CHAPTER VI

RELATION WITH THE FEUDATORY STATES AND ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL
The exact origin of the tenure of the Sambalpur Garjat Chiefs is unknown. But, is certainly very ancient. They were first independent then held in subordination to the most powerful, the Maharaja of Patna, who afterwards had to yield supremacy to the Maharaja of Sambalpur till it fell under the Maratha control in 1755 A.D. as tributaries. From 1755 Sambalpur and its dependencies were ruled by the Marathas till 1818.

Those States were:

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<th>Patna</th>
<th>Bonai</th>
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<td>Sambalpur</td>
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<td>Sonepur</td>
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<td>Bamra</td>
<td>Chandarpur</td>
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<td>Redhakhole</td>
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<td>Gangpur</td>
<td>Bindra-Nawagh</td>
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<td>Baud</td>
<td>Khariar</td>
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<td>Athmallick</td>
<td>and</td>
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<td>Bargarh</td>
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The Raja of Nagpur ceded these states to the British with much reluctance though there was no explicit reference to them in the treaty of Deogarh\(^1\). In 1806 the states were restored to Raghuji as an act of grace in consideration of the great loss to which he had been subjected by the transfer to the British power of the tribute and allegiance\(^2\). But in 1818 the states again came under British suzerainty, when Appa Saheb Madhoji Bhonsle ceded Sambalpur and its dependencies. (This cession, however, was finally confirmed by the treaty of 1826 by the child Raghuji Bhonsle III, the adopted son of Parsoji Bhonsle\(^3\))

After gaining possession of Sambalpur the British Government included them within the South Bihar and Chhotnagpur Mahals, a newly constituted administrative decision in 1819\(^4\). In 1821 the supremacy of the Raja of Sambalpur over its dependencies was annulled. Separate Sanads were granted and separate engagements were taken from each other.


\(^2\) Ibid, p. 511.

\(^3\) Ibid, pp. 519-27.

According to the Article of Regulation of 1833, a political agency called 'South West Frontier Agency' was created under an agent to the Governor-general who was stationed at Ranchi. The 18 states were placed under its administration. In 1837, the company Government transferred two states namely Baud and Athmallick from the jurisdiction of the South-West Frontier Agency to the Tributary Mahals of Orissa. By an Act of XX of 1854, the designation of the South West Frontier Agency was changed into Commissionship of Chhotnagpur Division. The Governor-general became its Commissioner and an agent to the Governor-general ruled these states under the Chhotnagpur Division. Sambalpur and its dependencies were included in this division. After the rebellion of Surendra Sai was quelled down Sambalpur states except Gangpur and Bonai were transferred from Chhotnagpur Division to the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals Cuttack by an order of the company in 1861. The company Government further introduced another

administrative change as regards these states. According to that order the following 12 states namely:

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<td>Phuljhar</td>
<td>Redhakhol and</td>
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<td>Sarangarh</td>
<td>Sonepur</td>
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were transferred from the tributary Mahals, Cuttack to the Chief Commissioner of Central Province\(^1\). In the same year Sambalpur and Chandarpur, which were no longer managed by the Chiefs, were placed under the Central Provinces\(^2\).

Thus by 1862, out of 18 states of the Patna and Sambalpur kingdom only 14 states remained and were placed under the Commissioner of the Central Provinces. Two states namely Gangpur and Bonai under Chhotnagpur Division and Baud Athmallick under the Tributary Mahals, Cuttack.

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1. C.U. Aitchison, op. cit, p. 481.
In the process of transfer and retransfer, Sambalpur retained only the states of Patna, Sonepur, Bamra, Rairakhole and Kalahandi. In 1863 these states were declared to be Feudatory States and remained under the jurisdiction of the Central Province Government upto 1905. After that all these states were brought under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Orissa who was the ex-officio Superintendent of Tributary Mahals.\footnote{1. P.Mukherji, op.cit.,p.262.}

The British Government exercised its paramountcy over all the feudatory states of Sambalpur through its political Agents. Whatever their own position in their own states, all the chiefs were under the thumb impression of the Political Agent. At first the British Government avoided interference in the internal administration of the states. But later on the Government decided to follow a policy of interference in the affairs of the Chiefs to command obedience and to secure the interest of the people in the Tributary States. Then claimed the right to control and use of all titles, honours and status of the rulers of the Tributary States. It deposed or forced to abdicate any ruler at its own sweet will. It also asserted

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its right of wardship over minor princes including the right to control their education. It established regency whenever a prince was a minor or he was temporarily suspended

The chiefs were under the political control of British authority. In the management of their territory, they were practically independent under ordinary circumstances, except as regards the administration of criminal justice. In that department they stood virtually towards the British officer in the relation of magistrates towards the sessions, judges and they had always administered the criminal laws of the British Government. It had been recommended that the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act should be extended to the Garjat Tributary States and that the chiefs should be gazetted as Magistrates. The chiefs of Sambalpur Feudatory States had judicial and police powers. But in practice judicial powers were limited to the infliction of seven years. Afterwards it was limited to six months imprisonment. In civil and revenue Departments the chiefs were nominally possessed of absolute powers, which seen nevertheless to


2. Ibid.
have been controlled. In 1862 on the transfer to the Central Province of Sambalpur, the criminal powers of the chiefs were limited to those conferred under XXV of 1861 on Magistrates and subordinate Magistrates.

STATUS OF THE FEUDATORY STATES

In February, 1884 Mr. Nethersole, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces prepared a note on the judicial administration and jurisdiction in the Feudatory States. Accordingly the chiefs of the states were classified in certain groups. The Sambalpur Garjats Chiefs like Patna, Sonepur, Bamra and Rairakhol were classified as a group by themselves and the Nagpur Zamindars like Chhatisgarh and others formed another group. This also included Kalahandi.

Adoption Sanads were given to Kharmand or Kalahandi. (This state did not form one of the original Garjat chiefships) in 1862, Bamra, Patna and Sonepur in 1865 and Rairakhol in 1866. In 1867 Sanads were granted to Kalahandi, Sonepur, Bamra and Rairakhol. The rulers of

1. A.D. Younghusband, Commissioner Chhatisgarh Division - Report on the Administration of Feudatory States of Central Provinces, 1898, Section, III, Para-29, NAI.
these states were also given the powers of life and death over their subjects, subject to the confirmation by a senior officer of the British Government. A separate Sanad was prepared for Patna and was subsequently delivered. The above mentioned states were styled as "Feudatories" for the first time in the Sanad of 1867, though classified as such in the lists of 1863-66. No Fealty bonds were executed by these states. The parchment Sanads were issued to the Feudatory Chiefs of Rairakhol, Bamra, Sonepur, Patna, Kalahandi. Accordingly the Sanads issued the following stipulation.

I) That you shall pay regularly the tribute of Rupees:

- Raja of Rairakhol - Rs. 500
- Bamra - Rs. 350
- Raigarh and Bargah - Rs. 400
- Sonepur - Rs. 5,000
- Khamond - Rs. 3,550
- Sarangarh - Rs. 1,350
- Patna - Rs. 600

1. P. Mukherji, op. cit, p. 262.

2. Letter No. 5017, dated 14th December 1867, from the Chief Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division to the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur.
now fixed for 20 years, viz. from the current year 1867 to the year 1887 A.D. and that the said tribute shall be liable to recover at the expiration of the said term or at any time thereafter that the Government may think fit.

II) That you shall deliver up any offender from British or other territory who may take refuge in your state, that you will aid British officers who may pursue criminals in to your territory, and that in the event of offenders from your state taking refuge in British or other territory, you will move a representation in the matter to the authorities concerned.

III) That you shall do your utmost to suppress crimes of all kinds in your states.

IV) That you shall administer justice fairly and impartially to all alike.

V) That you shall recognise the rights of all your people and continue then in the same and that on no account shall you oppress them or suffer them in any way to be oppressed.
In 1857 the mutiny broke out - the rise of tribal people under Surendra Sai had an effect on the revenue administration of the feudatory states. A house-tax of four annas per house and eight annas per plough was imposed. A school fee of one anna per house was also imposed. The old duty of thatching certain state building and supplying transport for the Chief, when on tour, was also regulated and duly enforced. Further the rates were increased after in 1893; the rates were fixed at thirteen annas per plough, six annas per house and the school tax was doubled. On these villages, which objected to the thatching duties, a further tax of three annas was levied; printed pattas or leases were given to the headman. The collections were made by giving an individual demand statement to the headman of each village; this demand the headman could check with his patta and he then collected the dues.

ADMINISTRATION GENERAL

The Chiefs administered their states in accordance with the provisions of their Sanads which defined their status, position and power. The Sambalpur group of states transferred from Central Provinces received their Sanads in the year 1867. The actual powers exercised by the Chiefs varied; in some states the power of imprisonment extended to two years and all cases of serious crimes were
VII) That you shall accept, and follow such advice and instructions as may be communicated to you by the Commissioner of the Chhattisgarh Division, the Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur or any officer duly vested with authority by the Chief Commissioner.

VIII) That you shall appoint a vakil approved by the Commissioner of your division to reside permanently at the Sadar station of the Sambalpur district in view to orders affecting your state being communicated to you.

IX) That you shall manage your Abkari revenue in such manner as not to interfere with the revenue of adjacent British territory, and that if your Abkari arrangements do so interfere, the Chief Commissioner shall have authority raise Rs.1,000/- per annum until your Abkari arrangements are again satisfactory.
A feudatory chief was ordinarily held to have within his own state plenary judicial powers in revenue and civil and also in criminal cases, subject to confirmation, as declared in Fealty acknowledgement, or the Sanad, by the Chief Commissioner of sentences of death or of imprisonment for terms exceeding seven years according to the condition of the Sanad as the case may be. He usually in practice delegated powers of courts of first instance and of Magistrates to one or more of his officials. He was the final Appellate Court within his territory, and also took up himself cases of a heinous nature, analogous to those triable by the Deputy Commissioners under the criminal procedure code, Section 30. Cases of the nature of what were in British India sessions cases' were committed by his subordinate Magistrates to him for trial. The laws of British India did not apply in the States of Feudatories.

DUTIES OF POLITICAL OFFICERS TOWARDS THE CHIEFS

The Political Officers were performing some important duties which were given below :-

1. A very important duty of the Political Agent or Officer was the supervision and control of states under his direct management. For the administration of these Government was directly responsible.
2. The Political Officer should endeavour to convince chiefs who were in charge of the management of their states, that he was anxious to interfere as little as possible and to treat them as friends.

3. No officer under the rank of political Agent shall give any orders or formal advice to a chief who was managing his own state, and no expression on the part of any such officer of the administration or conduct of the chief shall be communicated by him to the chief concerned.

4. The Political agent may without any special authority, make inquiries of an informal character, as to the truth of any complaints Feudatory chiefs that may reach him.

The Government had prescribed some rules regarding the etiquette to be observed on the occasion of visits of the Commissioner of Orissa or the Political Officer or Agent for the Feudatory states. Those rules were:

I) The Political Officer (i.e. the Commissioner or Political Agent) shall be received by the Feudatory chief.
a) at the railway station, if there is a railway to the capital or

b) at a suitable spot a mile or so outside the capital, if there is no such railway.

II) The Chief will, of course, be on foot to receive the Political Officer, and the latter will also meet the Chief on foot.

III) The Chief will then conduct the Political Officer to his carriage or elephant, on which they will proceed together to the camp of the latter.

The Political Officer will occupy the right hand seat in the carriage or on the howdah, and if two elephants are used, he will march on the right hand side, or in front if the elephants cannot go abreast.

IV) On the arrival at the camp, the Political Officer will invite the Chief to enter his tent or bungalow and will hold a few minutes' conversation with him. This will be regarded as the Chief's formal visit to the Political Officer, and will be returned by the latter as early as convenient. After
this return visit the intercourse between the Political Officer and the Chief will be of a less formal character.

V)
The Chief should always send his Diwan to the border to meet the Political Officer, unless he is expressly requested not to do so and the Diwan should accompany the Political Officer through out his tour in the state, unless his services are expressly dispensed with.

VI)
The Political Agent is not superior to the Chief in status. He is his adviser, and his equal. The Commissioner is regarded as the officer superior to both. The Political Agent, however, would receive the place of honour on all ceremonial occasions, when the Commissioner is not present, because he represents the British Government.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

In case of Sambalpur states the judicial power exercised by the Chief was wider than that enjoyed by the other states of Orissa. Under their Sanads the Chiefs
of Sambalpur group of states had full powers of administration in criminal, civil, and revenue matters except that in the case of capital sentences. In such cases the Chiefs were to submit the case to the Commissioner of Orissa Division for confirmation.

The feudatory Chief had within their own states plenary judicial powers in revenue and civil. He usually in practice delegated powers of courts of first instance and of magistrate to one or more of his officials. He was the final Appellate Court within his territory and also took up himself^2 cases of human nature, analogous to these triable by Deputy Commissioners under the criminal procedure code. Cases of the nature of 'Session Case' were committed by his subordinate Magistrate to him for trial. In real practice the officials in Feudatory states used to adopt the British system of procedure and more or less they were familiar with British judicial methods while trying the cases. The Feudatory Chief in judicial matter was subject to absolutely no control by British officers or Courts except that he was bound to "obey instructions and accept advice" of such officers as the Chief Commissioner might direct to offer it to him.

2. A.D. Younghusband, op.cit, p.7,
In the feudatory states the judicial business was conducted by the Court appointed and empowered by the chief.

APPEALS AND PETITIONS

I) No regular appeal would lie to any authority out side the state. But any person who believed himself to have any complaint of injustice to make petition the Political Agent or on fairly to obtain redress from him, the Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner.

II) The Political Agent, on receiving such a petition, shall, if interference appeared to him to be called for, send for the record of the case, and after examining it may advise the chief to cancel or modify the order, or may, if necessary, refer the case to the Commissioner.

III) The Commissioner may address a Feudatory Chief through the Political Agent, in respect of any case coming before him, or, if necessary, may refer the case to the Chief Commissioner forwarding at the same
time the opinion of the Political Agent on the question referred.

CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN SENTENCES

I) All Feudatory Chiefs were bound, either by their Sanads or by their acknowledgment of Fealty, as the case may be, to refer sentences of death for confirmation to such officers as the Chief Commissioner may appoint. The proceeding shall in all cases be submitted to Commissioner in the first instance. The Commissioner would not himself confirm a sentence of death in any case, but would submit the record to the Chief Commissioner with an expression of his opinion, as to the property of sentence.¹

II) Those Chiefs to whom Sanads were not granted, but who presented acknowledgements of Fealty were further bound those acknowledgements to refer sentences of imprisonments beyond seven years to such British

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¹ R. Temple, Report on Administration of Criminal Justice, Para 4, p. 29, NAI.
Officers, as the Chief Commissioner may appoint for confirmation.

In the Feudatory States administered by the Government the Judicial business was conducted by courts appointed and empowered by the Chief Commissioner.¹

1) The Commissioner shall decide powers - crime, judicial, or magisterial shall be exercised by the courts and shall place on formal record a definite order in each case as to the power to be exercised provided no magisterial powers higher than those of a magistrate, second class and no magisterial power other than those with which a magistrate, second class, may under the code of criminal procedure be invested, may be given or taken away without the fact being at once reported for the information of the Chief Commissioner. In order to make public the fact of investiture with powers - Civil, Judicial or magisterial, the Commissioner may submit notification under his signature.

¹ A.D. Younghusband, op. cit, p.27.
II) Sentences of more than seven years imprisonment shall be subject to confirmation - Capital sentences must be referred to the Chief Commissioner and other sentences to the Commissioner for confirmation. The records in all such cases shall be forwarded direct to the Commissioner.

III) Judgement passed by the Appellate Courts in criminal cases shall be final, but the Commissioner shall have powers of revisions in any criminal cases before him.

MISCELLANEOUS PETITIONS

I) Orders passed by a superintendent or Diwan in revenue or miscellaneous cases shall be subject to revision by the Political Agent, whose order again shall be opened to revision by the Commissioner.

II) In Feudatory States, not being under the management, when a case arises in which there are two or more accused, of whom one has been sentenced by a Feudatory State Tribunal to death and the other accused person or persons to imprisonment,
the Chief Commissioner, following the Sanad, will only issue a specific order in regard to the accused sentenced to death, but he will consider the cases of the other accused as represented in the record and will convey to the Chief, through the Political Agent, his opinion in regard to conviction and sentences if he finds any reason to think they should be modified.

III) The Chief Commissioner has not the power to commute a sentence of imprisonment for life, passed by a Tribunal of a Feudatory State and confirmed by a British Officer, into one of transportation for life or a term of years unless it is a sentence of a Tribunal exercising jurisdiction in a State under British management over which the Chief Commissioner has been authorised by the Governor General in Council to exercise the power of a High Court.
I) The principles which guide Government Officers in Land Revenue administration in British Territory, where proprietary right has been granted to the Malguzars, must be greatly modified when dealing with Feudatory states where proprietary right vested in the states alone.

II) The position of the Gauntia has been merely that of a Thekadar whose lease was for a term of years only, and who had no absolute claim to the renewal of that lease at end of that period.

III) To meet this change the Chief Commissioner has ordered that a "protected status" shall be given to the Gauntias who had (a) been twenty years or more in possession of their villages, or (b) being the actual reclaimers of the village, or (c) spent largely on tanks or the settlement of ryots.

IV) "Protected status" means protection from arbitrary eviction. It confers no other
right than this, and this protection from eviction is not a transferable right, except by inheritance to lineal descendants (being males) or to collaterals who were sharers with the deceased. A Gauntia with protected status cannot be evicted so long as he pays the assessment fixed by the state and fulfils the conditions of his tenure as shown in the Wajib-ul-azr. Provided that if any Gauntia in non-resident, the state may if it sees fit, terminate his tenure unless he appoints a suitable agent to reside the village and discharge the various duties devolving on the Gauntia.

V) No Gauntia has the right of transfer by sale or motagaze, and such transfers if made must not be recognised.

VI) The Gauntia has no right to lease his village, but he may lease in sir land to cultivators, provided that any such lease shall terminate with the period of the settlement or on the Gauntia being ousted from his village.
VII) Sir land is limited by laws or custom of each state. Unless a contrary law or custom is established, it is limited to 20 percent of the cultivated area. All lands held by the Gauntia in excess of this limit will be treated as ryoti land.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The Police ranged under three classes:—

I) The Regular and Military Police

II) That of the Sangar and Nabuda territory

III) That of Sambalpur

In Sambalpur during the last several years, owing chiefly to the rebellion of Surendra Sai, the defensive force had been considerable. In 1861-62 there were the Sebundy Levy, 500 strong and several companies of Bengal Military Police. By the time the district was transferred to Central Provinces the Military Police were withdrawn and there remained the Sebundy Levy besides some eighty civil police men. The Levy was being embodied in the new police which comprised some 350 men in full ranks. This arrangement gave a saving of 32,000 rupees per annum.

1. R. Temple, op. cit, p. 27, para-32.
2. Ibid, p. 41, para-61.
1. The administration of the police through the local jurisdiction of the executive officer of the state shall, under the general control and direction of the Political Agent, be vested in the Chief executive Officer of that State.

2. The Appointment of Police, not above the rank of head constable, shall, subject to the approval of the Political Agent, rest with the Chief Officer charged with the executive administration of the state, who may at any time, for reasons to be recorded in writing, dismiss, suspend or reduce any police Officer whom he has the power to appoint and whom he shall think remiss or negligent in the discharge his duty or unfit for the same. Police Officers above the rank of head-constable shall be appointed, dismissed or reduced by the Political Agent. All Police Officers shall

1. File No.53S.XII-IE, General Political,p.23, NAI.
be liable to fine, to any amount not exceeding one month's pay, who shall discharge their duty or a careless of negligent manner, or who by any act of their own shall render themselves unfit for the discharge thereof.

3. No Police Officer shall be liberty to withdraw himself from the duties of his office expressly allowed to do so, or without have to resign his office, unless he shall have given his superior officer previous notice in writing for a period of not less than two months of his intention to resign.

4. No Police Officer shall engage in any employment other than his duties under this rule unless expressly permitted to do so in writing by the Chief Executive Officer of the state.

5. It shall be the duty of every Police Officer promptly to obey and execute all orders and warrant lawfully issued to him by any competent authority, to collect and
communicate intelligence affecting the public peace and bringing offenders to justice, and it shall be lawful to every Police Officer for any of the purpose mentioned in this rule, without a warrant to enter and inspect any drinking shop, gambling-house or other place of resort of loose and dis-orderly characters.

6. It shall be lawful for any Police Officer to lay any information before a Magistrate and to apply for a summons, warrant, search warrant or such other legal process as may, by law, issue against any person committing an offence.

7. Every Police Officer who shall be guilty of any violation of duty or wilful breach or neglect of any rule or regulation or lawful order made by competent authority, or who shall withdraw from the duties of this office without permission or without having given previous notice for the period of two months, or who shall engage without authority in any employment other than this police duty, or who shall be guilty of
cowardice, or who shall offer any unwarranted personal violence to any person in his custody, shall be liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a penalty not exceeding three month's pay or to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding three months, or to both.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

Finance continued to be strong point in the British administration of the feudatory states. One or two of the Chiefs had been proved extravagant, but they were exception, and the majority of the act consistently upto the principle of spending the bulk of their revenue for the benefit of the British. In Rairakhol special care and watchfulness were taken. Special supervision was undertaken in Patna state.

The British authorities in charge of revenue organisation did not care to study the system the people were accustomed to in the different states and introduced their own system based on their experience in a province where situation was quite different. Assessment was made without proper enquiry into actual yield in previous
equitable nor evenly distributed. Another mistake committed by the revenue officers under the British regime was the strict enforcement of Bengal revenue regulation that were suitable for Bengal with permanently settled areas and with comparatively low assessment. It aggravated the severity of over assessment. The other privileges were also denied. The tillers could hardly meet the government demands and that too in cash with strict punctuality. Consequently they fell into arrears and the estates were put to state. Between the years 1808 to 1816 as many as 1011 estates out of the total of 2340 were disposed of in this way.

Another factor which added to the miserable plight of the Oriya Zamindars was the short-term settlements with fluctuating assessments. Annual settlement was not a new thing to the people, but arbitrary assessments without reference to actual yield of land or the amount of cultivated or even cultivable land was the source of real hardship. By the Regulation XII of 1805 Zamindars were given the hope that at the end of eleven years a permanent settlement would be concluded, but it never materialised. This also added to the sense of frustration of the Oriya Zamindars. In the absence of any sure prospects about a permanent settlement they could hardly continue to engage for their over assessed

estates at the grave risk of reducing themselves to almost bankruptcy. They did petition to the Government enumerating the privileges they were accustomed to under the Marathas and praying for the continuance of those concessions, but the British authorities were too conceited with the notion of the superiority of their own system to take into consideration the real grievances of the Zamindars of Orissa. They, on the other hand considered it to be just a plea for erosion of payment. So the Oriya Zamindars had no other alternative left but to resign themselves to the inevitable fate.

Then again, the Oriya Zamindars had to face two more formidable difficulties against which they were almost helpless. Many of the amalas of the Revenue Department were always designing to acquire landed property, an instance of which is provided by sale of the Estate Korung of Jagabandhu Vidyadhara already referred to above. During the years 1806-1816 A.D. as many as 350 estates were purchased by the amalas of the Government, mostly outsiders. The revenue officials utilised their influences in preventing the Oriyas from entering in to competition with them in purchase of lands. Thus when any Oriya Zamindar's estate was sold they got it purchased in the names of their relatives. But when their own estates were sold they prevented Oriya proprietors

1. Mr. Trower's Report.
2. Ibid.
from purchasing them and got them purchased by their own men. So the machination of the amalas were responsible for depriving any oriya proprietors of their hereditary estates.

The mode of sale of estates was another great hardship for the Oriya Zamindars. Estates with a jama of Rs.5,000/- or above were sold at Calcutta where the Oriya proprietors had little scope to purchase them. Consequently very valuable estates were sold for comparatively low price to the benefit of outsiders.

Lastly the resumption of the hereditary paik-jagir lands provided the needed spark for the smouldering fire. It is really astonishing that the authorities who had bitter experience about the consequences of resumption of such lands in Midnapore in 1799, forgot all about it while they did the same thing in the 15th March 1799 censured the Board for the injudicious system of conduct pursued in the management of paikan lands\(^1\). Still the authorities committed the same blunder once over and precipitated a crisis.

**REVENUE PAYING LANDS**

Rents were mostly paid in cash and additional contributions at fixed rates, usually, of rice, grain, ghee.

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(clarified butter) and goats were levied on the occasions of certain festivals; these payments in kind had in certain states been commuted to cash payments and the tenants had the option of paying the value in cash if they so desired. In case of village, held by Lakhirajdars, the tenants usually cultivated on bhag principle or half division of produce, but this custom was rapidly disappearing.

RATE

The rate per acre for rice lands ranges from Re.0-9-8 to Rs.3-14-6.

In all the states the village head man was holding leases or pattas in which all payment dues were noted and also the lands assigned in the village for village servants who generally consisted of Chaukidar (village police man) water bearer to supply water to visitors and the Jhankar, who was a village factotum, being the priest of the village sylvan gods, watcher and indentifer of the boundaries and an assistant chaukidar, and a helper to the village headman in rent collection. Collectors of rent through farmers were termed variously as Gauntias, Sarbarakaras, Pradhans and Hukadars. The villages were leased to these men for the period of settlement and in the case of villages which had not been regularly settled, the lease was usually for 5 years.
These rent collectors receive either commission varying from 5 to 15% or in several of the states had certain service or jagir lands known as bhogra which went with the office. These lands were nowhere supposed to exceed 20 to 25% of the total lands of the village and were generally not more than 20% and usually less. A salami or bonus was sometimes levied when renewing leases, there was no fixed rule as to the amount, but it usually did not exceed one year's rental or the arrears due on the village. Ordinary revenues of the country were paid in kind.

Each village being rated at a certain number of measures of paddy or rice in the chaff, the ground was divided among the inhabitants in this manner. Every man, as soon as he was of proper age, was enrolled as a soldier, and allowed half a measure (about 6 pounds)\(^1\) per annum for clothing. The land was kept in charge of his wife on payment of rent \(\frac{1}{2}\%\) of the total produce.

For the purpose of the Land Revenue Administration the district was divided into two tracts; the Khalsa and Zamindaris.

**KHALSA**

It meant the land which did not belong to a zamindari and was not included in a Government reserved forest. It meant land held by village headman directly from Government.

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1. 6 Pounds = 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) 722 grams.
The zamindary tracts held by intermediary proprietors having a feudal state entirely different from that of Zamindars in the rest of the province. There were 16 Zamindaris in this district—such as—Borasambhar, Barpali, Bijepur, Ghès, Bheran, Kharsal, Paharsirgira, Mandomaha, Patkulanda, Kolabira, Rampur, Raipur, Kadbaga, Machhida, Laira, Garh, Loisingha.

In Khalsa, village headman, Gauntias were responsible for the payment of a lumpsum amount assessed on the village for a period of years according to lease which was periodically revised and renewed. The amount of the assessment was recovered from the village cultivators. The headmen remunerated by holding part of the village were free of revenue. The headmen were occasionally ejected for default in the payment of Revenue:

Gauntias were paying fee (nazarana) from his own profits. Cultivators rendered to their Gauntias a variety of miscellaneous services known as bethi, begari.

Certain Zamindars were locally known by the title of Garhtia which literally means fort holder. It also meant to men whose position was merely that of revenue farmers.
Many villages were also alienated by means of other grants such as birtia, by which the post of Gauntia of a village was held by a family of Brahmans who divided the village lands among themselves, often in very minute.

Other villages were assigned for the maintenance of Brahmans and temples, being known as debottar and brahmottar or large grant called Sason were made i.e. a tract of land was given out in shares to different families of Brahmans.

KUMARI GRANTS

There were so-called Kumari grants, where villages were held rent free by members of the Rajas family as a maintenance assignment. In these circumstances, it was not surprising that the land revenue of the Khalsa was small, amounting in 1849 to only one lakh of rupees.

When the British assumed the administration a number of short term settlements were made and several sweeping charges were carried out. The levy of nazara was discontinued a large portion of the revenue assignment were summarily resumed and all holders of Brahmottar and Debottar grants were made liable to pay half the revenue assessable.
committed to British officers for trial. In some states the Chiefs exercised full criminal powers, except that in the case of capital sentences, the record of the case were submitted for confirmation by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division. The Chiefs were not entitled to try offences in which European Officers were concerned.

The Chiefs usually invested their Chief executive officer, the Diwan, with these powers and confined themselves to dealing with appellate cases. As regards the cases tried by the British Officers, the warrants of these officers were executable in the British jail. Those states which did not exercise full criminal powers, committed all cases to a British Officer. For the disposal of these cases the District Officer and the Political Agent exercised the powers of session - Judges, over whom was the Commissioner of Orissa, exercising the function of a High Court. In the exercise of their residuary jurisdiction British Officers were guided by the law of British India. The Sanads also provided that the Chiefs duly appointed for the purpose by Government and laid down the general principle of administration. The management of excise was specially provided for in all the Sanads and a prohibition was made against the levying of transit duties on merchandise. All the states were bound to deliver over offenders from British or other territory who took refuge in the state and had to assist
British Officers who might pursue offenders within the States.

Further, when a Feudatory State came under the management of a British Officer, it was either for a time only, for example, during the minority of the Chief, with the object of being sooner or later handed back to the same Chief or a successor, or it may be for an indefinite time, with no intention of ever restoring it to a person with the status of a feudatory. In later case, in almost every conceivable instance, the state would again become British India and merge in some district.

But in the former case the Officer entrusted with the management, as a rule, stepped into the place of the Chief with neither greater nor less powers in judicial matter than the Chief had, that is, apparently he was limited only by the Sanad and Fealty acknowledgement.

In respect of the Native States the persons holding offices designated in 1st. Column the following scheduled had been appointed justices of the peace within the Native States mentioned opposite their designation in the second column of the schedule respectively.
The British Authorities after the conquest of Orissa, launched upon their scheme of administrative organisation with much haste. They utterly overlooked the fact that the new administrative machinery should be set up against a suitable background - political and cultural. So without proper study of the system to which the people had been accustomed for centuries, they

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICES</th>
<th>STATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The Deputy Commissioner.</td>
<td>Nandgaon, Khairgarh, Chhuikhodan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Asst. Commissioner at Raipur invested with the power of a justice of peace under the code of criminal procedure.</td>
<td>Kowardha, Sekti, Raigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur.</td>
<td>Sarangarh, Bahra, Rairakhol, and Sambalpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Asst. Commissioner at Bilaspur invested with the power of a justice of peace under the code of criminal procedure.</td>
<td>Patna, Kalahandi, Kanker, Bastar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Asst. Commissioner at Sambalpur invested with the powers of a justice of peace under the code of criminal procedure.</td>
<td>Patna, Kalahandi, Kanker, Bastar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The Political Agent, Chhatisgarh Feudatories.</td>
<td>Patna, Kalahandi, Kanker, Bastar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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set up their own system which clashed rather sharply with what the people were used to. Consequently, the people hardly could adjust themselves to the new situation. Chaos and confusion ran rampant much to the discomfiture of the people in general and disadvantage of the administrators themselves.

In this connection it may be pointed out that the British administrators were prejudiced or rather misled by the idea that the administration under the Indian rulers, specially under the Marathas, was extremely bad and the people chafing under it. Naturally they expected that their own system, based as it was on much more enlightened and modern principles, would be welcomed by the people. Misled by this notion they tried to introduce their administrative changes rather too quickly to allow the people to adjust themselves to the new system and settle down to it. As a result the Chiefs of the Feudatory States were not independent of the Government. They ruled the Feudatory States and in subordination to the British Government. No language could ever be employed, nor any action taken which was inconsistent with this essential fact. The Chiefs succeeded to the Gaddi, not to the throne. They ruled, but did not reign. They resigned, but did not abdicate and their households were spoken of on the "Raj" house.
EDUCATION

With the coming of the Britishers Education got an impetus and since the introduction of Macauley's educational principles, there appeared a common consciousness about the necessity of formal education as a need. Therefore, education which was in a poor state in the Feudatory States made some progress towards the close of 19th century. This was recognisable especially in Primary state. At the end of the 19th century only 2% could read and write. In the early part of 20th century the total number of students both in primary and secondary state was 47,468 against 22,662 in 1898-99.

There were three High Schools for example, at the head-quarters of Bamra, Dhenkanal, Murhbanj states. These schools were affiliated to the Calcutta University. Besides, there were 20 middle English, 7 Middle Vernacular, and 145 upper primary schools.

One boy in every 11 school going age was in primary stage. During the last phase of 19th century there was an attempt to make English education more popular in order to facilitate the English customs and manner. In

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
addition to this there were few schools for the education of aboriginal low caste students. Towards the close of 19th century eight Guru - training school were started in the different states and these schools were entirely maintained and managed by the Government Agency. In these schools the teachers of the village schools were trained and monthly stipends were allotted for the purpose. A Guru Training School was also started at the Headquarters of the Kalahandi state at the cost of, and under the management of the state 1.

The main share of the total expenditure on education was paid by the states. Out of a total expenditure of rupees 2,50,000 in 1899-1900 only 37,000 was paid by the Government 2. The Government used to assist the schools by deputing Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors under an Agency Inspector of Schools. The States of Bonai, Gangpur and Bamra were regularly supervising the schools and were providing expert and qualified inspection. For this purpose these states were divided into circles with Sub-Inspectors attached and a Deputy Inspector was in charge of each circle. In the case of the states transferred from the

1. A.H.L. Fraser, Officiating Chief Commissioner Central Provinces note on the substitution of Hindi for Oriya in Sambalpur, dated, 5th October, 1901, NAI.
Central Provinces the cost of education was entirely borne by the state revenue and from fees no contribution being received from the Government: these states employed their own educational inspecting officers and were assisted by Agency Inspectors of Schools.

The average cost of educating a boy in a Primary School amounted to Rs. 2.15 per year\(^1\). During the six years from 1896-97 to 1901-02 the percentage of expenditure on Primary Schools for boys and girls to the total expenditure on public education was 64.7\(^2\). In the Village Primary Schools the teachers received the greater part of their remuneration in kind.

The number of schools, scholars, and the cost of education in different states in the beginning of 20th century was as on the overleaf\(^3\).

\(^1\) L.E.B. Cobden, op. cit, p.107.
\(^2\) Ibid.
\(^3\) Ibid, p.109.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools (Public)</th>
<th>Scholars</th>
<th>No. of Schools of the several aboriginal races</th>
<th>% of boys at school to the boys of school going age</th>
<th>% of girls at school to the girls of school going age</th>
<th>Details of Expenditure</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S* 1560</td>
<td>B* 45446</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P* 1560</td>
<td>9403</td>
<td>18.97</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>37388</td>
<td>135882</td>
<td>56985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S* 26</td>
<td>G* 4861</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P* 232</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>T* 1848</td>
<td>T* 50307</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S* - Secondary  
P* - Primary  
S* - Special  
P* - Private (elementary)  
T* - Total  

B* - Boys  
G* - Girls  
T* - Total