

CHAPTER VII
COMMUNICATIONS
TRADE ROUTES AND HIGHWAYS AND MÔDES OF
CONVEYANCE—OLD AND NEW

Trade Routes and Highways

Khairabad had been the headquarters of an important sirkar under the Mughals and continued to be the seat of a *nazim* under the nawabs of Avadh. The numerous unmetalled roads that emanate from it in all directions owe their origin to this important position of the place. According to the *Oudh Gazetteer* (1877, Vol. III, p. 369), the principal metalled roads in the district then were those running from Sitapur to Lucknow and from Sitapur to Shahjahanpur (both now forming the national highway), the former (Sitapur to Lucknow) passing for thirty-three and a half miles through the district with stages at Jalalpur (eleven miles), Bahadurpur (ten and a quarter miles) and Jaiparpar (ten miles) and the latter (Sitapur to Shahjahanpur) for twenty-three miles with a stopping-place at Maholi, fourteen and a half miles from Sitapur and the rivers (which have bridges) crossing these two roads being the Gond (popularly known in the district as the Gone) and the Sarayan respectively. The principal unmetalled roads were: that running from Sitapur to Lakhimpur, the only stage within this district being Selu Mau (ten miles from Sitapur), the road not crossing any river: that from Sitapur to Hardoi, the distance within this district being twenty-one miles and the stages Ramkot (seven miles) and Dadhanmau (fourteen miles), and the rivers Sarayan and Purai (also called the Pirai in the district), both having bridges, being crossed by the road, that from Sitapur to Mahmudabad and Gonda via Bahramghat, its total length within this district being thirty-seven miles, the stages being Sarayan (eight miles), Biswan (about thirteen miles) and Mahmudabad (nearly seventeen miles) and this road crossing the Gond which was bridged; that from Sitapur to Bahraich via Chahlari Ghat which passed for nearly forty-one miles through this district, the stages being Sarayan (eight miles), Biswan (about thirteen miles), Rasulpur (eleven miles) and Chahlari (nine miles) and the road crossing the Gond (which was bridged) and the Chauka (having a ferry); that going from Sitapur to Mallanpur (towards Bahraich) via Laharpur, which passed for thirty-four miles through the district, the stages being Kasrela (seven miles), Laharpur (ten miles), Chandi (eleven miles), Tambaur (six miles) and Mallanpur (six miles), the rivers touched being the Gond, the Kewani, the Ghaghra, the Ul, the Kathna, the Chauka and the Gobraiya, all except the first being unbridged and communication being effected by means of ferries and fords; that from Sitapur to Mehndighat via Bargadiaghat, which passed for twenty-three and a half miles through this district the stages being Ramkot (seven and a half miles), Misrikh (eight

