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TRADE AND COMMUNICATIONS

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mines were sold by the Nerbudda Coal and Iron Company to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Coal is also found in small quantities in the Sher and Shakkar rivers. There are iron mines at Tendukheda on the north of the Narbada close to the base of the Vindhyan range, but they are worked only by native miners, or Lohars. About 150 large and 70 small furnaces were working in 1895 ; but the returns for 1904 show only 8, and the industry is now nearly extinct, though the iron has a local reputation. The mines are mere open pits cut to the depth of about 30 feet through the black soil and underlying clay, and have to be re-excavated annually after the rainy season. Copper ores occur at Barmhan. They were worked for a time, and the band of rock in which they lie was found to be 6 feet thick, while the average yield of copper from some ores was 28 per cent.

Hand-weaving and dyeing were formerly carried on to a considerable extent, but the industries are suffering from the competition of machine-made cloth. Gadarwara is the most important centre, while Singhpur and Amgaon have also considerable Trade and numbers of looms and dye-houses and Narsinghpur communications. a few. Indigo is used in combination with other agents to produce the dark-green cloth called amohwa, padded coats of which are largely worn in the cold season. Chichli has an industry of brass-workers, and brass vessels are also imported from Jubbulpore and Poona. Glass bangles are made at Nayakheda and Barha, and rude glass bottles for holding the sacred water of the Narbada at Barmhan. A few Muhammadan butchers have settled at Gadarwara and prepare dried meat. A ginning factory has lately been opened at Gadarwara by a private company, and another at Chhindwara.

Wheat has hitherto been the staple product of Narsinghpur District, forming about 50 per cent. of the total exports. Oilseeds, gram, and other grains are also exported to a less extent. Ghi is sent to Calcutta and Bombay, and hides and bones to Bombay. The exports of forest produce from Narsinghpur are not considerable, but those of the adjoining tracts of Chhindwara are brought to Babai station. The imports are principally cotton piece-goods, salt, sugar, kerosene oil, tobacco, and articles of hardware. Rice is imported by road from Seoni and Chhindwara, salt comes from Gujarat, and gur or unrefined cane-sugar from Lucknow and Patna. Three annual fairs are held-at Barmhan, Barehta, and Sankal. A large amount of traffic in household and other commodities takes place at the Barmhan fair. The Jubbulpore line of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes through the centre of the District from west to east, having a length of 75 miles and 8 stations within its limits. There is also a branch line of 12 miles from Gadarwara to the Mohpani coal-mines. The feeder roads to Gadarwara, Kareli, Chhindwara, and Narsinghpur are

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