



part of the new province of Bihar and Orissa. The laws and regulations which we had in common with the rest of the Central Provinces before 1905 still subsist, but while these have undergone alterations necessitated by altered circumstances in the Central Provinces, they have practically remained intact in this District. We are glad to mention that quite recently the Government has been pleased to make a revision in the regulations under the Local Self Government and Municipal Acts on the basis of those now adopted in the Central Provinces, but so far as the Land Tenure is concerned, there have been no changes.

The municipality is constituted under Act XV of 1903 and its income is utilized in many acts of public improvement in this town. It maintains one Middle English School and eight Lower Primary Schools of which four are for the depressed classes and a Leper Asylum and makes an annual grant of Rs. 3,670 toward the Local Dispensary.

The District Council, constituted under Act I of 1883 has very few sources of income and has to depend almost entirely on Government grants. These grants are ear-marked and there is a regular scramble for allotments on objects for which no grants are made. The Education grant for 1914-15 was Rs. 46,167. The Council maintained during the year 1914-15 four Middle English, three Middle Vernacular, thirty-four Upper Primary, sixty-eight Lower Primary, three Board and eighty-five Aided Lower Primary Schools and also six schools for depressed classes, the total expenditure incurred on education being Rs. 57,797.

Regard being had to the bad state of the Roads in the District, a Road Scheme was prepared and the Government was pleased to make an annual grant Rs. 12,000 for seven years ending 1914-15. Last year the grant was renewed for one year only on the representation of the Council. The Road Scheme has been partially worked up and it is necessary that the grant should be continued and we earnestly request Your Honour to continue the grant. In this connection we may be allowed to mention that the District Council has not at all been profited by the surrender of the Public Works Cess by the Government to the District Boards in the other District of this province.

The Council can ill afford to make an adequate grant for dispensaries. There are only three Dispensaries maintained by the Council for the present for this big District having an area of three thousand eight hundred and twenty-four square miles and although the liberality of the Zamindars of Borasember and Kolabira, has provided for two more Dispensaries in those Zamindaries, it is necessary that there should be more Dispensaries in this District. The need for this was fully felt during the last outbreak of Cholera in this year in several parts of this District when people suffered much for want of treatment.

We rejoice to hear of the proposal for opening Travelling Dispensaries. The District Council has applied for availing itself of this boon on condition of being allowed to pay a certain proportion of the costs.

Education is making rapid strides in this District and although there has been an extension of the High School at Sambalpur effected by a grant by the Government, still it is very necessary to have another High School in this District. Earnest efforts are being made to have a High School at Bargarh.

Years ago before the opening of the Railway line to Puri, when pilgrims used to pass through Sambalpur on their way to Puri they used to be a severe out-break of cholera, every year, for many years the town enjoyed an immunity from these out-breaks and there was practically no epidemic. This year, however there was an unprecedented out-break of cholera and small-pox which caused a panic in this town. The Municipal Committee has since entertained the services of a Sanitary Inspector and trusts that the services of the Sanitary Department will instruct the Inspector to take such steps as will prevent the recurrence of cholera.

The development of Railways communication is a clamant need of this District. At present there is no Railway in the greater part of this District including the Bargarh Sub-Division. We understand that there is a project for the construction of a Railway from Sambalpur to Khurda Road junction with a bridge over the Mahanadi River close to the town. We earnestly hope that the construction of this line which will be an important factor of the progress and development of this District may be taken in hand as soon as funds permit.

We may be allowed to express our gratitude and thankfulness to His Gracious Majesty the King Emperor George the Fifth. His Imperial Majesty's kind messages and appeals to the people of India and the personal interest he has been taking in ourselves we were very endeared him to all classes of people and we earnestly pray that the clouds which have now gathered over the Empire may roll away and His Imperial Majesty may be spared long to reign over us in the success of his glory.

We again beg to record our thanks and Lady Gait's most hearty and kind regards.

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