

**NOTES ON THE LAND  
TENURES AND  
REVENUE ASSESSMENTS  
OF UPPER INDIA**

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Notes on the Land Tenures and Revenue Assessments of Upper India by Patrick Carnegie

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BY  
PATRICK CARNEGIE,  
OF H.M.'S INDIAN SERVICE, AND COMMISSIONER IN CHIEF.

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

ON the 6th of Oct. 1858, Lord Canning, the first Viceroy of India, reiterating the words of Sir Robert Montgomery, the then Chief Commissioner of Oudh, wrote the following memorable sentences.

“Recent events have very much shaken the Governor-General's faith in the stability of the village system, even in our older provinces, and his lordship is, therefore, all the more disposed to abandon it, in a province to which it was unknown before our rule was introduced in 1856. The Governor-General is well aware, that in some of the districts of the North-western Provinces, the holders of villages belonging to tallukdārs, which had been broken up at the Settlement, acknowledged the suzerainty of the tallukdārs as soon as our authority was subverted. They acted, in fact, as though they regarded the arrangement made at the Settlement as valid, and to be maintained just as long as British rule lasted, and no longer, and as though they wished the tallukdār to re-assert his former rights, and resume his ancient position over them at the first opportunity. Their conduct amounts almost to an admission, that their own rights, whatever these may be, are subordinate to those of the tallukdārs;

that they do not value the recognition of these rights by the ruling authority; and that the tallukdāri system is the ancient, indigenous, and cherished system of the country. If such be the case in our older provinces, where our system of Government has been established for more than half a century, during twenty years of which we have done our best to uphold the interest of the village occupant against the interest and influence of the tallukdār, much more will the same feeling prevail in the province of Oudh, where village occupancy, independent and free from subordination to the tallukdārs, has been unknown. Our endeavour to better, as we thought, the village occupants in Oudh, has not been appreciated by them. It may be true that these men had not influence and weight enough to aid us in restoring order, but they had *numbers*, and it can hardly be doubted that, if they had valued their restored rights, they would have shown some signs of a willingness to support the Government which revived these rights. But they have done nothing of the kind. The Governor-General is, therefore, of opinion that these village occupants, as such, deserve little consideration from us.

“On these grounds, as well as because the tallukdārs, if they will, can materially assist in the re-establishment of our authority and the restoration of tranquillity, the Governor-General has determined that a Tallukdāri Settlement shall be made. His lordship desires that it may be so framed as to secure the village occupants from extortion; that the tallukdārs should, on no account, be invested with any police authority; that the tenures should be declared to be contingent on a certain specified service to be rendered; and that the assessment should be so moderate as to leave an ample



margin for all expenses incidental to the performance of such service. The talukdārs may then be legitimately expected to aid the authorities of Government by their personal influence, and their own active co-operation; and they may be required, under penalties, to undertake all the duties and responsibilities, which by the regulations of the Government properly pertain to land-holders. These duties should be rigidly exacted and enforced."

It has been alike the duty and privilege of the writer, as Settlement Officer and Commissioner, to devote ten years of his life to carrying into effect the Settlement of Oudh, based on the above instructions of H.M.'s first Viceroy. There are few subjects that are more involved and difficult than the land tenures of Upper India, and although their elucidation has taxed the intelligence of the most brilliant men in the Indian services, we have still much to learn before our information on the subject can be considered complete. The officers of the Oudh Settlement Department had unusual opportunities of arriving at a correct estimate of tenures, owing to the circumstance that in Oudh alone has the 'plan, since then much discussed, been followed, of intrusting the judicial determination of all rights in the soil, at the time of making the first revised land Settlement, to the officers of that Department.

The writer's duties have lain in that portion of the province in which, perhaps, the different forms of land tenure are more varied and complicated than elsewhere; much attention has therefore been paid to this branch of the subject, and many decisions, reports, and memoranda have necessarily been the result. He imagines that some of his papers, recording

the opinions formed on data most laboriously collected, may be found of use, if not to the general reader, at least to those who may come after him in the Indian Government service. He has, therefore, devoted a portion of his furlough leisure to editing such of them as were within his reach in England, and these form the subject of the present volume.

P. CARNEGIE.

HAZELWOOD, UPPER NORWOOD,  
*April 1874.*

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CHAPTER I.

ON LAND TENURES GENERALLY, AS JUDICIALLY DETERMINED  
BY THE FAIZABAD SETTLEMENT COURTS; (AN OFFICIAL  
REPORT.)

THE judicial work of the Faizabad Settlement has, in accordance with instructions, been taken up according to Parganas, and proprietary and subproprietary rights have been disposed of as follows:—All proprietary rights in independent estates, and all subproprietary claims to whole villages or specific portions of villages have already been disposed of, and claims to shares or to specific lands, groves, &c., remain for determination. When the field-survey had prepared the way, and we were in a position to commence inquiries into rights, the prescribed thirty-days' notice to advance claims was duly issued in each village.

In tallukdāri villages it was generally found that there was but a single claim to sub-settlement; but in independent villages the claims to proprietary title were numerous, and

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