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THE

BENGAL AND AGRA

ANNUAL

GUIDE AND GAZETTEER

FOR

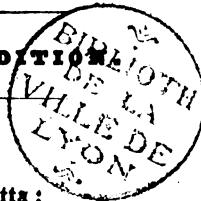
1841.



VOL. II.



THIRD EDITION



Calcutta :

WILLIAM RUSHTON AND CO.

SCHOOLS.

There is only one school in the district, which was established by a most meritorious native, lately deceased. Elementary Bengalee books have of late been supplied to this Institution with a view of qualifying the pupils for the introduction amongst them of the English language.

* DISTRICT RUNGPORE—CAPITAL RUNGPORE.

I.—EXTENT, GENERAL APPEARANCE, AND SOIL.

Rungpore is in the form of an oblong square, being in length about 118 miles, its breadth from the eastern to the western boundary about 60 miles. It forms part of the northern extremity of Bengal, and is bounded on the north by the territory of Bhootan and Cooch Behar, on the south by Purgunnah Paladussce, on the east by the Berhampooter river, and on the west by the Carotowah river, which passes between Rungpore and Dinagepore. It contains 32 Pergunnahs, comprising 6,526 villages. Its superficial area is about 4,112 square miles—the greater part is adapted to rice cultivation. The eastern part of the district being low is liable to inundation during the rains. The northern part of the district, from the station upwards, abounds in vast sandy plains—alternating with low loam and clay rice land. On these extensive plains agreeable and healthy locations for residences might be formed, although the sandy tracts are for the most part either barren or imperfectly productive. The alternations of low rich lands compensate for the aridity and barrenness of the higher soil. This part of the country has been ravaged at different times by the Teestah, which accounts for the extensive alternations of plain and low land noted above. In 1194, B. S., the last great flood took place, when the Teestah changed its course; * vide map.

Soil.—The greater part of the soil is sand and clay, but in the western and southern parts the clay abounds: it is red and white. The lands generally yield two crops, such as indigo, tobacco, mustard, potatoes; in some of the rice fields, and in some few other lands, a third crop is obtained. The principal produce of the district is rice, tobacco, indigo, mustard, ginger and sugar-cane. The ginger is sown on the high sandy lands, and the cultivation oscillates very much with the markets, more so than any other crop. The above are sown and reaped at the following seasons:

	<i>When sown and planted.</i>	<i>When reaped.</i>
Rice,.....	March and April.....	July and August.
Ditto,.....	June and July... ..	Dec. and January.
Tobacco,.....	October and November... ..	February and March.
Indigo,.....	March and April.	June and July.
Mustard,.....	October and November... ..	January and February.
Ginger,.....	April.....	February and March.
Sugar-cane,....	January.....	December.

The principal gunges are Mobigunge, (in the town) Govindgunge, Ghoramarah, Bhotmaree, Baworah, Soorpoosee, Chilmaree, Davidobah, Hat Pungah, (here cattle are sold to a great extent,) and Raneegunge. A fair is annually held at a place called Bhootea Mehal, close to the town of Rungpore, where the Bhootea caravan resorts in the months of March

* Vide page 170, note,

VI.—NATURAL PRODUCTION.

Animals.—The northern forests abound with tigers, bears, rhinoceros, deer, wild buffaloes, and hogs, and other natural productions common in India. The deer, wild buffalo, and hog, and elephants from the Bhootan mountains, are very destructive to the cultivation on the borders of the district. There are, we believe, no minerals of any kind in this district.

VII.—AGRICULTURE.

The plants and trees cultivated are betlenut, jack, mangoe, mulberry, lemon or lime of different kinds, guava, tamarind, cocoanut, &c., indigo, paddy of kinds, mustard, peas, wheat, barley, tobacco, sugar cane, betel leaf, ginger, turmeric, chillies, pumpkin, cucumber, melons, yams of kinds, hemp, garlic, potatoes, plaintain, bamboos, &c. Oranges are imported from Bhootan. The orange groves are stated to be situated at the foot of the hills.

Implements of Agriculture.—Plough, harrow, sickle, hoe, spade and billhook.

Manures.—Mud and slime from the beds of the river, &c., the dung of cattle, burnt stubble left in the fields after reaping, wood ashes, refusings from the farm houses and indigo stalks from the vats.

Domestic Animals.—Cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, and carriage bullocks.

VIII.—COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

The following is a list of the articles annually imported and exported by land and water, with their estimated value. This has been given by natives; as a statistical paper it can of course only be an approximation.

Exports.

	<i>Value.</i>		<i>Value.</i>
Sutrungees or Carpets, .	25,000	Brought forward,	11,16,500
Broad Cloth,	5,000	Gunny Bags,	2,00,000
Dry Ginger,	10,000	Timber,	10,000
Copper,	1,000	Rice,	10,000
Country Paper,	5,000	Mustard Seed,	15,000
Silk,	2,00,000	Turmeric,	5,000
Indigo,	8,00,000	Tej Paut,	10,000
Sugar and Jaggery,	50,000	Paddy,	25,000
Juite,	20,000	Tobacco,	1,75,000
Wax Candles,	500	Peas,	1,000
	Carried forward, 11,16,500		Total Rs. . . . 15,67,500