CHAPTER IV
CHAPTER IV
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This chapter views upon the background information to the forthcoming chapter, the contents, a sort of supplement in setting the findings. The information depends on secondary/subsidiary sources of data viz. office records and printed material.

GENERAL FEATURES

LOCATION

The district Allahabad or Ilahabad as it should properly be written, farms the establishment portion of the straggling division of the same name and lies between the parallels of 24047 and 25047 north latitude and of 8121 east longitude. It is bounded on the north for about a third of the distance by the river Ganges which separate it from Rae Barielly and Pratapgarh while for the remainder it marches with the latter district and Jaunpur. To east and south east lies the Mirzapur district, to the south and south west in the Rewah state, and to the west are the district of Banda and Fatehpur, separated from each other by the river Jamuna. Owing to variations in the course of the Ganges and to a less extent along the Jamuna, the area is opt to fluctuate from year to year, but as loss in one place is usually compensated

1. Nevill, H.R. District Gazettier of Allahabad, PP.1-6
by gain elsewhere the net change is incosiderable. The average for the five years ending with 1906-7 was 1825165 acres or 2851.8 square miles.

**DIVISION OF DISTRICT WITH TOPOGRAPHY**

The Ganges and Jamuna, which unite at Allahabad, divide the district into three distinct parts, which differ from one another so materially in their general appearance and physical features that each must be described separately. The tract between the two rivers commonly known as the Duab, comprises the tehsil of Allahabad, Sirathu and Manjhunpur. The trans Ganges or Gangapar tract includes Soraon, Phulpur and Handia. While the trans Jamuna country known as Jamnapar consist of Bara, Karchana and Meja.

The Doab form an easterly continuation of the Fatehpur district and is a roughly triangular block of country with an area of 816.73 square miles. Its northern boundary is the Ganges, and between the river and the highly sandy ridge, broken by ravines, which marks the flood bank, is a strip of alluvial land, in place very narrow, but elsewhere wending out in to a broad stretch of sand and silt. The high bank itself is covered with poor and gritty soil full of kankar and impoverished by the action of innumerable ravines, same

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2. op,cit Nevill, H.R. PP 1-6.
of which extend inland for several miles, but as the level drops towards the interior the soil improves into a light loam, which in turn gives place to place to a stiff clay in the central depression that marks the valley of the Sasurkhaderi. There is in most blacks a belt of poor undulating soil along the course of this drainage channel, especially in its lower reaches, the ground being broken by a network of ravines as it approaches its confluence with the Jumna. When it first enters the district the banks are usually on a level with the surrounding country and for a considerable distance are covered with a thick growth of dhak Jungle, notably in the Sirthu tehsil. The clay belt continues for some distance to the south of the Sasurkhaderi in the western Duab. Where usar plains are frequently to be seen and small jhils and tanks are very numerous, but this gives place again to a light loam as the high bank of the Jumna is approached. The low land of the Jumna Valley are almost negligible except in the extreme south-west, where is a considerable block of land covered in many blocks with dhak and scrub.

The trans-Ganges tract bears a close resemblance to the adjoining part of Oudh and Jaunpur. Its southern edge is formed throughout by the Ganges and here again are to be seen in places broad strips of rich kachhar, especially in Nawabganj and south of pargana jhusi. The high bank of the
river is generally broken and sandy, but where the stream flows close below the upland the belt of poor land is very narrow and its influence is slight. North of this banks comes a stretch of a light, loam, generally of a fertile character and varying in width, being broadest in Nawabganj and Jhusi, water is here close to the surface and the drainage collects in numerous Jhils. The surplus water makes its escape either northward into the tributaries of the Sai or southward into the Manjeta and other minor affluents of the Ganges or else eastwards into the Barna. This clay belt is of very rich description. Rice is the main staple, but large quantities of wheat and sugarcane are produced and rents are very high. While both parts of the district are unusually well wooded, the Gangapar tract differs in many respects from the Duab. In the latter Jhils of any size are very rare, while in Gangapar they form the most noticeable feature of the country. The village are as a rule extremely small and are split up in to numerous halmets, whereas in the Duab, there are many large sites, especially in pargana Atharban.

The third and largest tract is Jamnapar, which is entirely different from the rest of the district. It covers an area of 1,181.86 acres and geographically belongs to Bundelkhand or Mirzapur. In some respects the Karchana tehsil resembles the Duab in both its crop and its soils, being on
upland plain of loam and clay, with the usual belt of light and different soil along the banks of the Ganges, Jumna and Tons.

On its western side however the Duab soils are replaced by a mixture of clay and the mar of Bundelkhand, which extends over the eastern portion of Bara. That paragana has a narrow strip of high and fairly stable alluvium along the Jumna, but this gives place to a low range of hills which extend centrally through the pargana from its southern border on the Tons to within a few miles of the former river. These hills form an irregular outwork of the Vindhayan system and the country on their summit and western slopes resembles the patha of Banda having a thin deposit of poor stony soil on excerable climate, while the population is extremely sparse and water is very scanty. The surface of the ground is broken by small hills and rocky outcrops while the population is as scanty as in Bara and the cultivation is poor and precarious. The hot west winds sweep over these stony upland with incredible fury and during the rains the mar is converted into an unhealthy morass. The unstable nature of the tillage and the existence of much waste and fallow leads to the spread of the weed called Kans, which has caused much land to be abandoned.
The soil in the Doab and trans Ganges tracts presents few peculiarities. They consist as usual of baluar or sand corresponding to the bhur of other districts mostly found on the river banks, of matiyar or clay which a fitted solely for rice cultivation and can only be worker when thoroughly soaked going by the local name of chanchar, and of the mixture sand and clay known as dumat or loam, which is usually a rich and rather dark soil, or as sign name applied to sandy loam of a less fertile nature. In the trans Jumna country all these soils occur in the ordinary alluvium, while in addition there are others which are characteristics of Bundelkhand, though they are found as already mentioned along the north bank of the Jumna in the Manjhanpur tehsil. The chief is mar commonly described as black cotton soil. It varies greatly in quantity and in the upland of tahsil Meja it is often of a very poor description. The stony soil on the hills is called chota and is of the little values, while the inferior kind of chanchar is known as chopar. Thus, the land falls under the two main heads kachar or low land uparhar or upland, the farmar being identical with the Tari of the Jumna and Tons basins, which loosely resembles the ganges kactchar through in most cases far less valuable and productive.

3. Op cit Nevill, H.R. PP. 7
The rivers of the district belong without exception to the main system of the Ganges; but this admits of several subdivisions of which the most important are the Jumna and Tons, while others include the minor systems of the Barna and Sai.

Save for the Jumna and Tons to be separately described the Ganges receives no notable affluent in this district. Jumna first touches the district in the extreme west and for a long distance separates the Atharban Karari and chail pragnas from the kamasin and Mau tehsil of Banda. The junction is effected about half a mile below the great railway bridge, and the total length of the river in this district is some 63 miles. The Jumna has a more rapid stream and a greater slope than the Ganges, so that in heavy flood it holds up the latter river, causing the low lands opposite Daraganj to be in undated. Its water contain much less silt and is consequently clear than the Ganges water. The blue water of the Jumna contrasting sharply with the yellow stream of the larger river for some distance below the confluence. The average breadth of the river is about a mile and a half in flood and half a mile in dry weather, while the depth is vastly greater in rains than in summer.

5 DRAINAGE:

In most part of the district the river carry off the drainage with about rapidity but in a few tracts the natural outlets for the surface water are inadequate with the result that large and shallow jhils are formed. They are to be found mainly in the rice country of the north, where there is a long but disconnected series of jhils extending across the three tahsils of Soraon, Phulpur and Handia. The largest of these are the Jogi Tal near samra, the masion and the Raiya jhils in pargana Soraon. The Duab contains the large Mungri Tal on the of the border of Kara and Fatehpur.

6 CLIMATE:

The climate of the district is characterised by a delightful cold weather, a long and almost intolerably hot summer and a rainy season which at its commencement at all events is almost is pleasant as that of Bundelkhand. From Nov. to March the weather is all that could be desired, the mean temperature approximating to that of English summer, but about the middle of the march the thermometer rises rapidly until in may and the first half of june. Allahabad becomes one of the hottest stations in the United Provinces. A marked

5. Op cit, Nevill, H. R. PP 14
6. Op cit, Nevill, H. R. PP 23
feature of the climate is the extreme dryness of the atmosphere from Nov to the beginning of the march, but when the monsoon bursts the conditions undergo a remarkable change. The temperature immediately drops to the extent of ten or fifteen degrees and during the next three months varies but little. While owing to the excessive humidity there is very little difference between the day and night temperatures. About christmas there is usually a little rain brought by the storms which pass over these provinces from Sindh and Rajputana, and during the hottest part of the year the strong westerly winds which below during the day time over the Gangetic valley hot unfrequently bring dust-storm and thunder-showers. A Government observatory has been maintained at Allahabad since 1870. The mean barometrical pressure for a period of 22 years was 29.479 inches.

7 RAINFALL:

Records of rainfall for Allahabad and each of the tahsils headquarters are extent from 1864 onwards. The average annual rainfall for 44 years amount to 37.54 inches for the whole district and the variations between the different tahsils are relatively slight. In the Duab the figures are 38.08 for Allahabad, 36.15 for Sirthu and 36.04 for Manjhanpur. Of the trans Ganges tahsils Handia comes

7. Op cit, Nevill, H. R. PP - 24
first with 37.8 followed by Phulpur with 36.27 and Soraon with 35.34 and next come Meja with 38.25 and Bara with 37.8 inches. These figures illustrate the influence of the southern hills and forests and also of the principal rivers.

8

CULTIVATION:

The area sown for the Kharif or autumn and for the rabi or spring harvest vary from year to year according to the nature of the season. During the Kharif in 1906-07 average 660,290 acres as compared with 639,071 sown with rabi crops. Of the crops themselves the foremost place is taken everywhere by rice, which occupies on an average 270,034 acres or 40.9 percent of the harvest. Next to rice comes juar, which by itself and in combination with Arhar covers on an average 143,000 acres or 21.66 percent of the harvest. The proportion rises to 32.23 in the Daub while in Gangapar it is 18.2 and south of the Jumna only 15.04 percent.

MAIN CROPS OF DISTRICT:

Kharif: Paddy, Juar, Bajra, Moong, Maize, Urd, Arhar, Kadon, Mandua, Sanwan.

Rabi: Wheat, Gram, Linseed, Masur, Small Pea, (Kesari) Saroson, Tobacco,

Zaid: Chena, Melons and Vegetables.

8. Op cit, Nevill, H. R. PP 42-43
IRRIGATION FACILITIES:

The irrigation facilities in this district are canal, well, jhils and rivers.

COMMUNICATION:

Allahabad being not only the provincial capital, but also an important railway junction, it is but natural to find the district as a whole admirably provided with means of communication. To some extent such facilities have existed for a long period. At all times the rivers afforded the easiest and most natural means of travelling from western Hindustan to the provinces of Bihar and Bengal, and it was doubtless the strategical advantages of the place, with respect to these waterways, that induced Akbar to build the fortress of Allahabad.

TRANSPORT:

RAILWAYS:

Before the muling, however a considerable start had been made with the construction of railway from Allahabad towards cawnpore and it sums that in 1857 the line was sufficiently advanced to carry construction trains up to Bharwari. The works were

10. Op cit, Nevill, H. R. PP 73-76
wrecked by the rebels but by the 3rd of March 1859 the line was opened as far as Cawnpore.
In 1901 sanction was accorded to the construction of a branch line of Oadh end Rohilkhand Railway from Pratapgarh to Allahabad so as to connect the latter with the main line of that system. The line starts from the East Indian station at Allahabad and then covers northward in a wide sweep between the fort and the civil station to the station of Allenganj, now known as Prayag. Thence it runs due north over the Ganges bridge to Phaphamau, Siwaith and Mau Aima and into the Pratapgarh district.
The third railway system which has been extended to this district is that of the Bengal and North-Western Railway company's metre-gauge branch from Benares direct to Allahabad.

ROADWAYS:
The district is well served by National as well as provincial highways and other roads.

POST OFFICE:
The mail comes to the district has 501 of which 419 situated in rural areas and 82 in urban areas.
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TELEGRAPH OFFICE :
Presently, the district served by the 96 telegraph offices.

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TELEPHONE SERVICES :
The district has 10605 connection for communication in rural and urban areas.