

MAIN FEATURES OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE'S ECONOMY DURING BRITISH PERIOD 1840-1947: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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North West Frontier Province (NWFP) named because of its geographical position in the sub-continent as North West Frontier of the sub-continent.

NWFP lies between the parallels, of $31^{\circ} 4'$ and $36^{\circ} 7'$ north latitude and $69^{\circ} 16'$ and $74^{\circ} 7'$ east longitude. The extreme length between the parallels is 408 miles and extreme breadth between meridians is 279 miles. On the north the province is shut-off from Pamirs by the mountains of Hindukush. To the south it is bounded by Balochistan and Dera Ghazi Khan District of Punjab, on the east by Kashmir state and the Punjab and on the west by Afghanistan. Its trans-border tribal territory is known as Yagastan, having the territory of 25500 square miles, included in the total area of 39000 square miles of the Province. Presently total area of the province is 74521 km i.e. 9.4% of the total area of 796095 km of Pakistan.

The province falls into the three main geographical divisions, 1) the cis-Indus is consisted of Hazara District and part of Kohistan and trans-Indus includes the tehsil of Isakhel, presently in Punjab, 2) the comparatively narrow strip between the Indus and the hills constituting the settled districts of Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, D. I. Khan, and 3) the rugged mountain region between these districts and the borders of Afghanistan.

The province of NWFP may be defined as the tract of country in the north of Balochistan, lying between Indus and Durand line with Afghanistan. Its area of 39000 sq. miles may be divided as under:

Area of Districts	13418 sq. miles
Area of Political Agencies like Malakand including Dir, Swat and Chitral, Mohammand,	25500 sq. miles

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Kurram, Tochi, Khyber, Wana, Bajur, Waziristan,
And others, commonly known as Yagastan.
These are controlled by the Political Agent, a
person equal to the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Historically, it may be noted that Alexander of Macedonia invaded this province in 327 B.C. He found that it was inhabited by Indian races professing Hindu religion, leading a settled and civilized life. After him the province underwent the sway of Chandragupta, and during the reign of his grandson Asoka, Buddhism became the dominant religion of the area. After the extinction of Buddhist dynasty by about 165 B.C., the province was ruled for 200 years by Greek princes of Bactria, who were expelled by the Sakas or Scythians. Kushans followed them in succession, commonly known as white Huns by Byzantines. At that time the province became the part of the vast empire stretching from Persia to Chinese-Turkistan. Before the advent of Islam in 986 A.D., Hinduisim had also found its way again in 7th Century. Entrance Islamic diversification may be seen in the name of Sabuktagin of slave dynasty of Ghazni and a vast majority accepted Islam as the religion and code of life and belief. Afterwards, the province witnessed the rule of Muslim dynasties such as Ghorids, Afghans, Mughals and Durrani, ruling either from Kabul or from Delhi. During all these changes, the province may be considered an area of prosperity but continuing tribal feuds. From 1800 to 1820, Peshawar remained in a state of constant excitement and confusion, passing from one ruler to another. No one could exercise real control over wild occupants.

With the decay of Durrani Power, the province except trans-border portion fell under the sway of Sikhs in 1818 A.D., during the reign of Ranjit-Singh. Sikhs were given a very tough time by Pushtuns and therefore could not rule in peace and tranquility. All the tribes over here always stressed and fought for their independence from the Sikh iron yoke, who were tyrant in their governance. Simultaneously, each group of villages was also fighting with their neighbouring ruler for independence. Might is right was considered order of the day.

Between 1818 – 1855 A.D., NWFP was invaded by a larger army of Sikhs after a regular interval of 2 or 3 years. Sikhs harried the fields, trod down their harvests, burnt the houses and inflicted heavy injuries and losses.

Taking the advantage of the situation and finding the climate conducive and favourable, the Britishers took over from Sikhs in 1855 and

since then the ruling period of the Britishers started in NWFP. Rightly, the history of economic development of the province can be traced out. Till 1901, NWFP was part and parcel of the province of Punjab, consisted of 31 districts including Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu and D. I. Khan etc. On 25th October 1901, the province of Punjab was divided and a new province known as NWFP consisted of five districts i.e. Bannu, D.I.Khan, Hazara, Kohat and Peshawar alongwith FATA, PATA (Tribal Agencies) etc. was created.

Attack, a territory of Hazara was transferred to the district of Rawalpindi. Tehsil Kulachi of D. I. Khan was annexed to the Sanghar Tehsil of Dera Ghazi Khan and 31 villages of Tehsil Kulachi were transferred to Leiah of Punjab. A new district of Mianwali consisted of cis-Indus Tehsils, was created. Thus the province of NWFP comprised all the territories of the Punjab Province, which lie to the west of Indus, excepting the trans-Indus portion of Isakhel tehsil which was included in the new District of Mianwali. Dera Ghazi Khan, the territory occupied by the protected tribes on its western border, commonly known as Biloch trans-frontier.

Main Features

Following were the main features of the economy of NWFP during the period in question:

Population

Till 1901, NWFP was confederacy of Punjab, as annexed by the Britishers in 1849. The first census of Punjab including NWFP was conducted in 1854, second in 1855, third in 1868, fourth in 1881 (in 1871 the census of the whole sub-continent was arranged except Punjab including NWFP), fifth in 1891 and sixth in 1901. It is the year when NWFP was declared as a separate entity and consequently, 1911 may be treated as first census of population and other related economic parameters of NWFP. Boundaries of the five districts viz. Bannu, D. I. Khan, Hazara, Kohat and Peshawar were settled in 1901 and simultaneously the trans-border area containing five political agencies known respectively as Malakand, Khyber, Kurram, Tochi and Wano were also annexed to the province of NWFP.

Figures show that total population of the NWFP in 1855 was 1144047 persons (1.1 million) against 1339566 (1.3 million) in 1886, which increased to 1575943 (1.5 million-males 866333 (0.8 million).

females 709610 (0.7 million) in 1881. In 1891, population totaled to 1857519 persons (1.8 million-males 1007653 (1 million) against 849866 (0.85 million) females. In the year 1901, the population increased to 2125496 (2.1 million-males 1159317 (1.1 million) as compared to 966179 (0.9 million) females. The figures showed an increasing trend in 1911, where it touched to 3819027 persons (3.8 million-males 2046978 (2.4 million) against 1772049 (1.7 million) females. The population of 1921 went up to 5076476 (5 million) but it declined to 4684364 (4.6 million) in 1931, but again rose to 5415666 (5.4 million-males 2907920 (2.9 million) and females 2507746 (2.5 million), in 1941.¹ Till 1911, NWFP did not experience any famines or wide spread outbreak of fatal diseases, as happened in other parts of the sub-continent. Increasing birth rates and influx of immigrants from mountain and tribal areas caused increase in population.

Density of population per square mile in NWFP was 140.7 persons in 1901, as compared to 95.2 persons in 1881.² It rose to 64 person in 1911 against 130 in 1921.

Average number of persons per house in NWFP was 6.1 in 1901, as compared to 5.8 in 1891 and 5.9 in 1881, and average number of houses per square mile was 20.9 in 1901 against 18.6 in 1891 and 24 in 1881, respectively.³

In 1901, after every 10,000 persons, there were 9211 Muslims, 632 Hindus, 132 Sikhs and 25 Christians only, whereas in 1911, the total population i.e. 93% was Muslims, Hindus 5%, Sikhs 1% and remaining 1% was consisted of Christians, Zorastorians, Jews and Jains etc.

In 1941, there were only 28 towns and 2826 villages, as in the start, it was a rural agrarian population. Even the Peshawar could not gain the position of a city before 1921. In the same year from 19 towns (as compared to 19 in 1911, 18 in 1901, 17 in 1891 and 15 in 1881) 6 contained Municipalities, 11 Cantonments and 7 Notified areas. Areas with a population of more than 5000 souls were treated as towns. The total urban population advanced from 291714 (0.29 million) in 1911 to 335849 (0.35 million) in 1921, showing an increase of 15.1%.

Muslims were agriculturally populated therefore, majority of them lived a rural and village life, and throughout India Pathan classification was reflected in Afridi, Bangash, Bannuchi, Jadun, Ghilzai, Khattak, Mohamand, Wazir, Yousufzai, etc. Pushtu and Hindku are commonly spoken languages of the province.

Among every 1000 persons of sex, 568 were unmarried against 380 married and 52 widowed in 1921 as compared to 581 unmarried against 373 married and 46 widowed in 1911 respectively.⁴

Literacy

Up to the end of 19th century Pathans had a very low profile in the field of education. Specially the Muslims were far backward and paid no heed to literacy. Illiteracy was commonly visible in the province. As the word Pukhtun in itself means hard, therefore attitude towards education was also hard in this part of the sub-continent. Even in 1901, the rate of literacy was very low. After every 1000 persons, only 37, majority of whom were males, whereas females hardly formed 5% only, and in 1911, only 20 persons per mile were literate, showing 57 males and 6 females per 1000 were literate, as compared to 43 persons per 1000 reflecting 70 males and 9 females could read and write, and 9 persons were literate in English only. Muslims, though forming 92% of the population had a very low percentage of literacy, as compared to Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and others. Only 14 persons per mile among Muslims could read and write.

As a matter of fact, it may be perceived that Muslims were backward in education in NWFP, because of conservative considerations of inhabitants; physical aspects and geographical position of the province also affected it adversely.

Generally, the Pathan of olden days had always despised education, it was deemed fit only for Hindus and cowards. He had no need for spelling but highly preferred swordsmanship. Good number of boys admitted to schools used to leave it, before completion of their education. Majority of them belonged to agricultural class, therefore, were not interested in education. Poverty was also a reason for such low turn to schools, as poor people found their children an economic asset for earning a small daily wage. Children could perform the jobs, for which an adult one had to be hired on regular wages.

Illiteracy also hampered the educational progress, especially in case of girls, where most of the parents did not allow their girls to go to schools. It may be termed apathy towards education. In rural area different factions and parties did not extend their co-operation in the establishment of school. Rural living population could not take the risk of alienating their children from agricultural pursuit and performance. Partially, the schools were secular in their courses and curricula, which did not make religious education a compulsory subject. The mass propaganda, general

attraction for education, and moral persuasion for education and inculcation also lacked. In other words, people's feeling had no incentive for learning, reading and writing. But, as soon as they found that education was lucrative and entitles one to get himself recruited in a more accommodating position in the armed and civil services, education started to be attended to some extent and attraction towards it took place.

It was from 1880 and onwards that efforts of the government in the field of education started to get slow movement. In 1891, there were 136 public institutions with an enrolment of 7854 students as compared to 548 private institutions with an enrolment of 12037 students. The figures rose to 222 public institutions with 13921 scholars against 977 private institutions with 13269 scholars, in 1901, which rose to 823 public institutions with 23012 scholars against 653 private institutions with 8879 scholars in 1911. It was strange to note, however, that later the number of private institutions and enrolment of students in these started declining.⁵

In 1911, 75434 persons were literate as compared to 78298 in 1901, showing a decrease. From the total of 31891 attending scholars, 6824 pupils were enrolled in Quran teaching schools.

In primary and elementary schools, pupils numbered 15747, against 9320 who were receiving instruction at secondary schools in 1911. In the same year, there were 23012 scholars in public institutions. Amongst them 22 were in Arts Colleges, 53 in Training Schools, 8128 in Secondary Schools and 14809 in Primary Schools. Comparatively low numbers i.e. 2055 were in private institutions, where 1108 were in the institutions of advanced level, 938 in elementary and 9 in others only.

In 1911, number of weekly newspapers was 4, i.e. three in Urdu with a circulation of 2500 only, as compared to two with a circulation of seven in number only in 1901 respectively, but nil circulation in 1891.

Slowly and gradually, the process and fondness for education started taking place. The number of public institutions increased to 968 with 81093 scholars in 1931, as compared to 779 with 45770 scholars in 1921, respectively. The number of private institutions went down from 186 with 3947 scholars in 1921 to 141 with 3847 scholars in 1931, respectively.

In the year 1931, total number of male students went up by to 73583 from 44255 in 1921. During the same period only 3 persons against one in 1921, could pass M. A. from Islamia College, Peshawar. In 1931, only 51 candidates could pass B. A. and B.Sc. as compared to 20 in 1921, against 73 in 1931 and 17 in 1921 at intermediate level. Only one person

could pass B.T. and 6 MBBS in 1931.⁶ As regards females, only 9 could pass matriculation in 1931. Middle standard could be passed by 14 girls in 1931 against 5 in 1921, where 66 girls could pass Anglo Vernacular middle standard in 1931. As regards upper and lower primary education, only 1595 girls could pass in 1931, against 485 in 1921.

In the year 1931, total expenditure on education by all means i.e. provincial revenue, district funds, municipal funds, fees, tuition charges and others. amounted to Rs.1460370/- reflecting double amount than expended in 1921.

The average cost of education per pupil was Rs.26/- pr annum, but for a student of Training College it amounted to Rs.610/- per year. At an Arts College it was Rs.412/-, at a training school Rs.319/- secondary school Rs.30/- and primary school Rs.14/- per annum only, during the same year.

In 1931, for every one thousand there were only 43 male Muslims and 3 females who were treated as literate against 31 males and 2 females in 1921. There were only 9 males against 4 literate in English, during the same corresponding years.

For every one thousand, there were only 31 males and 2 females. treated as literate in 1921 against 42 males and 3 females in 1931, whereas Hindus were 355 males and 99 females against 416 males and 101 females, Sikhs 546 males and 222 females against 412 and 195 females, during the same corresponding years.

Occupational Structures

People of N.W.F.P. had been busy in different occupations, since the times immemorial. According to the seasonal changes, the shape of occupational structure has also been diversified, from primary to secondary and tertiary industries. However, even up till now about 72%, of the population is busy in the primary sector of the economy, which employs major portion of the labour force of the province. Following are the important categories and sections of the occupational structure of the N. W. F. P.

Agriculture

During the British period it may be observed that majority of the population was busy in agriculture, for the major portion of the year. However, for the rest of the time they worked as unskilled labourers or obtained employment on railway construction and plied carts on line. In this way traditional and actual occupations were interlinked to each other. Persons belonging to agricultural tribes, such as Arians, Awans, Baghlans,

Balochs, Dhunds, Gakkhar, Gujars, Jats, Jhinwars, Karals, Khattaks, Maliars, Mishwanis, Mughals, Pathans, Quraishis, Rajput, Sarara, Swathi, Tanoli, Turk and others, had retained agriculture as their main occupation, but their employment in army or any other profession could be seen as subsidiary means of livelihood. Majority of the population i.e. more than 66% was busy in the production of raw materials including exploitation of animals and vegetation, surface of the earth (pasture) cattle grazing etc. It was divided in landholders, who constituted 719 per mile in the total population. Good number of them lived on their income from land, but did not cultivate it with their own hands. For example Syeds, Pirs and Brahmins, a prestigious religious class, though holding lands, but got it cultivated through farmers. Sugarcane, Cotton, Maize, Wheat, Vegetables, Fruits etc. were cultivated on the rich and cultureable soils of the N. W. F. P. Cattle rearing, fish-hunting and ferrying etc. also provided subsidiary earning to the persons belonging to agricultural professions. Accordingly, 6 persons per mile could earn their livelihood by raising farm stock, forestry, gardening, fishing, hunting, behaving, dairy products, plying bullock carts, camel carts, etc.

During all those years, except partial upheavals, the harvests were on the whole normal and agricultural conditions were satisfactory. Even in the bad years, the province was not faced with famine conditions. The land was first, it expanded the earning chances for agriculturalists and tradesmen. Extension of railways, construction of roads and expansion of the facilities of the means of communications materially strengthened the financial position of the population; majority of them belonged to agriculturalists. Increase in canal irrigation, construction of the Paharpur canal in 1905 and upper Swat canal costing more than 20 million rupees, construction of 140 miles of Khyber Railway line, Kalabagh and Bannu Railways and coupled with construction of roads and buildings costing 2.3 million rupees, enhanced the rural labour class fetching it more and more government jobs and employment with steadily rising wages. An ordinary labourer could easily earn rupees one per day, the highest amount of day labour, during those days. The Third Afghan War and tribal lawlessness also necessitated further recruitment in the army. Even the clerical labour was paid Rs.30/- per month against the prevailing rate of Rs.10/- per month. More than 10% of the able bodied Pathans were recruited in the army, which contributed additional income to the original source of earning from agriculture. Normal harvests, extended irrigation, remarkable extension of railways and roads, as well as postal and telegraphic

facilities, high prices accompanied by high wages, expansion of trade and spread of education, created great demand for all kinds of labour. In fact every thing of economic and strategic activity created more opportunities of employment and in some cases demand for the labour surpassed the supply for the population of N.W.F.P., majority of whom belonged to agriculture sector and had rural population.

Agriculture also supported and provided livelihood for barbers (they were 12 per mile and also performed as surgeons for circumcision, treated ulcers, assisted at marriages and festive occasions), Washermen (they were 8 per mile) totalling to 19000 in the province (they are known as Charohas in D. I. Khan), Weavers, carders, dyers and rangers, tailors, carpenters they were 13 per mile (also known as Tarkhans), iron-smiths, masons and, potters (they were 10 per mile) totalling to 24000 in the province and were adjunct of agriculture, Black-smiths (they were 13 per 1000 persons, totalling to 30000 in the province), Gold and silver smiths, confectioners and grain parchers, oil pressers and soap makers, butchers, teacher workers and shoe makers, sweepers, priests and devotees, traders and pedlars (totalling to 184000 consisted of Arora, Khatri, Bhatia, Parachas, Sheikhs and Khojas etc.), Singers and dancers (totalling to 15000 mirasées), Fishermen; Boatmen, and Palki-bearers and others.

Suffice to say, like all other provinces of India, N. W. F. P. was also an agricultural area, where agriculture supported 661 persons out of every 1000 persons. It was all a component of peasants, proprietors, rent receivers, land owners, agents, farm servants, field workers and government machinery such as Patwaris and Tehsildars (Tapedar), (Mukhtiarkar) and others. Agriculturalists also increased their income by breeding cattle, selling dairy products and livestock, plied bullock carts, camel owners, wood cutters, charcoal burners, pasturers, raisers of farm stock, cultivators on wages, herdsmen, shepherds, hunters etc. The number of persons living on fishing went up from 423 in 1911 to 469 in 1921, showing an improvement of 6.2%. However, fisheries are yet to be developed in the province.

Agriculture supported and employed 6752 persons after every 10000 in 1911, against 6548 in 1921 and 6462 in 1931. With the improvement of irrigational facilities, more and more lands were brought under cultivation. Desired seasonal rains further boosted up the production and improved the financial position of the agriculturalists.

Industry

Basically, N. W. F. P. was dominantly an agricultural area, therefore the progress of industrial development had to be started from the scratch. In 19th and 20th centuries the province possessed the industries of primary sector only, just to produce the commodities of necessary common use, handicrafts and cottage, household and handloom industries could be seen as a base for the industrial build-up of the province. Preparation of material substances by hand i.e. food and drink etc. light, firing and forage, buildings, vehicles and vessels, supplementary requirements, textile fabrics and dress, metals, and precious stones, glass pottery and stoneware, wood cutting, cane and sugar processing etc. drugs, dyes, leather etc. may be termed as industries of the time, which hardly employed 19.37% of the population in 1901 against 21.7 in 1891. Unskilled labour accounted for 3.56% and 4.6% in the corresponding years. Industry supported only 0.3 million person against 1.3 millions by agriculture, 0.05 million by commerce and 0.038 million by professions in 1901.⁷

In the year 1921, 1465 males were working in 39 industrial establishment (reflects 10 or more persons employed in such a single establishment) of the province, including 39 managers (14 Europeans and Anglo Indians with 25 Indians), 35 supervisors and technical experts (15 Europeans and Anglo Indian and 38 Indians), 43 clerks (all Indians), 663 Indians skilled workmen and 667 unskilled labourers, including 14 male children. Except government factories, the province had hardly made any industrial improvement. Only 18 factories with an employment of 484 men used mechanical power and remaining 21 with 981 as workforce used no mechanical power at all. One cotton ginning, two saw mills, one walnut, two flour, each one for ginning; soda water; motor car repairs, carriage and general repairing workshop, five ice making, one cotton ginning, two electric power factories, one printing press, one mechanical workshop and one water work. They employed 17 steam engines of 529 horse powers, 7 oil engines of 127.5 horse powers and one water engine of 12.5 horse power. Only three factories used electric power generated on the premises. Of these one was ice and cotton ginning factory and 2 electric power-houses, employing 157 dynamos with a power of 215 K. W.

Of the 21 establishments, not using mechanical power, 4 were connected with Kohat salt-mines, 4 were brick and tile kilns, 3 were dairy farms, 3 printing presses, 2 workshops meant for motor car; carriage and general repairing of vehicles, one saw mill, one bakery, one fodder compressing works, one tailoring firm and one railway workshop.

Of the 39 factories 18 were owned by government, 7 by Muslims, 10 by Hindus, 3 by Sikhs, and one by Parsis. Europeans and Anglo-Indians managed 14, Muslims and Hindus 10 each, Sikhs 4 and Parsis 1.

Out of these 39 establishments, 4 (3 mills and 1 walnut factory), were located in Hazara, 17 (including 4 brick kilns, 3 springing presses, 1 cotton ginning, 1 bakery, 1 dairy farm, 1 tailoring, 1 motor car; carriage and general repairing of vehicles workshop, 1 ice and cotton ginning factory, 1 electric power factory and 3 ice factories) in Peshawar, 10 in Kohat, 5 in Bannu and 3 in Dera Ismail Khan. Industrial establishments connected with salt-mines were confined to Kohat, while the textile industry in the province was represented by a cotton ginning factory at Peshawar. Wood Industry consisted of 3 saw mills and 1 walnut factory, was situated at Hazara. Peshawar, Kohat and Bannu had got 1 dairy farm each. There were 3 ice factories in Peshawar and one each at Kohat and Bannu. D. I. Khan had 2 flour, ice ginning and soda water factories and one printing press.⁸

During the British period, textiles (including cotton ginning, cleaning and Pressing with strength of 6411 workers, cotton spinning with 2805, cotton sizing and weaving with 24614, rope twine and string with 244, other fibers i.e. flax, straw etc. with 485, wool carding and spinning with 231, weaving of woollen blankets with 616, Silk weavers 573, dyeing; printing; bleaching, preparation and sponging of textiles with 6979, lace; crepe; embroideries; fringes etc. and insufficiently described textile industries with 375, all totaling to 43994 in 1921⁹ were the most important industry in N.W.F.P. For every 10000 workers, 192 with 86 actual workers, were supported by textiles in 1921, as compared to 217 with 75 in 1911 and 100 (96 rural and 4 urban) with 67 in 1931.¹⁰

As regards female workers, it maybe mentioned that ___ out of total No. of workers which rose from 734570 (689277 males and 45293 females) in 1911, to 850068 (824554 males and 25514 females), in 1911, ___ it decreased by 43% as compared to increase in males by 19%. Of the actual workers, there was only one female against every 32 males and while 65 males out of every 100 worked for their livelihood, the similar proportion amongst females was one in 50. Appreciable number of females worked in cotton spinning, rope, twine, string and lace making, rice pounders, flour grinders, basket makers, compounders, midwives, nurse, masseurs, vaccinators, dancers, singers, musicians, sellers of vegetables, betel leaves, grass-cutters, field labourers, cooks, domestic

servants, tailors, milliners, dress makers, darners, embroiderers, hat makers, porters, messengers, teachers, etc.

In the year 1921, for every 1000 male workers, there were only 17 females in the District of Bannu, 61 in D. I. Khan, 14 in Hazara, 74 in Kohat and 31 in Peshawar.

Industries connected with textiles were considered more important as they supported largest number of persons engaged in textiles, but other branches, such as old cotton ginning factory of Peshawar, flour, ice, ginning and soda water faction of D. I. Khan etc. had a negligible strength.

The old cotton ginning techniques, such as Belna (hand ginning machine) and indigenous Penja or Qassab (Cotton Scutcher), were still in a mentionable practice. The usual demand of cotton during World War I, gave greater impetus to cotton cultivation, and ginning and cleaning became more profitable. However, cheap machines made piece goods of foreign and Indian manufacture had been steadily driving out of market hand spun and hand woven cloth. Therefore, indigenous weaving profession suffered very much and most of the weavers had to return to land and manual labour. Likely the wavers of rope, mizri, twine and string of Peshawar and D. I. Khan also got a set back and their strength started decreasing from 253 in 1911 to 244 in 1921.

Hand made wool industry still had a considerable importance. Total number supported by this section went up from 485 in 1911 to 1422 in 1921. During the War, the demand for blankets stimulated the industry. Silk spinning and waving industries of Kohat and Peshawar, weaving silk turbans (lungis) were also important. The spinning, dyeing and weaving of raw silk imported from China, Japan and Bukhara, was also carried on, as it was not locally produced. Silk embroidery (Phulkari) provided jobs to females, especially in Hazara district. Number of silk weavers increased by 76% i.e. from 373 in 1911 to 655 in 1921, not only in Peshawar and Kohat, but in other parts of the province too.

Dyers and bleachers also suffered by 8%, because of the introduction of mechanized techniques. Same was the fate of lace, rope, embroidery and other handicraft producing industries.

Leather industry also suffered as machines started producing shoes, water bags etc. In the wood industry, the number of sawyers, carpenters, mat makers, turned and lacquered wood work, fans of dwarf palm, etc. increased to 34818 persons in 1921 against 30012 in 1911. Metal industry also showed an increase in number of workers from 25046 in 1911 to 28303, in 1921.

Ceramics, pottery, glass and crystal ware, porcelain and crockery, bricklayers, tile makers etc. also went up from 11% in 1911 to 32% in 1921, reflecting increase from 7 to 9, during the corresponding years, after every 1000 workers, chemical products, such as refining of vegetable oils, oil processing by oil pressers (Teli) and extracting oil from rapeseed and mustard, went up from 3831 in 1901 to 5094 in 1911 and 8849 in 1921.

Soap industry supported 295 in 1921 against 120 in 1911, whereas food industry consisted of rice pounders and huskers, butchers etc. supported 12 after every 1000 persons of the total population. Dress and toilet industry also increased in supporting 37 persons per mile in the field of barbers, shoe makers and dyers etc. Furniture industries also maintained its decorum. Other miscellaneous industries, such as jewellery, sweepers, and sanitary requirements also increased from time to time.

Means of Communications

As a matter of fact, N.W.F.P. was an undeveloped area, therefore its means of transport and communications were also of premature nature. There were no metalled roads, no railway lines, no post offices and no telegraph and telephone houses. Mode of transportation was reflected in pack elephants, camels, mules, ass and bullock carts, palkis, horses etc. Wars with Afghanistan and opening of new trade routes necessitated the construction of the roads, railways, telegraph houses, post offices etc. It further generated the requirement of the services of ship-owners and their employees, ship brokers, ship officers, engineers, mariners and firemen, workers employed for the maintenance of docks, streams, rivers and canals including construction for the means of transport by water. Transport by road required persons other than labour for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Owners, managers and employees meant for the mechanically driven vehicles and trams etc. Palki bearers and owners etc. including porters and messengers also provided the services for a long time. As regards transportation by rail, it also required the services of engineers, labour meant for construction and maintenance of the railway track, coolies, porters, station masters, track inspectors, signallers, gangmen etc. In the field of post and telegraphs, the services of supervising officers including probationary superintendents, inspectors of post offices and assistant and deputy superintendents of telegraphs and other relevant officers, such as postmasters, deputy assistant, sub and branch postmasters, signalling establishment including warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, military telegraph assistants and others, plus

all kinds of clerks, postmen, foremen, line coolies, cable guards, mechanics, linemen, line riders, inspectors, battery men, telegraph messengers, peons and others.

Road establishment consisted of overseers, funners, clerks, booking agents, boatmen, syces, coachmen, palki bearers and others. Before the establishment of modern means of transportation the trade transportation was performed by Powndas.

Introduction of railway service since 1901 and onwards on Nowshera to Dargai line and building of Kalabagh Bannu and Kohat railway line not only opened the vast chances of employment, but also facilitated the carriage of merchandise far into India and doubled the trade with Afghanistan.

Because of these facilities, the urban areas started taking place and number of towns, increased from 10 in 1881 to 19 in 1921 and 28% of the population was registered as urban living. Peshawar was the only town declared with municipality. All others were mentioned as notified and cantonment areas. In 1921, transport by road supported only 13 persons per mile. Most important groups still manifested in pack animals, (mainly camel) their owners and drivers.

Transport supported 40180 persons in 1901 as compared to 47774 in 1911 and 39887 in 1921, whereas communications in the shape of post offices, Telegraph and telephone services supported 1199, 1728 and 2442 persons, in the corresponding years, respectively.¹² In 1931, after every 10000 persons, transport supported 76 persons with 4% in urban and 96% in rural areas, whereas communications supported only 4% with 9% in urban and 91% in rural areas.¹³

Health

In addition to these parameters of the economy of N. W. F. P, the development in the field of Public Health also took place. Establishment of health care units, dispensaries and hospitals was started from the scratch. The province being hilly area was not faced with any serious outbreak of cholera, plague or any other epidemic disease till 1915. However, malaria still remained a disease which levied heavy annual toll of human lives. Years from 1917 to 1920, experienced huge death tolls from plague, cholera, influenza, and malaria which reduced the population by 4%. D. I. Khan was the worst sufferer. Even in 1919, total births numbered 58411 and exceeded deaths by a negligible margin. But the position improved in

1920, when births numbering 60868, surpassed the death i.e. 47695, giving a survival rate of 6.4 persons per mile.

In 1921, medical profession, including medical practitioners of all kinds, i.e. dentists, occultists, veterinary surgeons, midwives, vaccinators, compounders, nurses etc. numbered to 9174, as compared to 2555 in 1911 and 2755 in 1901.

Trade

Because of war with Afghanistan and First World War, and start of the railway and lorry services, the volume of trade started increasing, day by day. The number of persons supported by trade and commerce increased from 143241 in 1911 to 143738 in 1921, subsequently banking and money lending activities also increased. number of bankers and commission agents also exceeded. Shopkeepers, hotels, restaurants, guest houses, traders in agricultural and industrial products etc. also increased by leaps and bounds. In 1921 more than 143241 persons including 342 females, as compared to 143241 in 1911 and 107242 in 1901 were busy in the trading activities of the province. They performed as trade's men in the capacity of bank managers, money lenders, exchange and insurance agents, money changers, brokers, commission agents, commercial travelers, warehouse owners etc. Trade in textiles, skin, leather, fur, wood, metals, pottery, bricks, tiles, chemical products, hotels, cafes, restaurants, food stuffs, clothing and toilet articles, furniture, building materials, means of transports, fuel and other all sorts of common use was in practice, throughout the province.

Besides this, public administration and liberal arts, including public force, administration professionals and arts, etc. also provided jobs to a large number of population. Miscellaneous including persons living on their own income, domestic service, religious duties, insufficiently described occupations and unproductive such as inmates of jails, asylums and hospitals, beggars, vagrants etc. also supported slight percentage of population.

Exploitation of minerals gained importance in 1921. Salt of Jatta, Malgin, Bahadur Khel and Karak quarries etc. was the main mineral product of the time, which employed 433 workers in 1921 against 211 in 1911, showing an increase of 105%.

Conclusion

Concluding, it may be observed that N.W.F.P's economic develop-

-ment was started from the scratch by the British rulers. Despite all the odds and difficulties, sound basis and foundation laying starts were made, mostly in all the spheres of economic life. The province which had an agricultural oriented economy, where absolute majority of population was supported by agriculture and its allied professions, was provided the solid base of industrialization. From handicrafts to cottage and from small scale to large scale industries were promoted and established. In 1891, agriculture supported more than 65% of the population, against 24% by government service, administration, defense, foreign and feudatory state service etc. 6.4% by personal services, 3.3% by commerce and transport, 21.7% by industry and remaining by others.

The rural pattern of life was diversified and urbanization started in 1921, Peshawar was treated as the only city with sanction of local government. Out of 19 towns 6 had municipalities, 11 cantonments and 7 notified areas. Total urban population of the province advanced from 291714 persons in 1911 to 335849 in 1921. More than one quarter of the urban population lived in towns and 28% of the residents of towns lived in cantonments. Out of every 100 residents of towns, 56 belonged to Peshawar, which contributed \$ 40 to the total population of the settled districts. It was the head quarters of the local government of the time and contributed 31% of the total urban population of the province.

On these bases presently, the province has 7 divisions, 22 district councils, 769 union councils, one municipal corporation, 30 municipal committees and 13 town committees, substantially reflecting the increase in urbanization and life with civic amenities and facilities. The face and look of the province has been diversified and it reflects in a dynamic look moving into changes and improvement from primary to secondary and tertiary sectors, it is speedily crossing the roads of pre-conditions for take-off to enter into self-sustained stage of economic growth and ultimately lead to high mass consumption stage of development. Its transformation from agricultural to industrial and service sectors may enable the province to enhance to foster its pace of development rapidly with leaps and bounds. Upgradation of living standards is being generated tremendously to build strong bases of sound socio-economic over-head infrastructure and capital, enabling the province to enter with the space and computer age of 21 century, brilliantly, with advanced levels of academic pursuit and skilled achievement.

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