

## Section B.—Meteorology.

13. The native of Rohtak divides the year into three seasons CHAP. I. B.  
the *karsa* or hot season, the *chaumāsā*, or *chīrmāshā*, comprising the Meteorology.  
four rainy months, and the *jāsā* or four months of cold. Climate.  
Uncomfortable heat begins only in the latter half of April and the nights  
often remain quite cool till June. During June and July, the heat  
of the day is intense until rain falls and the nights are stuffy when  
the monsoon has broken, but the heat is less fierce than in the  
centre and west of the Punjab. Hot winds blow steadily from  
the west all day, enabling cooling appliances to be worked, but  
bringing up constant dust-storms from the Rajputana Desert  
which are often dense enough to produce almost utter darkness.  
The first rain usually falls between 25th June and 15th July but  
the heat only moderates for a few days after each downpour and  
is then less tolerable as the west winds cease. The last rain  
falls from September 20th to October 15th; after this the nights  
become deliciously cool, but the days are still hot until the middle  
of November. Frost generally occurs about the close of the year  
and sometimes again in February. During February and March  
strong winds often blow to the discomfort of sojourners in tents  
and in the latter end of March and April thunder-storms are not  
infrequent. The climate though hot is healthy, and may be not  
inaptly described in the quaint language of George Thomas'  
biographer as "in general salubrious though when the sandy and  
desert country lying to the westward becomes heated, it is inimical  
to an European constitution."

14. The rainfall of the district is exhibited in Tables 2, 3, 4 of Rainfall.  
part B. The normal fall of the year may be put at about 20  
inches, and if periods of 20 years or so are taken, the variations  
will not be found large. For the six years 1850-51 to 1855-56  
when perhaps the record was less accurately kept than now, the  
average rainfall according to the North-Western Provinces' revenue  
report was 22.1 inches, and from 1860-61 to 1878-79 it was 19.5  
inches. The year 1885-86 was one of floods, and the *tahsil* at  
Gohana is said to have been cut off from the town by water to the  
height of a man's waist; heavy rain occurred again in 1892-93 and  
1894-95, but the drainage of the district has been improved and  
damage from floods is now unlikely. From 1895-96 a dry cycle set  
in and the average rainfall for the 13 years of which that was the  
first was only—

Rohtak	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.54
Gohana	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.46
Sampla	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.80
Jhajjar	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.89

and in only four of the series was the rainfall good. It is note-  
worthy that Gohana tends to have the most even rainfall, and  
to suffer least in years of drought and this is what would be

P. I. B. expected from its greater proximity to the hills and greater abundance of trees. The records of Salhawas up to 1906 are quite unreliable as the Sub-Inspector of Police in charge was ignorant of the use of the gauge and recorded the falls by converting the people's estimates of so many 'fingers' into inches. A peculiarity of the rainfall is its extremely patchy nature, a *zail*, a village, even a part of a village going short of rain throughout a season while the nearest neighbours enjoy an abundance. For several years the centre of the district, south of the railway line, was particularly ill-starred in this respect and a rain-gauge was sanctioned at Beri in 1907 in order to see whether this was really the centre of a permanently drier tract, and the records will be watched with interest. In the following year five other gauges were installed in the district. There are also several *can* gauges but their records do not appear to be kept with sufficient care to make the statistics of any value.

More important than the total amount of rainfall is its distribution, and if that is timely even 10 inches will suffice. Ordinarily of the twenty inches, about 17 should fall between June and September, and two for the *mahawal* or winter rains, between December and February. Of the monsoon proper some 12 or 13 inches are required for sowing and watering the autumn and four or five for sowing the spring crops; the early summer rains enable cotton to spring up well and the bajra and fodder to be sown, and they are specially beneficial in replenishing the tanks which begin to fail rapidly from the middle of May. But the really important rain is that of July; on it depends the sowing of the bulk of the millets and the last cotton, and it is essential for the early cotton, and valuable for the cane, which rejoices in rain in August too. If the rain in these two months is good, disaster may be averted even though the total fall is very small; witness the figures for the year 1901-02. The minimum recorded fall was 4·5 registered in Gohána in 1860, and other low falls are 7·23, 8·37, and 9·97 at Rohtak in 1905-06, 1901-02 and 1896-7 respectively, 9·54 in Gohána in 1905-06, 7·80 at Sámpla in the same year and 7·63 and 10·4 at Jhajjar in 1905-06, and 1886-7. For the highest fall known in the district was 41·7 which occurred in Jhajjar in 1885-86, while Sámpla with 37·5 in 1875-76, and Rohtak with 37·9 ten years later run it close.

The average monthly falls recorded on the Rohtak gauge from June 1886, to May 1909, are as follows :—

June	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.55
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.65
August	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.55
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.42
Total of four months							16.17



October ... ..	·09
November ... ..	·06
December ... ..	·42
January ... ..	·77
February ... ..	·55
March ... ..	·41
April ... ..	·35
May ... ..	·64

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Total of eight months ... 3·29

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The local names for various degrees of rainfall are as follows : —

Bhúndá bandi.	Scattered drops.
Dongrá.	Light showers.
Chádar bhég.	Enough to wet one's clothes.
Khudwání or khudbhar.	Enough to fill the furrows.
Kiári bhar.	Enough to fill a field and stand.
Dolá or náká tor.	Enough to break a field's boundaries.
Musal dhar.	A torrential downpour.
Desá bharn.	General rain over all the country.

After rain and especially after the last autumn and winter falls extraordinarily heavy dews set in at night, which are often of great benefit to the crops.

15. Tradition says that in the 17th or 18th century the dam of the old royal canal of Nawab Mardán Ali Khan broke below Gohána and a flood came down which destroyed the city of Lalpura whose foundations still lie a mile or so west of Rohtak, but time has probably exaggerated the catastrophe. The earthquake of April 1905 and some of the after shocks were distinctly felt, and Samri shows a 'paras' which was cracked from top to bottom by this *hálán* (earthquake). Of other violent catastrophes there is no tradition the evil star of Rohtak is famine.

Notable  
cyclones,  
earthquakes  
and floods.

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## Section C.—History.

## History.

Notices of the  
Rohtak  
territory  
in history.  
Twelfth to  
eighteenth  
centuries.

16. The earliest history of Rohtak is to be found in the traditions still preserved by the village communities. These represent distinct though geographically and historically uncertain, waves of immigration of Rajputs and Jats and later of Ahirs and Afghans. The oldest of these settlements date back to nearly 40 generations, and must point to a time at least 900 or 1,000 years ago. These traditions can be more conveniently noticed in section G which will deal with the tribes and castes of the district, and the present sketch is confined to those facts of which there is some definite record.

That portion of the Hariāna country which lies within the present district of Rohtak had for its chief capital the town of Mehm, destroyed, it is said, by Muhammad bin Sam (Shahab-ud-din Ghori) and rebuilt in 1266, by one Peshora, a bania of Agarwaha. Rohtak too is a place of antiquity, founded, tradition relates, by a Powar Rājput Raja Rohtas, and rebuilt by Prithvi Raj in 1160; it was probably destroyed by Muhammad bin Sam the founder of the Ghori dynasty and in his time the Shekhs of Yaman under Kazi Sultan Muhammad Surkh built the fort of Rohtak, and Afghans settled in Birahma (named after its founder Ibrahim Khan) whence they moved later to their present quarter. A century later, we read in the *Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi* that Prince Kai Khusru, grandson of Balban, was in this place by the counsel of the Wazir Nizam-ud-din, put to death: \* in 1355, according to the author of the *Tarikh-i-Mubarik Shahi*, Firoz Shah dug a canal of which no trace now remains from the Sutlej as far as Jhajjar, while in the following year he dug his famous canal from the Jamna to the modern Hissar (1). In 1410, Khizr Khan, a Pathan nobleman descended from the family of Sher Shah, besieged Idris Khan in the fort of Rohtak and took it (2). Under Akbar the present district fell within the *suba* of Delhi and the *sarkars* of Delhi and Bissar Firoza (3). In 1643, the Rohtak canal is said to have been begun by Nawab Ali Khan, who attempted to divert water from the old canal of Firoz Shah. His alignment, which was a failure, is still to be seen running through Rabarha, Katwal and the villages to the east.

\* Elliot, History of India, iii Page 127.

(1) Elliot History of India, iii, page 300, vi, page 225; in, page 8. Also see Gladwin's translation of the Ain-i-Akbari (Calcutta Edition) volume, (3) quoted in George Thomas' memoirs, page 327. According to these memoirs pages 292, 356, Sultan Firoz intended to cut a canal from the Sutlej to the Jamna in order to open communication by water from Kabul to Assam.

(2) Elliot History of India, iv page 43.

(3) Of these *sarkars* the former included amongst others the *darāra* of Rohtak and Jhajjar with the *parganahs* of Rohtak, Dubaldhan, Kharkhanda, Mandauthi and Jhajjar, and the



Akbar bestowed the town of Mehm <sup>(1)</sup> in jagir upon Shahbaz Khan an Afghan under whose descendants it attained great prosperity. In the reign of Aurangzeb, however, Mehm was plundered in the course of desultory war waged against the Emperor by the Rajputs under Durga Das, and though afterwards gradually re-peopled, never recovered its greatness. The district was granted with the rest of Haryana by Farrukh Siyar in 1718 to the minister Rukn-Uddin, by whom it was transferred in 1732 to the Nawabs of Farrukhnagar in Gurgaon. Faujdar Khan Nawab of Farrukhnagar, seems to have succeeded to the territories of Hissar on the death of Shahdad Khan in 1738, and dying in 1747, handed down to his son Nawab Kamgar Khan a dominion embracing the present districts of Hissar and Rohtak besides part of Gurgaon and a considerable region since annexed by the chieftains of Jind and Patiala. Hissar and the northward was during this time perpetually over-run by the Sikhs in spite of the combined efforts of the Bhattis and the imperial forces, but Rohtak and Gurgaon seem to have remained with Kamgar Khan till his death in 1760. His son Masa Khan was expelled from Farrukhnagar by Suraj

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latter the quarters and parganahs of Gohana and Mehm of Miyun as the old name was called. Within the Parganahs again were tappas, distributed as follows in the present tahsils:—

Gohana.	Rohtak.	Sempla.	Jhajjar.
Sinkh-part ... ..	Chaudi ... ..	Gonah Farmana-part ...	Hawali Jhajjar.
Batanah ... ..	Kiloi-part ... ..	Kiloi-part ... ..	Badli.
Mandlanah ... ..	Bohar-part ... ..	Bohar ... ..	Khndan.
Khanpur Kalan ... ..	Nidanah ... ..	Barohnah ... ..	Subanah.
Jauli ... ..	Bhaud Chanderpal ...	Dighal ... ..	Kosti.
Chandi-part ... ..	Sawwar-part ... ..	Mandautbi ... ..	Salhawas.
Kiloi-part ... ..	Mokhra ... ..	Kanaudab ... ..	Kheri Madaupur.
	Bahlbah ... ..	Hawali Palam-part ...	Birohar.
	Beri ... ..		Matanhel.
	Dighal-part ... ..		

The villages included in the tappas lie within a ring fence, except in the case of Mokhra and Bahlbah, to which for some reason now unknown, several outlying estates were joined. In some cases, such as the Dahiya, Dafal, Ahlawat and Kadian Jats, the boundaries of the tappa followed closely the distribution of tribes, but in others, such as the Jakhar and Malik they did not. The Brahmans, Barbers and Chamars still observe these divisions to some extent; and at some ceremonies, such as marriages or funeral feasts, the tappa people are still collected together (Fanehawe Settlement Report, paragraph 28). The tappa boundaries were appealed to in a zaildari case in the present year 1910, but there is a much older, partly tribal, division of which there are survivals in the barah, chaubisi, bawan, chaurasi, etc., groups of neighbouring estates, whose members are still linked together for common action and on occasions of festivities and funeral feasts. The groups are not necessarily of one tribe or caste but seem to represent old hegemonies.

(1) See paragraph 30 for the Jama Masjid of Mehm.

CHAP. I, C. History Mal, the Jat ruler of Bharatpur, and the Jats held Jhajjar, Badli and Farrukhnagar till 1771; in that year Musu Khan recovered Farrukhnagar, but he never regained a footing in the Rohtak district. In 1772, Najaf Khan, Amir-ul-umra and first minister to Shah Alam, came into power at Delhi, and till his death in 1782 some order was maintained. Bahadurgarh granted in 1754 to the Biloch Bahadur Khan was held by his son and grandson; Jhajjar was in the hands of Walter Reinhardt<sup>(1)</sup> husband of Begam Samru of Sardhana, and Gobana, Mehm, Rohtak and Kharkhauda were also held by nominees of Najaf Khan. The Mahrattas returned in 1785, but could do little to repel the Sikh invasions, and from 1785 to 1803, the north of the district was occupied by the Raja of Jind, while the south and west were held precariously by the Mahrattas who were defied by the strong Jat villages and constantly attacked by the Sikhs. Meanwhile the military adventurer George Thomas had carved out his principality in Haryana which included Mehm, Beri and Jhajjar in the present Rohtak district.

George  
Thomas'  
dominion.

17. George Thomas was a native of Tipperary "tall in his person (being upwards of 6 feet in height) and of a proportionate strength of body<sup>(2)</sup>," who came to India in the crew of a British warship in 1781-82, and entered the service of the Begam Samru in 1787. This he left in disgust in 1792, and in the next year joined Appa Kandi Rao at the moment that this chieftain was asserting his independence of his overlord Madhaji Scindia. By Appa he was "adopted as his son" and presented in perpetuity for the support of his forces with the districts of Jhajjar, Beri, Mandauthi and Patauda which yielded then an annual revenue of a lakh and a half of rupees. Appa however gave what neither he nor his lieutenant could hold, and within a year three of these parganahs were resigned to satisfy the demands of Scindia, while Beri within whose fort, exclusive of the garrison, were 300 Rajputs and Jats hired for the express purpose of defending the place submitted to George Thomas only after a vigorous assault when the whole town was on fire. \* He seems however to have reasserted his authority

(1) General Mundy who dined with the Begam says the name of the first husband was Remaud (he bought her when a handsome young dancing girl and made her a Roman Catholic, whence soubriquet was Sombro hence Samru. The second husband was Le Vaseu, a buccaner. It was him whom the Begam caused to kill himself by feigning her own death whereupon she took possession of the army. The memoirs of George Thomas also narrate the death of Le Vaseu in the same way but do not imply that the Begam tricked him to die.

Remaud is buried at Agra. According to Skinner's memoirs Walter Reinhardt was a native of the electorate of Treves who came out as a carpenter in the French service.

(2) This and the following account is taken from "Military Memoirs of Mr. George Thomas who, by extraordinary talents and enterprise rose from an obscure position to the rank of a General in the service of the native power in the north-west of India, by Captain William Franklin," Calcutta, 1802. Another and most interesting account of the last months of his career will be found in Mr. Fraser's Military Memoir of Lieutenant-Colonel James Skinner, C. B. (London 1851). Skinner was then an officer under Perron, and was an eye-witness of all the events from the abortive meeting near Bahadurgarh to the final surrender.

\* There is still a shrine at one of the gates of Beri which marks the spot where a Jat warrior fell fighting against Thomas. His head was cut off a thousand yards away but so tight did he sit in his saddle that the body did not fall till the frightened horse reached the gates.



over the adjacent country and to have made Jhajjar his head-CHAP. I, C.  
 quarters, while to overawe both towns he erected the fort of Georgegarh (the modern Jabazgarh or Hussainganj) and placed a History.  
 strong body of troops in it for its defence. Shortly afterwards he is found, with the permission of his immediate master, raising troops for Scindia, and put in possession of the parganahs of Panipat, Sonapat, and Karnal. After the death of Appa an attempt was made by his nephew and successor in 1797 to dispossess Thomas of his army and command, but after he had defeated his rivals and even carried war into their country across the Jamna in 1798, he was left in peace for a time and proceeded to consolidate his own position. It was now and at Jhajjar, that he first formed, in the words of his biographer, "the eccentric and arduous design of erecting "an independent principality for himself. The country of Hariāna "which from the troubled state of the times had for many years "acknowledged no master but became in turn the prey of each "succeeding invader appeared to him as best adapted for the "execution of his purpose." Accordingly Thomas established himself at Hansi in the Hissar district and from there commanded a circle of 800 villages, including on the east Mehm with its hundred wells, while he still maintained with varying success some authority over the districts ceded to him by the Mahrattas, to which the parganah of Badli was shortly afterwards added. Thomas' ambition however was not yet satisfied. "I established a mint," he says, "and coined my own rupees which I made current in my army "and country, as from the commencement of my career at Jhajjar "I had resolved to establish an independency. I employed work- "men and artificers of all kinds, and I now judged that nothing "but force of arms could maintain me in my authority. I therefore "increased their numbers, cast my own artillery, commenced "making muskets, matchlocks and powder, and in short made the "best preparations for carrying on an offensive and defensive "war, till at length, having gained a capital and country bordering "on the Seik territories I wished to put myself in a capacity, when a "favourable opportunity should offer of attempting the conquest "of the Punjab and aspired to the honour of planting the BRITISH "Standard on the banks of the Attock". The next three years were spent in constant campaigning, now in invasions of Jaipur, Bikanir, Jodhpur and Udaipur territory, now in expeditions against the Bhattis, or the Sikh chiefs of Patiala, Kaithal, and Jind, now in repelling attacks on his own territory of some equally turbulent Mahratta general, and ever in exactions from "the peasantry of "the country who from restlessness of spirit are always ready to "change their rulers," until, though his expeditions were not uniformly successful, he had, in his own words "explored the country, formed alliances, and in short, was dictator in all the countries belonging to the Seikes south of the river Sutledge." But his ambition proved his ruin. Scindia and his General



**CHAP. I, C. M. Perron** (Governor of the Doab) became jealous of his progress and the latter was ordered to attack him (1801). **History.** An attempt was made to arrange an amicable compromise at or near Bahadurgarh, but this failed, for the Mahratta demands included the cession of Jhajjar and immediate subordination to Daulat Rao Scindia. War to the end was now declared; M. Perron took possession of Jhajjar and an attack was made on Georgegarh by La Fontaine who was however so warmly received that he was compelled to retreat with considerable loss. The investiture of that stronghold now began; Captain Smith besieging the place while Louis Bourquien (known in the Memoirs and in the country side as Mr. Lewis) covered his operations. Thomas however showed his usual skill and activity in meeting his foes: he made a forced march from Hansi and halting only at Mehm, and falling on Captain Smith suddenly, compelled him to raise the siege, and inflicted a severe defeat on Bourquien in an action which cost the enemy 2,000 men and 30 pieces of artillery, but deprived Thomas of the "gallant Mr. Hopkins," one of his three English commanders. This temporary success served only to alarm more thoroughly all the neighbouring rulers. Reinforcements were poured in from the Doab under Bapu Scindia, the Sikhs gathered from the north under Gurdit Singh, Banga Singh, Jhunde Singh and other chieftains, the Jats of Bharatpur marched under their Raja Ranjit Singh, and the Rajputs moved from the south to make common cause against their too formidable adversary, and a force of 30,000 men with 110 pieces of artillery besieged Jahazgarh, to oppose a force that seems now not to have exceeded 4,000 men with 30 serviceable cannon. Thomas pitched his camp skilfully behind the sand ridge lying south of the fort where the guns of the enemy could do him little harm. The position which Louis Bourquien occupied to the north and the spot where M. Perron encamped on the sandhills above Palrah are still shown. Thomas could not have hoped to hold out long against such a force in any case, but treachery was at work within his camp and he was deserted by several of his chief officers and compelled to fly away by night to Hansi. His enemies speedily followed him there; much the same scene of baseness was re-enacted, and in January 1802, Thomas abandoned claims to power and, escorted by Captain Smith to the British frontier, he died at Barhanpur on his way to Calcutta in August of that year.

His name remains amongst a people whose affection he gained by his gallantry and kindness, and he seems never to have tarnished the name of his country by the gross actions that sully the memory of so many military adventurers in India.

18. Within two years of this event,\* the power of the Mahrattas in North India was completely broken, and the Rohtak district, with

English  
rule Rohtak  
in 1803-1805.

\* This and the following account to the end of paragraph 28 are reproduced with a few corrections and alterations from the old Gazetteer which was itself taken nearly verbatim from Mr. Faushawe's Settlement Report of 1879.



the other possessions of Scindia west of the Jamna, passed to the Honourable East India Company by the treaty of Sirji Anjungaon, which was signed on 30th December 1803. It was no policy of Lord Lake's at that time to hold large territories beyond the Jamna, and he accordingly sought, by setting in them a number of chiefs and leaders who had done us good military service, to form a series of independent outposts between the British border and the Sikhs. The Jhajjar territory was therefore given to Nawab Nijabat Ali Khan, and the old Bituch possessions at Bahadurgarh to his brother Nawab Ismail Khan. Raja Bhag Singh of Jind had kept aloof from the combination against the English, at the advice of Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal, the ablest and most intriguing man of his day among the Sikhs. Soon after the fall of Delhi, he tendered his allegiance to Lord Lake, and having rendered service in the ensuing campaign against Jaswant Rao Holkar he and the Bhai received the Gohana and Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi (Sampla) *tahsils* in life *jagir*. For brilliant exploits in the same campaign, on the retreat of Colonel Manson, further grants of territory were made to the Jhajjar family. The Nawab of Bahadurgarh received the Dadri country (including the tract called Bhaunaharjal), and the part of Budhwana lying below it, the rest of which went to Faiz Muhammad Khan, son of Nawab Nijabat Ali Khan. Faiz Muhammad Khan received also, as a separate *jagir*, the villages of Lohari-Pataudah and Kheri, in the south-east corner of the present Jhajjar *tahsil*, and a life grant of the estates of Hassangarh, Kirauli, Pyladpur and Khurampur in Sampla, formerly held by Taj Muhammad Khan while his brother was Nawab of Bahadurgarh. The Pataudi state was given to Faiz Talab Khan, brother-in-law of Nijabat Ali Khan, and the Jhajjar territory was extended to include Narnol, Kanaudah, Bawal and Kanti, as well as the area of the present *tahsil*. The Rohtak-Beri and Mehm *tahsils*, forming the west of the present district, were given to Abd-us-Samud Khan, the first Nawab of the house of Dujana, together with all the country forming the territories of George Thomas in Hissar. This gift, however, was beyond the power of the Nawab to manage; the people, encouraged by long immunity, set him at defiance; Sikh and Bhatti marauders pillaged the country; a son-in-law of his was killed in an attack on Bohar, and his eldest son at Bhiwani; and finally, in 1809, he resigned the grant to the donors, who had made it one condition of the gift that it should be managed without aid from the British Government.

19. From the time of the abandonment of this gift by the Dujana Chief, the formation of the Rohtak district dates. At first it was part of the "Shimali *zillah*," which stretched from Panipat to Sirsa, and it remained so until the lapse of the Gohana and Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi estates, on the death of Lal Singh and Bhag Singh in 1818 and 1820 A.D. When the Hissar district was created in the latter year, the Beri and Mehm-Bhiwani *tahsils* were included in it, and the other portions of the present northern *tahsils* in Panipat;

Formation  
of the district,  
1810-1836.

CHAP. I, C. but in 1824 a separate Rohtak district was made, consisting of the  
 History. Gohana, Kharkhaudah-Mandauthi, Rohtak-Beri, and Mohm-Bhiwani \* *tahsils*. The Bahádagarh territory formed the eastern boundary of this, and on the south lay the Jhajjar country. There was a good deal of changing of estates from one *tahsil* to another, which is unimportant. The old district was of the shape of a triangle, Gohana forming the apex, and the base extending from Bhiwani to Mandauthi. Until 1832 A.D. the whole Delhi territory, including Rohtak, was administered by a Political Agent under the Resident at Delhi, but in that year it was brought under the same regulations as the rest of North India, and the Resident became Commissioner. There were four Summary Settlements (in parts, five) from 1815 to 1838 A.D., followed by the Regular Settlement in 1838—40; the district was abolished in 1841 A.D., Gohana going to Panipat, and the rest of the *tahsil* to Delhi, but in the following year it was created anew. There is little to note in the way of history regarding the events of these 30 years. The people gradually settled down to orderliness and peace, although the material progress of the country was sadly checked by a series of famines and a revenue demand which was much too severe. Indeed there is nothing historical to note in the even tenor of events of the next 20 summers, till the unhappy year of 1857-58 is reached, and the Rohtak district was transferred from the N.-W. Provinces to the Panjab. During this period some 35 Collectors held charge of the district, of whom the best known are Messrs. W. and A. Fraser; Sir T. Metcalfe; Messrs. J. P., C., and M. R. Gubbins; Mr. J. Grant; Mr. Mill; Mr. Cocks; Mr. Ross; and Mr. Guthrie. The Sampla *tahsil*, it may be noted, was located in its present position in 1852, the old name of the Kharkhaudha-Mandauthi *tahsil* being then done away with.

History of  
 ruling houses,  
 1805—1857.  
 The Dujana  
 house.

20. It will here be convenient to sketch briefly the history of the houses of the three Chiefs once connected with the Rohtak district, before entering on the narration of the events of the Mutiny, which caused two of them to disappear from the roll of native rulers in India. The Dujana family is happy in having no annals, except the mere record of the succession of son to father. Nawab Abd-us-Samud Khan died in 1825. It was by him that the fortunes of the house were made. He was originally a *risaldar* in the service of the Peshwa Baji Rao, and in the campaign against Scindia he served with the Mahratta troops on the side of the English, where, meeting with favour from British officers, he transferred his allegiance, and joined Lord Lake. Under that General he did good service at Bharatpur and in pursuit of Jaswant Rao Holkar, and in consequence he received the grants which have been detailed above. He was succeeded to the exclusion of his eldest son's heir by his younger son Dundi Khan, who lived till 1850, and

\* Writing in 1828 of the past glories of Mehm General Mundy described it as "now a mere heap of ruins with 100 or 200 inhabitants".



was followed by his son Hassan Ali Khan, who was Nawab when the revolt of 1857 took place. He appears to have kept himself free from the intrigues of the time, and at any rate he came out of the storm unscathed, whether thanks to his insignificance or his loyalty. His chief care seems to have been to conceal in his palace such sums of ready money as were by him. The Dajana family belongs to the Yusufzai tribe, and is closely connected with the Jhajjar Pathans. The Nawab himself is a landowner, and also an occupancy tenant in some of the Pathan estates on the north border of the Jhajjar *tahsil*. The present Nawab is Nawab Muhammad Khurshaid Ali Khan.

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21. The Jhajjar Nawab's family claim to be Bharaich Pathans, a tribe whose original location was in the neighbourhood of Pishin and Kandahar, but who gradually made or found a way out into the Yusufzai country. Mustafa Khan, the grandfather of the first Nawab of the house, came to India in Muhammad Shah's reign, and took service with Alivardi Khan, Governor of Bengal. By various exploits there he gained the title of Nawab, but on being refused the Governorship of Bahar, he left his old chief, and, returning to North India, was presently killed fighting at Azimabad. His son, Murtaza Khan, succeeded to the command of the troop, and entered the employ of Safdar Jang, Subadar of Oude, and his son Shujaat-ud-Daula; he afterwards left Asaf-ud-Daula for the service of Najaf Khan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Army, and was slain fighting against Jeypur. Nijabat Ali Khan was the next leader of these free lances, in the place of his father, and performed various brilliant services, in return for which the title of Nawab was confirmed to him by the Emperor Shah Alam. He is described as having been a fine soldier, and a cool-headed far-seeing man. When war between the British and Mahrattas had become inevitable, he chose the former side, and the rewards he received have been already told. The old Chief continued to live in Delhi, where he had resided for some 30 years, and left the management of his new estate to his son Faiz Muhammad Khan. He died in 1824 and was buried at Mabrauli in the shade of the tomb of the holy saint Kutub-ud-din Sahib Oulia, where the graves of all the family are. His son was an enlightened and kindly ruler, who is still remembered gratefully by the people. It was he who constructed most of the old buildings at Jhajjar (including the palace which now forms the *tahsil*), who introduced and encouraged the manufacture of salt, who re-settled many of the deserted villages in his territories, and who constructed the Badli band. Poets and learned men gathered at his Court, and during his rule of 22 years he showed himself an able Chief, worthy of his ancestors. He died in 1835.

The Jhajjar house.

With this Chief the palmier days of the Jhajjar rule passed away. His son and successor, Nawab Faiz Ali Khan, was a somewhat narrow-minded ruler, and a harsh revenue collector,



**CHAP. I, C.** who is not well spoken of by the people. His rule was the shortest of all, extending to ten years only; and in 1845 the last Nawab, Abd-ur-Rahman Khan, succeeded. There was some trouble with his kinsmen, who disputed his legitimacy at the time of his accession, and when this was over, the Nawab gave himself up for a time to gross debauchery, from the effects of which he never recovered. He was naturally possessed of both taste and ability, and it was he who built the palace in the Jehanara garden; and the residence and tank at Chhuchhakwas. But in revenue collections his little finger was thicker than his father's loins, and many villagers fled from under his oppressions. In 1855 A.D., he set about making a regular settlement of his territory, but it had extended to the two *tahsils* of Jhajjar and Badli only, when the mutiny broke out, and it passed away with its author in that year.

The Bahadurgarh house.

22. During all this time there had been only two Chiefs of the Bahadurgarh house, who were usually called, from their western possessions, the Nawabs of Dadri. Muhammad Ismail Khan enjoyed his grant for five years only, and died in 1808 A.D., leaving a son, Nawab Bahadur Jang Khan, only 2½ years old. During his minority the State was managed for him by the Jhajjar Chief, and when he came of age, the latter refused to restore the Dadri country, on the plea that money was due to him on account of expenses incurred in his management over and above the income of the estate, and that he had not received his fair share of the Budhwana villages, when that tract was divided after 1806. The question was finally settled by the surrender of 19 estates to the Jhajjar Nawab on the intervention of the Delhi Resident. Bahadur Jang at once proceeded to lead a most dissolute life, and was soon hopelessly involved in debt; at one time his estate was very nearly being assigned to his creditors, but finally the Dadri country was mortgaged to Jhajjar until 1848. Bahadur Jang had by this time become utterly feeble in mind and in body, and it was more than once proposed to relieve him of the management of his estate. Such were the annals of these families down to the year 1857 A.D.

The Mutiny, 1857.

23. The mutiny of the troops at Meerut on the 10th of May, and the seizure of Delhi by them on the 11th, took the Rohtak district, like the rest of North India, by complete surprise. Large numbers of Jats and Rajputs belonging to the district were serving in the army, but it does not appear that there was any feeling of excitement among the people noticeable before that month, or that *chupattis* were circulated among the villages, though possibly they were. The Collector, Mr. John Adam Loch, of the Bengal Civil Service, who had been in charge of the district for some ten months, at once took steps to preserve order by calling into head-quarters all the soldiers who were on leave in the district, and by sending to the Nawab of Jhajjar to despatch some troops to Rohtak. Of his first order to the Nawab no notice was taken; but on a second demand,



sent on the 18th May, for cavalry and two guns, a few horsemen were despatched. These, however, proved very unruly and worse than useless, for they inflamed the villagers as they came along. Then as day succeeded day, and it appeared that nothing was being done to re-assert British authority, the troublesome portions of the populace began to raise their heads, and the whole of the once warlike people became profoundly stirred. On the 23rd of May an emissary of the Delhi King, by name Tafazzal Husain, entered the district by Bahádurgarh with a small force. The *tahsildár* of Rohtak, Bakhtáwar Singh, who had been sent there to meet him, was unequal to the task of encountering the rebels, and fled to Rohtak. Mr. Loch at first wished to stay at his post and fight the enemy, who were not strong in numbers; but presently, despairing of success, he left Rohtak by night, accompanied only by the *thánáddár*, Bhúre Khán, and made his way by early on the morning of the 24th to Gohána. Deserted by their magistrate, the soldiers collected at head-quarters naturally dispersed to their homes, or, perhaps, joined the rebels, who arrived at Rohtak on the 24th, and proceeded to set free the prisoners in the Jail, and burn the Court buildings and record office. The Deputy Collector, Mísar Mannú Lál, and the Sadr Amín, Mubammad Abdulla Khán, remained at their posts; but they were unable to do anything to control the course of events, and the former was shortly afterwards compelled to fly. An attempt was made by the Delhi force to plunder the Hindus of the town, but this was frustrated; and after two days' stay they returned to the capital, carrying off nearly two lakhs of treasure, and burning the Sámpa *tahsil* on their road; the money there had a few days before their advent been brought into Rohtak. Meanwhile Mr. Loch had passed on to Karnál without stopping at Gohána, and the *tahsildár* of the latter place deserted his charge and fled. But Chaudri Rustum Ali Khán of Gohána took charge of the *tahsil* buildings, and preserved them with the records and money, and kept together some prisoners who were engaged on the new works there, until order was again restored in the autumn. The district being abandoned by all its officers, the old feuds and quarrels of the people, which till now had been long buried, at once broke out anew, and all outward signs of order and rule disappeared for a time. The customs' bungalows at Mehm, Madinah and Mándauthí were all burnt, and the officers with their wives and children became wanderers on the face of the country. But nowhere in the Rohtak district were hands stained with English blood. The Rághars clamoured for it at Mehm and elsewhere, but the Ját and Baniyás defeated their purpose; and it is noticeable that in nearly all cases the fugitives were conducted to a place of safety with unexpected kindness and consideration—that too, no doubt, often by the very men who engaged freely in the faction fights of the time. The Muhammadans, in the zeal of their new-born

CHAP. I, C. History. piety, desired to slay all the Hindus, and the latter had a large number of old clan disputes to settle among themselves, and lost no time in setting about their decision. The confusion was added to by the rebel troops of the Haryana Light Infantry and 4th Irregular Cavalry, who had mutinied at Hissar and Hansi, and murdered their officers, the Collector, and other Europeans passing through on their way to Delhi. The *tahsildar* of Mehm, Lachman Singh, made over to the neighbouring villagers such treasure as was in the *tahsil*, and disappeared, and the buildings and records were destroyed. The arrival of the 60th Regiment of Native Infantry under Colonel Seaton, who was accompanied by Mr. Loch, checked active disorder for a time, but only for a brief one. This regiment, which had been quartered at Banda and Umballa since 1851, had been marched from the latter place on 22nd May, in spite of grave misconduct there. On reaching Karnal, it was diverted to Rohtak, ostensibly to intercept the rebels from Hissar and Hansi, but really because it was now known to be mutinous to the core, and it was unsafe to take it to Delhi. The proper course would have been to disarm it; but instead of this, it was determined to send it to Rohtak merely—a proceeding which Captain Hodson stigmatised as discreditable to the authorities and unfair to the officers. On the march down the men were guilty of repeated instances of insubordinate conduct, and when Rohtak was reached on 31st May, it was discovered that the mutineers had passed through the day before, and that “the public buildings, the Judge’s Court and offices “and the Collector’s Treasury had been burnt down and were “still burning. The rebels had torn up all the public records, “papers, and documents, vast rolls and piles of them, and after “breaking up the chests and racks in which they had been kept, “and piling all up in the centre of each building, they had made “huge bonfires of the whole, and then gone off to Delhi.”\* The regiment was encamped in the compound of the District Courts, and continued to show evident signs of an intention to mutiny. On the 4th of June they were prevented from carrying their design into execution only by the Colonel boldly taxing them with it, which so confounded them that they were unable to act then as they had proposed. But the end was inevitable, and could not be long deferred; it is said that the want of money to pay the troops was partly the cause of the outbreak taking place when it did. On the afternoon of the 10th the Grenadier Company, which had all along been the leader in insubordination, broke out into open mutiny and seized their arms. Not a single native officer remained true to his colours, not a soldier came forward to assist to quell the *émeute*, and there was nothing left for the Europeans but to ride off. They were fired upon by the men, but fortunately they all escaped unwounded, except the

\* General Sir T. Seaton’s “From Cadet to Colonel,” Vol. II., Chap. 4.



Sergeant-Major. The mutineers did not follow them, and they collected together half a mile from the camp, and after waiting some time for a few brother officers (who had gone off to shoot early in the afternoon, and who, unknown to them, had received news of the outbreak and made their way to Delhi in advance), they turned their backs on Rohtak, and reached the Ridge at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 11th June. Mr. Loch fled on foot to Sámpla, and thence on horseback to Bahádurgarh, from which place he was escorted to Delhi by (*risaldár*) Sandal Khán of Kálanaur and his father. But from the exposure of the day he never recovered; and there is a pathetic letter of his, written years later, stating that he was now quite blind, and ascribing the origin of his affliction to his flight from Rohtak under exposure to the midsummer sun.

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24. All vestiges of the British Government now disappeared again like snow in thaw. The mutineers killed Búro Khán, the *thánáddr* of Rohtak, and after trying unsuccessfully to plunder the town, went off to Delhi, where they distinguished themselves in the attack of June 14th on the Ridge, and received fitting punishment at the hands of their old officers. The Ráughars and butchers set up the Muhammadan green flag, and round it all the bad characters of the country collected, and lawlessness ruled supreme in the district till the middle of September. Mr. Greathed, by a proclamation of 26th July, put the country under the control of the Jind Chief, but the Rájá was unable to do much at that time to restore order. Chaudhri Rustam Alí alone maintained himself at the Gohána *tahsíl*; nowhere else was there any sign left of the authority of the late rulers of the country. The King of Delhi, three days before Mr. Greathed's order, had issued a proclamation to the people of Rohtak town, forbidding acts of violence, and enjoining obedience to the principal and loyal landholders, and promising a sufficient military force and civil establishment—a promise never fulfilled. But the people minded no threatenings of persons unable to enforce them with power, and gave themselves up to the enjoyments of fierce feuds. The Dahiyá and Dalál Játs in Sámpla engaged in perpetual quarrels, which centred round Hassangarh; the Ahláwat Játs attacked Sámpla, but were beaten off, with the help of Ismailáh. In Gohána, Ahúlána attacked Sámri and Barodah; Madinah attacked Kathúra; Butánah destroyed Núran Khérá; and all the headmen of Sámri were hanged for attacking a military convoy. In Rohtak the villagers of Kharkhara were long in possession of a gun which they seized from the Hissár rebels, and which some other rebels finally took from them; Sáughí and Khírwáli were engaged in one continuous skirmish; the Mehm villages, now in Hissár, made a general attack on those on the present west border of Rohtak; and the Ráughars plundered every one indifferently,—a course of action which led to most of the Ráughar villages having to receive a number of new headmen, after order was restored, in

Lawlessness of the district.

CHAP. I, C. place of others hanged. For three whole months the district  
 History. presented one long scene of mad rioting; yet, withal, the people did not fail to take advantage of a good rainfall to secure a capital crop. The fighting was generally conducted in a most amicable way; due notice of the attack about to be made was given, and the question was fairly and deliberately fought out between the two parties. These little pastimes were somewhat disagreeably interrupted by Captain Hodson, who left Delhi on the 14th August, and having executed justice on rebels and deserters whom he found at Kharkhandah (where also he shot Risaldar Bisharat Ali under a misapprehension), reached Bohar on the 16th, and moved on to Rohtak on the evening of the 17th. A few of the city rabble, who were bold enough to attack him then, were easily dispersed and some slain, and for the night the little force of 400 horsemen rested by the old Court-house, and was furnished with supplies by the well disposed portion of the townsmen. By the morning, however, the city Shekhs and butchers had taken heart again, and as a large number of Ranghars had gathered from the neighbourhood during the night, the united forces advanced to attack Captain Hodson after sunrise. By feigning to retreat, he drew them on for some distance, and then turning upon them with his cavalry, distributed into five bodies, he cut up about 100 of them, and scattered the rest in wild flight to the city. The walls of the city and fort were manned with a number of matchlock men, and Captain Hodson did not therefore consider it wise to make any further attack, and after riding round the city he drew off to the north and encamped at Jassia. Thence he returned to Delhi by the way of Sunipat. But the lesson had its effect, and the Rohtak Muhammadans were much less troublesome thereafter, and ceased to roam the country in large bands, although faction fights among the villages were still vigorously pursued.

The end  
 of the dis-  
 turbances.

25. The authority of Government was not restored openly and permanently until twelve days after the memorable 14th of September, on which Delhi fell. On the 26th of that month, General Van Cortland with a force of Panjáb levies and contingents from the Patiala and Bikánir States, and accompanied by Mr. Ford and Miar Maunú Lal, marched into Rohtak, and proceeded to distribute justice among all concerned in the late disturbances. The actual money loss to Government had been the plundering of about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of treasure and Rs. 9,000 worth of stamps, and the destruction of all Government buildings and records except at Gohána: the canal, however, had not been injured. Many rebels were shot and hanged; property stolen was as far as possible recovered: the district was effectually disarmed throughout; the outstanding revenue was promptly collected; the villages which had been most prominent in evil-doing were fined Rs. 68,000; rewards were given to the deserving, and the lands of the guilty were confiscated. The worst evil-doers of the time had been the



Shekhs of the Fort, the butchers and the Rānghars, and on these the heaviest punishment fell. But it should be remembered in extenuation that many Shekhs and Rānghars, serving in our army, remained faithful to their colours, and did excellent service for us at Delhi and elsewhere, for which they received due rewards. It is more pleasing to turn to the other side of the picture, and note instances in which (to quote the words of the Secretary to the Punjab Government, Sir R. Temple, on the Delhi territory, in the first Administration Report after the Mutiny) "there were "found many natives, often of the humblest orders, who were kind "to our fugitives, and who, sometimes at imminent peril to themselves, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and sheltered the houseless". A Jat of Mahmūd pūr, Gohāna, conveyed a party of women and children to Pānīpat, at no small risk to himself, and his descendants still show with pride the picture of the Queen-Empress which the grateful refugees afterwards sent to him. The Jāts and Baniyās of Bāland and Moim protected and escorted to places of safety certain officers of the Customs line and their families,—in the latter place at the risk of their own lives—from the violence of the Rānghars. The Gohāna Chaudhris passed on in safety various officers of the Canal and Customs Departments, fleeing before the storm. A party of women and children from Gurgāon were conducted by a Jāt Anand Ram, from Kānaundh, where they were under the protection of the Jhajjar Nawāb, to Pānīpat; and Sir T. Metcalfe was similarly escorted by a Rājput of Bond—Naurang Singh. Mr. Loch was twice accompanied from the district, once by a Jāt of Khānpūr Kulān, Gohāna, and once, as related, by some Rānghars stationed at Bahādurgarh. All these services, and others performed elsewhere, by Rohtak men, were suitably rewarded. Chaudhri Rustam Alī received a revenue assignment of Rs. 1,000 per annum in perpetuity to him and his heirs male, but the latter have unfortunately failed. The Mehm Jāts and Baniyās who saved European life were similarly rewarded by grants for three generations and the Bāland men by grants in perpetuity; where the third generation is extinct proposals have now in some cases been made for a continuance of the grant. Anand Ram and Naurang Singh received land revenue free out of Chhuchhakwas; the former's estate is the present Fordpurah and the latter's is Thomaspurah. The inhabitants of Rohtak, Jassiah and Sanghi, who had furnished Captain Hodson with supplies in August, reaped the return due to their readiness; and Risaldar Sandal Khan had assigned to him for two lives the revenue of Babra in Jhajjar. Mir Barkat Ali Khan, Risaldār of the 1st Bengal Cavalry, was allowed to purchase Bir Bahādurgarh, now Bir Barkatabad, to be held on a revenue fixed in perpetuity; the thanadar of Karnal, Kamdar Khan, received a large grant out of Chhuchhakwas revenue free, and other grants have since then been made for good services rendered in the Mutiny. Kamdar Khan's three sons still do credit to their father's name; of them Khan Sahib Zulfiqar Ali Khan is

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CHAP. I, C. Honorary Magistrate and Sub-Registrar at Gohána; Yakub Ali Khan manages the estate at Chhuchhakwas now known as Islamgarh and Ibrahim Khan is a Sub-Inspector of Police. It may be remarked that the general population of the district throughout their rioting bore no special ill-will towards the British Government. On the contrary, they always speak of the *Sirkar* and their old officers in unusual terms of affection, and there are no more loyal and well-disposed subjects of the empire in ordinary times. But it was not to be expected that they, who had so lately laid aside a warlike for an agricultural character, should remain perfectly passive and quiet, when deserted by their local officers, and incited by mutinous troops, and a small disaffected portion of the community.

Conduct  
and sentence  
of the Jhajjar  
Nawab

26. From early in October complete order was restored in the old Rohtak district of which Mr. R. Jenkins became first Deputy Commissioner. Two hundred Jind horse were stationed at headquarters, and 50 at Gohána, and Mr. Ford was at leisure to go south to the Jhajjar territory. A force under Colonel R. Lawrence, as political officer, had already been detached to pacify the country lying south-west of Delhi, and arrest its traitor chiefs, to whom we must now turn. On the outbreak of the Mutiny the Nawab Abdur-Rahmán Khán\* at once sent news of the events at Delhi to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces at Agra, and, in reply, he was ordered to place himself under Mr. Greathead's orders. This he failed to do as he failed to send the force demanded of him to Rohtak; on the other hand, he did dispatch some troopers to Mr. Ford's assistance at Gurgaon on 13th May; the bearing, however, of the men sent was unsatisfactory, as was later the case in Rohtak, and as had been the behaviour of the Jhajjar escort, when the Commissioner, Mr. S. Fraser, was cut down in Delhi and Sir T. Metcalfe was attacked. When the latter came to Jhajjar on 14th May, the Nawáb did not see him, but sent him on to Chhuchhakwas, and from there (according to Sir T. Metcalfe) turned him out of his territory. On the other hand, the Nawáb protected the lives of a number of women and children made over to him from Gurgaon, and had them conveyed by Anand Ram to Panipat, at the end of July. He did not possess sufficient loyalty or courage to enable him to join the British forces on the ridge; and while he played a double game, and made professions to Mr. Greathead, 250 to 300 Jhajjar troopers, under his father-in-law, Abd-us Samud Khán, fought against us at Delhi, and especially at the battle of Badli-ki-Serai, and were paid by the Nawáb. But again, 70 Jhajjar *sawárs* stationed at Karnal remained faithful throughout the Mutiny, and were afterwards incorporated in the 3rd Sikh Cavalry. Still, in short, he had utterly failed to do his duty; and

NOTE.—In "The Punjab and Delhi in 1857," it is said that the Nawáb was in Delhi on 11th May. This is incorrect; he was at Karnal at the time; the fact of his being at Delhi was never alleged against him on his trial. There are many other mistakes in the same book; for instance, the Nawáb of Dindri is said to have paid the penalty of his treason with his life.



when, on the assembly of Colonel Lawrence's force at Dádri, he was summoned to come to Chhhuachakwas and there surrender himself he at once obeyed the order, and gave himself up to take his trial on 18th October. On the same day the fort of Jhajjar was occupied, and on the following day, after a smart conflict, that of Nárnol. The Jhajjar troops were ordered to give up their arms, but most of them broke loose and fled south to join the Jodhpur mutineers. The Jhajjar territory was taken under management by Colonel Lawrence, until the result of the Nawáb's trial should be known, and for a time 600 Patiala foot and 200 horse were stationed there. The trial of the Nawáb took place in Delhi, in the Royal Hall of Audience, before a Military Commission presided over by General N. Chamberlain. It commenced on the 14th December, and judgment was given on the 17th. The charges against the Nawáb were laid under Act XVI of 1857, and consisted of allegations that (1) he had aided and abetted rebels and others waging war against the British Government in places being at the time under martial law; (2) that he had furnished troops, money, food and shelter to the rebels; and (3) that he had entered into treasonable correspondence with them. Sir T. Metcalfe, Mr. Ford, and Mr. Loch gave evidence against the accused, together with some other officers and native witnesses. The *sanad* which granted the estate to the Nawáb Najábat Ali Khan contained a condition that in times of difficulty and disturbance, or when required, the Nawáb should furnish 400 horsemen, and, moreover, should always remain a well-wisher and devoted friend of the English Government. These conditions the Nawáb could not pretend to have fulfilled, and his country therefore clearly stood forfeited in any case. The evidence given proved that the Jhajjar troops did nothing to protect the English officers in Delhi; that they had fought against us there; that during that time they had been paid by the Nawáb, with money sent from Jhajjar; that other sums of money had been sent to the rebels at Delhi; that the traders of Jhajjar had been compelled to subscribe to a forced loan for the king; that a prince of the Delhi house had been received and entertained at Jhajjar; and that the Nawáb had been in treasonable correspondence with the king of Delhi, and, among other things, had promised to send a regiment of cavalry and five lakhs of rupees as soon as his revenue should be collected. It was also proved that the forts of Jhajjar and Nárnol were in a complete state of military preparation when seized. The defence of the Nawáb was prepared by an old servant of his, Rám Richpal, afterwards an Honorary Magistrate of the town of Jhajjar, who died in 1881. It consisted merely of the allegation that the troops were beyond his control, and had acted as they pleased. This was vehemently denied by the prosecution, but there was nevertheless a certain amount of truth in the statement. The Muhammadan troops at Jhajjar did mutiny against their Hindu officers, whose village and houses they attacked, and whose women and children they killed, and

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**CHAP. I. C.** their disorderly conduct in other places than Jhajjar has already  
**History.** been mentioned. The Nawáb was never a man of any great resolution, and there is no doubt that he was largely influenced in his unwillingness to go to the Delhi Ridge by fears for the honour of the ladies of his family. That he failed in what was his clear duty, and that he abetted and assisted the rebels, is undoubted, and the loss of life and country paid the forfeit; but his treason can hardly be designated as of the worst type; and, at any rate, no English blood was shed in the Jhajjar territory, though the opportunities of shedding it were many. He was found guilty by the Commission without hesitation, and was sentenced to be hanged, and all his property to be confiscated; his execution took place on the 23rd December, in Delhi, before the fort. The latter portion of the order was confirmed by the Chief Commissioner and Government of India, and was duly carried out. All the dependents and members of the family received small pensions, and in the end of 1858 they were transferred to Ludbiána and Lahore. One branch of the family, represented by Shayista Khán, and not implicated in the events of the Mutiny, was permitted as a favour to live at Saharanpúr.\*

Conduct  
and punish-  
ment of the  
Bahádurgarh  
Nawáb.

27. The Nawáb of Bahádurgarh was at Dádri, where he usually resided, in May 1857, and he remained there until he surrendered like his cousin to the British troops in October. The Dádri troops stationed at Hissár mutinied with the Irregular Horse and Harriána Light Infantry there, and joined in the murder of the Collector and other Englishmen; but no active participation in the events at Delhi could be proved against the Nawáb himself. He had indeed sent an offering to the king, and addressed him in a letter of fulsome adulation, and the rebels in Delhi had drawn supplies from Bahádurgarh. But this was all; and as the Nawáb had really no control over the villages distant only 15 miles from the capital and 30 miles from himself, and as he had wished to aid Sir T. Metcalfe in his escape, it was decided that, taking all this into consideration, together with his old age and decrepitude, it was not necessary to try him for his life. To this decision the Government of India acceded; adding, that it "is just and necessary that the Nawáb shall forfeit all his possessions, which he held on condition of loyalty and good service."† The forfeiture was carried out, and Bahádur Jang Khán was removed to Lahore, where he enjoyed a pension of Rs. 1,000 a month and where he died in 1866.‡ In this manner did the once powerful,

\* Note.—The correspondence concerning the trial and punishment of the Nawáb of Jhajjar is to be found in the following letters:—Commissioner, Delhi, to General Commanding Delhi Division, No. 20, of 28th November 1857; Commissioner, Delhi, to Chief Commissioner, Punjab, No. 24 of 2nd January 1858; Chief Commissioner, Punjab, to Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1 A, of 18th February 1858; Government of India to Chief Commissioner, Punjab, Nos. 1453 and 1035 of 28th May and 2nd September 1858.

† Note.—The case of the Bahádurgarh Nawáb was discussed in the following letters:—Commissioner, Delhi, to Chief Commissioner, No. 57 of 3rd March 1858; Chief Commissioner to Government of India No. 123 B-12 A of 9th March; Government of India to Chief Commissioner, No. 1266 of 9th May, 1858.



Bharaich family pass away from among the ruling Chiefs of North India. CHAP. I, C.

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28. The Bahádurgarh estates were added to the *Sámpla tahsil*, five detached villages to the east going to Delhi; and Jhajjar, including Nárnaul, Kánaundh, Dádri, and the rest of the old territory, was created into a new district. Two Dádri villages—Senpal and Kharári—and one Jhajjar village—were included in the Rohtak *tahsil*, and five Jhajjar villages in the *Sámpla tahsil*; for a time nine others (called the Mandauthi villages) were also added to Sampla, but these were taken back again later. The two districts of Rohtak and Jhajjar, together with the rest of the Delhi and Hissár divisions, passed to the Panjáb by the Government of India Notification No. 606 of 13th April 1858. Shortly afterwards, the loyal services of the Phulkián Chiefs were rewarded by the assignment of Dádri to the Rájá of Jind, of Nárnaul to Patiala, and Kánti and Bawal to Nábhá. The summary settlements of the remaining Jhajjar *parganas* and of Bahádurgarh were commenced by Mr. J. S. Campbell, the first Deputy Commissioner of Jhajjar; and in the middle of the work, India passed from the Honourable East India Company to the Crown by the Proclamation of 1st November. Things soon settled down to peace and order throughout the districts, of which one was not to last long. It was determined to cancel a debt due to the Nábhá and Patiala States, by assigning to them portions of the Kánaundh *pargana*, and the Rájá of Jind was allowed to purchase some of the villages also. This left only the two *parganas* of Jhajjar and Bádli in the new district, and from 1st July 1860 it was abolished, and the Jhajjar *tahsil* added to Rohtak, seven Bádli villages being transferred to Delhi, 21 to Gargáon, and two detached Jhajjar estates going to the Rájá of Jind. In the following year, when the general revision of *tahsils* throughout the Panjáb took place, that of Mehm was abolished. The old eastern estates of Rohtak-Beri were made over to Sampla, which also recieved 12 villages from Delhi; a few Mehm villages and Bhiwáni (now created into a new *pargana*) went to Hissár, and the rest were added to the Rohtak *tahsil*. These changes were completed by 1st July 1861. In the same year occurred the famine, and a second followed in 1868-69. Otherwise, the course of events in the district has, generally speaking, been uneventful. The regular settlement of the Jhajjar and Bahádurgarh villages were completed by Rái Partab Singh in 1862; and the revised settlement of the whole district by Messrs. Purser and Fanshawe came into force in 1879. In the same year the customs line was abolished; the new alignment of the Western Jumna Canal was put in hand in 1878, and the drainage channels have been constructed throughout the district. The subsequent history of the district is little more than a record of agricultural vicissitudes and on the whole of progress ending

**HAP. I, C.** with the second revised settlement of 1909, while the *darbar* of **History.** January 1908 brought back to some memories of 1857, and made a great impression on those who went from the district to Delhi.

On April 1st, 1910, took place the last change in the subdivisions of the district consequent on the abolition of the *Sampla tahsil* which was absorbed in Rohtak and Jhajjar, while a few villages in the south of the *sadar tahsil* round Beri were added to Jhajjar, and a large block in the west and centre to Gohana. An exact account of these changes will be found in the settlement report of 1910. The Deputy Commissioners now best remembered by the people in the district are Colonel Grey, Mr. Moore who was murdered by a Jat while sleeping outside his house on 6th August 1877, to the great grief of every one in the district, Mr. Purser, Colonel Rennick, Major Burlton and Mr. Thompson, while Mr. Fanshawe, the Settlement Officer of 1879, is still spoken of with great affection.

Antiquities of  
the district.  
Rohtak,  
Mohanbari,  
etc.,

29. There are few antiquities of any note in the district. The real history of the old sites is lost. Excavations at the Rohtak Khokrakot, or Rohtasgarh, seem to show that three cities have been successively destroyed there. What is known of the town at different periods has already been repeated. The only building of historic interest is the Dini mosque which contains some old Hindu carving, distantly reminiscent of the great court at the Kutb, and is shown by the inscription on it to have been built in 708 H. in the time of Ala-ud-din Khilji. There is an old *baoli* just east of the city and the Gaokaran tank is a fine specimen of its type. Writing of Rohtak in 1828, General Mundy\* speaks of "the ancient and consequently ruinous town" of Rohtak. The wide circuit of its dilapidated fortifications and "the still elegant domes of many time-worn tanks tell melancholy tales of gone by grandeurs."

From the other 'hollow peak' or Khokrakot near Bohar several fine pieces of statuary which seem to belong to the Græco-Buddhist period have been recovered and are now to be seen at the monastery. One of the oldest of the deserted sites apparently is that of Mohanbari, as certainly it is one of the most extensive. There too some fine and delicate carving has been found and pieces have been let into the walls of the houses. On the *ghat* of the tank is a fragmentary inscription which reads: "Sammāt 1014, Asarh badi 9, Bediran bhi yastū, though a local Pandit insists that the last three words are written backwards and should read *Suka mistari*! Two tales are told of the destruction of the place. According to one story a widow was marrying her daughter and her brothers promised her assistance in the form of *ghi*. They filled the *ghi* pots however with cow-

\* "Pen and Pencil Sketches in India." Journal of a tour in India by General G. C. Mundy 3rd Edition. London, 1858.



ding cakes, leaving only a thin layer of *ghi* on the top; the town was destroyed by the curses of the woman who was disgraced before the wedding party. By the other tale the town was destroyed by the curses of a fakir who was sitting in religious meditation by the *Rani ka talab* and was turned away by the king's son. A will-o-the-wisp is still to be seen near the place. The present village was founded out of the estate of Jhanswa by Thakar Shahu Singh of Kutani, a minister of the last Nawab of Jhajjar, and is often called Sialkot after him. It was partly destroyed by flood in 1908, but it seems unlikely that flood could ever have reached the high-lying old site. Coins have been found of the well-known currency of Raja Samant Deva who is supposed to have reigned over Kabul and the Panjab about 920 A. D. Amongst the ruins is a "Shahid's grave" built within living memory by a successful contractor on the railway works which will doubtless soon be regarded as an antique.

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30. Of the history of Mehm what few historical facts are known have been sketched above. Tradition says the first foundation was made by Rai Ballu, a Punwar Rajput, before the time of Rai Puhaura. There is a very fine *baoli* of which a full description is given by General Mundy, "a monument of public utility worthy the munificence of a Roman Emperor." It must have been in much better repair in 1828 than it is now. It was built in 1656 by Saidu Kalal, mace-bearer to Shah Jahan, as attested by the inscription on it:—

Historical  
buildings at  
Mehm.

Ba abd-i-Shahinshah alam-sitán  
Za Saidu shud ín birka zamzam nishán  
Chu táríkh-i-o justam az pír-i-akl  
Ba man guft daryá-i-khairi rawán.  
Mamlak wa rakmah kalal dín 1096 Hijri fakt.

"In the reign of the king of kings, conqueror of the world,  
This spring of paradise was dug by Saidu.

"When I searched for its date from the sage

"He replied, "The water of charity floweth over," 1096.  
The last words form an anagram corresponding with the date quoted.

This is not, however, the oldest *baoli* in the town. It is supposed to have been built to replace another which had become superseded by a change in the alignment of the Delhi-Hissar road. This older *baoli* is still in existence, though not in good preservation, and is shown by the inscription on it to have been built in 1054 H. by Darab Khan of Mehm under the orders of Prince Dara Shikoh.

CHAP. I. C. The Jama Masjid of this town contains two inscriptions given  
History. in the footnote.\*

The first shows it to have been built in 1531 A.D. by Begam Sultan who lived in the time of Humayun and is traditionally said to have been one of his wives; the second records its completion, or perhaps restoration, in 1667 A. D., in the reign of Aurangzeb. There are also tombs of a later date much in the style of those at Jhajjar. One other antiquity of interest to be seen at Mehm is a china *lota* inscribed in the name of Shah Jahan. This is apparently genuine and was included in the Delhi Darbar Exhibition. It is the property of Pirzada Zahur Ullah.

Antiquities  
of Jhajjar.

31. The town of Jhajjar is said to have been inhabited by Jats in the time of the Pirthi Rajah: after his defeat it was refounded by Jats, after whom came Rajputs, Kazis and Bhattis. The Jats incensed at the oppression practised by the Bhattis called in the Pathans, who inviting the Bhattis to a feast blew them up with gunpowder. The Saiyads owe their settlement to the introduction by the Pathans of Saiyad Shekhu: his father, Saiyad Yusuf, had interceded with the king Firoz Shah and obtained his pardon for the Pathans who had been condemned by the Emperor to be taken to the sea and drowned in expiation of their crime. The name Jhajjar is said to be corrupted from Chajunagar, the original name bestowed by the first founder Chaju.

Jhajjar abounds in memories of saints and learned men of the 17th and 18th centuries. There are two buildings which can be dated by their inscriptions. Shah Kamal Ghazi is supposed to have fought against Rai Pithaurah. His arrival at Jhajjar without a head created a sensation and he is buried by the gate called after him. A mosque, *barahdari* and tank were added later. The tank has an inscription which shows it to have been built in the reign of Jahangir by Durga Mal in 1036 H.= 1635 A. D. Close by is a fine tomb of one Game Shah who remained seated in one spot from 1557 to 1894, when he expired and was accorded a handsome memorial by the late Nawab of Dujana.

The other inscription, which belongs to the preceding year 1035 H., is on one of the elegant group of mausoleums opposite the

\* 1st. Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim. Dar ah-d-i-daulat sultan-us-salatia, zil-lillahi El-Alamin. muayyid-i-sarir-i-sultaant wa khalifat. Razat Muhammad Humayun Badshah Ghazi, khallidul-lah mulkuha wa sultanaha wa alah alrahim wa shanaba fiddarain. Bukka Begam Sultan hant baada-i-Allah, barqazida-i-dargah-i-Amir-i-burgah Tughan, batanaik-i-Allah-i Taala laudik yaft, Masjid-i-Jama Kasba-i-Mahm idas kunanid, Allah-Taala mujab was mustajab gardanad ba mennihe wa azilihi wa kamal-i-karamahi, ba-tarikh-i-hist-o-haftam-i-mash Rajah-ul-Marajah, sana 937 ..... Hijri.

2nd. Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim. Dar ah-d-i-khudawand-i-zamin-o-asman, khudav-i-makin-o-makan' sultan-us-salatia, zil-lillahi El-Alamin Muhammad Aurangzeb Bahader Alamgir Badshah, Ghazir, khallidul-lah mulkuha wa sultanaha, zamiri-masjid-i-Kasba-i-Mahm hasb-ul-hukm-i-akdas ba-istimam-i-badan-i-sherakh Khwaja Rahmat-ullah ba-istimam rasid, Allah mujab was mustajab samayad. Fil tarikh haftdaham shahr Muharram-ul-Haram sana samana wa sabih wa alf wa sittah ashor jalus.



Buwawala tank, and records the death of Hasan Shahid. He was enamoured of a girl called Buwa, daughter of a Kalal of Kot Kalal, and she returned his love. Both were unmarried. Her father, having orders to proceed on active service or send a substitute, named Hasan Shahid to dispel the rumours that were current about his daughter. Hasan was killed in battle. His body was so heavy that it could not be lifted for burial on the battlefield, but when the bearers turned their steps towards Jhajjar it was found to be quite light. Buwa built the tomb and mausoleum and herself dying shortly afterwards was buried near by. Both the inscriptions referred to were composed by Abdus Samad, son of Mankan. The author and his brother Abdur Rahman are buried in the Bazarwala mosque, which was built by one Rumi, a disciple of their father Maulana Mankan Abbasi as a school in which his lectures could be given. Maulana Mankan lies with his sons in the mosque. There are one or two fine old houses in the town which are said to have been built by the Kalal ministers of the State. The Nawab's palaces, now used as tahsil and rest-house, are of no architectural merit.

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32. Another mosque in Dadri bears an inscription of Akbar's time and was erected in 968 H. = 1560 A. D.

Other anti-  
quities.

Twenty-six giants' graves (*naugaza*) are found in the district, 17 being at Banisani, but the only one well-known is that in the masonry *khangoth* at Kanwah in the Jhajjar tahsil.

33. The following table shows the names of the officers who have held charge of the district since annexation:—

District  
officers since  
annexation.

Name.	From	To
Mr. S. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner ...	25th September, 1857...	1st May, 1858.
„ R. P. Jenkins, do. ...	1st May, 1858...	3rd August, 1858.
„ W. Plowden, do. ...	3rd August, 1858...	7th March, 1860.
Capt. H. J. Hawes do. ...	7th March, 1860...	9th September, 1861.
Mr. C. W. Lennox, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	9th September, 1861...	14th September, 1861.
Capt. H. O. Horne, Deputy Commissioner ...	14th September, 1861...	7th November, 1861.
„ H. J. Hawes, do. ...	7th November, 1861...	21st December, 1861.
„ H. B. Urnston, do. ...	21st December, 1861...	19th March, 1862.
„ S. F. Graham, do. ...	18th March, 1862...	2nd April, 1862.
„ H. B. Urnston, do. ...	2nd April, 1862...	12th May, 1862.
Lieut.-Col. F. E. Voyle, do. ...	12th May, 1862...	1st September, 1863.
Mr. O. Wood. do. ...	1st September, 1863...	21st October, 1863.

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NAME.	From	To
Lieut-Col. F. E. Voyle, do. ...	31st October, 1863...	23rd May, 1864.
Mr. C. W. Lennox, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	23rd May, 1864...	28th May, 1864.
Capt. H. C. Horne, Deputy Commissioner ...	28th May, 1864...	26th August, 1864.
Mr. C. W. Lennox, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	26th August, 1864...	4th September, 1864
„ R. W. Thomas, Deputy Commissioner...	4th September, 1864 ..	23rd September, 1864.
Capt. H. C. Horne. do. ...	24th September, 1864...	15th November, 1864
Lieut.-Col. F. E. Voyle, do. ...	16th November, 1864...	5th May, 1865.
Mr. C. W. Lennox, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	5th May, 1865...	17th May, 1865.
Capt. T. F. Forster, Deputy Commissioner...	17th May, 1865...	25th October. 1865
Lieut.-Col. F. E. Voyle. do. ...	25th October, 1865...	10th April, 1867
Major J. Fendall, do. ...	10th April, 1867...	19th May, 1868
„ H. J. Hawes, do. ...	19th May, 1868...	14th October, 1869
Mr. A. W. Stogdon, do. ...	14th October, 1869 ..	14th December, 1869
Major H. J. Hawes, do. ...	14th December, 1869 ..	14th July, 1870.
Captain L. J. H. Grey, do. ...	14th July, 1870 ..	23rd August, 1870.
Mr. F. E. Brett, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	24th August, 1870...	21st September, 1870.
„ E. G. Melvill, Deputy Commissioner ...	21st September, 1870...	21st November, 1870.
Capt. L. J. H. Grey, do. ...	21st November, 1870 ..	1st March, 1871.
Mr. F. E. Brett, Extra Asst. Commr. ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	1st March, 1871...	8th March, 1871.
„ O. Wood, Deputy Commissioner ...	9th March, 1871 ..	5th January, 1872.
„ F. Robert, do. ...	5th January, 1872...	21st March, 1872.
„ C. P. Elliot, do. ...	21st March, 1872...	9th April, 1872.
„ A. H. Benton, do. ...	9th April, 1872...	10th June, 1872.
Capt. B. T. M. Lang, do. ...	10th June, 1872...	20th December, 1872.
Mr. G. Knox, do. ...	20th December 1872...	18th May, 1874.
„ W. Coldstream, do. ...	18th May, 1874...	22nd July, 1874.
„ G. Knox, do. ...	22nd July, 1874...	3rd February, 1876.
„ F. E. Moore, do. ...	4th February, 1876...	6th August, 1876.
„ H. C. Fanshawe, Settlement Officer ( <i>pro tem.</i> )	6th August, 1876...	9th August, 1876.
„ E. B. Francis, Deputy Commissioner ...	9th August, 1876...	6th November, 1877.



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NAME.			From	To	
Mr. O. Wood Deputy Commissioner.	...	...	7th November, 1877...	15th May,	1878.
„ A. W. Stogdon,	do.	...	16th May,	1878...	15th August, 1878.
„ O. Wood,	do.	...	16th August,	1878...	14th June, 1880.
Major W. J. Parker,	do.	...	15th June,	1880...	13th August, 1880.
Mr. O. Wood,	do.	...	16th August,	1880...	23rd November, 1880.
Major W. J. Parker,	do.	...	24th November, 1880...	19th January,	1881.
Mr. O. Wood,	do.	...	20th January,	1881...	13th February, 1881.
Major A. F. P. Harcourt,	do.	...	14th February, 1881...	14th August,	1882.
„ W. J. Parker,	do.	...	15th August,	1882...	1st November, 1882.
Mr. H. W. Steel.	do.	...	2nd November, 1882...	22nd May,	1883.
Major W. J. Parker,	do.	...	23rd May,	1883...	7th October, 1883.
Mr. H. W. Steel,	do.	...	8th October,	1883...	7th September 1884.
„ R. E. Younghusband	...	...	8th September, 1884...	4th October,	1884.
„ H. Dames	...	...	5th October,	1884...	7th October, 1884.
„ H. W. Steel	...	...	8th October,	1884...	20th April, 1885.
„ H. E. A. Wakefield	...	...	21st April,	1885...	24th April, 1885.
„ G. C. Walker	...	...	25th April,	1885 ..	2nd December, 1885.
„ W. E. Purser	...	...	3rd December, 1885 ..	21st May,	1886.
„ J. Wilson	...	...	22nd May,	1886...	19th August, 1886.
„ W. E. Purser	...	...	20th August,	1886...	13th May, 1886.
Major A. de C. Rennick	...	...	14th May,	1886...	10th July, 1888.
Mr. W. E. Purser	...	...	11th July,	1888 ..	13th November, 1888.
„ D. C. J. Ibbotson	...	...	14th November, 1888...	7th March,	1889.
Major A. de C. Rennick	...	...	6th March,	1889 ..	2nd June, 1891.
Mr. H. W. Gee	...	...	3rd June,	1891...	28th August, 1891.
Colonel A. de C. Rennick	...	...	28th August,	1891...	30th May, 1892.
Mr. R. Sykes	...	...	31st May,	1892...	27th June, 1892.
Colonel A. de C. Rennick	...	...	28th June,	1892...	26th June, 1894.
Captain C. P. Thompson	...	...	27th June,	1894...	8th April, 1895.
„ C. P. Egerton	...	...	10th April,	1895...	2nd March, 1897.
„ G. O. Bendon	...	...	3rd March,	1897...	12th July, 1897.
Mr. C. L. Dundas	...	...	13th July,	1897...	1st August, 1897.
Captain G. O. Bendon	...	...	2nd August,	1897...	27th July, 1897.