

Henzada District

Towns

Nearly all the large towns are on the right bank of the Irrawaddy, though many important places are in Tharrawaddy, that is the country east of the river: here, however, the great extent of the annual inundations and the smaller extent of country fitted for the cultivation of rice, the great staple produce of the province, though perhaps favourable to the existence of numerous small villages regard the formation of the large trading towns and nearly all large towns in this district owe their magnitude if not their very existence to trade in the products of the surrounding country.

Kyan-kheng which is not far south of the frontier of the district in 18° 19' N. and 95° 1' 50" E. is a long straggling town stretching for a considerable distance along the bank of the Irrawaddy just above the mouth of the Pa-ta-sheng river.

It is the head-quarter town of a township under an Extra Assistant Commissioner and contains a Court-house, Police station and a good market place.

Of but small importance prior to the first Burmese war it rapidly increased after the annexation of Pegu and now exports a considerable quantity of rice grown in the neighbourhood.

In 1863 it had less than 5,000 inhabitants and in 1876 it had 8,761, a result principally due to its increasing trade which again, depending almost entirely as it does upon rice export, is the result of the increased cultivation of the country in the interior.

The inhabitants are almost entirely Burmans with a small sprinkling of Hindoos and Mahomedans.

Myan-oung, once the head-quarters of the Pegu Light Infantry, a local corps disbanded on the formation of the existing Police force, and subsequently the head-quarters of the district till 1870, is some distance below Kyan-kheng and stretches along the bank of the river for two miles whilst its breadth inland is not much over 200 yards.

It is now the head-quarter station of a sub-division and contains a Court-house and Treasury, a Police station, Lock-up, Telegraph Office, Post Office, Hospital and Dispensary, Circuit-house and Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow.

Though an old Talaing town its inhabitants are mainly Burmans with a very few Hindoos, Mahomedans, Europeans, Indo-European and Chin-Indo-European.

Of some importance in the Burmese time its progress of late years has not been great and it has been eclipsed by its northern neighbour Kyan-kheng notwithstanding advantages which it long had as a military and civil station.

In 1864 it had a population of 5,125 and in 1876 of 5,859 .

Kan-oung, seven miles below Myanoung, founded by Aloungbhoora, the Burman conqueror, circa 1753 A. D., is the head-quarter station of a township.

It possesses a Court-house, a market-place or bazaar, a Police station and a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow.

Its small population of 3,191 souls is composed mainly of Burmans, with a few Hindoos and about 100 Mahomedans.

Henzada is considerably to the south in 17°58' N. and 95°32' E. now the head-quarters of the district, larger than that of any town except the three principal seaports of the province, the military station of Thayetmyo and Prome which has double the population. It contains Court-houses, a Gaol, fine market-places, a Telegraph Office, Post Office, Circuit-house and a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow.

Always of some importance it has increased considerably of late years and during the last ten its population has risen from 14,551 souls to 15,307.

The streets have been raised and the town generally much improved.

The inhabitants are principally Burmans, with a few Hindoos, Mahomedans, Europeans (mainly officials), Indo-Europeans, and Chin-Indo-Europeans.

Za-lwon is a rising town farther to the south, which has a population of 4,784 souls, a large increase since 1868 when its inhabitants numbered 2,989 only.

It has a Court-house used by the Extra Assistant Commissioner in charge of the township, and a Police station.

Meng-ghee on the left bank of the Irrawaddy in 18° 6' 35" N. and 95° 30' E., which includes Ke-kheng, was at one time, after the second Burmese war, of considerable importance and the head-quarter station of Tharrawaddy or the country east of the Irrawaddy now included in Henzada, in which was quartered a detachment of Native Infantry.

The Assistant Commissioner was withdrawn some years after the occupation, but it has of late years been found necessary to reconstitute the town into the head-quarter station of a sub-division.

It contains a Court-house, bazaar or market-place and a Police station, and has a population of 15,770 souls, largely engaged in trade.

In addition to these towns there are others in different parts of the country which are gradually and steadily rising in importance as Mo-gnyo, Ta-pwon and Tsan-rwe, where Extra Assistant Commissioners hold their Courts, and a large number of villages of various sizes. In villages and in small hamlets of less than 200 inhabitants Henzada may be said to be particularly rich no other district in the province having so many.

The larger number of these are along the banks of the Irrawaddy and on the banks of the tributary streams to the west of that river.

It may safely be asserted that the embankments along the Irrawaddy which protect such an extensive tract of fertile rice country from the inundations to which it was annually subject, will not only produce a steady increase in the size of villages now existing and occupied by cultivators of the neighbouring plains, but will cause the establishment of many new ones in spots hitherto waste and waiting only for relief from the superabundant waters of the river and for labour to become valuable and fruitful fields.

History

Once a portion of the Talaing kingdom of Pegu and annexed to the Burman Empire in 1753 A.D. by Alonngbhoora, the district has no special history. It never seems to have been the scene of much fighting nor to have had at any period an independent existence.

Its towns were occasionally attacked and defended but the inhabitants would appear to have taken no special part in any of the wars.

Kyan-kheng, Myan-oung, Oot-hpo and Henzada claim to have been founded by Talaing princes in the early days of Talaing history, whilst Kan-oung does not go further back than the days of Alonngbhoora.

It possesses no extensive ruins like Thare-khet-tara near Prome or Twan-te in Rangoon.

When Colonel Symes visited Ava at the end of the last century he found at Henzada evident signs of wealth but little cultivation, whilst the neighbourhood of Myan-oung he described as exceedingly fruitful, exporting a considerable quantity of rice upcountry.

Tharrawaddy or the country on the east of the Irrawaddy was given as an appanage to a prince of royal blood who became famous, or perhaps rather infamous, under the name of "Prince Tharrawaddy" : clever, open hearted and liberal, but ambitious, cruel and vindictive, he turned his grant into a nest of robbers who were thoroughly devoted to him and of whom he made use in 1837 to dethrone his brother in his own favour.

During the first Burmese war no resistance was offered to the British Army in this district as it now exists.

After the fall of Donabyoo Sir Archibald Campbell continued his advance up the valley of the Irrawaddy and was met at Taroop-hmaw by Burman Envoys who wished him to halt and enter into negotiations, a suggestion which, warned by experience, he declined to entertain but offered to treat for peace when in Prome.

Soon after the taking of Rangoon and Bassein during the second Burmese war, the *Phlegethon* was sent up the river to reconnoitre and found that the Governor of Dalla had evacuated Donabyoo and had crossed the river to Tsaga, a few miles higher up.

On the *Phlegethon* opening fire the force, which consisted of some 5,000 men, retired to Thara-waw (Sara-wa), some of them recrossing to Henzada.

In the beginning of July 1852 Commodore Tarleton moved up towards Prome and found a large body of men at Kan-oung who replied to a shell from the flotilla of which he was in command, by a vigorous fire from guns and musketry from their defences to which they retreated: as the expedition had been specially despatched to reconnoitre the river it proceeded after shelling the works for an hour and on its return sometime later the place was found to have been abandoned.

At Myan-oung all was found quiet but at Akouk-toung extensive fortifications were observed crowning the bluff and completely commanding the western channel leaving the eastern undefended; through this the vessels passed onwards to Prome.

The Burmese, on receiving information of the capture of Prome by the flotilla, abandoned the works at Akouk-toung and were discovered crossing the river; they were immediately attacked and five brass field pieces captured, and a few days later the works and some of the 28 guns which they were found to contain were destroyed, the remainder being brought away.

The Burmese general in command, a grandson of the great Bandoola who had been killed at Donabyoo during the first war, subsequently surrendered.

The whole of the delta was, however, not entirely cleared of Burmese troops and many marauders remained who were only waiting for a favourable opportunity to collect together

and to carry on a guerilla war with the British and with all who had in any way helped them.

After Bandoola had retired to Prome on the advance of Commander Tarleton just related, no attempts were made by the British to occupy Akouk-toung as General Godwin passed it and captured and occupied Prome.

A force of Burmans took advantage of this and rebuilt the stockades; in these they mounted five guns and seriously threatened our communications.

The stockades were stormed by Captain Loch E.N. with a small force of 82 marines and seamen on the 4th November and captured without the loss of a single man.

The Burmese rapidly reassembled and on the 9th of November, Captain Loch again attacked and captured the heights with less difficulty than before.

To prevent any recurrence of this danger a small force under Major Gardner was stationed off Akouk-toung, in the *Enterprise*, and directed to patrol the hills regularly.

Early on the morning of the 19th, whilst thus employed, he was surprised and he himself and a Havildar killed and six sepoys wounded.

A force was at once despatched from Prome under Colonel Handscomb and Captain Loch R.N. who attacked and drove off the enemy from the two positions which they occupied, one north and one south of Akouk-toung, the latter a few miles from Kyan-kheng, after which Akouk-toung was occupied and no further serious disturbances occurred on the right bank of the Irrawaddy in this neighbourhood.

In the meanwhile Bassein and the southern part of Henzada had been, if possible, in a still more disturbed state.

In Bassein there had been several risings, not of the people generally but of the disbanded Burman Police, of which each Thoogyee even had several hundreds.

The conquest of the country by the English deprived them of all occupation and, encouraged and led by men holding commissions from the Court at Ava, they kept the whole country below the Akouk-toung hills in a continual ferment.

The principal leader in this district was one Myat-htoon the hereditary Thoogyee of a small circle, a man of daring who had more than once been treated as a rebel by the Burmese Government, who collected a large body of marauders.

He was attacked south of Dona-byoo by a force under Sir John Cheape with which a Kareng levy under Captain Fytche in civil charge of Bassein co-operated and his force dispersed. He himself escaped but gave no more trouble.

In Tharrawaddy a man named Goung-gyee caused much disorder. He was the hereditary Thoogyee of a circle and before the outbreak of the war had refused to furnish his quota of tax or to supply the produce which was due from him to the Burmese Government; he was therefore deposed and a relation of his own appointed to succeed him. This relative he forcibly expelled and when the war broke out, siding with neither array, he established a sort of petty government of his own.

The Burmese Governor of the district had marched with a contingent from his province to join the Burmese army before Rangoon and after its defeat he retired to his government. Here, in the rainy season of 1852, Goung-gyee attacked him, upon which a force from the Burman army then at Prome was detached against him but the rapid advance of the British enabled Goung-gyee to elude his opponents.

In 1853 he refused to obey a summons from Captain Smith who had been placed in charge and the Burmese Government now secretly supported him, and for a considerable period he was enabled to keep the country in a very disturbed state.

"By dint of terror inspired by ruthless cruelties to those of his countrymen who accepted service from the British Government he deterred many from submitting and from supplying information regarding his movements.

Their villages were attacked, plundered and burnt ; their wives and children driven off into the mountains, and the men forced to decide between joining him and death."

Not only had Goung-gyee no intention of acknowledging any master but he was determined that during his life no one should occupy the post which he had so long held.

No sooner was a Myooke appointed by the British Government than Goung-gyee killed him. It was not until the early part of 1855 that he was got rid of when, owing to the energetic measures taken by Captain D'Oyley in Prome and Captain (now Colonel) David Brown in Tharrawaddy, he was so closely pursued and harassed that at last, almost deserted by his followers, he acknowledged himself beaten and escaped into Burmese territory.

The defeat of these two leaders and the dispersion of their gangs together with the energetic and firm but conciliatory policy pursued by the Civil Officers in charge relieved the whole country and no serious disturbances have occurred since.

On the annexation of Pegu the present Henzada district was called Sarawa (Tha-ra-waw) and very shortly afterwards was divided into two called Henzada and Tharrawaddy to be subsequently united and called Myanoung, a name which a few years ago was changed to Henzada on the removal of the head-quarters from Myanoung back to Henzada : since then the Thoon-tshay circle has been added from Rangoon and Donabyoo has been taken from it.

Administration

Before the annexation of Pegu the country now forming the Henzada district was divided into numerous small tracts ruled by officials who, though not of high rank, communicated direct with the Government at Ava.

Those in the country south of Akouk-toung on the right bank and south of Taroop-hmaw on the left, as far as the Rangoon and Bassein districts, were incorporated into one district and called Sarawa (Thara-waw). Very shortly, however, it was found necessary to divide Tha-ra-waw into two and the Irrawaddy was taken as the dividing line; Henzada to the west with its head-quarters at the town of that name was made one district and Tharrawaddy on the east, the old historical name of that part of the Province, with its head-quarters at Meng-gyee, the other; at the same time the small township of Taroop-hmaw in the north was taken from Prome and added to the latter.

Each township was placed under a Burmese officer under the designation of Myo-ook and he was entrusted with moderate judicial, fiscal and police power.

Immediately under the Myo-ook were the Thoogyee, or revenue and police officers placed over circles, each circle containing several village tracts. These officers held the same general position which they held under the Burmese rule.

The area of their jurisdiction varied from three or four to twenty square miles. Each Thoogyee had two peons.

Subordinate to the Thoogyee were appointed gong (literally 'heads'). These officers existed under the Burmese Government by no fixed rule but were placed at the caprice of each Thoogyee or other officer wherever a new hamlet sprung up or a few families congregated.

They were now appointed over, on the average, every hundred families throughout the several circles and placed under the immediate orders of the Thoogyee, whom they assisted in the revenue and police duties.

They received a salary of ten rupees a month each. They constituted the village constabulary and, with the Thoo-gyee, the detective police.

At the same time the gong and ook (or 'rulers') over traders, over fishermen, over ploughmen of the royal lands, over brokers, over silver assayers &c. were reduced and these classes, which had hitherto formed distinct bodies each under its own head, were brought under the general laws of the country and any crimes and offences of which their members might be accused made primarily cognizable by the Thoogyee and gong, who at first seemed hardly able to understand that all persons within the limits of the tracts of which they had been placed in charge were within their jurisdiction.

It was soon found that the Thoogyee and gong with their two peons each were not able to maintain order in a country lately the seat of war and overrun with men who had hitherto lived upon the land.

Each official kept as many followers as he could support or as could support themselves without driving the long suffering inhabitants, who had and have a great awe for constituted authority, into venturing into rebellion or flight. The result of the war was to throw these men loose upon the country and it required vigorous efforts and strong measures to restore confidence.

A local regiment was raised and called the Pegu Light Infantry: it was composed of a commandant, second in command, adjutant, four subalterns, one assistant surgeon, seven native commissioned and seventy-eight non-commissioned officers and 495 rank and file, with their head-quarters at Myanoung; whilst in Tharrawaddy a local police corps of 546 strong, officers and men, was formed by Captain Brown, to which two European non-commissioned officers were attached.

At the same time the Deputy Commissioners were authorized to carry out at once any sentence of death which they might pass on persons taken in open and armed insurrection, an authority subsequently withdrawn as the country settled down. The general result of the measures adopted was that in two years the district, except in Tharrawaddy where Goung-gyee caused considerable trouble, was quiet but murders and gang-robberies still continued; of the former there were no less than ten in Henzada in 1855 and six in Tharrawaddy during the same year.

Gradually the state of the country improved and more especially was this the case in the once turbulent district east of the Irrawaddy owing to "the indefatigable energy and well directed exertions of Captain (now Colonel) Brown", who had been in charge since 1853.

The inhabitants returned to their homes and, as far as it is possible to judge from their conduct and their general statements, gladly accepted the change of rulers, population increased and the revenue rose in amount whilst its incidence per head fell.

The raising of the Pegu Light Infantry was attended with some difficulty as it was found at

first that Burmese and Talaing would not enlist; an endeavour was made, with but little success, to get Malay recruits from the Straits but in a few years the corps was raised to its full sanctioned strength, mainly by an accession of Burmans from Tharrawaddy, and in 1858 it furnished detachments which relieved the troops of the line on the detached frontier posts in the Prome district.

In 1861 on the formation of the existing provincial police the corps was disbanded, most of the officers and many of the men joining the new body and at the same time the police battalion raised by Captain Brown was similarly reduced.

In 1861 Tharrawaddy and Henzada were united and formed into one district, the head-quarters being removed north to Myanoung which thence forward for several years gave its name to the district.

In 1870 the head-quarters were transferred to Henzada and the district was renamed.

In 1873 the Thoon-tshay circle of the Rangoon district was added, and in April 1875 the Donabyoo township was taken away and added to others from Bassein and Rangoon to form the new Thoon-khwa district.

Henzada is now divided into three sub-divisions, Henzada, Myanoung and Tharrawaddy and these again into nine townships in charge of each of which is an Extra Assistant Commissioner, and into eighty-one revenue circles.

In 1876 the police force consisted of one Superintendent, one Assistant superintendent, 44 subordinate officers and 354 men, of whom 45 were employed for municipal purposes and nine as river police.

Almost the last buildings constructed were the gaols and lock-ups. For the first few years the prisoners were confined in temporary mat buildings, except at Meng-gyee in Tharrawaddy where Captain Brown turned an old and abandoned brick building into an efficient place of confinement for his prisoners.

In 1856 two outbreaks occurred: twenty-four prisoners endeavoured to escape, fourteen succeeded, six were killed and four re-captured.

In 1859 an enclosure wall of masonry was constructed by convict labour round the Meng-gyee gaol under the superintendence of Lieutenant Lloyd.

In 1861 the gaols at Meng-gyee and at Henzada were abolished, though retained as lock-ups in which prisoners were confined pending trial and when sentenced to short terms of imprisonment.

The plan then under consideration was to have a gaol in each district in which prisoners sentenced to not more than three years imprisonment should be confined but this was subsequently altered and it was determined that all prisoners undergoing a longer term than six months should be sent to Rangoon.

In 1864 the lock-up at Myanoung was a wooden building standing in open country on the banks of the Irrawaddy without enclosure of any sort in which were confined only under-trial prisoners and those sentenced to not more than a month's imprisonment, the remainder being sent to Rangoon.

In 1868-69 masonry lock-ups were constructed at Henzada and at Myanoung and some years later it was proposed to build a district gaol at the former station but the plan was abandoned.

The gaol at Henzada though classed as a district gaol is in reality but a lock-up and is inadequate for the wants of the district. It and the lock-up at Myanoung are of similar construction, both consisting of masonry buildings with wooden barracks raised 10 feet off the ground in which, during 1875 and 1876 an average number of 83 and 67 prisoners, respectively, were confined.

At Henzada the average daily number of convicts employed on labour outside the gaol walls was ten, eight were employed on the gaol garden, twenty on manufactures, seven on the gaol buildings, six as gaol servants and four as prison officers.

This district has from the first received considerable attention as regards the education of its inhabitants but beyond making grants-in-aid to the missionary societies the State did not interfere for some years.

As early as 1855 schools had been established by the American Baptist missionaries and in 1856 a Kareng Normal school was opened in Henzada, in 1867 the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel started a school in the same town, and in 1873 and 1874 the Government formed cess schools in Henzada and Myanoung and in 1875 in Kyan-kheng.

In the meanwhile the Baptist missionaries had started numerous village schools amongst the Kareng to which the State for some time afforded aid.

The average daily attendance in the cess schools in 1876 was : — in Henzada 52, Myanoung 36, and Kyan-kheng 20.

In Henzada almost all the pupils are Booddhists whereas in Myanoung there were 13 Christians, Mahomedans and Hindoos out of a total of 34 on the rolls on the 31st March 1876, and in Kyan-kheng three out of a total of 31 on the rolls.

The total number on the rolls of the S. P. G. Mission School was 58 and the average daily attendance 47.

In Henzada there are two schools for Burmese girls to each of which the State makes a small grant. The total number of pupils on the rolls in 1876 was 67 and the average daily attendance was 51.

All these are more or less under the supervision of Europeans or Americans.

At Henzada and at Meng-gyee there are lay schools, one at each, in which both boys and girls are taught, kept by Burmans who receive small grants and are also assisted by a master paid by the State, whilst at Re-keng the Government employs a master who teaches in a large monastery with the consent and on the application of the head hpoongyee.

Numerous monasteries and lay schools are annually inspected and prizes distributed and in 1875-76 the Director of Public Instruction reported that in this district indigenous lay education was founded on a permanently sound and steadily broadening basis.

Geography

The southern boundary which separates the district from Rangoon on the east and Bassein and Thoon-khwa on the west is more irregular in its course; starting from the Pegu Romas it follows the Mee-neng to its mouth in the Hlaing, then turning south it follows the Hlaing for about a mile and a half to the Re-nek- khyoung where it inclines west and strikes the Irrawaddy at a spot about eight or nine miles below Henzada.

Following the Irrawaddy southwards for a few miles it turns west again along the Pantanaw creek to leave it almost immediately and trend north-west, almost parallel to and not far

from the Irrawaddy, to the Bassein river which it crosses and then inclines more to the west to the Arakan mountains.

From the north to about the latitude of Henzada the district stretches right across the valley but below this the Bassein district running up north along the Arakan Romas and the Rangoon district along the Pegu Romas give the lower portion the form of a truncated cone lying partly on one bank of the Irrawaddy and partly on the other, with the newly-formed Thoon-khwa district closing it in on the south. The eastern and western boundaries are formed by the two ranges of mountains which enclose the valley of the Irrawaddy: here the face of the country has a rugged character which subsides into undulations and finally into a dead flat in the more central parts near the river.

In 1861 Henzada on the west of the Irrawaddy and Tharrawaddy on the east, which shortly after the occupation of Pegu had been separated and had since then formed two independent jurisdictions, were re-united and the head-quarters were moved from Henzada to Myanoung further north.

In 1870 the head-quarters were re-transferred to Henzada where they now are.

In 1872-73 the Thoon-tshay circle of Rangoon was added to it from Rangoon, and in 1875 the greater part of the Donabyoo township was taken from it and added to others to form the Thoon-khwa district.

Mountains

The Arakan Romas forming the western boundary and stretching from far beyond the frontier of Pegu to the Bay of Bengal have nowhere in this district a greater elevation than in the latitude of Myanoung where one of the peaks rises to 4,003 feet above the sea-level: from this point southwards the height rapidly diminishes.

Towards the north the spurs stretch down to the Irrawaddy and one, just within the district, ends at Akouk-toung in a precipitous cliff 300 feet high, its feet bathed by the river and its face caverned artificially to contain statues of Gaudama, the only instance in this district in which a hill abuts on the river.

Towards the south the course of the Irrawaddy trends away from these mountains and leaves room for vast plains. The ascents of the range are steep though not generally rocky and the entire surface of the tract covered by the main range and its spurs is clothed with dense forest the summits of the highest peaks being the only points destitute of tree jungle.

The Pegu Romas on the east are further removed from the river and their spurs do not extend down so far into the valley.

The highest point (2,000 feet above the sea) in the whole chain is in this district in 17° 55' N. where it branches out southward into several radiating spurs which form the valleys of the Pegu and the Poo-zwon-doung- rivers and their tributaries.

The slopes are extremely steep and the valleys sharply excavated, the result of the soft character of the shales and earthy sandstone constituting the range and partly also of the heavy rain-fall of Pegu. The country here as in the west is densely wooded and in the hot season is dry and parched.

Plains

The plains are extensive and to some extent cultivated and are almost everywhere suited

for the production of rice but were, till a few years ago, annually inundated over a considerable area.

To the east of the Irrawaddy these plains stretch from north to south throughout the whole length of the district reaching on the one hand from the Hlaing to the Pegu Romas and on the other to the Irrawaddy. It is these latter which are most subject to inundation.

The plains on the western bank of the Irrawaddy extend from Akouktoung in the north to the southern limit of the district and widening out in their lower portion stretch inland from the Irrawaddy towards the Arakan Romas.

A great part of this country was subject to extensive inundation but has been greatly protected by embankments constructed along the right bank of the river so that almost the whole area is suitable for rice cultivation except where, here and there, patches of sandy and gravelly soil or lakes and marshes occur.

Rivers

From the two bounding mountain ranges numerous torrents pour down and on reaching the plain country unite to form large rivers, streams which fall into the Hlaing, the Irrawaddy and the Bassein rivers, whilst towards the south the Hlaing and the Irrawaddy are connected by several creeks, the waters of whichever of the two may be temporarily the fullest finding its way thus during the rains into the other. The Irrawaddy traverses the district from north to south dividing it into two pretty equal parts but having a general S.S.E. course, and is here navigable by river steamers at all seasons.

The Hlaing rises in Prome as the Zay and enters this district as the Myit-ma-klia a few miles east of the Irrawaddy, a low range of hills covered with Eng forest (*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*) and generally known as the Engdaing lying between them.

Its course is about parallel to that of the Irrawaddy and from the east it receives through numerous channels the drainage of the Pegu Roma mountains which fertilises the plain on its eastern bank.

A little below the southern extremity of the Engdaing the Tsheng-khoung creek, navigable throughout during the rains only, unites it with the Irrawaddy, and from this point downwards numerous channels exist by which during the rains the waters of the two rivers mingle. Its principal affluents from the east are the Toung-gnyo in the north, the Meng-bhoo, the Toung, the Meng-hla, the Tsheng-aing, the Toung-bho-hla, the Bheeleng, which has different names in different parts of its course, and in the south the Thoon-tshay, all tapping a country rich in teak and other valuable timber and in the lower portion of their lengths flowing through culturable and partly cultivated land.

On the west innumerable small streams form by their union several principal channels along which the accumulated drainage of the western half of the district is carried to the Irrawaddy and Bassein rivers.

Many of these streams are either entirely dry or they contain water to the depth of a few inches only during the hot season and nearly all have high precipitous banks and extremely tortuous courses: after heavy rains they fill with great rapidity and flow with a very strong current.

During the continuance of the south-west monsoon they become navigable to a distance of some miles above their mouths and by taking advantage of the freshets which prevail at that season boats of considerable burden can ascend with ease until the stream becomes a

mountain torrent. The Pouk-taing rises in the Akonk-toung spur and has an easterly course of only ten miles, but receives many small tributaries in its course.

The Tsanda, the Aloon and the Padaw rise in the Arakan mountains and unite to form the Pata-sheng which falls into the Irrawaddy a little below Kyan-kheng : the first has a south-easterly course of about 25 miles, and the others a north-easterly course of about 30 and 40 miles respectively.

The Ka-gnyeng rises in the Arakan mountains and runs in a south-easterly direction for about 60 miles and after receiving the waters of the Shwe-naing and the Tsheng-boon falls into the Bassein river about 13 miles from its northern mouth. It communicates with the Irrawaddy by the Thambhaya-daing creek which leaves it at the elbow formed by the sudden bend which it makes S.S.W. when only a mile from the Irrawaddy. It traverses a highly-cultivated country.

The Mamyia rises in the Arakan mountains and for 30 miles flows south-east when, turning north, it falls into the Htoo lake five miles further on, the surplus waters of which used to find their way to the Irrawaddy. The Nan-ga-thoo is formed by two streams of this name which have their sources in the Arakan mountains and unite a little above Kweng-gouk and falls into the Bassein river about two miles west of the mouth of the Ka-gnyeng.

The Bassein river is in reality a branch of the Irrawaddy recruited by the drainage of the country through which it flows.

It leaves the Irrawaddy about nine miles above Henzada and flows south-west to the sea through the Bassein district. At its entrance it is about 300 yards wide but is choked by a sandbank rising above the level of the water of the Irrawaddy during the dry season. In the rains the largest boats can enter it and river steamers have passed through it.

Forests

The forests in this district comprise of every variety except the mangrove.

West of the Irrawaddy in the north in the tract drained by the Aloon, the Tsanda and the Padaw which unite to form the Patasheng, the hills are steep but the top of the ridges is frequently level and here teak of fine and regular growth occurs, whilst in the plains it is widely dispersed often alternating with Eng (*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*), but mature teak of large girth does not now abound.

The forests hereabouts were extensively worked in the Burmese time and the most valuable timber brought away.

In addition to Eng which grows on the lower slopes of the spurs of the Arakan range stretching for miles southward from the northern boundary parallel to the bank of the Irrawaddy, Pyengkado (*Xylia dolabriformis*) used for house-posts and bridge-piles, ploughs and boat anchors, and with a heart wood as durable as teak and equally safe from the attacks of white ants, Htoug-kyan (*Terminalia macrocarpa*), Pyengma (*Lagerstroemia Reginae*), Rendaik (*Dalbergia* sp.) furnishing a heavy wood with a red heart used for plough and cart poles, Ka-gnyeng, furnishing an excellent oil used as a varnish in situations unexposed to the weather, Bhan-bhwe (*Careya arborea*) and other valuable trees are numerous; the Sha (*Acacia catechu*) from which is extracted catch is by no means uncommon.

To the east of the Irrawaddy are large areas of lower mixed forest stretching from the upper limit of the land subject to inundation from the annual overflow of the main river and

the Hlaing to the Eng forest. This latter extends throughout the district from north to south and here are patches of mixed forest with a considerable proportion of teak, especially near the margin.

East of this extending to the foot of the range is a region of low undulating hills, varying in breadth from one to ten miles, rich in teak, whilst the forests on the spurs and ridges still further east are the finest and by far the most extensive.

In the north the Toung-gnyo and the Meng-boo streams, and further south the Toung, Meng-hla, Mok-kha and Bheeleng traverse a rich forest country. The principal timber trees are : —

Name.	Description of wood.	Uses.
<i>Xylia dolabriformis</i>	Dark-coloured, hard and dense, strong and durable.	Too hard to be easily worked. Used for house-posts, bridge-piles, boat anchors, railway sleepers.
<i>Dipterocarpus tuberculatus</i> ..	Light brown	Excellent for every purpose of house-building, especially for posts.
<i>Terminalia macrocarpa</i>	Dark brown	Used in house-building : strong but not very durable.
<i>Lagerstrœmia reginæ</i>	Red	Strong and adapted for house-building, but more especially for piles and in situations under water.
<i>Dalbergia</i> sp.	Sapwood readily decays but the heartwood is durable. Heavy ; will not float. Black, sometimes with red and white streaks.	Used for plough and cart poles.
<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Furnishing catch. Found growing in abundance in places easy of access and considerably worked.
<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i>	Light brown	Timber of great size and strength ; much used in boat-building ; plentiful, furnishing a useful oil.
<i>Careya arborea</i>	Red-coloured	Plentiful. Timber large, used for carts, &c.
<i>Barringtonia</i>	Red	Plentiful east of the Irrawaddy ; wood hard and of fine grain. Used for carts.

Besides these trees which are valuable for their timber there are others which are of some worth on account of their products.

A species of *Bignonia* is plentiful, from the inner bark of which is obtained a material much used locally for ropes.

Aeschynomene paludosa springs up spontaneously in the rice-fields and affords an excellent fibre.

Bombax pentandra and *B. heterophylla* yield an astringent gum resin.

Sterculia, of which there are several species, yields a gum probably analogous to *Tragacanth*.

From the bark of the *Odina wodier*, which forms a larger proportion of the forests than any other tree, is obtained a gum which may be galbanum, the plant affording which is not well known.

Dipterocarpus turbinatus already noticed, which in the south takes the place of *Acacia catechu*, the two never being found together, furnishes an oil which answers excellently as a varnish in unexposed situations.

These and other trees of considerable value are spread over the face of the country but with the exception of *Acacia catechu* have never been extensively used, teak having absorbed the attention both of traders and of the Government.

This was far from being the case in the time of the Burmese rule when, here as elsewhere, no tree which furnished a wood or an extract of general use could be felled or tapped without payment. The object then, however, was not forest conservancy but the realization of the largest possible revenue for the grantee of the Myo, that is the official at Mandalay or the member of the Royal family to whom the tract had been allotted as a strictly personal source of income, or for the officials who were in executive charge.

The unauthorized felling of teak has always been strictly prohibited and in 1873 Thitkha (*Pentace Burmanica*) and Thit-kado (*Schizochiton grandiflorum*) were reserved and in 1877 Padouk (*Pterocarpus macrocarpus*).

In the early part of 1876 the State set apart a large area as Government forests in which unauthorized felling of several other kinds of trees was prohibited and the whole of this district west of the Irrawaddy is included, whilst the country east of that river has formed a portion of the Government forest tracts for many years.

Population

The changes in the area of the district render it impossible to give any accurate statistics shewing the increase in the number of inhabitants in the tracts now included in Henzada. In 1876 the population in Henzada and Tharra-waddy was 501,213.

There are no statistics available which shew the population of the Donabyoo township in earlier times but in 1876-77, when it formed a portion of Thoon-khwa, it had 36,122 inhabitants.

In 1872-73 the Thoon-tshay circle was transferred from Rangoon to Henzada and in 1876-77 it had a population of 11,263: —

Although situated south of the limits of the ancient Burmese kingdom the Burmese here as everywhere else in Pegu largely outnumber the Talaing.

After the conquest of the lower country by Aloungbhoora a steady endeavour was made to destroy the Talaing nationality; the use of the language was forbidden and Burmans were encouraged to immigrate, large bodies coming down and settling, as at Kyankheng.

After the first Burmese war when the British troops retired the Burmans by their cruelties still further reduced the numbers, already dwindling, of the Talaing people who had generally assisted us against their former masters and who fled in numbers to Tenasserim to escape the fury of their oppressors under which many succumbed.

This diminution has continued but undoubtedly both before and since the annexation it is not due to emigration solely but also to absorption amongst the Burmans.

The few in this district are an exemplification of Sir Arthur Phayre's remark that — "*scarcely any one of Talaing descent calls himself anything but a Burman, so completely has the national spirit been extinguished.*"

A noticeable feature is the large number of Kareng, Bassein alone having more, who as a race are hill-men shy and fearful of strangers and in their dealings with others; but long before the occupation of Pegu large numbers had shaken off their timidity and settled in the plains, retaining their own language and customs but adopting the Burmese dress and method of cultivation. The increase in their numbers is not readily to be accounted for. The census returns shew that it has extended through every district of the province, except Rangoon, and cannot therefore be due to intra-provincial emigration and immigration whilst no great influx of their people into the province has taken place of late years. Though undoubtedly partly due to the natural increase it is most probably mainly caused by a more correct enumeration now that all troubles and rebellions amongst them are over and that they have become less timid and frightened of their rulers than they were during and immediately after the Burmese rule.

The increase in the number of Khyeng is partly due to the same cause and partly to immigration from Arakan and the north.

The number of Yabaing also has lately increased : this is the only district in the Pegu division in which they are found. Sir Arthur Phayre states that the term Yabaing or Zabaing is rather:- *"the description of an occupation than the distinctive name of a race. The people so called are breeders of silkworms in the hill districts. The term is probably a Shan word, applied to those who first introduced the worm from the eastward, and the meaning of it is not now understood."*

Agriculture

Situated at the head of the delta of the Irrawaddy and containing much fertile land the district has always been extensively cultivated with rice which has found a ready sale in the Rangoon and Bassein markets, communication with both being easy by the numerous creeks which intersect the country.

In former years large tracts were subject to inundation from the periodical overflowing of the Irrawaddy and this is still case with the country to the east. On the west for many years endeavours were made to afford a remedy but there was no systematic effort till about ten years after we had occupied Pegu.

The Civil Officers had constructed petty embankments in various places to protect towns or existing cultivation, in 1862-63 these were at:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kyan-kheng. | 5. Anouk-bhet. |
| 2. Myan-oung. | 6. Tham-bo-ta-ra. |
| 3. Kan-oung. | 7. Doo-ra. |
| 4. Henzada. | 8. Za-lwon. |

In 1862 the country was carefully and scientifically examined and it was proposed to take over these embankments from the Civil Officers and run a line along the right bank of the Irrawaddy from Akouktoung to Pantanaw closing up the mouths of nearly all the rivers and leaving only sluices for the necessary exit of the drainage of the country.

There was considerable doubt as to the extent to which erosion of the river bank was taking place and it was determined that the line should run some distance inland and not near the river bank so as to avoid all risk of its being gradually cut away.

The first fourteen miles from Akouktoung were to be and are really are only a road, and do

not reclaim any land. The question of closing the Tham-bha-ya-daing creek and the Bassein river was finally settled in the negative and in consequence extensive embankments along the left bank of the latter have become necessary.

In 1868-69 an embankment along the eastern bank of the river was recommended so as to protect the valley of the Hlaing and the intervening country which almost every year is turned into a vast sheet of water.

The Kyan-kheng embankment, excluding the northern fourteen miles which, as has been said, is a road and protects no land, is nine miles long, the last five running westward along the left bank of the Pa-ta-sheng and protecting the country to the north of it from the overflow of that river which extended up behind the first four miles running parallel to the Irrawaddy.

The whole country protected does not exceed five square miles, and it is the opinion of very competent authorities that north of the Pa-ta-sheng the construction of expensive protecting works was at least hardly necessary, as the profits from extended cultivation do not nearly cover the cost.

The next section proceeding southward is the Myanoung, four miles of which run east and west along the right bank of the Pa-ta-sheng and the remainder southward along the Irrawaddy so far inland as to exclude the large town of Myanoung, (in front of which the existing embankment was improved) to the mouth of the Tham-bha-ya-daing; another length runs along the Irrawaddy between the Tham-bha-ya-daing and the Bassein river. But as the mouths of these two streams remain open and as the embankment north of the Tham-bha-ya-daing stops at the 45th mile with an abrupt ending, large masses of water find their way into the country behind them.

The remedy proposed for this will be alluded to further on. South of the Bassein river another embankment was carried on which now reaches as far as Ke-lai village below Henzada and is to be carried on considerably farther.

From the northern end of this section and joined to it an embankment has been carried along the left bank of the Bassein river past Le-myet-hna as far as Shwe-gnyoung-beng in the Bassein district below Nga-thaing-khyoung and is to be carried farther.

Some miles inland an embankment has been constructed running about N. W. and S. E. along the bank of the Ka-gnyeng or Oot-hpo stream from Myeng-goon to Ma-gyee-goon nearly to the Tham-bha-ya-daing creek.

It is now proposed to unite the southern end of this with the southern end of the Myanoung section near Loo-daw-tsoo village and thus afford that protection to the country rendered necessary by the spaces which exist for the passage of the Tham-bha-ya-daing and Bassein rivers.

When the works are completed as at present proposed, they will thus consist of:

- (1) An embankment extending from above Kyan-kheng and turning round westward along the Pa-ta-sheng.
- (2) Another stretching along the right bank of the Pa-ta-sheng to the Irrawaddy then down that river to Loo-daw-tsoo, thence about W. S. W. to Magyee-goon and from that point N.W. along the Oot-hpo or Ka-gnyeng.
- (3) One more flanking the Bassein river from Shwe-myeng-deng to its northern mouth in the Irrawaddy and down that river to below Zalwon.

The area of land cultivated behind the Kyan-kheng section has increased since 1867-68 the year before this work became protective from 1,590 to 2,350 and no more culturable uncultivated land remains.

The Myanoung embankment was made in sections : before the Kanoung section was thrown up the acreage of cultivation in the land which it protects was 1,761 which in two years rose to 1,898,

In 1864-65 the Myanoung section became protective and the cultivation which, including that behind the Kanoung, was the previous year 13,044 acres had increased in 1868-69 to 14,543.

The following year the 3rd and last section became protective; the cultivation in the area protected by the two upper sections and about to be protected by this one was in 1868-69 16,897, acres which in 1873-74 had increased to 32,504.

The large increase (in 1872-73 the area was 17,888 acres) was due to the ten years settlement expiring, during which a cultivator was allowed to extend his cultivation to the utmost of his power paying revenue only on the area he had when the settlement was made his lands being then measured once for the whole ten years.

The Bassein river embankment now protects 519 acres in this district, where before only 427 were cultivated; and the Henzada embankment which unites with this protects 65,750 acres where only 22,468 exclusive of those added to their lands by settlement holders existed before.

In the Burmese time the export of rice was prohibited and the inhabitants had but little inducement to extend the area under cultivation: after the annexation a brisk demand arose and prices went up from four to six times the rate before the war.

The progressive increase in the price of rice together with a better government under which the cultivator has greater security against arbitrary demands and enhancement of rates, the increase in the population and the extensive protective works described above have borne fruit in the increased area brought under the plough and planted with fruit trees, vegetables and other crops.

An excellent rice country producing a rice which is better suited for long sea voyages than that grown further north and possessing in the Irrawaddy and the creeks and rivers which join it an easy means of communicating with the two seaports of Rangoon and Bassein, the crops find a ready sale and the area under cultivation with this cereal has largely increased whilst miscellaneous cultivation — such as vegetables, cotton, tobacco etc. — has not by any means remained stationary.

1860 and 1861 were bad years and 1860 especially so as regards rice-lands : this was due to the breaking of the Henzada embankment whereby a large extent of country was seriously damaged from the overflow of the Irrawaddy. This disaster was not without good for it led to the construction of those extensive protective works already alluded to.

Since Pegu was annexed there has, therefore, been an increase in the total cultivated area, excluding Toungya, of no less than 247,619 acres and this notwithstanding that a whole township has been taken from the district; an increase greater than the most sanguine could have hoped for.

The cotton is inferior to that grown in the north and the produce is locally consumed. The soil of the country has been reported on as in many places well suited for this crop, and several endeavours have been made to improve the growth but with little or no success. In 1873 a further experiment was tried and some Egyptian seed was given to the cultivators but with no better success than formerly.

The soil rapidly cakes round the stems in the dry season and the plants are dwarfed and bear but little seed.

Tobacco is carefully planted and well taken care of, but the cheapness of Indian tobacco and the extensive areas of good and unoccupied waste rice land have tended to prevent any extensive cultivation of this plant which is grown principally on sand banks left dry by the falling of the Irrawaddy.

Sessamum is, next after rice, the most important agricultural product.

As might be expected in a district having such an extensive culturable area, the agriculturists are exceedingly numerous, numbering at the last regular census 160,943 souls; and amongst these are included only those actively engaged in agriculture and with animals, as labourers and dealers in ponies, cattle, pigs, etc., of whom there are very few ; but of these only 67,980 are males over 20 years of age and though doubtless many younger males are so employed yet a great proportion of the agriculturists are women who do much of the planting in the rice-fields and generally, as in Italy and some other European countries, do a great deal of what is generally supposed to be almost exclusively man's work.

The proportion of agriculturists to those otherwise employed was 33.75 per cent.

Of persons having no ostensible means of livelihood, women not having special occupations, children, male and female, etc., 41.58 percent, and of persons engaged in mechanical arts, manufactures, and in the sale of articles prepared for consumption about 2.00 per cent., the remainder being principally Government servants, merchants, traders and professional persons, of whom there were some 5,000.

Geology

Recent alluvium, that is the deposit thrown down by the waters of the existing Irrawadi (Irrawaddy) occupies a very small area, and from the northern limit of the district to a little above Pantanaw follows very closely the bed of the river nowhere attaining a greater breadth than six miles.

The older alluvium may be divided into an upper and a lower portion ; the latter of irregular development and consisting of coarse gravels transported from a distance, with large included masses of silicified wood derived from the neighbourhood, whilst the former consists of a very homogeneous clay. This clay deposit comprises the entire level plains of Pegu.

In constitution it is very homogeneous, somewhat arenaceous and of a uniform yellowish colour, in places assuming a more reddish colour than usual and under certain conditions of exposure and weathering assuming an imperfect lateritic appearance superficially. The last appearance is usually seen in the sides of wells and is indicated by the peculiar mottled appearance the rock presents from the irregular manner in which the peroxide of iron arranges itself.

The whole deposit is very homogeneous, a little more sandy in some spots than in others, and with occasional thin layers of sand irregularly and sparingly interspersed through it ; the only recognizable band possessing a distinctive character is a dark layer of only a few inches

in thickness but of wide distribution.

Judging from this band the whole deposit would seem to have a gentle slope to the south at a somewhat greater rate than the present surface of the country; for whilst above Myanoung this dark band is clearly seen high up in the bank and but little below the high flood level of the river, in the tidal parts of the delta it is found about the level of mid water mark or lower.

The older alluvial clay just described rests in Pegu on a considerable deposit, or bottom bed as it may be considered, of sand or gravel, varying much with locality, and made up partly of the detritus from the nearest rocks, and partly of gravel derived from more distant sources.

At Nioungdon, (Gnyoung-doon) at the top of the tideway, this bottom bed consists of clean sand with a few small quartz pebbles sparingly dispersed here and there through it; and it is the presence of this underbed of sand which so greatly favours the abrasion of the channel of the Nioungdon {Gmjoung- doon vel Panhlaing} stream, and is the indirect cause of the broad shallow, just below the junction of the stream with the Irrawadi {Irrawaddy}, which forms so great an obstacle to navigation.

Higher up the river a few miles above Monyo (Mo-gnyo), on the opposite bank, a large stretch of gravel and boulders is exposed, which is about the lowest point to which these very coarse gravels reach.

Above this spot coarse gravels, as a rule, underlie the clay wherever it is cut through. In many places along the western slopes of the Pegu Yoma (Roma) laterite is found of fair quality underlying the sandy soil of the Engdaing forest (*Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*) where its position is that of a basal member of the older alluvium.

The fossil wood group which formerly extended as far south as Rangoon is now but slightly represented in this district. The Nummulitic or Eocene group of rocks which extends on the west bank of the Irrawaddy from the frontier to the sea along the Arakan range traverses this district; at Akouk-toung it is four miles broad.

South of Myanoung the extent of the group becomes somewhat irregular and uncertain, being covered and masked on the east by a thick deposit of sand and gravel; while on the west its extent cannot satisfactorily be defined.

Opposite Myanoung the width is only ten miles, and at Henzada not more than two.

South of Henzada the Nummulitic beds are much covered up by surface detritus, and their width is inconsiderable.

In about 17° 45' in the bed of a stream falling into the Nanga-thoo is an exposed outcrop of a peculiar whitish argillaceous sandstone, locally used for the construction of images of Gaudama. The beds of this rock, the position of which in regard to the limestone of the group is doubtful but, probably, above it, extend still further north but do not seem to occur in the Prome district.

The "Negrais" rocks which include those here met with older than the Nummulitic and newer than the Triassic extend throughout the district, as do the latter. The intrusive rocks are in this district, as far as it has been geologically examined, mainly represented by serpentine, and with this may be considered the steatite veins of the Arakan range.

There are twenty-one distinct patches of this rock ranged within a strip of country twenty-one miles in length, which extends south into the neighbouring Bassein district.

The first and largest display is a broad belt of it crossing the Nuugathu {Nan-ga-thoo} stream.

In all localities in this district the serpentine presents the same appearance, and this great

uniformity of mineral character would seem to indicate community of origin, In colour it varies somewhat from a pale to a rather dark but not dull green; and it would yield an ornamental stone, but for the fatal defect of being everywhere seamed by cracks which traverse the rock irregularly in every direction, the largest and soundest-looking blocks falling into numerous polygonal or slabby fragments under a few smart taps from a hammer'

Soapstone which is used by the Burmese for writing on parabaik, a material still used in many places instead of paper, is largely imported from Upper Burma but is found almost everywhere where serpentine occurs, though not in such a form as to furnish the ordinary pencils in use, some six inches long.

It is in all localities essentially the same though it varies in colour from a pale grey to nearly black."

Petroleum was discovered some years ago about twelve miles from Myan-oung, but the well that was sunk was almost immediately abandoned.

Gold occurs in the bed of the Irrawaddy but in too small a quantity to render its extraction worth the labour. At a village called Shwe-gyeng just above Mo-gnyo a little is occasionally obtained in a coarse gravel bank left dry on the subsidence of the river; but the outturn is insignificant and the metal is obtained in the finest possible state of division.