

## 7. THE DOMESDAY SURVEY OF ENGLAND IN 1086 AS A MODEL

The economic and social survey made by William the Conqueror of his domains in England, some 20 years after the Norman Conquest, was one of the most remarkable feats ever accomplished in the history of governments. The primary purpose of the survey was to determine the resources of the Kingdom for taxation and other purposes. The King appointed a number of justiciaries to adjust the survey, which was conducted in the field by bodies of local inquisitors for every community. The inquisitors, sworn under oath by the sheriffs, were the lords of each manor, the presbyters of every church, the reves of every hundred, the bailiffs and six villans of every village. The inquisitors were instructed to inquire into the following matters:

- (1) The name of the place;
- (2) Who held it in the time of King Edward (A. D. 1043-66);
- (3) Who is the present possessor;
- (4) How many hides (household subsistence areas) in the manor;
- (5) How many carucates (household subsistence areas) in the demesne (royal lands);
- (6) How many homagers (population of the village);
- (7) How many villans (laborers);
- (8) How many cotarii (cottagers having own cottage);
- (9) How many servi (serfs);
- (10) How many freemen;
- (11) How many tenants in socage (services);
- (12) How much woodland;
- (13) How much meadow or pasture;
- (14) Extent of mills and fish ponds;
- (15) How much land has been added to the village or taken away from it so far as records go;
- (16) What was the gross value of the village properties in King Edward's time;
- (17) What is the gross value at the present time;
- (18) How much land does each freeman or each sockman have.

All of these latter figures were to be triply estimated as of King Edward's time, as bestowed by King William, and as they stood at the time of the survey. Any advance in evaluation should be noted and recorded, including advisability of higher valuation than that given at this time.

In arranging the returns the following method was followed.

- (1) Proper entitlement of the estate to its owners beginning with the royal land.
- (2) Specification of the hundred wherein the village lies.
- (3) Specification of the tenant with the place.
- (4) Description of the property.

The jurors in numerous instances framed returns of a more extensive nature than were required by the royal orders. Much irrelevant material and extraneous data was apparently struck out but sometimes it remained and served to throw considerable light on contemporary local conditions for later investigators.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Henry Ellis, A General Introduction to Domesday Book, 2 vols., London, 1833, pp. 10-28, vol. I.

This extensive report on an entire nation should serve as a model for the administrators of Indian affairs today. There is a need for an exact, highly localized and thorough accounting of all Indian properties and Indian tribes if a complete allotment and dissolution of separate Indian tribal economic and political organization is contemplated. A survey along the lines of the Domesday project would furnish an inventory of all the basic facts needed to complete Indian assimilation. The Congress and Federal Government exercise the function of sovereignty over the Indians in the same manner as that by the King of England over his domains. The title to Indian lands and Federal public domain lands would be clearly and precisely stated for every locality. Present-day information on Indian properties and population is generally piecemeal, confused, and probably unreliable. There is a real need for a Domesday survey of Indian affairs.

#### 8. DOCUMENTATION AND SOURCES

For the larger Indian tribes there are some fairly extensive sources available. In the case of the Navajo there is A Bibliography of the Navajo Indians by Clyde Kluckhohn and Katherine Spencer, published in New York in 1940. This book shows 191 entries under primary historical sources, 67 under secondary historical sources, 542 entries under anthropological topics (archeology, physical anthropology, linguistics, and ethnology), 281 under general governmental relations and missionary accounts (hearings, reports, and so forth), and 364 entries of a popular nature including fictional, juvenile, and the like. The total number of separate titles noted was 1,145.

It is estimated that the Library of Congress classification E51 through E99 (works on the North American Indian, United States and Canada), comprehends some 11,750 titles occupying 250 book shelves of an average dimension of 1 by 3 feet. The Library of Congress books under this classification are located in the southernmost part of deck 8 and occupy four bays there. The various tribes are listed alphabetically in class E99 and occupy one entire bay. In addition there are some scattered works on Indian tribes by locality and State on deck 12 in the Annex under the classification F (local history, United States).

For the actual number of references on each tribe the following table was compiled. It will be seen that the Cherokees lead the list with 175 titles, followed by Eskimo (159), Dakota (156), Iroquois (136), Chippewa (125), Navajo (121), Choctaw (98), Pueblo (92), Hopi (71), Seneca (71), Osage (69), Creek (62), Delaware (57), and Apache (57).