

hurden, throughout the year. Only one of them, the Kushhadrá, enters the sea. It follows a very winding course, and is of little value for navigation. Its bed has silted up, and its floods devastate the surrounding country. The three rivers most important to the people of Purí are the Bhárgavi, the Daya, and the Nún, which all enter the Chilka Lake after running widely diverse courses. In the rainy season they come down in tremendous floods, that burst the banks and carry everything before them. In the dry weather they die away into long shallow pools in the midst of vast expanses of sand. Their banks are generally abrupt, and in many parts are artificially raised and protected by strong dykes. The total length of Government embankments in Purí District amounted in 1866 to 316 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with 43 sluices, maintained at an annual cost of £7, 16s. per mile.

The total cost to Government of inundations in Purí District amounted, for construction of embankments, etc., and remission of revenue alone, to £79,963 in fifteen years, equivalent to a charge of 10 per cent. on the total land revenue of the District. In addition to this large sum, it is estimated that the single flood of 1866 destroyed standing crops to the value of £643,683 in Purí District alone, notwithstanding that 10,620 acres of fertile land are permanently left untilled for fear of inundation. The truth is, that the Mahánadi, in time of flood, pours double the quantity of water into the Purí rivers that their channels are capable of carrying to the sea. The result is, that the surplus overflows, in spite of embankments and protective works. The whole District lives in readiness for such calamities; and the deaths by drowning reported to the police, during the three years ending in 1870, averaged only 117 per annum. These figures, however, by no means represent the total loss of life from this cause. The excessive floods also render tillage precarious, and the crops uncertain; so that in localities most subject to inundations, the rents are brought down to one-fifth of the rates obtained for the same quality of land in parts protected from the violence of the rivers. Of the 24 fiscal divisions (*Parzanas*) of the District, 12 are still so completely at the mercy of the rivers that more than 50 per cent. of their area was flooded in 1866.

The coast-line of Purí consists of a belt of sandy ridges, varying from 4 miles to a few hundred yards in breadth. It contains no harbours of any importance. Purí port is simply an unprotected roadstead, open from the middle of September to the middle of March. During the remainder of the year, the surf does not allow of the vessels frequenting the port (chiefly country brigs) being laden or unladen. The principal lakes in the District are the Sar and the Chilka. The former is a backwater of the river Bhárgavi, and is 4 miles long by 2 broad.

THE CHILKA LAKE is an inland sea in the extreme south-east corner

of Orissa, separated from the ocean by a narrow sandy ridge. On the west, the lake is hemmed in by lofty mountains, and on the south it is bounded by the hilly watershed separating Orissa from Madras. It is a pear-shaped expanse of water, 44 miles long, of which the northern half has a mean breadth of 20 miles, while the southern barely averages 5 miles. Its smallest area is returned at 344 square miles in the dry weather, increasing to about 450 in the rainy season. Its mean depth is from 3 to 5 feet, and its bed is in some parts slightly below low-water mark. From December to June the lake is salt. The theories respecting the origin of the Chilka are given at length in the article under that heading. The scenery of the lake is very varied, and in places exceedingly picturesque. On its eastern side lie the islands of PARIKUD, which have silted up behind, and are now partially joined to the ridge of land shutting off the Chilka from the sea. Salt-making is largely carried on in this part of the District. The Purí rivers enter the Chilka at its northern end; and it is in the tracts situated here that the greatest suffering occurs in times of general **inundation**.

There are no revenue-paying forests in Purí District; but the jungles yield honey, beeswax, *tasar* silk, the dye called *gundi*, and various medicinal drugs. The timber-trees include *sál*, *sissu*, ebony, jack-wood, mango, *piásál*, *kurma*, etc. Bamboos and rattan-canes abound. Game of every kind is plentiful; but in the open part of the country the larger wild beasts have been nearly exterminated. Of fishes there is an endless variety, and the fisheries have been estimated to give employment to 30,073 fishermen.

History.—The general history of Purí is that of ORISSA. The only two noteworthy political events that have taken place since the District passed into our hands, together with the rest of the Province, in 1803, are the rebellion of the Maharájá of Khurdhá in 1804, and the rising of the *paiks* or peasant militia in 1817-18.

The Rájá of Khurdhá, although stripped of a considerable portion of his territory, had been left by the Maráthás in comparative independence within his own *kilá* or fort. When we entered the Province, the Rájá passively espoused our cause, and the decision of the British Commissioners to retain the *parganas* taken by the Maráthás was acquiesced in by him. But after the European troops had returned to Madras, and the native force at Cuttack had been considerably reduced by the necessity of establishing detached outposts in different parts of the country, the Rájá thought that a favourable opportunity had arrived for recovering the lost territory. As a tentative measure, he sent one of his servants in July 1804 to collect the rents of one of the villages, named Bátgáon, lying within the Mughalbandí. This messenger was summarily ejected; and the Commissioners addressed to the Rájá a strong remon-