

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

17. Pre-history

(i) Early Stone Age

In the Mahanadi-Brahmani Valley the Stone Age hunters found an ideal environment and had their earliest settlements the relics of which are now found at Bhalitundi (opposite to Talcher town on the other side of the Brahmani), Bhimakand, Chakrasil, Harichandanpur, Hindol Road, Kankil, Kulei, Talcher, Samal, Kaliakata, Parang, Tikarpara, Pal Lahara, Muchurigaria, and Kharagprasad.

The tools of the Early Stone Age occurs at the bottom of the river cliff sections in a layer of coarse gravels. At Bhalitundi, Kulei and Kharagprasad on the Brahmani and Pal Lahara on the Mankra and the Neta such implementiferous sections are seen. Tools occur on the surface at Bhimakand, Chakrasil, Harichandanpur, Hindol Road, Kankili Kaliakata, Parang, and Muchurigaria. The gravel spread of the Mahanadi at Tikarpara, the Brahmani at Talcher and Samal, and the Nandir at Parang has also yielded these tools. Like Kuliana, the secondary laterite of Talcher is also implementiferous. A few tools were found from the Revenue Rest Shed tank at Talcher when it was being excavated in 1958. The tools were recovered in situ from the laterite pits at a depth of three to four feet from the surface. Here, the laterite is pisolitic and usually of the murrum variety used for spreading on the roads.

Pal Lahara, Harichandanpur, Kaliakata, and Parang are the richest among all the sites so far discovered in this district. Keeping apart Harichandanpur, the rest are purely Early Stone Age sites. Harichandanpur is the only site which gives us evidence of its occupation throughout the pre-historic period. Here, we get the tools of the early, middle and late Stone Age cultures lying on the surface, in the forest and in the dried up bed of the stream. There are outcrops of quartz quartzite and other suitable rocks nearby, which have provided the necessary raw material for the various Stone Age industries. The other notable site among these four is Pal Lahara. Here, the big exposure of the highly cemented coarse gravel containing tools in the sections of the Mankra is of great interest to the archaeologist. If anywhere a search for the fossilised human or animal remains is to be made, it is this place. Hundreds of tools, of both the crude and developed Early

N. B.—The portions on pre and proto history of Dhenkanal have been contributed by Dr. G. C. Mohapatra.

Stone Age facies, have been chiselled out from these wonderful sections of Mankra. The sections of the Neta in the neighbourhood are not less promising.

From the typo-technological analysis of these tools it is clearly seen that both the early and the late tool types are present in this collection. The tools are generally the hand axes, cleavers, scrapers, points, irregularly flaked bifaces and pebbles, flakes, and cores. The early types showing the crude technique of stone flaking are manifested only in a few hand axes, scrapers and irregularly flaked bifaces, and pebbles. The technique employed in their manufacture is called 'Block on Block', a free flaking technique holding two blocks of stone and striking the one with the other. The advanced types are points, cleavers, smaller scrapers and well-made specimens of the already existing types. In the later specimens generally the flaking is much controlled with a new flaking technique known as the 'Cylinder-hammer'. The early types are massive and the majority of them are irregular in shape. But the later types are well-made with sharp working edge, well defined outlines and symmetrical body. Typologically, the Early Stone Age industry of the Dhenkanal district corresponds to the Abbivillio-Acheulian industry of Europe and the handaxe-cleaver tradition of the peninsular India.

(ii) Middle Stone Age

In the Dhenkanal District we do not have many sites of this industry. But the neighbouring districts like Keonjhar and Sundargarh have a large number of it. Only at Harichandanpur we have faint traces of it, in the form of a few tools, typo-technologically similar to the tools assigned to this period from other parts of Orissa.

Now this scarcity of the tools of the Middle Stone Age culture in this district can be explained in one way. We have seen that generally the chief raw material for this industry had been the fine grain rocks like chert, jasper and opal. The outcrops of these rocks either in the form of veins or river pebbles are extremely rare in this district, whereas they are found plenty in the Brahmani and the Baitarani Valley in the Sundargarh and Keonjhar districts, respectively, from where a large number of Middle Stone Age sites have been reported.

(iii) Late Stone Age

The industries of this age are the Microliths and the polished stone celt (Neolithic) which fall within the geological period of the Holocene. The tools occur on the surface without any stratigraphic context. There is no means to find out which industry is early and which is late. It may be that both are contemporary to each other. But at places like

Sanganakallu¹ and Brahmagiri² in Mysore the microlithic industry was found to have been succeeded by the polished stone celts. But no such excavated evidence is available in Orissa.

The climatic condition during this time was not perhaps very much different from that of the present time. The only likely difference may be that during these days the forests were more thick and the soil was less eroded which at present have deteriorated only due to extensive cultivation and other human activities.

Microlithic tools have only been found at Kaniha, a place which is very near to Harichandanpur. They comprise a few fluted cores and blades. The name microlith suggests their very diminutive size which were never used singly but in a composite fashion. Specially the blades were used as a composite knife when two or three of them are hafted on a wood or bone by making a long groove on it. A single microlithic blade is very small and brittle but when mounted in a composite fashion becomes as effective as any ordinary pen knife of our time. The fluted core is that from which several of such blades have been removed. These cores retain the longitudinal flake scars running from the top to bottom, each scar representing the original place of a blade removed. This skill of composite tool making is definitely another industrial development which reflects upon the growing intellectual capacity of these people the ancestors of whom, not very long before, were living like animals depending on nature for everything. These small composite tool making may also suggest another change in the economy of the Early Man. It might be that due to the gradual increase of the aridity, the luxurious fauna and flora, on which the people of the Early and Middle Stone Age were solely feeding were completely or partially extinct. Hence the Late Stone Age folk had considerable difficulty in continuing to live as simple food gatherer like their ancestors and were compelled to embark on a new life as that of a food producer. These composite tools, useful for harvesting rather than killing animals, were perhaps invented to meet the need of his new career, the career of an incipient agriculturist. The other types of tools which are usually found in such microlithic industries in other places in Orissa and India have not yet come up from the Dhenkanal district. They are the various types of small scrapers, borers, burine, points and corresponding cores and flakes. Though these types are the same as those of the Middle Stone Age, their size and shape are much smaller than the former. Side by side with his crude agriculture man of this time was a hunter which is evident from his other tool types. There is no evidence so far as to whether this man had any type of pottery and domestic animals.

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1. Subbarao, B. *Stone Age Cultures of Bellary*, Deccan College Dissertation Series 7, (Poona, 1948).
 2. Wheeler, R. E. M. 'Brahmagiri and Chandravalli, 1947: Megalithic and other cultures in Mysore State', *Ancient India*, No. 4 (1947-48) pp. 180-310.

The polished stone celts, popularly known as the Neolithic celts, are really the agricultural implements. Along with these celts we have a fairly large number of ring stones which were probably used for weighting the digging sticks for ploughing the field (a primitive form of agriculture now prevalent among many primitive tribes). A group of scholars believe that they are the mace-heads. At Harichandanpur, a fragment of this ring stone made of quartzite (two chisels and one celt, all the three are of epidiorite), have been discovered. Four chisels, two of epidiorite and one of dolerite and the fourth of sandstone, were found from Sardapur. Kaniha yielded a fragment of the quartzite ring stone and two chisels of basalt.

In September 1971, neolithic stone implements have been discovered at Sana Kerjang jungle, a village in Angul subdivision. A note on this discovery has been given as Appendix-I to this Chapter.

18. Proto-History

Shouldered celts have not yet been found in the Dhenkanal district but the remnant of a crude copper using culture has been found at Dunria near Pal Lahara. A copper celt with a convex working edge and resembling a shouldered stone celt in other respects is now kept in the Lucknow Museum which was found from Dunria (Pal Lahara). It measures $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and nearly $3/8$ th of an inch thick at the butt-end. The cutting edge, however, is not sharp. Unfortunately, nothing of its archaeological context is known nor anybody has ever tried to examine the metal in order to know exactly how it was made. From its shape it can be said to be a metal replica of the stone shouldered celts. In this context the opinion of a few scholars may be quoted. Gordon suggests that 'once outside the influence of the Harappa culture the Aryans met with aboriginals in a neolithic stage of culture, but there were also those people who used pointed-butt stone axes and square-shouldered tanged stone adzes. These latter may possibly be copies of metal types, but there is no evidence for it in India'. In the footnote he also suggests that 'the shouldered copper axes of Midnapur are something of this type and are in the same area, but as the place of origin of these tanged stone adzes is in Indo-China, it is more likely that these copper tools were influenced by the stone adzes which had already arrived from the east'¹. Dani firmly believes that 'such a degree of perfection in stone working (making the shouldered celts) is hardly justifiable unless one is copying a metal form. The earliest evidence of the shouldered type in bronze comes from Anyang where they have been dated to the Yin dynasty (c.1300-218 B. C.)'².

1. Gordon, Colonel D. H. 'The Early Use of Metal in India and Pakistan' The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, LXXX, p. 59.

2. Dani, Ahmad Hasan, op. cit. p. 225-226.

He also says that 'J. G. Anderson and Bernard Karlgren believe purely on typological basis that the bronze specimens are perfected copies of the stone type'³. Whatever may be the case, whether the stone form is a copy of the metal or vice-versa the fact that both the forms are very intimately connected with each other is clearly perceived when we take their distribution pattern into consideration. The metal forms are confined only to the south-eastern part of India including eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. This is the region including Assam where the stone-shouldered celts generally occur.

From outward features and crude finish of the specimen from Dunria, one can safely assign it to a period when the knowledge of metallurgy was much less developed than the early historic period (i. e., the pre-Mauryan and the Mauryan period) in which copper was so extensively used for striking the punch-marked coins and joining the shaft and the capital of the famous Asokan pillars.

19. Archaeology

(i) Temples and Images

Although the district of Dhenkanal is very rich in pre-historic archaeology, it has not much of archaeological remains of the historical periods. In fact, no archaeological relics belonging to pre-Christian period have yet been discovered in this district. The archaeological interest in this region is confined to a few temples and images found in the Brahmani valley. An important group of temples in dilapidated condition are standing in the village Kualo in Kamakhyanagar subdivision. Kualo is an abbreviation of Kodalaka which was the headquarters of the Sulki rulers who flourished about the 8th century A. D. This group of temples were very likely constructed by the Sulki kings and both architectural and sculptural peculiarities indicate that these were the monuments of early medieval period. A detailed description of these temples has been given in Chapter XIX—'Places of interest'.

Remains of a large number of broken temples are also found at Bajrakot in Talcher subdivision and the date of these may be attributed to almost the same period. The Bhingeswara Siva temple of this place is in good state of preservation and it reveals an architectural style comparable to that of Parasurameswar temple in Bhubaneswar. A detailed description of the architectural and artistic peculiarities of this temple is also given in Chapter XIX.

The sculptural remains found in this district are of very peculiar nature. They are remarkable not only by peculiar style and technique but also by the colossal nature of the images. The most important

examples of such images are those of Anantasayana Vishnu found at Sarang in Kamakhyanager subdivision and at Bhimakand in Talcher subdivision. Both the images are carved on natural rock and are represented in sleeping posture. The image of Bhimakand being 41'-6" in length is considered to be the largest sleeping image in India, the largest standing image being that of Gomateswar in South India. Descriptions of the images of Bhimakand and Sarang are also to be found in Chapter XIX.

(ii) Coins

There are also reports about discovery of Gupta gold coins and Ganga gold fanams from Angul. But as these coins belong to private collection and as no research work has been published on them, it is not possible to write anything about these coins. It is known from the Talcher Copper Plate grant of Sulki king Kulastambha that a type of silver coin called Rupya was in circulation in the Kodalaka Mandala. But no such coins have yet been discovered from this region.

(iii) Inscriptions

This district has yielded large number of Copper Plate Inscriptions belonging to Bhaumakara, Sulki, Tunga, and Nandodbhava dynasties of mediæval Orissa. Among the Bhauma Copper Plate Inscriptions, mention may be made of (1) Hindol Plate of Subhakara Deva III, dated in the Bhauma year 103, i. e., 839 A. D., (2) Talcher Plate of Subhakaradeva IV, dated in the year 141, i. e., 877 A. D., (3) two Talcher Plates of Sivakaradeva III both dated in the year 149 or 885 A. D., (4) the Dhenkanal Plate of Tribhuvana Mahadevi, dated in the year 160 i. e., 896 A. D., (5) the Angul Plate of Dharma Mahadevi and (6) the Taltali Plate of Dharma Mahadevi, the last two plates being undated. These plates are very important in our study about the history and genealogy of the Bhaumakara dynasty. The Taltali plate reveals the rule of a number of queens like Gauri Mahadevi, the first queen of Subhakara V, Dandi Mahadevi, the daughter of Gauri Mahadevi, Bakula Mahadevi, the 2nd queen of Subhakara V and Dharma Mahadevi, the queen of Santikara III, brother of Subhakara V. The rule of these queens except that of Dandi Mahadevi is not known to us from any other sources.

Out of the 9 Copper Plate Inscriptions of the Sulki rulers, so far available to us, as many as seven have been discovered in Dhenkanal district. Complete genealogy of these Sulki kings can be obtained from the Talcher Copper Plate grant of Kulastambha and Dhenkanal Copper Plate charters of the Tunga dynasty, so far known to us. Three have been discovered in Dhenkanal district and only one has come to light in Bonai in Sundargarh district. The history of the Nandodbhava dynasty is known from six Copper Plate Inscriptions out of which three have been found in Dhenkanal district.

So far no important stone inscriptions have been discovered in this district. A few votive inscriptions are, however, seen in the temple at Kapilas and those are inscribed in proto-Oriya scripts. If properly studied, those scripts would throw much light on development of Oriya alphabets.

20. Early History

The early history of the territory comprising the district of Dhenkanal has remained obscure due to paucity of reliable materials. The territory was probably included in the Maurya Empire under Asoka during the 3rd Century B. C. and had also very likely formed a part of the Empire of Kharavela in the 1st Century B. C. But nothing more could be said about the history of this region during the period before Christ.

Dhenkanal region was probably included in the Empire of Satavahana king Gautamiputra Satakarni who flourished in the 2nd Century A. D. A Nasik Cave Inscription¹ of Vasisthiputra Pulumavi reveals that Mount Mahendra and Malaya were located in the Empire of Gautamiputra. The Mount Mahendra is a famous peak of that name located in Ganjam district and the mount Malaya may be identified with Malayagiri in Pal Lahara subdivision in Dhenkanal district. The Greek writer Pliny² reveals that the Mount Melius was located in the land of Oretes and the tribes called Suaris and Monedes were inhabiting at the neighbourhood of it. The Greek 'Oretes' seems to be the same as the Sanskrit 'ODRAS' and mount Melius is very probably identical with Malayagiri. In that consideration it may be said that the Greek writer Pliny has referred to the Malayagiri Hill located in the Odra country and the tribes named Suaris and Monedes are very likely the same as the Savara and the Munda people who are inhabiting the neighbourhood of the Malayagiri hill to the present day. The reference of Pliny to the Malayagiri of Orissa leaves no doubt to the fact that even this hill was well known in ancient India and the identification of it with the Malaya hill mentioned in the Nasik Cave Inscription thus appear very plausible¹.

The district of Dhenkanal has not yielded any Kushan coins although such coins are found in plenty in the coastal districts of Orissa as well as in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar. On the basis of the finds of Kusan coins scholars are of opinion that the Murunda tribe ruled over the eastern Orissa about the 3rd century A.D. but as no such coins have been discovered in this district this region may be said to have been outside the sphere of the Murunda rule.

This district did not come on the route of the campaign of Samudragupta who invaded Kosala and marched towards the coastal region of Kalinga through Mahakantara identified with the forest tract of Jeypore and Kalahandi (Mahavana). No Gupta relics excepting a few Gupta

1. Ep. Ind. VII, P. 60 ff.

2. Pliny's Natural History Vol. II Bk. VI, Ch. XXII, P. 46.

gold coins are found in this district; and as these gold coins have probably come to this area in course of trade, nothing can be said on the basis of such chance-finds. It appears that petty local chiefs ruled over different parts of this region in early times enjoying semi-independent status and such state of affairs continued till the early-medieval period. But as no written records about the activities of these chiefs have come to light, it is not possible to say anything about them.

The history of the district of Dhenkanal can properly be studied from the time of ascendancy of the Bhauma-karas, who started their rule about 736 A. D. The Bhauma Empire extended from Danda-Bhukti (modern Midnapur district in West Bengal) in the north to Kongoda (Ganjam district of Orissa) in the south and from the sea in the east to the Bardi-Kherdimal district in the west. The district of Dhenkanal was without doubt a part of this extensive empire and, as has been mentioned above, a large number of Copper Plate Inscriptions belonging to the Bhauma-kara kings have been discovered in different parts of the district. The detailed history of the Bhauma-karas would be given in the Cuttack District Gazetteer as the capital of this ruling dynasty was located at *Vraja*, modern Jajpur in the district of Cuttack. The Dhenkanal region was, however, under direct administration of the feudatory chiefs of the Bhauma-kara monarchs and it was divided into different mandals under the political control of different ruling dynasties. The accounts of these ruling families are presented below.

21. The Bhanjas of Angulaka-pattana

About the 8th Century A. D. the Bhanja kings were ruling over the western part of this district from their headquarters at Angulaka-Pattana. The Bardi Copper Plate Inscription of king Netta Bhanja reveals that he was a ruler of Angulaka-Pattana in the 8th Century A. D. This place has been identified by scholars with Angul. But it should be remembered that the present town of Angul is of recent origin and that the site of Angulaka-Pattana may therefore be located close to the old Angul popularly called Purunagarh. After Netta Bhanja the Bhanjas seem to have been driven towards Bardi, by the Sulkis who occupied Angul area and ruled over an extensive territory known as Kodalaka Mandala.

22. The Sulkis of Kodalaka Mandala

Dhenkanal, Talcher and the neighbouring area was known as Kodalaka Mandala during the 8th and 9th Centuries A. D. and was under the rule of the kings belonging to Sulki family who were feudatories of the Bhauma-kara rulers. The Sulkis are an ancient family and are referred to in the *Vrihat-Samhita*² and *Markandeya Purana*³. The *Haraha Inscription*⁴ dated in 601 A. D. reveals that the *Maikhari* king Isanavarman defeated the Sulkis along with the Gaudas and the

1. J. B. O. R. S. Vol. XVII. P. 102-118

2. *Vrihat Samhita*, XIV. 8.

3. *Markandeya Purana* LV. 201-9

4. *Ep. Ind.* XIV, P. 110-21.

Andhras. The Gaudas have been assigned to the Bengal littoral and the Andhras to the Godavari-Krishna doab, whereas the Sulkis have been taken to be the rulers of Orissa region. Thus the Sulkis seem to have political predominance in the heart of Orissa as early as 611 A. D. when they were defeated by the Maukhari Isanavarman. Apart from the Haraha Stone Inscription, our knowledge about the history of this family is mainly derived from 9 Copper Plate Inscriptions, 5 of which are discovered from Dhenkanal¹ and one each from Hindol², Talcher³ and Puri⁴, while the 9th one was brought to light from Joragram⁵ in West Bengal. The last mentioned record confounded scholars like Haraprasad Sastri and R. D. Banerji, who were of opinion that the kingdom of the Sulkis was in West Bengal and that the people of Sulki caste in Bengal were the descendants of the Sulki ruling family of the early medieval period. The Jaragram Copper Plate was issued by king Ranastambha donating the village Jara in Kodalakamandala to a Brahmin named Pachuka who hailed from Radhamandala. Although H. P. Sastri and R. D. Banerji were of impression that Radhamandala was included in Kodalakamandala, the inscription in question clearly indicates that these two Mandalas were not associated with one another except that the Brahmin Pachuka came from Radhamandala and was granted land in Kodalakamandala. The village Jara may be identified with Jarpara in modern Dhenkanal district. It may be pointed out that not a single village referred to in the 9 Copper plate charters referred to above, can be located in West Bengal. On the other hand, places like Konkula, Goyila, Kankavira, Chakaliaka, etc. are respectively identified with modern Kankula, Goyilu, Konkaria, and Chakalia, etc., in Dhenkanal district. The town of Kodalaka, the capital of Kodalakamandala, is identified with the modern village Kuaol in this district and it contains many important relics belonging to the early medieval period. The river Sankhajoti referred to in the Dhenkanal grant of Kulastambha is no other than the present river Brahmani which is called Sankha in its upper course even at present.

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| 1. J. B. O. R. S. Vol. II. | P. 396-400
P. 400-05. |
| | P. 405-09.
P. 409-12.
P. 412.-17. |
| 2. Ep. Ind. XXVIII. | P. 107-14. |
| 3. Ep. Ind. XII. | P. 156-58. |
| 4. J. A. S. B. LXIV. | P. 123-27. |
| 5. J. B. O. R. S. IV. | P. 168-71. |

The genealogy of the Sulki kings of Kodalakamandala as known from their Copper Plate charters is given below.

Kanchana Stambha
|
Kulastambha
|
Ranastambha alias Kulastambha II & also Nidaya
Stambha.
|
Jayastambha
|
Kulastambha III

The Talcher Copper Plate Grant of Ranastambha is dated in Bhauma Era 103 i.e., 839 A.D. and from this it can be suggested that his grandfather Kanchanastambha, the earliest known king of the Sulki family, flourished at the end of the 8th Century A. D. Kanchanastambha was very probably the feudatory of the Bhauma-kara king Sivakara II, who is known from his Chaurasi Copper Plate Grant ¹ dated in the year 73 (809 A. D.) to be the over-lord of Dakshina Tosali. The son and successor of Kanchanastambha was Kulastambha I who enlarged his own territory after subduing the Savara tribes. The Savara Chief named Dhekata was defeated and killed by him after which he assumed the proud title of Vikramaditya. Some scholars ² are of opinion that Dhekata was the same as the legendary Savara Chief Dhenka after whom the place has been named as Dhenkanal. The memorial stone called 'Dhenka Savara Munda' is located near the palace of the Raja and is honoured by the local people even at present. Kulastambha I called himself Ranaka. But his successor Ranastambha styled himself as Maha-Samantadhipati. He is known to have built a number of temples for the worship of Siva and the cluster of temples at Kualo were probably constructed by this ruler. His Talcher Copper Plate Grant is dated in 103 Bhauma Era, and so he may be taken to be a contemporary of the Bhauma king Subhakaradeva III whose Dharakot ³ and Hindol ⁴ plates are dated in the same year 103 (839 A. D.). Ranastambha was also known as Alanastambha and Nidayastambha and he was also probably called Kulastambha II. After his death his brother Jayastambha succeeded to the throne and assumed the high sounding titles of Maharajadhiraja and Lord of all Gondramas. The meaning of Gondrama is not quite clear. According to Pandit Binayak Mishra, it means the Gond people who were living in the modern Pal Lahara area. It appears that Jayastambha challenged the suzerainty of the

1. J. B. O. R. S. XIV. P. 292-306.

2. B. Mishra, *Dynasties of Medieval Orissa*, P. 32.

3. J. A. H. R. S. Vol. IV. P. 189-94.

4. J. B. O. R. S. Vol. XVI. P. 69-83.

Bhauma-kara monarchs and declared his independence. The downfall of the rule of this family is probably due to the rebellious attitude of Jayastambha against the Bhauma-karas and during the time of the next king Kulastambha III, the Sulkis were ousted from power and their territory was divided between two ruling families—the Nandodbhavas and the Tungas, who took possession of the southern and the northern portions respectively.

23. The Nandodbhavas of Airavatta Mandala

The Nanda or the Nandodbhava family, who got possession of the southern portion of the Sulki dominion, called their territory as Airavatta Mandala. This Mandala comprised the south-eastern part of Dhenkanal district, the Narsinghpur and the Banki region of Cuttack district, and part of Nayagarh subdivision of Puri district. The headquarters of Airavatta Mandala was located at Jayapura identified with the modern village of the same name in the district of Dhenkanal. The headquarters was named Jayapura probably after Jayananda, the founder of the Nanda rule in this area. The account of the rule of this dynasty is known to us from six Copper Plate Inscriptions, three of which were found from the district of Dhenkanal¹, one from Daspatha in Puri district², one from Narsinghpur in Cuttack district³ and another from Baripada in Mayurbhanj district⁴. The last mentioned Copper Plate was found at Dhenkanal and it is now preserved in the Baripada Museum. So all the inscriptions of the Nandodbhava kings were found in the areas over which they had political influence. The genealogy of the Nanda kings known from these inscriptions may be presented as follows:—

Jayananda

Paramananda

Sivananda

Devananda I

Vilasatunga

Devananda II

Dhruvananda

The last two rulers are known from their Copper Plate charters to be ruling over Airavatta Mandala in the years 184 corresponding to 920 A. D. and 193 corresponding to 929 A. D. respectively. The Sulki king Ranastambha, as pointed out above, was ruling in 103 Bhauma

1. J. B. O. R. S. XV. P. 87-100.

Ditto XVI. P. 457-72.

Ep. Ind. XXVII. P. 325-30.

2. Ep. Ind. XXIX. P. 183-89.

3. Ep. Ind. XXVII. P. 331-34.

4. Ep. Ind. XXVI. P. 74 ff.

Era, i. e., (839 A. D.) and as the rule of the Sulki terminated about the middle of the 9th Century A. D., the Nandas must have succeeded the Sulki in this region.

Jayananda, the first Nanda king, is thus ascribed to the middle of the 9th Century A. D. The activities of the rulers of this dynasty are not known to us as the available Copper Plate grants speak very little about them. All the rulers except Dhruvananda, the last king, were Saivas by their faith and Vilasatunga has been described to have commendable virtues and is credited with the excavation of many tanks in the territory. Dhruvananda was a devoted Buddhist and he probably made some attempts to popularise Buddhism. The kings of the dynasty were all subordinate to the Bhaumakaras and with the decline of the imperial authority, the rule of the dynasty came to an end by the middle of the 10th Century A. D.

24. The Tungas of Yamagartha Mandala

The northern part of Kodalaka Mandala constituted a separate Mandala under the rule of the Tunga family and was named Yamagartha Mandala. A chief named Jayasimha claimed himself as the Lord of Yamagartha Mandala in the year 99 which is taken by scholars to have been dated in the Bhauma era.

It appears that during the early years of the rule of the Sulki king Jayastambha, Jayasimha snatched away the portion of the Sulki kingdom and founded a new kingdom named Yamagartha Mandala. But Jayasimha could not continue long and Yamagartha Mandala very soon fell into the hands of the Tungas. Our knowledge about the rule of the Tunga family is derived from five Copper plate Inscriptions, four of which were discovered at Talcher¹ and the one at Bonai in Sundargarh district². Of these five Inscriptions, three Talcher Copper Plate Grants were issued by a ruler named Gayadu Tunga and one Talcher and Bonai grant was issued by Vinita Tunga. From the inscriptions of Vinita Tunga, we find the accounts of two generations only, i. e., of Vinita Tunga and his father Khadga Tunga³. The charters of Gayadu Tunga gives the following genealogy extending over three generations:—

Jagat Tunga		Khadga Tunga
Salana Tunga		Gayadu Tunga
Gayadu Tunga		Vinita Tunga

1. J. A. S. B XII. P. 291; J. A. S. B. V. P. 347, O. H. R. V. VII. P. 66.

Arch. Survey of Mayurbhanj, P. 154.
2. J. B. O. R. S. VI. P. 236.

3. Binayak Mishra, *Dynasties of Mediaeval Orissa*, P. 39.
According to R. D. Banerji, however, three generations of kings are mentioned, namely, Vinita Tunga I, his son Khadgatunga and his son Vinita Tunga II. (*History of Orissa*, Vol. I. P. 201).

Vinita Tunga appears to be a feudatory of Bhaumakara Chief Sivakara III whose Talcher Inscriptions¹ dated in the year 149, i. e., 885 A. D. was issued at his request. In his own charter, Vinita Tunga claims himself as the Maharaja Ranaka, Lord of 18 Gondhramas and also as one who obtained the five great sounds. It is, however, not possible to co-relate the two branches of the family known from the two sets of Copper Plates but it may be said that these two families belong to the same stock as both claim to have hailed from a place named Rohitasa (Rohtas in Sahabad district of Bihar) and to have belonged to Sandilya-gotra. The Tunga rulers were the patrons of Buddhism although they were the devotees of Lord Siva.

25. Feudal States

The Bhaumakaras declined by the middle of the 10th Century A. D. when the eastern part of Orissa including the Dhenkanal region passed to the hands of the Somavamsis of South Kosala. The Somavamsis in their turn were ousted by the Gangas and Orissa was occupied by Chodagangadeva sometime before 1112 A. D. The Ganga rule lasted as long as 1435 A. D., when a new Solar dynasty founded by Kapilendradeva came to power. About the year 1533-34, Govinda Vidyadhar put an end to the Suryavamsi rule and started the rule of the Bhoi dynasty which lasted up to 1559 when Mukundadeva, belonging to the Chalukya family, forcibly occupied the throne. In 1568, the Afghans of Bengal invaded Orissa, and defeated and killed Mukundadeva after which Orissa came under their occupation. During all this period of dynastic changes, the district of Dhenkanal played no remarkable role in history and this territory simply passed from one political authority to the other. During the rule of the Suryavamsis and the Bhois, some new feudal states were developed as self-contained political units in subsequent periods. These are Dhenkanal, Talcher, Hindol, Athmallik, Pal Lahara, and Angul and the history of each of these states is presented below :

(i) Dhenkanal

The ruling family of the ex-State of Dhenkanal belongs to the Bhoi dynasty; and according to tradition, Harisingh Bidyadhar, the brother of Govinda Bidyadhar, the Commander of Gajapati Pratapa Rudradeva, is the founder of this line of kings. Harisingh was granted *Jagirs* in the Karomola *Biso*, one of the 24 *Bisos* of the ex-State of Dhenkanal, by Pratapa Rudradeva. This Chief gradually subjugated the neighbouring *Jagirdars* and *killadars* and by 1531 A. D. acquired the *Killas* of Atinda and Apangabisos, as well as the Bhanja *Jagirdars* of Besalia. The Killa Dhenkanal was occupied by him about 1582 A. D. and this has been considered to be the date of his supremacy over the Dhenkanal

1. Orissa under the Bhauma kings, P. 40—50.

State. He consolidated his position and ruled as a semi-independent chief till his death in 1594 A. D. He was succeeded by his son Lokanath Bhramarabar who enlarged the State by acquiring the *Bisos* of Guddesh, Nuagarh, and Tipijori. After his death in 1615, his son Balabhadra Raisingh became the ruler. It was during the rule of this Chief that the *Bisos* of Uppardesh and Parjang were incorporated in the Dhenkanal state. Balabhadra Raisingh was succeeded by his son Nilakantha Raisingh Bhramarabara in 1641 who ruled up to 1682 A. D. and got possession of the Baniapara *Biso*. After him, his son Nrusingha Bhramarabara ruled up to 1708 and extended the area of his State by occupying the *Bisos* of Janadesh, Nrusimha Prasad and Gompur. He was succeeded by his son Kunjabehari Bhramarabara who ruled from 1708 to 1728. This ruler fought with the Chief of Angul and took possession of Gotamara *Biso* for sometime but subsequently it was taken back by the Chief of Angul. His son Brajabehari Bhramarabara recovered the possession of Gotamara *Biso* by defeating the Chief of Angul. He was succeeded in 1741 by his son Damodar Bhramarabara who had a short rule of one year and eight months only. It is said that he was murdered by a Moghul General named Marjar and as he was issueless, one of his relatives named Jainarayan was selected as the Raja by high officials and courtiers in 1743. It was during his time that Orissa was occupied by the Marhattas in 1751 and he had to face repeated incursions of Marhatta Generals. When Sheo Bhatt, the first Marhatta Governor of Orissa, was dismissed from service in 1764, the Raja thought it a good opportunity to rebel. He attacked and murdered Bulikhan, the adopted son of Sheo Bhatt, and seized his horses and effects. Bhawani Pandit, the *de facto* Subadar (1764—68), suppressed the rebellion of the Raja.

In the middle of 1769 Raja Jainarayan wrote to Muhammad Riza Khan, the Naib Nazim of Bengal appointed by the British, as follows; "His country has been plundered by the Marhattas. Sambhaji Ganesh who is staying at Jajpur has rebelled against Raja Januji. Consequently the Raja's people have come from the Deccan to summon him to Nagpur. The whole country from Balasore to Cuttack is undefended and Sambhuji has designed to loot it. Should a letter of encouragement be sent to the writer, he will stay in the country with a satisfied heart. Sends to Murshidabad his brother, who will relate all particulars to the Khan". It is not known how Riza Khan could have helped the Raja of Dhenkanal against the Marhattas during those days, and there can be no doubt that the appeal of the Raja turned futile.

Raja Jainarayan was succeeded in 1771 by Trilochan Singh who ruled from 1771 to 1798 and he is known to be a mighty and powerful ruler. It is said that the Gajapati Raja of Khurda conferred upon him

the title of Mahindra Bahadur, which is borne by the chiefs of Dhenkanal as hereditary right. The army of Dhenkanal during the rule of this Raja consisted of 10,000 *paiks*, 1,800 *telugu* and 500 *nagas*. The Raja was himself fond of wrestling and had recruited 13 wrestlers from outside Orissa to impart his soldiers training in gymnastics every day.

Rajaram Pandit, the Marhatta Governor of Orissa (1778—93), imposed a *peshkash* of 60,000 *Kahans* (of *cauris*) on the Raja of Dhenkanal. Trilochan Mahindra, however, resented payment, whereupon Rajaram's forces invaded Dhenkanal in 1780. The army of Dhenkanal fought bravely and were able to repel the Marhatta invaders.

It was by that time that a formidable coalition among the Peshwa of Poona, the Bhonsla of Nagpur, Haidar Ali of Mysore and Nizam Ali Khan of Hyderabad was formed against the East India Company. But Madhoji Bhonsla of Nagpur secretly professed friendship with Warren Hastings and his army led by Chimnaji against Bengal merely made a show of invasion but actually made deliberate delay on their way in Orissa. Madhoji by that time heard about the defeat of Rajaram Pandit at the hands of the Raja of Dhenkanal which was indeed a blow to the prestige of the Marhattas in Orissa. He, therefore, directed Chimnaji to retaliate and the latter accompanied by Rajaram Pandit and Manju, defeated the Raja, who was forced to accept the terms dictated by the Marhattas. By the time David Anderson, the envoy of Warren Hastings arrived at Balasore on the 27th January, 1781, Chimnaji had despatched most of his army towards the hilly regions of Dhenkanal and when Anderson arrived at Cuttack on the 28th January, he found Chimnaji as well as Rajaram Pandit already out on their campaign against Dhenkanal. Thus the battle with Dhenkanal was probably fought in January-February, 1781. The fight between the Marhattas and the Raja of Dhenkanal forms the subject matter of the famous poem *Samarataranga* composed by Brajanath Badajena who was living in the court of Raja Trilochan Mahindra Bahadur.

After the departure of Chimnaji, Trilochan Mahindra fought with the Rajas of Keonjhar and Pal Lahara and took from them the Bisos of Saurik and Palasuni respectively. He also obtained the Bisos of Chhadesh and Lakshmi Prasad respectively from the Rajas of Tigiria and Athgarh. Raja Trilochan was not only a great warrior but also an able administrator and during his rule, education, as well as, trade, commerce, and agriculture flourished in the State. The Raja of Khurda, being very much impressed with the kingly virtues, conferred on him the title of Mahindra Bahadur which became the hereditary title and distinction for his successors and was recognised by the Marhattas as well as by the British. Raja Trilochan Mahindra Bahadur died in 1785 and was succeeded by his son Raja Dayanidhi Mahindra Bahadur who ruled up to 1796.

As he died issueless, one Jagannath Mansingh, a member of the Raja's family, assumed power for 13 days only after which one Ramachandra Singh, the younger brother of Raja Dayanidhi, ascended the *Gadi*. It was during his rule that the British conquered Orissa in 1803-04, and Raja Ramachandra Mahindra Bahadur received *sanad* from the British Commissioner in 1804. He was succeeded by his son Raja Krishnachandra Mahindra Bahadur in 1807 who ruled up to 1822 when he died issueless while returning from pilgrimage. He was succeeded by his younger brother Raja Shyamasundar Mahindra Bahadur who also died issueless in 1830 after which his widow, Rani Kundan Dei adopted a boy of seven years named Bhagirathi Singh who ascended the *Gadi* in 1830. Raja Bhagirathi was a Sanskrit scholar and a broad-minded ruler. During his rule, the great famine of *Na-anka* took place in 1866 and the Raja rendered all possible help to relieve the distress of his people. The British Government in recognition of his liberal administration bestowed upon him the title of Maharaja. Bhagirathi Mahindra Bahadur made a revenue settlement in his state in 1846-47. During this settlement, lands were measured by a pole of 10'-6" in length and the unit of measurement was the *Man* (मण) (one acre approximately). This yielded a gross land revenue of Rs. 63,316 to the State. The second revenue settlement (1883-84) started during his life-time and ended after his death when the state was under the management of Court of Wards. This Settlement increased the land revenue to Rs. 98,339.

Maharaja Bhagirathi Mahindra adopted the youngest son of his brother-in-law Pitambardeva, the Raja of Baudh, and named him Dinabandhu. He died in 1877 and was succeeded by his adopted son who being a minor of 11 years, the State was managed by the Court of Wards under the control of the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals. The minor Raja prosecuted his studies at Cuttack and appeared at the Entrance Examination of Calcutta University in 1884, but failed. The next year he died leaving an infant son of about six months. The State had to be managed by the Court of Wards and the prince Surapratapa, the son of Dinabandhu Mahindra Bahadur, prosecuted his studies sometimes at Cuttack and sometimes under private tutors. The 3rd revenue settlement started in 1895 and ended in 1902, and the gross land revenue after the settlement amounted to Rs. 1,50,878.

Sura Pratapa was installed as a Ruler in November, 1906. He took keen interest in Education and Reforms and introduced an Education Department of the State. During his rule, both Primary and Secondary education made great progress. He also undertook measures of irrigation to improve agriculture. In 1908, there was partial failure of crops and for relief of distress he spent about a lakh of rupees. He undertook modern method of assessment of land revenue by Cadastral

survey in 1912. But the settlement was suspended after his death in 1918 owing to the out-break of famine in his state. He died in October 1918 at the age of 34, after a sudden attack of influenza. He was succeeded by his son Raja Sankar Pratap Mehindra Bahadur who was then a minor boy of 14, and the Court of Wards continued the revenue settlement that had been suspended for sometime in 1918 and concluded it in 1925. According to this settlement, the gross land revenue of the state came at Rs. 2,41,549. Raja Sankar Pratap is the last ruler of Dhenkanal having assumed ruling powers in 1925, and during his administration the state merged with Orissa in 1948. The powers of Raja Sankar Pratap Singh Deo Mahindra Bahadur were restricted from 17th January, 1944*. They were restored on the lapse of paramountcy of the British Crown.

(ii) Talcher

According to tradition, the progenitor of the ruling family of Talcher was Narahari Singh, one of the five sons of Arjun Singh, king of Jaipur in modern Rajasthan. Narahari Singh came to Orissa on pilgrimage in 1471 A.D. as a result of a fratricidal quarrel and later on he went to Bhimanagari on the bank of the river Brahmani where he succeeded in making himself a ruler of the place. Such tradition as pointed out in the History Chapter of Mayurbhanj has no historical basis as the antiquity of Jaipur does not go beyond the 18th century A.D. There is no doubt that this traditional account was created in later times probably with a view to attaching a Rajput heritage to ruling families during Harisingh's invasion of Orissa.

The rulers of Talcher belong to the Solar dynasty and in all probability the earliest ruler of this line was a scion of the family of the Suryavamsi Gajapati kings of Orissa who ruled in 15th-16th centuries A. D.

*Certificate dated the 12th July, 1947 from the Hon'ble the Resident for Eastern States.

Owing to maladministration in the Dhenkanal State the Crown Representative was compelled to restrict the powers of the Ruler from the 17th January, 1944. This restriction will continue until the lapse of paramountcy on the 15th of August, 1947. Accordingly the Crown Representative appointed from time to time, the following officers in the State:—

1. Rai Sahib S. K. Srivastava, as Chief minister for 3 years from 17th January 1944.
2. Rao Sahib T. Satyanarayan, as General Minister for 3 years from 17th January, 1944.
3. Rai Sahib Rai Gopal Das as Special Officer from October, 1944 to April, 1945.
4. Rai Bahadur O. K. Chatterjee, as Superintendent of Police from August, 1944.

These officers served as agents of the Crown Representative and performed their duties throughout under the instructions and guidance of the Political authorities who are solely responsible for all actions the aforesaid officers did in the discharge of their duties.

If Narahari Singh, the first king of the Talcher family, be ascribed according to the above tradition to 1471 A. D., he may be said to have acquired overlordship of Bhimanagari Dandapat during the rule of Gajapati Purushottamadeva (1446—1497). Nothing definite can, however, be said about this. Narahari Singh is said to have ruled from 1471 to 1480 and after him his son Udayanarayana Singh became the ruler in Bhimanagari. The Gajapati king was pleased with his valour and bestowed on him the title of Birabara Harichandan. The ninth ruler of this line was Padmanabha Birabara Harichandan who re-named the state as Talcher after the name of the family Goddess Taleswari. Padmanabha Harichandan is remembered as a pious ruler and is said to have constructed many temples in his state. He ruled from 1575—1598 A. D. and died at the age of 48. The twelfth ruler Ramachandra Birabara Harichandan ruled from 1711 to 1729, and owing to his generosity and liberal administration he was being compared by his people with Ramachandra of epic fame. He died at the age of 72 and was succeeded by his son Pitambar Birabara Harichandan who is remembered for various works of public utility. He died in 1740 as an octogenarian. The fifteenth ruler of the line was Krishna Chandra Birabara Harichandan who came to the Gadi in 1752. Orissa had been occupied by the Marhattas in 1751 and Krishnachandra signed a treaty acknowledging their overlordship and agreeing to pay an annual tribute of Rs. 1,000. He is said to have had a fair complexion and so he was nick-named 'Nimakoli' meaning that his complexion was as fair as the Neem fruit. During the rule of Ramachandra Mansingh Harichandan, the seventeenth ruler of the line, Orissa was visited by a great famine and the people of Talcher suffered as there was no organised measure to bring relief to them. Ramachandra Mansingh ruled from 1766 to 1774 and during the last year of his rule another famine occurred in Talcher with a heavy toll of human life. He died childless at the early age of 32, and was succeeded by Nimai Charan Champati Singh Birabara Harichandan. This ruler ruled only for four years (1774—1778) and in spite of his best efforts he failed to remove the famine conditions from his State. As he died issueless, the courtiers and officials installed on the Gadi a minor boy named Bhagirathi whom they declared to be an adopted son of the ex-ruler. This led to some trouble and the boy left the state for sometime but returned after a short period and ruled the state under the guidance of Vighneswar Raiguru who acted as a Minister. Bhagirathi Harichandan had a long rule which lasted till 1846. He was succeeded by Dayanidhi Birabara Harichandan who devoted most of his time to study of scriptures and religious books. He helped the British Government in their occupation of Angul and earned from the Government the title of Mahindra Bahadur. It was during his rule that the famine of *Na-anka* occurred in 1866, but this pious ruler took all possible measures to save the people from starvation. He died in 1873 at the age

of 72 and was succeeded by Ramachandra Birabara Harichandan. This ruler was fond of Sanskrit culture and his court was adorned by many Sanskrit Pandits. He was also interested in history and geography and compiled a small book on History of India entitled 'Bharatara Sankhipta Itihasa' which was prescribed as a text-book in the middle Vernacular classes of Orissa. Being an enlightened ruler, he established Courts of Judicature, Accounts Section, Tauzi, Nizarat, Police-Stations, Jails, etc. and insisted on regular maintenance of records as well as observance of official rules. He started the work of land settlement in 1898. He also established Departments of Public Works, Health, Education, Excise, and Forests. He encouraged Local Self-Government and set up a Municipality to look after the health and sanitation of Talcher Town. In 1887 he constructed the Victoria Hall, Circuit House in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Queen Victoria. He died in 1891 and was succeeded by his son Kishore Chandra Birabar Harichandan.

Kishore Chandra was born on 9th June, 1880. He was a boy of 11 when he succeeded to the Gadi on 18th December, 1891. He was invested with full ruling powers on 9th June, 1901. He received his education in Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack. His private tutor was Babu Raj Kishore Patnaik. His legal adviser was late Madhusudan Das. He was proficient in the art of music, both vocal and instrumental. He was a generous ruler. When famine occurred in 1911, he distributed paddy to the needy people from State Granary and encouraged the rich to help the famine-stricken people. The George Hospital at Talcher was established by him in 1912 in commemoration of the Delhi Durbar. He established a High English School in 1915 which is said to be the 7th High School in the then Orissa, besides establishing one Girl's Middle School, Elementary Training School and many other schools in his State. He introduced the legislative system and established a legislative body called *Byabastha Parishad*. Half of the members of this body were elected by village headmen and half nominated by the ruler. He set up a council and nominated 3 councillors to run the administration of the State. The ruler himself was the President of the council and the 3 councillors were Dewan Bahadur Pramod Chandra Deb (Vice-President), Babu Jagan Mohan Mishra and Babu Braja Bihari Mohanty. There was separation of the judiciary from the executive. His eldest son Hrudaya Chandra Dev was the Sessions Judge. Kishore Chandra established a special court (*Dharmadhikya Court*) to dispose of cases relating to religious matters. The chief priest Pandit Kapileswar Pattjoshi was in charge of this court. He introduced municipal system in Talcher town and Panchayat system in every village. He beautified the town by erecting many gates and laying out a pleasure garden known as 'Rani Park' covering an area

of 5¹/₂ Sq. miles. This was a natural zoo. He remodelled the palace and made it double-storied. At Talcher, a special Post and Telegraph Office was established. During his rule, the railway line was constructed from Cuttack to Talcher coal mines (1925), which paved the way for economic development of this region. He gave leases to Villiers Ltd., and to Railways for extraction of coal. He had electricity generated from thermal power at Talcher and supplied electricity to the palace and Talcher town in 1924. He started orphanage in his State. Kishore Chandra was an enlightened ruler. He was also a writer in Oriya. He established a machine press at Talcher. He presided over the Utkal Sammilani in its Balasore session (1905) and was for sometime President of Rajkumar College, Raipur. After having an ascendancy for 54 years, he died on the 7th November, 1945.

On the death of Kishore Chandra, his eldest son Hrudaya Chandra Deb Birabar Harichandan succeeded to the Gadi on the 7th November, 1945. He was born on the 27th February, 1902. He had his education in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, where he graduated. He married the second daughter of the Raja of Bodogodo (Ganjam). He was the last ruler of Talcher and ruled for hardly two years. During his rule, the State merged with Orissa on 1st January, 1948. He died on 11th September, 1970.

(iii) Angul

Like other ex-State areas of the district, Angul was also once a feudatory State. It is believed to have been inhabited at one time by Khonds, who at an early date were driven back into the rocky fastness of Khondmals by successive waves of Hindu immigrants. It seems that many centuries ago the numerous loosely formed principalities in this hilly region passed under the sway of military adventurers, who found the country an easy prey. The earlier rulers were often at feud with one another, and it was easy to provoke a quarrel here, or stir up an intrigue there, and then take advantage of the dissension to seize the chief's fortress, the possession of which in those days meant the Government of the State. There is no record of these different conquests, but gradually a number of states in the mountainous hinterland of Orissa, including Angul, appear to have acknowledged the overlordship of warrior chiefs, who were or claimed to be Rajputs.

The early history of the Ruling family of Angul has remained in obscurity. The kings of Angul belong to the Kadamba family and to Kasyapa Gotra. The earliest known ruler of this line was Raja Dhanurjaya Singh Jagaddeva. It may, however, be said that Dhanurjaya is not the first king of the Kadamba family of Angul as the predecessor of Dhanurjaya is known to have been defeated by the ruler of Dhenkanal

who occupied some border villages like Kharagprasad, Mangalpur and Kamalang. Dhanurjaya Singh made heroic attempts to restore the prestige of Angul and he not only succeeded in getting back the above villages from Dhenkanal but also marched as far as the village Goulpur situated at a distance of nine miles west of Dhenkanal town and installed there a pillar in commemoration of his victory. The victory pillar was popularly known as 'Dhanu Singh Thenga' and the legend of it is current in the locality till today. Dhanurjaya died issueless and was succeeded by his younger brother Raja Nityananda Singh Jagaddeva. This ruler was a peace-loving man, and taking advantage of his weakness, the Raja of Dhenkanal invaded Angul once again and forcibly occupied several border villages. Raja Nityananda was succeeded by his son Krushna Chandra Jagaddeva who restored the territories occupied by Dhenkanal and undertook various works for improvement of the State. He constructed the temple of Nagari-mohanadeva in his headquarters and made arrangements for the worship of the deities. Krushna Chandra Jagaddeva died in the Amlī year 1211, i. e., A. D. 1803, the year of the British occupation of Orissa. As he was issueless, his younger brother Achala Mansingh ascended the *Gadi* and ruled for a short period of two to three years. In 1803 also, Angul was ceded to the British by the Marathas, and its chief entered into an engagement by which he bound himself to maintain submission and loyalty to the Government of the East India Company and to pay an annual *peshkash* or tribute of Rs. 1,250.¹ Achal Mansingh was succeeded by his eldest son Jarawar Singh who also shortly died in the Amlī year 1217, i. e., A. D. 1809. After Jarawar Singh, there took place a fratricidal struggle among his step-brothers who were Jayasingh and Gopinath Singh, the sons of the 1st wife of Achal Mansingh; and Prithvi Singh, Biswanath Singh and Jagannath Singh, the sons of the 2nd wife. Jarawar Singh was succeeded by Jaya Singh but after a rule of only 3 to 4 months, this ruler with his three sons and a trusted servant were murdered in cold-blood and this crime was suspected to have been committed by his step-brother Prithvi Singh who forcibly occupied the *Gadi* immediately after that. The wife of Jaya Singh committed the *Sati* rite and a portion of her *saree* which she wore at the time of entering into the fire is said to have been preserved in the store-house of a Jagannath Temple. Prithvi Singh also was not destined to rule long. In 1813, the Governor-General directed Mr. J. Richardson, the Settlement Commissioner of Cuttack and Mr. J. W. Sage, the Acting Collector, to make joint investigation about the troubles of Angul. The officers strongly suspected Prithvi Singh to have murdered Jaya Singh and his sons and they reported that he was a usurper to the *Gadi* having no legal claim to it. The British Government, therefore, deposed Prithvi

1. L. S. S. O' Malley—Angul District Gazetteer, (1908) P. 19.

Singh and put him under arrest. The *Gadi* of Angul passed to Somanath Singh, then a young boy of 14. Somanath Singh was the son of Gopinath Singh, the youngest son of Achal Mansingh by his first wife. It appears that Somanath Singh with his mother was kept in the prison by Prithvi Singh and he was released when his claim to the *Gadi* was recognised by the British Government. He soon acquired an evil reputation as an oppressor among his own men and a filibuster among his neighbours.

Somanath Singh was the last king of Angul and he ruled for a long period of 33 years from 1814 to 1847 when he was deposed by Government. He was a spirited and a head-strong ruler and although ruled his territory with considerable efficiency, he incurred displeasure not only among the neighbouring Feudatory Chiefs of Dhenkanal, Hindol, Daspalla, Baudh, and Athmallik but also among the British Officers by his head-strong dealings and outspoken nature. Mr. Mill, the then Commissioner of Orissa, remarked about him as follows : "He is an intelligent though eccentric man but is withal proud and head-strong and the most refractory of all Chieftains and the most likely to come into collision with the constituted authorities. He is little disposed to obey orders which clash with his imaginary rights whatever may happen, says Mr. Ricketts, to his fortune and not to his fault—and as being fortune, is to be met as it best may—bowed to and endured"¹.

In 1831, Somanath Singh plundered some villages of Daspalla for which Government directed him to pay Rs. 1,450 as compensation. But he strongly refused to pay this amount. In 1837, there occurred a case of six murders in Angul and the Raja was suspected to have instigated this crime. Mr. Ricketts wanted the Raja to deliver the culprits to the Government but he contemptuously refused to comply with the orders. It was by that time that the Khonds of Ghumsur rebelled against the British Government (1836-37) and the Khond's Chief Dora Bisoi and his nephew Chakra Bisoyi were suspected to have been given asylum in Angul by the Raja. Rather, he endeavoured to conceal it by writing to the Commissioner—"If I sieze Dora Bisoi, what terms will be allowed him?" The answer was promptly given. "From your writing, I know you have him in your fastness. His life shall be spared, if he is delivered to my officer by such a date, if not, the Cuattck force wil march upon you". This threat was effectual. The Raja gave up Dora Bisoi². In 1846, Raja Somanath Singh forcibly occupied a village of the Raja of Hindol for which he was fined Rs. 3,000. The Raja maintained that he had legally purchased the village from the Chief of Hindol, but this was not accepted by the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals.

1. Calcutta Review—No. XVII Vol. IX (1848) P. 200

2. L. S. S. O' Malley—Angul District Gazetteer (1908) P. 20

The Raja, however, did not pay any fine and disregarded the orders of the Superintendent. That very year (1846), the Khonds of Ghumsur again made a rebellion and the Government once again suspected Somanath Singh to have helped the rebel leaders and although there was no positive proof to establish the guilt of the Raja, suspicion against him became deep rooted. In the beginning of 1847, Capt. Macpherson and his Assistant, Candenhead reported that their camp at Kusumgarh was attacked by the Khond leader Nabaghana Kahar with the aid of the Raja of Angul. Under leadership of Nabaghana Kahar and his son Bir Kahar, the Khonds of Baudh broke out in rebellion in 1847, allegedly supported by Somanath Singh. On the 27th February, 1847, two Khond villages of Daspalla, Kotturi and Marada, were plundered and burnt by some unspecified persons but Cadenhed reported that the plunderers were sent by the Raja of Angul. Reports were regularly sent by Capt. Macpherson to the Government of Bengal accusing the Raja of Angul of his complicity in the Khond rebellion. The Raja when asked by the Government repeatedly refused in strong terms to have any connection with the rebels and protested that his enemies were falsely implicating him in the matter. Capt. Dunlop who was sent to Angul to enquire about the case of plunder of the two villages of Daspalla reported that there was no proof of the allegations against the Raja. But the Government was determined to take some action against Somanath Singh and the Commissioner was directed to summon the Raja of Angul to Cuttack for further investigation. The Raja was summoned to Cuttack to account for his conduct, but he refused to obey the summons and at this open defiance, following on a long career of disobedience, mismanagement and oppression, Government decided on the deposition of the Raja and the annexation of his State. Accordingly in December 1847, a proclamation was published announcing the annexation of Angul and a warrant was issued for the arrest of the Raja. Lokanath Singh Gambhira Samant, the son of the Raja of Angul, met the Commissioner on the 2nd January, 1848 and reported to him that his father's attitude of defiance was not liked by him and that the officers in Angul were instigating his father against the Government. He further revealed that about 700 Paiks of Angul under Krupasindhu Garnaik had gone to Kusumgarh in aid of the Khonds.

The British forces thereupon were directed to march towards Angul on the 15th January, 1848 under Colonel Campbell, who invaded Angul in co-operation with a detachment which advanced from the Central Provinces (now Madhya Pradesh) under Colonel Ouseley. The soldiers of the Raja including the Commander Krupasindhu Garnaik fled in confusion, and Krushnachakragarh, the residence of the Raja, was occupied without bloodshed. The Raja who had fled from the palace was captured on the 1st February, 1848. A series of charges of aggression and murder being proved against him, he was sent as a State prisoner

to Hazaribag where he remained till his death. His State was confiscated by the Government in their Resolution, dated 16th September, 1848. Lokanath Singh, the son of the Raja, was also deprived of his hereditary right for succession and was granted an allowance of Rs. 50 per month. Angul thus passed under the direct rule of the British and was administered by the Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, through the agency of an officer known as Tahsildar, who collected revenue and administered justice, until in 1891 when Angul was constituted a separate district, the Khondmals (now a subdivision of Baudh-Khondmals district) being added to it. For subsequent administrative changes, see Chapters I and X.

The conquest of Angul, given by L. S. S. O' Malley as Appendix in his Angul District Gazetteer (1908), has been quoted in full and given as Appendix II to this Chapter.

(iv) Hindol

The early history of the ex-State of Hindol is not fully known. The Raj family of Hindol is said to have started from one Chandradeva Jenamani in 1553. He was a scion of Khemedi ruling family of Ganjam and belonged to the Solar dynasty. He is said to have taken possession of this territory after defeating and killing the then Sardar or Chief named Dhanurjaya Samal and his six brothers. The widows of the Sardar and his brothers burnt themselves following the rites of the Sati and these seven Satis are being worshipped by the ruling family even up to the present day. The tutelary deity of the family is Durgadevi installed by the founder of the family. After taking possession of the state, Chandradeva Jenamani relinquished his right in favour of his own brother Udhavadeva Jenamani who ascended the *gadi* in 1554. The new ruler made an alliance with the Raja of Angul by marrying his granddaughter, and ruled peacefully up to 1581 A. D. He was succeeded by Dameidev Jenamani who ruled for six years and after him Brajabehari Jenamani, Ramachandradeva Jenamani and Nakuladeva Jenamani ruled one after the other up to 1623 A. D. Nakuladeva was succeeded by Raja Nandadeva who is remembered for his notable military exploits. He defeated the Raja of Dhenkanal at Ganjara and took away a portion of his territory. He also occupied some slices of lands from the Rajas of Narsinghpur and Angul after defeating them in battles. The Raja of Khurda being pleased with his military ability bestowed on him the title of 'Maharatha'. The village Nandapur in this state has been named after him. He died in 1640 and was succeeded by Rushideva Maharatha who had a short rule of two years only and after him Gajendradeva Maharatha came to the *gadi*. Nothing is known about this ruler and his immediate successor Harideva Maharatha. Harideva was succeeded in 1670 by Brundaban Singh who obtained the title of 'Narendra' from the Raja of Khurda. He was succeeded in 1679

by his son Narahari Singh Narendra who was an idle and ease-loving ruler. The ruler of Dhenkanal invaded Hindol and easily defeated him in several engagements. Maharaja Narahari Singh not only ceded the portion of the territory conquered by Nandadeva but also gave undertaking not to encroach upon the state of Dhenkanal in future. He died in 1691 and was succeeded by Achyuta Singh Narendra who ruled up to 1701 A. D. The next ruler was Bhagabat Singh Narendra during whose rule there was a boundary dispute with the territory of Angul which eventually led to war and subsequently the Raja of Angul was defeated in a battle that was fought at Mahidharpur. Bhagabat Singh died issueless in 1701 A. D. and was succeeded by his younger brother Damodar Singh Narendra. During his rule, the Raja of Narsinghpur invaded Hindol but was successfully repulsed. He was succeeded in 1770 by Raja Radhamani Singh and got the title of 'Mardaraja Jagaddeva' from the Raja of Khurda and the succeeding rulers of Hindol continued to bear that title. After his death in 1781, his son Ramachandra Singh became the Raja up to 1786. He was succeeded by Raja Krushna Chandra Singh Mardaraj Jagaddeva, during whose rule the British occupied Orissa. Raja Krushnachandra obtained from the British Government the official sanction for the hereditary title of Raja and agreed to pay a tribute of Rs. 551-3-11* per annum. Raja Krushnachandra Singh had six Ranis and his only daughter was married to Raja Somanath Singh, the last ruler of Angul, who got as dowry the villages of Mahidharpur, Serenabeda and Kodali which are now located in Hindol subdivision. Krushnachandra Singh died in 1829 and was succeeded by Raja Harihara Singh. This ruler quarrelled with his brother Iswar Singh and drove him out of his territory. When he died in 1841, the people of Hindol wanted to set up his own brother Bindak Singh on the *gadi*. But Raja Somanath Singh of Angul intervened in this affair and brought the matter to the notice of the Commissioner of Cuttack who decided in favour of Iswar Singh. During the rule of this Raja, Angul was occupied by the British and Raja Somanath Singh was deposed. Iswar Singh ruled peacefully up to 1874 and after him his two sons Fakir Charan Singh and Janardan Singh ruled one after the other from 1874 to 1876 and 1876 to 1906, respectively. Raja Janardan Singh Mardaraj Jagaddev was an enlightened ruler. During his rule, the land revenue settlements were made twice and the revenue of the State increased from Rs. 22,144 to Rs. 29,284. He worked hard to improve the material condition of the State and constructed some good buildings, the most notable of which is the Durbar Hall which contains decorations designed by him. After his death in 1906, the ex-State of Hindol came under the management of Government as his son Nabakishore Singh was then a minor. Nabakishore Singh was invested with ruling powers on the 20th October, 1913. He is the last ruler of this line and during his rule, the State merged with Orissa on 1st January, 1948.

*equivalent to Rs. 551.24

(v) Pal Lahara

According to popular tradition, the first king of the ruling family of Pal Lahara was Santosh Pal, a Rajput of Dharanagar. He is said to have come on pilgrimage to Puri and on his return visited this territory where a struggle was going on between two aboriginal parties for supremacy over that land. The Sabaras, one of the contesting tribes, selected Santosh Pal as their future ruler and concealed him under a heap of straw (locally known as *pala*). Later on, being victorious they formally installed him as the king and regarded themselves as the king-makers. As the Rajput Chief Santosh Pal was concealed under a heap of straw (*pala*), the territory ruled by him was named as Pal Lahara. This tradition seems to be recent. It cannot be taken to be authentic. The account of the rulers after Santosh Pal are vague. The Rajas of this territory are known to have assumed the title Ganeswar Pal and Munipal alternately. About the year 1789 when the ruler Munipal died without a heir the territory was ruled by the queen mother Annapurna and the illegitimate brother of the ex-Raja Munipal, named Nanda Pal. After the death of Annapurna in 1815, the Raja of Keonjhar claimed the *gadi* of Pal Lahara as he had matrimonial relation with the ruling family of that state. Nanda Pal also supported the claim of Keonjhar. But after his death in 1825, the people opposed the rule of Keonjhar and subsequently made a petition to Col. Gilbert, the then Political Agent of the South-West Frontier, protesting against the interference of Keonjhar. Col. Gilbert supported the cause of the people and ordered the Raja of Keonjhar to withdraw his forces from Pal Lahara. One Baidyanath Pal was selected by the people as their ruler. The next ruler Chakradhar Munipal was very faithful to the British Government. When the Bhuiyans of Keonjhar revolted against their Chief in 1867-68, Chakradhar Pal rendered much help in suppressing the Bhuiyans and in recognition of his service he obtained the personal title of Rajabahadur from the British Government. He also got the hereditary title of Raja in 1874. He died in 1888 and as his son Dwitikrishna was then a boy of four years, the territory came under the management of Court of Wards till 1908 when Dwitikrishna Ganeswar Pal assumed the administration of the State. But on account of his mismanagement the State was once again taken away by the Government in 1911. Dwitikrishna died without any male issue in 1912 and was succeeded by Sarat Chandra Munipal, one of his close relatives. The state, however, continued to be under the management of Court of Wards till 1925 when the new Raja got full administrative control. During the rule of Raja Sarat Chandra Munipal, Pal Lahara merged with the State of Orissa on 1st January 1948, and now it is being administered as a subdivision of Dhenkanal district.

(vi) Athmallik

The tradition regarding the foundation of the ex-State of Athmallik may be stated as follows :

A princess of the Bonai ruling family married Balabhadra Bhanja (some say Braja Kishore Bhanja), a brother of the Raja of Keonjhar. Balabhadra organised a plot to dethrone his brother, but failed. He was arrested and put to death. His widow then being heavy with child took shelter in Bonai where her brother was then ruling. The Raja of Keonjhar tried to get her back to his palace, but the Raja of Bonai was determined not to allow her to go back to Keonjhar. To avoid further trouble the Raja of Bonai left his sister at Raniganj in the ex-State of Baudh, where she gave birth to a son. The boy was named Pratap Dev and after coming of age he is alleged to have defeated a Dom-Raja ruling over Domgarh, a tract lying to the north of the Mahanadi. While excavating a tank in the newly acquired territory, Pratap Dev is said to have found a Handa (metal vessel) which was considered to be a lucky find and the territory was then named Handapa. The capital town Handapa may be identified with the present village of the same name in Athmallik Subdivision. The elevated plain known as Handapagarh is to the present day renowned as a Garh (fortified residence) of the Dom-Raja, who was defeated by Pratap Dev. The village Pratappur near Handapa has probably been named after the founder of the kingdom and as it was found difficult to subdue the aboriginal people of the locality the territory was subsequently divided into 8 divisions each placed under a Chieftain called Mallik as a measure to suppress the unruly tribes. Hence the kingdom changed its name from Handapa to Athmallik, which means 'the land of 8 Chieftains'.

The boundary of the kingdom was originally very extensive. It was bounded by river Mahanadi and the state of Baudh in the south, Rairakhol and Angul in the north, Sonapur and a part of Rairakhol in the west and Chhendipada, Sarispalghati, Jagannathpur Ghati of Angul in the east. Later on, however, the Raja of Angul forcibly occupied eleven Padas (villages) including Chhendipada of the Solapada Pargana (the Pargana consisting of 16 villages) of Athmallik adjoining his State. Raja Somanath Singh Jagadev, the last Raja of Angul, had taken on mortgage the Charimallik area from Athmallik giving a loan of Rs. 400 (Rupees four hundred only) to the Raja of Athmallik. After the occupation of Angul by the British Government, the area was not returned to Athmallik. By the time when the British occupied Orissa and made treaty engagements with the tributary Rajas in 1804, Athmallik was not regarded to have a separate existence as it was then a tributary of Baudh. The territory of Baudh together with Athmallik was included in the South-West Frontier Agency till 1837, when they were transferred

to the Orissa Division. The Chief of Athmallik was then officially known as the Zamindar and was being addressed as Samanta. In 1874, the Chief of Athmallik was officially recognised as a Raja and he was allowed to have the hereditary title of Raja. In 1890, the then Raja Narendradev Samanta was given the title of Maharaja as a personal distinction on account of his good administration. But Athmallik was not treated as a separate State till 1894 when the Chief was granted a Sanad, the terms of which were identical with those contained in the Sanads of the other Chiefs of Orissa. The last Raja of Athmallik was Kishore Chandra Deva, the grandson of Raja Mahendradeva Samanta and the son of Raja Bibhudendradev. The state merged with Orissa during the rule of Kishorechandra in 1948 and is now constituted as a subdivision of Dhenkanal district.

26. Freedom Movement

The District of Dhenkanal, consisting mostly of the Princely States had political awakening long before the creation of the district. It was in the thirties of the present century that the Orissan States started agitation against reactionary feudal rule. Prajamandals were formed in different States to organise freedom struggles against the Princes who were being supported by the British imperialism. In September 1938, there were great agitations in the ex-State areas of Talcher and Dhenkanal and the rulers started repressive measures to suppress the popular rising. The State authorities of Dhenkanal arrested a number of agitators on the 11th September, 1938 and when large groups of people protested against this arrest, fire was opened to disperse them as a result of which many people were seriously wounded. The situation after that became very tense and for sometime it went out of control.

The Talcher Prajamandal demanded recognition of their fundamental rights, such as, right to form associations and hold meetings, abolition of forced labour and forced gifts and modification of Tenancy rights and Forest Laws. The Raja of Talcher tried to suppress the political ferment by following repressive measures and the people launched a new type of non-violent challenge against his mal-administration. Large number of people left Talcher and took shelter in the neighbouring British territory of Angul. It has been estimated that about 65,000 people out of a total of 85,000 left the State * and this political exodus which is unprecedented in Indian History attracted keen attention of Mahatma Gandhi, and the leaders of the Indian National Congress, as well as of the Government of India. The refugees stayed outside Talcher undergoing great hardship and even foregoing one year's cultivation. They were determined not to return to their hearth and home unless

*The number is taken from the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Independence Number, 1947—p. 188.

their demands were accepted by the Ruler. Refugee camps were opened for them and relief operations were carried on by various social service organisations.

The People's agitation in Dhenkanal and Talcher spread to other neighbouring States and a no-rent campaign was also started in several States. On the 29th October 1938, the All-Orissa Garhjat Day was observed. The death of Baji Raut, a boy of 12, by Police firing evoked wide-spread sympathy. An account of the incident leading to the death of Baji Raut is given as Appendix III to this Chapter. In November, agitation flared up once again in Dhenkanal and a large number of people armed with bows, arrows, axes and lathis confronted the police force on the 2nd November. As a result of the clash, firing was opened and several people sustained severe injuries. The next incident of firing in Dhenkanal took place on the 11th November resulting in the death of several persons. In the last week of December, the agitation of the people acquired considerable momentum as non-violent Satyagraha was launched against the Durbar Government of Dhenkanal. Batches of volunteers coming from Cuttack offered Satyagraha led by many prominent leaders. Many Satyagrahis were arrested by the State authorities and the agitation continued throughout the month of December, 1938. In the 3rd week of December, the Chief of Dhenkanal decided to meet the political demands of the people to a certain extent. But the representatives of the people were not satisfied.

In February, 1939 large number of people left Dhenkanal and Talcher for Angul, thus swelling the number of the refugees still more. The problem of the State refugees demanded serious attention of the Government and a Conference was called at Angul on the 21st March 1939 attended by the Revenue Commissioner, Orissa, the Assistant Political Agent, and representatives of the Congress, as well as of the refugees. But as the terms of compromise proposed in the Conference were not accepted by the Raja of Talcher, nothing definite could be done by that Conference. It was by that time that Mahatma Gandhi advised the people to with-hold Satyagraha and to start constitutional agitation for the redress of their grievances. The rulers were also advised by the Political Department to adopt conciliatory attitude and accordingly constitutional reforms were proclaimed by the Chiefs of Talcher and Dhenkanal respectively on the 23rd and 26th of June, 1939. These proclamations improved the political situation, and as the paddy season was approaching the refugee problem was solved to a considerable extent.

This policy of appeasement of the Chiefs could not, however, satisfy the people who demanded civil liberty, and representative system of administration in the States. People's agitation, therefore, continued

during the later half of the year 1939 in spite of the ruthless measures adopted by the Chiefs and their Agents to suppress the vigour of the agitation. The Indian National Congress supported the agitation of the States people and a resolution was passed accordingly in its Haripura Session in 1938. In February 1939, the All-India States People Conference met at Ludhiana and elected Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as President and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, as Vice-President. This Conference declared that the struggle of the States' people should be carried on under the guidance of the Congress.

The political awakening of the people of the ex-States (now constituting the Dhenkanal district) during 1938-39 gave rise to inordinate love of freedom and bitter hatred towards the rule of feudalism and British imperialism. This popular sentiment was kept enlivened by the leaders and workers of the Prajamandal and the States' people agitation was linked with the Independence Movement of the Indian National Congress.

The Quit-India Resolution of the Congress in August, 1942 brought the message of struggle for freedom to the people of the ex-State areas of Orissa. The Talcher Prajamandal defied the Durbar Government and organised a parallel independent Government. An independent Government was also set up at Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal State. In Talcher, practically the entire State excepting the headquarters town came under the control of the Prajamandal Government and the ruler was forced to seek help from the Political Department. The people made a heroic attempt to snatch away the control of Talcher town from the hands of the Ruler and organised bands of peasant militia marched from almost each village of the State towards Talcher on the 6th September, 1942. They were armed with crude weapons while the State forces were reinforced by the British army and the Air Force. Before the actual encounter, leaflets were distributed from the air asking the people to go back to their respective villages but as they were not dissuaded, smoke screen and tear gas bombs were used and the people were fired at by the ground forces and also by machine guns from the air and large number of them were killed and injured. The Talcher Durbar was thus able to suppress the stubborn rising of the people with the help of the British forces and recovered the administrative control of the State. In Dhenkanal also, the State forces aided by the British Government forces suppressed the popular movement and imprisoned the leaders of the Prajamandal. Some reputed leaders of Talcher and Dhenkanal remained underground and continued to incite the people against the State and the British Government. But victory of the State forces led to ruthless oppression and a reign of terror started in the States. Troops marched through villages looting and plundering indiscriminately causing untold suffering and

loss for the people. Mass fines were imposed on villagers and were realised by force and violence. Large number of Prajamaandal workers and freedom fighters were confined to prison where they were greatly tortured.

After the end of the World War II, political situation in India had a radical change. The All-India States People's Conference met at Udaipur in December, 1945 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and declared that its goal was 'attainment by peaceful and legitimate means of full responsible Government by the people of the States as an integral part of a free and federated India.' A strong agitation started for the merger of the princely States with Orissa and when the Cabinet Mission came to India in 1946, a memorandum to that effect was submitted to them. The rulers, on the other hand, took recourse to reactionary measures and submitted counter-memorandum to the Political Department against the proposal of merger. The rulers of Orissa and Chhatisgarh States held a secret conference at Puri from the 9th to the 14th July, 1947 and passed several reactionary resolutions some of which were about formation of federation of Orissa and Chhatisgarh States and administrative co-ordination with British Indian Provinces or with a bigger State like Hyderabad. The Orissa and Chhatisgarh Regional Council of the Tenants met at Cuttack on the 10th August 1947 and demanded merger of the Orissa States with the Province of Orissa. It also urged upon the Rulers to concede to people's demands and to release all political prisoners. The attainment of independence in August, 1947 brought the problem of merger to the forefront and in November that year, the ex-State of Nilgiri came under the administrative control of the Government of Orissa. On the 13th December 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel came to Cuttack to have a personal discussion with the Government of Orissa as well as with the rulers of the ex-States on the subject of merger. The rulers, who at first hesitated, ultimately gave their consent to the merger plan on the 15th December 1947. The integration of the States with Orissa was effected on the 1st January, 1948 and this was the date when the District of Dhenkanal came into being.

APPENDIX I

**A Note on the Discovery of Stone Age Implements at village
Sana Kerjang Jungle (Angul)**

Location—The site of discovery is village Sana Kerjang Jungle (Plot No. 169—Government land) under Post Office Golabandh and Police-Station Jarpara in the Tahsil and Sub-division of Angul, Dhenkanal District.

How to approach—(i) Road—Angul is 132 km. from Cuttack and 166 km. from Bhubaneswar, connected by all-weather good road. Regular motor bus service is available. (ii) Rail—Angul is also approachable by train. The nearest railway station is Meramundali on Cuttack-Talcher section of S. E. Railway. Regular motor bus service is available from Meramundali to Angul (24 km.).

From Angul, the site is about 13 Km. From Angul town one has to go towards south-west on Angul—Chhendipada road and then at Jarsingha to go by the left-hand road (unmetalled) to reach the site.

The Story of Discovery—On the 1st September 1971, Shri Somanath Biswal, (son of Shri Banshidhar Biswal), resident of Sana Kerjang and a labourer, was grazing cows in the field. One of his cows went towards a mound eroded by rain water flowing down from the small hill, standing nearby, called Jiminia. Having followed the cow, he saw a polished stone in the mound—half buried and half exposed. Out of curiosity he pulled it out. He then started digging and collected some more stones and copper bangles. Lastly, when he found human bones, he got scared thinking that there might be a ghost. He came to his village and narrated the incident to villagers. The villagers collected in large number and dug out stone implements, copper bangles, beads, etc. They also saw fragments of bone. On 2nd September, Shri Hadibandhu Sahoo, a teacher in Kumanda U. P. School and a resident of village Bar Kerjang, while going to his village heard about these finds at Sana Kerjang. Next day he could not carry the news to Angul due to heavy rainfall. On 4th September, he came to Angul and informed Shri Srinibas Rath, I. A. S. the Subdivisional Officer, of this discovery. The Subdivisional Officer went to the spot on 5th September and collected the implements from villagers. There are about 30 such mounds, varying from 5 ft. to 20 ft. in height, lying around the present site.

Shri Prasanta Kumar Ray, Superintendent of Archaeology, Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, visited the site on the 13th September, 1971 and conducted exploration and survey works of the site and the adjoining areas. He also collected some stone implements (Chisels). According to him, these implements belong to Neolithic Age (New Stone Age), and the mounds “appear to be burial pits in view of the size and plan of the pits”. Trial excavation of these pits is going to be taken up shortly.

APPENDIX II

The Conquest of Angul*

In the Calcutta Review of 1848 a contemporaneous account of the conquest of Angul is given in an anonymous article *The Cuttack Tributary Mahals—Recent Operations against Ungool*. The following extracts from that account will be of some interest and are therefore published as an Appendix, the article having come to my notice too late to enable me (O' Malley) to utilize it in the preparation of Chapter II.

The writer recapitulates the various acts of aggression committed by Somnath Singh, the Raja of Angul, and quotes a story current at the time which shews that he had misunderstood both the tolerance and the power of the British Government. A horse-dealer passing through Angul wished to sell the Raja some of his horses, for which he asked Rs. 2,000 to be paid on the spot. The Raja replied—"No ! I am going to fight the English, and then you shall have Rs. 5,000. The Firing-his are not soldiers — beating drums —blowing bugles — all parade—no fight in them". The canay horse-deader, it is said, refused the offer and went his way, remarking, to the naive surprise of the Raja, that it was possible that he might be beaten by the English. The story, at least, serves to shew the attitude of the Raja, who continued in his aggressive courses, until at length he exhausted the patience of the British authorities.

In February 1847, he was "reported to be creating mischief in Duspulla, plundering villages, and aiding and abetting the Khonds to resist the measures adopted by Captain Macpherson, the well-known^e Khond Agent, to put down the barbarous practices of human sacrifice and infanticide. A wing of the distinguished Kelal-i-Ghilzie Regiment, then at Cuttack, was in consequence immediately deputed by the Commissioner to proceed to Bermul, to protect the Rajah of Daspulla, and, if necessary, to afford every aid in carrying out the Government measures. As the year advanced, and affairs began to assume a rebellious appearance the Commissioner applied to Government for two regiments. Two regiments of Madras Native Infantry and the right wing of a third, with the full complement of artillery, were consequently formed into the Ungool Field Force. "

The force left Cuttack on the 15th January under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, C. B. and after marching through Athgarh, Dhenkanal and Hindol, arrived on the 20th at Huttur, a village on the borders of Angul, only to find it deserted. "It was evident

* L. S. S. O' Malley—Angul District Gazetteer—(1908)—Appendix—pp. 139—145.

that the Ungool Field Force carried fear along with it. The people of Huttur had magnified it into a large army—one of some ten or twenty thousand men and at least twenty guns. And they were not the only people who thought so. It was perhaps the largest force that had entered the Tributary Mehals, since the conquest of Cuttack in 1803; and yet it was not composed of more than 2,000 fighting men and four guns, two of the latter 12—pounder howitzers, followed by a train of ammunition waggons, provided with shot and shell. The cause of fear in Huttur was said to be the enemy's having come down, to the number of 400, and persuaded the villagers, that, unless they immediately fled to the hills, the "Sahib-log" would fight them too. As it had been reported that about one mile and a half beyond Huttur a stockade had been built to prevent our further approach, two companies went out to reconnoitre. The much talked-of stockade "defended by 500 Paiks" was found to be almost deserted; a few horsemen were seen preparing their rice, who, on our approach, made off as fast as their chargers could carry them.

"On the 22nd of January the Field Force entered the Ungool country leaving behind the commissariat carts and taking 20 days' provisions, which were carried on elephants. Proceeding in a north-westerly direction for a distance of twelve miles, the village of Hummamera was reached. For want of water there, the troops encamped at Kinda, distant about two miles from Hummamera. And, strange to say, during this march, not a shot was heard in the jungles — not a glimpse of anything in the shape of an enemy was seen.

"We shall now give a description of the Rajah's residence and defences, that is, as they were credibly reported to be, on our entering the mehal. The Rajah deeming his former residence insufficiently protected, abandoned it soon after he was threatened with a visit by Mr. Commissioner Ricketts in 1837, and constructed his present abode in the most inaccessible part of his country. The residence itself is at the foot of a hill and is unfortified, but the main road leading to it, via Hindol, is defended by two stockades erected on two hills— one about four miles and the other about one mile from his dwelling. The works are said to be of some strength, and that nothing effective could be accomplished against them without guns. In addition to these defences, there is also a stockade (or small fort) erected on an eminence at Tikripurra; and it has been ascertained that, at a hill called Kurrih-pettah, said to be 6 miles north-east from the Rajah's residence, a new fortification, consisting of a gate with strong stockades, has recently been built, and the jungle cleared for the space of about three miles in front of it. A new gate and stockade have also been constructed at Bowkheta, on the road leading from Tikripurra to the Rajah's residence'. After all

this reported zeal on the part of the zemindar of Ungool, this sheltering himself in the most inaccessible part of his country— only to be reached by passing through what was called the “elephant jungle”, where, most probably, the footsteps of British troops had never before been heard— there was every reason to believe that the force would yet meet with the most determined opposition.

“On the morning of the 23rd, the force marched to Pokutungia, about ten miles distant from Kinda. The march was through thick jungle, from which it emerged into a picturesque and verdant country. The fort of Kurrith-pettah (or Kurrith-puttergarh) was believed by Colonel Campbell to be somewhere near Pokutungia, so leaving one regiment, the 29th, at the encamping ground half an hour after the halt was sounded, the remaining portion of the force marched on, under the Brigadier, in search of it. Proceeding along, partly through jungle, and near the base of several hills, after having gone about two or three miles, the hill fort was discovered on the top of a long narrow hill, with a commanding range on the small maidan below, over which the force was sure to march on its progress. A gun and howitzer were immediately called to the front, and the Infantry (the 22nd Regiment) formed a line to the left. The guns were immediately loaded and in position, when after a few minutes’ suspense a portion of the detachment of the 41st, which had proceeded in advance with the Brigadier and the Brigadier Major came in sight, making way up the face of the hill to the centre or strongest portion of the fort. The enemy were taken unawares, and on a few of the troops entering their stronghold, one of the rebels was caught in the act of sponging out a gun. Several others were near him; but all immediately fled, by a recess for retreat, which they had taken good care to establish, — a prominent figure on a white horse, supposed to have been Sindu-Ghur-Naik, the Commander-in-Chief, flying with all speed. Had there only been a few cavalry with the force, these fugitives might have been caught, and probably much trouble would have been saved.

“During this brief business, some few shots had been exchanged between the rebels in their flight and our troops in the stockade. But not a man was killed or wounded on either side. The fortification itself, consisting chiefly of a strong timber wall, was found to be admirably constructed: the snugness of the place inside, the various repositories for the rough implements of war—all betokened that Sindu-Ghur-Naik had not been working on a system of his own. Two guns of the smallest calibre, mounted on carriages, were found, one of which was well loaded to the muzzle, and admirably pointed and elevated for a range of some 450 yards on the maidan below. Quantities of powder, iron shot and an ingenious contrivance for grape, viz., a small bag filled with pieces

of iron and rolled round with a sort of tow, so as to fit the bore of the piece, with various other articles, were found in the fort. A party remained there during the day, blasting and demolishing the works, during which operations the Rajah's powder was discovered to be considerably below the usual strength. By 3 o'clock next morning (the 24th) the hill fort was only distinguishable by various fires, which marked out the boundaries of Kurrith-pettah.

"The force was now making fast progress towards Crutesna chuker-Ghur, the stronghold of the Rajah (the "new residence" mentioned above), also called Gundaru. Two stockades, it was well known, defended the grand approach, and information had since been received that a gun was placed at the first defence, by name the Chundernah Durwazeh. After marching some eight or nine miles through a dense forest—the guns assisted along by the Infantry—the Chundernah Durwazeh came in view. It was a strongly fortified position, with gates supported by masonry, and on each side an extension of stockade of a similar kind to that of Kurrith-pettah. Had this position been even tolerably well manned, with the assistance of two guns it might have made a desperate resistance. It was found to be entirely deserted. This fortress was situated on a rocky hill about 150 feet high, on each side of the face of it was dense jungle, so that it could only be speedily approached by the road direct to the gates. As the force advanced a little, the second stockade appeared. At this position it was reported that the Rajah of Ungool had left his residence, in plain words, that he had fled on our approach. Proceeding on about two miles, over stones and through thick jungle, the force arrived at Crutesna chuker chur, beautifully situated in a valley.

"This village, in addition to that of the Rajah, was found to be the retreat of the head sirdar (Sindu-Ghur-Naik): the villagers had entirely deserted their homes—all bore signs of the fruits of oppression and rebellion. Many of the houses were filled with different kinds of grain, and various articles of some value, over which sentries were immediately placed. In the house of the head sirdar himself a strange medley was to be seen, here an English gun-case, a tent, etc., there a variety of fireworks and Indian gods heaped up together. In a small yard adjoining, stood several horses, anxious for straw and water; and in various recesses might be seen rice prepared for the morning meal evidently hid in the hurry and confusion of escape. Nearly at the base of a hill stood a small house, which was dignified by the title of "the Zenana", from which, it was said, the Rajah had proceeded in a palankeen with a few attendants. Near this spot was the magazine or arsenal, in which were found two gun carriages finished and two in the progress of making, the pattern similar to that of the English light

3-pounder carriages. Vast quantities of gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, lead etc., were likewise found. In the course of the day (the 25th) seven guns of various sizes were dragged from a deep mud pool, where they had evidently only recently been hid.

“The capture of the Rajah and his sirdars, and the conciliation of the natives and inducement for them to return to their villages, now occupied the attention of Colonel Campbell. In order to effect these objects, he sent out various detachments (some of considerable strength) to the most important positions in the surrounding country. The officers commanding posts and detachments had orders to preserve the villages, and the property and persons of the inhabitants, from the slightest injuries. They were also “to use every means of conciliating the people and of inducing them to return to their villages”, and, should the villagers be threatened with violence by any adherents to the deposed Rajah, or attacked, the assailants were to be “vigorously repelled”. More judicious steps than these could have been adopted. And before the force marched north for the former residence of the Rajah, Crutesnachuker-Ghur and the surrounding villages were fast filling with inhabitants. The Paiks had evidently deserted their chief. They might have aided the Rajah had his country been invaded by a neighbouring zemindar. But the “Feringhis” were quite another thing. The people looked on the English as a merry, harmless, though powerful, race—wishing rather to reconcile and preserve than to make war and plunder.

“On the morning of the 26th, one half of the artillery and two Companies of Infantry marched to Puranaghur, formerly the residence of the Rajah of Ungool. The headquarters of the 22nd Regiment had proceeded thither the day before. Puranaghur is styled Ungool in the various maps, and is situated about nine miles nearly direct north of Gundaru. A worse road for guns and waggons could not well be conceived. It seemed as if the rocks and giant trees of the forest, astonished at our audacity, were determined to resist their progress. On the 27th instant the headquarters of the force, with the remainder of the artillery, arrived. From the absence of so many detachments, the encampment was reduced to about one-sixth of its original size. Some of these had been distributed as follows: one at Tikripurrah, one at Kunjrah, one at Crutesnachuker-Ghur, and one at Pokutungia. All stockades and defences of importance had now been destroyed. At Tikripurrah, materials for another stockade were found; also a deep trench—evidently the commencement of an attempt on the part of the rebels to fortify themselves on the banks of the river. The track of a gun towards this position was likewise discovered.

“The brief campaign was now drawing fast to a close. Towards the end of the month, Colonel Campbell had visited Colonel Ouseley of the South-West Frontier, who was busily employing all the means in his power, and they were not few, for the capture of the Rajah and his sirdars. The meeting took place at Durgapur, about 25 miles north-west of Puranaghur, where a portion of the Ramghur force and detachments of Madras Infantry were for a short time assembled. On the 1st of February the capture of the Ungool chieftain was announced in camp. The Bamrah Rajah and Dewan of the Rajah of Sumbulpore under Colonel Ouseley, appear to have been of great service on this occasion. He was hunted out by the paiks of these chiefs, and was taken not very far distant from Crutesnachuker-Ghur. From this post, held by a detachment of the 29th M. N. I., the commanding officer immediately sent a palankeen, to convey the helpless Rajah into his presence. The hill zemindar came trembling and humiliated. He had ruled a considerable tract of country with, there is every reason to believe, the rod of injustice and oppression. He had attempted to stir up his people against a humane and just Government. He was now about to be led as a prisoner to Cuttack.

“By the morning of the 9th of February the force had assumed the appearance of a general “breaking up”, and the capture of Sindhu-Ghur-Naik was not the least pleasant intelligence on that day : he, too, had been hunted down and was being led as a prisoner into Puranaghur. Out of sixteen or seventeen sirdars, not one escaped, but the only one of importance was the ex-Commander-in-Chief; whose capture gave a brilliant termination to the whole business. Thus, in less than twenty-four days from the departure of the force from Cuttack, every object had been effected :— the rebels had been captured, the inhabitants of Ungool had gained confidence in our protection, and the seeds of future improvement had been sown in the country”.

APPENDIX III

Baji Raut

Baji Raut, a boy of 12, succumbed to the firing by Dhenkanal ex-State Police some day in the month of October 1938. He is said to have refused to allow the police to take the boat for crossing the river Brahmani. So gallantly he laid his life that he has now been classed as one of the freedom fighters. He belonged to village Nilakanthapur in Bhuban Police-station of Kamakhyanagar Subdivision.

The incident leading to the death of Baji Raut is reported thus : On the day of occurrence *, about 20 armed policemen came to Bhuban for suppressing the popular agitation against the ex-ruler of Dhenkanal. They perpetrated a lot of torture on the people at Bhuban. While they were going back, large number of people chased them. When they reached the ferry at Nilakhanthapur, the people chasing them had already drawn nearer and were about to attack them. The policemen commanded the boatman to ferry them at once. The people from behind were shouting to the boatman not to let them cross the river. The boatman and some other people of the village who were present there refused to ferry the policemen. The policemen tried to snatch away the boat and to cross the river by rowing themselves. But the people resisted. They held fast the ropes of boat. From among the few thus resisting, Baji Raut came to the forefront and denied them the boat. The policemen now found that the infuriated mob following them had almost reached the spot. In the face of imminent danger of attack from the mob, they opened fire killing Baji Raut and 8 others who held the rope. Then they crossed the river by rowing the boat themselves.

*The exact date of the occurrence is not available. Only this much is known that it occurred some day in the month of October, 1938.