

IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF INDIA

PROVINCIAL SERIES

BALUCHISTĀN

SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING
CALCUTTA

1908

Price Rs. 2, or 3s.]

PREFACE

THE articles contained in this volume were compiled by Mr. R. Hughes-Buller, I.C.S. The collection of material entailed special difficulties, owing to the large area to be covered and the less highly organized staff of officials as compared with other parts of India. Mr. Hughes-Buller received valuable assistance from Major C. Archer, Indian Army, Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistān; and he also wishes to acknowledge the help given him by Rai Sāhib Dīwān Jamiat Rai in collating information about what has hitherto been an unknown country. The sections on Geology were contributed by Mr. E. Vredenburg of the Geological Survey of India, and those on Botany by Lieut.-Col. D. Prain, Director of the Botanical Survey of India (now Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
BALUCHISTĀN PROVINCE	I-88
PHYSICAL ASPECTS	I-11
Boundaries	I
Dimensions	I
Origin of name	2
Natural divisions	2
Mountain system	2
Rivers	3
Scenery	3
Lakes	4
The coast	4
Geology	4
Constitution of geological groups	5
Botany	7
Zoology	8
Climate and temperature	9
Winds	10
Rainfall	10
Storms, floods, cyclones, and earthquakes	11
HISTORY	II-22
The country as described in ancient geography	11
Alexander the Great	12
The Graeco-Bactrians, &c.	12
The Rai dynasty and the Arab invasions	12
The Ghaznivids	12
The Mongols	12
Migration of the Baloch and rise of the Arghūn power	13
Baluchistān under Akbar	13
Nādir Shāh and Ahmad Shāh	13
The rise of the Ahmadzais of Kalāt	13
Kalāt always a dependent State	14
Acquisition of Kachhi	15
Nasir Khān I	15
Mīr Mehrāb Khān	16
Mīr Nasir Khān II	16
Mīr Khudādād Khān	17
The Mastung settlement	17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

v

	PAGE
Occupation of Quetta	17
Abdication of Mir Khudādād Khān	17
Mir Mahmūd Khān II	18
History of Las Bela	18
The British as paramount power in Baluchistān. The first Afghān War	18
General John Jacob's administration	19
Sir Robert Sandeman	19
Constitution of the Baluchistān Agency	19
The second Afghān War	20
Administration, 1882 to 1892	20
Later developments	21
Archaeology	21
POPULATION	22-33
Towns and villages	23
Growth of population	23
Migration	24
Age statistics	24
Vital statistics	25
Sex statistics	25
Marriage customs and civil condition	25
Language	26
Races and tribes	27
The Afghāns	28
The Baloch	28
The tribal system	29
Physical characteristics	29
Religion	30
Islām	30
Hinduism	30
Christian missions	31
Occupations	31
Food	31
Dress	31
Dwellings	31
Disposal of the dead	32
Amusements	32
Fairs	33
Names and titles	33
AGRICULTURE	33-42
General conditions	33
Geological formation and soil	33
System of cultivation	34
Seed-time and harvest	34