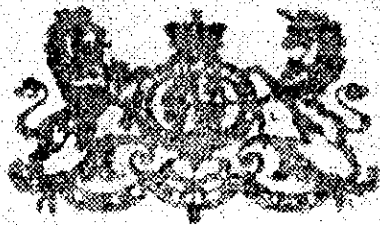


PUNJAB
STATES GAZETTEERS,
VOLUME XVI A.
FARIDKOT STATE

1915.



Lahore
PRINTED AT THE "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS.

1917.

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEER



REPRINT OF FARIDKOT STATE GAZETTEER, 1915

**JAGMOHAN SINGH HANS
M.A.(Eco.& Pbi.)
STATE EDITOR,GAZETTEERS,PUNJAB,
CHANDIGARH**

Published by:
**REVENUE AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT,PUNJAB
CHANDIGARH
2002**

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

FARIDKOT STATE GAZETTEER, 1915

Price Rs:

(Copies of the Gazetteer are available with Punjab Government Printing Press, S.A.S. Nagar, (Mohali), District Rupnagar)

First Edition :1915

First Reprint: 2002

Publisher:

**Revenue and Rehabilitation Department, Punjab, Chandigarh through
Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, Punjab, Chandigarh.**

Reprinted by:

**Controller of Printing and Stationery ,Punjab Chandigarh
2002**

FOREWORD

The District Gazetteers published during the British regime are in a very fragile condition and research scholars and other users face problems in handling these publications. These Gazetteers are important reference books, which contain useful information about the physical features, history, and socio-economic condition and political life of the people of Punjab. Keeping in view the importance of old District Gazetteers, it has been decided to preserve these valuable documents in their original format by getting them reprinted.

The reprints of the old district gazetteers of Gurdaspur (1914), Ferozepur (1915), Amritsar (1892-93), Hoshiarpur (1904), Phulkian States (Patiala, Nabha and Jind) (1904) have already been published. Ludhiana District Gazetteer (including Malerkotla State), 1904 is in press for printing.

Sardar Jagmohan Singh Hans, State Editor, Gazetteers, and his team deserve credit for reprinting of the old Gazetteer of 1915 of Faridkot State, in its original format. I hope, this volume will prove useful for the research scholars, educationists and general readers interested in knowing history and life of the people of this erstwhile princely state of Faridkot.

Chandigarh
22 August 2002

BHAGAT SINGH
Financial Commissioner, Revenue,
Punjab.

PREFACE TO REPRINTED EDITION

The District Gazetteer is a miniature encyclopedia and a good guide. It describes all important aspects and features of the district, historical, physical, social, economic and cultural. Officials and other persons desirous of acquainting themselves with the salient features of the district would find a study of the Gazetteer rewarding. It is of immense use for research scholars. It contains information of great strategic importance.

The Gazetteer published during the British regime are in very fragile condition and are not fit for regular handling. Some of these Gazetteers have gone out of stock and are not easily available. To save this valuable treasure of literature from extinction, the scheme for reprinting of old Gazetteers in the original format was taken up in 1984 on the initiative of the then Hon'ble Governor of Punjab State.

The reprinting of the old District Gazetteers of Gurdaspur (1914), Hoshiarpur (1904), Amritsar (1892-93), Ferozepur (1915) Phulkian State Gazetteer (1904) have already been done by the Revenue and Rehabilitation Department in their original formats. The Ludhiana District including Malerkotla State Gazetteer 1904 is in press for printing. This volume is the reprinted edition of the Faridkot State Gazetteer 1915. This Gazetteer is the eighth in the series of reprinted Gazetteers of Punjab. Every care has been taken in maintaining the originality of this old Gazetteer. But the condition of this book was not fit for photo printing and it was decided to compose it on computer for printing. The work to maintain its original format was very tedious and cumbersome.

I am thankful to the staff of the Gazetteers Organisation, specially to Sarvshri Shri Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Senior Editor; Shaminder Singh Bains, Smt Gurdip Kaur Khokhar, Editors; Dinesh Bedi Draftsman-cum-Artist; Neeraj Kumar Singla and Baljinder Singh Compilers; and Rama Kant Sharma Junior Scale Stenographer, who have done thorough comparison and proof reading of the volume to maintain its original format. I am also thankful to Shri Harinder Pal Singh, Compiler for his strenuous efforts to arrange and prepare the prints of this volume on computer for sending it to press.

I am thankful to the Controller, Printing and Stationary, Punjab and his staff in the press for expeditiously completing the work of reprinting of this volume.

Chandigarh
26 August 2002

JAGMOHAN SINGH HANS
State Editor, Gazetteers,
Punjab.

GAZETTER OF THE FARIDKOT

STATE, PART A. - 1915.

Agents for the sale of Punjab Government Publications.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Constable & Co., 10, Orange Street,
Leicester Square, London, W.C.

KRGAN PAUL, TRENCH & Co.,
Limited, 68-74, Carter Lane, E.C., and
25, Museum Street, London, W. C.

BERNARD QUARITCH, 11, Grafton Street,
New Bond Street, London, W.

T. FISHER UNWIN, LIMITED, No. 1, Adelphi
Terrace, London, W. C.

P. S. KING & SON, 2 and 4, Great Smith
Street, Westminster, London, S. W.

H. S. KING & Co., 65, Cornhill, and 9,
Pall Mall, London.

GRANDLAY & Co., 54, Parliament Street,
London, S.W.

W. THACKER & Co., 2, Creed Lane,
London, E. C.

Luzac & Co., 48, Great Russell Street,
London, W. C.

B. H. BLACKWELL, 50 and 51, Board Street,
Oxford.

DEIGHTON BELL & Co. LIMITED,
Cambridge.

OLIVER AND BOYD, Tweeddale Court,
Edinburgh.

E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street,
Dublin.

ON THE CONTINENT

ERNEST LEROUX, 28, Rue Bonaparte,
Paris, France.

MARIJNUS NIJHOFF, The Hague, Holland.

IN INDIA.

A. CHAND & Co., Imperial Book Depot
Office, Delhi.

GULAB SINGH & SONS, Mufid-i-'Am Press,
Lahore.

MANAGER, PUNJAB LAW BOOK DEPOT
Anarkali Bazar, Lahore.

S. MUMTAZ ALI & SON, Rafah-i-'Am Press
Lahore [for Vernacular Publications only.]

RAMA KRISHNA & SONS, BOOKSELLER
and Proprietor, Nazir Kanun hind Press,
Allahabad.

D.B Taraporevala, Sons & Co., Bombay
THACKER, Spink & Co., Calcutta & Simla.
NEWMAN & C., Calcutta.

R. CAMBRAY & Co., Calcutta.

THACKER & Co., Bombay.

HIGGINBOTHAMS, LIMITED, Madras.

T. FISHER UNWIN, Calcutta.

V. KALYANARAM LYER & Co.,
189, Esplanade Row, Madras.

G.A. NATESEN & Co., Madras.

SUPEREINTERDENT, AMERICAN
BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, Rangoon.

PUNJAB
STATES GAZETTEERS,
VOLUME XVI A.
FARIDKOT STATE.

1915.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE
PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.



Lahore :
THE "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS.
Sole Contractors for Printing to the Punjab Government

1917.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Subject.	
CHAPTER I. - DESCRIPTIVE.	
SECTION A -- PHYSICAL ASPECTS	1
SECTION B -- HISTORY	2
SECTION C -- POPULATION	22
CHAPTER II. - ECONOMIC	
SECTION A. ---- AGRICULTURE	36
SECTION B ---- RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES	42
SECTION C ---- FORESTS	45
SECTION D --- MINES AND MINERALS	1b
SECTIONS E AND F --- MANUFACTURES AND TRADES	1b
SECTION G. --- MEANS OF COMMUNICATION	46
SECTION H --- FAMINES	47
CHAPTER III -ADMINISTRATIVE.	
SECTION A -- ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS	48
SECTION B --- CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	49
SECTION C. --- LAND REVENUE	51
SECTION D. --- MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	55
SECTION E. --- LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT	57
SECTION F. --- PUBLIC WORKS	ig
SECTION G. --- ARMY	58
SECTION H. --- POLICE AND JAILS	59
SECTION I. --- EDUCATION AND LITERACY	60
SECTION J. --- MEDICAL	61
CHAPTER IV. - PLACES OF INTEREST.	

CHAPTER I. DESCRIPTIVE.

SECTION A. -- PHYSICAL ASPECTS.

General description	...
Physical features	...
Flora	...
Fauna	...
Climate	...

CHAPTER I. – DESCRIPTIVE – Continued.

Section B. - History

Subject	page
Early History	2
Origin of the Barar Jats	3
The acquisitions of the tribe	4
The founding of Kot Kapura	Ib
Kapura's relations with the Imperial Government	Ib
His enemy, Isa Khan	5
The assassination of Kapura, A. D. 1708	Ib
The murder avenged	Ib
The death of Sukhia, and the quarrels among his sons	Ib
The Sikh Chiefs called in and the estate divided	Ib
Chaudhri Hamir Singh	6
Jodh Singh attached by the Raja of Patiala and killed, A.D. 1767	Ib
Sardar Tek Singh	Ib
Captured by Hamir Singh of Faridkot	Ib
Murdered by his sons	7
Whose estates are seized by Diwan Mohkam Chand	Ib
The Faridkot Branch	Ib
The disinheriting of Dal Singh and the feud between the brothers	8
Death of Sardar Hamir Singh, A. D. 1782	Ib
Morh Singh and his sons	Ib
Charat Singh rebels against his father and imprisons him	Ib
The fortunes of Sardar Charat Singh	9
Sardar Dal Singh assassinated	Ib
Mohkam Chand besieges Faridkot but is compelled to retire	Ib
Ranjit Singh of Lahore captures the town	10
The estate is given in jagir to Diwan Mohkam Chand	Ib
Its restitution demanded by the British Government	Ib
The Maharaja maintains his right to it	Ib
The surrender of Faridkot almost made a <i>causus belli</i> between Lahore and the English.	11
Every means of evading compliance used	Ib
But it is finally restored	12
The minority of Gulab Singh	Ib
The revenue of Faridkot	Ib
The assassination of Gulab Singh	Ib
His younger brother suspected of the crime	Ib
Attar Singh acknowledged chief	Ib
His sudden death	13
Sardar Pahar Singh. His character and administration	Ib
His family	14
His quarrels with Sahib Singh, his brother	Ib
The good services of Pahar Singh during The Sutlej campaign	Ib
He is created Raja	15

CHAPTER I. —DESCRIPTIVE --- Continued.**SECTION B. —HISTORY --- concluded**

Subject.	Page
His death, A.D. 1849	15
Raja Wazir Singh	1b
Revision of boundaries	1b
The Raja's administration	1b
His services	16
Rewards	1b
Sanads	1b
His family	17
His death	ib
Raja Bikram Singh	ib
His reforms	1b
Modern Faridkot	1b
Settlement	1b
Sirhind Canal	18
Railway	1b
Postage stamps	1b
Bank	1b
His character and services	19
His death	1b
Raja Balbir Singh	1b
Imperial Service Troops	1b
Buildings	1b
Famine	1b
Raja Brij Indar Singh	20
His family	1b
Administration	1b
Buildings	1b
The Darbar of 1911	21
War services, 1914.15	1b

SECTION C. - POPULATIONS

Density	22
Towns	1b
Population by tahsils	1b
Migration	1b
Age	23
Diseases	24
Birth ceremonies: Hindus	1b
Muhammadans	25
Marriage customs: Hindus	26
Muhammadans	27
Language	1b

CHAPTER I. - DESCRIPTIVE —Concluded
SECTION C. - POPULATION—concluded

Subject.	Page.
Tribes, caste and leading families. (Jats, Sidhu Jats, Gil Jats, Sindhu jats, Dhillon 27— 32 jats, Dhariwala jats Local Proverbs, Brahmins, Commercial Castes, Muhammdan tribes, Rajputs, Arains, Gujars, Dogars, Moghals, Pathans, Criminal Tribes, Tribal ownership, Menials, Leading families, Mahmuana, Pakhi, Machaki, Jaini Puj Family)	33
Religion	lb
Food	lb
Dress	lb
House	34
Death customs	lb
Amusements.	lb
Fairs	lb

CHAPTER II – ECONOMIC.
SECTION A. – AGRICULTURE.

General agricultural conditions	36
Soils	lb
Agricultural operations. (Ploughing, threshing, etc)	37
Agricultural implements	lb
Agricultural calendar	38
Agricultural labourers	lb
Principal staples	39
Extent of cultivation	lb
Mortgaged land	lb
Rated of interest	40
Takari	lb
Cattle, etc.	lb
Breeding	lb
Cattle Diseases	lb
Veterinary department	lb
Cattle fairs	41
Irrigation	lb
Canals	lb

SECTION B—RENTS, WAGES AND PRICES.

Rents	42
Wages	43
Skilled labour	lb
Kamins, their dues and duties	lb
Poverty and wealth of the proprietors	44
Prices	lb

SECTION C. – FORESTS.

Forests	45
---------	----

ih

CHAPTER III. --- ADMINISTRATIVE--- continued.**SECTION C. --- LAND REVENUE.****SUBJECT****Pages**

Fiscal History	...	...	...	...	...	51
The present settlement	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cesses	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Financial results of the new settlement	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Village communities and tenures	...	...	...	...	...	53
Village officers	...	...	...	...	...	54
Feudal dues	...	...	...	...	...	ib

SECTION D. --- MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE.

Opium and drugs	...	...	...	...	...	55
Excise	...	...	...	...	...	56
Local cesses	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Stamps and Darbar paper	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Octroi	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Interest on loan	...	...	...	...	...	57
Miscellaneous petty sources of revenue	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Salt	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Total income	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Coinage	...	...	...	...	...	ib

**SECTION F. --- LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT.**

Faridkot municipality	57
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

SECTION F. --- PUBLIC WORKS.

Organization	...	...	...	...	...	57
Chief Works	...	...	...	...	...	ib

SECTION G. ---ARMY.

Army	...	...	...	...	...	58
Imperial Service Troops	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Local Troops	...	...	...	...	...	ib

SECTION H. --- POLICE AND JAILS

Police, strength of the force	...	...	...	...	...	59
Police stations	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Criminal tribes	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Jail	...	...	...	...	...	ib

SECTION I--- EDUCATION AND LITERACY.

Literacy	...	...	...	...	...	60
Public Library	...	...	...	...	...	ib
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	ib

CHAPTER III--- ADMINISTRATIVE --- concluded.
SECTION J. ---MEDICAL.

Subject.	Page
Medical	61
Hospitals and Dispensaries	ib
Vaccination	ib
Sanitation	ib

CHAPTER IV. --- PLACES OF INTEREST.

Faridkot town	62
Kot Kapura	ib

MAPS

The maps noted below will be found useful for reference: -

Survey Department Maps. Punjab Standard sheets Nos.224, 225, 226, 227,

238,239. Scale 1"=1 mile,

CHAPTER 1. --- DESCRIPTIVE.

Section A. —Physical Aspects.

Faridkot is a State lying in the south of the Ferozepore District between $30^{\circ} 13'$ and $30^{\circ} 50'$ north latitude and $74^{\circ} 31'$ and $75^{\circ} 5'$ east longitude with an area of 633 square miles. It is almost surrounded by the Ferozepore District, Moga Tahsil lying on the east, Ferozepore on the north and north-west, and Muktsar on the west. On the north and north-west, and Muktsar on the west. On the south lies the Patiala State. Faridkot forms a strip of territory 34 miles broad and 40 miles long, lying north-west and south-east, and divided into two parganas, Faridkot comprising its northern, and Kot Kapura its southern, portion. The pargana of Jaito, which belongs to the Nabha State, forms an island in the Kot Kapura pargana. The State also owns a group of four detached villages, which lie two miles from its main portion and are surrounded by the Ferozepore District and Patiala and Nabha States. It has population (1911) of 130,294 souls.

The western part of the State, called the *Hithar*, is generally sandy, with ridges of sand-hills in places. The east of its area called the Utar, is level and lying 15 to 20 feet above the *Hithar*; it is more productive.

The water level here is from 80 to 150 feet below the surface, and the well water is sweet, while in the *Hithar* it is generally brackish and is found from 20 to 35 feet below the surface.

The Danda or old bank of the Sutlej separates the *Hithar* from the Utar, and that river is said to have once flowed a mile from Faridkot. Irrigation wells do not exist in the *Hithar* which is entirely dependent on the rainfall, but temporary arrangements, at times, during droughts, have been made to irrigate it from wells, the water however is saline and has not only failed to benefit the crops but has in some cases caused permanent deterioration of the land to which it has been applied. Rain being instantly absorbed, the land retains moisture for a long time and yields crops even after slight rain. Thus it has produced comparatively good harvests even in years of drought.

Since Sambat 1912 the Utar lands have been irrigated from the Sirhind Canal which runs for some 15 miles in the State, several rajbahs and outlets with many ramifications irrigating a large area in it. The cultivators are generally Jat Sikhs.

The Flora is that of Ferozepore and Patiala. Before the days of the canal the country was largely waste land covered with ban and beri trees. Kikar is now found and most of the scrub of the waste has been cut down and the land brought

CHAP.I, A

Physical
Aspects.

General
Description.

Physical
Features

1886A.D

Flora.

CHAP. 1, B.	FARIDKOT STATE]	History	[PART A.
History	Under cultivation. There are State birds at Ghugiana, Chahal, Sikhanwala, Bholuwala, and Jalabhur, and in these <i>jand</i> , <i>karir</i> , and <i>ak</i> abound. <i>Shisham</i> , <i>farash</i> and <i>siri</i> are planted along the road-sides. After the rains waving clumps of <i>sarkunda</i> grass are a picturesque feature of the landscape.		
Fauna.	Black buck and <i>chingkara</i> deer are common and are found in large herds in the State birds, but for some years past hood heads have not been easy to obtain and more strict preservation of these animals is desirable. Wolves are very occasionally seen; nilgai, fox jackal and hare are common. Partridges and quail are found throughout the State and many sandgrouse are to be seen in the spring, whilst bustard are not rare. Peafowl and pigeons are very numerous in the neighbourhood of villages.		
Climate.	The climate is hot and dry. In the <i>Hithar</i> especially dust-storms are frequent owing to the scarcity of water and dryness of the soil. Since the introduction of canal irrigation the climate has much improved in this respect.		
Early history	The rains generally break in July and last till September, but the rainfall is never heavy. Canal irrigation has modified the climate of the Utar tract as compared with that of the <i>Hithar</i> and made it comparatively moist. The heat is excessive in June and July and the cold intense in January and February. The cold weather lasts from the middle of October to the middle of March, but the mornings and evenings remain cool till the end of April.		

Section B. --- History.

It is said that the territory of which Faridkot now forms apart was formerly ruled by the Punwar Rajputs who held it for a considerable period. About 1180 A.D. Jesal, a Bhatti Rajput, and founder of the State and city of Jesalmir was driven from his kingdom by a successful rebellion and settled in the neighbourhood of Hissar, his third son Rai Hem Hel sacked the town of Hissar and overran much of the surrounding country including that south of Muktsar from which he drove the Punwars. Hem Hel was succeeded by his son Jundhar or Jandra who was the father of twenty-one sons from whom as many clans have descended. From this time till the early part of the seventeenth century the accounts of the fortunes of Faridkot are far from reliable: the story goes that it was at one time under the rule of Raja Manj, a descendant of Jhundar through Rai Achal Mokalsi, who was Raja Manj's grandson, founded Faridkot under the name of Mokal Har and built a fort there. Amongst the men forced to work as labourers on the construction of this fort was one Shaikh Bawa Farid: this man was observed to possess miraculous powers which were demonstrated amongst other ways by the fact that the basket of earth which he was given to

carry floated above his head without visible support: he was therefore allowed to depart, but the name of the place was changed to Faridkot after him. It remained the capital during the reigns of Mokalsi's sons Jairsi and Wairsi

CHAP.1. B.

History

On their deaths Wairsi's son Tulsi Ram and Jairsi's son Khalcha were converted to Islam, and Tulsi Ram adopted the name of Shaikh Chachu. His son Bharo abandoned Faridkot and went to Bilaspur and thence to Hathur. Khalcha's descendants thus gained possession of Faridkot, and retained it till Daulat Khan's son Isa Khan, finding that the power of the Mughals was on the decline, assumed independence. An imperial force under Shahzad Khan was sent against him and in the course of the fight he was accidentally killed by his brother-in-law, Umar Khan. His son Umar Khan succeeded to the throne on promising to submit to the imperial authority but the power of the family declined and Qadir Bakhsh Khan was its last representative. Faridkot and some other villages then came directly under the control of the Viceroy of Delhi.

This account is largely mythical for there are reasons to believe that the fort existed even before Rai Hen Hell's time. Mokalsi might have been carrying out repairs when Bawa Farid was forced to work on it as a labourer, in consequence of which the name of the place was subsequently changed to Faridkot after him. Besides, according to the bards accounts, neither the Manjs nor the Barars seem to have held continual possession over it, while no proof exists that it ever formed a part of the Mughal Empire directly. Chroniclers are at one in saying that the Imperial forces never considered it worth their while to turn any attention to these wastes.

Whatever truth may attach to this narrative, the concluding portion of it is almost certainly incorrect as there are trustworthy sources which show that Isa Khan was neither killed by Umar Khan nor by Shahzad Khan, but by Kapura's sons with the help of the Imperial forces secured through Umar Khan and Shahzad Khan, and that Faridkot was already in the possession of the Barars during Isa Khan's lifetime.

Amongst Jundhar's many sons was one Bate Rao from whom was descended Khiwa who married a Jat woman, their son Sidhu, according to custom, was therefore of Jat status. This Sidhu was the founder of the Sidhu Jat clan; important families including those of Kaithal and Arnawli are directly descended from his eldest son Dhar. It was, however, his second son Bur who was the ancestor of the most important of the Sidhus, eighth in descent from Bur was Barar, a brave and successful man, who waged constant wars with the Muhammadan Battis of Sirsa, who had sprung from the same original

Origin of the
Barar Jats

CHAP.1, B.

History

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Kapura.

[PART A.

stock as himself. Barar had two sons Dul and Paor, from whom are descended the Faridkot family and the Phulkian houses respectively. Sangar, ninth in descent from Dul, was the founder of Chakran, now a deserted village, near Kot Kapura: with the gift of the office of Chaudharayat upon his son Bhallan by the Emperor Akbar the really authentic history of Faridkot may be said to commence. This office was conferred by the Emperor in the following circumstances: -

The Muhammadan Bhattis of Sirsa and the Barars quarreled about their boundaries, and both parties went Delhi to ask the Emperor to adjudicate between them. Bhallan represented the Barar clan, and Mansur, who was supposed to have influence at court, one of his daughters being in the royal harem, was the champion of the Bhattis. The Emperor gave them an audience in open Darbar, and, as was customary, presented them with turbans and a dress of honour. Mansur at once began to wind the muslin round his head, when Bhallan snatched it from him. A scuffle ensued in which the turban was torn in two. The Emperor was amused at the quarrel, and said that his decision would correspond with the length of the pieces of Muslin which each had managed to retain. On being measured the fragments were found exactly equal in length, and the Bhattiana and Barar boundary was accordingly laid down on a principle of equality, half the disputed country being given to either claimant. This tradition is preserved by the Barars in a well-known line, *Bhallan chira pharia Akbar de Darbar*

The acquisitions of the tribes

The chaudharayat had been conferred upon him by the Delhi Darbar, and he was the head of the family. On his death, without male issue, Kapura, the son of his brother Lala, who was born in 1628 A.D. succeeded his uncle in 1643 A.D. and got the Chaudharayat from the Darbar. He was a brave and able man, and consolidated the Barar possessions, winning many victories over his neighbors the Bhattis and others.

The Founding Of Kot Kapura

He at first resided in Panjgrain but subsequently founded Sarliwala, now a deserted site near Bagina, which he soon abandoned for a new residence, Kot Kapura, named after himself, and which he is said to have founded at the suggestion of Bhai Bhagtu, a famous Hindu ascetic. This town was peopled by traders and others from Kot Isa Khan, and the reputation for justice and benevolence, which Kapura enjoyed, induced many immigrants to settle in the new town, which soon became a place of considerable importance.

His relations with the imperial government.

Kapura had taken upon himself the responsibility of Chaudharyat, and appears to have acquitted himself with fidelity, for when Guru Govind Singh visited him in 1704 and asked his assistance, Kapura as in duty bound not to break his promise, refused to help him.

(1) At the time of the Mughal rule this office was conferred upon a Sirdar who held despotic sway over the tribe or division subject to him, and was responsible for collecting and depositing into the Imperial treasury the revenue of the territory other than his own. In return for these services he was held to be the ruler of the dominion in his possession.

[FARIDKOT STATE]

Himirsingh Jodh Singh.

[PART A.]

CHAP. I. B.

History

His enemy

Isa Khan

The assassination
Of Kapura, A.D.
1708The murder
avenged

Isa Khan, the owner of the fort and village of that name, was Kapura's great rival and enemy, and watched his growing importance with the utmost jealousy. The two Chiefs had constant quarrels, resulting in much bloodshed, but Isa Khan finding that he was unable to conquer Kapura by force, determined to subdue him by other means, and concluded with him an agreement of perpetual friendship. Knowing that Kapura had much faith in ascetics, he invited him to a banquet through a *Faqir*, Kapura accepted the invitation and while he was a guest at his house he was treacherously assassinated by Isa Khan.

Kapura, who was eighty years old at his death, in 1708 left three sons, Sukhias⁽¹⁾, Sema, and Mukhia, who determined to avenge their father's murder, and assembling the clan and obtaining the aid of a strong Imperial force, they attacked Isa Khan, defeated and killed him, and plundered his fort.

All the three sons of Kapura, in their endeavors to avenge their father's death, did not think of their office as Sirdar or Chaudhri for twelve years. But after they had taken revenge, Sema, the second son, died, while Sukhias, the eldest, succeeded his father, and began to exercise Chaudharayat. He founded Kot Sukhia and added to his possessions the estates of Ranawalu, Behkbodla, Dharmkot, Karne and Mamdot. To his younger brother Mukhia, the Villages Rori and Matta were assigned from the patrimony, and these are still in the possession of his descendants.

Sukhia died in 1731, aged fifty, leaving three sons, Jodh, Hamir and Bir, who for some time lived together in peace, but at length they quarreled, and the two younger wished to divide the estate.⁽²⁾ Jodh, being on ill terms with his brothers, quarreled with them. The Faridkot Fort was then held by Jodh, and was kept in charge of his Thanadar. The country all around had been desolated by yearly famines. Hamir having intrigued with the leaders of the tribes won them over to his side, they being already discontented with Jodh's high-handedness, and succeeded, by a feat of policy, in turning out Jodh's Thanadar and soldiers from Faridkot, himself getting possession of the fort. Jodh attacked him more than once, but could not succeed. Eventually the rival brothers asked the Confederate Chiefs from beyond the Sutlej to intervene, according to whose decision, Faridkot with the adjoining

The death of
Sukhia, and the
quarrels among
his sonsThe Sikh Chiefs
called in and the
estate divided

(1) The late Sirdar Sir Attar Singh, K.C.I.E., of Bhadaur, one of the best authorities on early Cis-Sutlej history, considered Sukhia Singh to have been the second son, and Sajja or lehna Singh the elder. Also that the latter was *chaudhri* for only two years dying in 1710. But there is no proof to uphold the late Sridhar's assertion. Kapura had three sons, Sukhia, Sema and Mukhia, as written in the genealogical table of the family. No such name as lehna Singh is mentioned there, nor is it recorded that Sema succeeded to the Chief ship.

(2) Faridkot was in actual possession of Hamir Singh even before the partition of the country had been effected by the Confederate Chiefs. Jodh had never got possession of it. This was the very answer made by Mr. Metcalfe to Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It is a further proof of the fact that Faridkot never formed part of the Delhi Empire. There is nothing to shew that these Chiefs embraced Sikhism at this time. Two descents after this Sirdar Charhat Singh grandson of Sirdar Hamir Singh was the first to receive the *pahul* or Sikh baptism from Guru Hamir Singh of Garuharsahai.

FARIDKOT STATE] *Tek Singh And Diwan Mokham Chand.* [PART A. country was retained by Hamir, Mari Mustafa was assigned to Bir, while Kot Kapura fell to the lot of Jodh.

CHAP. 1. B.

History

These Confederate Chiefs, at the same time, induced the three brothers to embrace Sikhism and to receive the "pahul."

Chaudhri
Hamir Singh.

Another story is that Sirdar Hamir Singh had out of foresight managed to obtain a 'Sarkhat' from Mirza Adina Beg, Governor of Sirhind, to produce, if need be, against Jodh, but the affair being apparently settled, he never required to do so. Notwithstanding, Jodh renewed his deeds of hostility after the Confederated Chiefs had left. However, Hamir Singh maintained his position as independent Chief of Faridkot.

Jodh Singh
attacked by
the Raja of
Patiala and
Killed 1767

His brother, Jodh Singh, in 1766, erected a new fort at Kot Kapura, and almost rebuilt the town; but his oppression was so great that the inhabitants left it, and the artisans, who had been renowned for their skill and industry, emigrated to Lahore, Amritsar and Patiala. He was constantly engaged in hostilities with Raja Amar Singh of Patiala, and in 1767, the Raja having found at the suggestion of the Chief's brother, a satisfactory pretext for a quarrel, ⁽¹⁾ marched to Kot Kapura, with a strong force, and prepared to invest the fort, when Jodh Singh and his son, advancing in a chariot too far beyond the walls, fell into an ambushade laid by the Patiala troops. He was killed, fighting gallantly to the last, his son, Jit Singh, being mortally wounded.

Sirdar Tek
Singh

Jodh Singh was succeeded by his son, Tek Singh, who appears to have been a man of very small intelligence. He continued the family feud with Patiala and avenged his father's death by massacring all the inhabitants, men, women and children of the four Jalalkian villages who were in the pay of Patiala, and, by whom Jodh Singh had been slain. Hamir Singh of Faridkot joined in this expedition, but shortly afterwards quarreled with his nephew, who refused submission to him, and taking him prisoner, confined him in the Faridkot Fort. The Phulkian Chiefs, however, used all their interest to get him set at liberty, which Hamir Singh only consented to do on condition that he would never leave his town of Kot Kapura. The result was the utter disorganisation of the estate. The zamindars, unable to obtain justice, refused to pay revenue, and robbery and violence were everywhere prevalent, while Maha Singh Sarai, brother-in-law of the Patiala Chief, seized Mudki and 18 neighbouring villages, and Nabha seized the Jaitu pargana, which it still retains.

Captured by
Hamir Singh
of Faridkot.

In 1783 Sirdar Chuhr Singh Badauria took possession of villages Bhagta, Siriawala, Baja Khana, and Bharoki Batti but these villages again came into the possession of Sirdar Tek Singh in 1793 when Chuhr Singh was burnt in a house where he had been treacherously seized by Sajjan Barar of Ghania.

(1) As did Amrik Singh, who received Bargari, a village still owned by his descendants.

FARIDKOT STATE] Diwan Mohkam Chand & Hamir Singh [PART A.

The end of Sirdar Tek Singh was very tragical. He had long been on the worst of terms with his son Jagat Singh, who, in 1806, set fire to the house in which his father was residing, and a large quantity of powder having been stored in the vaults beneath, the house was utterly destroyed and the Chief killed by the explosion.

The guilty son did not long enjoy the lands of which he thus became possessed. The next year 1807, his elder brother, Karm Singh, calling Diwan Mohkam Chand to his assistance, defeated him and took possession of the district, but the Diwan and his master, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, had no intention of restoring it to the rightful owner and the Maharaja kept Kot Kapura for himself, giving the five Jalalkian villages to the Raja of Nabha. The villages of Mudki, which Maha Singh had seized. Ranjit Singh also retained, leaving him shares in two only, Patli and Hukumatwala.

In 1824, Jagat Singh made an attempt to recover his estate and drove the Lahore garrison out of Kot Kapura, but he was unable to hold it, and was compelled to surrender it after twenty days. He then endeavoured to make his peace with Lahore, and gave his elder daughter in marriage to Sher Singh, the Maharaja's reputed son; but the following years, 1825, he died without male issue. The descendants of Karm Singh, the elder brother, are still living, but they are of no political importance. They still hold half of Mauza Sandhwan, which was granted to Karm Singh by Mohkam Chand, in *muafi* and descendants of Bhagat Singh, Karm Singh's brother, hold half of Doarians, which was similarly conferred in *jagir*.

The sweepers of Mauza Jaitu had killed an ox and were imprisoned in Kot Kapura for this offence. The Lambardars of Jaitu came to Kot Kapura to intercede on their behalf. Sirdar Tek Singh's son, Jagat Singh, however, murdered the *Lambardars* without even hearing their case. This exasperated the residents of Jaitu and the neighboring villages, who were connected with each other by blood. They, therefore, threw off the yoke of the Sirdar of Kot Kapura and sought the protection of the Raja of Nabha, Raja Jaswant Singh, who had married the niece of Ramu Singh of Jaitu from Mor Dhalwan. Thus the Ahlkars of Nabha came and a Thana belonging to the Nabha State was established in the Ilaka. Thus they separated themselves from the rule of the Sirdar of Kot Kapura.

It is now necessary to return to the younger branch represented by Himir Singh of Faridkot, who, in the year 1763 A.D., having taken possession of Faridkot by dint of bravery and policy, had established a separate State. Hamir Singh enlarged the town, inducing traders and artisans to people it, and built a brick fort for its protection. He had two sons, Dal Singh and Moha Singh, the former of whom was of an

CHAP.1.B.

History
Murdered by his sons.

Whose estates are seized by Diwan Mohkam Chand.

The Faridkot branch.

FARDIKOT STATE] *Hamir Singh and Charat Singh.* [PART A.

CHAP.1.B.

History

The
disinheriting
of Dal Singh
and the feud
between the
brothers.

Death of
Sirdar Hamir
Singh,
A.D.1782

Mohr Singh
and his sons.

Charat Singh
rebels
against his
father

intractable disposition and rebelled against his father, who suspected that Mohr Singh was also concerned in the plot. He accordingly called them both before him, and, to test their temper, directed each to fire at the leg of the bed on which he was reclining with their muskets, or, according to other accounts, to shoot an arrow at it. Dal Singh fired without hesitation, and split the leg of the bed; but Mohr Singh refused, saying that guns were fired at enemies and not at friends. This conduct so pleased the Chief that he declared Mohr Singh his heir, and banished Dal Singh altogether from Faridkot, assigning for his support the villages of Dhodeki, Mahla and Bhalur. ⁽¹⁾ This selection of Mohr Singh as his successor created a deadly feud between the brothers, and Mohr Singh besieged his rival in Dhodeki. But the latter managed to hold his own, and, calling to his assistance the Nishanwala Chief, defeated his brother, and compelled him to return to Faridkot.

Sirdar Hamir Singh died in 1782, and Mohr Singh succeeded him. This Chief ruled well for some time, but subsequently falling into luxury, he had little care for State affairs, several of his estates, Abohar, Karmi and Behkbodla being seized by his neighbours. He married a daughter of Sirdar Sobha Singh of Man in Jind, by whom he had a son, called Charat Singh, who rebelled against his father. The origin of the quarrel was as follows: -

Mohr Singh had another son, Bhupa, born of a Muhammadan concubine, Panji, of whom he was passionately fond, and this boy had a far larger share of his father's love and attention than the legitimate son, who regarded his rival with the greatest jealousy and dislike. On one occasion the Chief was setting out on an expedition towards Phillaur, and told Bhupa to accompany him. The spoiled child refused unless his father allowed him to ride the horse on which his brother always rode, and on which he was then mounted. Mohr Singh ordered Charat Singh to dismount and give Bhupa the horse. This insult, though an unintentional one, sank deep into the heart of Charat Singh. He could not endure that he, the legitimate son, should be slighted for the son of a slave girl, and determined on revenge. With Kalha and Diwan Singh Khokhar, his advisers, he formed a conspiracy to dethrone his father; and during Mohr Singh's absence, he surprised the Faridkot Fort, and put Panji, his father's mistress, to death. Sirdar Mohr Singh hearing of what had happened, hastily collected a large body of peasants, and attempted to recover the fort, but he was repulsed with loss, and retired to the village of Pakka, some four miles distant. Here he was surrounded by the troops of his rebel son, and, after a fruitless resistance, was taken prisoner and sent to Sher Singhwals, a

(1) According to the Faridkot Chief, Dal Singh was the second son, Mohr Singh the elder, but this is contradicted by the Bhadaur Chief, the "Barah Misl", and other records, who make Mohr Singh the younger. In 1827, Sirdar Pahar Singh declared primogeniture always had prevailed in the family. This was, however, a case of disinheritance.

FARIDKOT STATE.] *Charat Singh and Mohkam Chand* [PART A. village belonging to Charat Singh's father-in-law, in which he was confined for a considerable time. At length, Sirdar Tara Singh Gheba, a powerful chief, interfered in his behalf, and induced Charat Singh to set him at liberty, although he refused to aid Mohr Singh against his son. After this, Mohr Singh made more than one attempt to recover his authority in Faridkot, but without success, and he died an exile in 1798.

Sirdar Charat Singh now considered himself safe from attack, and reduced the number of his troops. Patiala, his old enemy was not likely to attack him, for he had repulsed an attack of its famous Diwan, Nanun Mal, during the minority of Raja Sahib Singh, with some loss, and had acquired a great name for courage. But he had forgotten to number among his enemies his disinherited uncle, Dal Singh, who was only waiting an opportunity to regain his lost possession; and, in 1804, having collected a small body of followers, he attacked the Faridkot fort by night and obtained possession. Charat Singh was surprised and killed, and his wife with his four sons Gulab Singh Pahar Singh, Sahib Singh and Mahtab Singh, barely escaped with their lives and found a refuge in her father's house in Kamiana. Sirdar Dal Singh only enjoyed his success for a single month. The children of the murdered chief were very young, the eldest being no more than seven years of age: but they had many friends, the most able of whom was their maternal uncle, Fauju Singh, one of the Sirdars of Sher Singh Singhwala, and Dal Singh was generally hated for his tyranny. A plot to assassinate him was formed, and Fauju Singh, with a few armed men, surprised Dal Singh in the fort at noon, and killed him. Then they beat a drum, which was the signal for the friends of the young Gulab Singh to bring him into fort. There he was declared chief without opposition, and his uncle, Fauju Singh, was appointed diwan or minister. The affairs of the little State were conducted with tolerable efficiency for some time, until Diwan Mohkam Chand, the Lahore General, invaded the Cis-Sutlej territory in the cold season of 1806-07. He seized Zira, Bara, Muktsar, Kot Kapura, and Mari, which had been assigned to Bir, the youngest son of Sukhia, but which had fallen into the hands of the brother-in-law of Tara Singh Gheba. The Diwan then then marched against Faridkot, summoning the garrison to surrender, and, on their refusal, besieged the fort. The garrison trusted more to there position that to their numerical strength. Faridkot was situated in the true desert, and the only water for a besieging army was to be founding a few pools filled with rain water, and scattered round the place, and these the besieged filled with the poisonous branches of a shrub, which so affected the water as to give the Lahore troops the most violent purging, and the General had no other resource than to raise the siege. He contrived, however, to exact a tribute of Rs. 7,000 from Fauju Singh and in his heart resolved to conquer Faridkot on the first favourable opportunity.

CHAP.1. B.

History
And
imprisons him

The fortunes
of Sirdar
Charat Singh.

Sirdar Dal
Singh
assassinated.

Mohkam
Chand
besieges
Faridkot.

But is
compelled to
retire.

CHAP. I, B.

History

Ranjit Singh of
Lahore captures
the town.

The estate is
given in jagir to
Diwan Mohkam
Chand.

Its restitution
demanded by the
British
Government.

The Maharaja
maintains his
right to it.

FARIDKOT STATE]

Mohkam chand.

[PART A.

This opportunity was not long in arriving ⁽¹⁾ While Mr. Metcalfe, the Agent of the British Government, who had been sent to the Maharaja to conclude a treaty, offensive and defensive, against France, was in his camp, Ranjit Singh crossed the Sutlej with his whole army, on the 26th September 1808, and marched against Faridkot. He himself halted at Khai, and sent forward an advanced guard, to which the fort surrendered without resistance, for the garrison knew that the Maharaja was present in person with the army, and his reputation for uninterrupted success was at this time so great that he rarely met with direct opposition. A few days afterwards he himself marched to Faridkot, much elated at finding himself in possession of so fine a fort with so little difficulty. Mr. Metcalfe accompanied him; for the Maharaja, under pretence of signing the treaty, drew the British Agent from one place to another forcing him to be a unwilling spectator of all his Cis-Sutlej acquisitions; and although Mr. Metcalfe's diplomacy was much com-mended by the Government of the day, there can be little doubt that he was outwitted by the Maharaja, who would have been permitted to retain all his conquests to the south of the Sutlej, had not the policy of the British Government suddenly undergone a change by the removal of all apprehension of a French invasion ⁽²⁾

Before abandoning the fort, Fauju Singh made s good terms for his nephews as were possible, obtaining a grant of 5 villages, ⁽³⁾ to which they retired. The Phulkian Chiefs each tried to obtain the district of Faridkot from the Maharaja. Patiala had formerly made a similar claim and now did its best; but Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha and Raja Bhag Singh of Jind both bid high. But Diwan Mohkam Chand, who had set his heart on possessing Faridkot ever since his repulse in 1807, was the fortunate grantee, although he had to pay a large *nazarana*.

When the British Government demanded from the Maharaja the restitution of all his conquests on the left bank of the Sutlej, made during 1808 and 1809, Faridkot was the place he surrendered most unwillingly. To it he pretended to have special right-firstly, from its being a dependency of Kot Kapura, which he had previously conquered; and secondly, from an alleged promise made by the owners when it was besieged in 1807, that they would, within one month, put themselves under his authority, and that, should they fail to do so, they would consent to undergo any punishment which; he might think fit to impose upon them. With regard to the first claim advanced, it is manifest that no right could be maintained on account of any connection between Kot Kapura and Faridkot. Ever since the division of the territory among the

(1) Vide ante, p 101.

(2) Mr. c. Metcalfe, to Government, 30th sep. 1st October, 5th October, 1808 Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala, to Resident, Delhi, 3rd December 1808 Resident, Delhi, to Captain Close Acting Resident with Sindhia. 16th January 1809.

(3) Pakhi . Pipli, Kaniana, Chahal and Hindaliana.

FARIDKOT STATE.] Mohkam Chand and Gulab Singh. [PART A. sons of Sukhia, Faridkot had been independent, more powerful than Kot Kapura, and in no way subject to it. Even had there been any connection such as that alleged, the Maharaja's case would have been no stronger, for his seizure of Kot Kapura, before he had requested the assent of the British Government of the extension of his conquests beyond the Sutlej, could not warrant his seizure of Faridkot after he had made such a request.

The second ground on which the Raja based his right was in some degree more valid, except that it truth could not be ascertained, and the conduct of the garrison and the sudden and forced retreat of Diwan Mohkam Chand seemed to contradict it: nevertheless, the British Envoy consented to refer to claim of Faridkot, being an old conquest, for the decision of Government. This proposal did not at all please the Maharaja, who told Mr. Metcalfe that he must consult with the Chiefs of his army on the Sutlej, respecting the propriety of restoring Faridkot. The Envoy replied that he should consider the Maharaja's moving to join his army on the Sutlej as a declaration of war, and quit his court accordingly ⁽¹⁾

Diwan Mohkam Chand at this very time returned from Kangra where he had been negotiating with Raja Sansar Chand for the expulsion of the Gurkhas; and took up his position at Phillaur commanding the passage of the Sutlej at its most important part, opposite the town of Ludhiana. His inclination was for war with the British, whom he hated and suspected, and he did not wish his master to surrender Faridkot, which had been made over to him in *jagir*. His influence, from his experience and ability, was very great with the Maharaja, and it was Mr. Metcalfe's firmness, alone which, at this time, prevented a rupture with the English.

Ranjit Singh at length, and with great unwillingness gave orders for the evacuation of Faridkot. But Diwan Mohkam Chand evaded compliance as long as possible. He wrote to the Maharaja that a British officer had been appointed to proceed to Faridkot, and that it was intended to occupy the place with a British garrison and urged his master to suspend his order until such time as he could verify the information sent him ⁽²⁾ The British Government had no intention of garrisoning the town, but they had determined that it should be surrendered to its original owners, and it was resolved by the Resident of Delhi to compel the restitution by force of arms. The hot weather was approaching, when the British army could not act in the field without great inconvenience, and the immediate march of troops on Faridkot would hasten its surrender if Ranjit really intended it; or in case the evil counsels of Diwan Mohkam Chand should prevail, would only precipitate a contest which would sooner or latter be inevitable ⁽³⁾

CHAP. I, B.

History

The surrender of Faridkot almost made a *causes belli* between Lahore and the English.

Every means of evading compliance used.

(1) Mr. C. Metcalfe, to Secretary to Government, 22nd December 1808, and 12th January 1809.

(2) Mr. C. Metcalfe, to Government, 4th and 22nd March 1809

(3) Resident at Delhi, to Military Secretary to Commander-in-chief, 1st April 1809. Resident, Delhi, to Government, 5th February 1809. General ochterlony, to Adjutant-general, 5th February 1809.

CHAP.1. B.

History

But it is finally restored.

The minority of Gulab Singh.

The revenue of Faridkot.

The assassination of Gulab Singh

His younger brother suspected of the crime.

Attar Singh acknowledged Chief.

FARIDKOT STATE.] Attar Singh and Pahar Singh. [PART A.

At the last moment, however the Maharaja shrank from a collision with the English, and, on the 3rd of April 1809, restored Faridkot to Sirdar Gulab Singh and his brothers⁽¹⁾ All obstacles to the completion of the treaty between Lahore and the British Government were now removed, and it was signed shortly afterwards.

Fauju Singh ably administered the affairs of the State until Gulab Singh became adult. No further attempts were made by Lahore to obtain possession, and Faridkot was so far distant from the stations of the British Political Agents, and was so insignificant in size and importance, that for many years its very existence seemed almost forgotten.

The revenue of Faridkot was at this time very small, and always fluctuating. The country was entirely dependent on rain for cultivation, and this fell in small quantities, and some years not at all. Wells were difficult to sink, and hardly repaid the labour of making them, as the water was from 90 to 120 feet below the surface. In the favourable season the estate yielded Rs. 14000 or Rs. 12,000, in a bad season Rs. 6000, and sometimes nothing whatever. The number of villages in the estates, principally new ones, was about sixty.

Gulab Singh married two wives, one the daughter of Sirdar Jodh Singh Kaleka, of Jamma in Patiala, and the second, the daughter of Sirdar Sher Singh Gil of Gholia in the Moga territory.

On the 5th of November 1826, Sirdar Gulab Singh was assassinated when walking alone outside the town of Faridkot. The persons who were last seen with him before his death were jaideo, a Jat, and Bahadur, a silversmith, and their flight seemed to connect them with the crime. But, if these men were the actual assassins, it was generally believed that the instigators of the crime were Fauju Singh, Manager, and Sahib Singh, the youngest brother of the Chief. No shadow of evidence could be procured against the former who had served the family faithfully for 25 years, but the discovery of Sahib Singh's swords as one of those by which his brother met his death, the concealment of the scabbard and his contradictory replies when Captain Murray, the Political Agent, questioned him, were suspicious in the extreme; but in the absence of all direct proof he was acquitted⁽²⁾

Gulab Singh had left one son, a boy named Attar Singh, nearly four years old, and, as the custom of primogeniture seemed to prevail in the Faridkot family, this child was acknowledged as Chief by the British

(1) Resident at Delhi, to Government. 9th April; General Ochterlony, to Government 28th March and 5th April 1809.

(2) Captain Murray to Sir C. Metcalfe, 13th November and 21st December 1826. Mr. E. Brandreth, in his Settlement Report of Ferozpur, notes that Pahar Singh was suspected of his brother's murder. No such suspicion ever attached to him.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Pahar Singh.

PART A.

CHAP. I, B.

History

Government, the administration of affairs remaining, until he should reach his majority, in the hands of Fauju Singh and Sirdarni Dharm Kaur, the Widow. Pahar Singh and Sahib Singh had, during the lifetime of their brother, lived with him and enjoyed the estate in common, and it was decided that they were at liberty to remain thus, an undivided family or should they desire it, to receive separate *jagirs* ⁽¹⁾

Another brother of the late Chief, Mehtab Singh, was living, but his mother had been divorced by Sirdar Mohr Singh and he was not entitled to inherit.

The young Chief Attar Singh died suddenly in August 1827. It was generally believed that he had been murdered for, in this unhappy family, it was the exception, and not, the rule, for death to result from natural causes, but the crime, if such it were, could not be brought home to any individual. The child was of so tender an age that he lived in the women's apartments, and no satisfactory investigation was possible ⁽²⁾ Sirdar Pahar Singh was now the legitimate heir, supposing the right of collateral succession to be admitted, and was acknowledged as such the British Government, being required to make such provision for his younger brother and sister-in-law as the custom of the family might justify ⁽³⁾

His sudden death.

The new Chief was a liberal-minded and able man, and immensely improved his territory, more than doubling the revenue in twenty years. He founded many new villages, and; the lightness of the assessment and his reputation for justice and liberality induced large numbers of cultivators to immigrate from Lahore and Patiala to his territory. The larger portion of the States was desert when he acquired it, and the Journal of Captain Murray, written in 1823, describes the country at sunrise, as presenting the appearance of a vast sea of sand, with no vegetation except *pilu* or other desert shrubs which added little to the life of the landscape. But the soil, although sandy, only required water to produce magnificent crops of wheat. In old days a canal from the Sutlej had been dug by one Firu Shah from near Dharamkot, half way between Firozpur and Ludhiana, and, passing by Kot Isa Khan to Mudki, had irrigated the country to some distance south of Faridkot, where it was lost in the sand, ⁽⁴⁾ Sirdar Pahar Singh was not rich enough to make canals, but he dug many wells and induced the peasants to

Sirdar Pahar Singh. His character and administration.

(1) Investigation at Faridkot, 22nd November 1826. Resident at Delhi, to Captain Murray, 4th January 1827.

(2) Captain Murray, to Resident at Delhi, 2nd September 1827.

(3) Resident, Delhi, to Captain Murray, 6th and 20th September 1827. Captain Murray, to Resident, Delhi, 16th September 1827.

(4) Traces of this canal are still to be seen. The tradition in the country is that an ancient Chief of Faridkot had a daughter of great beauty whom he declared he would only give to a man who should come to Faridkot riding on a wooden horse. This Firu Shah accomplished by digging a canal and coming to win the beauty in a boat. On his return journey with the lady, he asked for a needle, which she was unable to have him, and suspecting that she would not prove a good housewife he left her at Mudki on the banks of the canal where a large mound of earth is supposed to convince the sceptical of the Truth of the story.

CHAP. I, B.

History.

His family.

His quarrels with
Sahib Singh. His
brother.The good service
of Pahar Singh
during the Sutlej
campaign.

FARIDKOT STATE.] *Sahib Singh and Pahar Singh.* [PART A. dig other, and set an example of moderation and benevolence, which might have been followed with great advantage by other and more powerful Chiefs.

Sahib Singh, his second brother, died soon after he assumed the Chief ship; and to Mehtab Singh the son of Mohr Singh's divorced wife, he gave a village for his maintenance. He married four wives, the first of whom, Chand Kaur, was the daughter of Samand Singh Dhalwal of Dina, and became the mother of Wazir Singh, the next Raja. His second wife, Dessu, was the daughter of a Gil zimindar of Mudki, and bore him two sons, Dip Singh and Anokh Singh, who both died young. He married the third time, by *Chaddar dalna*, the widow of his brother Sahib Singh; and lastly Jas Kaur, the daughter of Rai Singh of Kaleka, in the Patiala Territory.

The first years of Pahar Singh's Chiefship were not by any means peaceful, and according to the custom of the family, his brother Sahib Singh took up arms against him and gave him so much trouble that the Chief begged for the assistance of English troops to restore order, and failing to obtain these, was compelled to accept assistance from the Raja of Jhind, although such procedure was highly irregular, one of the conditions of British protection being that no State should interfere in the internal affairs of another. ⁽¹⁾ However, on the death of Sahib Singh, everything went on well, and the Sirdar was able to carry out his reforms without any further interruption, excepting occasional quarrels with the officer of the Lahore Government commanding at Kot Kapura, which was only six or seven miles to the south of Faridkot, and which, was only six or seven miles to the south of Faridkot, and which, as the ancestral possession of his family, Pahar Singh would have been very glad to obtain ⁽²⁾

An opportunity for attaining this, the great desire of his heart, at last arrived, and Pahar Singh, like a wise man, seized it without hesitation. When the war with Lahore broke out in 1845 and so many of the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs were indifferent or hostile, he attached himself to the English and used his utmost exertions to collect supplies and transport, and to furnish guides for the army. On the eve of the battle of Ferozeshah he may have shown some little vacillation, but that was a critical time, when even the best friends of the English might be excused for a little over caution, and after it was fought, though neither side could claim it as a victory and the position of the English was more critical than ever, he remained loyal and did excellent service. ⁽³⁾ He was rewarded by a grant of half the territory confiscated from the

(1) Mr. F. Hawkins, Agent, Resident, Delhi, to Captain Murray, 22nd September 1829. Captain Murray, to Mr. Hawkins, 27th September 1829.

(2) Captain Murray, to Resident, Delhi, 26th December 1829.

(3) Report of Colonel Mackeson to Government, 27th July 1846, and of Mr. R. Cust, 7th March 1846.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Pahar Singh.

[PART A.

Raja of Nabha, his share, as estimated in 1846, being worth Rs. 35,612 per annum. CHAP. I B.

History

The ancestral estate of Kot Kapura was restored to him; and he received the title of Raja. In lieu of customs duties, which were abolished, he was allowed Rs. 2,000 a year, and an arrangement was made by which the rent-free holdings in the Kot Kapura *ilaga* should lapse to the Raja instead of to the British Government, a corresponding reduction being made in the commutation allowance, ⁽¹⁾ each time such a holding lapsed.

Raja Pahar Singh died in April 1849, in his fiftieth year, and was succeeded by his only surviving son Wazir Singh, then twenty-one years of age.

His death, A.D. 1849.

In 1850, Government directed attention to the adjustment of the accounts in connection with the transfer of territory, and ordered an enquiry into *muafis*. The boundaries of the district were revised and corrected in 1853, and Rs. 19,998-1-0 were found to be drawn in excess by the State. In return, therefore, some villages in *pargana* Kot Kapura, the whole of *pargana* Muktasar including Bajewala assessed at Rs. 60, which had been granted to the State and whose income nearly equaled the above excess, were resumed by Government. *Mauzas* Ghaimara and Misriwala Harchukka, assessed at Rs. 604, which had been made over to the State in 1850 in exchange for Mauza Tutwala (assessed at Rs. 400) and Saupwali (Rs. 200), also lapsed to Government. Thus the State remained in possession of territory yielding Rs. 50, 630. It was decided that *muafis* should be resumed from time to time when the revenues of the resumed *jagirs* were found to be equal to the revenue of a village situated in, but on the boundary limit of the State, this village should be made over to Government and the *muafis* should in return lapse to the State. But in 1862 an arrangement was come to by which, in the event of a *jagir* being resumed, the State should, on payment of 20 times the *muafir* revenue, receive the resumed *muafi*. This arrangement still continues.

Raja Wazir Singh

Revision of boundaries.

The Raja's administration.

Raja Wazir Singh founded new Villages and grouped villages into four *parganas* for revenue purposes, viz., Faridkot, Dipsinghwala, Kot Kapura and Bhagta. *Parganas* Faridkot and Kot Kapura were made tahsils and Tahsildars appointed; each *pargana* was also made a *thana* and *Thanadars* appointed. A post office was opened, and in 1856 Court-fees were fixed at Rs. 7-8-0 percent. On the value of the suit. This rate was raised to Rs. 10 Per cent in 1870. The Raja also introduced a system of written plaints and himself held a court. In 1861 he constructed bazaars in Faridkot and started the first settlement in which the village lands were

(1) Report of Sir Henry Lawrence to Government, 18th September 1846; and Government to Sir Henry Lawrence, 17th November 1846. *Sanad*, dated 4th April 1846, from Governor-General creating Pahar Singh Raja, and conferring on him a valuable *Khillat*.

CHAP. I B.

History

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Wazir Singh.

[PART A.

surveyed and the rights of the *zamindars* determined. The settlement, however, was not completed after the survey in 1865, he changed the *batai* system of paying revenue in many villages into cash payments, generally at the rates of annas 2 per *ghamaon* of *banjar* land annas 8 per *ghumaon* of cultivated land. He increased the revenue of the villages in Tahsil Kot Kapura which were already assessed in cash. In 1871 the *banjar parta* was also increased and made equal to that in the cultivated area. Simple rules were framed for making and preserving records of cases. In 1867, the Raja reformed his army and divided it into companies. Drill was introduced and uniform supplied. In 1872 he continued to carry out these reforms with the aid of European officers appointed by himself. Peace reigned in the State and crime was greatly reduced. Infliction of fines became the usual punishment. He realized large sums by selling the grain received in *batai*, and his few employes were only paid small salaries. The treasury was full.

His services.

Raja Wazir Singh, during the second Sikh war of 1849, had served on the side of the British. During the mutiny of 1857 he seized several mutineers and made them over to the British authorities. He placed himself and his troops under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner of Ferozpur, and guarded the ferries of the Sutlej against of the passage of the mutineers.

And rewards

His troops also served under General Von Cortlandt with credit in Sirsa and elsewhere, and he, in person, with a body of horse and two guns, attacked a notorious rebel, Sham Das, and destroyed his village. ⁽¹⁾ For his services during 1857-58, Raja Wazir Singh received the honorary title of "Barar Bans Raja Sahib Bahadur," the right to a *khillat* of eleven guns. He was also exempted from the service of ten sowars, which he had been previously obliged to furnish. ⁽²⁾

Sanads.

On the 11th March 1862, the right of adoption was granted him, with a *sanad* ⁽³⁾

On the 21st April 1863 he was granted a formal *sanad* ⁽⁴⁾ confirming these rewards and privileges and guaranteeing him in his possessions, but conferring no new rights. It appears from this *sanad*

(1) Letters from Deputy Commissioner, Ferozpur, 14th 16th, 20th and 27th May, 12th July, 7th and 12th August, to Raja Wazir Singh.

(2) Commissioner, Lahore, to Raja Wazir Singh, 2nd August 1858, enclosing letter from Governor-General.

(3) "Her Majesty being desirous that the Governments of the several Princes and Chiefs of India, who now govern their own territories, should be perpetuated, and that the representation and dignity of their houses should be continued, in fulfillment of this desire this *sanad* is given to you to convey to you the assurance, that on failure of natural heirs the British Government will recognize and confirm any adoption of a successor made by yourself or by any future Chief of your State that may be in accordance with Hindu Law and the customs of your race.

"Be assured that nothing shall disturb the engagement thus made to you so long as your house is loyal to the Crown, and faithful to the conditions of the treaties, grants or engagements which record its obligations to the British Government".

(4) No. six in Atchison's "Treaties, Engagements and Sanad."

FARIDKOT STATE]

Bikram Singh.

[PART A.

that by this date the value of the rent free holdings of Kot Kapura which had lapsed since the restoration of that territory to Raja Pahar Singh in 1846 amounted to Rs. 4,238 so that allowing for the grant made to the Raja in lieu of customs, the Raja had to pay Rs. 2,238 annually to the British Government.

Raj Wazir Singh himself married four wives, Ind kaur, the daughter of Sham Singh Man of Munsab and mother of Bikram Singh, the daughters of Basawa Singh of Raipur and Sardar Gajja Singh of Lahore, and the widow of his brother Anokh Singh, who died of cholera in 1845.

While on a pilgrimage to Apchhahnagar, Raja Wazir Singh died at Thanesar in April 1874 after a reign of 25 years. He was a strict follower of the Sikh religion, and his *samadh*, where food distributed at the expense of the State, still stands at the place of his death.

Raja Bikram Singh succeeded his father at the age of 32, Well skilled in languages and an able ruler; he administered the State with conspicuous ability and inaugurated various reforms.

He abolished the Tahsil of Kot Kapura and amalgamated *pargana* Dipsinghwala with Fardkot, and Bhagta with Kot Kapura. The *thanas* in these abolished *parganas* were reduced to the status of our-posts. He employed retired British officials of experience, and in 1875 he formed offices and courts on the British model, and adopted British Law. Twelve years was fixed as the period of limitation in cases of dept. The period was reduced to six years in 1881. In the same year receipt stamps were ordered to be affixed on ordinary receipts, under the Indian Stamp Act. The army was doubled and the Police force organized on a regular basis. Palaces were built and gardens lay out, adding thereby vastly to the attractions of the State.

In 1879 the Raja introduced restriction on the consumption of intoxicating liquors. Distillation was forbidden and under the Excise Act, an *Abkari* department and distillery were established in Faridkot.

The people of Faridkot at first used to live in the Fort, but in 1837, a town was laid out beyond its walls and the people were settled there. In 1885, bazaars were erected on an improved plan. Formerly the agriculturists had paid cash revenue or *batai* at uniform rates and no distinction was made between owners or tenants because rights of tenant ship or ownership were not defined. In 1879, therefore, survey according to the British Settlement rules began and in 1889 an assessment of the revenue was made. In this settlement the Raja' claim to taluqdari rights over *almost all the villages* of the State was established and the *zimindars* were declared inferior proprietors (*malik adna*). But the Raja retained the rights of ownership over about *half the area of the State*.

CHAP. 1, B.

History

His family

His death.

Raja Bikram
Singh

His reforms.

Modern
Faridkot

Settlement.

CHAP. I, B.

History

Sirhind canal.

Railway.

Postage stamps.

Bank.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Bikram Singh

[PART A.

i.e., over 33 complete villages and over 1,75,000 *ghumaons* of land in various other villages. Those who were in possession of these lands were declared occupancy tenants and tenants-at-will. In 1892 revenue rates were fixed and the revenue increased by Rs. 90,000. The revenue papers however were not completed till 1900 and it was not till that year that *malikana* dues were fixed. Rent due from State tenants was changed from *batai* to cash in all except fourteen villages. The succession laws of the State were codified and succession dues fixed, varying from one anna per rupee of revenue to one-fourth the market value of the property according to the remoteness of relationship between the heir and the original owner. The Sirhind Canal was brought into the State in 1885 with the result that cultivation greatly increased and crops unknown before were now produced.

The North-Western Railway was extended to the State in 1884. Markets were established and in 1894 land was given at low prices to shopkeepers and traders from outside the State. Octroi duties were abolished and in 1896 cattle fairs were established, large sums being spent on these fairs in prizes. Schools and charitable hospitals were started in 1875 and *dharamsalas* and rest houses for travelers were built in 1886 *Sadabarats* or free kitchens were established in Faridkot, Thanesar and Amritsar. Metalled roads were constructed and lined with trees. Sanskrit *patshalas* were opened where food was given to the students. The Raja subscribed towards all works of public utility. During the famine of 1896 he sold his old stock of grain at cheap rates, thousands of maunds being sold to the people of the State and adjacent territories. Revenue was suspended and *takari* advances made to the agricultural classes.

In 1881 one pice Postal stamps were introduced into the State for use on letters dispatched from the State, On letters received from the British Post Offices for distribution in the State a cash fee besides that levied by the British Postal authorities was realized.

This system was changed under Postal Conventions signed between Government and the State on the 30th November 1886 and on the 1st October 1896; under each of these the Government supplied surcharged British Indian stamps to the State at cost price, which were sold at the usual rates to the public for inland postage only.

In 1875 the Sri Govind Sheo Shankar Bank was established in Faridkot This Bank has advanced many thousands of rupees to the people of the State and other. The Raja was appointed a Fellow of the Punjab University, which he aided with large sums of money. Bikram Singh also took a keen interest in Social Reform. He spent large sums in getting a commentary of the Guru Granth Sahib made by Gianis, Sadhus, Mahants, Sants and others , who were invited from remote

FARIDKOT STATE]

Balbir Singh.

[PART A.

places. He erected, a Gurdwara of Guru Govind Singh at Mauza Gurusar. One plough of land was granted to it in *muafi*. He also erected another temple in the Lakhi jungle at Mauza Mahma Sarja and granted a *muafi* to it. He had a Gurdwara of Guru Har Govind Sahib built at Srinagar in Kashmir a made a grant of Re. 1-4 0 per day for *karah pershad* in the *mandirs* at Amritsar, Patna, &c. He built the temple at Muktsar and showed his religious zeal by going on various pilgrimages.

The Raja had a fondness for the mechanical arts and erected many handsome buildings in Faridkot, including the large building in the Fort. He took a keen interest in the well-being of his State and fully appreciated his responsibilities. His loyalty to the British Government was shown on many occasions, notably when in 1878 he dispatched a contingent for service in the Afghan war. As a result of this act the title of *Farzand-i-Saadat Nishan Hazrat Kaisar-i-Hind* was bestowed on the Raja and his heirs. In 1887. The State raised a contingent of Imperial Service Troops consisting of 50 cavalry and 200 infantry.

Raja Bikram Singh was twice married, his first wife being the daughter of Raja Nahr Singh of Balabgarh, but she bore him no son. He therefore married the daughter of Sardar Partab Singh, Rallawala of Patiala, and Tika Balbir Singh, the late Raja, was born in August 1869.

After a rule of 24 years Bikram Singh died in August 1898, aged 56 years.

Tika Balbir Singh succeeded his father Bikram Singh and was installed on the *gadi* in December 1898.

According to the will of the late Raja, his younger son Kanwar Gajindar Singh, who was a minor at the time, received *biswadari* villages in Dhana *ilaqa*, &c., for his maintenance. In 1900 Ganjindar Singh died leaving two sons, Brij Indar Singh and Shive Indar Singh. Of these the elder Brij Indar Singh was declared by the Raja to be his heir-apparent.

Soon after Raja Balbir Singh's succession the Imperial Service Cavalry and Infantry were replaced by a corps of Sappers; for these the Raja built fine cantonments, which were opened by Sir Charles Rivaz, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, in January 1905.

In addition to these cantonments the Raja erected other important buildings, including the Victoria Memorial Clock tower and the Raja Mahal.

In 1899 there was a time of great scarcity and famine. Relief works were opened and the State sold grain to the people at a cheap rate.

CHAP. 1, B.

History

His character and services.

His death.

Raja Balbir Singh.

Imperial Service troops.

Buildings.

Famine.

FARIDKOT STATE.] *Balbir Singh and Brij Indar Singh.* [PARTA.
CHAP. 1, B.-----
HistoryRaja brij indar
Singh.

The Raja did much to develop and promote the breeding of horses and cattle in the State.

The Middle School of the State was raised to the status of an Anglo-Vernacular High School in April 1901.

Raja Balbir Singh died in February 1906. His successor Brij Indar Singh was installed by the Commissioner of Jullundur in March of the same year. In November 1906 the young Raja, who had previously received private tuition in Faridkot, joined the Aitchison College at Lahore; his career here was most successful and he left in 1914 after passing the Diploma test and gaining distinction in the subject of "Administration." After a pleasure trip to Kashmir he returned to Faridkot to familiarize himself with the administration of his State.

His family.

In October 1912 the State was thrown into mourning by the sad death of Kanwar Shib Indar Singh, the younger brother and constant companion of the Raja.

In 1913 the Raja's sister was married to the Maharaja of Bhartpur.

The Raja himself is married to the daughter of Sardar Jewan Singh, c.s.i., of Shahzadpur, and on the 29th January 1915 the union was blessed with the birth of a son, the present Tika Sahib.

Administration.

Owing to the minority of the Raja Council of Regency was appointed in 1906, consisting of a president and two members. The first President was Sardar Bahadur Resaldar Partap Singh who held that office till June 1909 when he was succeeded by Sardar Bahadur Dyal Singh, Man. Up till the end of 1913 the State had been under the political control of the Commissioner of Jullundur, after which a separate Political Agency was established for the States of Bahawalpur, Faridkot and Malerkotla. This change was followed in April 1914 by the abolition of the Council and the appointment, in the interest of good management, of a Superintendent. The appointment of Superintendent was given to Rai Bahadur Ganga Sahai who had had considerable experience of similar work in the States of Rajputana and Central India. Since his appointment much has been done towards reorganizing the administration and suppressing abuses that had grown up in the time of the council.

Buildings

During the time of the Council much was done in the way of erecting State buildings, amongst these may be mentioned the State Stables, the Lady Dane-Rani Suraj Kaur Zenana Hospital, the Brij Indar High School and Boarding House the new Guest House, the Cavalry and Infantry lines, the Excise Distillery, the Kot Kapura Model Village, School buildings and Police Station, the Model Farm, the Grain Elevator and the Stud Stables in Sikhanwala Bir. Most of these are fine brick buildings and they form of principal benefit, which accrued to the State under the Council. The last two, however, have been found unsuitable for the purposes for which they were erected.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Brij Indar Singh.

PART A.

His Highness and Kanwar Shib Indar Singh attended the Coronation Darbar n their Imperial Majesties the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress at Delhi in 1911, the latter acting as a page to His Excellency the Viceroy.

The many services rendered by the State to the Imperial Government in the present war cannot suitably be discussed whilst it is still proceeding, suffice it to mention that the Faridkot Imperial Service Sappers left on foreign service very early in the history of the war and are rendering valuable service in one of the war areas.

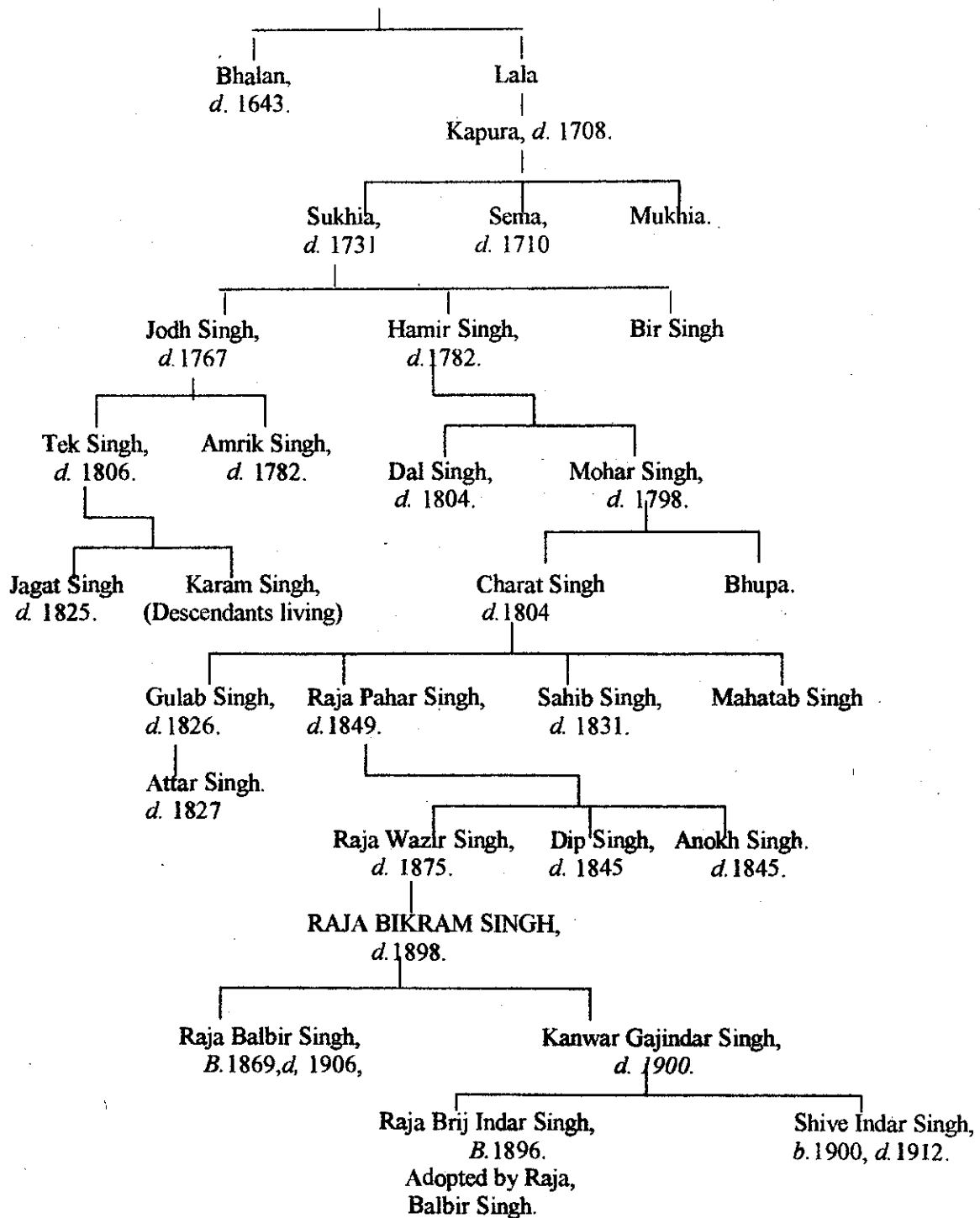
CHAP. 1, B.

History

The Darbar of 1911.

War services
1914-15

GENEALOGY OF THE FARIDKOT CHIEFS.
SANGAR.



CHAP. 1, C.

Population.

Section C. --- Population.

Faridkot with a total population of 1,30,294 persons is slightly more densely populated than the Province as a whole, the density being 206 to the square mile as opposed to 177 which is the average for the Punjab. The average number of persons to a square mile of cultivated area is 226, or, if the urban population be excluded 187. These figures remain practically unchanged when culturable area is substituted for cultivated area as there is very little culturable land that is not already under cultivation.

Towns.

The urban population amounts to 22,317 or 17 per cent of the whole and is that of the two towns of Faridkot and Kot Kapura, the population of each of these has uniformly increased, though at a decreasing rate, between each census since 1881. The figures recorded at the census of 1911 were: - Faridkot 11,673 and Kot Kapura 10,644. Besides these two towns there are 180 villages in the State (omitting estates reserved as birs) with an average population of 600 each. The composition of the rural and urban population is markedly different as

	Hindu.	Sikh.	Muhamadan.
Rural	27%	48%	25%
Urban	37%	18%	44%

Shown in the accompanying table though the Muhammadan community forms such a large proportion of the urban population, there are few influential or wealthy townspeople found amongst it

Population by tahsils.

It may be remarked here that, although the census reports and Part B of the Gazetteer give details of population by tahsils, the State is not divided into regular tahsils and it is even doubtful if the same areas have been recorded as tahsils at each census, consequently conclusions drawn from these figures may be misleading.

Migration.

The following table shows the effect of migration on the population of the State as far as can be ascertained from the census report of 1911: -

	Persons	Males	Female.
IMMIGRANTS			
From Punjab	35,316	15,623	19,693
From the rest of India	2,411	1,590	821
From other countries	21	18	3
Total Immigrants	37,748	17,231	20,517
EMIGRANTS			
To the Punjab	25,044	9,713	15,331
To the rest of India	167	93	74
Total Emigrants	25,211	9,806	15,405
Excess of immigrants over emigrants...	12,537	7,425	5,112

FARIDKOT STATE.

Population.

PART A.

CHAP. 1, C.

Population.

This table necessarily omits mention of emigrants from the State to places outside India, but the number of these cannot be very considerable, and the fact that whilst there has been a gain of over 12,000 by migration in the decade 1901-1911 the total population has only increased by 5,382 is one of that shows that the State like the whole of the Punjab has suffered from an excess of deaths over births. Greater significance attaches to this fact when it is remarked that in the previous decade the population of the State only increased by 9,872 in spite of a gain of 12,252 persons by migration. The migration is mainly between the State and neighboring States and Districts; Ferozepore and Patiala, on account of their proximity and the close connection of their agriculturists with those of Faridkot, naturally come highest on the list of Districts and States with which an interchange of population takes place. As would be expected in such local movements the migrants are very largely females. An examination of the detailed figures for migration given in the Census Report reveals many interesting facts, all of which cannot receive mention here; amongst these may be noted that Rajputana contributed 1,885 immigrants to the State in return for only 123 emigrants, nearly all these went to Kot Kapura town where there is a large trading community from that part of India. Again, whilst there is a large interchange of population with all the Phulkain States, Nabha in relation to its size contributes for more than the other two to this interchange, a fact which is largely accounted for by the situation of the Jaito territory of Nabha within the Faridkot State. It is difficult to explain the fact that the State of Kalsia has a far greater connection with Faridkot in this way than the Ambala District and other places in its neighbourhood. Then whilst Lahore and Jullundur Districts each supply the same number (752) immigrants to Faridkot, the emigrants to those districts are 908 and 138 respectively, figures for which it is difficult to account even remembering that Lahore City offers large opportunities for employment whilst Jullundur is a densely populated tract.

Age

The figures by age, sex and civil condition are given in detail in Table 10 of Part B. It may be noted that whereas there are 20,478 children of under five years of age, there are 4,064 less between the ages of five and ten, and between the ages of ten and fifteen a further decrease of 3,134. This might be due to a rapidly increasing birth-rate, but remembering that as has been seen already the population of the State is decreasing but for immigration, it is far more likely that it is due to a very high rate of mortality among children.

This high rate of mortality during youth is a point to which attention should be directed. Further examination of the figures shows that there are 36% less Hindu children between the ages of 10 and 15 than there are under

CHAP. I, C.

Population.

Diseases.

Hindus.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Population.

[PART A.

5 years of age, the corresponding percentage for Sikhs is 27 and for Muhammadans 41; infant mortality is then least amongst the Sikhs who form the rural population, whilst among the Hindus and Muhammadans who are largely townspeople the latter who form the poorer element suffer most in this way.

The tract is, account of its dry climate, a healthy one but the introduction of canal irrigation has led to an increase of malaria. No other disease is sufficiently common to call for remark; the State has at times suffered from the ravages of plagues but on the whole has been remarkably free from this scourge of the Province

BIRTH CEREMONIES

Seven months after a women of the Brahman, Khatri or Arora cast becomes pregnant the ceremony of *simant* is observed, this is called *ritan*. if, however, the seventh month is either Chet or Poh, or if the *Tara* (star) is *ast*, or for some other reason the days be unlucky, the ceremony is performed in the fifth month. On a propitious day in the bright half of the month, the friends of the brotherhood gather at the house of the husband's parents, sweetmeats and sweet rice are prepared and the couple put on new clothes, which are sent by the wife's parents, together with a cocoanut covered in its fiber. Hands are dipped in wet powdered rice and pressed on a patch of the was some two feet square in the name of the ancestors, the couple are made to sit facing this with their clothes tied in knots. This ceremony is known as *gathjora*; the nine planets are then worshipped and the company bow down before the impression on the wall; the woman then takes a cocoanut and a rupee in her lap and after eating some sweetmeats rises from her place, the knots are then untied and the couple sit apart. The women congratulate one another and sweetmeats or rice are distributed among members of the brotherhood.

Among Khatris and Auroras they distribute *pakore* or *gulgule* instead of sweetmeats and rice; and instead of making handprints on the wall they place a lighted lamp made of flour with four wicks floating in *ghi*, which is known as *charmukhiadiwa* in the doorway and the couple bow down before it. *Bhabras* prepare *karahi* (a sweetmeats of flour, *ghi* and sugar), which is placed with cocoanut or rupee, to which the couple bows down.

The whole ceremony is losing favour amongst the higher classes, and even many zamindars fail to observe it; it was never performed except after the first pregnancy

On festival days red clothes are worn. On the first starry evening after the birth of a child its sister, or if there be no sister any virgin girl of the brotherhood, performs the ceremony of washing the

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Hindu.

[PART A.

CHAP. 1, C.

Population.

mother's breast. This rite is observed thus: some water, gur (raw sugar) or milk is poured into a vessel and the woman's breast are washed with green grass or leaves; the child is then made to suck the milk and the girl given a few rupees or ornaments according to the parent's means.

On the fifth or seventh day, the mother is bathed. They make an image of cow dung which is called *wudh watiai* or *wadhata*, cover it with red cloth, bow down before it and offer some grains of wheat which are afterwards given to the midwife. Among the Brahmans on the 11th and among other people on the 13th day, the mother is again bathed in a mixture of ordinary water and Ganges water, her clothes are changed, Ganges water is drunk, and a shirt (*chola*) given by its maternal relations is put on the child. The woman applies collyrium to her own and the child's eyes. After worshipping Ganesh, Brahmins are feasted. Till this day; the mother is considered unclean (*ashudh*) and cannot enter the *chauka* or any other place except her own room (*zachakhana*) But after this, she is even permitted to enter the *chauka* (a clean place where food is cooked) or to go from one room to another and is considered quit clean, i.e. her *sutak* is considered to be over.

On the 21st, 31st or 40th day, the child takes its last bath of ceremony, all the clothes are again changed, the woman begins to go out of the house, and the eunuchs come to dance and receive charity. One, three or five years after the appearance of the first tooth of the child, its *mundane* ceremony is performed.

The Aroras of Bhatinda perform this ceremony of the 14th day of *Katik* or *Phagan* in Khetropal's *asthan* (shrine) under the *jand* tree. Brahmins and Khatri perform it in the *Navratra* at a Dewidwara (temple) or at Kangra or Hardwar. The whole brotherhood assembles, the women sing and *halwa* is distributed among them. At the same time the ears of the child are pierced by a goldsmith. Some people even put on the *-jancoo* at this time, but among Brahmins the *Yaggopawit* (*jancoo*) ceremony is performed between the 7th and 15th year, among Khatri between the 10th and 21st, and among Vaishyas between the 11th and 23^{re}, putting on the *Yaggopawit* at such a time is called *upnayan Sanskar*, and at this ceremony the boy's head is again shaved, new clothes of a crimson colour are put on and his old ones given to the barber, worship is performed and after the boy has put on the sacred thread, the preceptor gives him *guropdesh* (advice of a guru). Afterwards Brahmins are feasted and some sweetmeats sent to the members of the brotherhood. But this ceremony is only observed by those educated in religious doctrines. Common people perform it at the time of the *mundan* or the marriage ceremony. Instead of this ceremony Sikhs perform that or *amrit chhakana* or *pahul lena*.

Among Muhammadans on the birth of child, they first of all cut its navel chord and after two hours birth the child. The father sends for a Qazi

CHAP. 1, C.

Population

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Muhammadans.

[PART A.

who whispers the call to prayer (*bang*) into the right ear and the *takbir* into the left ear if the child, of it is a boy. But if the child is a girl, the Qazi whispers the call to prayer in both ears. In the absence of the Qazi some other reciter is sent for. After this the breasts of the mother are washed by the child's sister or any other girl belonging to the same *biradari*, who receives money or clothing according to the worldly position of the child's parent.

The child is named on the seventh day. On the seventh or eleventh day the mother bathes for the first time and *panjiri* is distributed. This ceremony called *chhati*. The woman again bathes on the 21st and 23rd and the 40th day after the birth of the child.

The child's head is shaved on the seventh or eleventh day. The barber is given some *atta* or *gur* and from four to eight annas for doing his work. This is called the *jhand utarna* ceremony. Well-to-do people celebrate *haqiqqa*, which is a thanksgiving feast, two goats are killed and *zarda pulao* is distributed among the faqirs. Some perform this ceremony before the *jhand utarna* ceremony, and some afterwards.

The eunuchs come to beg and dance on the birth of a child even among Muhammadans.

The *khatna* ceremony is performed on the second or third day. If it is not then performed, it may be performed at anytime before the child completes its seventh or eighth year. The child is made to tie a *gana* (a string) round his hands and feet and sits on a stool, and then the barber performs the *khatna* ceremony. On this occasion all the brotherhood gathers, drums are beaten, *tambol* is taken or received, *gur* (raw sugar) and food are distributed among the members of the *biradari* and charity is doled out. The expenditure incurred in performing the *khatna* ceremony is from five rupees to twenty rupees according to the position of the parents. If the boy is above five years of age every member of the *biradari* gives him one rupee as a present.

Hindus.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS:

Children are betrothed very early. The negotiation, which in former times were left entirely to the barber, the Brahmin and the *lagi*, are now undertaken by the girl's parents. When they have settled on a suitable bridegroom they send the barber or Brahmin on an auspicious day as a matter of form with the usual ceremonies. Betrothal generally costs from 12 to 15 rupees. But now more money is spent on this occasion. *Bhabras* spend even up to Rs. 200.

The date of the marriage is fixed in the first instance by the girl's father after consultation with an astrologer. It is then communicated to the boy's father who consults his astrologer and should he agree, signifies his assent. The bridegroom carries a sword, or some other iron implement while riding to the house of the bride. Two or three days after

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Tribes and Castes.

PART A.

the newly-married couple have reached home, all the women of the brotherhood assemble and eat rice form a common dish. This custom is called *got-kunala* and emphasizes the fact that the bride has entered her husband's *got*. The bride, after staying 4 or 5 days in her husband's house returns home.

Among Muhammadans the customs are much the same. The *quazi*, who performs the betrothal ceremony, asks the parents of the bride and bridegroom in turn in presence of the brotherhood whether they recognize the marriage. This ceremony costs Rs.5. the marriage ceremony itself takes generally on a Thursday. This time the *quiz* asks the contracting parties themselves whether they accept each other. The *got-kunala* ceremony is the same as among the Hindus and the bride returns to her father's house.

Widow re-marriage is practiced both by the Hindus and the Muhammadans but is not generally recognized among the Hindus, but is however observed by the Zamindars, barbers, chhimbas, Kahars, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c., and to some extent it is prevalent among the Aroras as well. Efforts are being made to introduce this custom among other castes also but a success has not been attained so far. Among Pathans, Rajputs Sadat and Mughal classes of the Muhammadans, like the Hindus, widow remarriage is not common and although endeavors were made to bring this custom into force among these castes yet very little success in this respect has been achieved. Polygamy exists, especially among the richer Muhammadans, but it is a question of money rather than religion.

Divorce is chiefly in force amongst Muhammadans, though less so among Muhammadans Rajputs and Afghans. It is practiced by menial tribes.

The people speak Punjabee of the Malwa type. Literate Mahajans use the Lande script and Sikh Gurmukhi.

TRIBES, CASTES AND LEADING FAMILIES.

THE Jats far outnumber any other caste in the State, they total 47,156 persons, of these only 3,593 are recorded as Muhammadan and 491 as Hindu, all the rest being Sikhs.

The most important clan amongst them is that of the Sidhus (19,163) who are practically all Sikhs. The ruling family of the State belongs to this clan. Apart from the Raja who owns one half of the State this clan owns one-fifth of the total area.

Their history is that Ablu and Mahma, descendants of Barar, settled in this neighbourhood about 1706 A.D. The descendants of Mahma live in Six villages-mahma sawai, Mahma Sirkari, Mahma Sarja, Burj Mahma, Mahma Bhagwana and mahma Balahar; whilst the descendants of Ablu live in the villages of Ablu, Danewala, Ganga, Bhissiana and Kili.

CHAP. 1, C.

Population.

Muhammadans.

Language.

Jats.

Sidhu Jats.

CHAP. I, C.

Population

FARIDKOT STATE] Tribes and Castes. [PART A.

Another branch of the Barar family is descended from Wanju who settled in the Bhokhri ilaqa 200 years ago. His village is now in ruins and is known as Theh Wanju. The family thence scattered and is now settled in nine villages, Bhokhri, Amargadh, Khailiwala, Jida, Goniana Kalan, Goniana Khurd, Balahar Wanju, Bhokhra and Jandarwala.

Sanghar, tenth in descent from Barar, founded Panjgirain, and his descendants spread over ten other villages, Jiwanwala, Ghanayawala, Khara, Bahbal Kalan, Bahbal Khurd, Golawala, Ghadduwala, Maniwala, Misriwala, and Kaoni.

The Kapurika branch, to which the ruling family belongs, holds seven villages-Mahmuana, Rorikapura, Mala, Khichran, Ransinghwala, Bargari and Dhuddi.

Minor clans of the Sidhu Jats with their villages are shown below: -

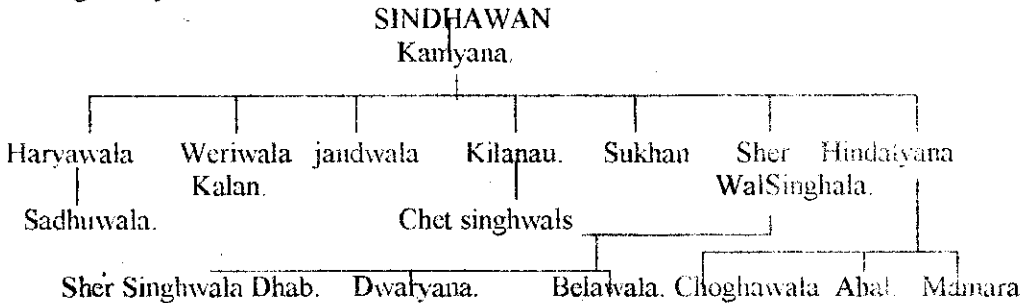
Clan	Villages
Harike	Nawan Hari and Burj Hari.
Maharmae	Dawaryana.
Rusah	Tahna.
Mehrajke	Kalian.
Dewanhe	Dewan.
Khanche	Bajakhana and Burj Laddha Singhwala.
Bhaike	Bhagtah and Burj Jawahar Singhwala.
Bhabuke	Nahyanwala.
Malhana	Pipli.
Warahah	War Daraka.
Jituke	Ramana Albel Singh and Ajitgil.

Gil Jats

The Gil Jats (3,345) come next in numerical importance, though they do not own so much land as the Sindus. They came originally from Sangu, a Village near Patti in the Amritsar District and settled in Chuharchak, a village in the Zira Tahsil of Ferozepore. Thence they moved to the wasteland north of Faridkot. They now own the whole or part of 12 villages- Punjgirain, Sindhwan, Pakhi Kalan, Sangurmana, Mandwala, Chandbaja, PakhiKhurd, Mallewala, Moranwali, Kaniawali, Sarsari and Nathewala

Sindhu Jats.

Kirbe, the ancestor of the Sindhu Jats (2,930) came from Nauthisa, a deserted site near Bhala in Mamdot 300 years ago, and settled first in Sindhawan, a village 6 miles from Faridkot. Their subsequent history is shown in the following table which shows how each of the 17 villages they now inhabit was founded: -



FARIDKOT STATE.]

Tribes and castes.

PART A.

They own 17,014 ghumaons and thus rank next to the Sidhus as landowners in the State.

The Dhillon Jats (2,822) came from the Amritsar District to Kot Kapura City 200 years ago. They are found at the present day in 9 villages- Kot Kapura, Dhillwan Kalan, Dhillwan Khurd, Deviwala, Jakkharwala, Dhodi, Nangal, Ramsinghwala and Gurusar.

The Dhariwala Jats (1,547) came from Patla in Patiala about the same time to Kot Kapura. They are found in Kot Kapura, Dhillwan Kalan and Bhana.

About the Jats the following are local proverbs: -

Jat bigare murshid nal jad bole tad kadhe gal, 'A jat is even ready to argue with his religious teacher. He never speaks to anybody without abusing him.

Banna jat na chhariya bhan sutte buthar. 'A jat will break one's jaw and cheekbone, if he is molested within the limits of his own land.

Jat, Bhat, bakra, chauthi bidwa nar, yeh charon bhuke bhale, rajje karan khawar. A Jat, a Bhat (a Brahmin sect)? a goat and a widow, these four should be kept hungry, because if given enough to eat, they are sure to be insolent in prosperity.

Jat machla Khuda nun le-gae chor 'the jat is so cunning that to shift the blame (for a theft) from his own shoulders to some one else's he supports his innocence by saying God has been stolen by somebody.

Jat, mahiyan, sansar, kabila galda. Kayatah, Kalal, Kamboh, Kabila palda. The Jat, he-buffalo and crocodile all kill their young, whereas the Kayath, Kalal and Kamboh all protect and feed their family; cf. Maconachie, no. 940.

Je ghun lage ve lute, tan oun jane jate, 'A Jat will never express gratitude for anything short of countless favours in hard times.

Je sau barsan minh varhe tasir na hove valte; je sau barsan ilam parhe tasir na hove jatte, 'if it rains for a century, it will never affect a stone; and if a jat reads for a century he will never become learned.

Jat faqir gal gandhiyan di mala jano nahim chako sukhala, 'A Jat mendicant, with a garland of onions round his neck which, if not used for reciting the name of God, will be eaten by him.

The Brahmins (3411) are mainly Sarsuts. Their *gots* are Chatchor, Chatchot, Pathak, Tiwari, sand and Hanut. The Khattris (1,700), Aroras (2,863) and Baniyas (3,318), are the principal commercial castes. The *gots* of the Khattris in the State are Chopra, Kakkar, Kuchhar, Vedi, Mehta, Puri, Hande Deora, Jhata, Chaudhari, Tangari, Sui, Bini, Pasi and palte. Aroras are generally Uttaradhis; Dakhnas and Dahrnas are rare and confined to Kot Kapura City. The Uttaradhis have the following clans: -

Sokija, Kocher, Munga, Sethi, Gandhi, Chawala, narola, Katariya, Kalra, Bazaz, Sajde, Kumhar, Nagpal, Gorowara, Narag, Bigre, Takkar,

CHAP. 1, C.

Population.

Dhillon jats

Dhariwala.

Local proverbs.

Brahmins.
Commercial
castes.

CHAP. 1, C.	FARIDKOT STATE.]	<i>Criminal tribes.</i>	PART A.]
----- Population.	Kalpalihe, Dhingare, Rewari, Sikri, Gakhar, Muglani, Pasricha and Mokle.		
Muhammadan tribes.	The <i>gots</i> of the Dakhnis are: - Bhatye, Giddar, Kukar and Dode. The Datnes are very rarely found. The Aroras came here from kot Isa Khan, Ferozepore and Lahore.		
	The Bantias are chiefly Aggarwals. Their <i>gots</i> are Gir, Gol and Wasil. They came from Kot Isa Khan and Fatehabad.		
Rajputs.	The principal Muhammadan tribes are the Rajputs, Arains, Pathans, Dogars and Gujars.		
	Rajputs are comparatively few (4,046). They are almost all Muhammadans and belong to the following groups: - Bhatti, Chauhan, Joia, Manj and Punwar. The Bhattis live in Bharoki, Bhatti and Kasamki Bhatti, tracing their origin from sirsa and Bhatner. The Joias live in Pindi Balochan, Nahyanwala and Shamriwala. Manj Rajputs live in Janerian,		
Arians.	The Arains (3,260) are good intensive cultivators. They are found in the villages of Arainwala Kalan, Arainwala Khurd and Beguwala and also in the towns of Faridkot and Kot Kapura.		
Gujars.	The Gujars (962) came from Jhok Hari Har in the Ferozepore District fifty years ago and settled in Gujjaran. They are also found in Rajuwala, goliwala, Mahmuana, Shersinghwala, Ablu and Bhokhari.		
Dogars.	The Dogars (1,021) came from Ferozepore District about 100 years ago and settled in Bhagta. Others came from Hissar and settled in Chanian and Rupainwala. They are also found in Sayyidike, Nathalwala, Kaoni, Dip Singhwala and Faridkot itself. They practice <i>karewa</i> in accordance with which custom a man marries his brother's widow.		
Mughas.	The Mughals (634) came in from Moga 90 years ago. They now live in Kot Kapura, Khilchi and Arainwala Kalan. They take service, though not freely. <i>Karewa</i> is gaining favour amongst them. Others live in Pindi Balochan and say they came from the neighbourhood of Multan 50 years ago.		
Pathans.	Pathans number (331). They take service freely. They include the following groups: - Musazai, Nayazai, Madezai, Isahzai, Mohammadzai and Lodi.		
Criminal Tribes	Other tribes in the State who are nominally agriculturists are the Bawarias (3,753) and Sansis (265) They are professional criminals. They have a language of their own, though they speak Punjabi to outsiders. The Bawarias are closer akin to Hindus than Muhammadans and the Sansis Profess themselves Hindus. It is considered a great disgrace among them to be arrested. A man who has suffered arrest, whether he is subsequently convicted or not, has to feast the brotherhood before he is re-admitted. The Bawarias probably come from Southern India.		

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Tribal ownership.

[PART A.

The land owned by various castes and sub-castes is shown below: -

CHAP. 1. C.

Caste.	Sub-caste.	Area owned, in ghumaons.
Jat	Sidhu. (H.H.the Raja Sahib Bahadur)	252,941
	Other Sidhus	106,485
	Sandhu	17,014
	Gill	12,806
	Sekhon	8,192
	Dhillon	6,943
	Other (Sikh & Hindu) ...	29,289
	Other (Muhammadan)...	12,600
Rajput ... ..	.....	4,413
Dogar ... ..	.....	2,100
Moghal ... ..	.....	1,911
Arora ... ..	.....	653
Arain ... ..	.....	510
Tarkhan... ..	.....	1,662
Others ... ..	.....	16,447
Shamilat.. ...	.....	8,981
State ... ..	.....	498
British Government ...	.....	3,381
Abadi ... ..	.....	3,693
Total	.....	490,519

Population

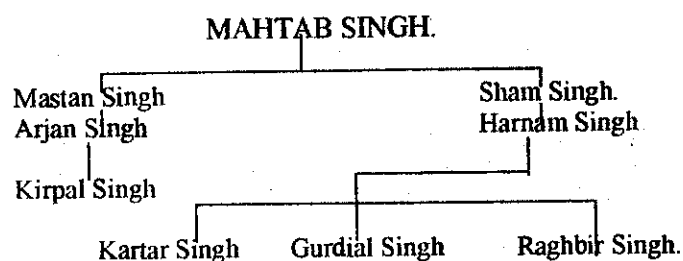
Of the menial castes Chuhars (16,838) are the most numerous. Chamars number 3,291, Kumhars 2,240, Chhimbas 2,064, Lohars 1,585, Mochis 2,976, Nais 2,104 and Jhinwars 1,276.

Menials;

The leading family in the State is that Mahmuana Sardars who are connected with the Ruling family. They enjoy a jagir in that village together with proprietary rights and also hold proprietary rights in Goniana, a village in the Muktsar Tahsil of the Ferozepore District. The pedigree table of the family is given below. Mahtab Singh was a half brother of Raja Pahar Singh. Members of this family are both State and Provincial Drubaries.

Leading families.

Mahmuana.



Sardar Ran Singh was another member of the Chief's house. He was descended from Sardar Amrik Singh, third son of Chaudhari Jodh Singh. He held a jagir granted by the British Government in the village of Ransinghwala and had proprietary rights in bargari. His descendants now enjoy these right. The descendants of Sardar Tek Singh, son of Chaudhari Jodh Singh, hold lands in muafi in Sindhwan and Dawariana.

CHAP. 1, C.

Population.Pakhi Kaian
Sardars,

Machaki Sardars.

The Jain Puj
Family.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

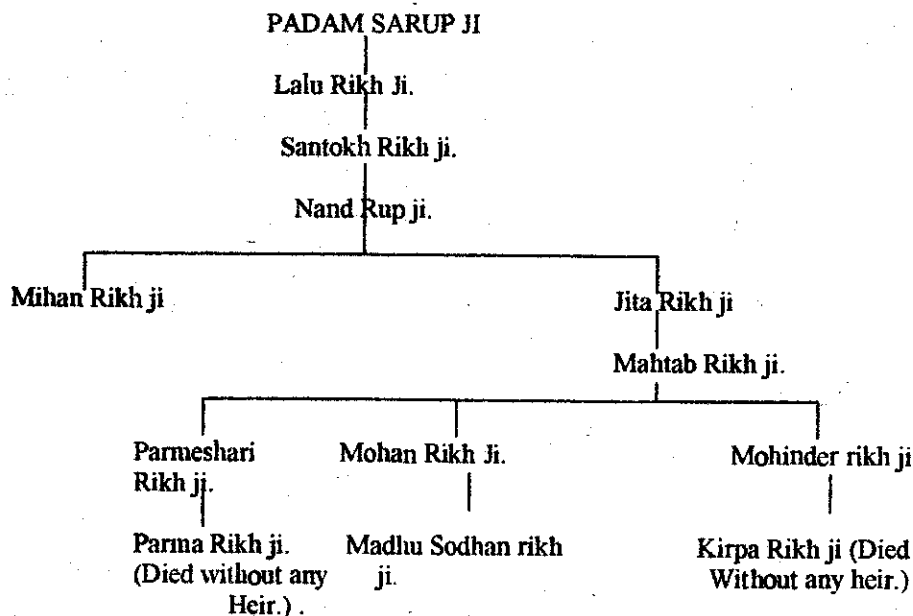
Leading Families.

[PART A.

The Sardars of Pakhi Kalan are Gil Jats. Sirdar Mihan Singh was Munshi to the Political Agent, Cis, -Sutlej States, at the time of the 1st Sikh war and was twice rewarded with a present of Rs. 1,000. The leading members of this family are Colonel Hira Singh, Commandant of the State Infantry, Subedar Narain Singh of the 14th K.G.O. Sikhs, who has rendered extremely valuable service at the Front in the present European war, Jamedar Bishan Singh and S. Bachittar Singh. The last named Sardar was District Magistrate in the Civil Department of the State and in October 1914 accompanied the Faridkot I.S. Sappers, as a Civil Officer, to the Front.

The Sardars of Machaki are Sekhon Jats and are represented by Sardar Jamait Singh, Colonel Sardar Harnam Singh Bahadur, Sardar Indar Singh, Bishan Singh and Raghbir Singh. They hold commissionel offices in the Military Department of the State with the exception of Sardar Indar Singh who is a Police Inspector, Colonel Sardar Harnam Singh, who is Commandant of the Faridkot I.S. Sappers, is now with the company at the Front together with his 2 nephews Sardar Bishan Singh and Sardar Raghbir Singh.

There is a family of Jain Sadhus known as the Puj family who enjoy muafi of the village of Bholuwala in the State, besides property in Malerkotla, Ludhiana and Sadhuara. They are devotees and practice medicines. Their pedigree is given below: -



Other leading men in the State are Sardar Natha Singh, son of Sardar Kharak Singh, Kapureka of Bargari, Sardar Balwant Singh and Sardar Bahal Singh, Kapureka of Matta, Sardar Wir Singh, Wandar of Matta, Resaldar Bishan Singh Sidhu of Bhagta and Sardar Fateh Singh Sandhu of Sainwala and Sardar Karm Singh Gondara of village Gondara who belong to respectable jat families and possess influence and position in their respective communities. Among the priests of the Ruling family Pandit Dewa Ram is the leading man who is also a Municipal Commissioner.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Religion, Food, etc.,

[PART A.

CHAP. 1, C.

The distribution of the population by religions is shown in the

Hindus	37,377
Muhammadans	37,105
Sikhs	55,397
Jains	409
Christians	6

Margin. Among the
Hindus worshippers of
Devi and Vishnu are
common and those of
Shiv very rare.

Population.

Religion

The Sikhs are generally followers of Guru Govind Singh. Comparatively few of them take the *pahul*. There are notable temples in Faridkot, Kot Kapura, Mehma Sarja, Gurusar and Virewala kalan, Dhillwan Kalan (Lakhi Jangal) and Ramiana, all halting places of Guru Govind Singh Sahib on his way to the Deccan. Other temples have been built at Bhagta, Bargari, etc. And Sikh Gurdwaras and Dharmasalas are common in the State.

The condition of the Muhammadans in the State is improving. They are all Sunnis. There are about 15 mosques in the town of Faridkot and some villages as well have got them and their number is increasing. The Chilla of Baba Farid is the only shrine of importance. The jains are chiefly Bhabras and are only found in any numbers in the town of Faridkot. They are wealthy shopkeepers and some of them own land.

Rice is not grown in the State, but is eaten on festive occasion. Food. Ghee and sugar are luxuries and kept for guests. Food is generally eaten two or three times a day, and it is estimated that an artisan or trader consumes one seer and a zamindar $3\frac{1}{4}$ of a seer per diem. Country liquor is in great demand, especially among the Sikhs, who are also addicted to opium and *bhanga*.

Charas is seldom used, *chandu* and *madak* never.

Unmarried girls wear their hair parted in the middle and then plaited. This fashion they give up on marriage. Dress.

Ornaments are of the usual description and are made of gold or silver according to the wealth of the wearer. Houses

In the villages the houses are generally of unburnt brick, one storied but lofty, clean, and spacious. There is only one room as a rule. This is used for sleeping and sitting and for keeping household gear, but in front of it is a wide verandah, with two or three doorways, used for cooking and in the rains for sleeping. The foundations are deep and the walls thick, but the roofs are made of light beams (usually *beri* wood) over which reeds are laid and plastered. Anyone walking on the roof is thus at once heard by those within. The bricks if moulded into oblong shape, are called *chirwin*, but often the lumps, which form in the bottom of a dry pond, are dug out with a *kahi* and used unmoulded. These are called *gumman*. But now owing to their prosperity on account of the rise in the price of grain the zamindars have begun to build better houses of burnt bricks.

Furniture is scanty in a zamindar's house and is limited to the barest necessities. Two and even three - storied houses of modern fashion with good arrangements of ventilation and light are built in the towns and they are generally of burnt bricks.

DEATH CUSTOMS.

Children up to five years old are buried and not burnt, while a child who dies of smallpox is buried up to the age of 10 or 12. An old man who leaves children is carried to the burning ghats on a special bier called *bawan*, which is covered with tinsel-flowers and costly clothes. These clothes are afterwards given away to the *lagis* while the flowers are removed by small children. Over the *bawan* of aged persons, pice, *chhuharas*, *phulain*, etc., are thrown, which are picked up by poor people. *Sunkhs* are blown, bells are rung, and music played before the *bawan*. The *acharaj* performs daily ceremonies over the ashes and the bones are collected on the fourth day and taken to the Ganges. Jains and Bhabras do not collect the bones. *Dussahra* ceremony is observed on the 10th day. The *kiriakaram* ceremony is performed on the 11th day among Brahmins and the 13th day among other castes. If a man dies on a bedstead or on the roof or in any other way that is considered unnatural. The funeral ceremonies are different and are called *narayani bali* the *kiriakaram* of such persons is generally performed at Bhola in Thanesar. Among the Muhammadans the ceremonies are less elaborate. They do not present any striking features

Amusements.

The boys in the towns play chess (*shatranj*), cards (*tash*) and dice (*chaupar*), and fly kites. Wrestling, boxing and cricket are less common. Quail and partidge fighting are popular, and gymnastics are taught in schools. In the village the Native games of the Punjab such as wrestling, *saunchi pakki*, *kaud* kabaddi and *guli danda* are universally played, though village boys may be seen playing a rudimentary kind of hockey, taught them probably by their soldier fathers.

Fairs.

Fairs are numerous and popular. The *Dusehra* and *Baisakhi* are the principal ones, and the *mandis* (which last 10 days each) are well attended.

A fair honour of Bawa Farid is held at the end of the Moharram at the saint's *chilla*. Gifts of small value are offered and accepted by the abbot and the monks. The Mandi fairs are for the buying and selling of horses and cattle. At the Baisakhi the people indulge in singing, wrestling and various other amusements. The fair of Ram Lila, held on the *Dusehra* day, is under State patronage and is the most important fair. Soldiers show their skill with the pike and wrestlers and singers perform. The *tiyan* is the women's festival, it is held on the third of Sawan Shudi and four following days. The *Diwali* and *holi* are celebrated here as elsewhere.

FARIKOT STATE.]

Fairs.

[PART A.

A List of the principal fairs and their dates is given below: -

CHAP I, C.

Population.
Name and
titles

Name of pargana.	Name of fair.	Place.	Why celebrated	Date	Duration	Average attendance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FARIKOT	Dussehra ...	Parade ground	Ram Lila	Month of asauj	11 Days	5,000
	Mandi Dushra.	Cattle market near Balbir Basti	Horse and cattle breeding	On the occasssion of dusschra.	10	5,000
	Mandi, phagan.	Do.	Do Do	1 st to 10 th of phagan	10	2,000
	Nandyani	Nandyani (Faridkot)	In memory of Bawa Hira Dass, Mahant, Dadu Panthi	Phagan Shudi Ekadshi.	1	1,000
	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.	Dharamsala sarkari (Faridkot)	In memory of the birthday of shri Guru Sahib.	7 th of pohshudi	1	1,000
	Bawa Farid Sahib.	Chilla Bawa Faridsahib (Faridkot)	Urs bawa Sahib ...	27 th of Muharram.	3	500
	Marhana ...	Bir Sikhanwala	In memory of Kala Mehar alias Marhana.	1 st of chet Shudi.	1	2,000
	Mahanbir. Swami	Mandi, Faridkot.	In memory of the birthday of Mahabir Sawami.	In the month of chet	1	1,000
	Besakhi	Pakka	In memory of Bawa Ram Saloo Beragi.	1 st of Besakh	1	2,000
	Do	Dhilwan ...	In memory of the arrival of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.	Do ...	1	2,000
KOT KAPURA	Do ...	Guruka jand-Virewala kalan.	Do Do ...	Do ...	1	500
	Kameana ...	Nazar Sain Sedu Shah (village kmcana)	In memory of Sahib Sedu Shah.	In the month of Phagan.	1	500
	Lakhi Jangal	Mehma Sarja (Lakhi jangal)	In memory of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.	10 th Asauj and 10chet	1	1,000
	Sidh Tilkara	Ablu ...	In memory of Siddhu	Do	1	1,000
	Do ...	Balaher Vinjhoo.	Do	Do ...	1	1,000
	Do ...	Burj Mehma	Sitla Pujan	Tuesday in Chet	1	2,000
	Besakhi ...	Bargari ...	In memory of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.	1 st of Besakh.	1	500

CHAPTER II. – ECONOMIC.

Section A. ----- Agriculture.

CHAP. II, A.

----- Agriculture.

General
agricultural
conditions.

Soils

The *rabi* is the important crop in Faridkot. Dust-storms in the summer months are so frequent that it is not worth while sowing a *kharif* crop in the sandy soil, which predominates everywhere except in the canal area. In the *rabi*, on the contrary, general conditions are favourable, rain generally falls at seed-time; one Ploughing is enough, and a little rain in January produces an average crop on this light soil.

The State is divided into *utar* and *hithar* (high and low lying ground). According to the Settlement completed in 1910, five soils are recognized in each of these circles, *karar* (*awal* and *doam*), *gasra* (*awal* and *doam*) and *tibbi*. Very little *karar*, or hard soil, is found in the *hithar*. *Tibbi* is sandy soil often interspersed with sand-hills. *Gasra* is a fertile loam. *Karar* requires much rain or artificial irrigation with the aid of which it will produce bumper crops *tibbi* on the other hand gives the best results in seasons of light rainfall and is never irrigated. Where hard soil is found beneath sand it is generally called *doshashi*, and this combination will produce good crops in all but very exceptional seasons: *doshashi* is not recognised as a distinct soil in the revenue records.

Karar is generally sown with mustard, millet, maize and *mash*. *Gasra* will grow almost anything. Both these soil require heavy rain, but *gasra* less than *karar*. Water lies on the latter and soon evaporates, but it sinks into the softer surface of the *gasra*. The *rabi* crop is not sown at all unless there is rain between the months of Bhadon and Katik. No *kharif* is sown unless rain falls in Har and Sawn. The system of cultivation is mainly *ekfasli harsala*, owing to the causes mentioned above which render the *kharif* a doubtful speculation. If a *kharif* crop is sown, a *rabi* is generally taken immediately after it, and in that case the land will lie fallow on the *dofasli dosala* system during the ensuing year. Canal lands are generally made to produce two crops a year, but for this a plentiful supply of manure is necessary. In the *utar* irrigated area, a *kharif* crop, such as *charri*, will be followed by gram in the *rabi*. Sometimes wheat is sown on the stubble of the *kharif* crop, but if the previous crop has been a good one, no amount of manure will suffice to repair the exhaustion of the soil. Maize is frequently sown on *rabi* stubble. It is a crop that cannot flourish without manure, and the same field is generally kept for maize and constantly manured.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Tillage, etc.

[PART A.

CHAP. II, A.

A yoke of bullocks is generally harnessed to the plough, but in the hithar camels are sometimes employed. The plough is much the same as that used in the Rohi tract of Ferozepore.

Agriculture
Agricultural
operations.
Ploughing.

There are two common methods of Ploughing. in the first the plough is taken round a plot of ground about three *karms* broad and sixty long, this lot is called the *hallan*, each circuit of plough is called an *aur*. When this piece is nearly completed and there is not sufficient space for the bullocks to walk with ease, another similar plot half overlapping the first is ploughed in a similar manner. In this way each plot and half of the next are ploughed over, and eventually every part of the field will have been ploughed twice.

In the second method, called *ghera*, no such plots are chosen but the plough is taken right round the field, each furrow being inside and next to the last. Eventually only the centre of the field and a small space at the turning points of the bullocks are left unploughed; these spaces naturally form diagonals from the corners of the field to the centre, these are ploughed last and are known as *paras*.

After Ploughing, the *sohaga*, a long flat beam, is dragged over the field to break the clods. Seed is always sown through the *por* or drill and not by hand. The *por* is a hollow bamboo with a cup-shaped holder at the top, large enough to contain a handful of grain. If the ground is dry at the time of sowing the plough is run over it to cover the seed, but if it is wet a stick dragged behind the drill is sufficient. A shower of rain after sowing does considerable damage as it hardens the surface of the ground into a crust *karand* which has to be broken with the plough or *sohaga* to enable the seedlings to come through. This crust does less harm to wheat and gram than to barley and mustard. Sometimes the land has to be sown again. For the purposes of irrigation, fields are generally divided into squares of one *kanal*, which are banked up on all sides. When the soil hardens round the young crops, especially cotton, maize and sugar cane, it is broken up with a hoe (*ramba*) and the weeds thus eradicated at the same time.

Threshing is done in two ways, in the first of which a rope is attached to the necks of several bullocks and they are made to walk round the threshing floor. This is called *mer*. The second method is that of the *phala*, a square wooden frame, about 4 feet long, which has a bar of wood below. On this are placed some prickly shrubs, which are weighed down, by two or three extra pieces of wood. This is then tied to a *panjali* or yoke by a wooden bar and dragged by bullocks. By this means the stalks are teased into small pieces. *Saind* cannot be threshed with a *phala*.

Threshing.

The following are the names of some agricultural implements: -

Dutri, a sickle; *karaha*, a big shovel; *toka*, a chopper; *jandri*, a rake; *gandasa*, a chopper; *salang*, a fork with two prongs; *kahi*,

Agricultural
implements.

CHAP, II, A.

Agriculture.

Agricultural
Calendar.

mattock; *chosanga*, a fork with prongs; *angli*, a pitch fork with 7, 9, or 11 prongs; *chhajli*, a winnowing basket; *sabbarkatta*, a wooden spade.

Bullock carts are used to carry the produce from the field to the village or to market. An ordinary cart, with but few iron fittings costs Rs. 50 or Rs. 60, but additional metal sometimes brings the cost up to Rs. 100 or Rs. 150. A cart drawn by two bullocks can carry twenty maunds on a metalled and fifteen on an unmetalled road. Three bullocks are the usual team.

The times for sowing and reaping the principal crops are shown below: -

Staple.	Time for sowing.	Time for reaping.
Wheat	October.	April.
Barley	September.	March.
Gram	"	"
Mustard	October.	"
Jowar	June.	November.
Bajra.	"	"
Maize	July.	"
Cotton	April.	October to December

Agricultural
labourers.

Lawas are not as a rule engaged for cotton-picking as the crop is not important here. It is picked by the cultivators themselves. In some canal-irrigated villages cotton grows in abundance and in them *lawas* are employed, $\frac{1}{7}$ th or $\frac{1}{9}$ th of the crop being distributed as wages according as there is a bad or good crop.

Field labourers are employed for Ploughing, sowing, weeding, reaping threshing and winnowing. They are recruited from the menial classes, chiefly *Chuhra*, *Julahas*, *Mochis* and *Bawaria*, and their daily wages varies from annas 4 to annas 8. They are only employed by those who possess large holdings and are more largely employed in the irrigated uplands of the State than in the *barani* tracts. Field labourers can be engaged at all times and places.

Principal staples.
Wheat.

Red wheat mixed with gram in the proportion of two to one is generally sown, this mixture is called *bejhar*. Wheat is only grown by itself on irrigated land. Other kinds of wheat, *pamman* or *mundi*, are occasionally grown.

Barley.

Barley like wheat is grown on canal lands only, and is always mixed with gram on *barani* soil. Gram and barley mixed are called *berara*. Barley sown in December when there is not enough rain to sow

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Crops, etc.

[PART A.

wheat, is called *kanauji*. Barley requires less rain and less labour than wheat.

CHAP. II, A.
Agriculture.

Gram is the commonest *rabi* crop and is indeed the staple product of the State. It needs little rain, and hardly any labour, so little in fact that it is sometimes sown on the stubble of maize or *charri* without Ploughing. Rape is sown on irrigated *karar* lands. It is sometimes sown alone, but is more often planted in rows ten feet apart between which wheat (or barley) and gram are sown.

Gram.

Maize is of two kinds, red and white. The red is principally sown and always on irrigated land. It is less bitter than the white, but ripens later and requires more water. Soil is ploughed four or five times for maize and is also weeded. Heavy manuring is essential.

Maize.

Jowar is generally sown thickly for fodder, and is then called *charri*. It is grown on *karar* land with or without irrigation, but will not grow on sandy soils. It is the principal fodder crop.

Jowar.

Bajra is grown on any soil, but rarely on irrigated land. It is frequently sown with *moth*, which grows best on sandy soils, and *mung*, which is never grown in the *athar*.

Bajar.

Cotton is not extensively grown, and only in *karar* land, where it needs plenty of water and manure. The ground is ploughed four or five times before sowing and is weeded at intervals. Cottonseeds are given to cows, which have lately calved, and it is believed that such feeding increases the flow of milk and makes it richer in *ghi*.

Cotton.

The area of land now under cultivation is very much larger than it used to be. The state which two or three generations back was little more than a desert of sand now produces large quantities of wheat and gram. Improved implements, however, have not yet been introduced.

Extent of
cultivation.

At the last settlement about 3.8 per cent. Of the whole cultivated area was mortgaged. About 42 per cent. Of the mortgage was in the hands of moneylenders and the remainder with agriculturalists.

Mortgaged
land.

Many zamindars are inextricably involved in debt by the heavy expenses incurred on the occasions of betrothals, weddings and other social functions, these as elsewhere being the usual and fertile causes of indebtedness.

Rates of
interest.

Debts unsecured by mortgage can only be obtained from the professional moneylenders. The rate of interest varies round about 2 per cent, per mensem.

When grain is lent 50 per cent, per annum on the quantity advanced is taken at harvest time.

CHAP. II, A.

Agriculture.

Loans have never been advanced under the Land Improvement Loans Act. Loans to agriculturalists up to the year 1910-11 are given in table 20 of Part B, since then the following amounts have been advanced in this way: -

			Rs.
1911-12	...	...	7,295
1912-13	...	...	13,133
1913-14	...	...	13,610
1914-15	...	...	560

Cattle etc.

Though there are nearly three thousand camels in the State their standards in not high, they are used for carrying loads and sometimes draw the plough in the sandy tracts. Buffaloes are rarely used for agricultural purposes, the females are kept for their milk and the males are usually sold while young. Mule breeding is steadily gaining in favour and a useful type of animal produced. Sheep are shorn twice a year, in Asuj and Chet. The average price of stock is as follows: -

	Rs.		Rs.
Cow	35	He- buffalo	12
She -Buffalo	70	He-goat	4 to 5
Camel	100	Ass	15
Bullock	70	Sheep	3 to 4

Breeding.

There are two horse stallions kept for breeding, one Australian and one English, mares measuring not less than 14 hands 2 inches are covered by these. There are also two country-bred donkey stallions, two hissar bulls and two bull buffaloes.

Cattle diseases
and Veterinary
Department.

Breeding operations during the period 1904-14 resulted in the production of 865 foals and 850 cattle.

The commonest forms of contagious disease amongst cattle are foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, scabies, mange and strangles. These diseases are treated by the Veterinary Assistant in the State Veterinary Hospital, village cases being reported to the patwari agency.

Cattle Fairs.

Two Veterinary Assistants are entertained by the State; one of these is attached to the Imperial Service Sappers, whilst the other is in charge of the horses of the Bodyguard and State stables and all other animals belonging to the State.

There are two annual cattle fairs held at Faridkot known as the Dussehra and Phagan fairs and held as their names imply in September and February of each year. The former was first started in 1898, horses and cattle are brought from Patiala, Bikaner and Nabha States and from the districts of Ferozepore, Ludhiana and Hissar, as well as from the immediate neighbourhood, purchasers mainly come from the Peshawar,

FARIDKOT STATE.]**Irrigation.****[PART A.**

Amritsar, Mainwali and Shahpur Districts. The fair usually lasts for ten days and has an average attendance of 5,000. The Phagan fair is much smaller, its average attendance hardly exceeding 1,000; it was formerly held at Kot Kapura but has been transferred to Faridkot for convenience of management. Of late the income from the two fairs has averaged Rs. 7,372 and Rs. 835 respectively against an expenditure of Rs. 2,521 and Rs. 539. Khillats and rewards are distributed at each of these fairs to the producers of the best animals and also to the largest purchasers.

CHAP. II, A.**Agriculture.**

There is practically no irrigation from wells in the State. Well water in *hithar* is unsuitable for agricultural purposes whilst in the *utar* the depth of the water level was too great for profitable working before the introduction of canals, and whilst the canals have raised the water level they have also rendered wells unnecessary in this tract.

Irrigation.

The State is irrigated from the Abohar and Bhatinda branches of the Sirhind Canal, and from the Sutlej Navigation Canal. The Abohar branch for a length of about 15 miles runs in the State territory which is irrigated by the following *rajbas* from it: -

Canals.

CANAL.	RAJBAHA.		Length of rajbaha in miles so far as it lies in the state.	From village.	To village.	Inspecting outpost.
	Number	Name.				
Abohar branch ..	1	Faridkot ..	18	Ghanian wala	Kalian.	
Ditto ..	2	Bagha Purana.	6	Do.	Dhilwan	
Ditto ..	3	Kot Kapura	13	Dhilwan Kalan.	Mor ..	Thara.
Ditto ..	4	Jaitu ..	12	Bahbal Kalan	Bahbal Khurd, Rori Kapra and Ablu.	
Ditto ..	5	Mari	13	Gondara	Gurusar Agitgil to Bharoki Bhatti.	Deviwal Dhiman wala.
Ditto	6	Duda ...	7	Bharoki Bhatti.	Madhak.	
Sutlej Navigati on canal.	1	Dhulkot ..	9	Dhulkot	Faridkot.	

Though the Sibiana and Rupana *rajbahs* do not lie in the State, their outlets irrigate a portion of its area, and notwithstanding that part of its area is also irrigated by the Dhulkot *rajbaha* of the Sutlej Navigation Canal—the canal itself does not pass through the State. Similarly, though the Bhatinda branch does not lie in the State

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Rents.

PART A.

CHAP. II, B.

its rajbahas irrigate the State villages noted below: -

Rents, wages
and prices.

Canal.	RAJBAHA.		Length.	From.	To	Inspecting Outpost.
	Serial Number.	Name.				
			Miles			
Bhatinda Branch	1	Kot Bhai	20	Khialiwalla	VirakKhurd	Guniana, Virak Kalan.
Ditto	2	Bhadaur	7	Kammoana	Khialiwalla	None
Ditto	3	Runta	6	Kesar Singhwala.	Bhagta and Baja Khana.	None.

Section B. —Rents, Wages and prices.

Rents.

The conditions, which ordinarily determine rents in Faridkot State, need little or no discussion. The State is a sandy plain lying on two levels demarcated by the old bank of the Sutlej, the two tracts are known as the *hithar* and the *utar* and were recognized as separate assessment circles at the last settlement, they correspond roughly with the old *parganas* of Faridkot and kot Kapura. The soil in the *hithar* is sandy and less productive than the firmer soil of the *utar*, further there is no canal irrigation in the *hithar* whilst the water found in the wells is useless for irrigating crops. Naturally the highest rents are found in the *utar* where the average rate per *ghumaon*, as given in the Assessment Report of 1910, is Rs. 4-10-6 for unirrigated and Rs. 5-4-3 for canal irrigated land; in the *hithar* where there is practically only unirrigated land the average rate is Rs.4-5-9. Cash rents are however uncommon except for land belonging to the Raja. Common *batai* rents are $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, though a little land in each circle is held on $\frac{1}{4}$ *batai* rent. Nearly all *barani* land pays half *batai*, whilst irrigated land can usually be rented for one-third share of the crop, together with the revenue. Though on the average tenants in the *hithar* pay a greater share of the crop as rent than those of the *utar*, the difference in the crops is such that the *hithar* rents are smaller in actual value.

The large area directly owned by the Raja of the State were formerly held on the *kankut* system of rent, but in 1838 *batai* rents were substituted for these. In 1844 rents in the Kot Kapura *pargana* were fixed in cash, and after that date cash rents steadily displaced *batai* rents in Faridkot *pargana* as well; and at the last settlement cash rents became universal throughout the Raja's private holdings.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Wages.

[PART A.

The daily wage of agricultural labourers, which has risen remarkably during the last ten years, now varies between annas 8 and Re. 1. Such labourers usually come from Bikaner and are known as *bagaris*. Labourers who are employed throughout the year get Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per mensem with food. In some cases field labourers are given from 20 to 50 *kachcha* maunds of grain at the *rabi* harvest and get their food in addition. The *Siri*, who is a partner in agricultural operations who supplies none of the stock or capital, receives one-fifth of the produce, together with food.

In the villages the *tarkhan* and *lohar* are paid 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *kachcha* maunds of grain per plough for the work they do on behalf of the community. In the town of Faridkot the daily rate of wages of blacksmiths, masons and carpenters varies from annas 12 to Rs. 1-4-0. Unskilled labour employed by the Public Works Department is paid for at the rate of 5 or 6 annas per diem, but contractor is paid for at the rate of 5 pr 6 annas per diem, but contractors have to-pay from 6 to 8 annas for the same class of labour.

The principal *kamins* of this State are the *tarkhan*, *lohar*, *chuhra* and *chamar*. Their duties are as follows: -

Lohars and tarkhans make and keep in repair implements of husbandry. In addition to this they also repair household articles such as mills and spinning wheels. For this work iron and wood are supplied by the zamindars as remuneration they are paid 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *kham* maunds of grain per plough per harvest. *chuhras* and *chamars* are employed on beggar work by the State officials. They get one *kachcha* maund, ten sers of grain per plough per harvest or this *begar* work. Those who prepare and supply the landowner with winnowing baskets and help in tilling and harvesting are given grain amounting to one-twentieth share of the total produce. *Chamars* are also entitled to the skins of dead oxen. Sometimes buffalo skins are sold by the proprietor and not given to the *chamar*. Their engagement or dismissal takes place as a rule on the *Namani*. *Lawas* (field labourers) are employed when the corn is reaped. These labourers are supplied with food in the morning and are given 4 bundles of *langa* daily, each bundle being 10 seers in weight, but sometimes they are paid annas 5 or 6 daily with one bundle as wages.

The *lawas* are generally engaged at the *rabi* harvest. The *kharif* is of less importance.

The *nai*, *mochi*, *jhinwar* get the usual payment in kind at harvest time.

The *teli* is paid 6 annas for every 12 seers of oil- seed pressed.

The *julaha* gets Re. 1 for every 12 yards of *susi* and Rs.2 for forty yards of khaddar.

The *kumhar* may receive payment in kind at harvest time for his routine work, but receives cash payment for any extra-work.

The *pinjera* gets 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 annas for each seer of cotton carded, and 4 annas for filling a quilt.

CHAP. II, B,

Rents. Wages and prices.

Wages.

Skilled.

Kamins, their dues and duties.

CHAP. II, B.

Rents, wages
and prices.
Poverty and
wealth of the
proprietors.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Prices.

PART A.

In addition to the payments enumerated above all village *kamins* receive gifts on occasions of birth, marriage and death.

The income of the population is steadily increasing, but generally the people though comfortably off, are not well to do. The value of land is rising.

The area required to support an average agricultural family in comfort is about 20 *ghumaons* in an irrigated tract, and 30 *Ghumaons* where there is no irrigation. A zamindar whose diet consists of *dai*, *chupatties* and vegetables can maintain himself on Rs. 6 per mensem.

Middle-class clerk draws about Rs. 20 per mensem and with an average family to support may spend up to Rs. 14 in food and Rs. 5 in clothing, having only one rupee left for miscellaneous expenditure.

The income of an occupancy tenant cultivating one *hal* (35 *ghumaons*) of land will amount to Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 and he should be able to save a certain amount each month; owing to lack of pasture he is not likely to keep many cattle.

Landless labourers can earn Rs. 10 per mensem and is the best off of the classes under consideration, he is always sure of employment and although living comfortably according to the standard of his class can easily put by some savings each month.

Prices of staple food grains and of a few other commodities are given in Table No. 26 or part B; since the introduction of railway communication these have naturally approximated to those outside the State and are mainly affected by external conditions. Before the introduction of railway facilities gram and rape used to sell cheaper in the state than in surrounding districts.

The value of land rose enormously between the settlements of 1889 and 1910, this is shown by the following table which gives both the sale and mortgage price per *ghumaon* at each of these settlements: -

Circle.	PRICE AT THE SETTLEMENT OF 1889.		PRICES AT THE SETTLEMENT OF 1910	
	Mortgage.	Sale.	Mortgage.	Sale
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.
Utar	32	46	56	92
Hithar	22	36	47	64

This rise in the price of land is still continuing at a rapid rate.

FARIDKOT STATE.] Forests, Mineral Products & Industries. [PART A.**Section C. --- Forests.**

There are five *birs* in the State at Ghoghiana, Sikhanwwala, Chahal, Bholuwala and jalalbhur. In the first named, 300 acres are reserved to supply grass to the State Cavalry, the rest being leased to the British Government and grass conveyed to Ferozepore. Cattle are allowed to graze in the other birs on contract. Various kinds of grass grow, such as *dhaman*, *khabbal*, *khabbi* and *bhakra*. Nilgai buck, *chingkara*, hares, partridges and quail are found in these birs.

**CHAP II, E.
&F.**

**Manufactures
and Trade.
Forests.**

Section d. --- Mines and Minerals.

There is nothing worthy of mention in the State in this section. A little kankar is found in the utar, more especially along the danda or bank, which separates it from the hithar, but it is scattered and of poor quality a black greasy clay, from which bricks are made, occurs in small quantities; a fine white clay is also found and is used for whitewashing.

Mines.

Sections E. &F. ---- Manufactures and Trade.

Arts and manufactures are limited to articles of local use, such as coarse cloth, *khaddar*, chausi and country cloth, *khes*, *chautahi*, etc. spinning wheels, bedsteads, antimony boxes, etc., are turned in Kot Kapura and have a local reputation.

**Arts and
manufactures.**

Wheat and other grains, wool and oil are the only exports Trade is carried on by the local Banias who buy and store the surplus stock to sell in times of scarcity.

Exports.

The following list shows the articles imported, with the names of places from which they come: -

Imports.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Raw sugar | ... | Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Batala. |
| 2. Refined sugar | ... | Bareilly, Chandausi and Meerut. |
| 3. Rice | ... | Amritsar, Delhi. |
| 4. Salt | ... | Khewra in Jhelum District. |
| 5. Chillies | ... | Kasur, Dhulkot and Zira. |
| 6. Fruit | ... | Ferozepore and Lahore. |
| 7. Tobacco | ... | The Bet in Ferozepore. |
| 8. Cotton | ... | Kasur, Kaithal. |
| 9. Coarse clothes | ... | Jullundur. |
| 10. English cloth and yarn. | ... | Delhi, Bombay, Karachi and Amritsar. |
| 11. Silk | ... | Jullundur and Amritsar. |
| 12. Lace | ... | Amritsar, Delhi and Patiala. |
| 13. Indigo | ... | Multan, Sirhind and Khurja. |
| 14. Carbonate of soda | ... | Bahawalpur. |
| 15. Brass and pewter vessels. | ... | Amritsar and Bhawani. |

FARIDKOT STATE.]		Means of Communication.	[PART A.
CHAP. II, G.	16. Iron	...	Karachi.
-----	17. Timber	...	Firozpur and Jagadhri.
Means	18. Coal	...	Ferozepore, Zira and Mamdot.
of	19. Dried fruits	...	Amritsar and Delhi.
Communication.	20. Bags	...	Calcutta.
	21. Opium	...	Ghazipur.
	22. Charas, bhang and poppy		Hoshiarpur.
Trade.	23. European liquors	...	Bombay

Zamindars sometimes take their corn to Kot Kapura, Jaitu, Goniana, Bhatinda or Ferozepore markets. Others go to the Pawadh, in Ludhiana District, and bring back raw sugar, etc., for sale in their own country. The zamindars employ their carts and camels for trade while *kumhars* and *machhis* employ donkeys. When there is a heavy demand for transport, camels are obtained from ferozepore and Mudki. Village aroras with small means keep baggage ponies. Faridkot and Kot Kapura are the only towns in which a considerable amount of trade is carried on. No account is kept of their exports and imports.

Section G. --- Means of Communication.

Communication.

The North-Western Railway (Ferozepore-Bhatinda Branch) runs for 33 miles through the State. There are four stations, namely, Golewala, Faridkot, Kot Kapura, and Goniana. Jaitu station lies in Nabha territory. The Rajputana-Malwa Railway (a metre gauge line) running from Kot Kapura to Muktasar has a branch, which runs for eight mile through Faridkot territory. Four miles south of Kot Kapura the North-Western Railway line crosses the Sirhind canal by a bridge.

Roads.

A list of metalled and unmetalled roads is given below. There is no river in the State nor is the canal navigable.

*Metalled road from Faridkot to Golewala, 11 miles long (out of use and repair).

Metalled road from Faridkot to Chand Baja, 8 miles long.

Metalled road from Faridkot to Bir Chahal, 4 miles long.

Metalled road from Kot Kapura to Panjgraian and beyond, 8 miles long.

Metalled road from Faridkot Railway Station to the Jail Gate via the Cantonments, 4 miles long.

Metalled road from Faridkot to Kot Kapura, 7 miles long.

Unmetalled road from Kot Kapura to Nahianwala, 23 miles long, of which 9 miles are in Nabha Territory.

*Note --- This road forms part of the Faridkot-Ferozepore road which was formerly metalled but which was torn up in British territory when the railway was built the state is prepared to deep up its portion of the road if the part in British territory is replaced.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Famine.

[PART A.

CHAP. II, H.

Unmetalled road from Kot Kapura to Khara, 10 miles long.

Unmetalled road from Bhagta to Kessarwala, 4 miles long.

Unmetalled road from Kingra to Bodla, 12 miles long.

Unmetalled road from Ablu to Dewan, 8 miles long.

Famine.

Post Offices.

There are six Imperial Post Offices in the State, two sub-Offices (combined Post and Telegraph Offices) at Faridkot and Kot Kapura and Branch offices at Golewala, Goniana, Mehma Sawai and Panjgraian. Faridkot, Kot Kapura, Golewala and Goniana are money order offices but Savings Bank Accounts are maintained only in Faridkot and Kot Kapura sub-offices. Panjgraian and Mehma Sawai are both newly started experimental branch offices with only ordinary mail work, but the latter is open for insured articles also.

In addition to the two Government combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Faridkot and Kot Kapura, there are Telegraph Offices at all the four railway stations in the State, *vis.* --- Golewala, Faridkot, Kot Kapura and Goniana.

Telegraph offices.

The State formerly had its own offices and issued its own stamps locally printed. These stamps were first issued in the year 1881, but were displaced in 1887 by British India Postage stamps surcharged with the name of the State. In 1901, the state handed over its post offices to the British Postal Department on certain conditions. Among other conditions the State was to receive a free annual supply of Rs. 500 worth of service stamps for its official use.

Postal arrangements.

Section H ----- Famine.

Before the introduction of canal irrigation into the State all cultivation was dependent on the rains. Owing to the situation and constitution of the soil the rainfall is light and precarious, and the possibility of famine had always to be provided for.

Rainfall

Owing to scarcity or total lack of rain disastrous famines occurred in 1833, 1848, 1860 and 1899. In each case the State made arrangements to relieve the famine-stricken population and in 1899 the late Raja made great efforts to alleviate the prevailing distress. Relief works were started, several new buildings erected and new roads laid out; the State granaries were thrown open and grain sold at cheap rates, whilst over Rs. 22,000 was distributed in wages and gifts.

Famines.

In late years there has been no famine, whilst a large area of the State is protected by canals. The years 1905-06, 1907-08 and 1910-11 were all years of light rainfall and were followed by high prices; the situation was met in the last two of these by liberal *takavi* advances to agriculturalists, no less than Rs. 45,911 being distributed in this way in 1910-11.

CHAPTER III. --- ADMINISTRATIVE.

CHAP III, A.

Section A. --- Administrative Division.

Administrative Divisions.

Powers of the raja.
Formation of a separate political Agency.

Abolition of the Council and appointment of a Superintendent of the State.

Foreign affairs.

Finance.

Revenue.

His Highness the Raja of Faridkot possesses independent jurisdiction in all the internal affairs of the State. The Raja's privileges and rights were confirmed in a Sanad dated the 21st April 1863

On the part of the British Government the State is under the administrative control of the Political Agent, Bahawalpur Agency. A Political Agent was first appointed towards the close of the year 1913, to whom the duties performed previous to that time by the commissioner and Superintendent, Jullundur Division, were transferred.

Owing to the minority of the present Raja, Brij Indar Singh, the administration of the State was carried on by a council of two members under a President appointed by Government from March 1906. The Council was abolished in April 1914 owing to defects in the administration and a Superintendent was appointed by Government to administer the State under the control of the Political Agent.

There is no Foreign Minister of the State. The Superintendent controls the dealings of the State with external authorities. The Mir Munshi of the State is in charge of the records relating to *Bartwara* with other Native States and also represents the State in Civil and Revenue Cases to which the State is a Party.

The Financial Administration is under the direct control of the Superintendent. The office of Accountant-General is held by an officer whose services has been lent by the Punjab Government; under him work the Treasury Officer and the Managers of the State Banks, *tosha Khana* and State Armoury.

The whole State is divided into three Revenue Circles, which are respectively under the charge of the Tahsildar of Faridkot, and the Naib-Tahsildars of Faridkot and Kot Kapura. these officials exercise the powers of an Assistants Collector, 2nd Grade, under the Chief Revenue Officer of the State who exercises the powers of a Collector and Commissioner. The village revenue staff is shown in the following table: -

Circle.	Kanungos.	Patwaris.
Tahsildar, Faridkot	1	8
Naib-Tahsildar, Faridkot	3	28
Naib-Tahsildar, Kot Kapura	3	24
Total	7	60

FARIDKOT STATE.]**Justice.****[PART A.**

The Court of Wards, which was established in Sambat 1940, has recently been transferred to the Revenue Department and is in charge of the Tahsildar under the control of the Chief Revenue Officer.

The various troops maintained by the State are under the command of separate Commanding Officers, who are under the direct control of the Darbar. A proposed appointment of Commander-in-chief is at present under consideration.

The police Department is in charge of the Superintendent of Police; there are four police stations, Faridkot Sadr, Faridkot City, Kot Kapura and Goniana.

The chief Judicial officer is Registrar for the State, and the sub-judge works under him as Sub- Registrar.

The post of *Garh-Kaptan* as head of the Public Works department was abolished with the dissolution of the Council, and a qualified State Engineer appointed who is now incharge of Roads, Buildings, Electrical and Water Works Departments, as well as the State Workshop and *Farash Khna*.

Extradition Treaties have been negotiated between Faridkot and the Phulkian States, Bahawalpur, Bikaner, Malerkotla and Kapurthala. By the terms of these agreements, criminals guilty of any crime can be deported for trial in their own States, but the treaty with the Beaker State only refers to a few major offences. Extradition to and from other States and British India is carried out according to the British extradition Act, No. XV of 1903.

CHAP. III, B.

Civil and
Criminal
Justice.
Courts of
Wards.
Military.
Police.

Registration.

Public Works.

Extradition.

Section B. ---- Civil and Criminal Justice.

The Laws of British India - the Indian penal code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Civil Procedure Code, and the Indian Evidence Act - are in force in the State with no special modifications. A special local law is in force in the State under which any person found guilty of illicit intercourse is punishable with fine and imprisonment, this law applies to all persons irrespective of sex or civil status and has proved beneficial in its operation. There is no special Excise Law and that in force in the Punjab is followed in practice. The state Game Rules are at present under revision.

Laws.

COURTS AND THEIR POWERS.

The superintendent of the State is the highest tribunal under the immediate control of the political Agent to whom death sentences are referred for confirmation. The Superintendent disposes of all appeals and applications for revision of the orders of the Chief judicial Officer.

Higher Courts.

CHAP. III B.

Civil and Criminal
justice.Chief Judicial
Officer.Tahsildars and
Naib- Tahsildars.

Panchayats.

Honorary
Magistrates, Local
Bar.

Petition writers.

Litigation.

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Justice

[PART.

His Highness the Raja Sahib Has been working as a judicial Officer since December 1914 with a view to gaining a thorough insight into such work, he at present exercises the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

The Chief Judicial Officer is the Head of the Judicial Department and exercises the powers of a Sessions and Divisional judge. Under him are the Courts of the District Magistrate, the Sub-Judge and a Special Magistrate and Munsiff of the II class. Appeals against the orders of Special Magistrate and Munsiff II class are heard by the District Magistrate and the sub-Judge respectively; and appeals against the orders of these themselves are heard by the Chief Judicial Officer.

The Tahsildar and two Naib-Tahsildars have powers as Magistrates and Munsiffs of the II class; they are at present relieved of all judicial work owing to pressure of revenue work, their judicial work being disposed of by the Special Magistrate and Munsiff II Class.

In the year 1912 A.D. a Panchayat Act was introduced by the late Council and eighteen centres of Panchayats were formed in the State, with local Lambardars and other influential villagers as the members. Criminal powers of these panchayats extended to the infliction of two weeks imprisonment and of Rs. 25 fine, whilst on the Civil side they could hear and decide cases up to the value of Rs. 200. Two officers, called *Nigran*, were appointed to supervise the work of the panchayats and to dispose of objections against their order. The system did not prove a success, the members of panchayats being found too ignorant and partial to perform their duties in satisfactory manner.

There is one Honorary Magistrate in the State, at Kot Kapura, who exercises the powers of a II Class Magistrate. Since 1910 no legal practitioners have been allowed to appear in the State Courts.

There are ten petition writers in the State under the control of the Chief judicial Officer. They receive fixed monthly pay from the State Treasury, and the income from fees, etc., is credited to the State.

Litigation is on the increase in the State, and may be attributed to the increasing affluence of the zamindars, which has followed the increase in the prices of grain and in the value of land. The commoner offences are those arising out of private quarrels, and cases concerning women. Cattle theft and burglary are not uncommon, whilst disputed over land and irrigation are a frequent cause of litigation.

Section C --- Land Revenue.

CHAP. III, C.

Land
Revenue.

Fiscal History.

As far back as 1838 there had been a rough attempt at measuring certain villages in the Faridkot ilaqa, this was known as *ghore kacch* or measurement on horseback, and was as its name implies very superficial. In Kot Kapura rough boundaries had been laid down and areas recorded by Mr. Daniell before that tract was restored to Raja Pahar Singh for his services in the Sutlej Campaign. The first real attempt at Settlement took place during the years 1860-65 under the direction of Lala Moti Ram, no regular assessment was announced as at that time most of the revenue was paid in kind, the usual rate being 1/5 share of the crop but useful papers were compiled showing the occupants of the land with the period for which they had then been cultivating it. As a general rule founders of villages who had settled before 1844 were recorded as inferior proprietors under the Raja, while villages founded after that year were held to be the property of the Raja. These operations cannot be classed as anything but a summary settlement, and little was settled as to the rights of tenants and owners. In 1880 commenced what is known as Lala Daulat Ram's Settlement. The operations of this settlement dragged on interminably and were never satisfactorily completed; measurements were completed in 1885, but areas were not computed and the revenue assessment was not announced till 1889. Records of rights were not ready till 1900 and it was not till then that *malkana* was assessed; even at that date the records of rights of three large villages were not completed, their preparation continuing till 1907.

In this settlement the *utar* and *hithar* circles were distinguished, soils were classified for the first time, customary law was discussed, and occupancy tenants were classed in accordance with the Punjab Tenancy Act (this last not being done till 1891).

Rates varying from 10 to 13 annas a *ghumaon* were adopted in the *hithar*, whilst in the *utar* they varied between annas 11-6 and 14. But revenue in kind was retained in 13 or 14 villages and not finally abolished till 1904.

The total land revenue assessed was just over three and a half lakhs of rupees. In addition to this rules were framed for the collection of various dues connected with land such as succession fees, *dharat*, *tirmi* and *mudakheri*, whilst the State was recorded as having various right over trees, fuel, etc.

The length of the operations was mainly caused by delays and interruptions in the work of the staff, these naturally led to faulty incomplete work; great dissatisfaction was felt with the way rights in the land had been recorded and this led to the passing of a special Act (4 of 1907) creating a right similar to a right of occupancy which was conferred on various tenants previously recorded as tenants-at-will, and ultimately to the operations of the present settlement which were started in the same year.

CHAP. III, C.

Land Revenue.

The present
Settlement.

FARIDKOT STATE.] *Settlement and Rates.* [PART A.

The settlement, which is now current, was carried out during the years 1607 to 1910 by Chaudhri Kesar Ram who had previously been a Settlement Tahsildar in Lyallpur District. The term of Lala Daulat Ram's Settlement, which was, for 12 years had expired in 1901, but the new settlement was started with a view to determine the true rights in the land rather than with the idea of an increase of revenue. The State was again divided into two assessment circles, the *utar* and the *hithar*; the classification of soil was altered and five soils are now recognized as mentioned in action A of this chapter.

Measurement was done on the square laying system, the original five foot *karm* of the previous settlement was retained, the measures of area being----

1 square karm	...	= 1 sarsahi.
9 sarsahis	...	= 1 marla.
20 marlas	...	= 1 kanal.
8 kanals	...	= 1 ghumaon.

The following circle rates were adopted for the different classes of soil. ---

Soil.	Hithar.			Utar.		
	Rs.	a.	P.	Rs.	a.	P.
Karar I	0	15	0	1	0	0
Karar II	0	14	0	0	15	0
Gasra I	0	13	0	0	14	0
Gasra II	0	11	6	0	12	6
Tibbi	0	10	0	0	10	0
Banjar	0	4	0	0	5	0

No *khush haisiyati* or water advantage rate was charged on account to canal irrigation, this being the custom throughout the lands served by the Sirhind Canal.

The resulting assessment amounted to Rs. 3,89,985 which entailed an increase of Rs. 37,493 and was announced for a term of 30 years. The total expenditure on the Settlement was estimated at Rs. 95,970.

Cesses.

The village cesses in force include: - *lambardari* Rs.5, *Zaildari* Re. 1; local rate Rs. 7-13-0 and *Sardehi* Re. 0-4-0 amounting in all to Rs. 14-1-0 percent. On the land revenue. The increase in the State income under this head due to the settlement operations amounted to Rs. 9,987.

Financial results of
the new Settlement.

The total, increase in the income of the State due to the Settlement amounts to Rs. 55,790 made up of increments under the following heads; Land Revenue, Rs. 37,493; Cesses, Rs.9, 987; *Taluqdari* dues, Rs. 1474; and *Malkana*, Rs. 6,836. But against this sum must be set off decreases due to the extinction of certain rights

FARIDKOT STATE.] Village Communities and Tenures. [PART A.

which had previously been exercised by the State and to the increase in the *pachotra* given to Lambardars on account of collection of land revenue and *abaiana*. The rights thus rights thus abandoned include, *Dharat*, *Tirni*, succession dues, Rights in trees, Rights to fuels, *Mudakhera*, *Begar* and a fee on Re-marriage; their total annual value is given by the Settlement Officer as Rs. 30,939 but he himself states that this is a very low estimate and that the actuals may amount to Rs. 41,139 and that far more than this latter sum even would have been affected had the collections of these items been carried out regularly and carefully. In fact it is not too much to say that the assessment merely resulted in redistributing the total payment over the revenue payers without materially effecting its amount; this redistribution however has benefited the people by the abolition of various petty and unpopular taxes, whilst the State now has the advantage of a fixed income from land revenue on place of a miscellaneous income which was difficult to collect and impossible to check.

Apart from the villages, which are the property of the Raja and in which zamindari tenure prevails, the majority of villages are held on *bhaiachara* tenure whilst a few are *pattidari*. As has already been mentioned the principle on which rights of ownership were decided at Lala Moti Ram's Settlement were that founders of villages who had settled before 1844 were held to be inferior proprietors under the Raja, whilst villages founded at later dates were held to be the property of the Raja. In 1891 when enquiries were made into the rights of tenants, and brief histories of villages were recorded after verbal enquiry; it was not found necessary to depart from this principal but an exception was made in seven village held by Kapureka Jats, the collaterals of the Raja, and they were excluded as not held in superior proprietorship by the Raja. Whether this exception was newly recognised in 1891 or had been recognized in practice before and was merely confirmed in that year is not evident from the incomplete records available; the point is unimportant for the assessment announced in 1889 was based on a uniform *parta* for all kinds of land except *ghairmumkin* without distinction between proprietary, occupancy and tenancy rights, and it was not till 1900 that the malkana due from occupancy tenants and dues from inferior proprietors were separately assessed. In addition to retaining his rights of full ownership recorded at Lala Moti Ram's settlement, the Raja was at the ensuing settlement held to be proprietor of most of the lands recorded as *Shamilat* by Moti Ram.

It was not till 1891 that any serious attention was given to the rights of tenants in the State; the general rule then followed as regards non-proprietors was that the man recorded in the papers prepared in Moti Ram's settlement as cultivating land for from 12 to 30 years, was recorded as a tenant under section 6 or 8 of the Tenancy Act, whilst those who had been cultivating for a less period than 12 years were declared tenants-at-will

CHAP. III, C.

**Land
Revenue.**

**Village
Communities
and Tenures.**

FARIDKOT STATE.] *Village Officers and Feudal dues.* [PART A.

CHAP. III, C.

Land Revenue.

under the Raja. Those who had acquired lands on payment of *nazrana* were recorded as inferior proprietors or as tenants under section 8 according to the amount of *nazrana* paid by them the preparation of these records was brought into effect in 1900 by the assessment of the *malkana* due from tenants, the accuracy of the records was contested by many people who objected to paying *malkana*; and even ten years later Chaudhri Kesar Ram records the fact that three villages still refused to pay this item. This dissatisfaction led to the passing of the State Act (No. 4 of 1907) of which mention has already been made. This created a new class of tenant holding under the Raja known as *Shartia* tenants. These men had previously been recorded as tenants-at-will but under this Act obtained special rights with which the State could not interfere. Occupancy tenants and those tenants-at-will who hold from the Raja all pay rent at *malkana* rates, details of which are given below: -

Occupancy tenants	Under section 5, clause (a).	Annas 2 per rupee Of revenue
Ditto	ditto 5	(c). Ditto 4 ditto.
Ditto	ditto 6 or 8	" Ditto 8 ditto
Shartia tenants	...	... Ditto 12 ditto
Tenants-at-will under the Raja	...	... Ditto 14 ditto

Village Officers.

Zaildars and Safedposhis were appointed at the recent settlement, not having been employed previously. They are divided into grades and paid from the zaildari cess of Re. 1 per cent on the revenue.

Before the year 1910 although *pachotra* at five per cent. On the revenue was included in the cases, only four per cent was paid to the Lambardars, whilst in villages owned by the Raja who was nominal Lambardar the men who performed the duties of Lambardar received only two per cent; the balance of the money collected under this head being credited to the State. Since that year both these classes of village officers have received the full five per cent. *Pachotra*. The British Government pays a *pachotra* of three per cent. On collection of *abiana*, of this two-thirds used to be credited to the state and only one-third given to the Lambardars who were responsible for the actual collection; this has now been altered and the State only appropriates one-third. Chowkidars are paid directly from the State Treasury.

Feudal dues.

As mentioned in the paragraph on the financial results of the new Settlement, various rights previously enforced by the State have been given up in recent years, but in order to appreciate the benefits thereby granted to the subjects of the State a short account of the nature of these is desirable. *Dharat* which is usually understood to mean a fund raised by villagers for common objects of expenditure, used to be paid direct to the Raja in his position of *ala malik*; this item used to bring in an annual income about

Rs. 5,107, it has been abolished as a State tax and if collected in a village is spent on objects agreed upon by the whole community. *Tirmi*, which used to be levied at the rate of half an anna on all sheep and goats kept by inhabitants of the State, and produced an average annual sum of Rs. 200, has been discontinued entirely.

Succession dues were fixed at L.Daulat Ram's Settlement according to the nearness of relationship between a deceased owner of land and his heirs; they have now been remitted; and it has been ordered that landowners shall inherit lands up to seven generations without payment of *nazrana*, in event of failure of heirs within seven generations the land escheats to the State.

The rights in trees which have now been given up were as follows; inferior proprietors and tenants could only cut trees, on payment of one-quarter of their value to the State, tress uprooted by the wind were the property of the State, and the cutting of all trees growing on shamilat lands or by the sides of roads of round wells was prohibited.

Mudakheraa was the name of a custom whereby the parents of a bride had to pay Rs. 4-4-0 to the Raja as *ala malik*, of this Re. 1-4-0 was credited to the State Treasury and the remainder divided between His Highness *parohit*, barber and *mirassi*.

In addition to these concessions, a small fee which used to be levied on the occasion of a *kareva* marriage was given up, and most important of all the system of begar or enforced labour was discontinued.

Section D. --- Miscellaneous Revenue.

The contract for the sale of opium and drugs, such as charas, *bhang* and poppy-head, is farmed out by auction to the highest bidder. Ghazipur opium is purchased by the State direct from Government, and is sold to the contractor at the rate at which it is purchased; but the Government duty on this opium is recovered from the contractor and retained by the State. Hill opium, *bhang* and poppy-heads are purchased by the contractor direct from the places where they are obtainable in the British territory on his producing an authority granted to him by the State Excise Superintendent. The State levies an import duty of one rupee per seer on hill opium from the contractor.

Charas is purchased by the contractor from the British territory on his producing and authority granted by the State Darbar, countersigned by the Political Agent. The contractor has retail shops of his own and he, and not the State Darbar, appoints other retail vendors; but the places where retail shops may be opened are fixed by the Darbar.

CHAP. III, D.

**Miscellaneous
Revenue.
Excise.**

Opium and drugs are retailed in 32 shops, 11 in Faridkot thana, 11 in Kot Kapura thana and 10 in Goniana thana.

The net income to the State from this source in Sambat 1971 (1914-15) was Rs. 23,895-15-0.

Country spirit is not imported but is distilled in Faridkot in the State Distillery under the supervision of the Excise Superintendent. Duty is imposed at the rate of Rs. 3-12-0 to Rs. 5 per gallon according to the quality of the liquor.

The contract for wholesale vend in the State is leased by public auction, conducted by the Chief Revenue officer in the presence of the Superintendent of the State. The contractor who obtains the lease is termed the "general contractor" and keeps a store from which all retail vendors are bound to obtain their requirements. The licenses for retail vendors are separately auctioned by the State. There are 32 retail shops distributed amongst the three thanas in the same numbers as opium shops.

Contracts for the sale of European liquors are distinct from that for country spirit, and are auctioned to the highest bidders. European liquor can be sold only by the bottle, and for this purpose there are two shops, one at Faridkot and one at Kot Kapura.

The net income to the State from this source in the year 1914-15 was Rs. 96,615-8-0

Local cesses.

**Stamps and Darbar
paper.**

For a statement of local cesses see Section C of this Chapter.

Judicial and non-judicial stamps, hundis and receipt stamps of various denominations are printed in the State Press and sold through the State Treasurer. Judicial and non-judicial stamps are sold from the treasury to licensed vendors only; whilst hundis and receipt stamps can be purchased by the public direct from the treasury.

The British Court fees Act, with some modifications, is in force in the state.

All applications, etc., submitted to the state Courts are required to be written on the State Darbar paper. This paper bears the State coat-of-arms and is sold at the treasury at 3 pies per sheet.

The income from Stamps and Darbar Paper during the year 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 47, 878-6-9.

Octroi.

Octroi duty is levied on all grain and food, cloths, raw materials, etc., entering the towns of Faridkot and Kot Kapura. The right of collecting octroi dues is leased to a contractor by public auction. In the year 1914-15 the sale of this contract for Faridkot realized Rs. 10,166 and for Kot Kapura, where there is a large grain market, Rs. 30,000.

FARIDKOT STATE.] Local & Municipal Govt. & the P.W. [PART A.

There is a State Bank at Faridkot with a branch at Goniana; this advances loans on interest to interest to shopkeepers, agriculturalists and employees of the State.

Other sources of income to the State are: - Farms, gardens and birs, registration fees, cattle fairs, cale-pounds, rents of houses, fines, etc.,

There are no special arrangements with regard to the import of salt. It is imported by shopkeepers from British territory and pays octroi, but does not benefit the State in any other way.

The total income of the State in the year Sambat 1971 (1914-15) was Rs.9, 96,155-7-11.

The State has no coinage of its own. On ceremonial occasions, especially among Baniyas and Babras, coins of Maler Kotla are sometimes given to lakis or scattered among the populace. Mansuri pice still circulate, but have been practically replaced by British small copper coins. The usual miscellaneous coins are found in the bazaar. Dollars are sometimes used as ornaments.

CHAP. III, F.**Public Works**

Interest on loans.

Miscellaneous petty sources of income

Salt.

The total income

Coinage.

Section E. ---- Local and Municipal Government.

Previous attempts at founding municipalities in Faridkot and Kot Kapura having failed owing to the lack of both official and public interest, it was decided to form a Municipality for Faridkot town early in the year 1915. This Faridkot Municipality is at present in an experimental stage, a handicap to its success is that forms of income usually available to such bodies have been credited directed to the State in past years and there is some difficulty in allocating them to the Municipality.

Section F. ---- Public Works.**Organisation.**

The Public Works Department is directed by the State Engineer under whom are officials who are in charge of the following sections of the department: -

- (1) Buildings. (2) Roads. (3) Water Works. (4) Electric Supply. (5) State Workshop.

In addition to these, the State Engineer also supervises State Farash Khana.

Chief Works.

All the State buildings and roads have been constructed by this department, either departmentally, or on contract. The State Water Works and Electric Supply Scheme at Faridkot; have been working for about a year and are proving very beneficial. Amongst the works to be taken in hand at an early date are the construction of Village Primary Schools, the Faridkot Town Drainage Scheme, and the metalling of certain roads.

CHAP. III, G.

Army

FARIDKOT STATE.]

Army,

[PART A.

The State Army as at present constituted consists of (a) a company of imperial Services Sappers, (b) the State Bodyguard of Lancers, (c) a State Battalion of Infantry, (d) the State Artillery, with six guns, and (e) the State Band. The existing strength of the different sections of the Army is given on the following table: -

Detail.	Officers.	N.C.O's.	Men including Followers.	Total.
Imperial Service Sappers ...	7	22	242	271
State Cavalry	2	10	48	60
State Infantry	5	20	130	155
State Artillery	2	3	15	20
Band	1	2	30	33
Total Strength	17	57	465	539

Imperial Service
Troops.

In 1887 the State voluntarily raised a contingent of Imperial Service Troops consisting of 50 Cavalry and 200 Infantry. During the Tirah Campaign of 1897 Raja Bikram Singh expressed his desire of sending a force to assist in the operations and the work of collecting supplies. For this he received the thanks of Government.

After the demise of Raja Bikram Singh the contingent was converted into a corps of Sappers, in the number officers and men enumerated above are included on sub assistant Surgeon, one Compounder and 24 drivers. The transport consists of 43 men with 49 mules

The Imperial Service Sappers are now quartered in the new cantonments west of Faridkot Town. These model cantonments were built at a cost of a lakh of rupees by Raja Balbir Singh, and the opening ceremony was performed by Sir Charles Rivaz, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, in January 1905. They comprise well-constructed barracks, stables and workshops of the latest pattern. The hospital is commodious and well equipped. There is also a Gurdwara for the reading of the Granth Sahib.

The local troops

The Imperial Service Sappers left India in 1914 on Foreign service, and are at present serving abroad.

The State Cavalry and Infantry have separate pucca lines which were constructed in Sambat 1966; in December 1907 His Excellency Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-chief visited the State and inspected the Imperial Service Troops, the Cantonment Lines, etc., and performed the opening ceremony of the cantonments road which connects the Sapper Lines with those of the Cavalry and Infantry and

with the City and road to the Railway Station. A small memorial on this road has been raised as a memento of the Visit.

The State Artillery lines are within the city, close to the Jail.

CHAP. III, H.

Police and
Jail.

Section H. --- Police and Jail.

The Police force of the State is commanded by the Superintendent of Police. Under him are one Inspector, 5 Sub-Inspectors, 170 constables and 22 town watchmen. In addition to the regular police there are 130 *chaukidars* of village watchmen, who receive their pay from the *chaukidara* cess, which is realized with the land revenue.

Police.
Strength of the
force.

The constables are mostly Muhammadans and are nearly all recruited from within the State. There is no Training School in the State, but Police officers are sometimes sent for training at Phillaur.

There are four Police Stations: Faridkot Sadr, Faridkot City, Kot Kapura and Nahianwala; each is in the charge of a Sub-Inspector.

Police Stations.

A cattle-pound is attached to each *thana*, and there are a few others in certain outlying villages.

The Bawarias, Harnis and Aansis have been proclaimed as criminal tribes. in this State, they numbered 1,328 according to the register of Sambat 1971 (1914-15). The Harnis have committed no thefts during the last 25 or 30 years, and even amongst the Bawarias, whose record is not so good, 294 have been exempted from the operations of the Criminal Tribes Act owing to their good behaviour. Both the Bawarias and the Harnis are generally agriculturalists by profession, and some of the former have migrated to Bikaner and Bahawalpur States, where they have taken up land.

Criminal
Tribes.

Bawarias are found both in the Faridkot and Kot Kapura parganas, Harnis only in the latter.

The system of taking finger impressions is in force in the State under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police.

The State jail is situated inside the town of Faridkot and is an extensive building; the present accommodation according to the prescribed space per head laid down in the Punjab Jail Manual is female prisoners and 15 condemned prisoners. The average daily number of prisoners is about 260 and arrangements are being made for the construction of extra barracks with facilities for separating habitual and juvenile prisoners apart from the others; at the same time provision is to be made for workshops, etc., within

Jail.

CHAP. III, I.

Education and
Literacy.

the Jail walls, where the prisoners will be employed on various industries.

Jail administration has recently received much attention from the State authorities, water pipe has been laid on from the town waterworks, the sleeping accommodation improved, a special Jail staff employed in place of the old system of utilizing the State Police for Jail purposes, prisoners have for the first time been given registration tablets and will shortly be provided with an uniform dress. The jail contains a dispensary in the charge of a compounder who works under the instructions of the Chief Medical Officer of the State, who also acts as Superintendent of the Jail.

Until the new buildings are provided most of the prisoners are employed on extra-mural work in the State service, at the Press, State Farm or in the Public Works Department; but this system will soon give place to industrial employment within the Jail walls.

Last year (Sambat 1971) the annual expenditure amounted to Rs. 8,321 whilst the income stood at Rs. 6,108 of which Rs.608 was from Jail industries and the remainder represented the saving in wages to the State from the employment of Jail labour outside.

The recent appointment of a special Jail staff in place of utilising the services of the State Police is estimated to cost about Rs. 6,000 per annum.

Section I. ----- Education and Literacy.

Literacy.

The number of literate persons in the State is 5,018, of these 208 are literate in English. The percentage of men who can read and write is 6.7 amongst women only one in every thousand possesses these accomplishments.

The Gurmukhi character is in general use throughout the State, the Persian script being employed only in the towns.

Public library

A former minister of the State was interested in English literature and some years ago got together a library of about 2,000 volumes including fiction and works on Law, History, Science, Religion. Books can be taken out freely. The library is well housed, and most of the books are standard works, in fact the collection is particularly good one.

Schools.

The Education Department of the State is under a Director of Public Instruction. The Shri Brij Indar High School at Faridkot is the most important educational institution, there are 538 scholars of whom 132 are boarders, and the school and boarding houses are fine, well-appointed buildings.

At Kot Kapura there is an Anglo-Vernacular Middle School attended by 140 scholars. 1,532 boys are taught in the Village Primary Schools, which at present number 54. There is a Girls' School in Faridkot with 82 girls on the roll, a similar institution in Kot Kapura is closed temporarily owing to lack of students.

Of recent year much interest has been shown by the Darbar in education, and various scholarships have been founded and the teaching staff improved.

CHAP. III, J.

Medical

Section J ----- Medical.

The medical work in the State is under the control of the Chief Medical Officer. Medical.

The Jail dispensary has already received mention, in addition to which there are the following six hospitals and dispensaries. The Sadar Hospital with accommodation for twenty beds for in-door patients is contained in a fine brick building at one corner of the *serai* outside the walls of Faridkot town. It contains a suitable operating theatre and dispensing room, is lighted by electricity and well equipped, it is proposed to erect a contagious ward and a post-mortem room during the present year. In connection with this hospital arrangements are in force for training for the certificate of the St. John's Ambulance Association, this year 28 out of 30 students passed this test. Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Opposite the Sadar Hospital is a well-designed zenana hospital with twelve beds for in-door patients. A Cantonment Hospital was built in Cantonments in 1904, it contains three wards the largest of which holds eight beds, the two others being devoted to dangerous and eye cases respectively. In addition there is a small isolation ward, and well-equipped operating theatre, dispensary and store-room. There are out-door dispensaries, each under a Sub-assistant Surgeon, at Kot Kapura, Nainawala and Sadik, during the last year 67,292 patients were treated at these institutions, the year's expenditure amounting to Rs. 15,104.

There are no special arrangements for treating lunatics or lepers.

Vaccination is compulsory throughout the State and during the cold weather of 1914-15 4,723 children were vaccinated. Vaccination.

Conservancy arrangements in Faridkot and Kot Kapura are under the Municipal Committee and the local officials respectively, more attention has been directed to them recently and in Faridkot a sufficient staff has been provided under a Conservancy Darogha. Much yet remains to be done in both towns. Sanitation.

CHAPTER IV. — PLACES OF INTEREST.

CHAP. IV.

Places of interest.

Faridkot Town.

The State of Faridkot, owing to its situation and the nature of the soil, has never offered great inducements to settlers. Its long and varied history is a tale of raids and petty skirmishes, and till recent years very few inhabitants were to be found outside the forts of Faridkot and Kot Kapura, with the exception of these two towns, there are no places of interest within the State.

The town of Faridkot, which is situated about 20 miles south of Ferozepore, is said to have been founded about 700 years ago by one Raja Mokulsi, who called it Mokulhar, but the name of the fort was soon after changed to Faridkot after Baba Farid, a local *faqir*.*

This desert stronghold remained a bone of contention between rival chieftains for centuries. Raja Ranjit Singh regarded Faridkot as a place of some strategical importance and when the British Government demanded the restitution of all Sikh conquests made during the years 1808 on the left bank of the Satlej, this was the place he surrendered most unwillingly. It was not until the year 1837 that the town expanded beyond the confines of the fortification. For his valuable services in the second Sikh War the Ruling Chief of Faridkot was created Raja by the British Government, and made the modern town of Faridkot the capital of his newly constituted State. Several substantial buildings have been erected since Raja Pahal Singh's time, including a fine *samadh* and the new and handsome palace. The bazaars are broad and well paved, but the trade of the town is not considerable. About a mile away from the capital are the model canals, recently laid out by Raja L. Bir Singh.

Kot Kapura Town.

Kot Kapura is a town of some 10,644 inhabitants, and lies about seven miles south of Faridkot. It is the great trading centre of the State, and is one of the chief grain markets of the Punjab.

*Note: —The following doggerel is popularly ascribed to Baba Farid, though, owing to the occurrence of the name Faridkot, it is probably of later origin: -

"Faridkot,

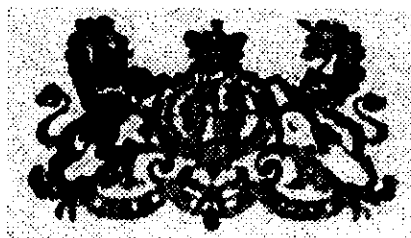
"Ghate ki lot pot,

"Pani ki tot,

"Admion ke Dillon men khot",

PUNJAB
STATES GAZETTEERS,
VOLUME XVI A.
FARIDKOT STATE

1915.



Lahore :
PRINTED AT THE "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE" PRESS,

1917.