

DELHI DIVISION

Delhi Division (*Dehli* or *Dilli*).—The south-eastern Division of the Punjab, stretching along the western bank of the Jumna, between 27° 39' and 31° 18' N. and 74° 29' and 77° 40' E. The Commissioner's head-quarters are at the city of Delhi, or at Simla during part of the hot season. The total population increased from 4,232,449 in 1881 to 4,434,751 in 1891, and to 4,587,092 in 1901. The area is 15,395 square miles, and the density of population 298 persons per square mile, compared with 209 for the Province as a whole. In 1901 Hindus numbered 3,252,428, or 71 per cent. of the total; Muhammadans, 1,192,331; Sikhs, 100,040; Jains, 30,110; Parsis, 65; and Christians, 12,108, of whom 3,909 were natives.

The Division includes seven Districts, as shown below:—

District.	Area in square miles.	Population (1901).	Land revenue with cesses (1903-4), in thousands of rupees.
Hissār . . .	5,217	781,717	9,91
Rohtak . . .	1,797	630,672	11,45
Gurgaon . . .	1,984	746,208	14,39
Delhi . . .	1,290	689,039	10,19
Karnal . . .	3,153	883,225	12,39
Ambāla . . .	1,851	815,880	13,81
Simla . . .	101	40,351	21
Total	15,393	4,587,092	72,25

With the exception of the small District of Simla and the hill station of Kasauli in Ambāla, the Division lies wholly in the plains. It contains 6,486 villages and 51 towns, the largest of which are DELHI (population, 208,575), AMBĀLA (78,638), BHIWĀNI (35,917), REWĀRI (27,295), PĀNĪPAT (26,914), KARNĀL (23,559), and ROHTAK (20,323). The Commissioner has political control over the Native States of Sirmūr, Kalsia, Pataudi, Dujāna, and Lohāru, which have an aggregate area of 1,740 square miles and a population of 264,204. Excepting Delhi, there are few towns of commercial importance, but Rewāri and Ambāla may be mentioned. Pānpat in Karnāl

District has been the scene of several famous battles. SIMLA, the seat of the Supreme Government for seven months in the year, lies within this Division.

Boun-
daries, con-
figuration,
and hill
and river
systems.

Hissār District (*Hissār*).—District in the Delhi Division of the Punjab, lying between $28^{\circ} 36'$ and $30^{\circ} 0'$ N. and $74^{\circ} 29'$ and $76^{\circ} 20'$ E., with an area of 5,217 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Ferozepore District and the State of Patiāla; on the east by the Jīnd *nizāmat* of Jīnd State and the District of Rohtak; on the south by the Dādri *nizāmat* of Jīnd and the territory of the Nawāb of Lohāru; and on the south-west by the State of Bikaner. Situated on the borders of the Bikaner desert, it has in many respects the characteristics of Rājputāna rather than of the Punjab; its general aspect is that of a plain or prairie, unbroken except by some detached peaks of the Arāvalli range in the extreme south-west, the highest of which is Toshām hill with an elevation of 800 feet. The only river, the Ghaggar, enters the District in two branches, known as the Ghaggar and Johiya, meeting below Sirsa.

Geology.

With the exception of some small outliers of gneiss at Toshām, there is nothing of geological interest in the District, which is otherwise entirely of alluvial formation.

Botany.

The north-eastern part resembles as regards its vegetation the Upper Gangetic plain, while the southern border is botanically akin to Rājputāna. The Sirsa subdivision resembles the desert and the Western Punjab. The fodder-grasses of the tracts round Hissār and Hānsi (largely species of *Panicum* and *Pennisetum*) are celebrated. A stunted kind of zizyphus (*Z. nummularia*), common in the drier tracts of Northern India, is conspicuous in this District, and its leaves are valued locally for cattle.

Fauna.

Wild animals are comparatively rare, owing to the absence of water; but antelope and 'ravine deer' (gazelle) are common, and hog are plentiful in parts. Wolves are also fairly numerous. *Nilgai* are sometimes met with near Hissār.

Climate
and tem-
perature.

Owing to the extreme dryness of the climate, the District is healthy. Even the canal-irrigated tracts, where there used to be a great deal of fever and the people presented a striking contrast to the inhabitants of the dry tracts, have been healthy since the cultivation of rice was stopped about ten years ago. Both the heat in summer and the cold in winter are extreme, and epidemics of pneumonia are not uncommon in the winter months.

Rainfall.

As the District lies on the edges of both the Bengal and

Bombay monsoon currents, the most striking feature in the rainfall is its extreme variability, and the partial manner in which it is distributed. The yearly average varies from 14 inches at Sirsa to 16 at Hissār, where 14 inches fall in the summer and 2 in the winter. The greatest annual rainfall recorded during the last twenty years was 37.4 inches at Bhiwāni in 1885-6, and the least 3.1 inches at Sirsa in 1899-1900.

A large part of the District is, with parts of Rohtak, better known to history as HARIĀNA. The once fertile tract watered by the Ghaggar had its capital at Hānsi, which was the ancient capital and southernmost point of the Siwālik territory, and which archaeological investigations show to be one of the oldest towns in India. The numerous architectural remains of Hindu origin, found built into the walls of Muhammadan tombs and mosques throughout the District, testify to its having been the abode of an ancient and vigorous Hindu civilization. The most interesting of these are to be found at HISSĀR, HĀNSI, FATAHĀBĀD, and TOSHĀM. An inscription at Toshām seems to commemorate a victory over Ghatotkacha, the second known member of the Gupta line (*circa* A.D. 305), and it appears probable that Hānsi was a stronghold of the Kushan rulers of the Punjab.

The District is said to have been overrun in the eighth century by the Tomar Rājputs, and afterwards to have fallen under the dominion of the Chauhāns. In 1036 Hānsi was captured by Masūd, son of Mahmūd of Ghazni; but in 1043 it was retaken by the Delhi Rājā, probably a Tomar vassal of the Chauhāns. After the defeat of Prithwī Rāj by Muhammad of Ghor in 1192, the Jāts laid siege to Hānsi, but were defeated by Kutb-ud-dīn. Hānsi then became a fief of the Delhi kingdom. The districts of Delhi, Ajmer, Hānsi, and Sirsa fell into the hands of the conqueror; but no settled rule seems to have been at first established in this tract, which in the ensuing anarchy was dominated by the Jātu Rājputs, an offshoot of the Tomars. Muhammadan power was, however, gradually consolidated; and about 1254, in the reign of Mahmūd Shāh I, the District, including Hānsi, Sirsa, Barwāla, and Jīnd, was assigned as a fief to Ulugh Khān-i-Azam, afterwards the emperor Balban.

Until the eighteenth century the tract remained a flourishing division of the Muhammadan empire, and Sirsa or Sarsūti was in the fourteenth century, according to Wassāf, one of the most important towns in Upper India. The towns of Fatah-

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ābād and Hissār were founded in 1352 and 1356 respectively by Firoz Shāh III, and canals were dug from the Ghaggar and Jumna for their use. After the capture of Bhatnair, Tīmūr marched through the District via Sirsa, Fatahābād, Rajabpur, Ahrūni, and Tohāna. It is evident from his account that these towns were wealthy and prosperous, for he took much booty in Sirsa, Fatahābād, and Ahrūni, and drove the Jāts of Tohāna into their sugar-cane fields and jungles.

During the eighteenth century the country appears to have been held by Muhammadan tribes claiming Rājput origin, of whom the chief were the Johiyas round Bhatnair (HANUMĀNGARH) and the Bhattis about Rānia, Sirsa, and Fatahābād, from whom the western part of the District took its name of BHATTIĀNA. The Bikaner annals tell of the incessant struggles of the Hindu Rājputs of that State with the Johiyas and Bhattis for the possession of Bhatnair and sometimes of Sirsa; and the chronicles of Patiāla are full of raids and counter-raids between the Sikh Jats and their hereditary foes, the Bhattis. On the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 we find Nawāb Shāh Dād Khān, a Pathān of Kasūr, *nāsīm* of the *sarkār* of Hissār; and under his rule, from 1707 to 1737, the people and country appear to have prospered exceedingly. He was succeeded by the Nawābs of Farrukhnagar, in Gurgaon, who ruled till 1761. But Nādir Shāh ravaged the land in 1739; and with the disintegration of the Delhi empire Hissār became the scene of a sanguinary struggle between the Sikhs of the north-east, the marauding Bhattis of the north and north-west, and the imperial power of Delhi. In 1731 Ala Singh, the founder of the Patiāla State, had commenced a struggle with the Bhatti chiefs of Bhatnair and Fatahābād which lasted during his lifetime; the Bhattis, though supported by imperial troops, were defeated in 1754 and 1757, and Hissār was sacked in 1757 and Tohāna in 1761. In the latter year Nawāb Amīn Khān, the Bhatti chief of Rānia, was appointed *nāsīm* of Hissār; but he had no better fortune, and by 1774 Amar Singh, successor of Ala Singh, had become master of the whole of the Hānsi, Hissār, and Sirsa territories. On Amar Singh's death in 1781, an agreement was made whereby Hissār, Hānsi, Toshām, Rohtak, and Maham were assigned to the empire, Sirsa and Fatahābād to the Bhattis, and the rest of their conquests to the Sikhs; but the great famine of 1783, which entirely devastated the District, compelled the latter to retire to their own country. The territories thus left derelict were in 1798 occupied by the adventurer George Thomas, who for three years maintained

an independent kingdom in Hānsi and Hissār. However, in 1801, after an obstinate defence of Hānsi, he surrendered to an army under Bourquin sent against him by Perron, Sindhia's French general, and the country was for a brief space under the Marāthā dominion.

In 1803 Hissār and Sirsa, with the territories ceded by Sindhia, passed nominally to the British; but although a military post was maintained at Hānsi, and *nāzims* or native superintendents were placed in civil charge, little was done towards enforcing order until 1810, when an expedition was rendered necessary by the continued raids of the Bhatti chiefs. In consequence of these the territory of Fatahābād was annexed, and a second expedition in 1818 secured the rest of the territory held by the Bhattis. Thus the whole of the Sirsa *tahsil* was brought under British rule. Most of the present District was in 1820 included in the Western District of the Delhi territory. During the years that followed, the Sikh Rājās, taking advantage of British neglect and the waste condition of the dry tract beyond the Ghaggar, began a series of irregular colonizations, which continued uninterrupted till 1837. The British Government, after a long boundary contention with Patiāla, asserted its supremacy over the dry tract, which was resumed, and, together with the valley of the Ghaggar, made into a separate District under the name of BHATTIĀNA, in which all the present *tahsil* of Sirsa was included. Additions were made to the territory by other resumptions from encroaching Native States in 1844, 1847, and 1855.

In the Mutiny of 1857 the troops at Hānsi were the first to rise, followed by those at Hissār and Sirsa; all Europeans who did not fly were murdered, and Hissār and Sirsa were wholly lost for a time to British rule. The Ranghars and Pachhādas of Hissār and the Bhattis of Sirsa, followed by the majority of the Muhammadan villagers, rose in insurrection; but before Delhi had been recovered a force of Punjab levies, aided by contingents from Patiāla and Bikaner, under General van Cortlandt, utterly routed them. After the Mutiny Hissār and Bhattiāna Districts were transferred from the North-Western Provinces to the Punjab, and the latter became the Sirsa District. In 1884 that District was broken up: the Sirsa *tahsil* and 126 villages of Dabwāli were transferred to Hissār, while Fāzilka and the remaining 31 villages of Dabwāli were amalgamated with Ferozepore District. The small Budhlāda tract was transferred from Karnāl to Hissār in 1889. In 1904 two villages of the District were transferred, with a cash pay-

ment of Rs. 25,000, to the Bikaner State, in exchange for a few villages held by the Darbār in the Deccan.

The
people.

Hissār contains 8 towns and 964 villages. Its population at each of the last three enumerations was: (1881) 672,569, (1891) 776,006 and (1901) 781,717. It increased by less than 1 per cent. during the last decade, the low rate being chiefly due to emigration during the famine years of 1897 and 1900. The District is divided into the five *tahsils* of HISSĀR, HĀNSI, BHIWĀNI, FATAHĀBĀD, and SIRSA, the head-quarters of each being at the place from which it is named. The chief towns are the municipalities of BHIWĀNI, HĀNSI, HISSĀR, and SIRSA, Hissār being the head-quarters of the District.

The following table shows the distribution of population in 1901:—

<i>Tahsil.</i>	Area in square miles.	Number of		Population.	Population per square mile.	Percentage of variation in population between 1891 and 1901.	Number of persons able to read and write.
		Towns.	Villages.				
Hissār . . .	810	1	134	128,783	159.0	+ 5.3	3,563
Hānsi . . .	799	1	132	178,933	224.0	+ 8.0	4,283
Bhiwāni . . .	750	1	131	124,429	165.9	- 2.6	5,585
Fatahābād . . .	1,179	1	261	190,921	161.9	+ 5.1	3,218
Sirsa . . .	1,651	4	306	158,651	96.1	- 11.2	4,722
District total	5,217	8	964	781,717	149.8	+ 0.7	21,371

NOTE.—The figures for the areas of *tahsils* are taken from revenue returns. The total District area is that given in the *Census Report*.

Hindus number 544,799, or more than 70 per cent. of the population; Muhammadans, 202,009; and Sikhs, 28,642. Owing to the large areas of sandy soil, the density of the population is only 150 persons to the square mile, and even on the cultivated area it is only 194, the precarious nature of the cultivation forbidding it to support more. The vernaculars are Hariāni, Bāngru, or Deswālī in the south, Punjābi in the north, and Bāgrī in the south-east. Bāgrī and Hariāni run very much into one another; to a less extent Punjābi blends with Hindī and Bāgrī through Pachhādi, the Punjābi dialect of the Muhammadan Pachhādas.

Castes and
occupations.

Most important of the landowning tribes are the Jāts, who number 195,000, and comprise one-fourth of the population. They may roughly be divided into four classes: the Deswālī Jāts of Hariāna, some of whose ancestors appear to have inhabited the District in ancient times; the Bāgrī Jāts, immi-

grants from the Bāgar country of Bīkāner; the Sikh Jāts of Sirsa, who came from the Mālwā country and from Patiāla; and the Muhammadan Jāts, who form part of the nondescript collection of tribes known as Pachhādas. The Deswālī and Bāgrī Jāts are practically all Hindus and intermarry. The Rājputs number 70,000, or 9 per cent. of the population; 78 per cent. of them are Muhammadans. The oldest clan is the Tonwar or Tomar, who first entered the District during the ascendancy of the Tomar dynasty under Anang Pāl at Delhi. Other important clans are the Jātu, Bhatti, Wattu, Johiya, Chauhān, Ponwāt, and Rāthor. As a rule the Rājput, retaining the military traditions of his ancestors, is a lazy and inefficient agriculturist, somewhat prone to cattle-stealing. The Pachhādas (30,000), as they are termed by others, are a congeries of Muhammadan tribes, many of whom claim to be Rājputs, though the claim rests on but slender evidence. Their name and tradition point to their having come from the west (*pachhim*), and their facial type suggests a connexion with the tribes of the Western Punjab. They are indifferent agriculturists, lazy, improvident, and sometimes cattle thieves; in physique inferior to the Deswālī and Sikh Jāts, though perhaps superior to the Bāgrī. The Mālis, chiefly market-gardeners (13,000), are entirely Hindu; the Arains (5,000) Muhammadan; the Brāhmans (43,000) are Gaur, Sārsut, Khāndelwāl, Dahmīa, Gujrātī, Achārj, and Chamārwa in order of status. The great majority of the Gaur and Sārsut Brāhmans are agriculturists, but all are fed on various occasions and venerated, though disliked. Pushkankar Brāhmans from Ajmer are also found. Of the commercial classes the most important is that of the Baniās (61,000), who are divided into three subdivisions—Agarwāl, Oswāl, and Mahesrī—who neither smoke, eat, nor intermarry with each other. Of artisan and menial tribes may be noted the Ahīrs (10,000), a vagrant tribe who claim Rājput origin, the Tarkhāns (carpenters, 20,000), Lohārs or blacksmiths (10,000), Chamārs or leather-workers (69,000), Dhānaks (20,000), and Chūhrās or scavengers (25,000). Of the total population of the District 72 per cent. are agricultural, and practically the whole of the rural population is dependent on agriculture.

Two lady missionary doctors are stationed at Bhiwāni, where the Baptist Mission of Delhi maintains a girls' school. The District is also visited by missionaries of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel from Delhi. In 1901 it contained 53 native Christians.

Christian
missions.

General
agricul-
tural con-
ditions.

The District is divided into four natural tracts. Of these, the Rohi of the Sirsa *tahsil* stretches from the northern boundary to the Ghaggar. Its soil is a soft loam with a reddish tinge, interspersed with sand and clay; the water-level in the wells varies from 40 to 180 feet, the crops depend entirely on rainfall, and vegetation is sparse. South of the Rohi lies the western extremity of the Nāli tract, stretching from east to west through the Fatahābād and Sirsa *tahsils*, and traversed by the Ghaggar and Johiya. Its characteristic feature is a hard iron-clay soil, which permits of no cultivation until well saturated by the summer floods. Here the harvest depends on inundation from the Ghaggar and Johiya, helped in some parts by well-irrigation. The Bāgar tract stretches from the south and south-west of Sirsa along the western border of the District, through Sirsa, Fatahābād, Hissār, and Bhiwāni, gradually widening towards the south. Here the prevailing features are a light sandy soil and shifting sandhills, interspersed in parts with firmer and even loamy bottoms; the spring-level is more than 100 feet below the surface, and the water frequently bitter. Practically the *kharif* is the only harvest sown, and that depends entirely on a sufficient rainfall. The Hariāna tract stretches from the tract watered by the Ghaggar to the south-east corner of the District; it comprises the whole of Hānsi and the eastern portions of Fatahābād, Hissār, and Bhiwāni, and is traversed by the WESTERN JUMNA CANAL. The leading feature of the tract is its firm clay soil; sandhills are found, and in low-lying parts hard clayey soil. The spring-level is generally below 100 feet, except in canal villages where it rises to 30 or 40 feet. Apart from the canal tract, agriculture is practically confined to the autumn harvest. The small jungle tract of Budhlāda, consisting of 15 outlying villages in the north of the Fatahābād *tahsil*, is sometimes classed as a fifth tract, but resembles the Rohi. Taking the District as a whole, only 9 per cent. of the cultivation is irrigated, and the rainfall is therefore of the utmost importance; on the rainfall of June and July depends the sowing of the autumn crops, and on that of August and September the ripening of the autumn and the sowing of the spring crops. Until recently the autumn harvest was the mainstay of the District; but of late years, owing to the good prices obtained for wheat, the spring harvest has taken the leading place, and the best season is one in which there is heavy rain at the end of August and all through September.

The area for which details are available from the revenue

records of 1903-4 is 5,180 square miles, as shown in the following table:—

Chief agricultural statistics and principal crops.

Tahsil.	Total.	Cultivated.	Irrigated.	Cultivable waste.
Hissar	810	623	53	98
Hansi	799	690	180	60
Bhiwani	750	603	6	110
Fatahahad	1,179	1,300	69	165
Sirsa	1,642	945	75	300
Total	5,180	4,161	383	733

The principal staples of the spring harvest are gram and barley, the areas under which in 1903-4 were 478 and 168 square miles respectively. Wheat covered only 109 square miles. The chief food-grain of the autumn harvest is spiked millet, which occupied 929 square miles. Great millet comes next in importance with 38 square miles, and then pulses with 175. Practically all the sugar-cane and cotton grown is irrigated, with four-fifths of the maize, three-fifths of the rice, and two-fifths of the wheat. No other crop is irrigated to any appreciable extent.

The cultivation of rice has of late years been prohibited in canal lands, and its place largely taken by cotton. Experiments are being carried on chiefly with the object of introducing cotton of a longer staple. There is great room for improvement in the methods adopted by the people for utilizing the canal water at their disposal.

Improvements in agricultural practice.

Large advances are given both under the Land Improvement Loans Act for digging and clearing wells, and under the Agriculturists' Loans Act for the purchase of bullocks and seed. During the five years ending September, 1904, a total of Rs. 73,000 was advanced under the former and 18 lakhs under the latter Act, of which Rs. 43,627 and 10.5 lakhs respectively was advanced during the famine year 1899-1900.

Hariāna has been always famous for its cattle, which were the chief support of its former pastoral inhabitants. The breed is still good, though cattle-breeding is somewhat on the wane owing to the spread of cultivation. The Hissar Government cattle farm was started in 1813, and now covers 66 square miles. The pure breeds of cattle maintained are the Gujarāti, Ūngoli, Nagaur, and Mysore, which are also crossed with Hariāna cows. Of late years mule-breeding has been commenced. Large cattle fairs are held at Hissar and Sirsa, at which it is estimated that animals of the total value of 6½ lakhs

Cattle, horses, and sheep.

are sold annually. The camel is used in all parts for riding and carrying loads, and where the soil is light does a large part of the ploughing. The local breed of horses is in no way above the average. The District board maintains five horse and four donkey stallions.

Irrigation. Of the total area cultivated in 1903-4, 383 square miles, or nearly 9 per cent., were classed as irrigated. Of this area, 6 square miles were irrigated from wells and 377 from canals. In addition, 83 square miles, or 2 per cent., are subject to inundation from the Ghaggar and other streams. The Hānsi branch of the WESTERN JUMNA CANAL irrigates the Hānsi, Hissār, and Bhiwāni *tahsils*, while the Sirsa branch irrigates parts of Fatahābād, Hissār, and Sirsa. The GHAGGAR CANALS supply part of the Sirsa *tahsil*, and the Budhlāda tract and a portion of Sirsa are watered by the SIRHIND CANAL. The area under canal-irrigation increased from 120 square miles in 1891 to 377 in 1904. The area supplied by wells is insignificant, owing to the great depth to water, and the chief use of well-irrigation is to enable sowings to be made for the spring harvest. The total number of wells in use for irrigation was only 854 in 1903-4, all being worked by cattle on the rope and bucket system.

Forests. The greater part of the cattle farm, known as the Hissār Bīr, is a 'reserved' forest, measuring 65 square miles, under the Civil Veterinary department, the income from which in 1903-4 was Rs. 4,379. The Bīr at Hānsi is an unclassed forest under the same department. Three pieces of grazing-ground are managed by the Deputy-Commissioner at Hissār, Sirsa, and Hānsi for the town cattle. The total area of forest land is: 'reserved,' 65 square miles; and unclassed, 5 square miles. Trees have been extensively planted with the aid of canal water by the District board in and around the civil station of Hissār and the town of Hānsi, and the Bīr at Hānsi is also being planted with trees to make a fuel reserve.

Minerals. *Kankar* is found in many localities. Saltpetre is manufactured from saline earth in the villages, and refined in licensed refineries at Bhiwāni, Hānsi, and Sirsa.

Arts and manufactures. The District has no manufactures of importance. Coarse country cloth is made almost everywhere; and there are 10 cotton-ginning factories, 3 cotton-presses, and 3 factories where ginning and pressing are combined. Hānsi is the industrial centre; but four of the factories are at Bhiwāni, and one at Narnaund, while the cotton-mills of Messrs. Chandu Lāl & Co. at Hissār are the largest in the District. These indus-

tries employed 2,061 hands in 1904. Bhiwāni is known for its plain brass and bell-metal work, and for its carved doors. The District produces cotton *phūlkāris* embroidered with silk, which are of exceptional excellence, and embroidered woollen *phūlkāris* are also made. The carpenters' work is above the average.

The chief centres of trade are Bhiwāni, Hānsi, Hissār, Budhlāda, and Sirsa on the railway; but a good deal of local trade does not pass through these places, being brought direct to the consumers by individual speculators, generally Bishnoī or Bāgrī Jāts. Hissār and Hānsi are chiefly distributing centres for local requirements; but Bhiwāni and Sirsa are important as centres of through trade to Rājputāna, wheat, flour, sugar, and cotton goods being largely exported. Commerce and trade.

The Rewāri-Bhatinda branch of the Rājputāna-Mālwā Railway runs through the District for 122 miles, while the Southern Punjab Railway passes through Budhlāda, Jākhal, and Tohāna, and the Jodhpūr-Bikaner Railway runs through part of the Sirsa *tahsil*. The District has 26 miles of metalled and 940 of unmetalled roads, of which 17 miles of metalled and 90 of unmetalled roads are under the Public Works department and the rest under the District board. The unmetalled roads are fit for cart traffic, except in the sandy tracts where camels are used. The Hānsi branch of the Western Jumna Canal is navigable as far as Hānsi. Railways and roads.

Hissār has always been most liable to famine of all the Districts of the Punjab, owing to the fact that, while pre-eminently dependent on the autumn harvest and very little protected by irrigation, it suffers from a most capricious monsoon, while it receives the first rush of starving wanderers from Bikaner. The *chālisa* famine of 1782-3, as has been related, laid waste the District; and in all the famines that have since visited the Punjab, Hissār has always suffered in a pre-eminent degree. Both in 1896-7 and in 1899-1900 the whole of the unirrigated area, or 3,763 square miles, was affected. In 1896-7 the greatest number relieved on any one day was 82,505 persons, and the highest death-rate in any one week was 81 per 1,000. In 1899-1900 the corresponding figures were 161,561 and 32 respectively. The amount expended by Government was 12.3 lakhs in 1896-7, and 25.7 lakhs in 1899-1900. The severity of the famine of 1899-1900 was emphasized by the fact that the people had not recovered from the preceding famine. Famine.

The District is in charge of a Deputy-Commissioner, assisted District

subdivisions and staff.

by three Assistant or Extra Assistant Commissioners, of whom one is in charge of the Sirsa *tahsil* and subdivision. Each of the five *tahsils* is in charge of a *tahsildār* assisted by a *naib-tahsildār*. Dabwāli in Sirsa and Tohāna in Fatahābād are sub-*tahsils* under *naib-tahsildārs*.

Civil justice and crime.

The Deputy-Commissioner as District Magistrate is responsible for the criminal justice of the District. Civil judicial work is under a District Judge. Both officers are supervised by the Divisional Judge of Ferozepore. The District Judge has a Munsif under him at head-quarters, and there are four honorary magistrates. Cattle-theft is the principal crime of the District, for which its position, surrounded by Native States, affords peculiar facilities. It is practised chiefly by the Muhammadan Rājputs and Pachhādas.

Land revenue administration.

The revenue history of Hissār proper is quite distinct from that of the Sirsa *tahsil*, which was only added to the District on the disruption of the old Sirsa District in 1884. The greater part of Hissār was occupied by the British in 1810, and underwent three summary settlements for ten, five, and ten years successively, between 1815 and 1840. The main feature of these assessments was a demand so high that full collections were the exception, and the frequent remissions demoralized both the revenue officials and the people. A rush of immigrants had taken place on the establishment of settled government, and when disturbances occurred in the neighbouring Native States, Hissār formed a convenient refuge. The land revenue, however, was fixed and collected with such a complete disregard of the chances of bad seasons, that when the cultivators were pressed for payment they moved off into the Native States whence they had come. The demand of the first settlement (1815-25) was so high that it exceeded by 20 per cent. the revenue fixed in 1890 for the same villages. High though this assessment was, it was increased in the two settlements that followed, until between 1835 and 1839 the demand was 4.9 lakhs for a tract which in 1890 was assessed at only about two-thirds of that sum.

The amount fixed at the regular settlement of 1840 was 37 per cent. below the old demand. The canal villages were assessed at irrigated rates for the first time in 1839. The reduction came as a new lease of life to the impoverished landholders, and the progress made since has been steady, interrupted only by famine. A revised settlement was made in 1863, which resulted in a further reduction of half a lakh. The second revised settlement was carried out between 1887

and 1892. Cultivation had more than doubled, while prices had risen 60 per cent., and the result was an increase of 58 per cent. to 6 lakhs. The rates varied from 3 to 8 annas per acre, exclusive of canal rates. About 90 per cent. of the tenants pay rent in cash.

The Sirsa *tahsil*, with the rest of the old Sirsa District, was summarily settled in 1829 and regularly in 1851. In 1881-2, the last year of the regular settlement, the demand stood at 1.4 lakhs, which was raised by the new assessment to 1.9 lakhs. The assessment was revised for the second time between 1901 and 1903, and a fixed assessment of 2 lakhs was announced. The area subject to the very precarious Ghaggar floods was placed under fluctuating assessment, fixed rates for the various crops grown being applied to the area actually cropped every harvest. It is estimated that the yield from this fluctuating assessment will be Rs. 39,000 per annum.

The collections of land revenue alone and of total revenue are shown below, in thousands of rupees :—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1903-4
Land revenue	4,26	7,60	6,48	8,09
Total revenue	5,08	9,65	9,99	11,90

The District contains four municipalities, HISSAR, HĀNSI, Local and BHIWĀNI, and SIRSA; and three 'notified areas,' FATAHĀBĀD, municipal. TOHĀNA, and Budhlādā. Outside these, local affairs are managed by the District board, whose income amounted in 1903-4 to 1½ lakhs. The expenditure in the same year was 1.3 lakhs, education and public works forming the principal items.

The regular police force consists of 681 of all ranks, includ. Police and ing 180 municipal police, under a Superintendent who is jails. usually assisted by four inspectors. The village watchmen or *chaukidārs* number 1,474, and 42 *chaukidārs* are directly under the Superintendent. There are 19 police stations, 4 outposts, and 6 road-posts. The District jail at headquarters has accommodation for 252 prisoners.

The District stands twenty-fifth among the twenty-eight Education. Districts of the Province in respect of the literacy of its population. In 1901 the proportion of literate persons was 2.7 per cent. (5 males and 0.1 females). The number of pupils under instruction was 1,753¹ in 1880-1, 3,568 in

¹ For the District as then constituted.

1890-1, 3,803 in 1900-1, and 4,258 in 1903-4. In the last year there were 6 secondary and 73 primary (public) schools, and 3 advanced and 46 elementary (private) schools, with 167 girls in the public and 91 in the private schools. The Anglo-vernacular schools at Hissār, Bhiwāni, and Sirsa are the most important. Two girls' schools at Bhiwāni are maintained by the Baptist Zanāna Mission. The total expenditure on education in 1903-4 was Rs. 40,000, to which Provincial funds contributed Rs. 2,000, municipalities Rs. 11,000, fees Rs. 10,000, and District funds Rs. 16,000, while the rest (Rs. 1,000) was met from subscriptions and endowments.

Hospitals
and dis-
pensaries.

Besides the dispensary at Hissār, the District possesses eight outlying dispensaries. In 1904 the number of cases treated was 73,530, of whom 2,216 were in-patients, and 6,027 operations were performed. The expenditure was Rs. 20,000, the greater part of which was met from municipal funds.

Vaccina-
tion.

The number of successful vaccinations in 1903-4 was 10,038, or 23.7 per 1,000 of the population.

[J. Wilson, *General Code of Tribal Custom in the Sirsa District* (1883); P. J. Fagan, *District Gazetteer* (1892, under revision); A. Anderson and P. J. Fagan, *Settlement Report of Hissār* (1892); C. M. King, *Settlement Report of Sirsa and Fāzilka Tahsils* (1905).]

Hissār Tahsīl.—*Tahsīl* of Hissār District, Punjab, lying between 28° 54' and 29° 32' N. and 75° 22' and 76° 2' E., on the borders of the Bikaner desert, with an area of 810 square miles. The population in 1901 was 128,783, compared with 122,299 in 1891. HISSĀR (population, 17,647) is the head-quarters, and the *tahsīl* also contains 134 villages. The land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to 1.6 lakhs. The northern part is a bare plain, forming part of the tract known as Hariāna, where the soil is a firm sandy loam. South of the thin belt of fertility afforded by the Western Jumna Canal, the level stretches of poor cultivation gradually merge into the rolling sandhills characteristic of the neighbouring State of Bikaner.

Hānsi Tahsīl.—*Tahsīl* of Hissār District, Punjab, lying between 28° 51' and 29° 27' N. and 75° 48' and 76° 20' E., with an area of 799 square miles. The population in 1901 was 178,933, compared with 165,689 in 1891. It contains the town of HĀNSI (population, 16,523), the head-quarters, and 132 villages. The land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to 2 lakhs. The whole of the *tahsīl* lies within the

tract known as Hariāna. The northern part is irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal, and is comparatively well wooded. South of the canal the country is featureless, but fertile enough in a year of good rainfall.

Bhiwāni Tahsil (*Bhawāni*).—*Tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, lying between $28^{\circ} 36'$ and $28^{\circ} 59'$ N. and $75^{\circ} 29'$ and $76^{\circ} 18'$ E., with an area of 750 square miles. The population in 1901 was 124,429, compared with 127,794 in 1891. The head-quarters are at the town of BHIWĀNI (population, 35,917); and it also contains 131 villages, among which TOHĀM is a place of some historical importance. The land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to 1.2 lakhs. The northern part of the *tahsil* lies in Hariāna. South of Bhiwāni town rolling sandhills and low rocky eminences are the main features of the landscape.

Fatahābād Tahsil (*Fatehābād*).—*Tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, lying between $29^{\circ} 13'$ and $29^{\circ} 48'$ N. and $75^{\circ} 13'$ and $76^{\circ} 0'$ E., with an area of 1,179 square miles. The population in 1901 was 190,921, compared with 181,638 in 1891. It contains one town, FATAHĀBĀD (population, 2,786), the head-quarters, and 261 villages, among which TOHĀNA and AGROHA are places of historical or archaeological interest. The land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to 2.3 lakhs. The Ghaggar has cut for itself a deep channel in the north of the *tahsil*. To the south of this channel lies a broad belt of stiff clay, covered with sparse jungle interspersed with stretches of precarious cultivation, which depend on occasional floods brought by natural and artificial channels from the Ghaggar. The east of the *tahsil* lies in Hariāna, but the centre and south are bare and sandy. A portion is irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal.

Tohāna Sub-tahsil.—Sub-*tahsil* of the Fatahābād *tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, with an area of 450 square miles. It contains 117 villages, and the land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to Rs. 86,000. TOHĀNA is the head-quarters.

Sirsa Tahsil.—*Tahsil* and subdivision of Hissār District, Punjab, lying between $29^{\circ} 13'$ and $30^{\circ} 0'$ N. and $74^{\circ} 29'$ and $75^{\circ} 18'$ E., on the borders of the Bikaner desert, with an area of 1,642 square miles. The population in 1901 was 158,651, compared with 178,586 in 1891. The town of SIRSA (population, 15,800) is the head-quarters. It also contains 3 other towns and 306 villages. The land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to 2.9 lakhs. The whole of the *tahsil* is sandy, except the belt of stiff clay which forms the Ghaggar

basin, and depends for its successful cultivation on the river floods, which, below the Otu lake and dam, are distributed over the country by the Ghaggar canals. There is some irrigation in the north from the Sirhind Canal, and in the south from the Western Jumna Canal.

Dabwāli Sub-tahsil.—Sub-*tahsil* of the Sirsa *tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, with an area of 349 square miles. It contains 59 villages, and the land revenue and cesses amounted in 1903-4 to Rs. 96,000.

Skinner Estates.—A group of estates held by the descendants of Lieutenant-Colonel James Skinner, C.B., in the Districts of Hissār, Delhi, and Karnāl, Punjab. The area of the estates is 251 square miles in Hissār, 2.6 in Delhi, and 21.4 in Karnāl, and the total revenue of the estates in Hissār is Rs. 62,683. James Skinner, the son of a Scottish officer in the East India Company's service and a Rājput lady, was born in 1778 and received his first commission from De Boigne, the famous Savoyard adventurer, who had organized Sindhia's brigades. After many years' service under the Marāthās, during which he was employed against the adventurer George Thomas, Skinner joined the British forces under Lord Lake in 1803, and received the command of 2,000 of Perron's Hindustāni Horse, who came over to the British after the battle of Delhi. This body served with great distinction under Skinner for thirty years, and is now represented by the 1st Lancers and 3rd Cavalry (Skinner's Horse) of the Indian Army. Rising to be a Lieutenant-Colonel in the British service, Skinner obtained large grants of land in the Delhi territory, and settled at Hānsi in Hissār District, where he died in 1841. He built St. James's Church at Delhi in fulfilment of a vow. Major Robert Skinner, his younger brother, also served under Perron and eventually entered the Company's service.

Agroha.—Ancient town in the Fatahābād *tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, situated in 29° 20' N. and 75° 38' E., 13 miles north-west of Hissār. It is said to be the original seat of the Agarwāl Baniās, and was once a place of great importance. The remains of a fort are still visible about half a mile from the existing village, and ruins and débris half buried in the soil on every side attest its former greatness. It was captured by Muhammad of Ghor in 1194, since which time the Agarwāl Baniās have been scattered over the whole peninsula. The clan comprises many of the wealthiest men in India. The present village is quite unimportant and has (1901) a population of only 1,172.

Bhiwāni Town (*Bhawāni*).—Head-quarters of the *tahsil* of the same name in Hissār District, Punjab, situated in 28° 48' N. and 76° 8' E., on the Rewāri-Bhatinda branch of the Rājputānā-Mālwa Railway; distant by rail from Calcutta 1,059 miles, from Bombay 890, and from Karāchi 857. Population (1901), 35,917. The town is practically a creation of British rule, having been an insignificant village when it was selected in 1817 as the site of a free market. It rapidly rose to importance; and though its trade suffered greatly from the opening of the Rājputānā-Mālwa Railway, the construction of the Rewāri-Ferozepore line has restored it to its former position. Bhiwāni is commercially the most important town in Hissār District. It is one of the great centres of trade with Rājputāna the chief articles of commerce being wheat, flour, salt, sugar, cotton goods, and iron. It possesses three cotton-ginning factories and one cotton-press, which give employment to 379 hands. The principal manufactures are brass vessels, tin boxes, and small wooden tables. The municipality was created in 1867. The municipal receipts during the ten years ending 1902-3 averaged Rs. 54,900, and the expenditure Rs. 56,700. The income and expenditure in 1903-4 were Rs. 49,700 and Rs. 47,700 respectively; the chief source of income was octroi (Rs. 42,700), while the main items of outlay were conservancy (Rs. 7,000), education (Rs. 7,700), medical (Rs. 6,900), public safety (Rs. 13,300), and administration (Rs. 4,800). The town has an Anglo-vernacular middle school and a dispensary.

Fatahābād Town (*Fatehābād*).—Head-quarters of the *tahsil* of the same name in Hissār District, Punjab, situated in 29° 31' N. and 75° 27' E., 30 miles north-west of Hissār. Population (1901), 2,786. The town was founded about 1352 by the emperor Fīroz Shāh, who named it after his son Fateh Khān, and had a canal dug to it from the Ghaggar. The fort contains a pillar inscribed with the genealogy of Fīroz Shāh, and a mosque and inscription of Humāyūn. The town is of no commercial importance. It is administered as a 'notified area,' the income of which in 1903-4 was Rs. 1,700.

Hānsi Town.—Head-quarters of the *tahsil* of the same name in Hissār District, Punjab, situated in 29° 7' N. and 75° 58' E., on the Rewāri-Bhatinda branch of the Rājputānā-Mālwa Railway, 15 miles from Hissār. Population (1901), 16,523. This is one of the most ancient towns in Northern India and appears to have been a stronghold of the Kushans, though local tradition attributes its foundation to Anang Pāl,

the Tomar king of Delhi. According to the authorities quoted in Tod's *Rajasthan*, Asī or Hānsi was assigned to the son of Bīsaldeo Chauhān about A. D. 1000. Masūd, son of Mahmūd of Ghazni, took it, after one failure, in 1036, but, according to Firishta, it was recovered by the Delhi Rājā in 1043. Prithwī Rāj made considerable additions to the fort at Hānsi, converting it into an important military stronghold. It fell into the hands of Muhammad of Ghor in 1192, and was, until the foundation of Hissār, the administrative head-quarters of the neighbourhood. Hānsi was depopulated by the famine of 1783, and lay deserted until 1798, when the famous adventurer George Thomas, who had seized upon the greater part of Hariāna, fixed his head-quarters here. Thenceforth the town began to revive, and on the establishment of British rule in 1803 it was made a cantonment, where a considerable force, consisting chiefly of local levies, was stationed. In 1857 the troops mutinied, murdered all Europeans upon whom they could lay their hands, and combined with the wild Rājput tribes in plundering the country. On the restoration of order, the cantonment was given up. A high brick wall, with bastions and loopholes, surrounds the town, while the canal, which flows at its feet, contributes to its beauty by a fringe of handsome trees. Since the Mutiny, however, the houses have fallen into decay and the streets lie comparatively deserted, owing to the removal of the troops. The ruins of the fort overlook the town on the north. It contains two mosques and the tomb of Saiyid Niāmat Ullah, killed in resisting Muhammad of Ghor. The mosque and tombs of Kutb Jamāl-ud-dīn and his successors are on the west of the town, with the tomb of Alī Mīr Tijāra. Near by is a mosque called the Shahīd Ganj, situated probably on the scene of Masūd's first unsuccessful attempt to take Hānsi.

The municipality was created in 1867. The income during the ten years ending 1902-3 averaged Rs. 18,500 and the expenditure Rs. 18,800; and the income and expenditure in 1903-4 were Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 20,000 respectively, the chief source of income being octroi. The town has 6 cotton-ginning factories, 2 cotton-presses, and 2 combined ginning and pressing factories, and is a local centre of the cotton trade. The number of factory hands in 1904 was 1,285. It possesses a vernacular middle school and a dispensary.

Hissār Town.—Head-quarters of the District and *tahsil* of the same name, Punjab, situated in 29° 10' N. and 75° 44' E., on the Rewāri-Bhatinda branch of the Rājputāna-Mālwa

Railway; distant by rail from Calcutta 1,097 miles, from Bombay 979, and from Karāchi 819. Population (1901), 17,647. It was founded in 1356 by Firoz Shāh Tughlak, and supplied with water by means of the canal now known as the Western Jumna Canal, and became the head-quarters of a *sarkār*. In 1408 Hissar fell into the hands of the rebels against Mahmūd Tughlak, but was recovered in 1411 by the emperor in person. It appears to have been occupied by an imperial garrison at the time of Bābar's invasion, and as the head-quarters of a *sarkār* was of considerable importance under the Mughals. The town was plundered by the Sikhs on several occasions between 1754 and 1768, and after the battle of Jind was occupied by Amar Singh of Patiāla, who built a fort. Hissar was depopulated by the famine of 1783, and was taken possession of by George Thomas. The inhabitants began to return, and when it passed to the British in 1803 the town was rapidly recovering. In 1857 detachments of the Hariāna Light Infantry and 14th Irregular Cavalry stationed at Hissar mutinied, and the Collector and eleven other Europeans and native Christians were murdered. The chief relic of antiquity is the fort built by Firoz Shāh, largely with materials taken from Hindu or Jain temples. Another interesting building is the Jahāj, apparently once a Jain temple converted into a mosque, and used as a residence by George Thomas, of whose Christian name its present title is a corruption. Near Hissar is a handsome group of tombs erected to commanders who fell in Humāyūn's campaign in Gujarāt in 1535. The trade of the town is unimportant, being confined to cotton and red pepper; but it contains a large cotton-ginning and pressing factory, which in 1904 employed 397 hands. The municipality was created in 1867. The municipal receipts and expenditure during the ten years ending 1902-3 averaged Rs. 28,700 and 29,300, and in 1903-4 amounted to Rs. 24,600 and Rs. 27,300 respectively, the chief source of income being octroi. The town possesses an Anglo-vernacular high school managed by the Educational department, and a civil hospital.

Sirsa Town.—Head-quarters of the subdivision and *tahsil* of the same name in Hissar District, Punjab, situated in 29° 32' N. and 75° 2' E., on the Rewāri-Bhatinda branch of the Rājputāna-Mālwa Railway, on the north side of a dry bed of the Ghaggar. Population (1901), 15,800. The old town of Sirsa or Sarsūti is of great antiquity, and tradition ascribes its origin to an eponymous Rājā Sāras, who built the town and fort about 1,300 years ago. Under the name

of Sarsūti, it is mentioned as the place near which Prithwī Rāj was captured after his defeat by Muhammad of Ghor in 1192; and according to Wassāf it was in the fourteenth century one of the most important towns in Upper India. It was taken by Timūr, the inhabitants fleeing before him, and is mentioned in the reign of Mubārak Shāh as the rendezvous of the expedition against the rebel fortress of Sirhind. In the reign of Sher Shāh, Sirsa became for a time the head-quarters of Rao Kalyān Singh of Bikaner, who had been driven from his country by the Rao of Jodhpur. In the eighteenth century Sirsa was one of the strongholds of the Bhattis, and was taken by Amar Singh of Patiāla in 1774, but restored to the Bhattis by the agreement of 1781. The town was depopulated by the great famine of 1783, and the site was annexed in 1818 after the expedition sent against the Bhatti chief, Nawāb Zābita Khān. In 1838 Sirsa, which had lain deserted since 1783, was refounded by Captain Thoresby, who laid out the present town, which from 1858 to 1884 was the head-quarters of the Sirsa District. The ruins of Old Sirsa lie near the south-west corner of the modern town, and still present considerable remains, though much of the material has been used for building the new houses. It contains an ancient Hindu fort and tank.

The municipality was created in 1867. The income during the ten years ending 1902-3 averaged Rs. 23,300 and the expenditure Rs. 23,900; and income and expenditure in 1903-4 each amounted to Rs. 18,100, the chief source of income being octroi. The town is a centre of the export trade to Rājputāna, and is in a flourishing condition. Most of the trade is in the hands of Baniās from Rājputāna and the country to the south-east. Sirsa contains a dispensary, an Anglo-vernacular middle school maintained by the municipality, and an aided primary school for European boys.

Tohāna Town.—Town in the Fatahābād *tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, situated in 29° 43' N. and 75° 54' E., 40 miles north of Hissār town. Population (1901), 5,931. It was once a city of some size and importance, founded, according to tradition, by Anang Pāl, the Tomar Rājā of Delhi. Ruined during the Chauhān supremacy, it recovered its prosperity in the early Musalmān period; but having suffered many vicissitudes of plunder and famine, it has now sunk into an inferior position. It was the scene of a defeat of the Jāts by Timūr in 1398. Numerous remains in the neighbourhood testify to its former importance. The town is administered as a 'notified area,' which in 1903-4 had an income of Rs. 900.

Toshām.—Village in the Bhiwāni *tahsil* of Hissār District, Punjab, situated in $28^{\circ} 54'$ N. and $75^{\circ} 56'$ E., 23 miles south-west of Hissār town. Population (1901), 2,665. A bare rocky elevation, the highest in the District, rises abruptly above the town and desert plain to a height of 800 feet. A tank cut in the rock, half-way up the hill, forms the scene of a yearly fair, and is frequented by pilgrims, some of them from considerable distances. A *bāradari* on a small hill near the town is called Prithwī Rāj's *kacheri*, and an inscription close by was attributed by Sir Alexander Cunningham to an Indo-Scythian king, Toshāra.

Rohtak District.—District in the Delhi Division of the Punjab, lying between $28^{\circ} 21'$ and $29^{\circ} 17'$ N. and $76^{\circ} 13'$ and $76^{\circ} 58'$ E., on the borders of Rājputāna, in the high level plain that separates the waters of the Jumna and Sutlej, with an area of 1,797 square miles. The eastern part falls within the borders of the tract formerly known as HARIĀNA. In its midst lies part of the small State of DUJĀNA. It is bounded on the north by the Jīnd *nisāmat* of Jīnd State, and by Karnāl District; on the east by Delhi, and on the south-east by Gurgaon; on the south by Pataudi State and the Rewāri *tahsil* of Gurgaon; on the south-west by territory belonging to the Nawāb of Dujāna; and on the west by the Dādri *nisāmat* of Jīnd and by Hissār District. Although there is no grand scenery in Rohtak, the canals with their belts of trees, the lines of sandhills, and in the south the torrents, the depressions which are flooded after heavy rain, and a few small rocky hills give the District more diversified features than are generally met with in the plains of the Punjab. The eastern border lies low on the level of the Jumna Canal and the Najafgarh swamp. A few miles west the surface rises gradually to a level plateau, which, speaking roughly, stretches as far as the town of Rohtak, and is enclosed by parallel rows of sandhills running north and south. Beyond the western line of sandhills the surface rises again till it ends on the Hissār border in a third high ridge. The eastern line runs, with here and there an interval, down the east side of the District, and rises to some height in the Jhajjar *tahsil*. South-west of this ridge the country becomes more undulating, and the soil lighter. The south-eastern corner of the District is crossed by two small streams or torrents, the Sāhibi and Indori; these flow circuitously, throwing off a network of branches and collecting here and there after heavy rain in *jhils* of considerable size, and finally fall into the Najafgarh swamp.

Boundaries, configuration, and hill and river systems.

- Geology.** With the exception of a few small outliers of Alwar quartzite belonging to the Delhi system, there is nothing of geological interest in the District, which is almost entirely of alluvial formation.
- Botany.** The District forms an arm from the Upper Gangetic plain between the Central Punjab and the desert. Trees, except where naturalized or planted, are rare, but the *nimbar* (*Acacia leucophloea*) is a conspicuous exception. Mango groves are frequent in the north-east; and along canals and roadsides other sub-tropical species have been planted successfully. The *ber* (*Zizyphus Jujuba*) is common, and is often planted.
- Fauna.** Game, including wild hog, antelope, 'ravine deer' (Indian gazelle), *nilgai*, and hare, is plentiful. Peafowl, partridge, and quail are to be met with throughout the year; and during the cold season sand-grouse, wild geese, bustards, and flamingoes. Wolves are still common, and a stray leopard is occasionally killed. The villages by the canal are overrun by monkeys.
- Climate and temperature.** The climate is not inaptly described in the *Memoirs* of George Thomas as 'in general salubrious, though when the sandy and desert country lying to the westward becomes heated, it is inimical to a European constitution.' In April, May, and June the hot winds blow steadily all day from the west, bringing up constant sandstorms from the Rājputāna desert; at the close of the year frosts are common, and strong gales prevail in February and March.
- Rainfall.** The average rainfall varies from 19 inches at Jhajjar to 21 at Rohtak. Of the rainfall at the latter place, 18 inches fall in the summer months and 3 in the winter. The greatest fall recorded during the years 1885-1902 was 41 inches at Jhajjar in 1885-6, and the least 8 inches at Rohtak in 1901-2.
- History.** The District belongs for the most part to the tract of HARIĀNA, and its early history will be found in the articles on that region and on the towns of ROHTAK, MAHAM, and JHAJJAR. It appears to have come at an early date under the control of the Delhi kings, and in 1355 Firoz Shāh dug a canal from the Sutlej as far as Jhajjar. Under Akbar the present District lay within the *Sūbah* of Delhi and the *sarkārs* of Delhi and Hissār-Firozā. In 1643 the Rohtak canal is said to have been begun by Nawāb Ali Khān, who attempted to divert water from the old canal of Firoz Shāh. On the decay of the Delhi empire the District with the rest of Hariāna was granted to the minister Rukn-ud-dīn in 1718, and was in 1732 transferred by him to the Nawābs of Farrukhnagar in GURGAON. Faujdār Khān, Nawāb of Farrukhnagar, who seems

to have succeeded to the territories of Hissār on the death of Shāhdād Khān in 1738, handed down to his son Nawāb Kāmgar Khān a dominion which embraced the present Districts of Hissār and Rohtak, besides part of Gurgaon and a considerable tract subsequently annexed by the chiefs of Jīnd and Patialā. Hissār and the north were during this time perpetually overrun by the Sikhs, in spite of the combined efforts of the Bhattis and the imperial forces; but Rohtak and Gurgaon appear to have remained with Kāmgar Khān till his death in 1760. His son, Mūsa Khān, was expelled from Farrukhnagar by Sūraj Mal, the Jāt ruler of Bharatpur; and the Jāts held Jhajjar, Badli, and Farrukhnagar till 1771. In that year Mūsa Khān recovered Farrukhnagar, but he never regained a footing in the Rohtak District. In 1772 Najaf Khān came into power at Delhi, and till his death in 1782 some order was maintained. Bahādurgarh, granted in 1754 to Bahādur Khān, Baloch, was held by his son and grandson; Jhajjar was in the hands of Walter Reinhardt, the husband of Begam Sumrū of Sardhana; and Gohāna, Maham, Rohtak, and Kharkhauda were also held by nominees of Najaf Khān. The Marāthās returned in 1785, but could do little to repel the Sikh invasion; and from 1785 to 1803 the north of the District was occupied by the Rājā of Jīnd, while the south and west were precariously held by the Marāthās, who were defied by the strong Jāt villages and constantly attacked by the Sikhs. Meanwhile the military adventurer George Thomas had carved out a principality in Hariāna, which included Maham, Berī, and Jhajjar in the present District; his head-quarters were at Hānsi in the District of Hissār, and at Georgegarh near Jhajjar he had built a small outlying fort. In 1801, however, the Marāthās made common cause with the Sikhs and Rājputs against him, and under the French commander, Louis Bourquin, defeated him at Georgegarh, and succeeded in ousting him from his dominions. In 1803, by the conquests of Lord Lake, the whole country up to the Sutlej and the Siwāliks passed to the British Government.

Under Lord Lake's arrangements, the northern *parganas* of Rohtak were held by the Sikh chiefs of Jīnd and Kaithal, while the south was granted to the Nawāb of Jhajjar, the west to his brother, the Nawāb of Dādri and Bahādurgarh, and the central tract to the Nawāb of Dujāna. The latter, however, was unable to maintain order in his portion of the territories thus assigned, and the frequent incursions of Sikh and Bhatti marauders compelled the dispatch of a British officer in 1810 to bring the region into better organization. The few *parganas* thus

subjected to British rule formed the nucleus of the present District. Other fringes of territory escheated on the deaths of the Kaithal Rājā in 1818, and the chief of Jīnd in 1820. In the last-named year, Hissār and Sirsa were separated from Rohtak; and in 1824 the District was brought into nearly its present shape by the District of Pānīpat (now Karnāl) being made a separate charge.

Up to 1832 Rohtak was administered by a Political Agent under the Resident at Delhi; but it was then brought under the Regulations, and included in the North-Western Provinces. On the outbreak of the Mutiny in 1857, Rohtak was for a time completely lost to the British Government. The Muhammadan tribes, uniting with their brethren in Gurgaon and Hissār, began a general predatory movement under the Nawābs of Farrukhnagar, Jhajjar, and Bahādurgarh, and the Bhatti chieftains of Sirsa and Hissār. They attacked and plundered the civil station at Rohtak, destroying every record of administration. But before the fall of Delhi, a force of Punjab levies was brought across the Sutlej, and order was restored with little difficulty. The rebel Nawābs of Jhajjar and Bahādurgarh were captured and tried. The former was executed at Delhi, while his neighbour and relative escaped with a sentence of exile to Lahore. Their estates were confiscated, part of them being temporarily included in a new District of Jhajjar, while other portions were assigned to the Rājās of Jīnd, Patiāla, and Nābha as rewards for their services during the Mutiny. Rohtak District was transferred to the Punjab Government; and in 1860 Jhajjar was broken up, part of it being added to the territory of the loyal Rājās, and the remainder united with Rohtak.

There are no antiquities of any note, and the history of the old sites is unknown. Excavations at the Rohtak Khokra Kot would seem to show that three cities have been successively destroyed there; the well-known coins of Rājā Samanta Deva, who is supposed to have reigned over Kābul and the Punjab about A.D. 920, are found at Mohan Bāri. Jhajjar, Maham, and Gohāna possess some old tombs, but none is of any special architectural merit; the finest are at the first place. There is an old *baoli* or stepped well at Rohtak and another at Maham: the latter has been described by the author of *Pen and Pencil Sketches*, and must have been in much better repair in 1828 than it is now. The Gaokaran tank at Rohtak and the Būā-wāla tank at Jhajjar are fine works, while the masonry tank built by the last Nawāb of Jhajjar at Chuchakwās is exceedingly handsome. The *asthal* or Jog monastery at Bohar is