

VIII. Modern Townships :

(31) A colony of N. C. D. C., Ranchi, (32) A panoramic view of H. E. C., Dhurva (Hatia), (33) A general view of the Ore Plant, Muri.

IX. Administrative Buildings :

(34) Hindusthan Steel Limited Office, Doranda, (35) Accountant-General's Office, Doranda.

X. Tribal Life :

(36) A Orson boy, (37) A Orson girl, (38) A Munda youth, (39) A group of Orson dancers, (40) A Birhor hut, (41) Sari worn by tribal women, (42) Women's ornaments, (43) Beads, (44) Grass umbrella, (45) Leaf rain coat, (46) Arrows, (47) Bows, (48) Fish catching implements, (49) Monkey catching nets, (50) Ginning machine, (51) Wooden trough, and, (52) Mardar (Drum).

Maps :

- (i) Administrative—District, subdivision and block Boundary lines, rivers, roads, inspection bungalows, block headquarters, beauty spots and important towns.
- (ii) Geological—Laterite, Deccan trap, Gondwana granite, Archean schists, Archean lavas and minerals.
- (iii) Economic—Dams, irrigation projects, industrial and trading centres and density of population per square mile.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL.

ORIGIN OF NAME OF THE DISTRICT.

The origin of the name of the district is rather obscure. Some believe that Ranchi derives its name from Purani Ranchi, a village near Ranchi while others suggest that it is an anglicised transformation of the Mundari word 'Aranchi' meaning a short stick used in driving cattle.

The tract which corresponds to this district and the other regions of Chota Nagpur Division was known to the Aryans as Jharkhand or the 'Forest tract'. Throughout the Muslim rule the word 'Jharkhand' appears to have survived although the word Kokrah became a common epithet for this region. In the *Siri-Ashari* Kokrah formed part of Suba Bihar and was the realm of the Raja of Kokrah. It was also known to the Mughals as Nagpur or Coira Orissa. The name Nagpur probably dates back to the 15th or 16th century A.D. It was ceded in 1765 under the grant of *Diwani* to the East India Company. In the covenants granted to the Nagbansi Raja the settlement was given of the Nagpur Pargana. In a letter addressed to the Governor at Fort William, dated Ramgar, the 12th August, 1774 from Capt. Camac, the 1st Military Officer to enter the country, simply Nagpur is mentioned without the epithet 'Chota'. James Rennel in his map of Hindoostan (1792), prefixed the word 'Chutia' to Nagpur; but it was not till 1812 that Nagpur was officially recognised as Chota Nagpur by the British Parliament.* Nevertheless, officials did not mention invariably the region by this name till 1854 when Chota Nagpur became a non-regulation province under a Commissioner. It is believed in some quarters that the name Chutia, a village near Ranchi, stands for the word Chota. The name Chutia or Chuta Nagpur is found in Rennel's map (1792) and in Hamilton's Gazetteer (1815) and the latter explains the name by saying "that the district is distinguished by the term Chota (little) to distinguish it from the other Nagpur possessed by the Bhonsiah Maratha family".†

The tradition of the Mundas avers that the Patriarch Chuta Esodem, (i.e. an old man), probably fourth in descent from the traditional king

* (i) The Fifth Report of the Select Committee on the affairs of the East India Company, London (1812).

(ii) The East India Gazette (1812), p. 239.

(iii) The Geographical, Statistical and Historical Description of Hindoostan and adjacent countries, London, 1812.

10604