise political functions, and the Commissioner was appointed the sole referee in disputes between the Chiefs.

The Mutiny.

The following account of the course of events in 1857 is taken from the Panjáb Mutiny Report. The proximity of the Cis-Sutlaj States to the focus of the revolt rendered it a very difficult matter to uphold in it British authority as supreme. The inhabitants of a part of it were to a certain extent one with the rebels of

* Nábha was exceptionally treated, one quarter of its territory being confiscated.

† Griffin's "Rajas of the Panjab," p. 217.

Delhi in race, in feeling, and in creed; there is no natural boundary to separate the Panjáb from the North-Western Provinces; and this undividedness of country, joined with the care entailed on the authorities by the imperative necessity for holding the Grand Trunk Road, made this division a very anxious charge. But Mr. Barnes, the Commissioner, and his district officers nobly and successfully exerted themselves to put down all discontent and crime, and to show that we still had power and the means to keep it. The feudal Chiefs were ordered to furnish their quotas of horse and foot, and the revenue they had hitherto paid in commutation was remitted. The following extract from Mr. Barnes's report will show the inestimable value of the services rendered to us also by the Chiefs of the protected Sikh States; the first stroke towards securing their allegiance was taken by Mr. Forsyth, Deputy Commissioner of Ambála, in calling on the Rájá of Patialá, at the very first *émeute*, to send in his troops, thus leading him at once to take a decided part, from which he has never since swerved. Mr. Barnes says:—

"The station of Ambála was left with four weak companies (about 250 men) of the 2nd Bengal Fusiliers, the 5th Regiment Native Infantry, and some six-pounder guns, to man which we had only native artillerymen. A redoubt was erected with the church in the centre, and the remaining residents were concentrated in the houses around. A militia was formed of uncovenanted officers; and the magazine, the treasure, and the commissariat stores were all lodged in the redoubt, which was garrisoned by a company of the Fusiliers. Owing to the defection of the Nassiri Battalion, there was no available escort for the siege train or for the ammunition so urgently needed by the army. I offered, however, to furnish political escorts, and accordingly the siege train came down from Philaur under a guard of horse and foot furnished by the Nábha Rájá, and accompanied by a detachment of the 9th Irregulars under Lieutenant Campbell. The ammunition was conveyed by a party of the district police, and so, throughout the campaign, the most important military stores were constantly sent down under the charge of contingents furnished by the Chiefs of the Cis-Sutlej States. Their troops protected our stations and patrolled the Grand Trunk Road from Ferozpur and Philaur down to the very walls of Dehli. The safety of this Province may be attributed to their loyalty and good example. The Rájá of Jind, with Captain McAndrew and a small but well-disciplined force, acted as the vanguard of the army, and by my directions kept always in advance. When the first detachment of Europeans reached Karnál, this little band proceeded twenty-two miles further to Pánipat, quieting the country, securing the road, and collecting supplies; and in this manner they advanced boldly to within twenty miles of Dehli. A detachment of the Jind troops seized the bridge at Bagpat, and thus enabled the Mírat force to join head-quarters. A party of the Jind *sawárs*, with Captain Hodson at their head, rode into Mírat and opened our communication with that station. The troops of the Mahárájah of Patialá guarded Thánesar and Ambála, and the safety of Ludhiáná was entrusted to the Rájá of Nábha and the Kotla Nawáb. These eminent services afforded by the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs are thus casually noticed as part of the history of the late campaign. I feel under the deepest obligations to them, and the Governor-General, in the *Gazette* announcing the fall of Dehli, has declared that they shall not be without their reward."

Next in importance to the securing of the Grand Trunk Road, and of the loyalty of the native Chiefs, was the necessity

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for saving the treasuries from attack. They were all, at the commencement of the outbreak, under sepoy guards. Mr. Barnes promptly issued instructions to his district officers, in obedience to which the Ambála treasure (Rs. 3,50,000) was placed under the 1st Fusiliers, and the Thánesar money (Rs. 10,00,000) sent to the same guard. Mr. Ricketts sent his Rs. 1,50,000 to the care of the two companies of the 8th Queen's Regiment at Philaur. Major Marsden at Firozpur placed his in the entrenchment, where it was guarded by H. M.'s 61st Regiment. Only the Simla treasury remained under a guard of natives, and they, being Gurkhás of the Nassiri Battalion, were considered staunch. However, during their temporary mutiny, although the Simla treasury remained untouched, the branch treasury at Kasauli was plundered of Rs. 32,043, of which only Rs. 12,063 were recovered. Mr. Barnes thus describes the means adopted to secure ready and regular conveyance for stores and ammunition to the army, and sick and wounded men from it—means which never once failed of their end, and on which the district officers reflect with an honest pride, that in no case was a single cart unreasonably delayed or a single rupee's worth of stores plundered:—

“The requirements of the army became incessant, and the road was thronged with carts laden with every variety of stores. A bullock train was suggested by Mr. Forsyth to be carried on by the district officers. This arrangement proved defective in practice for the want of a general superintendent in charge of the whole line. I obtained leave from the Chief Commissioner to organize a ‘Military Transport Train’ under the agency of Captain Briggs, an able and zealous officer of great experience. His exertions and complete success deserve the special thanks of Government. We had been drained of our carriage, and no assistance could be drawn from either the Ganges Doab or the Dehli territory. The Army Commissariat could give no help. Carts that reached Dehli never came back, and there was imminent danger of a dead-lock. All these difficulties were overcome by Captain Briggs. His jurisdiction extended from Firozpur to Dehli, 265 miles. A train of 30 waggons a day from each of the principal stations of Ambála, Ludhiána, and Karnál, and 14 waggons per diem from Firozpur, was soon organized. The same number was also daily employed on the return journey. Stores of every description, especially the enormous demands for ordnance ammunition, were safely and regularly supplied to the army. The sick and wounded were comfortably conveyed from camp to Ambála. The train was in full operation from the 22nd July to the middle of October. The scheme was eminently successful owing to the skill, tact, and indefatigable energy of Captain Briggs. He has fully acknowledged his obligations to the civil authorities of the Cis-Sutlej States, who gave him their utmost support. The cost of the train was Rs. 97,317, and it has fully realized the objects for which it was organized.”

This division (in Mr. Barnes' words) “acted as a kind of breakwater: beyond was the raging sea, inside was comparative calm.” It could not, however, be expected that the surface should be unruffled. At first the natives seemed aghast at the enormity of the odds against us; but after the first shock came the desire to rebel, and it required the strongest determination to quell incipient insurrection. The police were exhorted to use their arms freely; against any one found in the act of perpetrating violent crime. The lawless and

predatory were checked by the manifestation of a will on the part of the officers. Some were killed in pursuit, and 123 executed by process of law, partly by district officers sitting in commission, and partly by Mr. Barnes. Besides these, 258 mutineers were executed, and 102 sentenced to imprisonment, who deserved death, as they belonged to the mutinous regiments at Firozpur. It was only by such measures that districts were controlled which were quickly escaping from our grasp.

It was known for some weeks previous to the outbreak that the minds of the native soldiers in this station were unsettled. On the 19th April mysterious fires began to occur, and, though they were at first attributed to the thatchers, the eyes of all the residents were gradually opened to see that the soldiery and none others were the real authors of them. Mr. Forsyth obtained positive information, on the 7th and 8th May, that the prediction of a rebellious clique among the sepoys was "that in the following week blood would be shed at Dehli or Ambála, and that a general rising of the sepoys would take place." On May the 10th, the day of the Mirat mutiny, the 5th and 60th Regiments Native Infantry, and the detached guard of the 60th at the treasury, simultaneously rushed to their bells of arms, and began loading their muskets. The treasury guard remained under arms the whole day in direct disobedience to orders. This over tact of mutiny was unconditionally forgiven by the military authorities, and the result was that large portions of these regiments afterwards joined the rebels at Dehli; the remainder, when ordered into jail on September 1st by the directions of the Chief Commissioner, attempted to fly, but were killed by the European troops, or afterwards captured and tried. Mr. Forsyth's exertions in procuring carriage at the first outbreak—when, as Mr. Barnes says, the natives, thinking our rule at an end, were deserting the town "like rats from a sinking ship—" were most successful. Mr. Forsyth says:—

"As soon as it was determined by the Commander-in-Chief that an onward move should be made, a sudden difficulty arose in the want of carriage. The Deputy Commissary-General having officially declared his inability to meet the wants of the army, the civil authorities were called upon to supply the demand. At Ambála there has always been a difficulty to furnish carriage of any kind, the carts being of a very inferior description. However, such as they were, they had to be pressed into service; and in the course of a week, after the utmost exertions, 500 carts, 2,000 camels, and 2,000 coolies were made over to the Commissariat Department; 30,000 maunds of grain were likewise collected and stored for the army in the town of Ambála."

As soon as this first difficulty had been overcome, the necessity for preserving the peace of the district led Mr. Barnes to call on the commutation-tenure chiefs to furnish men instead of their usual tribute in money. By the operation of this order, a force of 459 foot and 259 horse was soon at our disposal; but the moral effect of these and the other influential Chiefs siding with us was of far greater value than even the force they supplied. Mr. Barnes observes further:—

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"In addition to these *jāgirdārs*, who were bound to supply levies, several public-spirited individuals volunteered their own services and brought several followers. Among these the most prominent were Rāo Rahīm Baksh, of Panjlāsa, who with 50 followers guarded the road between Ambāla and Jagādhrī; and the Sirkārdāhs of Sādhaura, who furnished 60 men to protect the public and private buildings in the civil station, thus relieving our police from very heavy duty."

The civil courts in this district were for some time unavoidably closed. Mr. Forsyth's time was wholly engrossed by his pressing miscellaneous duties. Captain McAndrew, Assistant Commissioner, was on duty with the advanced guard of the Dehli field force. Mr. Plowden, Assistant Commissioner, was on detached duty on the river Jamna; and the time of the only remaining civil officer, Mr. Vaughan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, was entirely taken up with the very heavy duties of the treasury. It was not till Mr. C. P. Elliot was transferred from Lahore to Ambāla that the court could be re-opened, and by his well known industry and perseverance he rapidly cleared off all arrears in this department. Mr. Plowden was detached with a squadron of the 4th Light Cavalry under Captain Wyld, and two companies of the 5th Native Infantry under Captain Garstin, to keep down the turbulent population of the banks of the Jamna. He was out in camp from 19th May to November, and was always to be found wherever danger was threatening or insurrection abroad. His force (Mr. Barnes states) was the means of saving Sahāranpur, whither he had gone to act in conjunction with Mr. Spankie, the energetic Magistrate and Collector of that place. Even when deserted and fired at by his Hindustāni troops, Mr. Plowden held on with his Sikhs, and eventually succeeded in checking the progress of the bold marauders, and destroying their short-lived power. Captain Gardner, a Dehli refugee, was sent with two other companies of the 5th Native Infantry to guard Ropar. Mr. Barnes gave him authority to act as a Magistrate if needful, and he did excellent service. He remained there until the men were called in. The zeal he displayed led to his death, which occurred at Kasauli a short time afterwards, from illness induced by the exposure and exertions which he had undergone.

Famines.

The district suffered severely in the famine of 1860-61. The autumn rains of 1860 failed utterly and the rain crop withered in the ground. So great was the heat that even the jungle tracts produced no grass, and the cattle died off by thousands. A sprinkling of rain fell in December, but not sufficient to enable preparations to be made for the spring harvest, and except where the means existed of artificial irrigation, this too failed as completely as the autumn harvest of the preceding year. The price of wheat rose to 8 seers per rupee (=1½d per lb.), and the mortality from disease and hunger began to be serious. The distress was aggravated by the influx, which in such seasons always occurs, of refugees from Bikaner and Hariāna, who flocked into the district, in many instances only to die from exhaustion. The distress lasted all through the summer until the ripening of the autumn harvest, which a copious fall of rain at the usual season

providentially rendered unusually good. A good spring harvest followed in 1862, the price of grain fell, and the district speedily recovered.

The year 1869-70 was elsewhere one of famine. In Ambála, however, there was no great distress, the harvest being fairly good. Relief was necessarily provided for the mass of fugitives from Bikaner, Hisár, and Sirsa; but for the residents of the district scarcely any relief was required. All demands were met from funds locally subscribed. In 1877-8 again very great distress was caused by the failure of the rains. The southern portion of the district is, like the adjoining tracts of Karnál, peculiarly liable to drought; while the fact that the greater part of the district is well protected, tends to divert from the remainder the attention which it should receive.

The foregoing sketch has led far beyond the boundaries of the district of Ambála, but it was necessary to give an outline of the history of the Cis-Satléj States, in order to explain the circumstances under which the present district was formed. It has been shown that the right to escheats was from the first asserted by the British Government. By virtue of this rule, as from time to time a State lapsed, a portion of territory came under British management. The reforms and forfeitures of 1849 brought the district nearly to its present proportions. Lastly, in 1862, when it was determined to re-distribute the district of Thánesar—a district, like Ambála, formed from lapsed and forfeited territory—a large slice was added to Ambála, which practically completed the present boundaries of the district.

Formation of the district.

The district of Thánesar included the estates of Thánesar, which lapsed $\frac{2}{3}$ ths in 1832 and the remainder in 1850; Kaithal, which lapsed in 1843; and Ládwa, confiscated in 1846. Up to 1849 these estates had been administered by the Political Agent of Ambála and his assistants. In that year, being incorporated with the Panjáb, they were formed into one district under a Deputy Commissioner subordinate to the Commissioner of the Cis-Satléj Division. In 1862 the district was abolished as a separate charge, and its territory distributed between the districts of Ambála and Karnál. The *pargana*hs of Sháhábád, Ládwa, and a part of Thánesar fell to Ambála, and the remainder, including Kaithal, went to Karnál. The *tahsils* were at the same time remodelled. They had previously consisted of (1) Kaithal, (2) Gula, which included the Pehowa tract now in Ambála, (3) Thánesar, and (4) Ládwa. The last two included the villages now forming the Indri *pargana*h of the Karnál *tahsil*. In 1866 the Pehowa *pargana*h was transferred from Karnál to Ambála, but in 1876 14 villages enjoying inundations from the lower Saraswati were re-transferred to Karnál. The present district comprises almost the whole of 81 Sikh *ilákas*.

The statements on the next page are lists of the officers who have held charge of the Ambála and Thánesar districts, respectively, during recent years.

District Officers.

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Names.	Dates.	Names.	Dates.
Captain Blair T. Reid ...	20th Novr. 1855.	C. P. Elliott, Esquire ...	14th April 1872.
.. F. C. Maisey ...	29th May 1856.	W. Coldstream, Esquire ...	16th April 1875.
.. B. T. Reid ...	28th June 1856.	Captain C. H. T. Marshall	21st April 1875.
T. D. Forsyth, Esquire ...	7th Novr. 1856.	.. J. Fendall ...	24th April 1875.
P. S. Melvill, Esquire ...	23rd Jany. 1858.	.. E. P. Gurdon ...	1st April 1877.
Captain A. L. Busk ...	24th May 1859.	T. W. H. Tolbort, Esquire...	16th April 1879.
.. J. S. Tighe ...	21st Feby. 1863.	Captain Maesey	22nd Oct. 1879.
C. P. Elliott, Esquire ...	21st Feby. 1867.	T. W. H. Tolbort, Esquire	22nd Nov. 1879.
Captain J. S. Tighe ...	9th Sept. 1867.	J. A. Anderson, Esquire ...	27th Sept. 1881.
.. H. V. Riddel ...	3rd Aug. 1870.	T. W. H. Tolbort, Esquire	27th Oct. 1881.
Major J. S. Tighe ...	3rd Sept. 1870.	Major W. J. Parker ...	16th Nov. 1881.
Captain H. V. Riddel ...	4th March 1871.	J. Frizelle, Esquire ...	31st Jany. 1882.
Major J. S. Tighe ...	19th Mar. 1871.	A. R. Bulman, Esquire ...	26th March 1883.
Captain H. V. Riddel ...	3rd April 1871.	J. C. Brown, Esquire ...	13th July 1884.
Captain C. Beadon ...	1st July 1871.	A. R. Bulman, Esquire ...	1st Novr. 1884.
T. Roberts, Esquire ...	3rd April 1872.		

THANESAR DISTRICT.

Names.	Dates.	Names.	Dates.
Captain A. L. Busk ...	1st Jany. 1859.	Captain F. S. Graham ...	26th May 1860.
F. McNaghten, Esquire ...	1st June 1859.	.. F. J. Millar ...	10th Oct. 1861.
Captain A. J. Hawes ...	1st Augt. 1859.	.. H. H. Urmston ...	10th Novr. 1861.
Lieutenant Johnstone ...	1st Decr. 1859.	.. W. G. Davies ...	16th Decr. 1861.
Captain A. J. Hawes ...	1st Jany. 1860.	Colonel F. S. Voyle ...	23rd Jany. 1863.
.. N. W. Elphinstone	1st Feby. 1860.		

Development since
annexation.

Some conception of the development of the district since it came into our hands may be gathered from Table No. II., which gives some of the leading statistics for five-yearly periods, so far as they are available; while most of the other tables appended to this work give comparative figures for the last few years. In the case of Table No. II. it is probable that the figures are not always strictly comparable, their basis not being the same in all cases from one period to another. But the figures may be accepted as showing in general terms the nature and extent of the advance made.