

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT,

PART II,

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY INCLUDING SIND,

FOR THE YEAR 1904-1905.

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**A. PRESIDENCY PROPER.**

**1. Economic Condition and Prospects.**

**NORTHERN DIVISION.**

**R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.**

The character of the monsoon of 1904 proved unfavourable, and at first caused much anxiety. In the four Northern Districts a fair amount of rain in July was followed by a long and disastrous break. This break in turn was succeeded by a cyclonic downpour about the middle of September, which did much good but lasted only about three days and with it the monsoon ended. In Surat the rainfall was deficient, but its arrival was opportune, and the jowári sown on rice lands turned out a good crop. Though the monsoon was late in Thána its fall afterwards proved to be normal and the crops were good save in the south-east side where locusts did much damage and on the north-west where the rains were deficient and the rice crop accordingly failed. Speaking generally of Gujarát the rice failed, while the kharif crops north of Surat turned out to be much below normal. Cotton and tobacco did fairly well. The rabi crops were generally speaking rather below normal.

The adverse nature of the season, coupled with a number of bad years since 1899, naturally led to the belief that famine would arise as the year advanced. But the people, with a comparatively good season last year, showed unexpected powers of recuperation, and were able to hold their own against the distress, which ensued, but which, except in the Mátar Táluka of the Kaira District, nowhere grew into famine. As a matter of fact all that was found necessary to lighten the strain upon the agricultural classes and to help them to tide over the situation was liberal suspension and remission of the land revenue demand, and the distribution of tagai in some instances. The test works opened in Ahmedabad, Kaira (except Mátar), Panch Maháls, Broach and Thána did not attract workers in sufficient numbers to justify their conversion into relief works. The people appeared to find other means of subsistence. In Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Maháls the hotter months produced a rich crop of fruit (Mango, Mhowra and Rayan), which proved valuable in counteracting the distress. Moreover the villagers found employment in wood cutting, charcoal making, and kindred pursuits. A scarcity of fodder threatened the Broach District and portions of the Surat District. But large quantities of grass were imported from Khándesh to save the cattle of these districts. It is apparent therefore that the Northern Division came through the ordeal of a bad year fairly well. The Mátar Táluka is the only one in which famine conditions prevailed. The greatest number of workers on relief amounted to 2,336 in January or, as the Collector puts it, 3·8 per cent. of the entire population. Mr. Scotson, the Assistant Collector, has devoted much space in describing the unfortunate condition in which years of plague and famine have left this part of his charge. Since the famine of 1899 much land has been going out of cultivation and at present the dearth in cattle, the scantiness of general resources, and the fact that it is sparsely peopled, do not hold out much hope of such land coming within the margin of cultivation again for years to come. The opening up of the táluka appears to be an important step in the work of regeneration, and the prolongation up to the Cambay-Petlad Railway of the road already sanctioned from Mátar to Limbashi will perhaps effect some improvement in the condition of the táluka. As was expected the water-supply ran low in every district, but the special grant from Government proved to be of great utility in maintaining

a fair supply within reach of the villagers. The money was chiefly spent in sinking kacha wells, and, where the water had become brackish, in cleaning old wells the water of which was known to be sweet, and the sinking of pits on the edges of tanks. Deep boring was attempted in Kaira, the Panch Maháls and Surat, but with no great success. Two borings in Kaira, however, one on the Nariád Farm and the other at Alina, have been very successful. In the Thána District where the country is intersected by streams the system introduced by Mr. Orr of temporarily bunding water-courses, after the rains, proved very useful in securing a water-supply during the year.

Plague did not fail to make its appearance throughout the Division, the recrudescence being severe in Surat. The towns of the Ahmedabad District suffered more or less from the disease, but the villages were practically immune. A curious feature of the scourge in the Kaira District was its mildness this year in comparison with its severity during the two preceding years. The Collector ascribes the improvement to the dryness of the year, and his surmise is not without force, for malarial fever also was far less in evidence in the low-lying portions of the district than it usually is. Evacuation was largely and willingly resorted to by the people in most of the districts, and I believe it materially checked the progress of the epidemic. Though the evacuation of infected areas will not tend to the extinction of plague, yet it appears to be the only practical measure apart from inoculation by which the virulence of succeeding epidemics can be checked and the disease starved out of congested quarters.

The economic condition of the labouring classes did not deteriorate to the extent that the failure of crops at first seemed to portend. Though the price of the staple food grains no doubt rose at the outset, yet importations from other parts of India restored the stability of the grain market, which in turn influenced the wages of labour and kept them from varying abnormally. On the other hand, though the demand for labour, which is essentially agricultural, diminished in tracts affected by the scarcity, the defect was remedied in a great measure by the people finding various other means of occupation. In the Bhal or cotton and wheat country of Dholka the harvesting of crops afforded some employment to an influx of labourers from Kaira. In the Panch Maháls District the periodical exodus of labourers in search of employment into Baroda territory and Central India seemed to increase. It is noticeable also that in the northern talukas of Ahmedabad there appears to be a disposition to move more freely, for the purpose of securing higher wages, during a period of scarcity.

Though the year was one of rural depression, industrial labour did not suffer, for the mills of Ahmedabad, Broach and Surat continued to work as usual and to afford labour to their employés. The mills of Ahmedabad were even working at high pressure, some of them at night as well as by day. The activity in building new mills, and in extending the premises of others in the suburbs of Ahmedabad, was also a remarkable feature in a year of local failure, and goes to prove that industrial enterprise in Gujarát is attracting wealth. This fact augurs well for a population which has lately suffered so much from famine and a succession of depressing years.

The colonization of South Africa has for the last few years been attracting about three or four thousand people chiefly Borahs from the Surat and Broach Districts every year. They leave their homes for a few years for the purpose of trading and securing the high profits of an opening country. Their movements therefore bear the character of trading incursions rather than that of emigration in its true sense. They do not appear to take their families with them or to acquire landed property in the Protectorate. But the tendency to go abroad is comparatively speaking still in its infancy, and it will probably develop into emigration, when, as time passes, the idea of settling in a foreign country grows. In its present stage the tendency is very advantageous in raising the pecuniary resources and standard of comfort in the Broach and Surat Districts of an appreciable section of the population.

Primary Education received an impetus through a greater part of the Division owing to the increase in the Government grant-in-aid. The cultivating classes in Ahmedabad District, however, on account of their reduced circum-

stances perhaps, appear unwilling to spare their children from field labour during the day. The Collector and the Sub-Divisional Officers fall in with this inclination of the people and advise the starting of night schools. Whether the difficulties of the situation can be met by this course is a question which can only be decided by actual trial. Mr. Doderet's testimony of the progress made by the rural population of this district in education within the last 20 years shows that education is slowly but steadily making its way among the lower orders. But in direct opposition to this encouraging feature in the Ahmedabad Collectorate is Mr. Shepherd's remark, calling special attention, with reference to Mr. Khopkar's report, to the illiteracy of the cultivating classes in Thána District. It is true that the want of sympathy between a high caste teacher and low caste pupils may have much to do with this disheartening result in the progress of the district; but it must be borne in mind that in Thána there is no middle class like the Lewa Patidars of Gujarát. Thána is a country of wealthy landlords and depressed toilers. It is noteworthy that Mr. Orr has done much for the education of the hill men of Thána, and the Chief of Jawhar seems disposed to carry on the work in his State.

The land revenue demand was realized without much difficulty in the Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Maháls Districts. In Surat and Thána there were signs of contumacy, four warrants of arrest being issued in Surat District and about five in Thána District. But the spirit of obduracy grew to such serious proportions in Broach District as to necessitate the issue of about 20 warrants of arrest. Mr. Bagnell, the Collector, fully justifies the need for these drastic measures in face of the determined attitude of the defaulters, and it is hoped that the firmness shown by the District Officers will go far to break up the demoralization that seems to have set in, among the revenue paying classes, often the well-to-do. It is clear that the difficulty of collecting the revenue is greatly enhanced by the unreliable class of village officers that is said to be found in this district. I notice from last year's report that Mr. Logan, late Collector of Broach, remarked that the village officers were serving Government very unfaithfully. Mr. Bagnell, his successor, also speaks badly of them. He thinks that they are, on account of their laxity, the greatest obstacle in the collection of Government dues, and he has been forced to require the submission of weekly diaries from them to show the state of revenue collections. This step, there is reason to believe, will tend to improve the tone of work in revenue collection, and, together with the firmness displayed in requiring payment this year, should lead to satisfactory results in the future.

#### Extracts.

##### (a) *Labour and Wages.*

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

I think that since the famine there has been a decrease in the number of agricultural labourers, for although the census was taken in February 1901, the year 1902 was particularly unhealthy owing to the abnormal rainfall late in the season and malarial fever was responsible for considerable mortality in the rural areas and would particularly affect the poorer class of villagers.

In marked contrast with the latent distress in the rural tracts was the visible prosperity of the town population. Mills working at high pressure (one was working 16 hours a day and a few at night) and busily adding to their premises in the shape of new weaving sheds and a few thousand more spindles enabled mill hands and artizans to earn good wages.

J. H. E. Tupper, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Wages showed little tendency to fall in spite of the stagnation of ordinary agricultural operations. In a few villages the exodus of labour in search of employment was so extensive as to force up wages to twice their normal height at the time of rabi sowing. The influx of labour into Ahmedabad itself, and also into other large towns, was naturally very considerable, but it never overtaxed the powers of absorption of these centres. In Ahmedabad itself, mills, railways and building operations provided an extensive field of employment that

was capable of rapid expansion, and the importation of grass and fuel in great quantities afforded a livelihood to large numbers of agricultural labourers who found themselves deprived of their ordinary occupations. Labour moved with sufficient freedom in quest of employment. The apathy and ignorance, that prevent movement for the purpose of bettering a condition that is already tolerable, yield at the first threat of real distress. Slowness to move is frequently made a reproach to the lower class of cultivators, but in the present year they responded fully to the demands of the situation.

B. Bapuji, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There is no tendency of the price of field labour to rise in ordinary times and an ordinary field labourer gets grain equal in value of 8 pice or two annas and a half per diem. The rate of wages of agricultural labour during the fair season last year was 0-2-0 per head while in the cultivating season the wages had risen to nearly 0-3-0 per individual unit. There are several small factories in this sub-division where labourers are employed. The mobility among these labourers is far from general and is only a matter of local concern.

#### KAIRA DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

The wages of unskilled labour remained constant at 2 to 3 annas per day; those of skilled labourers at 4 to 12 annas per day.

This year the cutting of babul for fuel and the preparation of charcoal for the Ahmedabad market provided a good deal of labour especially in the Mátar Táluka where the pinch was felt most severely.

Labourers in Thásra and Kapadvanj were busily engaged throughout the fair season in harvesting the excellent grass crop.

#### PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

S. F. A. Edroos, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The following were the average prices of labour in Dohad and Jhalod:—

			Rs.	a.	p.	
Skilled labour ...	...	...	0	12	0	per diem.
Ordinary „ ...	...	...	0	2	0	„
Field „ ...	...	...	0	3	0	„

#### BROACH DISTRICT.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

During March and the greater part of April the only works proceeding in the district were those normally undertaken by the Public Works Department; and in April, when the Local Boards again proceeded with their programme of works, it was found that the normal wages of the district, higher than in most parts of Gujarát, were required to attract labour. Three annas for a seven or eight hours' day or at the least two and a half annas in cash and a meal, is the normal wage of the district. The deficiency in the demand for labour caused by the conditions of the season was, however, marked, though not by any hardship to the labouring class of the district, by the absence of the usual flow of Kaira immigrants.

G. G. Desai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There was a scarcity of field labourers everywhere throughout the Division. The famine has been chiefly responsible for this, and plague also to some extent.

#### SURAT DISTRICT.

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

The September rains entirely dispelled all fear of actual distress among the labouring classes, who were never in want of employment throughout the year. In fact the demand for labour was considerably in excess of the supply and it was difficult to get sufficient coolies for the public works executed during the year. This is in general terms attributed to the annual emigration of the labouring classes from the coast villages; nevertheless, wages are reported to have

remained as heretofore, *i.e.*, 3 annas a day for a field labourer and 4 annas for an ordinary coolie. If this be so, a rise in general wages might be a sufficient cure for the situation. At present the farm servant class or Halis have not as yet been able to secure more favourable terms from their employers, but there are signs of their doing so in the near future. The prices of labour in the city of Surat have remained unchanged and are as below :—

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
1903-04	Rs. a. p. 0 12 0 to 1 0 0	Rs. a. p. 0 3 0 to 0 5 0	Re. 1 to Rs. 2.
1904-05	Rs. a. p. 0 12 0 to 1 0 0	Rs. a. p. 0 3 0 to 0 5 0	Re. 1 to Rs. 2.

A. W. Varley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The rate of wages was on the whole high. People, who in their own villages had no agricultural work, easily found employment in other parts of the district where the crops were good, and earned from three to four annas a day. Owing to plague and emigration labourers are undoubtedly scarce. In Jalálpor, the rate of wages was four annas, against three last year; in Chorási, even higher. The Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway works at Kankrákhádi and the mills in Surat City absorb a large amount of the available labour. In consequence, it was not always possible to procure the necessary labourers for Local Board and Government works.

B. W. Kissan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

As to prices of labour, the daily wage of the artisan has varied in different parts of the sub-division from 5 annas to 1 rupee, and of the day labourer from 2 to 4 annas, while carts have been hired at a daily rate varying from 6 annas to 1 rupee. There is no marked change from last year here.

THÁNA DISTRICT.

W. C. Shephérđ, Esq., Collector.

The average wages of skilled and unskilled labour were much the same as in the previous year.

(b) Migration.

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Dodéret, Esq., Collector.

I have not heard of any marked emigration. A few of the better classes go to Africa to set up in business.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

So far as permanent movements are concerned there is nothing to record. There are three outward movements of labour which though only seasonal are of considerable importance :—

(I) Beyond the Mahi to the Broach District and Baroda Pránt for cotton picking.

(II) To Cambay State and Dholka Táluka for cotton picking and wheat harvesting.

(III) To the ginning factories of the Broach and Baroda Districts.

The emigration this year was not exceptionally large in spite of the failure of crops here. But from Mátar Táluka more labourers than usual found their way into Dholka.

## BROACH DISTRICT.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

A very wide and terrible famine may send some of the cultivators and most of the industrial operatives in search of relief. A scarcity or less extended crop failure operates mainly by curtailing profits and by stopping immigration. The extent of this usual immigration can be gauged by the fact that Vágra Táluka alone is said every year to provide for some twelve thousand field labourers from Kaira. The agricultural depression of the past years has re-acted upon all classes. Perhaps the effect has been least marked upon the Sunni Vohoras, whose enterprise, freedom from caste trammels, and readiness to emigrate temporarily to South Africa afford them opportunities of profit not enjoyed by other classes.

G. G. Desai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There is no immigration worth the name.

The Vohra of Ankleswar and Broach emigrates to South Africa whenever he gets the opportunity and the means. He follows there any occupation that he finds brings him money, and he generally returns to this country within half a dozen years, by which time he is able to amass what is to him a small fortune.

## SURAT DISTRICT.

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

About 1,300 persons are estimated to have emigrated to Burmah and South Africa from this district. The emigrants comprised Mahomedans, Anavla-Brahmins, Kolis, Mochis (or shoe-makers), Barbers, Potters, Washermen, Carpenters, Blacksmiths and Dheds. Anavlas who are educated follow some trade or serve as gumástás or clerks under big traders. The artisan class generally follow their own professions, others are commonly employed as labourers and hawkers. It is estimated that remittances to the extent of about 4 lakhs were received by the relations of absentees, but the figure can be but little more than a conjecture. The restrictive conditions imposed on immigration into South Africa has no doubt had an adverse effect on the flow of emigration, but the point does not appear to have ever been discussed as a local grievance. There is of course a very large field for employment elsewhere than in British South Africa for the industrious native and if the South African Government does not want them they turn their footsteps elsewhere.

No immigration to any appreciable extent occurred this year.

A. W. Varley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

This part of the district is, of course, less dependent than others upon agriculture. The Borahs of Ránder are as a rule very well-to-do. They carry on an extensive trade with the Arabian Coast, Africa and Mauritius. Many of them pass half their lives at the Cape or in Natal, and return to Ránder with substantial fortunes. Again the fisher-caste of the coast and river-side villages ship as sailors on merchant and passenger boats. Both Musalman and Hindus of various castes emigrate to South Africa, Mauritius and elsewhere, chiefly to open shops or hawk goods in the streets. This year it is estimated that people to the number of five hundred from Chorási, and nine hundred from Jalálpor emigrated, and fairly large sums of money were transmitted by these and earlier emigrants to their relations at home.

*(c) Education.*

## AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

After more than 20 years of Indian service I notice a great advance in the number of literates in the rural tracts, tending to make the peasant more independent of the money-lender and less likely to be cheated by him when documents have to be written.

J. H. E. Tupper, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The progress of education among the lower cultivating classes is not very satisfactory. The figures supplied by the taluka officers show that in Daskroi, where there are 60 primary schools, the children of these classes receiving instruction number only 440; in Prántij 178; in Modása 126 of all classes of cultivators. The figures are far too low but the matter is receiving attention. The Daskroi Taluka Local Board has in some villages permanently foregone school fees in the case of the children of Kolis and other inferior classes of cultivators. In Prántij scholarships of 3, 4, 5 and 6 annas monthly are offered to Koli boys studying in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th standards respectively. There must however be some modification of both the hours and seasons of attendance at schools before education can hope to make rapid progress among cultivators of these classes; who cannot spare their children except at hours and seasons when agricultural operations do not necessitate their presence in the fields. The inspection of schools during the tour brought to light the fact that the system of reduced fees designed to benefit the cultivating classes who contribute to the Local Fund, operates largely to the benefit of banias and others who are not *bona fide* cultivators and who can well afford to pay. Funds which are understood to be devoted to the primary education of agriculturists are thus diverted to another purpose. The matter is now, it is believed, under investigation throughout the Northern Division.

B. Bapuji, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

I am informed that in Viramgam, Mandal, and other important villages Dhed classes for imparting education to low castes have of late been opened and they are progressing well.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

Pupils belonging to 'Aboriginal' tribes, under which term Dháralas appear to be included, increased from 1,829 to 2,049.

The education of the depressed classes is well looked after by the Missionary Societies, of which there are 5 at work in the Kaira District. The Roman Catholic Mission maintains 19 schools, the Alliance Mission 9 schools and the Methodist Episcopalian Mission 165 schools. I have not the figures of the Irish Presbyterian Mission or the Salvation Army; but each maintains a large number of schools. Practically the whole attendance at these schools is of low caste children.

The Rev. G. W. Park at Nadiád has an industrial school in which over 300 boys are taught various handicrafts.

J. T. Scotson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Dharala is not yet altogether reconciled to peaceful pursuits and any signs that he is taking more kindly to the ways of civilisation promise satisfactorily for the future of the district. There were 1,119 Dharala pupils this year against 963 last year.

PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

P. J. Mead, Esq., Collector.

The spread of education among the Bhils and Naikdas is naturally slow, but there are signs of improvement. There are 4 separate schools exclusively for the depressed classes. With a view to giving special encouragement to the children of these classes, small monthly scholarships are awarded in each of these schools.

The Missionary Societies are also doing good work by promoting education among the backward classes.

BROACH DISTRICT.

H. W. J. Bagnell, Esq., Collector.

Education is making slow but steady progress in the district, and though the number of aboriginal and Mahomedan students has decreased there is an

increase in the Municipal and Local Board Schools. Special mention must be made here of the Parsi Panchayat Anglo-Vernacular School for girls as it is the first of its kind in this district.

G. G. Desai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

With the enhanced grant given by Government for the cause of public instruction much attention is being paid to primary education of the local backward classes, especially the Mussalmans and Kolis; several new girl-schools are also being opened and are likely to be successful.

SURAT DISTRICT.

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

Progress among the agriculturists was again retarded by plague. The Kaliparaj boarding school at Rupen is shortly to be removed to Ghodsumba where a suitable school building has been erected for it. This is the only school building built within the year. As if it were in reply to progress made in one direction, 7 Kaliparaj schools in Mándvi have been closed during the year for want of numbers. Many of the scholars, however, it is hoped, have been entered at the Rupen School. It is in contemplation to open another Kaliparaj boarding school in the south of the district.

THA'NA DISTRICT.

B. M. Kharkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Wild tribe schools have been opened in Dáhánu and Umbergaon, offering inducements to children and their parents as well. Two schools were opened in 1903, one at Kase Budruk in Dáhánu and one at Uplat in Umbergaon. Two more were added in 1904, one at Dhaniwari in Dáhánu and one at Deheli in Umbergaon. A desire to learn is getting hold of the minds of the ignorant and there is everywhere a demand for more schools.

V. N. Khopkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

A normal school has been opened at Mokháda for training boys of backward classes to be afterwards employed as teachers in the rural schools.

For the boys of the wild tribes three schools have been opened in Sháhápur Táluka.

(d) *Contumacy.*

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

J. H. E. Tupper, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Collections were made without difficulty in Prántij and Modása, but the contumacious attitude that has of late years distinguished the prosperous Daskroi Táluka was again in evidence, and it was necessary to make an example of some of the more wealthy defaulters in 22 villages. This procedure produced the desired effect.

KAIBA DISTRICT.

J. T. Scotson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

On the whole the people were fully satisfied with the concessions given them and only in one or two cases was there any obstruction shown. Even when this was so I usually found that the recalcitrant one had some grounds for his procedure, based as a general rule on a divided number and widely different crops which yielded very different outturns.

B. R. Heblkar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Coercive measures were almost nil except in very rare and flagrant cases of wilful contumacy.

BROACH DISTRICT.

H. W. J. Bagnell, Esq., Collector.

The severer forms of coercive measures were not much used and on the whole I can assert from personal observation that the contumacy of the people would certainly warrant a larger exercise of coercive measures. The number of

arrests in Jambusar Táluka is large and the Assistant Collector reports that the number of warrants issued was 16. It may be mentioned that during the collection season Mr. Rothfeld was in the Jambusar Táluka and himself watched the collection with a close eye and issued warrants of arrest after he was thoroughly satisfied of the desirability of the step. I shall quote here only one instance which is typical and shows the extent of contumacy in the Jambusar Táluka. The Revenue Patel of Kangam who inherited his father's lands has sufficient means to pay off his arrears, but refuses to pay his dues and has chosen to go to the Civil Jail at Surat, though he spent over Rs. 400 on his father's funeral. At one time a proposal was made to him by his own men that he should pay Rs. 500 (and the amount was held ready in cash) and obtain his release. But the proposal was not accepted and the man still continues in jail. When contumacy has reached this degree, it is no wonder that Revenue authorities are compelled to resort to coercive measures. Distraint of moveable property at times becomes very difficult, as often villagers combine to hide the property of the defaulters, who not unfrequently send away their property to the neighbouring villages of the Gáikwári or the Rájpipla States; and the collection of revenue which the Mámílatdárs have been able to make is, no doubt, the result of the firm attitude taken by me and by the Sub-Divisional Officers and to the energy and tact of the Mámílatdárs.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The spirit of contumacy, which has for ten years been so marked in Broach District, was again most active this year. Vágra Táluka gave little trouble as most of the revenue was suspended. Ámod Táluka, with the exception of some villages like Achhod and Sudi, though it would be accounted highly contumacious in most districts, is for Broach District comparatively amenable. But Jambusar Táluka has in respect of contumacy the same pre-eminence that it has achieved in crime. The large number of Bhagdari villages, the late dates of instalments, and the remoteness of the táluka, combine to give its inhabitants opportunities for escaping payments, of which they take every advantage. Although suspensions were this year given with the utmost leniency, and although the leading defaulters were men of substance, whose income even this year in many cases was counted by hundreds and in some by thousands, yet constant attention and the utmost stringency were required from both the Mámílatdár and the Assistant Collector to secure even the greater portion of the modified demand of Rs. 2,13,218. I personally made several attachments and attempted to make more, and ultimately found myself reduced to the unfortunate necessity of issuing 16 warrants of imprisonment in this táluka alone. I have seen nearly the whole population of a village scatter over the fields, when I was observed to be nearing it, in order to avoid explanations for non-payment; and fraudulent transfers of property and even the conveyance of property from Jambusar Táluka to friends in Broach Táluka was of constant occurrence. House after house might be visited and no property except a few copper vessels would be found, and yet the owners were proved to have had some hundreds of rupees from their crops this year and were known to be well-to-do.

G. G. Desai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Delay and unwillingness in payment is the order of the day amongst the ryots since the famine year.

The propriety and advantages of the timely issue and publication of orders about the grant of remissions and suspensions are unquestionable, but unfortunately they exercise a very unwholesome effect on a population already demoralized who think it no dishonour or dishonesty to cheat Government. For example, as soon as the orders of Government contained in their Resolution No. 6935, dated the 13th September 1904, were out, the ryots began to take advantage of the occasion; they understated their crops and raised a cry of famine and distress; the village officers and the Circle Inspectors did not properly estimate the crops; people of circumstance and intelligence who could teach to others the ways of honesty and truthfulness were the first to howl and to set a wrong example; the settlement of remissions and suspensions required great care and patience. Finally, the task of collection that followed was one

of great difficulty. It was, however, accomplished with considerable tact and perseverance without much use of the stronger forms of coercive measures, and was successful to a great extent.

SURAT DISTRICT.

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

It was found necessary to issue warrants in four cases of contumacious default, but in only one case was the warrant actually executed and the arrest-time only amounted to a couple of hours. It was not found necessary to order any forfeitures in connection with the current year's demand. An attempt at concerted opposition to the payment of the demand in certain parts of the district was promptly and effectively put an end to by the issue of the few warrants previously mentioned. It is evident that the remissions and suspensions granted amply covered all cases of possible hardship, and the collection of the revenue of the year was as a result fraught with no particular difficulty. Apart from the Land Revenue formally suspended, only a small sum amounting to about Rs. 5,000 remains outstanding in connection with the demand of the current year, the greater part of which it has been found necessary for special reasons to suspend till next year.

THA'NA DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

As in previous year some difficulty was experienced in collecting revenue in Kalyán and Bhiwndi Tálukas. In Bhiwndi severe measures were taken and a few persons were sent to the Civil Jail. Their refusal to pay was, as far as I can discover, purely contumacious.

H. B. Clayton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Land Revenue which shows an increase of Rs. 1,013-6-2 was as usual collected without difficulty in all parts of my charge save in Bhiwndi. The latter táluka enjoyed bumper crops, and though the price of grain was low, there was no excuse whatever for the general attempt to put off payment till it rose.

CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, C. D.

The monsoon was generally delayed; and the rains when they arrived were not sufficient for the kharif crops. Anxiety as to the prospects of the season was allayed for a time by the fairly copious fall in August and September. The kharif crops greatly benefited by it and the rabi made a good start in most places. There was no later rain, however, and except in Khándesh, where the rabi was excellent throughout, and the kharif was good over the greater part of the district, the season proved most unfavourable. The outturn was generally poor and in places practically nil. The situation was to some extent aggravated by the ravages of locusts, which were most felt in Poona and Sholápur. In the former district no less a sum than Rs. 35,715 was spent in locust operations. Serious distress was anticipated and test works were opened in the Poona, Sátára and Sholápur Districts. But they had soon to be closed as they failed to attract workers. Among the causes which produced this result are the relatively favourable character of the previous season and emigration to Bombay or to agricultural tracts where the harvest had been bountiful. Plague, moreover, has kept down the population and in some parts the demand for labour is in ordinary years said to exceed the supply. In parts of the Násik District whole villages are said to have been deserted for a time, and there as well as in the Poona District the inferior village servants had to be given dole to keep them at their posts. The water-supply for irrigation as well as drinking purposes was greatly reduced; and there was a more or less marked rise in the prices of food grains and fodder. The natural effect of higher prices on wages would seem to have been partially checked by the decrease in the demand for labour, but in Ahmednagar and Sátára, where the population has been greatly reduced by plague, the rates of wages showed a tendency to rise. On the whole the anticipations of acute distress were entirely falsified and both the cultivating as well as the labouring classes came well out of their troubles.

The acreage under cotton, the most important staple of trade in the Division, diminished by 45 per cent. in Ahmednagar and by 7 per cent. in Khándesh; and there was a more or less marked failure of the crop except in parts of Khándesh. Prices were also low. On the other hand, the trade in wheat and linseed was brisk, principally owing to an excellent harvest in Khándesh. The decrease in octroi receipts in most Municipalities shows that the ordinary import trade was slack.

Owing to the deficiency in the cotton crop, the operations of the numerous ginning and pressing factories in Khándesh were greatly circumscribed. The spinning and weaving mills in Sholápur are, however, said to have done well. The hand-loom industry is likely to benefit greatly by the experiments in the production of an improved loom which are being carried on under the auspices of the American Mission in Ahmednagar and which have already met with a considerable measure of success. Government made a grant of Rs. 3,511 last year towards the improvement of the hand-weaving industry started by the Mission, and an application for a further grant-in-aid is now under consideration. The aloe fibre industry seems to have gained a footing in the Poona District, but in Ahmednagar and Sholápur the results are said not to have been satisfactory.

Plague interfered with education, though not to the same extent as in previous years; and the character of the season also retarded it. The educational work of the Missionary bodies in Ahmednagar and Sholápur among the degraded classes was maintained.

Plague prevailed with more or less virulence in all districts of the Division. The total number of recorded deaths was 65,499. The epidemic was most acute in the Sátára District, from which district alone a total of 28,690 deaths is returned. The mortality was lowest in the Poona District with a total of 2,600 deaths. There was some cholera in Násik and Sholápur; and an epidemic of small-pox in Khándesh, Násik and Sholápur. It was very severe in Khándesh, where there is said to be a marked aversion to vaccination.

Suspensions were granted to the amount of Rs. 14,41,770 and remissions to the extent of Rs. 3,73,881. The realizations, as might be expected, were most favourable in Khándesh, where 97 per cent. of the amount for collection was recovered. The unauthorized outstandings were small in Nagar (36,769) and apparently in Násik. In Poona and Sholápur it is not stated how much was suspended. There are complaints of contumacy on the part of the well-to-do, a fact which may explain the large area of forfeited land in Násik.

Disbursements of tagai, which after the famine had reached the normal level, increased substantially during the year of report. The advances made amounted to Rs. 4,67,165 against Rs. 2,76,421. Some of the Collectors point to the necessity for caution in the grant of advances. The difficulties in the way of recoveries have greatly increased, as the result of the large advances and of the liberal remissions granted in recent years. There are heavy arrears in most districts. Mr. Curtis brings to notice the fact that thousands of wells constructed during the famine are not used. A similar state of things was reported from the Ahmednagar District after the last famine; and it doubtless prevails in other districts. So long, however, as amounts are recoverable Government is no loser by misapplication and all that can be said is that the complete object of the system was not obtained. The joint bond system of tagai seems to have been successfully worked in the Peint Táluka of the Násik District and the Bársi and Karmála Tálukas of the Sholápur District. The system does not, however, seem to have been sufficiently tried in any district.

The tagai system, though susceptible of abuse, is undoubtedly productive of great good. A combination of caution and promptitude is essential and to obtain this the personal attention of the Collector, the Sub-Divisional Officer and the Mámlatdár and, where the amounts advanced are heavy, additional superior staff in the shape of an extra head kárkun, are generally necessary; and everywhere when amounts are not trivial clerical staff to deal with the permanent account work is absolutely necessary. Any attempt to manage a bank without bank clerks is foredoomed to failure.

## Extracts.

(a) *Labour and Wages.*

KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

The sub-joined table gives the wages of labour and rate of cart hire :—

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart and pair of bullocks per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
1	2	3	4
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1903-04 ... ..	0 12 0	0 5 0	0 12 0
1904-05 ... ..	0 10 0	0 3 0	1 0 0

The above rates are the official quotations : but my personal experience is that they are too low. The ordinary Khándesh day-labourer expects and gets four annas a day. In the Pimpalner Táluka, where crops were bad, I had the greatest difficulty in getting Bhils to work on the patasthal channels at three annas a day for men and two annas for women : and the Railway authorities at Bhusáwal were offering Rs. 8 per month for unskilled labourers in vain. This state of things is very much to be regretted and is largely due to one cause, namely our unnecessarily liberal policy with regard to the forests. As long as Bhil can maintain himself—as he can—by *doli-moli*, in other words, by hacking Government forest trees, he will not betake himself to *honest* work.

R. D. Bell, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Labour is also comparatively dear and is not obtained without difficulty, but there is no change since last year.

G. Thakar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In a district like this where individual holdings are large and a preponderance of holders are agricultural labourers, the demand for such labour will continue to be high. Expansion of general intelligence and better facilities of communication resulting in a well proportioned distribution of labour over several industries and territories are causing a slow but sure improvement in the status of this class.

The Bhils, on the other hand, are still in as low a level as they had been years ago. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of Government to improve their condition by the offer of free grant of land, liberal advances of tagai and other facilities to induce them to agriculture, they are, with very few exceptions, still sticking to their old ways of idleness and drinking and prefer the collection of fuel and grass to any other kind of labour.

R. V. Dashputre, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

It is said that the earnings which the labourers make at the time of cotton picking and harvest are sufficient to last them for a considerable period of the remaining year.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

Labourers had no difficulty in finding employment in the Mogláí, where the crops were good, and in some of the better tálukas of the district. The supply of labourers has in fact been less than the demand. The Executive Engineer reports that he has not been able to get enough for his works, the deficiency was felt even at Chas, on the borders of Akola, Sangamner and Párner, one of the bad places in the district. Plague undoubtedly has had some effect in raising the wage rate and the supply of labour has been further reduced by the labourers going to other places for employment.

## POONA DISTRICT.

E. J. Bolus, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In the canal villages there was a big demand for labour from February to May with a view to the planting of sugarcane. The supply was equal to this demand. From the northern villages of Bhimthadi and Indápur, a great number of labourers were attracted to the work, who would probably, otherwise, have emigrated from the district.

## • SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

K. W. Barlee, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The labourers and artisans were affected by the high prices of staple food grains. Luckily for the former labour was always wanted and wages kept up. In Karád a great deal of labour is required, and the immigration from the Konkan showed that the home labourers can never have been without employment.

A. Montgomerie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The labour market is affected both by plague and by famine though not nearly so much as would be expected. The price of unskilled labour has risen within the last two or three years by half an anna to one anna per diem, *viz.* about 25 per cent. Something of this must be due to plague which in some parts has carried off about 10 per cent. of the population, mainly from among the labouring classes. At the same time it is difficult to point to any scarcity of labour. Indeed the most prevalent complaint during the year was the difficulty of finding employment. The failure of crops flung a number of labourers, who would otherwise have been employed in harvesting, on the market. A liberal distribution of tagai did a little good towards furnishing employment for these, but so much of the money expended on wells goes in building materials and in skilled labour, that the relief was not proportionate to the expenditure. Fortunately there was a good harvest in Kollápur and many people went there. Many too found employment in Bombay.

## SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

A. E. L. Emanuel, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Wages are not reported high, in spite of the failure of "test works," as harvests were bad and many cultivators dispensed with hired labour.

The only information I can obtain as to wages in kind is that in Karmála a labourer is occasionally fed for the month with the addition of Re. 1 or 1½ in cash.

V. K. Namjoshi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The wages of labour might have been expected to rise also, but the defect in the demand for labour, brought about by a bad season, served to keep wages at their ordinary level. There were also some movements among the labouring classes in search of "fresh fields and pastures new."

*(b) Migration.*

## KHA'NDESH DISTRICT,

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

Emigration from Khándesh is unknown. Vigorous efforts were made during the year at a time when scarcity was anticipated to induce the Bhils to leave the district and take employment on the G. I. P. Railway works near Itársi and in the Central Provinces. The terms offered by the Railway were liberal in the extreme, but only twenty-seven families could be induced to go and they soon came back. As regards immigration there was a small influx of people from Násik and the Nizam's dominions driven here by scarcity; but they seem to have returned before the rains.

R. D. Bell, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There is much through-traffic in the Division, but practically nothing in the way of permanent settlement of immigrants or the reverse.

## NA'SIK DISTRICT.

C. S. F. Crofton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The labouring classes over the east of Sinnar and south of Niphád migrated *en masse* as usual to the cotton districts during the cold weather. This year they were accompanied by a large proportion of the rayat population whose bajri crop had failed. Some of the villages were left with no one but the Patel and village servants who had to be supported by cash doles.

## AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

W. Greer, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The tendency to leave the district in search of higher wages is undoubtedly on the increase.

## POONA DISTRICT

L. C. Swifte, Esq., Collector.

As is usual in bad seasons about 12,000 people from the Junnar Táluka emigrated to Bombay and other places in search of work in addition to those who, after the rainy season is over, annually go to Bombay for employment. About 10,000 people from the Sirur Táluka, 1,800 from the Purandhar Táluka, and 600 from the Dhond Peta are likewise reported to have emigrated. There was no immigration worth notice as owing to damage by locusts the sugarcane plantations in the irrigated portion of the Bhimthadi and Indápur Tálukas failed to supply the usual employment for outside labourers.

## SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

K. W. Barlee, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The emigration which has been going now on for years is due partly to the railway and partly to the enclosing of waste land in forests. The improvement in communications has relieved the pressure as thousands go away to Bombay and elsewhere for work. Forest conservancy accounts for the depopulation of the Koyna and other valleys. The population of these hilly districts is probably not much more than half what it was 20 years ago, and as the soil is poor and the cultivator has always a hard struggle, the much talked of grievance has really turned out a boon. There can be little doubt that, but for the decrease in population and the annual exodus, there would have been famine amongst these hills this year.

## SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

A. E. L. Emanuel, Esq., Assistant Collector.

I have not marked much immigration or emigration except a pretty settled habit in the west of migrating in bad times to the promised land of Berar. I think the Nira Canal in Poona also attracts labourers, while there is much communication between Bársi Táluka and the Balaghat in Hyderabad to the North-East. The Mámlatdárs deny any regular migrations, except the Mámlatdár of Sholápur, who says that 4,000 labourers come into Sholápur from without in a time of good harvest.

V. K. Namjoshi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There is general evidence to show that the spirit of enterprise now animates the ordinary labourer in a greater degree than before, and that his stay-at-home tendencies are being gradually supplanted.

## (c) Education.

## KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

Among notable incidents of the year may be noted the establishment of a special Bhil school, or rather a special hostel for Bhils attending school, at Nandurbár, which promises well. It is astonishing by the way how keenly one or two Bhil villages in the west have taken to education. At Natawad, a Bhil village in Nandurbár, there is a larger proportion of children attending school than in any other village in the district.

*(d) Contumacy.*

## KHANDESH DISTRICT.

S. B. Israel, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In Pimpalner Táluka some well-to-do cultivators, though they had good rabi, and in some cases bágáyat crops, kept back the revenue in the hope of getting remission or suspension. Such cases were dealt with firmly and revenue was recovered by forfeiting their lands.

G. Thakar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There is a growing tendency to withhold payment on small pretext and to ask for suspension or at least to delay it and contumaciously to wait for coercive measures.

## NASIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

At the outset the task of collecting revenue was rendered difficult owing to the threatening prospects of the season combined with the spirit of contumacy caused by the hope of getting remissions of over-due revenue which is the result of a decade of bad years and the constant suspensions and remissions necessitated by them.

Among the hill tribes contumacy is almost unknown, and the Varlis and Thakurs in Peint and Igatpuri, and Kolis and Konkani Kunbis in Kalvan and West Dindori, are the first to pay their share of revenue if they have the means or if their savkar will make an advance. It is the well-to-do cultivator and the landlord belonging to a better class who will evade payment if he can, and is given to complain on insufficient grounds. A notable instance of this tendency is the recalcitrancy of the intelligent and well-to-do cultivators of Sinnar town.

C. S. F. Crofton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Sinnar and Niphád contain rich villages where the occupants habitually withhold payment until coercive measures are undertaken.

## AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. A. G. Wales, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Successive bad seasons have impaired the resources of the cultivators and there is a general tendency to withhold the payment of their lawful dues as long as possible in hopes of being able eventually to escape payment altogether.

N. K. Pendse, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Owing to successive bad years the rayats seem to have acquired the habit of purposely withholding payments of land revenue in the hope of either getting postponements or remissions and do not make payments unless and until coercive measures are resorted to.

## POONA DISTRICT.

E. J. Bolus, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In several parts of the sub-division there appeared to be a kind of conspiracy to delay payment on the part of many who were amply provided with funds. The chief offenders in this respect were the Marwaris and other flourishing classes in Purandhar and Indápur Tálukas. Examples were made of a few prominent defaulters, and a wholesome effect was thus produced. But the work of the Mámlatdárs and their establishments was greatly increased on account of this unreasonable spirit among certain sections of the tax-payers.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

- (1) *Season.*—The season was on the whole not good and complete absence of rain after the middle of October caused failure of rabi crops in Athni, Gokák and Parasgad. Locusts did some

Belgaum.

damage in April and May to "waingan" paddy crops in Chandgad and to sugarcane and other garden crops but completely disappeared in June. Relief had to be provided in the shape of suspensions and remissions of land revenue and takávi instalments. Remissions and suspensions of land revenue were Rs. 26,864 and Rs. 2,00,827 respectively. Rs. 3,967 were also expended under sections 146, 158 and 159, Famine Relief Code. No cases of contumacy in the payment of Government dues were discovered.

The cases of forfeiture of land in Athni, Parasgad and Sampgaon Tálukas were rather numerous (108) and were due to the ravages of wild pigs and scarcity of labour. The remedy for the former is discussed later on. When the nuisance has abated, the Collector will be asked to allow the occupants the return of the land on the restricted tenure if they wish to regain it.

Here also the season was bad as the kharíf was almost totally lost and the rabi was very poor. Fears of scarcity were however averted owing to the following causes :—

Bijápúr.

- (1) Better crops in the surrounding British and Nizám's Districts.
- (2) People going long distances in search of work.
- (3) Surplus stocks of previous year.
- (4) High prices of cotton realised last year.

To alleviate distress the following measures were taken. The early kharíf instalment was postponed from January to February. Pasture forests and Government waste lands were opened for free grazing. An allotment of Rs. 17,000 was sanctioned by Government for improving the water-supply. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue were granted to the extent of Rs. 3,75,000 and Rs. 46,000 respectively. Relief works were held in readiness; but there was no need to open any; the chief reason for this appears to be, as stated by Mr. Alcock, that many villages have lost a substantial part of their population by plague. The number of notices issued was one-third of that in 1903-1904, *i.e.*, much lower in a year of scarcity than in one of good crops and high prices. Mr. Bomanji says that the only inference to be drawn from this fact is that there is an unhealthy spirit of contumacy for which watandár village officers are responsible, and there is much truth in this.

The season opened well but there was a long break in the rains from middle of August to end of October and on the whole it turned out to be below the average. The water-supply failed in some villages of Navalgund and scarcity of water was felt also in Dhárwár town. Suspensions and remissions of land revenue were granted of Rs. 1,81,484 and Rs. 4,282 respectively. Messrs. Moghe and Graham speak of contumacy in payment of revenue in their charges, but the Collector does not think that the spirit is wide-spread.

Dhárwár.

The season here was good on the whole. Locusts caused some loss to gardens in Yellápúr. In Kolába and Ratnágiri seedlings were destroyed by them but the lands were resown fully in Kolába and partly in Ratnágiri.

Coast Districts.

The campaign against them was very successful both in Kolába and Ratnágiri. The hill tribes and low castes profited by the high rates of wages, but cultivators themselves remained inactive. Suspensions to the extent of Rs. 10,000 were necessary in Ratnágiri on account of damage to bágáyat crops during the preceding hot weather.

(2) Prices of *food and labour*.—Prices of food-grains rose in Bijápúr but they were stationary in the other districts. Prices of labour have generally risen of recent years, without any corresponding increase in efficiency. The Deputy Collector in charge Athni Táluka says that the rise in wages has not raised the cost of cultivation to any extent but this does not seem correct. As pointed out by Messrs. Artal and Graham, rise in wages, however slight, must proportionately increase the cost of cultivation, other things being equal. Mr. Bomanji observes that difficulty is experienced in finding field labour owing to ravages of plague among labourers and the growing tendency on their

part to lease lands and cultivate them themselves. And both these causes have tended to increase the cost of cultivation. Mr. Bomanji thinks that wages in kind are more or less fixed in proportion to the outturn; I should say, rather in proportion to the amount necessary to support the labourer and his family. The rise in wages is, in Mr. Gibb's opinion, due to scarcity of labour. Wages were highest near Mátherán on account of private building and the Mátherán Light Railway operations.

(3) *Material prosperity*.—The condition of agriculturists in the eastern half of the Belgaum District is growing worse owing to successive years of scarcity and drought. Some think that the rainfall is growing less year by year. It is certain that there has been a most remarkable succession of years of scanty fall. And the result has been that even when good crops are grown the profits of high prices go to the money-lender and the middleman. The deterioration of irrigated lands by salt efflorescence noticed in detail by Mr. Artal is now under the consideration of the Director of Agriculture. Mr. Artal says that Gokák is the poorest taluka of the district but Athni runs it close. The spirit of litigation in Chikodi has been mentioned in the last year's report. The demand for woven cloth in Bijápur seems to have been well kept up. Mr. Gibb observes that the throwing up of lands in the west of the district is due to depopulation and does not denote a decline in material prosperity. The individual cultivator is not worse off. The labourer is certainly better off and more able to hold his own. The material prosperity of the Havik in Kánara is on the wane. Luxurious habits and false ideas of happiness have made him a spendthrift and a debtor. That there has been increased prosperity in Kolába is evident from the fact that consumption of country spirit and number of tea shops increased in every taluka in the same proportion. The Collector of Ratnágiri observes that there has been no material improvement, and the rates in the recently settled talukas of Chiplun, Dápoli and Vengorla have been left unaltered.

(4) *Public health*.—Cholera was bad in Belgaum and Bijápur, the deaths being 1,728 and 1,752 respectively. It is said to have been imported from Pandharpur. In Bijápur plague was again bad and births decreased from 39.77 to 35.78 per mille. In other respects the general health in the division was good. I doubt the truth of Mr. Artal's remark that public health is generally good in a year of scarcity. Mr. Koreishi's suggestion that cholera and fever medicines should be distributed through village Pátils, as post offices are at long distances, is worthy of consideration.

(5) *Cattle*.—The condition of cattle was on the whole fair. Prices of fodder were high in Bijápur and part of the last year's stock of kadbi was used in putting up plague sheds. The throwing open of pastures and waste lands to free grazing and the imports from the Moglai Districts enabled the people to preserve their cattle. Surplus stock was sold; but the fact that no tagái for cattle was asked for shows that agricultural cattle were not parted with to any extent. There was not much cattle disease. The Collector of Kolába observes that the Veterinary Graduate there is doing work and the dispensary is a useful institution; but people would much appreciate having a larger number of such institutions at suitable places in the district. In time there should be a veterinary dispensary in every taluka, but the finances of the Boards do not allow of this being done yet. A considerable number of agricultural cattle died last season in Ratnágiri and the cause is supposed to be their having eaten the droppings of locusts. As observed by the Collector, the more likely reason appears to be the shortage of fodder. Takávi is being given to replace the loss in some measure.

Mr. Patwardhan says in his report that the Veterinary Graduate visited many places where there was disease, but it has not been stated whether he did any good.

(6) *Emigration and Immigration*.—People from the affected parts of Athni, Gokák and Paragad emigrated as in the preceding year of famine to places in Dhárwár District and Mysore State in search of employment. In Bijápur people emigrated for harvesting in much larger numbers than usual. Labourers from Goa and Mysore immigrate every year in large numbers to work in gardens

and on forest exploitation works in Kánara. A few enterprising Navayat Mahomedans from Bhátka! go to work as seamen on Bombay ships and steamers but the small savings they bring are recklessly spent on their return home. The usual emigration to Bombay took place from Kolába and Ratnágiri. The emigration to South Africa from Mahád, Mángaon, Dápoli and Khed is seriously checked by restrictive legislation. The emigrants are generally Mahomedans. They return home after 4 or 5 years, with substantial means and also send remittances yearly. The remittances to Mahád and Mángaon amounted to Rs. 1,05,000 in the year under report. One effect of the wealth brought in by these emigrants may be noticed. It is to raise the price of land artificially as they offer enormous prices for land near their homes.

(7) *Industrial enterprise and trade.*—There is nothing to remark under this head in Belgaum except that the Gokák Mills worked as usual.

Two new factories (cotton ginning) were started in Bijápur, bringing the total of such factories in the district to 12. A new dairy was established near Bijápur. The cotton factories did not do at all well. They worked for half the number of days they did last year. The fly shuttle class in Bijápur had to be closed for want of learners. Fifteen weavers use the improved loom; and one man in Guledgudd is giving instructions on his own account. Proposals for an industrial school have been sent up and the Collector hopes that they will be favourably considered. The demand in Dhárwár for prospecting licenses for manganese and gold continues. Up to date 2,874 acres have been given out on leases and 12,538 acres on licenses. Prospecting in manganese has also been begun in Belgaum and Kánara. The colony of Gujaráti traders at Hubli is said to be on the increase. Five new factories were added in the course of the year to the existing 19. There is little to record in Kolába and Ratnágiri except the fact that the want of communications is again dealt with by the district officers.

(8) *Public feeling and Public Press.*—There was nothing noticeable in the Karnátic districts. In Kolába, forest administration is being carried on so as to excite as little hostility as possible and endeavours are being made to enlist the people on the side of Government in their own interests. The feeling of the Khots and Inámdárs, notably in Roha, is reported to be still hostile in the matter of forest privileges; but the position seems to be improving and the Collector says that it does not give any ground for alarm.

The feelings of the landlords in Mátherán are also a little strained owing to the recent measures taken to recover fees and fines from them. The Collector of Ratnágiri correctly observes that the press there takes its cue on public questions from the Poona Maráthi papers and can scarcely be said to represent local public opinion. Mr. Bomanji observes that agitators in larger towns temporarily influence the public feeling. This is likely to have an improper influence gradually. Mr. Kabraji thinks that some measures are necessary to ensure that newspapers are conducted by men of some responsibility, position and education. Apart from this, it is satisfactory to find that the feelings of the people of Ratnágiri were reflected in undisguised expressions of gratitude to Government and their officers for operations against locusts, concessions granted to the Deogad Khots, and the partial relief granted to cultivators for damage by locusts.

(9) *Education.*—The cultivating classes in Belgaum as yet show no great appreciation of the value of education. Mr. Artal observes that educated people of the lower classes do not get Government service and so they are discouraged and discontented. With a view to giving them encouragement, he proposes that posts in Government service should be more freely given to them. The more logical conclusion would be to give them to understand that they should make use of their education to become better agriculturists. If every educated villager is to expect to be provided with a Government post the sooner all board schools are closed the better. It is satisfactory to note that education is said to be making slow but steady progress in Bijápur. That the desire for education is genuine is seen from the frequent applications made for new schools. Mr. Bhide suggests that schools should be held in huts during plague epidemics. This might be done after the epidemic has subsided until the village is reoccupied. In Dhárwár the Collector states that education does not touch

the agricultural classes so as to have any effect on agriculture. He however observes that it is no doubt the result of education that some of the larger landholders are buying English ploughs and joining the newly formed Agricultural Association, and the effect of their example will act on their poorer brethren. The agriculturists in Kánára are said to be stolid in regard to education. The Collector says that they have a mistaken belief that education unfits them for field life. This may be true of secondary education but it certainly does not apply to primary education which is all that the agriculturists need have. Much has been done recently to improve the curriculum and to make it more interesting, especially to the younger children. But there is still room for improvement in making it of more practical use to the children of agriculturists. A keen desire for education is said to be manifested by the backward classes in Kolába. Desire for education in Ratnágiri is wide. There are 4 High Schools and several secondary schools. The School of Industry at Ratnágiri continues to do good work and two smaller technical schools in the Dápoli Táluka have been opened.

(10) *Tagái*.—*Tagái* outstandings in Athni, Gokák and Parasgad are very large. The Collector's impression that *tagái* under the Land Improvement Loans Act was overdone in past years seems correct and it is feared that a good deal will have to be written off. But each case requires to be dealt with on its merits. Since April 1904, Rs. 7,25,000 were collected in Bijápur. This is satisfactory and was due to the high prices of cotton in the previous year. The Collector's detailed report about remissions is awaited. In Dhárwár there are large outstandings in Navalgund: postponements had again to be granted there this year owing to the bad season. Rather a large portion of the *tagái* allotment for the year for Dhárwár remained unutilised but the Collector rightly observes that this is a less evil than would have been had disbursements been made after insufficient inquiry. Mr. Gibb says that it should not be necessary to see that all the money of the grant has been applied for the object for which it was granted; but that it should be enough to see that every grant is followed by the work proposed. This is doubtless correct. Care should be exercised in not advancing more than is required for a work. Then it is only necessary to see that it is carried out without troubling about the amount spent. Cases of misappropriation of *tagái* loans were not many in Bijápur and Dhárwár and there was only one case in Belgaum. They were all adequately dealt with.

It is suggested that misapplications of *tagái* will be lessened if it is given at the proper season. There is no apparent reason why it should be given at any other time, provided that the allotments are made to the districts by the 1st April in each year. If applications are inquired into and registered as they come in, to be paid when the allotments are made, the advances can be made at the time which is appropriate according to the nature of the work. *Tagái* transactions in the coast districts are not many.

#### Extracts.

##### (a) *Labour and Wages.*

###### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. A. Cowan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Labour is scarce and wages are high for labour on the railway and on road work. In parts of the charge the wages for agricultural labour show a rise of 6 pies since the outbreak of plague. There is no increase in efficiency.

R. C. Artal, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The slight rise in wages has merely increased the cost of cultivation and has by no means resulted in an increase in efficiency.

###### BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

A considerable difficulty is felt in finding field labour due to (1) ravages of plague amongst the agricultural classes in these parts and (2) to the growing tendency on the part of labourers to lease lands from others and cultivate them themselves.

W. O. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

To account for wages being good it is not necessary to look further than to the deficiency of actual population due to plague.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

C. W. A. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The result of these constant visitations has undoubtedly been to lessen the number of coolies and to raise the rate of wages. In spite of the season, it was impossible to obtain coolies for Local Board works at a lower rate than four annas a day.

J. Monteath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

It is not impossible that the annual recurrence of plague, which shows no sign of decreasing, is in a manner beneficial to the labouring class; for there is no doubt I think that the supply of labour is showing signs of falling below the demand; apart from the mortality due to this cause, immigration into the division at harvesting times is probably checked by the fear of the disease.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Agricultural labour continued scarce everywhere. So was unskilled labour in rural parts. In towns the supply was sufficient. Wages continued high, but without any increase in efficiency.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Collector.

The rate of wages is perhaps a little higher in the case of field labourers than it used to be, on account of the diminution in the population, said to be due to increased mortality and scarcity, and the consequent difficulty in obtaining enough labourers at the right time.

No instance is traceable in which rise in wages was accompanied by an increase in efficiency. The cultivating tenant has to bear the whole burden.

A. M. MacMillan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

So far as I have ascertained, the only rise in efficiency is in the case of the Katkaris, who of recent years have taken to agricultural labour such as that of transplanting and private service.

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

J. H. Garrett, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The gradual rise in wages is not accompanied by a corresponding increase of efficiency. The effect is merely to increase the cost of cultivation.

(b) Migration.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

A. M. T. Jackson, Esq., Collector.

People from the affected parts of Athni, Gokák and Parasgad had emigrated, as in preceding years of famine, to places in the Dhárwár District and Mysore State, in search of employment.

R. C. Artal, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

There was some immigration into the Sampgaon Táluka from the affected parts of the Parasgad Táluka and Murgod Mahál from which parts people also emigrated to the Dhárwár District and elsewhere to earn their livelihood.

BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

People emigrated for harvesting to other places in much larger numbers than usual.

## DHARWAR DISTRICT.

C. W. A. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Another drawback to the general prosperity of the people here is the extremely bad supply of drinking water which prevails in nearly all the villages. Emigration from the Nargund Petha is, I think, as much due to this cause as to anything else. The year under report was, of course, an exceptionally bad one, so that perhaps it should not be taken as a criterion for all time. But two or three villages were practically deserted, only the village officers and a few rayats remaining. In some cases, the people had for a couple of months or more to go seven miles to fetch drinking water daily. Naturally under such circumstances they gradually shifted their quarters, if they were able to do so. The coolie population of the petha emigrates every year in large numbers for the rich harvest in the "mallad" tracts of the district so that their absence this year was not abnormal. But the departure of the rayats themselves was, I believe, exceptional.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Except into Hubli there is no immigration. There the population is increasing. Both skilled and unskilled labourers come to find employment from rural parts of the district and from outside. The cotton industry has brought many Gujars into Hubli. They seem to settle there for good.

## KANARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

Goa and Mysore labourers immigrate in large numbers to work in gardens and on forest exploitation works.

## KOLABA DISTRICT.

A. M. MacMillan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There is a regular yearly immigration and emigration in connection with certain industries.

Agris and Kunbis go to Bombay in the cultivators' off-season for work; Márwár and Gujar traders settle here for part of each year to carry on their business of trading or money-lending. Kharwis, Surat and Gujarát salt-makers who can make better and lighter salt than the local Agris come in the salt season, while grass cutters, Lamanis from Nagar with their bullocks for carrying wood, Beldars or stone workers and other artisans come from above the gháts in the fair season.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The annual six-monthly exodus of people from the Mángaon and Mahád Tálukas to Bombay for the purpose of obtaining a livelihood during the fair weather continued as usual, and the people remigrated to their homes on the approach of the cultivating season.

The other and the more enterprising sort of people of the sub-division who have gone out to South Africa in search of fortune are prospering and are gradually gathering some substance. Their number appears to have fallen since the recent restrictions on their immigration. By a rough calculation, however, about 673 persons from the sub-division were in South Africa during the year. With the exception of 8 persons all were Mussalmáns. They generally return with substantial means after a 4 or 5 years' sojourn in that country, and even otherwise annually remit large sums to their mother country. An approximate computation brings their remittances to Mahád and Mángaon alone, to about Rs. 1,05,000 during the year.

## RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

J. K. N. Kabraji, Esq., Collector.

The annual emigration to Bombay and other industrial centres took place as usual during the year. The emigration of Mahomedan traders from Dápoli

and Khed to South Africa has however been seriously checked by the Anti-Indian regulations of the British Colonies, and this is certain to affect the former's prosperity.

(c) *Education.*

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

G. A. Cowan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The poor families are unwilling to dispense with the services of boys old enough to drive cattle or do other useful work and there is also a marked reluctance to send children a short distance to schools in other villages even during the fair season.

BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The sight of half-empty schools, to which the district is used in times of scarcity or famine, was conspicuously absent this year.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector.

It is no doubt however the result of education that some of the larger landholders are buying English ploughs and joining the newly formed agricultural association and the effect of their example will, it is hoped, act on their poorer brethren.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Collector.

The Deputy Educational Inspector is of opinion that a keen desire for education is being manifested by the backward classes.

A. M. MacMillan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

On the other hand in many places low caste children attend school regularly. At Karnala in Panvel the Katkaris gave as a reason for wishing to retain their houses in a certain part of the gurcharan, that it was convenient to the village school which was attended by 11 of their children.

A. C. Koreishi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The presence of a few Katkari children in the more advanced standards in some schools was an interesting aspect in the working of the schools.

(d) *Contumacy.*

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

S. V. Mensinkai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The liberal orders of Government regarding suspensions and remissions have taught them to entertain false hopes whether deserving or not, and when hopes prove fruitless they find room for a grumble.

BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

The number of notices was about one-third of that in 1903-04. It affords I think a striking commentary on the uselessness of this measure as a test of coercion. No doubt the liberal suspensions and remissions given helped to keep the number down to some extent. But after all due allowance is made, it shows that in a year of scarcity the number was much lower than in a year of good crops and high prices. The only inference I can draw is that there is an unhealthy spirit of contumacy gaining ground which makes the work of collection difficult. And I have no hesitation in saying that the watandár village officers are largely responsible for it in this district. The Nadgowdas and Deshpándes and better class people generally withhold payment in the hope that something may turn up. The new suspension and remission rules will, I trust, mitigate this evil. But I think a freer use of the penalty clause under section 148, Land Revenue Code, is necessary.

## DHARWAR DISTRICT.

M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector.

I do not think the spirit is at all wide-spread. One or two villages were noted for it when the first Revision Settlement Reports were written (1874). The usual measures are taken for recovery. Section 143 has not been tried, or not to any appreciable extent, and I do not think that so far it has been necessary.

C. W. A. Turner, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Owing to the mistaken notion that by withholding payment of land revenue long enough they would secure remission or suspension, prosperous land-holders in some favoured tracts proved contumacious in paying their dues. This difficulty was overcome by explaining to such land-holders that a wholesale suspension or remission was not to be expected, and by adopting coercive measures in more obstinate cases.

J. Montcath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The usually prosperous condition of the division has caused cases of remission or suspension to be very rare: and the idea of withholding payment does not appear to be generally present to the minds of the agricultural population.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Some khots and well-to-do cultivators, chiefly of the Pandharpesha class, tried to postpone payments in the hope of obtaining remissions on account of damage by locusts.

**2. • Inspection.**

## NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, Esq., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The tours of the Collectors and their Assistants have been sufficiently comprehensive. All talukas of the districts were visited and the offices of the Mámlatdárs and Mabákaris inspected. The charges of the Kaira, Broach, Surat and Thána Districts changed hands during the year. In the report for the two latter districts as a consequence, the force that continuity of charge and personal knowledge gives to the administration of a district is less marked than it otherwise would have been. Surat District changed Collectors three times, in January, March and May, but the other three districts were pretty well in the same hands during the touring months; Mr. Orr, however, did not stay long enough to write the report of the Thána District. Mr. Shepherd has not stated how many rayats' receipt books were examined, but the Collectors of other districts tested a fair number, 2,787 in the aggregate. The Sub-divisional officers examined 13,262 receipt books and from a general point of view their routine inspection has been adequate. But in the Bassein sub-division, village inspection and the testing of rayats' receipt books were somewhat below the mark. There were several changes in the personnel of this sub-division during the year. Changes of officers were also frequent in the Viramgám Sub-division. Mr. Sathe held charge of it from 24th November 1904, and excepting the period from 1st January to 31st March during which Mr. Kissan administered the Gogo and Dhandhuka Talukas, he was in charge till the end of the year. All the reports with one exception, that of Mr. Varley, Assistant Collector in charge of Chorási Sub-division, are silent with regard to the progress made in the repair of boundary-marks. The inspection of boundary-marks was carried out in most of the districts, but the preparation of *annawari* statements in connection with the work of suspensions and remissions, and the more pressing claims on the attention of the district establishments, owing to a period of stress, must have greatly hindered ordinary inspection, and rendered the work of repair to boundary-marks almost impracticable. The District and Sub-Divisional Officers have all given the latest year up to which useless records were destroyed in the

usual tabular form. Mr. Clayton, Assistant Collector in Thána, has somewhat varied the form by classifying the records destroyed according to the number of years for which records of each class are to be retained.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, C. D.

In Ahmednagar the Collector's tour was interfered with partly by Mr. Carmichael's absence on special duty and partly by the change in personnel consequent on his departure on leave. In other districts the full or nearly the full prescribed period of 4 months was spent in camp; and Mr. Curtis's tour extended over nearly the whole of the travelling season. He visited 14 out of 17 talukas and 2 out of 4 maháls and examined the records and accounts of 13 out of these 16 offices. In Sholápur the Collector camped in all the 7 talukas of the district and examined all the Mámlatdárs' offices. In the remaining 4 districts the Collectors visited the great majority of the talukas and scrutinized the Mámlatdárs' or Mahálkaris' records and accounts.

The tour of some of the sub-divisional officers was interfered with by various causes, *viz.*, by forest demarcation work in the case of Mr. Shepherd, the preparation of revision settlement reports in the case of Mr. Crofton and Mr. Brander, ill-health in Mr. Plunkett's case, and frequent changes in personnel in respect of both the Assistant Collectors in the Ahmednagar District. The other officers would seem to have performed a satisfactory amount of travelling, but the information supplied as to the out-door work done is extremely meagre. Nothing whatever is said about crop or boundary-mark inspection in the report for any charge except that of Mr. Ghosal; while there is no mention in any of the reports of examination of birth and death registers, or of inspection of schools, Chief Constables' offices, police posts, liquor and opium shops, etc. It is also not clear whether the second examination of taluka offices was carried out in a great many cases. This is not obligatory, but is very useful as showing to what extent the errors and irregularities pointed out at the first inspection have been rectified. Probably the omissions referred to do not signify that these branches of work were generally neglected during the year. Complete information should however be given in respect of all in future reports.

The work of destroying useless records would seem to be nowhere up to date. The arrears in Khándesh are, however, reported to be slight. Elsewhere the arrears were more marked, especially in Násik and Ahmednagar. In the former district no records at all were destroyed in the office of the District Deputy Collector and that of the Mámlatdár of Málegaon; while it was partially in arrears in 5 other taluka offices. In Ahmednagar the whole of the work in the Nevása Taluka and part of that in 7 other talukas remained undone. Records accumulate so rapidly and the available accommodation is so limited that the regular and methodical destruction of useless papers is a matter of some practical importance.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

The usual routine inspection seems to have been done satisfactorily by Collectors and Sub-Divisional Officers.

In Bijápur Mr. Alcock did not make the second inspection of the Bijápur Taluka through oversight; and he states that he will remedy the defect soon. He also does not mention whether the Bilgi petha was examined. The number of receipt books examined by Mr. Gibb was small. Mr. Moghe, whose other inspection was ample, also disposed of no less than 2,237 heirship inquiry cases in 312 villages. Mr. Turner could not do the second inspection of the Mundargi petha owing to his sudden transfer. In Kárwár the second inspection of Yellápur and Mundgod and of Sirsi and Bhatkal was not done as both Messrs. Yennemadi and Haigh had special work. The amount of inspection done by these officers was sufficient under the circumstances. The amount of village

inspection done by the Collector of Kolába was small. The Nágothna Mahál was not inspected a second time. Mr. Kabraji did not visit the Guhágar petba. The Ratnágiri and Sangameshvar Tálukás were examined only once by the Sub-Divisional Officer, as Mr. Patankar was on locust duty from August to October, on audit duty in November and December, and was transferred in April after which the charge was held by the Huzur Deputy Collector and the District Deputy Collector. Under these circumstances the inspection done was sufficient. No second inspection of tálukás was done by Mr. Patwardhan as he had much special work in connection with the compensation to the Devgañ Khots, and recording officer's work; and the omission of some routine was inevitable. Endeavour should, however, always be made to carry out the second inspection which is important in order to see that the omissions discovered at the first inspection have been supplied, and need not take long. I think it is a question whether in view of the increase of work in all directions, the inspections should not be limited to two a year, the first either by the Commissioner, Collector or Sub-Divisional Officer and the second always by the Sub-Divisional Officer. The Commissioner at the beginning of his tour could give notice of the offices which he intended to inspect. The Collectors could then select which they would do of the remainder, and the Sub-Divisional Officers do the rest.

Mr. Bomanji's suggestion to supply the Kulkarni with printed receipt books in counterfoils and to require them to be used in addition to the receipts entered in the villagers' books will add to his already heavy work. The cultivator, who is careless of his receipt book, will not be more careful of the printed receipt.

Mr. Jackson has not stated whether he examined the Belgaum Huzur Account Office. All the others were examined by the Collectors. The work of destruction of useless records seems generally up to date; and steps have been taken to bring it up to date in cases where it is in arrears. Information as to the destruction of such records in the Sub-Divisional Offices of Belgaum and Dhárwár has not been given. Mr. Bhide reports that many of the village records in his charge were with the Kulkarni, and that orders were issued by the Collector to send them to the Táluka Record Room. The magisterial records of the District Deputy Collector in Kánara have not been destroyed since 1890. The District Magistrate will be asked to see that the work of destruction of these records is brought up to date as early as possible.

The records of the office of the Superintendent of Mátherán have neither been sorted nor indexed and he proposes to get the work done by special establishment.

### III.—Revenue Buildings and Record Rooms.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The greater number of the Mámladárs' and Maháلكaris' kacheris are held to meet the requirements of revenue work and to be in good order. The Assistant Collector in the Panch Maháls points out the necessity of increasing the accommodation in the Godhra Mámlatdár's kacheri so as to provide a separate room for the Extra Aval Kárkun, who is a 3rd Class Magistrate, and who, under present conditions, has to dispose of criminal work in the crowded main room of the kacheri. Similar rooms are required for the Extra Awal Kárkuns of Nadiád and A'nand. These additions will receive attention as funds are available. In the Surat District a new kacheri of the standard type is now under construction at Jalápor. The proposal to convert the political buildings at Mándvi into a kacheri has recently been vetoed by the Executive Engineer, as they will practically require re-building, and Government have recently authorized the preparation of plans and estimates for the construction on the standard plan of a Mámlatdár's kacheri at this station. The kacheri at Dholka in the Ahmedabad District is also said to be in bad condition and the Executive Engineer is of opinion that it should be pulled down and a new kacheri built on the same site. The other wants of the Division lie mainly in

the Thána District, but they are not very pressing and will be provided in due course.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Fair progress was made during the year in the provision of additional or improved accommodation for public offices in the various districts of the Division. The Subordinate Judges' Courts at Dhulia were converted into a kacheri for the Mámlatdár; and the record-room of Jalgaon was enlarged. Material was collected for the head-quarter buildings at Jalgaon, and it is believed that the works are under construction. The head-quarter offices at Násik, which had been commenced in 1903, were proceeded with during the year of report and are now approaching completion. In Ahmednagar a record-room for the Collector's office and two rooms for the office of the District Deputy Collector were provided. In Poona more space was secured for the Collector's English records by the transfer of his Stamp Office and vernacular establishment to the building vacated by the Bank of Bombay. New office buildings are reported as required for the Mámlatdárs of Khed, Amalner, Dindori, Bágán, Málegaon, Kopargaon, Sátára and Mádha, and for the Mahálkari of Paud. A grant of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for the Khed kacheri in the current year's Public Works Budget; and the rest of the works with the exception of those for Amalner and Kopargaon have been included in the list of Major Works submitted to Government in September last.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

Of the long list of requirements noted in the last report, the Táluka Kacheris at Bail-Hongal in Belgaum and Bádámi in Bijápur have been completed, and funds have been allotted for Mundgod Mahál Kacheri and Survey Record Office in Kánara and the Land Records Room at Alibág. An allotment of Rs. 1,200 was made by me out of my discretionary grant (P. W.) towards the construction of a Circle Inspector's room at Indi.

The following are works omitted from the Public Works Department Budget Estimates for 1905-1906, but on which, Government say that expenditure may be incurred during the year if funds become available:—

- (1) Navalgund Táluka Kacheri in Dhárwár,
- (2) Hirekerur Táluka Kacheri, Dhárwár,
- (3) Bilgi Mahál Kacheri in Bijápur,
- (4) Additions to the new Kacheri at Khed (Ratnágiri).

Most of the other works have been entered in the list of Major Works submitted to Government at the end of August last. Those that have not been so entered are either minor works or works for which definite proposals have not yet been received from Collectors.

The general want of minor works is in respect of (a) rooms for Circle Inspectors, (b) rooms for storage of attached and confiscated articles and (3) additions and alterations to record-rooms. The grant placed at the disposal of the Commissioner is utterly inadequate to meet even the most urgent of the minor works. I may note that this year I received proposals from the Revenue, Police, Forest, Judicial and Registration Departments, aggregating to no less than Rs. 84,000, whereas the grant at my disposal was only Rs. 9,000.

The requirements not mentioned last year are—

- (1) Increased accommodation in the táluka offices at Athni, Bágévádi, Hungund, Bágalkot, Bijápur, Indi and Muddebihál;
- (2) New Táluka Kacheris at Haliyál and Yellápur in Kánara;
- (3) New office for the District Deputy Collector, Kánara;
- (4) Residential quarters for the Mahálkari of Supa and his establishment;
- (5) New Táluka Kacheri at Panvel;
- (6) District Bungalow at Khandus.

## IV.—Revenue Establishments.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

The great majority of Mámlatdárs are well reported upon. It is gratifying to note that the district and táluka establishments acquitted themselves well during a trying period. Yet there are complaints from several districts that some establishments are numerically weak. The Collectors of Ahmedabad and Kaira say that work tends to increase. The complaints about the increase of work apparently spring from the cause mentioned last year, namely, special work, such as the preparation of the Record of Rights, tagái collection, etc.

The information given by the various officers to show how Talátis and Pátils were punished is not uniform in detail, and it is therefore difficult to form a clear conception as to the extent of the punishment meted out to this body of subordinates. But broadly speaking, the punishment meted out to this body of subordinates. But broadly speaking, the punishment lists in Surat and Broach Districts are heavy. In Surat out of 397 Talátis, 136 were fined, and in Chorási Sub-Division out of 126 Talátis 97 were mulcted in a sum of Rs. 95, out of which Rs. 49 were levied on account of work in connection with the Record of Rights alone. These Talátis are given to absenting themselves from their villages. The Collector of Broach states that 116 Talátis were fined in his district, but the amount of fine inflicted cannot be gathered from the reports. However, the bad work of the Talátis of this district has already been referred to and the long list of punishments is the result of the Collector's efforts to bring them to a sense of duty. If with strict supervision and the infliction of the ordinary punishments they show no signs of improvement the gradual introduction of more reliable men from other districts may be attempted. Fifteen Talátis and six Pátils were dismissed from service in the division.

The opening of survey classes for Village Accountants was impeded in most districts by the untoward nature of the season. The two classes, which were opened in Broach District, were attended by 39 candidates, of whom 36 passed the preliminary test. No mention is made of the efficiency of men who have already passed except in Ahmedabad District, where they are reported to be able to do simple measurement work.

The work of the Circle Inspectors is said to be fairly satisfactory in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, and Panch Maháls Districts. In the other districts their work is spoken of indifferently. However, their ordinary work was, in many instances, interfered with by the special measures to meet the stress of a bad season. The reports of the Surat District do not give much information as to the manner in which these officers have discharged their duties. The Collector of Kaira and Mr. Wiles, Assistant Collector, Panch Maháls, touch upon the inexperience of the present run of Circle Inspectors resulting from the cast of the existing rules, which necessitate frequent changes among them. There can be no doubt that the graduate Circle Inspectors too often regard the posts of Circle Inspectors merely as stepping stones to higher places and shirk the work or at best do it without zeal or interest.

### CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, C. D.

Three Mámlatdárs were reduced to Head Kárkúnships during the year, two for inefficiency and one for disobedience of repeated orders which led to frauds in the táluka treasury. The Mámlatdár of Karád in the Sátára District was suspended from office pending inquiry into charges of corruption made against him. He was subsequently criminally prosecuted and on conviction sentenced in the aggregate to simple imprisonment for 3 years, and to fines amounting to Rs. 2,050. The sentence in one of the cases has recently been confirmed by the High Court and the man has been dismissed from the service. On the general work of Mámlatdárs the reports are on the whole favourable.

The scheme for the grading of District Agricultural Inspectors with Mámlatdárs came into force during the year. The result will be a great

improvement in their prospects which cannot but add to their efficiency. The present Inspectors, with one exception, are well spoken of. Their most important duties at present, namely, those connected with the Record of Rights and the training of Kulkarnis, would seem to have been performed satisfactorily on the whole.

Opinions differ on the work of Circle Inspectors, but more than one officer alludes to the difficulty of getting good work out of men who look upon their tenure of a Circle Inspectorship merely as a stepping stone to a higher post.

The recent orders making the pay of revenue establishments personal is expected to have the effect of improving general efficiency by obviating the necessity for constant transfers. Mr. Curtis notices a marked improvement in the attainments of kárkuns, which in his opinion has made the establishments far stronger than they were some years ago. Mr. Moore, on the other hand, states that the modern kárkun looks down upon routine work and longs impatiently to be a Mámílatdár and Magistrate. Frauds in connection with income-tax collections, which had been carried on for over 12 years, were discovered in the office of the Huzúr Deputy Collector, Ahmednagar. The amount embezzled so far as it could be ascertained was over Rs. 11,000. The subordinate implicated was convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for an accumulated term of 8 years and to a fine of Rs. 2,000; but on appeal the period of imprisonment was reduced to 6 years. Several cases of embezzlement were also brought to light in the Sátára District; and of the prosecutions instituted, one resulted in an Aval Kárkun being sentenced to 2 years' imprisonment with fine.

The statistics of punishment in the reports give an average of 5·5 per cent. of Pátíls and 20·3 per cent. of Kulkarnis fined, suspended or dismissed during the year. As regards individual districts the percentages were highest in Sholápur (9 and 26 and lowest in Sátára 4 and 12). The Kulkarni from his position is necessarily more liable to disciplinary penalties than the Pátíl, but the figures for some of the districts seem to suggest more frequent resort to punishments than is perhaps desirable or necessary. The subject of the Kulkarni's inefficiency has now been discussed threadbare. Until the proposal for his improvement take some definite shape, his limitations must be recognised. Under the watandári system the average Kulkarni is really not fit for anything more than the collection of revenue and the keeping of account; and lapses of duty beyond this require to be treated with considerable measure of indulgence. Classes for the training of Kulkarnis in survey were held in all districts of the division; and of the 932 Kulkarnis who attended them, 431 passed the final test. Special measures were adopted in the Khándesh District for the regular exaction of measurement work from the trained Kulkarnis; and this plan must be generally followed if what is learnt in the classes is not to be forgotten. Apart, however, from the question of the mapping of sub-occupancies, which is a question under consideration, it is very doubtful if it is worthwhile training Kulkarnis in survey at all. As remarked above the ordinary watandár Kulkarni or his deputy may be expected to do his ordinary account and clerical duties, but not much more than can be expected of him.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

Mr. Panse says that his Sub-Divisional Officers are the hardest worked in the division and that he is moving for an additional Assistant Collector in Kánara. I do not agree with the Collector. They are much harder worked in Bijápur than any where else. The authorized number there is only two, which was not sufficient even in the days of plenty before 1896. Since then the work has increased enormously and a permanent establishment of three Sub-Divisional Officers is absolutely necessary.

The work of the Mámílatdárs and District Inspectors was on the whole satisfactory. One Mámílatdár was dismissed for corruption.

The special Head Kárkuns recently appointed have afforded some relief; but the general complaint is that the táluka clerical establishments fixed about

40 years ago are quite inadequate to cope with the additional work entailed in connection with special subjects, such as tagái accounts, Record of Rights, Civil Courts' Decrees, &c. But Mr. Moghe's remarks about the way in which vernacular correspondences in Táluka Offices are protracted without any attempt being made to dispose of them are pertinent.

The work of the Circle Inspectors is also spoken of to be generally good, and the Sub-Divisional Officers have generally supervised it personally. Mr. Panse observes that Circle Inspectors would be more useful if they had a knowledge of practical agriculture. Mr. Haigh is by no means alone in his opinion that the work of the Circle Inspectors suffers because most of them look upon their position merely as a step to further promotion, while those who take interest are liable to transfer on deputation. It is the general complaint of Collectors and is a consequence of the new rules. It can be partly remedied by frequent use of the directions given in Government Resolution No. 5809 of 18th July 1905.

As to the Village Accountants the Collector of Belgaum remarks that though there are some worthy exceptions their character is not high. Frauds on the rayat and Government are common and the amount of litigation that owes its origin to their pernicious activity is large. The work in connection with the Record of Rights is said to have fallen heavily on Circle Inspectors owing to ignorance of most Kulkarnis. Mr. Bomanji remarks that the hereditary Kulkarni is unequal to the work now expected of him because of inferior education, and inadequate remuneration. Mr. Monteath in Dhárwár speaks highly of the way in which the Village Officers did the Record of Rights work, though he admits that mapping could not be done by them. Mr. Chuckerbutty has also a good opinion of the efficiency of the Talátis. He has generally found that when excuses for arrears of village work are made by putting the blame on to the Talátis it is some kárkun in the Mámlatdár's office who is really to blame. Mr. Kabraji states that there is a growing tendency in Ratnágiri against the powers of trial and punishment in petty cases which the Police Pátis possess. The reason has not been given. It is a matter for regret that the serious punishment of dismissal was necessary in 14 cases in Belgaum against 5 in the last year. Fines have also increased in this district from 149 to 251. The dismissals in Kánara have risen from 2 to 8. Mr. Panse's statement that Mr. Yennemadi was rather mild with the Village Officers does not appear to be borne out by the figures of punishments for his division. The punishments inflicted in Bágevádi were very numerous. Mr. Moghe seems to doubt whether section 55 of the Watan Act authorizes Kulkarnis to absent themselves, leaving a substitute without previous permission or notice. But the section allows them to do this at their own risk. The survey work of the Village Accountants trained in survey is said to be up to the usual standard in Belgaum. The Collector of Bijápúr complains that Kulkarnis take little interest in the work as it entails out-door work. Mr. Panse says that it is yet too early to speak of their efficiency. Mr. Chuckerbutty observes that this training has tended to the detection of encroachments on Government lands and to improvement of measurement work in general.

## V. Special Matters.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

(1) *Record of Rights*.—The progress of the Record of Rights which proceeded actively last year was affected by the general paralysis, consequent upon an irregular and scanty monsoon, and no fresh work was undertaken during the year. But the work which was started in 1903-1904 has practically been completed, and the record has been promulgated in the following tálukas, namely, the Prántij and Dholka Tálukas and Modása Mahál of the Ahmedabad District, the Mehmedabad and Kapadvanj Tálukas of the Kaira District, the Kálol Táluka of the Panch Maháls District, the Broach and Vágra Tálukas of the Broach

District, the Chorási, Bárdoli and Bulsár Tálukas of the Surat District and the Sálsette and Sháhápúr Tálukás of the Thána District. The Record for the Dhandhuka Táluka and Gogha Mahál of the Ahmedabad District has not been announced, as portions are still incomplete, while the Record for Váda Táluka of the Thána District, which was completed late last year, will be announced early in the ensuing fair season. In Mehmedabad and Kapadvanj Tálukás the people are reported to have taken no interest in the promulgation of the scheme and the same apathetic spirit was noticed in Chorási. Mr. Husband, the Assistant Collector in charge of the former two tálukás, ascribes the indifference to the long period which has unfortunately elapsed between the completion of the record and its announcement. But it is nevertheless open to doubt whether the centres from which the record was read were sufficiently numerous, for people of the cultivating class, who are noted for their apathy in all new schemes which have been set a foot for their advancement, should not be expected to go long distances merely to hear the record promulgated. Mr. Tupper mentions that the record was declared at no less than 40 different centres in the Prántij Táluka and the Modása Mahál, and so far from a spirit of indifference the people welcomed the measure as one that would protect their title to land from the chicanery of the money-lender.

(2) *Act VI of 1901.*—The land held on the restricted tenure in the division at the beginning of the year was 128,156 acres. In the course of the year 49,271 acres were added, making a total of 237,429 acres at its close. The tenure is readily accepted by the poorer cultivators, but is disliked by better classes of cultivators as restricting their credit.

It probably does restrict credit, but it appears to answer its purpose of saving poor and ignorant cultivators from losing their land and becoming mere serfs of landlords.

There are no signs that money-lenders are taking advantage of the tenure to get the produce of land on easy terms from Government. There are signs that occasionally the ordinary tenure is converted to restricted tenure by debtors to save the land from creditors. Such cases are rare and the creditors are persons well able to look after their own interests, and it is easy to see that no abuse takes place. To sum up, therefore, the object of the Act, namely, the protection of the interests of the depressed classes against the Sávkár, is to all appearances gaining ground in the Northern Districts. But in Thána the economic conditions are peculiar, and the force of the Act has been in the main counteracted by stronger influences. The bulk of the land has already passed from the agriculturist to the capitalist, and the Collector reports that there is little change in the rate at which the latter is ousting the original owner from his patrimony.

(3) *Remittance by Money Order.*—The practice of remitting land revenue by money order does not obtain very largely in any district. In Thána District Rs. 4,640 were received through this medium. But in the other districts the amount remitted is inappreciable and the system is not gaining in popularity with revenue payers.

(4) *Special Assignments.*—There were no special assignments of land except in Kaira and Thána Districts. In all about 10 acres were so assigned chiefly for dharamshalas and schools.

(5) *Land Acquisition.*—According to the district reports the Land Acquisition Act was apparently brought into operation in 28 cases in the Kaira, Surat and Thána Districts. In Kaira 12 acres and 6 gunthás were in three cases compulsorily acquired for a quarry, a staging bungalow, and for railway purposes. Sixteen acres and twenty-seven gunthás were also privately acquired for the Public Works Department for a quarry. The quantity of land acquired in other districts has not been given, nor have even the more important cases in Thána been described.

(6) *Introduction of Special Acts.*—The introduction of certain provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has been cursorily referred to by the Collectors of Kaira and Panch Maháls, but these provisions have not been in

force long enough to justify an opinion. There is no other matter of interest under this head, except the alleged unsuitability of the Bhagdari tenure in the present state of revenue arrears in the Broach District. Both Mr. Bagnell, the Collector, and Mr. Rothfeld, Assistant Collector, impugn the suitability of the tenure and believe it to be the source of much trouble in revenue collection, for individual sharers in a Bhag, more often than not, entirely repudiate the joint liability imposed by the conditions of the system, and successfully withstand attempts of Revenue officers to recover revenue or arrears from one or other of the sharers. The Collector has already applied for dissolution of the tenure in several villages.

(7) *The Regulation and Assessment of Building Sites.*—None of the Collectors have discussed this subject. The Collector of Broach has touched upon it but has scarcely anything to record.

(8) *The Inspection and Working of Co-operative Credit Societies.*—Rural banks have been initiated at Bakrol-Visalpur in Sánand Táluka of the Ahmedabad District, at Kaira and Uttarsanda (Nadiád Táluka) of the Kaira District, and at Abrama in the Jalálpor Táluka of the Surat District. Neither in Ahmedabad nor Surat Districts can they be favourably reported upon, while in Kaira District the experiments are in their infancy. Desultory attempts have been made to establish them in other localities—Bulsár, Párdi, etc. In July last the object of the Co-operative Credit Societies Act was explained to the Mukhis and Matardas of large representative villages of the Daskroi Táluka, such as Naroda, Ashlali and Kanbha. But these leading men regarded the scheme with distrust. The scheme cannot have a fair trial until after a series of good years, and it may then help to maintain agricultural credit if famine should recur.

(9) *Operations of the Agricultural Department.*—The endeavours to interest agriculturists in modern methods of agriculture have not been attended with much success among the mass of cultivators. The Kunbis of the Charotar who have always taken a keen interest in agriculture are, however, inclined to look into modern improvements in cultivation. Mr. Scotson speaks of their readiness to enter into discussions on agricultural questions and he also draws attention to the evident impression left on the minds of the Patels, who visited the agricultural Branch of the Bombay Exhibition. A noteworthy result of the visit is the action of the Patel of Pálej in collecting the leading cultivators on his return, and describing to them his observations and impressions at the Exhibition. The success of deep boring at Nadiád and Alina has also aroused the attention of the cultivators, several of whom have applied for the use of boring apparatus to experiment at their own cost on their lands. I look to the cattle breeding farm at Chharodi and the experimental agricultural farm at Nadiád as institutions which may do great good. The patidars will undoubtedly be glad to avail themselves of the use of good breeding bulls, and if they see an agricultural experiment successful they will adopt it. Mr. Westropff has alluded to the number of Patels who were sent from Surat to the Exhibition at Bombay, but he does not mention whether they were struck with what they had seen or whether they were eager on their return to impart their experiences to their fellow cultivators.

(10) *Veterinary Department.*—Only Mr. Hatch has referred to the working of this Department. He reports that it is popular in Kaira District. There were outbreaks of cattle disease in Kaira, Broach and Thána Districts, but, it is not stated that the veterinary officers took an active part in checking them. However the outbreaks were of short duration.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, C. D.

During the year the Record of Rights was completed in one táluka in Sholápur where more work was prevented by the introduction of the revision settlement in the greater part of the district, and in 5 tálukás in Khándesh. In Poona, the Record for the Khed and Sirur Tálukás, compiled in the preceding year, was gone over again owing to the unsatisfactory nature of the work previously done. As regards the other districts the preparation of the Record was in progress in 6

tálukás in Sátára and 3 each in Násik and Ahmednagar. Additional establishments were employed in every district except Khándesh; and the necessity for it has since been felt in that district also. The Superintendent of Land Records and Registration gives no opinion in his report as to the character of the work done in the different districts. Apparently, he is not in a position to do so, as he did not test it at all in Khándesh and Poona and only in 30 villages altogether in the remaining 4 districts of the Division. Judging, however, from such remarks as the Collectors make, the work was on the whole satisfactory. As regards the attitude of the people, Mr. Moore, the only Collector who remarks on the point, states that the Record "is slowly but steadily gaining favour with the people." On the other hand, Mr. Plunkett, his District Deputy Collector, states that except perhaps the money-lenders the attitude of the people was one of indifference.

The initial Record has now been prepared in 1 táluka of Poona, 3 of Sholápur, 6 of Ahmednagar, 5 of Násik, 3 of Sátára and 9 of Khándesh; and finally declared in 2 tálukas of Sholápur, 3 of Ahmednagar, 3 of Násik and 9 of Khándesh. The mapping of sub-occupancies has practically been attempted only in one district, Khándesh, and has not actually been completed yet in any táluka of that District.

(2) There was no remittance of land revenue by means of postal money orders either in Khándesh or Sátára. In the remaining 4 districts a total sum of Rs. 4,636 was remitted in this manner.

(3) There were no assignments of land or land revenue to individuals during the year; and no grants for public purposes of any importance.

(4) Lands for various minor purposes were taken up in most districts of the Division, but the only cases of importance in which proceedings under the Act were adopted were those of the lands required for the new head-quarter offices at Jalgaon, for the Poona-Paud-Kalwan road and for the Poona Head-Quarter Police Lines.

(5) Parts of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act were first introduced into the Khándesh District in 1902-1903 and last year Mr. Curtis was not optimistic as to the results. With further experience of the working of the Act, he is now able to state that in his opinion it "has done good on the whole." The District Judge appears to have commented on the depreciation of the landholder's credit under the operation of the Act. But this is a result which is not confined to Khándesh; and is not an unmixed evil. As regards the other districts no special remarks under this head seem called for. Since the close of the year section 15 (c) of the Act has been extended to the Khándesh and Násik Districts; and this will enable the Courts to make decrees in mortgage suits payable in instalments.

(6) No information is given about the Grain Credit Society established in Ahmednagar and of the Agricultural Association started in Sátára in 1903-04; and it is not known whether they exist and have developed to any extent. Reference is, however, made in Mr. Bolus's report to the famine grain store inaugurated in the same year in a village of the Sirur Táluka of the Poona District. Its operations would still seem to be conducted on a very modest scale. At the beginning of the sowing season the stock amounted to 20 maunds of grain, which was lent out on interest at 50 per cent. The grain was duly returned within the stipulated time; and with the addition of fresh contributions the granary at the time of report contained 42 maunds of grain. The scheme is an interesting one. Mr. Bolus asks for sanction to the extension of the scheme to other villages, but this is not a matter in which official orders are needed.

(7) Broach cotton seed was distributed experimentally in Khándesh and in parts of Násik. The result of the trial in the former district has been reported and is not encouraging it being stated that the seed is not suited to the climate. The efforts being made in the recently established model farm at Dhulia for the improvement of the indigenous seed are likely to prove more useful. An enterprising land-holder in the Násik Táluka is to be supplied at his request with seed of several varieties of cotton for trial on his own account.

The Mámlatdár of Jámkhed in the Ahmednagar District, in which cotton sowing is said to be increasing, has arranged to supply the cultivators with seed from the Surat farm. The results in all cases should be described in future reports.

(8) A new Veterinary Dispensary was opened during the year at Nandurbár. This, as well as the two existing dispensaries in Násik are said to have done well. There is one main and one branch dispensary in Poona, but no reference to them is made in the Collector's report.

(9) In the Sátára District owing to the general absence of cultivable waste land little or no use is said to have been made of Act VI of 1901. The lands granted on the restricted tenure in Ahmednagar, Poona and Sholápur last year measured respectively 240, 197 and 522 acres. Of these 3 districts Sholápur is the only one in which any considerable area is held on the tenure; and the bulk of it is apparently confined to the Málsiras Táluka, in which the whole of the lapsed Deshmukhi watan of Akluj, measuring 7,000 acres, has been disposed of in this way. In Násik 10,104 acres and in Khándesh 147,022 acres of land were given out during the year; and the total area at the end of the year stood respectively at 20,508 and 177,500 acres. The extraordinary results last year in Khándesh were mainly due to the fact that on the introduction of the original survey into certain villages of Nandurbár and Navápur, the lands held by Bhils, Machis and others of the backward classes were granted to them on the inalienable tenure. But a considerable area of waste land was also acquired by other classes of agriculturists at open sales, at which high prices were realized. The exceptional progress made in this district since the passing of the Act is due not only to the existence of large areas of waste land, but also to the fact that the population generally are familiar with the tenure, which has been in force for over 30 years. Mr. Curtis again draws attention to the evasions of the tenure in cases of the older grants. He points out that the agreements of the grantees, which formed the only record of the conditions, are not generally forthcoming and that as a result the usurpations of the money-lender cannot be resisted. In the preparation of the Record of Rights, this matter should receive careful attention.

#### Extracts.

#### ACT VI OF 1901.

#### KHÁ'NDESH DISTRICT.

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

As to the question whether persons holding land on the restricted tenure can command less credit than those holding on the original tenure, there is no doubt that it must be answered in the affirmative. At the same time there is no fear of this placing any restriction on agricultural operations. Of course in this district the position is peculiar in that the tenure has been in force for thirty years and more; people therefore are thoroughly accustomed to it. A much more serious question arises as to whether it will be possible to secure that the conditions of the tenure are not evaded. Cases are constantly coming to light in which Bhils, who have been granted land under the tenure, have mortgaged or sold it to Sávkárs and in nine of such cases out of ten we generally find that the original kabuláyat, which is the only document embodying the conditions of the grant, is not forthcoming with the result of course that the land has to be left with the money-lender. In this connection it is to be noted that there is no reference to the new tenure in the instruction issued for the preparation of the Record of Rights and no hint that in case of land held under it the Record from column 9 onwards must necessarily be blank. I would respectfully submit that this is a matter which requires early and careful attention. In the case of lands given in this way the conditions of the grant should be clearly entered in the Record and the entries made in red ink so that officers who visit the village can see at once what lands have been given and whether the conditions have been observed. Otherwise the holders will be able to lease, sell or mortgage with impunity as they have done in this district in the past.

## SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

A. R. Bonus, Esq., Collector.

Paradoxical as it may appear, I believe that since the institution of the limited tenure in land, there is much more hope for a district like Sholapur, by reason of the very uncertainty of its seasons, than there is for tracts like the Konkan where the rainfall, and therefore the harvest, is practically assured.

It has been said before and I do not think it can be too often or too emphatically repeated, that the problem of every district in the country in its present agricultural stage of development is not the production of agricultural wealth but its distribution. There is always grain enough to go round; but the principle of the greatest good of the greatest number demands that those who devote their labour and their lives to the production of that grain should be assured of their equitable share of the harvest. This principle can never be realized so long as the cultivator, with no alternative occupation to take to, is the literal "bond" slave of the mortgagee who annually annexes three-fourths of the crop and leaves his debtor perhaps enough to live on but no more. Yet this system must and will endure unless and until the cultivator becomes invested with a right of occupancy which he cannot charge or alienate; and it is just these Deccan districts where the possibility of achieving this result is greatest. For the next fifty years, if necessary for the next century, I consider that the administration should undeviatingly pursue the policy of forfeiting at every opportunity, which a season of scarcity provides, the occupancies on which land revenue is in arrears and regranting them upon the limited tenure only, and only to *bona fide* cultivators. Revenue may be, will be, lost through abstention from the practice of selling such occupancies in realization of arrears; but the loss will be a trifling price to pay for the gradual creation of a class of small occupants, secure in their holdings and for a corresponding retardation of the growth of that landless labouring class already alluded to, which, despite our vast expenditure in combating famine and plague, the events of the past nine years, appear to have half ground out of existence.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION.

(1) *Record of Rights*.—The Record was completed and announced in three talukás in Belgaum. The progress of work was satisfactory. As the remuneration of the Village Accountants is small, and as an inducement to good work Mr. Cowan suggests that a *bonus* should be given to those Village Officers who have done the work well if their remuneration cannot be increased. Small sums have been placed to the credit of Collectors for rewards to village headmen and servants, but not for village accountants.

In Bijapur the Record was promulgated in Hungund Taluka. The Mámlatdár, who took special interest in the work, reports that the moral effect of the record has been the loss of harmony between creditor and debtor, khátedár and sub-sharer, and landlord and tenant. The relations between these have become strained owing to the attempts made to gain undue advantage in the inquiry. He also reports that the people were indifferent, which is scarcely consistent. Progress was also fair in the three talukás of Dhárwár where it was undertaken. Mapping was attempted in some places. Some of the Kulkarnis are reported to take one day to plot one number and none of the Sub-Divisional Officers is sanguine as to the possibility of doing the work efficiently. The Collector, therefore, fears that though mapping is undertaken, it will not be completed. I do not myself think that there is need for mapping. The attitude of the people in Kánara was favourable and information was willingly supplied. Rent-suits are said to have increased, because they offered an opportunity of manufacturing material for the Record. In Kánara there seems to be an idea that the object of the Record of Rights is to obtain information for the purpose of enhancing the Land Revenue. The work in Kolába was found by both the Sub-Divisional Officers to have been done with extraordinary care and to be wonderfully accurate so far as could be tested. It appears that

plotting was undertaken and well done. There was no objection from the rayats and they do not view it with suspicion. The Collector of Kolába says that the Record will at least have the effect of maintaining a higher standard of efficiency among Taláti and subordinate Revenue Officers. In Ratnágiri the people are said to have begun to feel the necessity of having their rights recorded and apathy is gradually disappearing.

(2) *Restricted tenure*.—In Belgaum 60 acres 4 gunthas were granted on this tenure against 38 acres 4 gunthas in the last year. In Bijápur the grant covered an area of 4,864 acres 23 gunthas. Most of these lands however are of an inferior quality and were given free to Chaparbands. The tenure is said to be not looked upon with favour for two causes :

(1) the credit is less, the position being analogous to that of a tenant ;

(2) the weakened credit comes in the way of agricultural operations and improvements, because there being no security the Sávkár does not lend money and Government does not grant tagái.

As to Government not granting tagái to holders of land on the restricted tenure, it may be noted that no case has yet been reported to the Commissioner. There is provision in the rules to grant tagái on personal security, and joint security may be taken where necessary. Mr. Bomanji says that the rayat has no inducement to improve the land because he feels that it is not his land. It is not his land to sell, but it is much more likely to remain in the family than under the ordinary survey tenancy. The total area granted up to date in Dhárwár is 690 acres. Mr. Gibb states that the Act is likely to remain inoperative in the plain talúkás. He doubts whether it would be advisable to make the change. Both the sávkár and the cultivator are Lingáyats, and moreover the well-to-do cultivator is also a money-lender. For these reasons, the danger of one class being ousted by another is less here than in other districts. In the west, however, the tenure would be suitable as the people are more backward and poorer. 1,821 acres have been granted in Kánara. There was one case of the evasion of the conditions and the grant was revoked. Mr. Panse received and refused applications from well-to-do land-holders for land on this tenure because it is meant for poorer cultivators. The total area granted in Kolába is 5 acres 12½ gunthas, while there has yet been no occasion in Ratnágiri to grant lands on this tenure. The system is not popular in Kolába.

(3) *Remittance of revenue by money-order*.—There is not much to add to the last year's remarks on this head. Land Revenue to the extent of Rs. 2,168, Rs. 5,164, and Rs. 2,500 was remitted in this way in the districts of Kánara, Kolába and Ratnágiri respectively. One Sub-Divisional Officer proposes remission of money-order commission, while another proposes a reduction with a view to encourage an extended use of this system. The Collector of Ratnágiri observes that the system is popular among payers of A'bkári revenue, Rs. 5,150 having been remitted in this way.

(4) *Special grants or assignments*.—Mr. Mac-Gregor assigned *betta* to garden villages. He also assigned *hakkal* to Kunbis in the remaining villages of the Supa Petha. Mr. Panse fears that the expectations of ameliorating the condition of these Maráthas have not been realized. The assignment has not been of any use in making them regular rice cultivators ; nor has there been any change in their health and there is no indication of improvement in their condition.

Mr. Yennemadi assigned lands from forests for *hakkal* cultivation to the Kunbi Maráthas of Bhatkal, 2,500 acres were assigned in 9 villages for 391 families on a five-year rotation. As observed by Mr. Panse, the prospects of these poor people will be improved, when the road connecting Bhatkal with the Mysore frontier is completed. Out of 170 villages requiring increased assignments of *betta* in Sirsi, the work has been finished in 109. Mr. Haigh in addition assigned *bettas* in all the villages of the Siddápur Táluka. The Yellápur Táluka was taken up by Mr. Yennemadi.

(5) *Land acquisition work*.—There was not much work in this connection in Belgaum, Bijapur, Kánara and Ratnágiri. In Dhárwár there is a good deal of work in connection with the Railway. In Kolába the work is at present

considerable owing to the acquisition of land for the Mátherán Railway at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,000 about.

(6) *The introduction or extension of any Act or Rules.*—The Court of Wards Act of 1905 has been recently introduced and certain sections of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act extended. Their working will come under notice next year. The Court of Wards Act is said to have created interest among those whose estates are incumbered in Bijápur and the Collector states that six applications have been received, and are under inquiry.

(7) *Building sites.*—The demand for building sites is not keen in Belgaum, Bijápur and Kálaba. In Kánara there are no village sites; and all buildings are considered as farm-houses. The new rules have not resulted in a change of conditions. In Dhárwár the Salsette Rules have been applied to Hubli, and standard rates for Dhárwár are under consideration. In Ratnágiri the new rules have not yet been made applicable to Khoti villages. But nowhere in this district will they have any practical effect for some time.

(8) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*—In Belgaum only one application from the residents of Gokák for an Urban Society was received and is under the consideration of the Registrar. Mr. Mensinkai hopes to establish Societies at Bágévádi and Ainapur, the people of which have promised contributions. Mr. Bomanji doubts whether there is much scope for these Societies in Bijápur, a district of famine. I think on the other hand that in such a district the necessity for these societies should be greater. Societies have been started in 8 villages in Dhárwár; and the Registrar is pleased with the likelihood of progress in some of them—Sirsi in Kánara has shown readiness to establish a society. The conditions in Kolába and Ratnágiri are not favourable as the Khots are also the money-lenders.

(9) *Effect of the operations of the Agricultural Department on the prosperity of agriculturists.*—The Collector of Belgaum says that cultivators have so far benefitted but little by the existence of the Department. The new farm to be established at Arbhavi (Gokák) will make known to them all the improvements that are within their means. A plentiful supply of cheap manure is a great need of agriculture in the District. The Department is helping to finance a private experiment in growing tree-cotton near Belgaum which promises well and may prove of great benefit to the country.

The agricultural classes are well up in the old traditional methods of cultivation, and will no doubt be willing to adopt and carry out any improvement that did not require any large outlay of capital, if it can be proved to them by ocular demonstration to be profitable.

Mr. Artal makes strong remarks on the uselessness of the Department and of the method of trying to improve cultivation by pamphlets. He says that the state of cultivation is good, but that want of means prevents the cultivator from taking full advantage of his land. I cannot agree with him.

The experimental farm in Dhárwár is doing good work and has sold many ploughs that it has imported. It is visited by many of the larger agriculturists which is a good sign. A large amount of selected cotton seed was distributed to selected cultivators in the season. In Kánara a *supari* garden has been purchased by the Department for experimenting on garden manures, but operations have not yet begun. Mr. Chuckerbutty is of opinion that the Agricultural Department is not of any practical use to agriculturists. They do not take any interest in improved methods of agriculture nor are they competent to do so. Mr. Chuckerbutty says that agricultural innovations can be introduced only by capitalists from Bombay; and hence the vast importance of the still unsolved problem of improved communications. The agriculturists, who visited the Exhibition in January last, were much impressed with what they saw and communicated their impressions to others. The establishment of private agricultural associations in Dhárwár and Kumta is a step in the right direction.

(10) *Effect of the operations of the Civil Veterinary Department on cattle.*—The Veterinary Dispensaries that now exist in the head-quarters of the Belgaum, Dhárwár, Kolába and Ratnágiri Districts and the Dispensary at

Chikodi do a great deal of good for the cattle of the villages round about. One disadvantage of these dispensarios is that when the cattle disease is reported at a distance, the disease has almost disappeared or spent its force by the time the Veterinary Graduate can reach there. This can be avoided only when there is a Dispensary at the head-quarters of every táluka. Mr. Panse proposes to open a cattle-breeding farm in Kánara. This seems unsuitable as the breed in the district is very poor.

## 6.—Assistance to Inámda'rs and other Superior Holders.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQUIRE, COMMISSIONER, NORTHERN DIVISION.

The Collectors of Broach and Surat have not stated the number of applications of Inámdárs for assistance during the year. From the statistics in the other reports, 643 suits were entertained, of which 13 in Nadiád Táluka were standing over from last year. In Kaira District 288 suits remain to be disposed of, as they were received during the closing month of the year. Nothing of particular interest arose in the disposal of the suits, and the sums recovered, though not stated (except in Kaira), were probably small in comparison with the large proportions assumed by such recoveries in the other divisions of the Presidency. The holders of commissions under section 88 of the Land Revenue Code have on the whole exercised their powers with due moderation and the relations between Inámdárs and their tenants seem satisfactory. The strained relations described by the Collector of Surat in last year's report between the tenants of a village in Chikhli Táluka and their Inámdár, must have improved, for the situation has not been referred to this year. On the contrary, the Collector reports that generally the Inámdárs secure their dues without much difficulty. He adds that four Inámdárs granted partial remissions and two complete suspensions of rent to their tenants on account of the prevailing scarcity. Two Inámdárs in Kaira District also granted remissions and suspensions to their tenants according to the scale granted in neighbouring Government villages. One instance is cited in Broach Táluka in which an Inámdár, holding a commission under section 88 of the Land Revenue Code, took precautions under section 141, and eventually recovered Rs. 747 as current revenue and arrears from a tenant. The District Deputy Collector in charge thinks this action rather inconsiderate, as tenants in the surrounding Government villages were being granted suspensions of revenue.

#### Extracts.

##### KAIRA DISTRICT.

B. R. Hebliker, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Inámdárs have creditably consented to suspensions and remissions on Government scales and so the trouble on account of collection of their arrears is almost *nil*.

##### PANCH MAHALS DISTRICT.

F. G. Pratt, Esq., Collector.

The Inámdárs collect their revenue from the tenants direct and as a rule experience no difficulty in the recovery of their dues, the tenants being usually ready and willing to pay when possible.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Inámdárs do not as a rule appear to have much difficulty in recovering their dues in the district. The people are simple and primitive and for the most part respond to the best of their ability to all reasonable demands.

##### BROACH DISTRICT.

H. W. J. Bagnell, Esq., Collector.

No Inámdárs have complained of laxity on the part of the Mámlatdárs to give them assistance for the recovery of their arrears.

G. G. Desai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

So far as I have seen the Inámdárs in this division have not much reason to complain of their tenants.

**SURAT DISTRICT.**

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

The Inámdárs with few exceptions seem to collect their rents without much difficulty.

A. W. Varley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

A decrease in the number of assistance cases is attributed to the exercise by the Inámdárs of personal influence in the recovery of the dues from their tenants.

**CENTRAL DIVISION.**

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DIVISION.

There are very few Inámdárs in Khándesh and Sholápur, and the question of the recoveries of their dues is not of any practical importance there. As regards the other districts the information supplied is not very complete. In Poona 124 assistance suits for the recovery of Rs. 82,928 were filed and assistance to the extent of Rs. 55,265 was decreed. The sums recovered were Rs. 11,904 on account of the year of report and Rs. 55,098 for previous years. In Násik a sum of Rs. 13,290 was decreed against Rs. 15,805, representing the total value of the suits filed. For Ahmednagar no particulars are given except for the District Deputy Collector's charge, in which recoveries to the amount of Rs. 45,619 were effected and remissions to the amount of Rs. 31,665 were granted. No statistics whatever are given for any part of the Sátára District. The question of Inámdárs' dues is acutest in Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára. Perhaps more complete information might be given another year, but I am not certain that complete information can be easily obtained except in regard to dues for recovery of which suits are filed.

Succession to 8 Inám villages in the Násik District was recognised during the year. Nazrána to the amount of Rs. 103-12-0 was recovered in the same district, while 79 acres of alienated land lapsed to Government. In Poona one-half of the Saranjám village of Nazra Supe, which had lapsed to Government, was regranted to the heir of the late Saranjámdár.

**Extracts.**

**KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.**

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

The collections of Inámdárs' dues were generally satisfactory and no accumulations of outstanding balances are reported. The relations between the Inámdárs and their tenants are no where strained and no complaints about the levy of illegal cesses or demands were received.

**NA'SIK DISTRICT.**

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

Another cause why heavy arrears appear in the accounts and confuse them is that the Dumáldárs are rarely willing to give any concessions on account of bad seasons. The arrears of course remain as they are, being irrecoverable, I am not prepared to attribute the accumulation of arrears to the laxity of the Mámldárs in this respect entirely, but would say that the Inámdárs are themselves to blame for not co-operating with the táluka officers, who have already much to do besides looking to the collection in the Dumala villages.

C. S. F. Crofton, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Looking to the liberality with which suspensions have this year been granted in Government villages, I do not think the Inámdárs have anything to complain of.

## AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

W. Greer, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The recovery of Inámdárs' dues however has not been quite satisfactory. This is no doubt partly due to the fact that the Inámdárs are very unwilling to grant remissions or suspensions even when there is no hope of getting the money. In some cases more energetic measures would have secured payment, and the Mámlatdárs seem to be inclined to avoid trouble in this respect.

## POONA DISTRICT.

L. C. Swifte, Esq., Collector.

The recovery of sums, regarding which assistance has been ordered to be given, has remained in arrears in all the tálukás for several years, owing principally to successive bad seasons. Some Inámdárs have granted remissions to a certain extent, but the tenants sometimes withhold payments and claim further remissions which Inámdárs are not prepared to grant. The tenants have often no moveable property liable to be attached and little help is received from the Inámdárs in the matter of pointing out their belongings; hence it is usually impossible to recover outstanding balances except by forfeiture and sale of lands.

E. J. Bolus, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The numerous Inámdárs of the Sub-Division can collect their revenue only with the utmost difficulty. Even when armed with a commission under section 88 of the Land Revenue Code, they find that the Village Officers seldom take such pains in getting in revenue for them as for the Sarkar. No doubt the Inámdárs themselves are often partially responsible for this state of affairs. Many of them reside at a distance from their jághirs and evince the minimum of interest in the welfare of the villagers. I have noticed that in consequence of this the Inámdár is often extremely unpopular with the rayats, who look with envy on their more fortunate neighbours living under the 'khálsa' regime.

## SATARA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

In the case of inám villages the Inámdárs rarely give remissions. Most of them do so only when they are hopeless of recovering the accumulated arrears of several seasons.

There are faults on the side both of the Inámdár and his tenant. The former is anxious to recover his dues to the full in bad years as well as in good, which the tenant feels to be an injustice when he sees his neighbour in a Government village getting remissions and suspensions. Often too the Inámdár takes advantage of the tenant being illiterate and tries to exact more than the amount to which he is entitled. The tenant sometimes encouraged by the Village Officers neglects to pay what is due, even when he is quite able to do so, until he is obliged by compulsory process. The result especially after a succession of bad years is an almost hopeless tangle. The position is satisfactory to neither party and it is very desirable that their relations should be put on a better footing.

## SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.

A. R. Bonus, Esq., Collector.

No complaint about the recovery of Inámdárs' dues has reached me.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION.

In Belgaum much of the revenue of the Inámdárs has remained uncollected owing to disputes among sharers, and successive bad years are partly responsible for the heavy arrears in Athni, Gokák and Parasgad. The arrears on account of previous years were Rs. 4,30,674 out of which only Rs. 22,757 were collected.

The current year's demand was Rs. 2,75,527 of which Rs. 1,82,233, *i.e.*, about 66 per cent. were collected. The figures showing the current year's arrears do not represent the real state of affairs as waste land is not so shown. Of the previous years' arrears the really irrecoverable ones have not yet been exactly ascertained with a view to write them off. Sub-Divisional Officers have been asked to make inquiries on the point. Direct collection from tenants was not reported during the year. Complaints about the negligence of Kulkarnis were received. This is particularly the case in Chandgad where the Kulkarnis are ready to resign and difficult to replace because the villages are poor and the remuneration small. In Bijápur the large arrears are said to be due to want of remissions in bad years partly to non-payment of rents by bháubands. A few Inámdárs have written off their bad debts. Arrears to the extent of Rs. 2,200 are under litigation. The unsatisfactory state of collections in the 21 unsurveyed inám villages in Hungund is due to rank-rent. The Inámdárs in Bádámi have agreed to grant remissions provided they receive the same concession from Government as to Judi. The point is under the consideration of the Collector. Direct collections were again noticed in Bágalkot. In Dhárwár there is no difficulty about collection of Inámdárs' revenue as in the Deccan. The rents are moderate. In Kolába the Inámdárs recover the revenue direct as there are no hereditary Village Officers. Feelings between Inámdárs and tenants are not embittered except in a few rare cases. Most of the inám villages in Ratnágiri are held on the Khoti tenure and so direct recovery is made. The revenue is recovered without much difficulty; and assistance is granted in a few cases only. Assistance cases are nowhere numerous in the division except in the Coast Districts. In Kánara they rose from 1,149 to 1,266. Owing to a tendency among people to furnish themselves with documentary evidence in respect of their rights in anticipation of the introduction of the Record of Rights. In Kolába they increased from 1,740 to 3,222 and this considerable increase should have been explained. The Collector will be asked to explain it. In Ratnágiri they increased from 500 to 728; the reason has not been explained. Twenty acres of inám land lapsed to Government in Bijápur owing to the death of the holder who had life interest only. One village in Rájápur Táluka having an assessment of Rs. 2,568 according to the mámul rates lapsed owing to the death of the last holder without male heirs. One Inámdár in Málvan renounced his rights over the villages as the whole lands measuring 2 acres 29¼ gunthas and assessed at Rs 3-10-0 were washed away by floods. There were 5 succession cases in Kolába.

#### Extracts.

##### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

A. M. T. Jackson, Esq., Collector.

Much of the Inámdárs' revenue remains uncollected owing to disputes among sharers, though successive years of scarcity or drought are also partly responsible for the heavy arrears in Athni, Gokák and Parasgad.

G. A. Cowan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Several Inámdárs have complained about the negligence of Kulkarnis in the past year.

R. C. Artal, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The progress in the collection of Inámdárs' dues in the Parasgad Táluka is not very satisfactory. This was mainly due to the scarcity prevailing in the táluka during the year under report.

##### BIJÁPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

In several cases there are large arrears which are mostly due to the Inámdárs not having granted any remissions on account of previous bad years and partly to the non-payment of the rents by their bháubands. These latter swell the arrears shown as due to the Inámdárs in the quarterly statements. At times the rent is raised without due consideration, and of the arrears in the

Bágalkot Táluka Rs. 2,200 are under litigation on this account. In the Hungund Taluka there are 21 inám villages, in none of which the survey settlement has been introduced. The unsatisfactory state of collections there is ascribed to rack-renting on the part of the Inámdárs. The Mámlátdar of Bádámi reports that three Inámdárs in this Táluka have agreed in writing to grant remissions of revenue to their ryots, provided they receive the same concession for the amount of judi due by them to Government and the matter will be inquired into. Some inám villages were also attached during the year for the amount of judi due to Government.

A. K. Cama, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There has been no friction to speak of during the year between the Inámdárs and their tenants or between the superior and inferior holders.

The Inámdárs' dues are generally realized without much trouble. Small sums were remitted in the past by some of them, *e. g.*, the Inámdárs of Talikote and Ganjihal, but several Inámdárs still have arrears due from their ryots. They have remitted next to nothing in the past years of scarcity and famine, and keep on their burden of arrears in the account books and the tenant sometime grumbles against it. Last year I found the Kotval (Táluka Indi) Inámdár solemnly keep a record of the arrears dating from the great famine of 1876-77. It is the realization of these arrears which makes the work of collection difficult for a kulkarni, especially in a year of scarcity, and which makes it difficult to see if the kulkarni is really remiss or not.

#### DHÁRWÁR DISTRICT.

M. C. Gibb, Esq., Collector.

I do not think Inámdárs have the same difficulty in recovering their rents here which they experience in the Deccan. The number of assistance suits is in all tálukas small.

Different officers seem to have different opinions as to whether Inámdárs' rents are high or not. In some villages of the west the kor tenure (half produce) obtains in wholly alienated villages as it does in the case of fields, Government or Inám, which are let. In Bebli, a black soil village close to Dhárwár, the rent is high, but Government land would sub-let there for a high amount. In some Inám villages, on the other hand, rents are very moderate.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Survey rates are not levied anywhere. Those levied are at special rates. These are pretty high. The Inámdár gets his assistance cases settled in the Civil Court. The tenant has no permanent interest in the land.

#### KOLÁBA DISTRICT.

A. W. G. Chuckerbutty, Esq., Collector.

Generally, Inámdárs recover their revenue without the intervention of talatis. The feelings of Inámdárs and their tenants are not embittered except in a few rare cases where tenants are a little dissatisfied owing to enhanced demands by Inámdárs, and the refusal to pass written receipts, and the claim to warkas land and the alleged treatment of Mirasdárs as tenants-at-will.

#### RATNÁGIRI DISTRICT.

J. K. N. Kabraji, Esq., Collector.

Most of the Inám villages in this district are held on the Khoti tenure and have no village officers.

The revenue is recovered without much difficulty and consequently assistance has to be granted for its recovery in but few cases.

## VII.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes, Transfers, Rents, Sub-letting; Relations between Landlords and Tenants.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

In Ahmedabad District the relations between the landowners and their tenantry remained friendly. The fact that rents in this district consist of a fixed proportion of the crop and not of cash must have materially aided in maintaining this spirit, for with a reduced and uncertain outturn both landlord and tenant are more readily able to judge their shares in kind. The Collector has noted that nothing important occurred in the way of transfers of land. He also points out the tendency of capital to flow into the mill industry. This is not surprising, for opening industries will naturally attract capital in preference to agricultural land, which has been so vastly handicapped lately by calamitous seasons. The seasonal conditions which prevailed in the Kaira and Panch Maháls Districts were similar to those in Ahmedabad. Out of the 7,983 acres of land which changed hands in Kaira District, it is unsatisfactory to find that no less than 3,995 acres passed from agriculturists to non-agriculturists. Such transfers are, as the Collector of Ahmedabad remarks, most common when the rayat grows helplessly into debt, and they clearly indicate the growing indebtedness of the agriculturist in Kaira District. There is a slight decline in the number of possessory suits from 438 last year to 401. The Collector of Panch Maháls states that the relations between landlord and tenant in his district are as a rule cordial. The landlord Náiks of Dohad and the Desairs of Godhra are, however, he states, unpopular on account of their alleged oppression. In Broach and Surat Districts the revenue-paying classes were after the monsoon threatened with the loss of their most valuable asset, namely, their cattle. These districts produce little grass and with the failure of the rains a fodder famine seemed imminent; and, if it was not for State aid and the advance of tagái to procure grass, they might have fallen into a position that it would have taken years to retrieve. The Collector of Broach reports that tenants are contumacious, and a fall in their number is also responsible for a downward tendency in rents. During the year 5,550 acres of land changed owners, but it is satisfactory to note that only 600 acres were sold to non-agriculturists. The relations between landlord and tenant in Surat District are good. In all 14,404 acres of land changed possession, out of which 2,544 acres were sold to non-agriculturists. The capitalist landlords are probably increasing in this district, but they experience difficulty in getting *halis* or labourers to cultivate their lands. In Thána District the condition of the land-owing classes continues much the same as last year. Land in the more accessible talukas is still passing to the landlord or *sávkár*.

On the whole the land revenue-paying population has passed through a harassing year and had to a considerable extent to depend on State aid in the shape of remissions and suspensions of revenue and tagái. But, they have not so far deteriorated as not to be able greatly to recover their position as a cultivating and revenue-paying body, should the ensuing year prove favourable.

#### Extracts.

##### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

The relations between the revenue and rent-paying classes and landlords and tenants were generally amicable. Rent suits were brought against 537 inferior holders as compared with 628 in 1903-1904.

There was no noticeable variation in the transfer of occupancy rights to capitalists. Such transfers take place in most districts of the Presidency in the usual course when the rayat gets hopelessly into debt. It will be possible to report more accurately on the fluctuations in such transfers when the Record-of-Rights is completed for the district and the Mutation Registers are in full working order.

## KAIRA DISTRICT.

G. W. Hatch, Esq., Collector.

Before the recent famine years rents were generally paid in cash and varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per acre, the assessment being paid by the tenants. But owing to the succession of bad years rents have decreased by 10 to 50 per cent. The rent-paying classes are Patidars (Kunbis or Kadvas), Dharalas and Mahomedans. They have not been able to pay in full owing to unfavourable seasons and have lost their credit. The result is that the cash rent system has been going out of vogue and the system of giving half the gross produce in kind has taken its place.

## PANCH MAHÁLS DISTRICT.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations between *sávkár* and client are so far as can be seen becoming more strained year by year.

Rents for the most part consist of interest on debt. In some parts of Kálol and in the better lands of the good villages of Kálol and Godhra real rents are beginning to emerge. Such rents vary roughly from one-third to half gross produce, according as the tenant or the landlord pays the assessment.

## BROACH DISTRICT.

H. W. J. Bagnell, Esq., Collector.

On account of the paucity of cultivators and labourers the downward tendency of rents has not been arrested in spite of the prosperous seasons of 1902-1903 and 1903-1904. The recovery of rents becomes unusually difficult in bad seasons; but the contumacy with which Government dues are withheld is also shown by agriculturists in their payments to the *sávkárs*.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations of landlord and tenant, conducted as they are on a merely commercial basis, remain satisfactory. Some landlords, however, find difficulty in collecting their rents in certain villages, and on account of the general contumacy of these villages rent suits do not effect much good.

## SURAT DISTRICT.

A. S. A. Westropp, Esq., Collector.

The relation between the tenants and the landlords was on the whole satisfactory. In the case of money-lending landlords the rent usually represents the interest of loans advanced and not the actual profits of lands, but the *Mámlatdárs* are generally alive to the necessity of scrutinizing such rents before assistance is granted.

The *Inámdárs* of Dindoli, Bhestan, Sonari and Vanz granted 4-anna remission to their tenants owing to the unfavourable season. The *Inámdárs* of Orma and Wadila gave complete suspension to their tenants and received a corresponding suspension of *Salámi* from Government.

Conditions of sub-letting and rents remain the same as the last year. In the *Párdi Táluka* the *Kaliparaj* are endeavouring to get better terms out of their landlords. They are supported by the *Anavlas*. The movement passed through rather an acute stage last year, but so far the *Kaliparaj* has not succeeded in getting much advantage.

## THA'NA DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

As reported last year the process of land passing into the hands of non-agriculturist *sávkár* landlords, Parsis, Brahmmins, Baniyas and Marwadis, from the actual cultivator of the soil continues. The Parsi landholders in Umbergaon and *Dábánu* and parts of *Máhim* take great interest in agriculture and some of them actually cultivate their own land. Many only supervise the agricultural

operations which are carried out mostly by the original owners who have now been reduced to the condition of permanent servants. *Bona fide* agriculturists, still holding their own, exist in Mokháda and parts of Váda; in other places they are few and scattered. Efforts are being made to prevent rayats from getting further into debt with the *sávkárs* by large advances of *tagái* and opening grain stores in almost all *tálukas* except Sálsette, Bassein, Kalyán and Máhim. The woodland scheme has been fully set going, and a considerable area of Government waste land has been given out on annual lease to hill tribes and other *bona fide* cultivators on easy terms. Moreover additional wild tribes' schools have been opened during the year for the education of backward classes. The grants of land under the woodland scheme have no doubt affected relations of landlords and tenants, as in a number of cases rent payers are converted into revenue-payers. In some places difficulty is being experienced by landlords in obtaining tenants. A friend of mine, who owns land near Kalyán, told me that he was practically in the hands of his tenants. Plague has carried off so many of the labouring classes that there is now a competition for tenants and in some places they can make their own terms. On the whole the relations between the *sávkár* landlords and their tenants are reported to have been satisfactory.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

THE HON'BLE MR. M. C. GIBB, COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL DIVISION.

The condition of the revenue-paying classes will be apparent from the remarks on the character of the season already made. To the great majority of them another bad season must undoubtedly have been a severe trial, but what with the previous years' stocks, State help in the shape of remissions and suspensions and earnings in other tracts where the harvest had been favourable, they came fairly out of their troubles.

The rent-paying classes are mostly the tenants of *Inámdárs*, and the occupants who having forfeited the interest in their lands to the money-lender are allowed to cultivate them as tenants-at-will. Where, as in parts of *Khándesh*, *Násik* and *Poona*, the rent paid is a proportion of the produce, the effects of the season were probably not very acutely felt. The system of rents in cash is, however, the one generally prevalent; and there has no doubt been an aggravation of liabilities which will probably lead to the harassment of the inferior holder. It is hoped that so far at least as the *Inámdárs*' tenants are concerned there will be careful discrimination between arrears due to seasons like the one under report and those to which the superior holders are legitimately entitled, and that the efforts of Government officers will be confined to the recovery of the latter.

#### Extracts.

##### KHÁNDESH DISTRICT.

G. S. Curtis, Esq., Collector.

The most common form of lease is that on the *Batai* principle; the landlord takes half the crop and pays half the assessment.

R. D. Bell, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Relations between landlords and tenants are generally friendly. Landlordism is nominally at least on the increase, but very many sale-deeds are really mortgage-deeds, the buyer making an oral promise before a *Panch* to restore the land when the purchase money is repaid. In these cases the rent paid is really interest for the money advanced. Where the tenant has been the original occupant and the landlord is his *sávkár*, disputes are much more frequent than where the tenant has no such relations with his landlord.

G. P. Thakar, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Since the famine there is an increasing tendency to pay in kind as rental a certain proportion of the produce, whatever it might be.

It is satisfactory to note that there is a decrease in the sales of land.

R. V. Dashputre, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In this division the relations between lords and tenants are satisfactory.

NASIK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Moore, Esq., Collector.

There is yet a considerable number of *bond fide* agriculturists who possess and own their lands but the process of land passing into the hands of non-agriculturist landlords is being facilitated by a series of bad years.

The relations between the landlords and their tenants are on the whole cordial in the majority of cases.

The conditions are exceptional in the western part of Dindori where owing to the unsettled character of the Koli cultivators and the large amount of waste land, possession of fields is not so highly valued. There at times a registered occupant will lease out his land on the sole condition that the cultivator pays the Government assessment.

POONA DISTRICT.

L. C. Swift, Esq., Collector.

The bulk of the landlords in the Poona District are absentees and merely regard their lands as a financial investment. The relations between landlord and tenant while absolutely peaceful are consequently not friendly and the tenants regards his landlord as an enemy and the payment of rent as a thing to be religiously avoided. Payments of the revenue due are as a rule deferred to the last moment even when assistance has been decreed and tenants make the most of seasons of scarcity as an impediment to the discharge of their obligations.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

Successive years of distress have reduced both the revenue and rent-paying classes to a bad condition. The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has safeguarded the interests of agriculturists to a certain extent but a custom has grown up among the money-lenders, with a view to evading the provisions of the Act, of advancing money only on a sale-deed of land (which would but for the Act be mortgaged) with an oral agreement to return the land on repayment of the loan. Interest accumulates and the agriculturist being unable to pay off the debt on account of a series of bad years, the land passes quietly outright into the hands the money-lender and the agriculturist generally becomes the tenant of the *sávkár* on land formerly his own.

A. Montgomerie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Of the revenue and rent-paying classes not much can be said. The figures of the *Jamabandi* and of the collections show that the former met their liabilities in a satisfactory manner in view of the poor harvest. The latter have acquired the habit of refusing to pay till assistance has been granted to the superior holders even in ordinary years, a habit which cannot be altered without some change in the present law.

SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

V. K. Namjoshi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

In the number of sale-deeds registered during the year under report, there has been a trifling increase, as compared with the number registered during the previous year. This, probably, is due to the character of the season. The relations between landlords and tenants naturally get strained in a bad season, the landlord wanting as much from his tenant as possible, and the tenant trying to reserve for himself and family as much as he can out of the short produce.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

In Belgaum the majority of the cultivators are Marathas and Lingayats. Land has passed in many cases into the hands of Brahmins, and registered occupants are really tenants. The numerous estates of Desais and Deshpandes and lands granted for charitable or religious purposes are mostly held by Brahmins

and same by Lingayats and Jains. The Collector of Bijápur writes that no sharp line between revenue and rent-paying classes can be drawn; a separate class solely dependent on landlords does not exist. Long term leases and sub-lettings are unknown; and rents are rarely in cash. The half produce system prevails, and relations between the landlord and the tenant are good. The Mulgeni Tenure, that is permanent tenancy, is peculiar to and common in Kánara. Relations between landlords and tenants are also good. Landholders in Kolaba generally consist of the higher classes. Those, in talukas near Bombay, reside outside the district and the lands are generally let for cultivation to Kunbis, Agris, Musalmans and Mahars. The rate of rent is about one-third to half of the normal outturn. Lands are passing from the hands of agriculturists to those of non-agriculturists. The relations between landlords and tenants are reported to be good. The District Deputy Collector quotes the Pen Mámlatdár's remarks that the position of tenants in bargaining is improving, because they become more and more willing to go to Bombay and obtain work. The cultivators in Ratnágiri are Kunbis, Marathas, Bhandaris, and Musalmans. The Brahmans are rarely cultivators, but only proprietors. The relations between khots and tenants are generally peaceful where the villages are held by original khots and where there are few sharers. Such villages are however few. Transfers, mortgages and sales are on the increase. These transferees, mortgagees and the vendees have very little sympathy with the tenants. The process of land passing to the hands of non-agriculturists continues. Sub-letting is rare.

#### Extracts.

##### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

A. M. T. Jackson, Esq., Collector.

The majority of the revenue and rent-paying classes in this district are Marathas and Lingayats, but in many parts the land has passed either by sale or mortgage into the hands of Brahmans and the registered occupants are really only tenants.

S. V. Mensinkai, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

Recent droughts and failure of crops have little strained the relations between the landlord and the tenant. The rental value of the lands has fallen to some extent and the landlord of course is unwilling to diminish the rent. The same causes are responsible for the default in payment of the tenant who tries to evade payment.

R. C. Artal, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The small number of rent suits is indicative on the whole of the sympathetic and friendly attitude of the landlords towards their tenants.

##### BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

It is not practicable to draw any sharp line between the revenue and rent-paying classes in this district and a separate class solely dependent on landlords does not exist. Persons holding land under the rayatwari tenure generally themselves cultivate their lands and sometimes take on lease lands from other khatedars if they can manage it.

Long term leases and sub-letting are unknown and rents are rarely in cash. The notoriously uncertain character of the rainfall in this district has taught the people that it is unsafe to accept land for any settled annual money rent and both landlord and tenant enter into a compromise by agreeing to go shares, which are generally equal, for the produce.

The relations between the landlord and tenant are usually good.

W. O. Alcock, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations between lessors and lessees appear to be very smooth; the former are not rapacious, the latter contented and reasonably honest in paying.

K. B. Bhide, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The relations between landlord and tenant appear to be generally peaceful.

J. Monteath, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations of landlords to tenants are fairly amicable and the rents levied not excessive. In Hangal and Kod the Mámílatdárs state, what is no doubt true, that the demands of the landlords are checked by the uncertainty of obtaining tenants at all : as it is, the amount of land that has fallen out of cultivation is considerable. The usual agreement between the ordinary small landlord and his tenant is for half the produce of the rented field. Where cash rent is paid, it amounts to four or sometimes five times the assessment in the case of good lands ; and to judge from the number of assistance cases and from personal inquiries, the rent is realized without difficulty and the tenants are not discontented. On the other hand, the condition of the tenants and the character of their cultivation might be improved if annual leases were not almost universal.

#### DHARWAR DISTRICT.

K. B. Moghe, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The relations between tenants and superior holders in Government villages continue peaceful. Except in the Mallad, rents are paid up without difficulty. Few rent suits are filed. Rents are higher in plains than in the Mallad, where they are going down, and the *Kor Pal* (half-produce rent) system prevails. Round about town the rents are higher.

#### KOLARA DISTRICT.

A. O. Koreishi, Esq., District Deputy Collector.

The relation between landlord and tenant so far is manifestly satisfactory.

#### RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

J. K. N. Kabraji, Esq., Collector.

In places where the khoti sharers are not many and the original khots hold their villages, the relations between the khots and their tenants are generally peaceful.

### VIII.—General Remarks.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

R. M. KENNEDY, ESQ., COMMISSIONER, N. D.

*Ahmedabad.*—The feature of the year is the heavy rainfall between the 22nd and 26th July 1905, which is within the year under report. The floods which followed did much damage not only in Ahmedabad City but in the rural tracts. The loss, chiefly caused by house property being washed away, is estimated to be about Rs. 6 lakhs in Ahmedabad City, and about Rs. 12½ lakhs in the whole district. It is difficult to estimate correctly as though mud huts, with a few cooking utensils and clothes have little intrinsic value, the loss means much to the owner. Fortunately the public have come forward very generously and have raised a Relief Fund, out of which the Collector has already distributed Rs. 36,000 in the City. Rs. 60,000 have been reserved for the district.

A scheme for the conservation of the forests at Modása is at present engaging attention.

*Kaira.*—Kaira also suffered from the floods of 22nd to 26th July. Some relief has been distributed in this district also. About 465 acres of waste land in three villages of Nadiád Tálúka have been leased out for babul plantations. Such leases are very desirable as the mills of Ahmedabad burn wood principally and auxiliary plantations of babul will, to a great extent, relieve the strain on

the forests of the Panch Maháls. Five sanads were also issued for the planting of 493 mango trees in Nadiád and Borsad.

*Panch Maháls.*—The immigration of residents from Gaikwari territory into Hálol Táluka still continues, and the area under cotton cultivation also tends to increase rapidly. Two applications for the erection of gins near Hálol town have been received. The fact that cotton needs less moisture, and can withstand irregular seasons better than the usual crops, combined with the extraordinary demand for this commodity last year, probably accounts for the extension of the area of its cultivation.

A license has been issued by the Collector to Messrs. E. B. Cory and Company of Bombay for prospecting manganese ore at Shivrajpur in Hálol Táluka. If the Company are able to exploit the tract the táluka must benefit greatly.

*Broach.*—Mr. Rothfeld, Assistant Collector, advocates large reclamation schemes on the west of the Jambusar and Vágira Tálukas. If they are possible, the Broach District must reap the advantage. But the practicability of the undertaking is a matter for expert opinion.

He also draws attention to the necessity of reducing the number of deer which damage the crops. Of course without natural enemies, there is a tendency for these animals to multiply rapidly, and some means are necessary to keep down their numbers.

*Surat.*—There is little out of the ordinary in this district that calls for remark.

*Thána.*—The woodland tenure is well spoken of as contributing to the well being of the backward classes. Flourishing young trees are reported to be springing up, as a consequence of the inculcation into the people of economical methods in cutting tahal. During the year the woodland settlement was brought to a close. Police bridle paths over the ghats are described as being in very good order and as very useful generally, as well as to the police. Agave fibre plantation and rice mills are started. Indigenous myrabolams, on which the poor Kolis of Mokháda depend for profit, are being supplanted by some substitute, alleged to be found in European dye works. On the other hand Thána teak has recently been taking the place of Malabar teak in house building. The possibility of a steamer service up the Kalyán creek has been broached to the Collector.

A great temperance movement, the outcome of the preaching of a High Priest from Dwarka, has also spread over several tálukas and also in Surat.

I must bring to notice the energy and interest with which all district officers have worked during a year of marked stress.

#### SURTHERN DIVISION.

W. W. DREW, Esq., COMMISSIONER, S. D.

(1) *Boundary Marks.*—The state of boundary marks is generally unsatisfactory and Mr. Bomanji has issued circular orders to set matters right. The defects are that the village officers write up the form at home or in the chavdi, that orders for repairs are not executed, and the steps taken in previous years have proved inadequate. The subject was discussed in Committee by the Commissioners, and Government orders on the joint report are awaited. There is also a complaint from some quarters that the boundary marks of Government and kadim Inám lands in alienated villages are not in good condition, and there seems no objection to apply to these lands the same rules as in Government villages. Mr. Bomanji observes that the proposal to give rewards to village officers, in whose villages boundary marks are in specially good condition, is one of questionable propriety. His attention will be drawn to Government Resolution No. 5922 of 21st July 1905, Revenue Department, in which Government have expressed their warm approval of the proposal to give rewards to village headmen and inferior village servants for good work done.

(2) *Restoration of alienated service Inam and Watan lands.*—It will be seen that a beginning has been made in the Belgaum District to carry out the orders given in the Government Resolution on the previous year's Administration Report. There ten estates are reported to have been restored to the original watan family. Many shetsanadi holdings are alienated in the Chikodi Táluka, and the Sub-Divisional Officer found the work so great that the matter was discussed in Committee, and the Collector is going to pass orders of which he will be asked to send a copy.

Mr. Bomanji writes that instances of alienations outside the watan are not so numerous as within it. He fears that the work will be very heavy and will take five years for each táluka. In Bádámi Táluka alone there were 161 cases in 97 villages. He proposes that an independent Sub-Divisional Officer should be appointed for the work, and that he should be given charge of one táluka only, *viz.*, that in which the special inquiry is going on. It is clear that the work cannot be done within a reasonable time by the ordinary establishment. The Collector of Dhárwár reports that action in this respect is taken on application. This does not seem to be in accordance with Government orders which require that inquiries should be made as the Record-of-Rights is proceeding. Mr. Artal proposes that all alienations, even prior to the passing of the Watan Act, should be revoked and the watan lands regranted. This should be separately dealt with.

(3) *Heirship Inquiries.*—There was reason to fear that this work was greatly in arrears and in June 1905, I issued circular instructions to Collectors. The subject is having Mr. Bomanji's special attention and the arrears of 4,870 cases at the beginning of the year have been reduced to 1,891. The arrears in Dhárwár must also have been great as Mr. Moghe reports that he disposed of more than 2,000 cases during his tour. The Collector of Kolába also reports that he has given strict oral instructions to the Mámlatdárs in this respect.

(4) *Regulation XII of 1827.*—The Collector of Belgaum reports that this regulation is useful in controlling Berads and bad characters generally. 23 persons were dealt with under it during the year. The regulation is used in Bijápur with respect to chapparbands, to 1,058 of whom notices have been issued up to date, of which 721 have been served. The District Magistrate is taking steps to wean them from criminal habits by assignment of lands and other means.

(5) *Wild Pig.*—Gun licenses for crop protection are granted in Belgaum, but the Collector reports that a solution of the pig question has not yet been reached. Two methods have been suggested, *viz.*, payment of rewards and organization of special military parties. The latter seems to me to be out of the question. Mr. Bomanji proposes that gangs of Waddars should be got to destroy them. Proposals for rewards have been submitted. When they are sanctioned the Waddars will turn their attention to the subject. Mr. Alcock suggests that prickly pear which gives cover to the pigs should be removed. This has always been considered desirable from a sanitary point of view, and the only obstacle is the expense. Local Boards should undertake it gradually according to their means, and where it is in large quantities, it should be included in the village works portion of the famine programme, as it already has to some extent.

(6) *Belgaum.*—Mr. Jackson states that sub-divisional charges were so arranged as to leave only one affected táluka in each charge. This would seem to be the best arrangement, if it had been kept to, but Mr. Artal appears to have two of the three affected tálukas—Gokák and Parasgad—and Mr. Cowan none. And there are four sub-divisional reports for only three divisions which was not necessary. There were many changes in personnel of the Sub-Divisional Officer in the sub-division comprising Belgaum and Khánápur tálukas, but it was unavoidable owing to changes in the officers, and Mr. Cowan not having First Class Magisterial powers until late in the year. The Sub-Divisional Officer in charge Athni and Chikodi tálukas complains that his Magisterial work is heavy, and this though Athni has a First Class Magistrate. The Sir Desai of Vantmuri disposes of some first class cases; and the Revenue

work of Chikodi-táluká is too heavy to give the Mámlatdár first class powers. He had 64 original cases and 181 nasabif reports. I do not see that there is anything to complain of in 5 cases a month, and one report every other day. The Collector suggests as a remedy to make Hukery into a táluka and give one more kárkuñ to the Sub-Divisional Officer, but I do not think this necessary. In Bijápur the tálukas constituting the sub-division were changed more than once, because Mr. Cama had to be in charge of the táluka for which he was preparing the settlement report for the time being. The three tálukas south of the Krishna should invariably constitute one charge. Mr. Artal's proposal to remit the remuneration of village officers by money-order was before Mr. Kennedy in 1902, but he recorded it as the proposal involved a change of system which he was not then prepared to advocate. It is a point which can be raised separately. Mr. Artal points out what he considers a flaw in the Watan Act that a Pátíl or Kulkarni, who is guilty of grave misconduct while in office, cannot be dismissed for it if it comes to light after the period of his service is over. It would seem that the insertion of some such words as "or to declare him incapable of holding office" should be added to section 58.

*Bijápur.*—The question of the impressment of carts has been submitted to Government and I have asked for additional allotments for the districts of Belgaum, Bijápur and Dhárwár to enable the Mámlatdárs to defray expenses for the carriage of their records.

The condition of sanitary committees in Bijápur is reported to be far from satisfactory; and what is wanted to make them successful is local men with go in them, as the Mámlatdárs cannot supervise the work of these committees carefully. I think this description applies equally to the committees in other districts also. Men with energy and influence and also with a belief in the advantages of sanitation are required. As regards the suspension and remission rules Mr. Alcock points out the difficulties in the matter of field to field inspection. The fault seems to have been that the classification was too minute and sufficient advantage was not taken of rule 3, where the area affected was homogeneous.

Messrs. Cama and Bomanji both remark on the question of collection of grazing fees. If Mr. Bomanji's suggestion to require payment on all cattle whether they graze or not is to be adopted, the rate of fee will have to be reduced.

*Dhárwár.*—As observed by the Collector and admitted by the District Deputy Collector who made the suggestion, there is provision in the rules to keep forfeited occupancies unsold till lands rise in value or an opportunity occurs to give them out on the restricted tenure, instead of selling them for nominal occupancy prices. The compulsory deduction on account of the so-called charity fund referred to by Mr. Moghe is no doubt small to the individual ryot, an anna and a half per bale of Rs. 60 to Rs. 80, but the total amount thus collected is reported at Rs. 25,000 which is fairly large sum; and which might with advantage be utilized in introducing the necessary agricultural reforms.

*Kánara.*—A herd of wild elephants entered the district from Mysore and did some damage. It fed itself on forest produce. A police party was organized to beat them off, but was unsuccessful. The lowering of duty on salt has increased its consumption proportionately. Mr. Panse states that the district wants a large number of licenses for protection of crops against wild animals. His suggestion, however, to issue licenses to principal ryots on the understanding that they should arrange among the villagers to patrol by turns does not seem feasible. Among the wants of the district Mr. Panse mentions a Railway or a Light Tramway which will increase its passenger traffic and will open up forest produce, which now rots where it grows, *e. g.*, bamboos.

The "tali checka" concession in Honáwar and Bhatkal was not fully utilized, as out of 2,400 trees marked, only 300 were taken up. The rules in this respect have been modified, and it is hoped that the concessions will be fully availed of from next year. All the Dhangar Gavlis but four have been turned out of the teak forests; and the removal of the rest is being hastened. Mr. Panse remarks with reference to auctions in execution of Civil Court decrees that better prices are obtained when the bidding begins at a low

figure than if it has to commence at a tolerably high reserve price. That this is so every one, who has had experience in holding auctions in this country, will agree. But I do not see why the reserve price need be publicly notified beforehand. It is sufficient to notify that the auction will be with or without reserve. Only the official who holds the auction need know the figure, and when the bidding has ceased, he will announce whether the reserve has been reached or not.

*Kolába.*—Grant of turbans to pátils was sanctioned in three tálukas for commendable service in the matter of protection of forests. A bridle path from Khandus to Ambivli was completed during the year. A road is said to be urgently required from Karjat to Khandus in the centre of the táluka and the District Local Board has since made a provision of Rs. 2,500 for this work. The want of communications and of a railway to open up the trade of Kolába has been noticed in the last year's report. There were heavy floods in Máhád for two days in April when over 11 inches of rain fell. The damage is estimated at Rs. 10,000. There was no loss of life. Stone quarrying is said to have increased owing to the restrictions in Thána and the subject has engaged the attention of the Collector. The Mátherán Light Railway under construction deserves notice.

*Ratnágiri.*—The khoti tenants, the Collector says, will have a bad time as 'cash rents' will be fixed under the new Act on previous *abhavanis* which will have to be accepted as correct. This is so, as the *abhavani patraks* are conclusive evidence of the facts recorded therein under the rules. The Collector has issued instructions to avoid this result and a copy of them has been asked for.

The Deogad Khots have taken full advantage of the new Act to have rents settled, and to have fixed rents raised upto the newly raised limit. Rs. 31,476 were paid as compensation for difference of past years and some more remains to be paid for newly settled villages. The difference of 25 per cent. between the survey assessment and the increased rent will continue to be paid to the khots by Government during the remaining 17 years of the current settlement. Refunds of revised and reduced assessments were also granted to the extent of Rs. 20,677. The Bhandaries in the district have the hereditary occupation as tappers and sellers of toddy and distillers. The consumption of liquor increased owing to the rewards paid for the destruction of locusts, and the Collector says that illicit distilling of kaju liquor is rife in Vengurla and Málwan. The best way to prevent that would be to allow of its sale at the licensed shops in addition to toddy spirit in these two tálukas.

The Collector says that it seems desirable to establish some more fish-curing yards, as the fishermen cannot carry on their trade when they are away from Government curing yards, owing to the prohibition of the use of salt earth, but my experience is that the department is not illiberal. The Collector complains of the want of facilities for travelling by sea and considers that communications by road should be improved at Government expense, arguing that the immunity of the district from famine deprives it of its fair share of expenditure on roads. But the district is not badly off for provincial roads. Only they require bridging.

The new provincial grant of Rs. 13,000 too will help the Board, and one of the Local Board roads is to become a provincial road from April 1st. Little progress has been made in road-making in recent years, owing to want of continuity in the policy of the Board. If they would lay down a programme and adhere to it, much more could be accomplished.

## B.—SIND.

### (1) Economic Condition and Prospects.

W. T. MORISON, Esq., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The season was on the whole an unfavourable one. Except for two or three days in June, the river did not reach the minimum irrigational level till

the first week of August: from the middle of August began a fall that, except for slight variations, continued uninterrupted up to the end of the season. The rainfall during the hot weather was everywhere insufficient, and almost entirely failed in the two considerable tracts—the Desert and the Kohistan—which entirely depend upon rain. The fall in January was both copious and seasonable, but it was followed by unprecedentedly severe frosts, which did the greatest damage to the rabi crops. Oil-seeds and leguminous crops suffered heavily. The wheat crops did not fare so badly generally, but in places the earlier wheat was much damaged. The fruit gardens and road-side trees of upper and central Sind were swept bare by the frost. The result of these conditions was a shrinkage of cultivation, less revenue and heavy remissions—the cropped area being 3,100,424 acres against 3,382,556 acres last year, the revenue demand showing a falling off of a little over 3 lakhs, and the remissions aggregating nearly 8 lakhs against about 3 lakhs in the previous year. Fodder also was scanty in many places, and more than one sub-division reports mortality among cattle for want of it. It was again found necessary to remit the entire demand in the Kohistan taluka of the Karachi district, and a similar concession will probably have to be made in the Desert talukas of the Thar and Parkar district.

Generally speaking, the canals did fairly well, considering the state of the inundation. Among important canals, the Western Nara must be singled out as having worked badly, owing to the silting up of its old mouth. The working of the Dad is also complained of, but, as remarked by the Commissioner in his review of the report of the Colonisation Officer, Jamrao canal (No. 3656, dated the 25th October 1905), all that can possibly be done at present is to carry out better clearance at the mouth. This will be taken in hand when the dredger ordered by the Indus River Commission arrives. Mr. Deshmukh bewails the delay that is taking place in carrying out the Ronwah scheme, but important projects of this kind have to be considered from various points of view, financial as well as technical, and delays are unavoidable. The Collector of Sukkur has again drawn attention to the irrigational requirements of his district. Schemes for the further development of the Mahiwah project and another for the Koraiwah, both in the Rohri sub-division, have been submitted to Government, and the Commissioner feels little doubt that the remaining projects will be taken in hand by the Public Works Department at the earliest opportunity. In view of the delay that is likely to occur in carrying out the project for re-modelling the Begari, the district canal conference presided over by the Collector of Sukkur has suggested the improvement of the Sind canal, independently of the Begari scheme. The suggestion is under consideration. The fact that it is found possible to cultivate large areas on a one-year's lease on the Sukkur canal favours Mr. Rieu's contention that the irrigational restrictions should be removed. As remarked by Mr. Chatfield in his report on the colonisation tract, these restrictions, in cases where water for extended cultivation is available, encourage over-watering. The general policy of restriction of cultivation requires attention, and where the restrictions are found to be unnecessary or harmful, they should be removed. The question of improvements of the canals in the Tatta sub-division of the Karachi district is under the consideration of Government, and it is hoped that something tangible will shortly be done. The reduction in the survey rates, the suspension of rule 4 of the fallow rules, and the wiping off of considerable arrears of assessment and takavi, all of which measures have already been carried out in this sub-division, will doubtless help the people a great deal in tiding over the effects of the past seasons; but a substantial improvement in their condition can only be effected when the canals are improved. Mr. Mules' remarks regarding the neglected condition of clearance and conservation in the Fuleli Canals district will be communicated to the Superintending Engineer, Indus Left Bank Division. A number of suggestions have been made by the sub-divisional officers for the improvement of the canals in their charges. These should be examined by the Collectors, and any that are practicable brought to the notice of the Public Works Department.

The prices of labour were in some districts slightly higher than, and in others the same as, last year. The rates given in the district officers' reports

are for non-agricultural labour. The agricultural labourer (*hari*) is seldom paid in cash. He usually receives his wages in kind in the shape of a share of the produce, and naturally had to bear his share of the loss occasioned by the bad inundation. There is, however, no reason to suppose that his condition was in any way one of distress: on the contrary, as remarked by Mr. Mules, his position is comparatively independent, and he is, at times, able to dictate his own terms. In a year of bad inundation, when the number of hands available for non-agricultural labour is usually larger than in a good year, a reduction of wages for such labour naturally follows. Rates still lower than they were in the year under report would not therefore have been surprising. The fact is there is scarcely ever a dearth of work for the labouring classes in Sind, and ordinary fluctuations in the season do not cause any material change in a labourer's wage.

There was an appreciable rise in the prices of food-grains, and although it is bound to have been felt by the poorer classes, their condition was on the whole satisfactory. The higher prices only partially compensated the zamindárs for the deficiency of the crops, because few of them have the prudence to look to market conditions and hold for a rise. Mr. Crerar's suggestion for issuing at the táluka office periodical intimations of prevailing prices in terms of *kharars* and *kasas* would, perhaps, do some good and might be tried first in the district of Lárkána. The Commissioner is glad to notice that, on the other hand, the zamindárs in the Jamráo tract and the Nara Valley are gradually dispensing with the aid of the middleman and dealing with the purchasing firms direct. Their prosperity, which must to a certain extent be attributed to this circumstance, though it is mainly due to the magnificent water-supply enjoyed by them, ought to stand out as an example to the rest of the landholding classes in the province. The Karáchi zamindárs are no doubt badly off, but their burdens have been considerably lessened of late, and, with the exercise of a reasonable degree of prudence, there is no reason why they should ever revert to the condition from which they have just emerged. With this exception, the material condition of the rural classes is on the whole satisfactory. It is gratifying to learn from Mr. Mackenzie that even the unfortunate natives of the Thar are taking a lesson in self-help from the vicissitudes of the past few years, and turn to good account their visits to the Nara Valley which the scarcity in their own country compels them to make almost every year.

Except in the Lárkána sub-division, very little use was made of the more severe forms of coercive processes for the recovery of land revenue: in that sub-division, penalties under section 148 were levied in a much larger number of cases than in the previous year. Inquiries made by the Commissioner in 1904 show that there is considerable unpunctuality, on the part of zamindárs well able to pay, in paying in the instalments of their revenue, and Mr. Morison thinks that sufficient use is not made of section 148 to check the bad habit. There is no doubt an impression abroad that punctual payment is not absolutely necessary and that delay sometimes secures postponement. In a poor year, it would be necessary to proceed with caution, but in a year of good inundation, such as the present, the deliberate withholding of payment should certainly be punished with the infliction of small penalties under section 148. The present dates of instalments were fixed after a careful study of the landholders' convenience, and give them ample time in which to dispose of their produce profitably to themselves. The large number of the forfeitures in Lárkána referred to by Mr. Sale (737) are only ordinary forfeitures under the operation of the fallow rules. There were heavy arrears of both land revenue and takavi in the Karáchi district at the beginning of the year. After careful inquiry, the greater portion of the former and a large amount of takavi arrears have been written off: in the case of zamindárs owing large sums, the land in respect of which the arrears were due is being forfeited and re-granted to the defaulters on the restricted tenure. The amount actually remitted in Karáchi was Rs. 1,04,838 land revenue and Rs. 1,36,986 takavi.

Agricultural credit remains the same. The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act is doubtless doing much good in restricting borrowing to reasonable limits, and there is no indication that the tightening by the money-lenders of their purse-strings has caused any serious inconvenience. It is a great point gained if, as Mr. Crerar observes, sumptuary expenditure has been checked. The Act

has no doubt caused some little tension between the Hindu money-lender and the Muhammadan cultivator, and the spirit of lawlessness in the Naushahro sub-division, which is referred to by Mr. Mules and Mr. Deshmukh, was possibly the result of an exaggerated idea entertained by some Muhammadan agriculturists of what Government is doing for the amelioration of their condition. But instances of this kind are rare; and the forcible removal of crops which occurred frequently in the first year or two of the working of the Act is seldom heard of now.

Altogether a sum of Rs. 5,40,967 was advanced as takavi against Rs. 5,66,690 in the preceding year. The decrease is partly due, as explained by Mr. Rieu, to the cultivators having retained stocks of grain from the plentiful harvests of the previous year and partly to a number of applications having been refused in the Karáchi and Upper Sind Frontier districts, owing to the applicants being defaulters. It was observed during the Commissioner's last tour that no adequate arrangements existed for the inspection of works and the submission of reports on them, and Mr. Muir Mackenzie had already issued a circular on the subject before Government Resolution No. 1037, dated the 15th March 1905, was published. Orders have now been issued for the adoption of the prescribed forms, and it is hoped that the systematic record of the disposal of applications and of inspections will effect the necessary check. Mr Mules' views regarding the difficulties experienced in recovering takavi do not coincide with those of the Collectors of Sukkur and Lárkána. The truth probably is that, while the large zamindárs repay their loans with scrupulous punctuality, many of the petty landholders who borrow are not ashamed to withhold repayment in the hope that Government will finally remit the amount. This dangerous impression should be combated in every possible way; and the Commissioner entirely agrees with Mr. Mules that takavi should rarely, if ever, be written off. The circumstances in which Mr. Morison recently wrote off arrears to the amount of Rs. 1,36,986 in the Karáchi district were quite exceptional.

Education is always one of the most difficult problems in Sind: how to overcome the natural apathy of the Muhammadan cultivator or zamindár so that he will give his children an education to fit them to hold their own in life against men of other communities. The district officers all seem to have, as usual, given much attention to the subject and to have devoted much time to the inspection of schools during the year, but material progress is very slow. The scheme for establishing boarding-houses or boarding-schools for zamindárs' sons in central towns is being proceeded with, but so far only the Lárkána madresseh is in going order. That madresseh has now been placed on a better basis than before, and although the lack of sustained interest in its management on the part of local zamindárs is to be regretted, the prospects of the institution, with the aid and guidance of the local officers, is unquestionably good. The boarding-house at Jacobabad remained empty during the year, owing to the withdrawal of the English standards from the curriculum of the municipal school; but English teaching has now been re-introduced, and the Deputy Commissioner hopes soon to have the boarding-house full. The building for the boarding-school at Pithoro (Thar and Párkar) has been completed, and Mr. Mackenzie hopes to be able to open it shortly. In the Hyderabad district, arrangements are being made to open boarding-houses attached to the Local Board schools at Naushahro Feroz and Tando Muhammad Khan. In Sukkur, nothing seems to have been done so far.

It is encouraging to note that a number of new primary schools were opened during the year in response to applications from the people themselves.

The rural standards still excite much opposition. The Muhammadan Education Committee, presided over by the Hon'ble Sardar Muhammad Yakub, have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction with them as they now exist, and have advocated the re-introduction of the ordinary standards. There appear to be some grounds for believing that the rural standards were introduced somewhat too indiscriminately at first. Instead of being confined to small villages, they were contrary to the intentions of the originators of the scheme, substituted for the ordinary standards in flourishing schools in big villages and towns. The mistake is in course of rectification. The Educational

Inspector is also revising the rural standards, and has invited the Táluka Boards to consider in which schools superior standards should be introduced in addition to the present rural standards. The ultimate success of the scheme seems to be very doubtful, but it will be advisable to persevere with it for a year or two more.

The two central institutions at Karáchi—the Dayaram Jethmal Sind College and the Madressah-tul-Islam—continue to attract an increasing number of students, but want of funds prevents many desirable improvements and extensions being taken in hand. Representations have recently been made to Government for further assistance to both institutions. In Hyderabad, a private high school, called the Vidyalaya, with accommodation for boarders, has recently been started under the management of a Mr. Pribhdas: it gives promise of being one of the most valuable educational institutions in the province.

There is nothing new to record under the head of immigration and emigration. The inhabitants of Sind find enough work in the province and rarely go beyond its borders. When the season in the Desert is unfavourable, the Tharis come to the Nara Valley and other parts of lower Sind and find ample employment in the fields and cotton factories. The only class of people who immigrate into the province are Kachis, Kathiawaris and Marwaris, who come for harvest work to the Karáchi, Hyderabad and Thar and Párkar districts, and Kohistanis, Pathans and members of the trans-frontier tribes who wander into upper Sind. These all provide cheap labour during the harvesting season, but, on the completion of the harvest, they are responsible for a considerable increase in crime.

Trade was good on the whole. Local dealers in the villages may possibly have suffered a little on account of the poor season, but generally speaking there was no complaint of depression anywhere, except in Jacobabad, where the poor harvest was accompanied by an outbreak of plague. The export trade of Karáchi, which depends for the most part on the crops in Northern India, was better even than in 1903-1904, which was a record year.

There are 25 cotton-ginning factories in the Hyderabad and Thar and Párkar districts, 33 rice-cleaning machines in Lárkána and Thar and Párkar, and one or two flour mills elsewhere. With these exceptions, there are no industries of any importance.

The state of public feeling continues to be satisfactory. The provincial press is little occupied with political agitation, and concerns itself chiefly with local complaints of an insignificant kind and gossip about subordinate official appointments. The Muhammadan papers devote special attention to the preponderance of Hindus in the public service. The Hindu newspapers have devoted some rather perfunctory attention to the *swadeshi* movement, without any appreciable results as yet.

The prospects of the current year are excellent, except in the montane tracts where the rainfall has been very deficient. The inundation has been exceedingly satisfactory, the river maintaining a high level up to the end of September. The kharif crops have been generally successful. Locusts have visited several places in the province, but, except in the Sakrand táluka of the Hyderabad district, they have not done any considerable damage to crops.

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#### Extracts.

##### (a) *Working of the Canals.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

I am unable to report any improvement in the condition of the canals of this district, but I have every hope that something will now be done to lessen the unending complaints of the zamindárs, whose welfare depends to so great an extent on the canals, and to improve the latter, for Government have taken up the question and have called on the Superintending Engineer to submit proposals for

thorough clearance and for the general improvement of the Karáchi Canals. The main sources of irrigation in the Tatta Division are the Kalri, the Baghiar and the Ochito; plans for the improvement of the two former have been under consideration for some time past, but we have not yet got to the end of even the consideration period, and the Baghiar remains without the regulator or regulators which it requires. So far as the Ochito is concerned, probably, no improvement can be hoped for until the dredger, the purchase of which has been sanctioned by Government, is set to work on the bar at the mouth. In the Shabbandar division an improvement has been made in the Sattah Wah and the canals dependent on it, although the fluctuations of the river this year stood in the way of full advantage being taken of the remodelling; the supply of the Khanto and its three branches has at the same time been improved and the area cultivated increased. It may be possible to better the Sujawal Canals, such as the Nasir Wah, the Chahatho, large and small, the Hasano and the Mahomed Wah, by feeding them all from a new canal taking off from the river in the neighbourhood of Belo; but the proposal has not yet been fully examined and reported on. The Shabbandar Canals like those of Tatta have to a great extent been under cleared for several years past, the insufficient clearance grant having been indented on for other things as well as for clearance proper. I anticipate excellent results from the proposed Eastern Delta Canal, if it is ever made, and in the hope that it will be made I am refusing to give out land in the Jati Táluka which would be commanded by it. The suggested restoration of the Shal Bunds in the Kotri Táluka has apparently been negatived finally, the Commissioner being unable to recommend that the necessary expenditure should be incurred. The Executive Engineer is, I understand, still working at the question of closing the gap between the Kokewari and the Mulchand-Shabbandar Bunds; closing this gap would result in bringing under control a large area of culturable land which is now overrun by the river annually, but the outlay would be fairly heavy, while the scheme is not altogether free of engineering difficulties.

The canals in the Kotri Division, of which there are very few, worked well considering the poorness of the inundation.

#### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

There are 4 Executive Engineers' charges, 3 wholly and 1 partially in this district, *viz.* :—

- (1) Hyderabad Northern Canals,
- (2) Hyderabad Central Canals,
- (3) Fuleli Canals,
- (4) Jamrao 2nd District.

In the former charge the Nasrat and Dad are improved canals, the former working well, the latter suffering from erosion at its mouth. The Assistant Collector, Naushahro, has made remarks as to the Ren Canal which I fully endorse from personal observations and reports received this season. The great Marakh is about the best canal in the Hyderabad Central District, but in both these, Government has in its charge a very large number of Government canals, and the long list is perhaps calculated to give an erroneous idea. Some of them are so small that one can jump across them.

In the Fuleli district the administration was unsympathetic when I took charge of the district, and I had in my capacity, as District Magistrate, to pass severe strictures on the number of petty and uncalled for prosecutions instituted. I am happy to say that things have now altered for the better. From the reports of my Assistant Collector (Mr. Ferrers, who takes a keen interest in the canals and is well acquainted with them), of my mukhtyarkars and from my own personal observation, I consider clearance and conservation has been much neglected in this charge and the complaints of the zamindárs are loud.

Proposals have been sent up for a new and large canal taking off from the Indus, a little below Hyderabad, to irrigate the waste lands of the Guni Táluka

in this and Jati in the Karáchi District. This is called the Eastern Delta Canal, and will no doubt come in time. But it will, like the Jamrao, come as a commercial speculation and not as a work necessary to relieve a congested population.

More urgent in my opinion is the proposed feeder from Rohri, which would permanently secure vast areas in the Naushahro and Hala Sub-divisions from constantly recurring losses due to the action of the Indus and convert them from lift to flow.

Among minor schemes deserving notice are the Chakar Ex Nasrat, which has been opened this year and irrigates several villages in Naushahro, the lands of which I distributed during the tour season, the Nasir Diversion of the Fuleli system in the Tanda Division on which a considerable area has been permanently given out this season by me, and the Gaja Extension Scheme in the Guni Táluka. On this so far land has only been given out temporarily by the Assistant Collector at the request of the Executive Engineer. This scheme promises to turn out well, but I am bound to say much difficulty was given to the Revenue Department by the mode of its execution. Up to the eleventh hour I was told it could not possibly be opened this year by the Executive Engineer but eventually it was.

E. Moysey, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The most important canal in the division is the old Fuleli, on the branches of which the greater part of the Hyderabad Táluka depends. Considering the nature of the inundation it did not work badly, but became greatly silted at its mouth owing to the sandy nature of the soil at that point, and for some way above the Nareja regulator (where it practically ends), since that had to be kept closed most of the time to give a fair supply to the four important branches that take off just above it, the Nur Wah, the Sind Wah, the Iman Wah Husri, and the Iman wah Khokhar. I am glad to report however that this and all the other canals in the Hyderabad Táluka, about several of which there have been complaints, were thoroughly cleared last cold weather, and I hope that a danger that has been threatening the old Fuleli, namely the abandonment by the Indus of the back-water from which it takes off, will be averted either naturally or by the use of the new dredger. It must however continue to silt with its present mouth and abrupt closure by the Nareja regulator, and I have pointed out before the hard lot of the few unfortunate cultivators below the regulator.

Of the other important canals in the division the Great Marakh on which much of Hala and Shahdapur depends, gave an excellent, and at the tails of its branches in the latter táluka an overabundant, supply which caused numerous small breaches. In particular the Bhubharwah and the Jam wah Tigazo, which have been closed by the Jamrao, silt and breach very readily at their tails; but the cut which has just been made to feed the Awat and Small Marakh wahs, exclusively from the Great Marakh, will relieve much of the pressure. The Gharo Rano, which used to supply these latter canals, worked so badly in spite of a new mouth that it is to be converted into a feeder for the Lakhi wah alone. The Nasir and the Ghalu gave a good supply in Hala, but their course in Tando Allahyar, like that of the Sangro and the Bhumphar, is so tortuous that an immense amount of water is lost by soakage and evaporation, silt accumulates at every turn, and the supply is generally insufficient. There are large tracts of culturable land in this táluka lying waste for lack of water, and I would urge that the scheme, which has been hanging fire for over ten years, for the canalization and embankment of the heads of the Gharo Mahmudo (which feeds the Ghalu, the Bhumphar and the Sangro) and the Nasir, in order to prevent the waste of water that occurs there, should be taken seriously in hand together with the remodelling and strengthening of the canals in the Tando Allahyar Táluka. Another canal which is the subject of many complaints and the improvement of which would lead to a large and immediate increase in cultivation and revenue, not only on occupied but on a large area of good unoccupied waste land in the Shahdapur Táluka, is the Alibahar Kacheri. This can be done either by giving it a new mouth instead of its present one, which has a bad fall from a late filling dhandh, or by feeding it through a cut from the Ren wah in the Sakrand Táluka which carries an excessive supply and annually

causes disastrous floods. The latter plan, which seems to me the better one as benefitting both canals and being more certain than giving a new mouth, has been under consideration as long as the Gbáro-Mahmudo and Nasir scheme. An experiment in this direction is being tried this year by giving the Alibahar a small cut from a branch of the Renwah, and I believe that, if it is successful, it is proposed to feed the whole canal from that source hereafter. The Sarfraz, an important canal which irrigates land in 4 tálukás—Hala, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar and Dero Mohbat,—silted very badly at the head in the last inundation, and an old mouth was re-opened to improve the supply, but with little effect. A new mouth, which is said to be working splendidly, has now been given it this season. The branches of the Dad in the north of the Shahdadpur Táluka, the Mubarik, Sohrab, Yaru and Ali, gave an ample supply owing to their fall, in spite of the bad working of the main canal. But like the branches of Great Marakh, the Yaru and Ali wabs are closed by the Jamrao Canal, and consequently silt and breach at their tails.

L. G. Deshmukh, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The most important canals in this division are the Mehrab, Nasrat, Navalakhi, Dambhro, Dad and Ren.

The Mehrab does not flow satisfactorily in its middle portion; but at the tail the supply is sufficient. Unless it is widened and a better mouth provided, the complaints against it are not likely to be removed.

The question whether a regulator at the 7th or 8th mile of the Nasrat, asked for by people, is really required or not is under consideration. Its second defect, *viz.*, deficiency at the tail of the old Nasrat, has been partly removed by a branch towards the east. When the second branch to the west of the Nasrat is flowing it will be completely removed.

Nothing need be said about the Navalakhi which has always worked well when the inundation is good, and which worked well this season also, as far as the nature of the season admitted.

The Dambhro is another good canal and it has flowed well as far as was possible.

The Dad fails earlier than other canals as its mouth is unfavourable, its own bed deeper than the *karia* beds and its water has a greater velocity than necessary. The construction of two more regulators at the 8th and 32nd miles has been some improvement, but as long as the river remains 7 or 8 miles off from the old mouth of the canal, and as long as the feeding canals over this distance have to be kept free of silt, there is not much chance of this canal working successfully.

Last, but not least, is the Ren. The neglected condition of this excellent canal is almost a scandal on administration. With an excellent mouth, width as great as that of the Nasrat, and gentle flow along its course, it is best adapted to feed Daryakhan, Sadarang, Ghari, Khan and Alibahar Lundo, all to the south of it; but, hitherto, it has been impossible to get the money required for providing the necessary feeders. This, however, is only one part of the grievance. The water in the upper portion remaining unused flows to the tail, but the tail of the Ren has been appropriated by the Dad from 1901-1902. So Ren is without a real tail. The water therefore rushes back from a dam, put across the Ren for the protection of the Dad, and deluges the country for miles upwards as observed in my last year's report. Lands which till 1901-1902 used to be cultivated with rice and other crops now remain submerged till so late in the season that people cannot cultivate even rabi crops in them.

Again, roads are annually washed away by the overflow and remain under water, dislocating communication between places situated on them. One of these roads connects Nawabshah and Sakrand, both táluka head-quarter villages. One bridge was washed away three years ago, and another has come into such critical condition that communication over it has had to be stopped, since May last, by way of precaution, a private ferry being engaged for convenience of the people.

## SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

As was to be expected, the Rohri side of the district, with its imperfect and in parts rudimentary irrigation facilities, suffered most from the deficient inundation. The Mahiwah system is not yet properly at work, and much still remains to be done before the tract, which it commands, can be fully developed. What is required is the construction of additional branches, the provision of distributaries to bring the water nearer to the land, and the widening and improvement of certain of the branches. The greater part of this work will be carried out this cold weather. Apart from this there are other drawbacks. There is much thick jungle to be cleared, the land varies very much in level, the people, accustomed to precarious flood irrigation, have not the necessary aptitude for utilizing canal irrigation, and, finally, labour is scarce and unsettled, *haris* being ready to migrate *en masse* into the well-irrigated tracts of Bahawalpur at the first indication of the failure of their crops, leaving the zamindárs in the lurch. This is what occurred extensively this year, whole tracts in Ubauro and Mirpur being temporarily denuded of their population.

The Mahiwah is practically the only canal system which the Rohri side of the district with its five talukás can boast of, the rest of the canals, except perhaps the Umarkas, being hopelessly inadequate and defective. The cessation of the floods on which this part of Sind depended has consequently reduced it to great straits and the people are in an impoverished condition, while many of them have emigrated. It is, therefore, urgently necessary that the projects which provide for the irrigation of this tract, *viz.*,

- (1) the Ghotki Canal,
- (2) the Koraiwah improvement,
- (3) the Seharwah improvement,

should be undertaken and pushed through without delay. All these projects have left the hands of the Executive Engineer, but judging from the rate of progress made elsewhere, it may be years before they are brought to completion unless a special effort is made.

On the Shikárpur side the canals gave on the whole better results than might have been expected, but here also there is much to be done before the resources of the country can be developed to anything like the full extent.

As regards the Sukkur Canal, I think that with the recent improvement in its supply the restriction on the giving out of land permanently might to some extent be removed. The Assistant Collector is right in deprecating the continued adoption of such a make-shift arrangement as the yearly grant of large areas of land on *khas mokal*. The evils of the system have become very apparent in the case of the Ghár in the Lárkána District, and I strongly recommended its discontinuance there.

W. W. Smart, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Owing to the opening of the new mouth to the Sukkur Canal last year the Executive Engineer, Ghár Canals, requested that land should be granted to selected occupants on yearly tenure. This was done by me last year and also during the year under report. I trust that the practice will now cease and that land will be given permanently to such occupants on the Sukkur Canal. The new mouth appears to be working well this year, and the system of giving land on yearly tenure is for many reasons undesirable. Occupants cannot spend the time or money required for good cultivation on land so given and it increases the opportunities of subordinates to extort money from applicants. Officers are over-burdened with work already, and the hundreds of applications received give an enormous amount of work to the mukhtiárkars and the Assistant Collector.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

The division (Rohri) requires to have its irrigation thoroughly overhauled. Until this is done no permanent improvement in its condition is to be expected.

The two projects, which will do this, provide for a large new canal which will traverse the Ghotki Táluka, throwing out branches eastwards, and the transformation of the Korai Canal which will irrigate the Pano Akil Táluka. They are still, however, under consideration, so that it may be several years before they are carried into execution, and, no doubt, a further postponement of the revision of the settlement of the two tálukás most concerned beyond the three years already fixed will be necessary. In the meantime the operation of the fallow rules has been suspended in these tálukás, a sufficient indication of the unsatisfactory state of affairs. In Rohri also improvements are required. The Nára habitually floods what would otherwise be excellent rice lands. As after a protracted correspondence there does not seem to be much chance of the necessary protective embankments being provided by Government, the zamindárs will be urged to undertake the work themselves which with the aid of their *haris* they can do at a moderate cost. Here also the fallow rules have been temporarily suspended.

The remissions recommended are heavy but not excessive, for the losses suffered were very great.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

Of the two large canals on which the district mainly depends, the Ghár and the Western Nára, the former again provided an excellent supply of water for the northern part of the district. Proposals for its extension are under consideration. Sanction has recently been given to the giving out of more land on permanent occupancy under this canal, but the sanction has been unfortunately much discounted by the fact that it has been limited in a great degree to those distributaries under which there is no more land available for permanent cultivation.

The history of the Western Nára Canal for the year under report is one of disappointment. The old mouth of this canal silted up badly and the new mouth was scarcely in proper working order before the inundation season was over.

At the tail of the canal it was found necessary to raise the level by closing the Son Miani regulator in September. This was somewhat analogous to "robbing Peter to pay Paul," for, though the lands in Sehván and Dádu Tálukás were benefited, the crops below the regulator in the Johi Táluka necessarily suffered. As the measure taken was to the interest of the majority it cannot be deprecated, and it is quite possible that the crops in Johi under the canal would in any case have failed owing to the low level of the water.

During the year the new mouth of the Nára has been widened by forty feet and a new regulator has been put up.

Perhaps we must not be too eager to argue *ex hoc ergo propter hoc*, but still the fact remains that during the present inundation the Western Nára has worked better than at any other period in its history.

The inundation of the year 1905 has been a splendid one and the prospects of the harvest are excellent.

There are, however, signs which give rise to some misgivings regarding the future of both of these canals. The present set of the river seems likely to silt up the mouth of the Ghár and to threaten the embankments that defend the Western Nára,

As was to be expected, in a year when the supply of water was below the average, the number of breaches occurring was small and none of these was very serious.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

M. D. Mackenzie, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The Mithráo Canal worked well throughout the season. There was a deficiency of water in the beginning as usual, but it was made up by regulating the supply by rotation with the Jámráo. The canal would, however, appear to require remodelling, as the supply below Samaro is very unsatisfactory.

The Tharwah also worked well except in its right bank branch which irrigates only 3 or 4 dehs. And as there was no rain, rotation had to be allowed on this canal in the cold weather with the result that there was an increase of 3,623 acres in the rabi sowings.

The Hiralwah worked exceedingly well.

In spite of there being complaints regarding deficiency of water in the Dhoro Náro an increase is observable in the cultivation, the same being due to the people cultivating more by means of wheels, now that the flow is no longer available.

There is a general complaint of the zamindárs on the Khiprowah. Year after year they patiently construct their wheels and wait for water, but they have not yet received even a moderately normal supply, and, unless arrangements are speedily made for supplementing it, large areas will become unfit for cultivation, and many zamindárs be rendered penniless. I believe there is a project in hand and can only trust that it will be hurried on as fast as possible.

Although during the year under report the cultivation on the Jámráo was confined to fixed proportions, yet there was a complaint about the deficiency of water in the Sinjhoró Táluka where there was a decrease of 6,951 acres 24 gunthás in the cultivation as compared with last year. The Executive Engineer and the Colonization Officer will, however, be able to give more detailed information regarding this canal and conditions generally.

In Mirpur Khás Táluka the deficiency of water in Jarwarwah was much complained of.

S. M. Bharucha, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Examining the canals separately, the Mithrao worked all right during the year except in its western branches where the land is a little high. Remissions had to be granted there to the extent of Rs. 963-9-0, including local cess. The Mithrao is a splendid canal every way except that a little more clearance is necessary in its lower reaches, as it is now bringing down increasing quantities of silt.

The Tharwah worked well also, except in its right bank branch which irrigates only 4 or 5 dehs. A remarkable feature of the canal is the cutting off of its cold weather supply since 1901-1902 in spite of which the rabi sowings went up from 3,960 acres last year to 6,583 acres during the year under report. This is due to the kharif sowings having almost reached their maximum limit in Umarmót Táluka. Commenting in the last year's Administration Report upon this, I stated that it was a difficult subject and required careful examination. While preparing the Revision Settlement proposals of the Umarmót Táluka I had an opportunity of closely studying this question. As I have discussed it fully in the Settlement Report I shall not repeat it here.

As regards the Dhoro Náro, although there is still a complaint of deficiency, yet the cultivation thereon has increased. This is due to the people adapting themselves to altered circumstances and to resorting in increasing numbers to wheel cultivation, now that the flow is no longer available. The Dhoro Náro below "Farash" or Thar head has become practically useless for purposes of irrigation. The opening of the Hiral and the Jámráo are doubtless responsible for this, though the Public Works Department seem unwilling to admit it. A large slice of virgin soil which would yield about a lách of revenue is lying idle for want of water. I have discussed this subject also in my Settlement Report mentioned above.

I need not repeat what I said in my last year's report regarding the general complaint of the zamindárs on the Khiprowah. The subject is, I think, engaging the attention of the Public Works Department, and it is hoped that the grievances of the cultivators there will be remedied at no distant date.

The Hiral and the Sind Canals worked satisfactorily.

As the Nara Deputy Collector is not in the revenue charge of the Jámráo tract, the review of the working of the Jámráo Canal may well be left to the Colonization Officer.

## UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Shahdadpur Táluka is in a wretched condition. It suffers all the disabilities of a táluka on the tail of three canals. It further suffers from the effects of the exhaustion of the water-supply on an extent of rice cultivation which was not contemplated at any rate in the case of these canals. The only real hope of salvation of the táluka is in the new Begari scheme, but all that is possible in the way of temporary relief is being done.

*(b) Agricultural Credit.*

## KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

The demand for takávi was greater than even last year, and as many as 832 applications were received, but unfortunately nearly half of them had to be refused, because the applicants were hopelessly in arrears already, and with every desire to help the people over their difficulties I feel that the limit has been reached beyond which many of them cannot be permitted to draw further; to have made advances to most of the persons to whom they were refused could only have meant having to forego the recovery of the money later on. The allotment for the district amounted to Rs. 50,000, and including the advances to the Manager of the Incumbered Estates the amounts actually advanced were Rs. 15,055 under the Land Improvement Loans Act and Rs. 20,460 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act—total Rs. 35,515,—the balance being surrendered in time to be made available for use in other districts. The mahálkari of the Kohistán, however, advanced Rs. 80 out of the sum which he had previously reported as being available for transfer. The takávi balance recoverable on 1st April 1904 was Rs. 2,73,507 and of this sum Rs. 72,705 were recovered during the year; the balance remaining outstanding on 1st April 1905 was Rs. 2,00,802.

## HYDDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

As regards the effect of the year upon the landlords the rise in prices of the staple crops, jowári and bájri, in the central and northern tálukás more particularly, to some extent compensated them for the losses incidental to a bad season, but from my limited experience of these tálukás (confined to one somewhat interrupted tour) I am inclined to think in most cases the landlords are badly off and find it difficult to carry on. In the southern tálukás, with which I was familiar as Assistant Collector of the Tando Division in the years 1879 to 1881, I was not impressed with any marked indications of advance in any direction. I compare the conditions in this district to those prevailing in Upper Sind much to the disadvantage of the former.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act is still inveigled against by the trading and money-lending classes. This Act always formed the subject of conversation when pancháyats visited me in the districts, and from the hearty dislike of it shown, I conclude it has seriously hampered their machinations. That it has engendered a very bitter spirit between Hindus and Mahomedans is also undoubted.

This Act and in a minor degree the restricted land tenure certainly affect the landholders' credit, but in the long run this will be to his advantage.

## SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

Takávi advances were made to the extent of Rs. 1,32,050, being the entire amount finally allotted to this district. Of this, Rs. 30,092 were advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 1,01,958 under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The decrease of Rs. 15,000 as compared with last year's advances is doubtless due to the exceptional prosperity of 1903-1904 which left the zamindárs with considerable stocks for the purpose of seed and sufficient pecuniary resources to make their own advances to cultivators. The advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act are generally for the construction of wells, the advantages of which are highly appreciated in a tract devoid of

perennial irrigation. Most of the works were inspected by the District Officers, and with only four exceptions the advances were found to have been properly utilized. Considerable difficulty is being experienced this year by borrowers in repaying their instalments, and I have granted postponements in a large number of cases. A liberal policy in this direction is essential if the popularity of these loans is to be increased. Nor do I think that any danger of serious loss to Government need be anticipated. The borrowers are practically all honest and well-intentioned, and the current excellent season will enable them to pay off their arrears.

The following comparative table, based on the registration records, would seem to show that the extent to which agricultural land is sold is tending to decrease :—

Year.		Number of sales.	Area sold.
1903-1904	...	778	8,703 acres.
1904-1905	...	787	6,863 „

But these statistics are vitiated for the purpose of any such general inference by the increasing extent to which sales of land are effected by means of fictitious awards in arbitration passed under section 525 of the Civil Procedure Code. The effect of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has been, I believe, to increase the sales of agricultural land. This is inevitable, since the Bania will not advance except on the sale of land, and the agriculturist is bound to borrow. Unless the latter parts with his land a deadlock ensues which is all to the advantage of the Bania, since he can generally afford to wait. Takávi is only a very partial remedy, since the agriculturist has many pressing financial wants, apart from those for the cultivation of his land.

#### LARKANA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

If the bigger zamindárs in Sind were only men of business their profits would be very large indeed. Unfortunately they are most of them incapable of looking ahead and are content to allow Hindu money-lenders to finance them. Provided they have sufficient money to supply their wants, and in some cases their luxuries, the majority of the larger Mahomedan zamindárs care very little whether the price realized by the produce of their land is or is not the best obtainable in the market. Some arrangement by which the zamindárs could be placed in touch with the big grain exporting firms, without the medium of the Hindu collecting agent, would be of great advantage to both parties concerned.

There is a decided increase during the year under report in the area of land that has changed hands, in most cases from Mahomedans to Hindus. There is, I think, no doubt that this is due to the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act into Sind. This innovation has made the Bania very chary of advancing money on the mortgage of lands even with possessory rights.

The difficulty consequently experienced in obtaining money on loan has had the effect of popularising the takávi system. During the year under report Rs. 2,17,190 were distributed under the two Takávi Acts, two-thirds of the amount for land improvement. No doubt, there is a tendency to divert some portion of the grants received to the maintenance of the grantee and his family, but still the fact remains that many permanent improvements are being carried out in the district through the medium of takávi, more especially in the way of well-building.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the loans are as a rule punctually paid, and that it is very seldom necessary to have recourse to the sale of the land given as security for the realization of the loan. In this respect Sind certainly compares favourably with most of the Presidency districts.

#### UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Credit is low. The general danger attending agricultural loans in all circumstances is enhanced by the Acts in force for the protection of debtors and the absence of honesty among borrowers, and loans require heavy security. Money is obtainable by mortgage of land, with or without possession, by contracts for the sale of the standing crop or leases for fixed periods. Nearly

always the bargain is in self-defence made harder than it would be for more scrupulous borrowers. The money-lending class is not affluent.

The figures of takávi grants are as under :—

		Year under report.	Last year.
		Rs.	Rs.
Land Improvement Loans Act	...	37,450	43,075
Agriculturists' Loans Act	...	7,450	15,170
		<u>44,930</u>	<u>58,245</u>

The decrease in the loans this year is due to the fact that many of the applicants were already in arrears on account of takávi. Takávi is, however, given with as free a hand as possible and is in demand. Takávi is not always applied to the purposes for which it is taken, but the adoption under recent orders of takávi forms for the record of the results of grants will serve as a useful check against misappropriation.

(c) *Education.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

The progress of education outside the three large towns of Karáchi, Tatta and Kotri is slow and almost imperceptible, but even so I think some advance is being made. The rural standards cannot be said yet to be welcomed with any pleasure by the Mahomedans of the mofussil, chiefly because of their prejudice against the Hindu-Sindhi character and the difficulties to be overcome before books of accounts can be read with ease; but since it was precisely in order that the Bania's accounts should no longer be sealed books to their Mahomedan debtors, that the teaching of this character in the schools was introduced, I have resisted any attempt to withdraw or even to modify the rural standards until a fair chance has been given to them. With the aid of the increased grant from Government six new Local Fund schools have been opened, and a further increase is now being considered; in all these new schools the rural standards are being taught.

The education of girls has always been backward in this district, but I learn that there has of late been a small increase in the number of girls attending schools; about half as many as attend the Special Girls' schools obtain their education in Boys' schools.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

As regards Hindu education nothing is required. The Hindus have in their ranks men not only capable and confident but earnest and self-denying, who are spending their lives without thought of gain or personal reward for the benefit of their fellow-countrymen, and I use these words because I am bound to say they study the interest of such Mahomedans as attend their schools as much as those of their co-religionists. Among Mahomedans there is an uneasy feeling abroad, not perhaps so much a desire for education as much, but an awakening to the fact that without it they must, under the conditions of British rule, fall altogether behind. This feeling will, I trust, under the guidance of the District Officers, eventuate in increased facilities to the sons of the landed gentry and farmers. The idea of instituting a central Madressah at Hyderabad has been abandoned in favour of Divisional Boarding Houses, and arrangements are in train for those at Tando Mahomed Khan in the Tanda and Naushahro Sub-Division. Possibly later on Hala will also require such an institution.

But the great difference between Hindu and Mahomedan in this direction I have already indicated. The former can combine and practically carry out their own purposes, while the Mahomedans cannot, and will lean heavily for active support on the District Officers for many years to come. During my tour I visited 34 schools, including Municipal, Local Board, private, indigenous, aided and Hur Settlement schools. Putting Hyderabad itself aside, education generally improves from south to north, and quite the best mofussil schools are

in the extreme north of the district. The technical school at Kandiaro was not up to my expectations, but I believe I visited it at an unfavourable time.

The Mullah schools have vastly improved of late years all over Sind, as far my experience goes, but there is still much room for improvement.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

The great demand for education among the class of small zamindárs is the most striking feature of the recent history of education in Sind. Whereas a few years ago schools had to be forced on the people it is now a matter of difficulty to meet the demands for new schools. The Shikárpur Division is fairly well provided with schools, though those might be more suitably distributed; but Rohri and Mirpur are very backward, particularly the latter. When an increased Government grant was received in 1903-1904, 26 additional schools were established. Proposals are now being considered for opening 24 more. The difficulty is to find competent teachers.

The Municipal schools of the district, with the exception of one or two schools in Sukkur, are in a fair state of efficiency. Female education makes no progress. The Mullah schools have lately shown an apparent decline in attendance, but this is no doubt due to more effective supervision which has led to greater accuracy of registration.

LARKANA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

There is certainly a growing demand for primary education in the district. The results, however, are at present disappointing so far as the Mahomedan population of the district are concerned. In the majority of cases, I am afraid, these boys of the well-to-do classes, who have studied up to a fair standard, forget what they have learned as soon as they are free to follow their own devices, whilst the boys of the poorer classes either have not the ability to learn the lessons required in the less elementary classes or have not the means to prosecute their studies beyond the ordinary Vernacular course. I confess that at present I do not consider that there are encouraging prospects to warrant the hope that in the near future any considerable number of well-educated Mahomedans will be turned out of the Government schools, sufficient to take the place that they should, in view of the proportion of Mahomedans to the inhabitants in Sind, in the administration of the Province.

Among the Hindus the advantages of education are fully recognized. Hindu boys are the main-stay of the Anglo-Vernacular schools in the district.

There is no demand at present for technical education in this district. The district is a purely agricultural one, and there is little scope within its limits for the employment of boys who do qualify themselves as artisans.

THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

M. D. Mackenzie, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

As regards the sustained and continuous measures that are taken for more fully equipping the cultivator by means of education to maintain himself in his pursuit of agriculture, I may observe that the direct result of the conference called by Mr. (now the Honourable Mr.) Muir Mackenzie when Commissioner in Sind is that a Madressah boarding house for the sons of zamindárs is now nearing completion at Pithoro. It will provide accommodation for 100 boys, and is attracting much attention from the zamindárs who have been applying for accommodation. Being in the midst of the Nára tract it should be easily reachable by the zamindárs without entailing the extra cost of inconvenience of a journey to Karáchi or elsewhere, and this they fully realize.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The rural standards are working fairly well, though it is yet too early to form any very accurate opinion regarding them. There appears to be a genuine desire amongst the Báluch sardárs and landholders for English education. The boarding house, which was started in Jacobabad in connection with the Vernacular school, at first filled well but was soon deserted, all the parents saying that they did not wish to send their sons to Jacobabad except to an

English school. This is natural, as good Vernacular education is obtainable all over the district. The error has now been rectified by the opening within the last few days of an Anglo-Vernacular school by the Jacobabad Municipality. Already parents have made voluntary enquiries about it, and I hope to have the boarding house in working order in a very short time. In view of the reputation of the Báluch for apathy towards education, this desire for education, and particularly for English education, is interesting. I cannot but attribute the craving for English to the noteworthy success of the Lárkána Madressah. At the same time it is not only English that the Báluch asks for as a new craze. I have found in a village school, though I have been able to visit very few as yet, Báluchi boys from long distances over the frontier, and one Báluch sardár, Khán Bahádur Mir Alimurad Khan Sundrani, maintained at his own expense a boarding house for 30 boys who attended the village school, until the village was swept away by the river in August. So long as we are able to discover and satisfy real wants and do not attempt to force upon an unwilling population that which they do not desire, there is a bright future for education. The founders of the Lárkána Madressah duly satisfied a faintly expressed desire for a simple education combined with a certain exclusiveness. I have had the fortune to serve in Lárkána from shortly after the foundation of the Madressah and also in this district for a short period about the same time, to have been able to watch the growth of that weak desire amongst the Lárkána zamindárs, and to find their example emulated here on the frontier.

## II.—Inspection.

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

A creditable amount of inspection work was performed throughout the province. The total amount done by the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners is given in the following table:—

No.	Nature of inspection.	In how many			Rayats' receipt books examined.
		Mukhtiárkars' stations.	Mahálkars' stations.	Villages.	
	Total of province ... ..	56	4	5,138	...
1	Visited for inspection... ..	55	2	1,448	...
2	Accounts examined ... ..	46	2	1,219	...
3	Records do. ... ..	50	2	919	...
4	Rayats' receipt books examined ... ..	...	...	...	1,574
5	Sub-registry offices examined ... ..	38	...	...	...

The question regarding the examination of receipt books, referred to in the penultimate clause of paragraph 20 of last year's report, has not been pursued further in consequence of the adoption of a new system of payment of revenue at the táluka head-quarters: under this, most receipt books will come under the scrutiny of the mukhtiárkars immediately after payments are made. The work of destruction of records is mostly up to date.

## III.—Revenue Buildings and Record Rooms.

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The requirements under this head have been fully set forth by the District Officers. Such as have already been brought to notice are being supplied in order of urgency as funds permit. The question is one of pressing importance. The construction and extension of revenue buildings has by no means kept pace with the general development of the resources and administration of the province. Over-crowded and ill-ventilated buildings react directly and perceptibly on the efficiency of the establishment, and expenditure on a considerable scale will be necessary in the near future to produce a reasonably satisfactory state of things.

#### IV.—Revenue Establishments.

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The revenue establishments appear to have worked fairly well on the whole, but general disappointment is felt at the inferiority of the material available for subordinate posts. When, however, the scheme for the improvement of these establishments is sanctioned, it should be possible to obtain really capable and educated men for táluka and other offices. The present over-worked state of the establishments will also be relieved, as adequate additions have been proposed to establishments at present insufficient. Mr. Ferrers is mistaken in thinking that no increase has been proposed for táluka offices in his sub-division: an additional munshi has been proposed for each of the tálukás of Tando Bágó, Badin and Dero Mohbat. Mr. Bharucha is apparently unaware that the pay of district establishments is already personal, and has been so since June last year.

One mukhtiárkar, who had been reinstated by Government in his appointment after dismissal by the Commissioner in the preceding year, was again dismissed for misconduct in connection with remission work.

The village establishments worked well on the whole. Out of the 274 tapadárs sent up for the special survey examination, 248 were found to be fully qualified to do survey work. There are now 658 tapadárs who are trained in survey work out of the total number of 808. The bulk of the survey work of the province has hitherto been done by the special parties working under the orders of the Superintendent, Land Records and Registration in Sind, but these parties only measure large tracts of land. Small areas which are from time to time applied for, and work which is not considerable enough to justify the employment of a survey party, has now to be done by the tapadár. This work does not ordinarily involve any very great addition to the tapadár's duties, but it has hitherto never been satisfactorily performed, owing to disinclination on the part of the tapadár and to want of proper supervision. Fresh orders have now been issued, placing the responsibility for seeing that their work is done on the sub-divisional officers and mukhtiárkars: superior officers will now be in possession of periodical information as to the quantity of survey work done by tapadars and of test work performed by supervising and divisional tapadárs and mukhtiárkars, and any neglect can be detected immediately. Orders have also been given for training as chainmen being given to tapadárs' kotars. The question of strengthening the village establishment, especially the supervising agency, and improving their emoluments, which has been under consideration for some time past, has now been disposed of, and proposals have been submitted to Government for (a) an increase in the number of supervising tapadárs, (b) the grant of a pony allowance of Rs. 10 to each tapadár, (c) the increase of the supervising tapadár's allowance from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10; and (d) the increase of the pay of kotars from Rs. 7 to Rs. 9. An increase to the number of tapadárs is not considered to be absolutely necessary, so long as special survey parties are employed to do the bulk of the survey work.

Of 808 tapadárs and 157 supervising tapadárs, 7 tapadárs were reduced, 9 dismissed and 5 supervising tapadárs and 67 tapadárs were fined. The number of tapadárs fined is much smaller than last year. Mr. Crerar's system of keeping a record of the faults of each tapadár and taking it into consideration when dealing with questions of leave, promotion, etc., is a good one, and might be generally adopted. Mr. Bharucha's suggestion that the supervising tapadárs should be English-knowing men is for the present impracticable, and will remain so for some years to come. He must remember that no supervising tapadár can do his work properly without being in close touch with the tapadár.

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#### V.—Special Matters.

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

A record of rights was prepared during the year in ten tálukás, two each in the Karáchi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Lárkána Districts, and one in Thar and

Párkar and one in the Upper Sind Frontier District. The work was done by special officers (called Inquiry Officers) employed for the purpose. In the current year the work done by these Inquiry Officers will be tested in each district by a special mukhtiárkar, who will also settle disputed cases. The permanent record will be maintained by the ordinary village and táluka establishments.

The total area held on the restricted tenure at the beginning of the year was 491,818 acres: this was increased during the year by 136,122 acres. This includes the area granted on the Jámráó, Nasrat, Dad and Hiral Canals under the provisions of Bombay Act III of 1899. Excluding these, the total area on the restricted tenure under Act VI of 1901 at the end of the year was 212,496 acres. The new tenure is being extended as far as possible. Grants to Muhammadans are mostly made on this tenure. In one case in the Upper Sind Frontier District, in which a substantial sum due by the khátadár was written off, the land in respect of which the arrear was due was forfeited and re-granted to the occupant on the restricted tenure. The same course is being followed in a number of cases in the Karáchi District in which arrears of land revenue and takávi have been written off. The Commissioner is of opinion that the new tenure is well suited to the improvident petty zamindárs of Sind. As pointed out by Mr. Rieu, "they do not appear to be in the least opposed to it." Probably they do not fully realize the extent of the restrictions involved, or at any rate are for the moment indifferent to them, being only too glad to get the land at the reduced rate now demanded of them. The money-lending classes of course do not like it, as it restricts the sphere of their operations. In 14 cases only have the terms of the new tenure been evaded. In 8 the grants have been cancelled, and in the remaining 6 the matter is still under consideration.

No appreciable progress is observable in the system of remitting revenue by money-order, nor should any be expected. The question of limiting the tapadár's opportunities for exacting *lapo* from zamindárs has been dealt with by causing recoveries of land revenue to be made by the tapadár at the táluka kacheri in the presence of the mukhtiárkar. After a provisional working of this measure in different forms in the different districts during the last collection season, the Commissioner has now directed that in future, for the first five days of each instalment period, the revenue may be paid to the tapadár at his *dera*, and that during the last five days payment must be made to the tapadár at the táluka kacheri in the presence of the mukhtiárkar. It is certain that most of the revenue will be paid at the kacheri during the last five days, and that this result will greatly lessen the tapadár's opportunities for extortion.

There have been no special assignments during the year. The five *seris* referred to by Mr. Mules are what are called "village cess" *seris*, in respect of which no alienation of revenue is practically involved, the land revenue due on the grants being paid from the village cess fund instead of by the holder.

The Commissioner has nothing to add to the information as regards land acquisition work given in the Collectors' reports.

The provisions of Chapters V, VI and VII and sections 11 to 21 and 23 of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have recently been extended to Sind, sections 2, 7 and 71A and Chapter III being already in force, and steps are being taken for the appointment of village munsiffs and conciliators. It is proposed to introduce the scheme gradually and tentatively at first only in selected areas in which a sufficient number of thoroughly reliable gentlemen (zamindárs and others) are available and willing to serve.

The experimental farm at Dhoro Náro has been abandoned, as the site was found to be unsuitable: instead, a farm has been established at Mirpur Khás, and a smaller one at Jamesabad. The most interesting experiments which are being made at present are with Egyptian cotton, groundnuts and *bersem* (Egyptian clover). Egyptian cotton has been sown both on the farm and by zamindárs over a considerable area, and this year's crop is reported to be a fine one. Some difficulty is being experienced at first in creating a market for it, as the amount for sale is of course comparatively small still, but arrangements have now been

made for the sale of this year's crop. *Bersem* promises to be a very useful crop for purposes of rotation.

The several veterinary dispensaries in the province are doing good work. Horse Shows were held at Shikárpur, Jacobabad, Moro and Talhar, and were all successful in attracting good exhibits, both in number and class; but the small number of purchases made, both on behalf of Government and by the public, was disappointing. The interest taken by the people of Sind itself in horse-breeding does not seem to be very great; mule-breeding appears to be attracting more attention, as the demand for mules is on the increase. There was little or no disease among cattle except a slight outbreak of rinderpest in the Naushahro Sub-Division.

### EXTRACTS.

#### *Restricted Tenure.*

##### KARACHI DISTRICT.

R. P. Barrow, Esq., Collector.

During the year 7,561 acres of fresh land were taken up for cultivation against 23,822 acres in the previous year, while 4,002 acres were relinquished or forfeited. Of the 7,561 acres, 2,620 were given out on the restricted tenure to the original occupants or to their representatives, the land being fallow forfeited. The total area given out on this tenure, including new land and fallow forfeited numbers, was 4,433 acres, and I may note here that I have not found the restricted tenure unpopular, except among the wealthier classes of Mahomedans and among Hindus generally.

##### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

The area granted on the restricted tenure, under the provisions of Bombay Act VI of 1901, is as follows:—

At the beginning of the year.	At the close of the year.
Acres.	Acres.
161,708	215,114

With very few exceptions all grants to Mahomedans have been made on the restricted tenure. I have directed that the maximum occupancy fee shall not exceed one half that which would ordinarily be charged for new land, and have not restricted my assistants as to granting land on even more liberal terms. Survey numbers forfeited under the fallow rules are restored free of charge merely on payment of the assessment due. Hindus obtain land on the full survey tenure and pay more for it.

The above figures include 93,604 acres in the Nasrat Táluka, and 42,402 in the Digri Mahál, granted by the Colonization Officer, Jámráo. Without doubt when a man possesses land only on the restricted tenure his credit is weakened. He is unable to give the security most desired and most tangible—the transferable right of occupancy. He can turn to Government for takávi of course, but in so far as his transactions with private money-lenders are concerned his hands are tied. I have not received specific complaints that the power to cultivate is lessened by the restricted tenure, but men have urged me to grant them land on the full tenure because of the difficulty of raising the needful cash.

Nine cases have occurred in which the conditions have been broken. In 6 the grants have been resumed and 3 are still under disposal.

It is difficult to say generally how the restricted tenure is viewed by agriculturists, because the point of view differs according to the circumstances of the individual. But it cannot be called generally popular as yet.

The money-lending classes dislike it. It is not easy to get round the condition, and even when it is done discovery leads to resumption. I am personally strongly in favour of the system.

## SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. L. Rieu, Esq., Collector.

The following table gives the information regarding the grant of land on restricted tenure required by Government Resolution No. 3991, dated the 16th May 1905:—

Unoccupied Government land given out on restricted tenure.			Lands forfeited after the passing of Bombay Act VI of 1901 and given out again on restricted tenure.			Lands forfeited before the passing of Bombay Act VI of 1901 and given out again on restricted tenure.		
Till the end of 1903-04.	In 1904-05.	Total.	Till end of 1903-04.	In 1904-05.	Total.	Till end of 1903-04.	In 1903-04.	Total.
A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.
22,917 22	9,014 26	31,932 8	32 15	4 15	36 30	168 12	505 33	674 5

Ordinarily all land granted to Mahomedans is on the restricted tenure, and they do not appear to be in the least opposed to it. Probably, they do not fully realize the extent of the restrictions involved, or, at any rate, are for the moment indifferent to them, being only too glad to get the land at reduced rate now demanded of them. One or two cases of the infringement of the condition of restricted tenure have been reported and are still under inquiry.

## LARKANA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

The area of land held under the restricted tenure in the district, at the beginning of the year under report, was 4,090 acres 9 gunthás and at its close 6,773 acres 28 gunthás.

The introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has tended to render all agricultural land less negotiable as an asset for mortgage purposes. Whether this will be a permanent result of the introduction of the Act or not remains to be seen.

The restricted tenure has probably lost much of what seemed obnoxious in it to the khátedár by the contraction of crediting respect of all land ensuing on the introduction of this Act.

J. Crerar, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The restricted tenure, accompanied by easy terms with regard to occupancy price, is generally appreciated by the Musulmán cultivators. It is rare that a strong desire for the ordinary tenure is shown, and several zamindárs have assured me that they regarded the restricted tenure as beneficial.

## THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

M. D. Mackenzie, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Occupation on restricted tenure has not prevented people from applying for fresh lands, and applications are numerous and constant. I think it would be a mistake to attribute this to any particular appreciation of the tenure, but would rather suggest that it is simply because of an inherent anxiety to possess land no matter under what terms. The total area held under this tenure at the close of the year was as under:—

	Nára Valley.	Desert.	Total.
	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.
At the beginning of the year	271,396 13	9,055 9	280,451 22
Acquired during the year	56,489 0	1,019 19	57,508 19
Total	327,885 13	10,074 28	337,960 1

This great increase as compared with last year is chiefly due to grants on the *Jámráo*. Naturally the money-lenders do not view this sort of tenure with favour, but the zamindárs of the district are generally fairly independent of them.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Land has generally been given out on the restricted tenure. Eight thousand two hundred and fifty-one acres 39 gunthás of land were granted on this tenure during the year permanently, and 10,819 acres 23 gunthás on yearly tenure.

The details of the land held under restriction are as under:—

Area of land held permanently on restricted tenure at the beginning of the year under report.	Area of land held permanently at the end of the year under report.
A. g. 10,074 28	A. g. 22,326 27

The tenure is not popular but does not excite any comment.

**VI.—Inamdars' recovery of Revenue; Assistance in cases; Successions, Lapses, etc.**

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

As reported last year inámdárs recover their dues in kind, the share being regulated by long custom. Only one case is reported in which assistance was given to an inámdár to recover his dues from the tenants. The particulars of succession and lapses are as under:—

<i>Succession.</i>			
1st class jágirs	...	...	1 case.
2nd do.	...	...	1 "
Garden grants	...	...	1 "
Patadári do.	...	...	1 "
Frontier do.	...	...	5 cases.
<i>Lapses.</i>			
Life grants	...	6 cases	245 acres.

**VII.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes; Transfers; Rents; Sub-letting; Relations between Landlords and Tenants, etc.**

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The circumstances, and the relations between each other, of the land-owning and cultivating classes are uniform throughout the province. There are a few large jágirdárs, nearly all of them Muhammadans, who hold large tracts of land on *inámi* tenure. After them come the zamindárs, both Muhammadans and Hindus, who hold land on the ordinary survey tenure, and have it cultivated either by peasant labourers (*haris*) or by contractors: these holdings are generally much larger than the average *kháta* in the Presidency proper. Lastly, there is a very considerable class of peasant proprietors who cultivate their own land: in spite of the general indebtedness of the agricultural classes these are in many parts of Sind fairly maintaining their position.

The *hari*, or peasant labourer, differs in some important particulars both from a tenant and from an ordinary agricultural labourer. He differs from the former in possessing no rights beyond custom and the terms of his contract for the season: he is liable to summary ejection when the term of his contract is complete. He differs from the agricultural labourer in having a definite piece of land allotted to him in which he is solely responsible for all agricultural

operations, except the clearance of water-courses and other work requiring co-operation. He is almost invariably paid in grain, according to a fixed share, which is generally half the gross produce of the land he cultivates. The *hari's* employer—whether a *jágirdár*, a *zamindár* or a lessee—is thus his master, not his landlord. But the former's position, though nominally precarious, is rendered in practice, owing to the scarcity and impermanence of agricultural labour, one of considerable independence. The customary scale of shares is rarely infringed by either party; but in other respects the *hari's* condition is decidedly advantageous. These purely economic considerations are, however, liable to be greatly modified by the tribal and traditional relations of the *zamindár* and the *hari*.

An interesting exception to the general rule is the case of the *maurusi hari*. This, perhaps the only true instance of tenancy rights in Sind, is practically confined to the Rohri Táluka of the Sukkur District. Mr. Rieu, the Collector of Sukkur, observes:—

“The *maurusi* or hereditary *haris* of Rohri have become *khátadárs*, and are only differentiated from ordinary *khátadárs* by the obligation to pay *lapo* or dues to the *zamindár* or lord of the manor. There is an increasing tendency on their part to resist the claims of the latter, and applications for assistance which are disposed of by the *mukhtiárkars* are numerous.”

Mr. Rieu also adds:—

“Complaints by *haris* against their *zamindárs* are rare, for the former have the upper hand, owing to scarcity of labour. The *zamindár* has to offer liberal terms in the way of advance, etc., in order to attract the *haris* to his land, unless he be in a position of tribal authority and gets his lands cultivated by his tribesmen. When Hindus acquire land they generally get it cultivated by the former owner, who often retains a share in it.”

Cultivation by the *zamindár* through his *haris* is the normal state of affairs, but owing to indolence and indebtedness an estate is frequently leased out, wholly or in part, to a contractor or to a *bataidár*. The former pays the *zamindár* a lump sum or a fixed sum per acre; the latter appropriates the produce of a certain area or so many measures of grain per acre. The contractor or the *bataidár* then engages *haris* on the usual terms: there is no real change in the conditions of tenancy. Such expedients are unhappily not uncommon among the holders of large *jágirs* and *zamindárs*.

The Commissioner has not received accurate figures of transfers for the whole province, but it is generally reported that the number of sales of agricultural lands is on the increase. When lands are leased on a cash rental, the rental is generally equal to about twice the Government assessment, *i. e.*, the tenant pays the assessment to Government and besides gives the superior holder a sum equal to the assessment.

## VIII.—General remarks.

W. T. MORISON, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

An unsatisfactory feature in the *Karáchi* District is the impoverished condition of the cultivators in the Tatta Sub-Division. A series of poor years and the silting up of the canals has much reduced the area of cultivation, and many of the old land-owners have left the tract. This migration is, perhaps, not altogether to be regretted, because there is still much good land available elsewhere, and it is better that men should move to this than stick to land which they cannot cultivate profitably. A stranger from the Presidency proper is much struck with the careless and wasteful style of cultivation all over Sind: weeding is seldom attempted, and canal water is wasted in the most reckless manner. The fact is that there is still too much cultivable land for the population: holdings are too large, and the indolent Sindhi can still get enough to eat with little labour. The year was a most prosperous one for the town and port of *Karáchi*: the export of wheat was enormous, and the import trade has also increased greatly.

In *Hyderabad*, the crowded state of Hyderabad town is attracting attention, and more than one scheme for inducing the people to build in the suburbs has been put forward; it is hoped that the more favourable rules for building on

agricultural land will soon be applied here. Mr. Ferrers refers to the difficulties of crop inspections for the purpose of remissions. This is one of the weakest points of the remission system. A good deal can be done if Assistant Collectors, recognizing the extreme urgency of the work, move out into districts early, and see as much as possible while the crops are standing. In any case, an early general inspection of the worst tracts is imperative and should be subordinated to no other work.

In *Thar and Párkar*, the town of Mirpur Khás is rapidly developing into an important trade centre, to the detriment, it is feared, of Umarkot, which is less favourably situated. Mr. Mackenzie calls attention to the need for one or two bridges over the Nára River: the additional grants for roads recently made by Government will make the work possible. Mr. Bharucha's suggestion for the alteration of the date of the kharíf instalment in the Desert should be reported on separately.

There was a serious increase of crime in the *Lárkána* District during the year. The inadequacy of the police force is admitted, and a considerable increase in it has now been sanctioned provisionally. The large number of labourers who have been coming to Sind every year since the cycle of lean years in Gujarát and Rájputána commenced has probably something to do with this wave of crime.

In *Sukkur*, Mr. Rieu notes that the appointment of resident Magistrates, while affording considerable relief to Revenue Officers who are also Magistrates, has greatly increased the worst form of criminal litigation. The contract entered into by the Forest Department for supplying the North-Western Railway with fuel was terminated shortly after the close of the year, and coal is now being used much more extensively on the railway. But the increasing demand for firewood and timber from Báluchistán will take up all that our forests can turn out. Mr. Rieu was right to stop the indiscriminate cutting on revenue lands.

On the *Upper Sind Frontier*, plague appeared for the first time in Jacobabad, causing a complete suspension of the trade and business of the town for the months of April and May.

*Reports.*

Commissioners' Land Revenue Administration Reports, Part II, and Collectors' and Sub-Divisional Officers' Administration Reports for 1904-1905.

No. 8956.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 18th September 1906.

Letter from the Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 4594, dated 25th October 1905.	} Submitting the Land Revenue Administration Reports, Part II, of their respective divisions, for the year 1904-05, together with the Collectors' and Sub-Divisional Officers' Administration Reports for that year.
Letter from the Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3932, dated 1st November 1905.	
Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 3975, dated 24th November 1905.	
Letter from the Commissioner, Central Division, No. R.-253, dated 30th January 1906.	

RESOLUTION.—Over the greater part of the Presidency the early rainfall was capricious in its distribution and generally deficient in quantity.

In the Central Division the monsoon was late in arrival and for some time the *kharif* crops suffered owing to the lightness of the fall; the beneficial rain of August and September did much to revive these and furnished the opportunity for *rabi* sowings, but was followed by a premature and complete cessation of the monsoon. In Gujarát the effects of an abnormally prolonged break, which bade fair in the northern districts to ruin all prospects of a *rabi* harvest, were in some degree mitigated by the heavy downpour of mid September, but this lasted for three days only, and there was no more rain. Again, in the Karnátak districts a break of unusual duration ensued on a sufficiently promising commencement, and there was practically complete absence of late or *rabi* rainfall. The only places in which the crop outturn proved normal or good were the Konkan districts, including practically the whole of Thána (save in so far as locusts damaged the crops in parts of these districts) and the large district of Khándesh in the Central Division, where, as the Commissioner reports, the *kharif* was generally good and the *rabi* excellent. Elsewhere, throughout the Presidency the result of the unsatisfactory conditions of rainfall above described was a failure of harvests which varied in degree and was most complete in parts of the Deccan and Karnátak, and, in addition, considerable contraction in the Central districts of the area under cotton. Locusts again made their appearance, and did no small damage, not only as has been noticed in the sub-ghát districts, but also to the already diminished crops in parts of the Deccan, where in the Poona district alone over Rs. 35,000 were expended on measures for their destruction.

In Sind also the season was unsatisfactory. The inundation was bad and the hot weather rainfall insufficient everywhere in the province, over a considerable part of which it failed altogether; while the effects of a good fall in January were neutralised by unusually severe frosts which caused much damage to the *rabi*. There occurred in consequence a considerable contraction of the cultivated area, much injury to crops generally, and more or less extensive failure of certain kinds. The canals, it is reported, worked on the whole not badly, despite the nature of the inundation; but many stand in need of improvement and development. Government are confident that improvements are being steadily effected wherever practicable, and are ready to endorse the Commissioner's remark that large and important projects cannot be carried out without mature consideration from all points of view.

2. It was expected in consequence of the character of the season—and the inference was a natural one to make from the experience of the lean years which have succeeded, with only occasional interruption, the famine of 1899-1900—that in many parts of the Presidency there would be considerable demand on the part of the labouring classes and smaller cultivators for relief in the form of works provided by Government; in other words, that famine conditions would obtain. Such relief was accordingly held in readiness, but neither in any part

of the Presidency, with the solitary exception of one *táluka* in Gujarát, nor in Sind, did the situation develop into one of distress. Save in the *Mátar táluka* of the Kaira district where the largest number of persons on relief works at any time was 2,336, either such works as were opened had to be discontinued almost immediately because they failed to attract labour, or, if continued, were continued only in the test stage since there was not sufficient attendance to warrant their conversion into regular relief works. Something of this result is no doubt due in the case of cultivators to the favourable character of the season preceding that to which these reports relate, and the good prices of cotton that ruled during the former. But the labouring classes also not only were never in need of relief, with the small and isolated exception already noticed, but both in the Presidency proper and in Sind did very well, the conditions of the season notwithstanding. Prices of food grains rose more or less appreciably, it is true, in Sind and in the Deccan districts: elsewhere they remained practically stationary, or a temporary rise was soon followed by reversion to the normal. It is worth noticing with regard to this comparative stability of prices, notwithstanding the widespread failure of crops, that it has needed the experience of recurring years of distress to develop a fairly rapid and automatic adjustment of supply to demand, through free use, as soon as the necessity arises, of the modern greatly extended facilities for transport.

On the other hand, the wages of agricultural labour might have been expected to fall considerably in consequence of the contraction of the local demand for it. In fact, however, save in Sind, not only was there little or no tendency for wages of this kind of labour to fall, but in many places they rose appreciably. In the Southern Marátha Country and over a considerable portion of the Deccan the local supply of agricultural labour has of late been scarcely equal to the demand for it in normal seasons, and its wages have for some time past tended steadily to rise. It is beyond question that the depopulation due to recurring epidemics of plague, which have no doubt affected most in proportion the poorest classes of the people, has been a principal cause of this condition of things. But a reason of more general application why wages of agricultural labour maintained their level or rose above the normal rate, and one which in the year under review operated perhaps more directly to counteract the natural result of a decreased demand, is the comparative freedom with which of late years labour has begun to move in quest of employment on the first signs of distress. There has always, of course, or at least for very many years past, been a periodical exodus of labour, especially from certain districts, to Bombay and other large industrial centres, as well as the more limited seasonal movements from *rabi* tracts to neighbouring *kharif* harvests and *vice versa*: but recently, and very noticeably in the year under review, there has been much extension of these movements. Notwithstanding, however, that a much greater influx of labour took place than usual into the large industrial centres, such as Bombay and Ahmedabad, this was all absorbed by a considerable expansion of activity. Accordingly, the price of industrial labour also continued high throughout the Presidency, while in parts of Sind it was higher than its normal rate.

The development of a spirit of enterprise, previously dormant, which has caused not only the labouring classes but in some places the smaller cultivators also, on the occurrence of a local failure of the harvest, to seek good wages, often at considerable distances from their homes, and has rendered them thus independent of that Government aid which a few years ago would most probably, in similar circumstances, have been necessary, is one of the most remarkable results of the experience of recent years. Many officers observe that no improvement in the efficiency of labour is noticeable. In directing in their review of the previous year's reports that any tendency of this kind should in future be noticed, Government had of course no intention of suggesting that such an effect would be immediately apparent. But it seems unquestionable that a steady rise in the standard of living continues to take place among all classes of the people, scarcely checked by the occurrence in close succession of a number of bad seasons. Emigration for purposes of trade to Africa, Burma and elsewhere, for the most part of people of the more intelligent classes, whether cultivators by hereditary occupation or not, has now for a long time past been

an established thing, and despite recent restrictive legislation in South Africa, it still apparently not only continues unabated, but is, if anything, increasing, mainly as yet from the Broach and Surat Districts of the Northern Division, and from parts of the coast. These people usually return to India with considerable accumulations after but a few years' absence, during which most of them send large remittances of money to their relations at home. The cultivators again have everywhere shown remarkable power of recovery during the occasional years of good harvests which have interrupted a series of years of stress; and the fact that one such good season has served to tide them over two succeeding bad ones with a minimum of Government aid may, without undue optimism, be taken to indicate that hard experience is teaching them to look ahead. There can also be little question that the dominating factors of the situation, the diminution, particularly in the Southern districts, of numbers, the enterprise in going further afield for employment and the demand for labour in the large towns for industrial purposes, have resulted in a decided amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes. It is a remarkable instance of this fact that already in a district pre-eminently liable to famine, many persons whose sole avocation was formerly labour have lately taken to cultivation as tenants. That one outcome of these circumstances should be some improvement ultimately in the efficiency of labour seems not too much to expect.

Over the greater part of Sind, agricultural labour is paid in kind, the *hari* receiving for wages a specified share of the produce. Necessarily, therefore, in the year under consideration the wage of agricultural labour was somewhat less than the normal rate; but, as the Commissioner points out, the labourer "whose position is comparatively independent and who is at times able to dictate his own terms" was never, during the year, in any danger of distress. The condition of the poorer classes generally throughout the Province was in fact satisfactory, despite the rise in the price of food-grains.

3. Briefly, the only measures of relief required during the year, save in Mátar, were some extension of the grant of *tagai*, liberal suspension and remission of land revenue, and postponement of *tagai* instalments.

It was noticed in the previous year's reports that one result of the leniency in collection of revenue, which has been rendered necessary during recent years of unsatisfactory harvests, has been in certain districts the growth of some degree of recalcitrancy among persons well able to pay what is demanded of them. That a man who has had good crops or can otherwise pay his dues without hardship should endeavour to get the advantage of a concession which he sees extended to his more unfortunate neighbour is perhaps no very surprising manifestation of human nature; and equally, no doubt, it is an obvious enough consequence of repeated and extensive suspensions and remissions that the rayat should seek, by the simple device of passive resistance, to obtain in a good year a continuance of the treatment to which a succession of bad ones has accustomed him. But it can scarcely be questioned that the principles by which Government have directed the collection of instalments to be regulated are sufficiently liberal: the proportionate adjustment in different divisions of the Presidency of collection to outturn of crops, is the result of careful deliberation and as fair, Government consider, as it is possible for any such adjustment for general application to be made: while the avoidance for the most part of individual inquiry for the purpose of deciding how much revenue is to be foregone and how much collected, without doubt, gives an appreciable margin of indulgence to the cultivator. The judicious and discriminating exercise by district officers of the ample powers which they possess under the law should soon result, it was pointed out last year, in a reversion to the former general attitude of acquiescence in the payment of just demands. That this expectation has in fact already been to some extent justified is apparent from the reports; for although the contumacious spirit again showed itself in the withholding of revenue in hope of ultimate remission or suspension—mainly by well-to-do landholders and in certain districts,—and there was in consequence more or less difficulty in collection, this contumacy nowhere, save in one district, amounted to anything like a combined endeavour to resist payment. Generally all that was necessary in order to realise the demand was some slight additional resort to coercive measures and some additional alertness on the part of those immediately responsible for recovery; while resistance was for the greater part

short-lived. Only in Broach, a district at all times notorious for the obstinate spirit of a large proportion of its cultivating population, no less than for the fertility of its soil, was there really serious and combined resistance which necessitated any considerable resort to the severer forms of coercive process. Something of this difficulty is attributed to inefficiency, or worse, on the part of the village officers. Government, however, observe with approval that even in Broach the district officers succeeded, by the exercise of sufficient firmness, in collecting finally most of the revenue due. In Sind there is little evidence of anything that can be called actual contumacy, and ultimate realisation of revenue appears to have caused comparatively small trouble; but, as the Commissioner observes, there is some tendency in that Province also on the part of well-to-do zamindárs towards unpunctuality of payment, for which, as he points out, there is little reason. Government entirely concur with the Commissioner that deliberate unpunctuality of payment in a good year should not be tolerated.

4. The balances of *tagai* instalments outstanding at the end of the year were very large in all three divisions of the Presidency, and especially heavy in the Central Division. Of these outstandings it is not stated what proportion represents arrears of instalments due for repayment in previous years, but, in fact, the proportion varies from over a third of the total amount outstanding in the Southern, to about half in the Central Division. Little reduction of outstanding amounts can be made as long as the necessity for granting postponements recurs together with extension of new loans, and in consequence, except in the Southern Division, mainly in the Bijápur District where the Collector showed commendable energy in the matter, practically no reduction was made during the year of the amounts outstanding at the beginning of it, and in some cases these increased. In Sind, as in the Northern and Central Divisions of the Presidency, the advances made were considerably larger than in the previous year and there was in consequence some increase of the outstanding balances; but the proportion of these due to previous years' arrears was comparatively small. It is, however, observed that the smaller zamindárs have little scruple in withholding repayment of *tagai* instalments, in the hope that they will ultimately be granted remission. Government concur with the Commissioner that such an impression should be firmly checked and that *tagai* debts should be written off only in very exceptional circumstances. This remark applies with equal, or perhaps greater force, and with special reference to loans for land improvement, to the Presidency divisions, where there is already quite sufficient difficulty in recovering instalments due. In a year of severe scarcity or famine when it is necessary to make advances freely under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, some risk may have to be taken that future unfavourable seasons will necessitate the ultimate remission of a portion of them: The system of taking joint bonds as security should, however, obviate any very considerable degree of such risk and that system should be employed more widely than appears to have been the case during the year under notice, both in respect of loans under the Act of 1884, and, where necessary, in making advances for land improvement.

Regarding other matters relating to the administration of *tagai* the Governor in Council considers it unnecessary to comment in detail. The whole subject is under examination in connection with the instructions and principles laid down by the Government of India in their published Resolution\* No. 6-204-16, dated 30th November 1905. It will be sufficient to record here that although there are many instances of works of improvement, especially wells, for which money was advanced during years of famine and scarcity, proving unsuccessful, there are few ascertained instances of deliberate misappropriation. On the occurrence of famine it is the declared policy of Government to advance liberally at an early stage with the object of putting heart into the people and of enabling the larger holders to give employment and thus diminish the number of persons who will have to come on relief works. In such circumstances complete and minute investigation as to the eventual success of the improvement is difficult, though probably not so impracticable as is sometimes too readily assumed. The usefulness of the advance is great, independently of the success of the work. A means has been provided of tiding over distress, wholly or partially, by an advance on easy interest, repayable in moderate instalments; and if a genuine

\* Vide Government Resolution, Financial Department, No. 4279, dated 14th December 1905.

attempt at expenditure of the advance on useful improvement has been made, and the advance is eventually recovered, there is not much ground for complaint. Like the funds provided for relief labour, the advances are spent on works, which it is hoped may be useful, though the hope is often disappointed. The endeavour, for the future, must be to improve arrangements so that the disappointment may be reduced to a minimum. Meanwhile, although Government do not mean to deny such relief as may be proved to be required in the very special circumstances of the extraordinary succession of bad seasons which have crippled the resources of cultivators in many parts of the Presidency, especially above the gháts, they must emphasise the principle laid down by the Government of India that remissions of *tagai* are not to be granted with the same liberality as remissions of land revenue. In ordinary times, there ought to be little excuse for the failure of improvements for which *tagai* is granted. The machinery for preliminary inspection of works is fairly considerable and can if necessary be increased. The idea that, provided the advance is recoverable without difficulty, little thought need be given to the usefulness of the improvement or the proportion of the advance actually expended on it, cannot be countenanced. The grant of advances on such a principle, or rather absence of principle, is unjustifiable, demoralising, and unfair to those applicants who have a useful work to execute if they can get the money. The object of advances at such times is to get improvements executed, not merely to provide people with accommodation.

Little reference, it is observed, has been made to the subject of *tagai* in the Northern Division reports and the Commissioner scarcely refers to it. The omission should be rectified in future reports. The subject has an essential bearing on that of the economic condition of the people, and the working of both the Acts is now an important part of district revenue administration.

5. It is only in the Sind reports that the subject of agricultural credit is dealt with, specifically under that title, but the observations contained in most of the other divisional and district reports on several matters, such, for example, as the relations between tenants and landlords, the condition of the revenue and rent-paying classes, the working of Bombay Act VI of 1901, and of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, and the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies, generally touch the same subject.

The remark is made in more than one report that land continues to pass from the possession of agriculturists into that of the non-cultivating classes, and it is too obviously true of certain districts, or parts of certain districts, to admit of dispute. To what extent, however, the transfers referred to are elsewhere, in general, permanent (or in the circumstances likely to become so) or merely temporary and ordinary hypothecations of land as security, is not for the most part stated, and it would perhaps hardly be possible, without special inquiry, to make the distinction. When the Record of Rights has been accurately drawn up in all parts of the Presidency and Sind, and it is now in most places nearing completion, it should afford a tolerably correct view of the actual condition of things. It may here be observed, however, that although this complaint about the alienation of land has been repeated during a great many years, there is little to show that, except in districts, where the original cultivators belong to obviously backward and improvident classes, there is an appreciably larger extent of land in the ownership of persons who do not actually cultivate it now, than was the case, say, thirty years ago. It is evident from a consideration of the accounts given in the reports, and above summarised, of the nature and effect of the season, that a series of bad years has not in general had the consequence of impoverishing the agricultural population to the extent that might have been anticipated. No doubt the increased resort to *tagai*, the necessity of granting, or repeating the grant of considerable postponements, and the difficulty experienced in collection, do pre-suppose some temporary contraction of credit, and it is difficult to see what other result a bad season can have. On the other hand, it has been shown that the people have learnt during recent years valuable lessons of foresight and independence. Their recovery in occasional good years has been such as of late to render superfluous the direct assistance of Government, in a measure which ten years ago could not have been expected, and such a result must mean that the rayats' ordinary credit has in great measure regained stability. The zamindárs of Sind have not

yet been forced to the same pitch of prudence as the rayats of the Presidency, but the Commissioner shows that there are not wanting indications that they also are learning a measure of prudence.

That the cultivator is ready enough to appreciate and to take advantage of measures for giving him financial assistance in his avocation on conditions reasonable and easy to be observed, when he has grasped their scope, is shown both by the great expansion of the *tagai* system, especially in districts where interest in private transactions runs high, and by the promising aspect (for the most part in such districts) of the experiment but recently introduced of Co-operative Credit Societies, formed principally of agriculturists. In Gujarát, it is true, the demand for *tagai* loans for the improvement of land is appreciably less than elsewhere, while in most parts of that tract of country the idea of co-operation in order to amplify the credit of the individual has as yet made comparatively little headway. The reason is that in an area where the soil is pre-eminently productive, and cultivation advanced, and where the possibility of a failure of the season was scarcely thought of before the recent famine, the ordinary cultivator's status is higher than elsewhere, and his credit is still good enough to enable him to borrow at a fairly low rate of interest.

The most essential provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have now been extended to other parts of the Presidency than the four districts in which the Act was originally brought into force, as well as to Sind. It is as yet too early to make any definite pronouncement as to the effect of this measure elsewhere than in these four districts, but it appears that in Sind the result has so far been successful, and the provisions are not objected to by those for whose benefit they are intended; while the Collector of Khándesh also reports favourably on their operation in that district. It is true that the immediate result of the introduction of the Act into any district is generally some contraction of the rayats' credit, since the money-lender seeks, by demanding heavier security and by making certain his title to it, to evade the object of the Act. Government entirely concur with the Commissioner in Sind and the Commissioner, C. D., that the restriction placed on indiscriminate and inconsiderate borrowing is no undesirable result.

In Sind and in the Northern and Central Divisions of the Presidency the grant of land under Bombay Act VI of 1901 (that is, subject to inalienability of tenure without Government's permission) has made good progress, and large areas of land are now in permanent occupation, subject to the restriction on the right of alienation. The great progress made during the year in Khándesh especially is in part due, as the Collector points out, to the fact that the condition of inalienability is no new thing to cultivators of the backward classes, Bhils, Mávchis and others in that district. The large proportion of these classes in the Panch Maháls district of the Northern Division has made it possible there also to settle the occupancy of many acres on the same conditions of tenure. In the Southern Division small headway has as yet been made, owing principally to the comparatively small proportion of cultivators in that division who can properly be said to belong to the most backward classes. It is matter for regret that over a considerable portion of Thána, a district in which the application of the Act would be eminently desirable, alienation of land to persons of the non-cultivating classes has already gone so far that little can now be done. Elsewhere in that district it is hoped that the local officers will do their best to extend the operation of the Act.

That the tenure is beneficial to those classes for whose benefit it was specially legalised there can be no question. So long as it exists side by side with occupancy on the old tenure, a greater degree of credit must of course continue to attach to the latter, and, in so far, it may be admitted that the restriction on alienation means also restriction of credit. That the actual occupants on the new tenure enjoy for the most part substantially less credit with the money-lender now than they had under former conditions is less obvious: and it is at any rate probable that they gain in the stability of what they possess as security. It is worthy of notice that in one place in the Central Division (Ambegáon) the Koli cultivators have given a practical illustration of their appreciation of the real benefit of a restriction on alienation by entering of their own accord into a joint agreement not to alienate their lands in

order to borrow money. At no time can the credit have been large of those ignorant and improvident classes who are easily persuaded to mortgage their lands for inadequate consideration, and as easily kept out of possession once they have parted with it, by the imposition of heavy interest and the further alienation of their security for fresh loans. The restriction on inconsiderate borrowing must in itself, as has been remarked with reference to the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, be beneficial: while the essence of the tenure, that the occupant is secured in the possession of the results of his labour, puts him in a position of advantage which, owing to his own ignorance and improvidence, he never possessed when he had full power to alienate his occupancy. In Sind, where the tenure has made the greatest headway, no dislike of it has hitherto been shown by the classes for whom it is primarily meant, whatever the opinion of it held by the money-lending classes: and there are elsewhere signs that comparatively well-to-do cultivators have already here and there begun to view it with less disfavour than was shown at first.

6. Government observe with satisfaction that the subject of education has received full attention in all the reports, especially with reference to its progress among the agricultural classes. The opinions expressed as to the degree of progress that has been, and is being, attained, vary somewhat; and naturally the state of rural education differs in different parts of the country. The most experienced officers generally express the belief that an appreciable advance has been made and continues to take place, and Government are of the same opinion, looking to the condition of things obtaining twenty or thirty years ago. It must be admitted, however, that the progress of education among the cultivators is almost everywhere slow, despite the desire shown in some places for extension of schools, and plague has, in many districts, considerably retarded it. It is no doubt not easy to meet satisfactorily the objections of the middle class and smaller cultivators to sparing their children in order to attend school in the busy seasons of field work, and any practicable way that may be recommended to Government of overcoming this objection, so as to secure larger and more regular attendance, will receive careful consideration. It is certain that general improvement of the cultivators' status, whatever measures Government undertake to assist them, must ultimately be very largely determined by the extent of the progress among them of education, and it is probable that this progress will continue to be slow until the education of women, as yet but little attended to outside the larger towns, has made more headway. The success, however, of the schools for children of the backward and depressed classes in Thána, Khándesh, the Panch Maháls and elsewhere, and the appreciation of education and keenness for it often displayed by members of these classes, afford ground for satisfaction, and argue hopefully for its ultimate advancement among the agricultural classes generally. Much has been and is being done, especially in jungle tracts and among the low castes by missionaries and missionary societies. In Sind, progress among the Hindu population is good, but the Mahomedans are generally reported to be still apathetic. Even among the Mahomedan zamindárs and cultivators, however, the desire already expressed in some places for new schools shows that interest in education is being aroused by the evidence of the advantages which attend it.

7. Other matters dealt with in the reports require little particular notice here.

District officers for the most part made complete and satisfactory tours of their charges, and the amount of general inspection performed was with little exception sufficient. The condition of revenue buildings and record rooms has been described by the Commissioners, so far as concerns their respective divisions, and deficiencies and requirements reported. These are being supplied gradually according as funds are available, and the Commissioners will no doubt continue to see that repairs, extensions and new buildings are undertaken in order of urgency.

The work of the revenue establishments is in general well spoken of, but there is in some reports adverse criticism of the village accountants and some dissatisfaction is also expressed with regard to the Circle Inspectors, more in reference to the effect on their work of the method of appointment which, it is considered, involves over frequent transfers, than on the ground of any degree of inefficiency displayed by these officials. As to this complaint, Government have recently issued orders on the subject of appointments, under the rules regulating appointment of graduate and non-graduate candidates for revenue

employment, a proper observance of which will, it is hoped, obviate the disadvantages supposed to result from the abovementioned cause. The subject of improving the status and efficiency of village accountants is at present under the consideration of Government who recognise the necessity of bringing this part of the district establishments up to the level required by the duties which they now-a-days have to perform. But the settlement of so large and important a question demands careful deliberation and must take time. Endeavours should be directed for the present to the following ends, *viz.*, the diminution of the number of deputies employed, and the avoidance of punishment by fine and suspension. The one thing certain is that in proportion as his remuneration is reduced, so the more will the village accountant be tempted to increase his emoluments by illegitimate means, and the less will be the incentive to good work. Deputies, with rare exceptions, never receive the whole of the emoluments attached to the office; they are specially liable to this class of temptation, and likely to be an inferior class of men. Punishments should be as a rule restricted to recorded warnings, on the accumulation of which the village officer will become liable to dismissal, and incompetent officiators will be weeded out. It is not altogether easy to understand why the work of the village accountants, whether stipendiary or wataundár, should differ in different districts to the extent indicated in the reports, but it appears plain that, for whatever reason, there is considerable variation, both of efficiency in respect of ordinary duties, and of capacity to learn the new work involved in the preparation of a record of rights, with all due allowance made for possible differences in the standard of efficiency looked for by different Collectors and sub-divisional officers. The Circle Inspectors, apart from the complaint above referred to of the result of frequent transfers, are generally fairly well reported on, as are the village office establishments in Sind. The Mámlatdárs have for the most part worked zealously and with efficiency throughout a trying year, though it is to be regretted that five of their number, including a Mukhtyárkar in Sind, should have incurred punishment of degradation or dismissal during the year of report.

The subject of the condition of the revenue and rent-paying classes has already in effect been discussed, since, as some officers point out, the latter merge into the former on the one hand, and on the other into the purely labouring class. It is not in fact possible to make any practicable distinction in a rayatwári tract, save in the limited cases where special tenures or grants involve the existence of a small class of tenants. For the most part the relations between these and their landlords are reported to be satisfactory, and rents, where they are determined by custom, are normally not excessive. It is expected that complaints against superior holders of harshness in collection of their rents in bad years will be removed by the operation of the rules under which suspension and remission of revenue due from them to Government is made conditional on the extension by them to their tenants of proportionate liberality, and it is observed with satisfaction that already some inámdárs have begun to apply the principle of these rules to the collection of their rents. The reports are not full on the subject of the collection of inámdárs' dues from their tenants. As regards the few districts where the matter is of importance, the Collector of Sátára alone enters satisfactorily into the subject. There is no doubt that there are faults on the sides both of the inámdár and of the tenant. As regards surveyed villages the right standard is that the inámdár, provided he grants suspensions and remissions with the same liberality, should recover his revenue with the same fulness and punctuality as Government. This standard must be aimed at and all Collectors should in their reports give figures and information showing how far it has been attained. In Sind, as has already been noticed, the *hari* is well off, in that he can to some extent, owing to the excess of demand for agricultural labour over the supply of it, dictate his terms to the zamindár, and a somewhat similar effect has begun to be apparent in those parts of the Presidency where, owing to plague, the larger landholders who lease their occupancies in part or wholly, are experiencing difficulty in getting tenants for their lands akin to that which has been observed with regard to the supply of agricultural labour. It is not possible moreover to distinguish tenants as such from the labouring classes in regard to the general effect, already sufficiently discussed, which has been produced on these classes by recurring failures of crops and consequently of local employment.

Most of the subjects dealt with in Chapter V of the Commissioners' reports have been separately reported on by the different officers specially concerned,

and the orders of Government on these annual reports have already been communicated to Commissioners and Collectors. No general discussion of these matters is accordingly necessary here. It is observed, however, that some officers comment disparagingly on the value of the work done by the Agricultural Department and its general use to cultivators. Government must deprecate *à priori* criticism of this kind. It is not to be expected that a department of this nature, whose existence is comparatively new, can extend its operations, or establish its results in every district at once. Not only, however, has much useful work been done by it already and valuable conclusions established, but the more intelligent cultivators are already learning to profit by the result of their observations in those districts where experimental farms have been started, and are showing the greatest readiness to adopt improved methods which are demonstrably within their means. It would be superfluous to repeat here the substance of Government Resolution No. 4367, dated 3rd May 1906, to which and to the report on which it was issued attention is recommended. It should be observed, however, that where the greatest progress has been attained, as, for example, in the adoption of European implements, the formation of an agricultural association, the ready purchase of improved seed, and, especially, the establishment in Sind of the cultivation of Egyptian cotton, it has been largely due to the active sympathy and co-operation of the local officers.

8. On the whole, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that while the recurrence of another year of bad harvests after the promise of a return to better seasons must have been disheartening to the people and cannot but have retarded agricultural progress, it is, on the other hand, consolatory to see that progress nevertheless persists as is plainly enough shown in the rapid recovery which a single good year brings about, the power of resistance increasingly manifest in succeeding years of failure, and the development of independence and of the habit of prudence which the experience of the last decade has undoubtedly produced. His Excellency in Council is pleased to record his appreciation of the energetic and conscientious administration of their charges on the part of all officers during the year.

G. MONTEATH,  
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind.  
The Commissioner, N. D.  
The Commissioner, C. D.  
The Commissioner, S. D.  
All Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind.  
The Director of Land Records.  
The Director of Agriculture.  
The Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies.  
The Director of Public Instruction.  
The Accountant General.  
The Educational Department of the Secretariat.  
The General Department of the Secretariat.  
The Political Department of the Secretariat.  
The Judicial Department of the Secretariat.  
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.  
The Financial Department of the Secretariat.  
The Government of India.  
The Under Secretary of State for India } By letter.

No.                      of 1906.

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