

C O N T E N T S.

1. Papers regarding the Famine and the Relief Operations in India, 1896, and the Famine Code for the North-West Provinces and Oudh. (C.8302) 1897. pp.1-120.

Y:4353:67.2.M97 c7

2. do. Further Papers, 1896-97. (C.8388.) 1897. pp.121-257.

Y:4353.67.2 M97 c7

3. do. Further Papers, 1896-97. No. IV. (C.8660.) 1897. pp.258-373.

Y:4353:67.2.M97 c7

4. do. Further Papers, 1896-97. No. V. Resolution on the Administration of Famine Relief in the North Western Provinces and Oudh. (C.8739.) 1898. pp.374-463.

Y:4353.67.2.M97 c7

THE FAMINE AND THE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN

(37)

P A P E R S

REGARDING

THE FAMINE AND THE RELIEF
OPERATIONS

IN

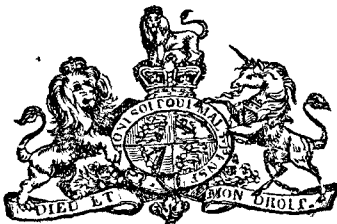
I N D I A

DURING THE YEAR 1896:

WITH COPY OF

THE FAMINE CODE FOR THE NORTH-WEST
PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.; and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W., or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW, or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

[C. 502.] Price 1s. 11d.

Rare
Y:4353:67.2.M97.

C7
15172

LIST OF PAPERS.

	Page
From the Secretary of State and the Viceroy from the 2nd October 1896 down to the 1st October 1897	2
North-West Provinces Government dated 30th September, with enclosed	10
Patna Division with orders by the Bengal Government, dated 15th October	16
Central Provinces, dated 23rd October	19
North-West Provinces Government, dated 20th October	21
Punjab Government, dated 23rd November	35
The North-West Provinces Government, dated 23rd and 17th November, with certain	47
Madras Government, dated 16th November, with enclosure	94
Central Provinces, dated 26th November, with enclosure	101
Summary report from the Bombay Government, dated 5th November, with enclosure	114
Report from the Bengal Government, dated 18th November, with enclosure	118
Report from the Central India Agency dated 13th November	165
Instructions regarding the utilisation of railway projects as famine relief works	169
Despatch to Government of India, dated 15th January 1897	176
Despatch from Government of India, dated 23rd December, with enclosures	176
Despatch to Government of India, dated 15th January 1897	180

FAMINE CODE of the NORTH-WEST PROVINCES and OUDH - - - - - 180

THE FAMINE AND THE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA

P A P E R S

REGARDING

THE FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AND THE VICEROY.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

October 2, 1896

Reuter's telegram of 30th September. Alleged famine impending in North-West Province. Please telegraph facts briefly and keep me informed.

From VICEROY.

October 3, 1896

Your telegram of 2nd October. Telegrams sent home about grain riots believed to be very much exaggerated. Delhi, no riot, only few shops closed for some hours. Agra, some excitement, but no plundering, and matter well in hand. Nagpore, plundering reported, but order restored. Owing to premature cessation of monsoon, prices in northern, north-western, and central parts of India risen suddenly, which affects poorer classes. If no rain falls for autumn sowings severe distress anticipated over considerable portions of North-West Provinces, Punjab, and small part of Burma. Test Famine Relief Works already opened where necessary. We will keep you fully informed.

From VICEROY.

October 6, 1896

Your telegram of 3rd October. Further reports forwarded show that troops were called out at Nagpur, but did not fire, and no loss of life. Discontent not due to local scarcity but to apprehension of export of grain to other districts.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY

October 13, 1896.

Please telegraph latest information regarding monsoon, prospects of crops, and prices, North-West Provinces and Oudh, and Punjab.

From VICEROY.

October 15, 1896.

Your telegram of 12th October last. Over most of Oudh, large part of North-West Provinces, Punjab (South and Central), eight districts in Central Provinces, two districts in Upper Burma, unirrigated autumn crops seriously damaged. If rain does not come before the end of November, spring sowings will be small. Condition and prospects of crops in parts of Bombay cause some anxiety. Rain now improbable. Famine is inevitable unless sufficient rain falls within affected area, North-West Provinces and Oudh, Punjab. In other tracts indicated there will be considerable distress in parts of affected area about the same as 1877; but the stocks not now depleted as then by famine of 1876. Since then, canal protected tracts in Punjab, North-West Provinces, increased from three to six million acres, and open rail in these and Central Provinces from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$ thousand miles, 18 million cultivated acres now irrigated in these three provinces.

Wheat from California on way. Merchants offer American wheat at 9 seers per rupee at Calcutta, equal to 8 seers in Allahabad. Present price in seers per rupee,

affected districts:—Central Provinces, 8 to 10 and 11; Punjab, 8 to 10 and 12; North-West Provinces and Oudh, $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$.

Considerable feeling aroused in many parts of northern and central India by Bombay by local exports to affected tracts and sudden rise of prices, but no serious disturbance except Nagpur riot, as already reported.

Prospects of importation by sea are expected to affect prices favourably, but high prices may necessitate some immediate relief to poorer classes, even where no local failure of crops. Have indicated nine railway projects to North-West Provinces and Oudh, Punjab, on which earthwork may be begun if needed for relief, irrespective of future completion of lines. Local Governments preparing projects for canals and minor works. Ten lakhs sanctioned for advances for temporary wells in North-West Provinces. Poor-houses opened, test relief works opened where necessary. All Governments carefully watching the situation.

Statement as above will be made in to-morrow's Legislative Council of the Governor General.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

October 28, 1896.

Your telegram of 15th October. I deeply deplore failure of crops and threatened famine. You may rely on my full support in efforts and expenditure to relieve distress and mitigate evils.

From VICEROY.

October 31, 1896.

Punjab — Distress anticipated in most of cis-Sutlej portion, and trans-Ravi in Lahore, Gujranwalla, Gujrat, and Shahpur.

North-West Provinces.—Autumn crops rather better, and affected area smaller than expected. Affected area is quadrilateral, between Muttra, Pilibhit, Gorakpur, and border to south of Allahabad, with parts of Bijnour, Budaun, and Moradabad, including, say, half population of province. People now eating autumn millets. Distress will begin by the middle of December. Revenue-paying rice crops largely failed and about one-third autumn demand, or one crore, will be suspended. Eighteen lakhs advanced for seed and temporary wells with excellent effect.

Central Provinces — Fear of distress in Saugor, Jubbulpur, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, four plateau districts, and part of Raipur.

General prospects gloomy in Bengal. If no November rain, distress might become serious in part of Patna division and part of Bhagalpur. Apprehensions perhaps exaggerated.

Upper Burma — Relief works opened in three districts, but numbers small.

Bombay.—Sindh good, Gujrat fair, Central division poor or bad, and rice crops have partially failed in coast districts. Anxiety is chiefly felt for Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur, and parts of Khandesh and Belgaum.

Berar says relief likely to be wanted almost everywhere.

Madras uneasy about Northern Circars and Deccan districts.

Among Native States, distress anticipated in Hyderabad, Bhurtpur, Dholpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Tonk, Gwalior, parts of Baghelkhand, and Bundelkhand.

Prices in affected area:—Wheat, Punjab, 8 to 10; North-West Provinces and Central Provinces, 8 to $9\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee; Bombay, 10 to 12. Coarse rice, Bengal 9 to 12. Effect of railways apparently will be to diffuse distress, making it more general, but less intense. Few small riots reported, mostly because of export raising prices. Nothing serious. In two cases troops called out, in one unnecessarily. Several thousand tons of Californian wheat reached Calcutta. Thirty thousand tons believed to have been bought for India, but home prices said to be rising. When news of import reached Jubbulpur prices fell from $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee to 10 seers. Numbers on relief works:—In North-West Provinces, 26,400; Punjab, 4,700; Burma, 2,700; Central India, 17,500; Rajputana, 2,500; total, 53,800. We will telegraph new information every Friday.

From VICEROY.

November 6, 1896.

Famine. No rain fell in any part of affected tracts during past week. Test relief works opened in all Madras Deccan districts, parts of Bombay Deccan, Karnatak,

Konkan, and in Bhartpur Have indicated railway projects as relief works, if needed, in Central India and Rajputana. Prices still rising slowly. On relief:—North-West Provinces and Oudh, 34,000; Punjab, 5,900; Burma, 3,000, Central India, 16,000, Rajputana, 8,000; total, 66,900.

From VICEROY.

November 13, 1896

Famine. No rain has fallen in affected tracts during past week. Detailed examination shows prospects generally more favourable in North-West Provinces than imagined, in Punjab much more so. Much depends upon winter rains in Punjab. Distress imminent in one and in part of three districts, threatening in five others, of Delhi division. Prospects considered serious in Behar. Grain riot at Sholapore; Bombay police fired, killed one, wounded two. Prices in affected districts:—Wheat, Punjab, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee; North-West Provinces, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$, Bombay, 8 to 10; Bengal rice, 8 to 11, Madras ragi, 14 to 19. On relief.—North-West Provinces, 86,800, Central India, 4,000; Rajputana, 12,800, Punjab, 5,800, Burma, 8,600; Madras, 2,100, total, 120,100. North-West Provinces figures doubtful.

From VICEROY

November 20, 1896

Famine. Slight rain has fallen in Upper Burma. Fair rain has fallen on Madras coast up to Masulipatam. Showers west coast up to Ratnagiri. Otherwise, no rain has fallen in week in affected area. Prices are rising still. On relief.—North-West Provinces, 117,000; Punjab, 7,600, Central India, 4,100, Rajputana, 8,200, Bengal, 2,200, Burma, 8,500, Madras, 12,100, Bombay, 1,400, total, 161,200.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY

November 20, 1896

If scarcity and distress extends or deepens, your weekly telegrams should give short account relief operations undertaken from time to time, their effect, and condition of affected population. Please send three more copies of each revised Famine Code.

From VICEROY

November 24, 1896

Between 18th and 23rd November north-east monsoon gave heavy rain on Coromandel coast, Malabar coast, extending inland, and giving 3 inches Salem, Bangalore; 2 inches Bellary, Madura; 1 inch Hyderabad, Raichur, Mysore. Cyclonic storm struck Bombay coast on 19th November, extended north-eastwards, giving, in Bombay, 5 inches Sholapur; 1 inch Poona, Bijapur, Ahmednagar, under 1 inch Belgaum, Bombay, Surat, Ahmedabad; in Central Provinces, 2 inches, Chanda, average 1 inch other stations; in Berar, 1 inch Amraoti, in Guzerat, 2 to 3 inches. There has been light rain in Central India, Sindh, Rajputana, highest 1 inch Rajkot, Deesa, in North-West Provinces, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch Bahraich, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Jhansi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch Benares, Bareilly, Roorkee, showers have been pretty general elsewhere. In Punjab, showers Delhi and eastern portion; in Behar, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch Patna, Gya. Showers Lower and West Bengal probable. Prospects greatly improved in Deccan districts, markedly in Central Provinces, and sensibly in North-West Provinces.

From VICEROY.

November 27, 1896.

No rain has fallen in distressed area since our telegram of 24th November. The rain has come too late to do much good to autumn crops, but in time for late sowings, where over 1 inch, will permit of ploughing, where $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, of sowing in land already ploughed; in all cases will greatly benefit seed already sown. Prices show a tendency to fall; full effect not yet apparent. Before rain Madras reported serious distress confined to parts of four Deccan and two northernmost districts, condition of people generally good; previous harvest good; pressure due to prices rather than failure of crops now. Rain 1 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Deccan; and prices have fallen 20 to 50 per cent in northern districts. Relief works open in four districts. Bombay, before rain opened test works in nine districts, now rain fallen in 20 districts and 1 to

$\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more throughout Deccan. Bengal before rain feared serious distress in three northern districts of Behar, two of them had no rain, but light rain in rest of Behar, reaching $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in two (*sic*). Relief works open in four districts. In North-West Provinces and Oudh good showers up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in most of worst districts. Relief works open in nine districts. In Punjab very slight rain in south. Relief works open in three districts. In Central Provinces fair rain has fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in most districts. In Berar partial showers, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch at Amraoti and $1\frac{1}{4}$ at Hyderabad. In Rajputana fairly general rain, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Relief works open in five States. In Central India rainfall general but slight. Relief will be probably required almost throughout Bundelkhand and in much of Bhaghelkhand. In Burma no rain. Relief works open in three districts. On relief works:—Punjab, 9,200; North-West Provinces, 130,100; Central India, 17,300; Rajputana, 26,000; Bengal, 3,400; Burma, 16,600; Bombay, 11,600; Madras, 36,500; total, 251,500 (*sic*). Sudden rise in Central India due to labour on Goona Railway not previously reported. Rajputana figures doubtful.

From VICEROY.

December 4, 1896.

Rainfall good during the week everywhere to the south of Madras. Two inches Cuddapah, one Neemuch, half-inch Hyderabad and extreme north Punjab. Light showers in part of North-Western Provinces, Bombay Deccan, Central India, Rajputana (East). Very light showers in almost all Punjab. Prices have fallen generally Madras and largely in Deccan districts. Now nowhere above scarcity rates in Madras. There has been a considerable fall in prices in part of Bombay. Prices are slightly easier in the Central Provinces and in part of other provinces, but no marked general fall reported outside Madras. A bumper crop expected in south of Madras now. There is no fear of famine in Berar, Hyderabad, Madras, except in part of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, which are doubtful, though high prices may call for local relief to the poor. Spring crops prospects greatly improved south of Central Provinces, considerably plateau districts, somewhat Narbadda valley, except Saugor and Damoh. In North-western Provinces sowings extended, germination generally reported good. On relief:—Punjab, 10,900; North-Western Provinces, 158,300; Rajputana, 34,800; Bengal, 3,500; Burma, 20,300; Madras, 28,400; Bombay 9,900; total, 266,100. Central India report not received. Of Rajputana figures 30,000 in Bikanir alone.

From VICEROY.

December 11, 1896.

Famine. There was no rain during the period under report in affected tracts except a few scattered showers. In Punjab, test relief works opened in three more districts. In North-Western Provinces, in consequence of recent rain, official estimate of probable number to be relieved reduced by 25 to 30 per cent. Relief works proper open in 9, and test relief works and poorhouses opened in 17 other districts. In Rajputana, prospects bad in Bikanir and Jeysulmere, poor in Bhartpur, Dholepur, and Kerauli, fair to good elsewhere. In Behar, acute distress is confined to rice tracts, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, population five millions. In Bombay the recent rains considerably contracted present area of distress, doing great good to Satara and Dharwar, and much to Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur. Late sowings still continue in Bombay and Madras. Most places will be in need of more rain later to mature spring crops. Meteorological conditions favourable for winter rains in north-west; fair north-east and Central India. Prices risen again sharply in Deccan districts, where rain had caused great fall; elsewhere prices show a tendency to fall, or stationary. The present market rates in affected districts are:—Punjab and North-Western Provinces, 9 to 11; Bengal, 8 to 11, Bombay 9 to $13\frac{1}{2}$. On relief:—Punjab, 22,300; North-Western Provinces, 186,900; Central India, 18,300; Rajputana, 29,700; Bengal, 5,800; Burma, 29,100; Madras, 24,100; Bombay, 15,500; total, 331,700. Madras figures, all Deccan districts. Central India figures include 14,000 on Goona railway, which is not relief work proper.

From VICEROY.

December 17, 1896.

We venture to recommend no action be taken in England in regard to subscriptions for the relief of distress in India until the situation has more fully declared itself. Definite decision depends upon winter rain. Despatch follows.

From VICEROY.

December 18, 1896.

Famine. No rain has fallen in affected tracts during week. In the Punjab works now open in seven districts. In North-Western Provinces test relief works and poor-houses opened in seven new districts. In Bengal distress appearing in part of Khulna and Nadia and fear of distress later in part of Orissa. Works open in seven districts, but numbers on relief works exceed 1,200 in Champaran only. In Burma all hope of winter crops in dry zone vanished, but as yet relief required in three districts only. In Central Provinces works open in six districts and acute distress feared in eleven. In Berar later reports less favourable. Fears of distress in Akola and Melghat forest tracts. In Madras test relief works opened in Ganjam attracted no labour. In Bombay works opened in eight districts. The present market rates in affected tracts are:—Punjab, $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 seers per rupee; North-Western Provinces, 10 to $13\frac{1}{2}$; average, $10\frac{1}{2}$; Bengal, 8 to 12; Burma, 9; Central Provinces, $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 11; Madras, 13 to 14; Bombay, $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$. On relief:—Punjab, 24,200; North-Western Provinces, 256,500; Central India, 18,100; Rajputana, 29,100; Bengal, 11,700; Burma, 29,300; Central Provinces, 15,900; Madras, 25,200; Bombay, 84,200; total 494,200.

From VICEROY.

December 25, 1896.

Famine. No rain in affected tracts during past week. Rain is urgently needed to save recent sowings. In Bombay and Madras Government forests long ago thrown open wherever necessary. Thirty million hundredweights clean rice estimated available surplus in Lower Burma. In North-West Provinces and Oudh famine declared in three more districts. Central Provinces detailed report shows:—Sambalpur safe; only poorest classes will suffer in Nimar, Wardha, Nagpur, Chanda, but acute distress feared in Jabalpur, Saugor, Mandla, Balaghat, and less acute in nine remaining districts. Test or relief works now open in thirteen districts. On relief:—Punjab, 6,400; North-West Provinces and Oudh, 336,200; Central India, 7,500; Rajputana, 39,000; Bengal, 31,100; Burma, 29,900; Madras, 26,200; Bombay, 36,600; Central Provinces, 45,900; total, 531,900. Figures incomplete for Punjab, Central India, and Bombay.

From VICEROY.

December 25, 1896.

Showers fell yesterday over eastern portion of North-West Provinces and Oudh and parts of Behar and Central Provinces; generally light, but exceeded one inch at Lucknow. Hope more is coming.

From VICEROY.

January 1, 1897.

Famine.—Rain has fallen during the week in affected tracts as follows:—South Punjab districts, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch; Central Punjab, light showers; North-Western Provinces and Oudh general, from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; Central India, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch; Rajputana, 1 inch in Jeypore and Bikaner; Bengal, showers up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in worst districts of North Behar: Bombay, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 inches in most of the affected districts; Central Provinces, light showers in north, and 1 inch in Jubbulpore, Saugor, Nagpore; Berar, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Prices of food grains in affected tracts:—Burma, $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee; Madras, 15; elsewhere, 8 to 12; average, 10. On relief:—Punjab, 11,000; North-West Provinces and Oudh, 347,800; Rajputana, 37,700; Bengal, 59,600; Burma, 31,700; Madras, 26,200; Bombay, 49,300; Central Provinces, 71,700; total, 635,600. Figures for Bombay, Punjab, and Central Provinces incomplete. Central India report not received.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 1, 1897.

I have communicated purport of your telegram of 17th December to Lord Mayor. Charitable subscriptions have apparently been started at some places in India and elsewhere. Expressions of public desire for similar subscription in England have reached me. Area of scarcity is now sufficiently known after recent rainfall to enable information to be given to public as to probable extent of distress. Your memorandum received by this mail shows where private machinery could supplement Government action, and indicates machinery for its superintendence and distribution. Are you sufficiently advanced to start movement?

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 1, 1897.

I propose presenting when Parliament re-assembles your famine telegrams, and reports from local governments showing situation and relief arrangements. Please telegraph on 10th January latest information concerning condition of people, adequacy of relief arrangements, and sufficiency of food supplies in each province where famine exists.

From VICEROY.

January 6, 1897.

Your telegram of 1st January. Famine. We think that we can now sufficiently define probable extent of distress. Statement will be made in Council to-morrow, and we will telegraph fullest information as requested. I am accepting invitation from non-official body to preside at meeting to start organisation for receiving and applying public subscriptions. Despatch which you will receive next Monday prescribes objects to which charitable funds can be applied, and indicates organisation required.

From VICEROY.

January 8, 1897.

Famine. Rain has fallen during the week as follows in affected area:—about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in North-West Provinces and Oudh, Behar, eastern and central Rajputana, five districts of Bombay. Good rain has fallen, up to one inch, in north and east of Central Provinces. Condition of spring crops generally good in Behar, Central Provinces, North-West Provinces and Oudh, except Bundelkhand districts. More rain is urgently wanted in Bombay. Prices falling slightly in Bengal. Total on relief 1,183,000, including Central India 30,900, Rajputana 47,300. Full information regarding British provinces will be reported by telegraph on 10th as desired.

From VICEROY.

January 10, 1897.

Your telegram of 1st. Famine. In Bengal, Burma and Madras actual distress is confined at present to portions of affected tracts, while in remaining provinces parts of some affected districts are unaffected; but high prices severely trying poorer classes throughout northern and central India, even where no failure of crops, especially in the towns.

Punjab has 28 relief works, with 30,489 workers and 10,278 children, besides 353 others on gratuitous relief, in five districts, area 16,800 square miles, population 4,139,000; also has 36 test works, with 5,391 workers and dependents, open in 10 districts, area 30,100 square miles, population 6,559,000. Numbers on test works not increasing, and 13 of above works, in two districts, area 6,800 square miles, population 2,007,000, about to be closed; while test works in three other districts, area 6,800 square miles, population 1,974,000, already closed as premature.

North-West Provinces and Oudh have 64 relief works, with 279,428 workers and 77,645 dependents, and 47 poor houses opened, with 29,227 inmates, besides 39,544 others on gratuitous relief, in 12 districts, area 26,200 square miles, population 11,273,000; they also have 92 test works, with 53,165 workers and dependents, and 65 poor houses opened, with 15,121 inmates, besides 2,749 others on gratuitous relief in 24 other districts, area 50,600 square miles, population 26,013,000.

Bengal has 87 relief and three test works, with 86,476 workers and dependents, including 18,000 children, open in six districts, area 16,600 square miles, population 13,546,000, and five test works, with 422 workers, open, besides three closed as premature, in two other districts, area 4,200 square miles, population 2,948,000. Total area severely affected at present—6,700 square miles, population 5,281,000, eight poor houses open, and 13,593 on gratuitous relief.

Burma has four relief works, with 24,727 workers, open in three districts, area 11,200 square miles, population 767,000, and 5,407 on gratuitous relief. Area severely affected at present—2,600 square miles, population 212,000.

Madras. In four districts Madras (Central), area 27,100 square miles population 3,699,000, has 21 relief works, with 19,543 workers and dependents, and 17 poor-houses opened, with 1,170 inmates, and 5,617 weavers employed in weaving. Total area at present affected—8,500 square miles, population 1,206,000. Test works in two northernmost districts, area 25,600 square miles, population 4,700,000, closed as premature.

Bombay has 80 relief and 20 test works, with 165,833 workers and 63,931 dependents, open in seven districts, area 43,000 square miles, population 7,009,000; eight test works, with 2,679 workers and dependents open in Belgaum, area 47,000 square miles, population 1,013,000; total numbers on gratuitous relief, 6,917; test works in Dharwar, area 4,600 square miles, population 1,051,000 closed as premature.

Central Provinces, fourteen districts, area 60,200 square miles, population 7,824,000, have 99 relief and 3 test works open with 149,062 workers and dependents, besides 29,027 employed on ordinary railway works; two more districts, area 13,200 square miles, population 1,019,000, have 2 test works open, with 867 workers; in twelve of above districts 61 poor-houses opened, with 16,027 inmates, and in three of them 38 centres of village relief established.

In all provinces, classes on relief are mainly low castes and labourers, with many weavers in Madras, Bombay, and Central Provinces, specially employed in weaving. Few cultivators yet on relief except in Burma, where distinction unimportant, and in districts of North-West Provinces and Oudh and Central Provinces which have suffered from several bad harvests in succession, where small cultivators already on relief and even some of better classes beginning to come.

Generally, condition of people fairly good in affected tracts, but where weakened by several bad harvests in succession, specially in parts of North-West Provinces and Oudh and Central Provinces, they exhibit manifest signs of privation when first coming on relief works or into poor-houses, and everywhere great suffering exists among classes reluctant to claim Government relief till last resources exhausted.

Fodder is scarce in many affected tracts, and in parts people are disposing of their cattle, often at nominal prices.

Health and condition of relief workers everywhere satisfactory.

Relief arrangements adequate. In connexion with the present distress, machinery previously elaborated has worked well. Owing to suddenness of demand for relief over large area test conditions not always enforced at first, but this now remedied, and organisation being rapidly expanded to meet growing demands.

Numbers on relief will now increase rapidly, and continue to grow till reaping of spring harvest in March, April, gives employment, and must remain large until autumn crops reaped in September.

Landlords, often assisted by Government loans, doing much for their tenants, and private charity active, especially in larger towns. Advances are being freely given by Government, generally without interest, for construction and repair of wells and embankments to extend and secure spring crops, and for employment of famine-stricken in agricultural improvements.

Stamp duty remitted in case of all loans, public or private, for relief of distress.

Government forests thrown open to grazing, and extraction of jungle products, and surplus grass sent as fodder to affected tracts.

Food stocks reported ample in Burma; adequate in Madras, where rayats of affected tracts hold large stocks; sufficient for a year in affected districts of Bombay generally; sufficient in Punjab, where dealers of one affected district said to be holding up enormous stocks through south-eastern districts, importing from Sindh; sufficient for the present in North-West Provinces and Oudh and Central Provinces, where spring crops are expected to carry them on to autumn harvest; and, except in one district, sufficient for the present in Bengal, where rice can be promptly imported from Burma.

Adequate arrangements have been made for supply of relief camps inland.

Railway rates for grain have been reduced.

Government has publicly proclaimed its rigid policy of non-interference with private enterprise, and abstention from purchase on its own account, save possibly in definite tracts, under special conditions of difficulty.

At very rough estimate, Government already spending over one lakh daily in actual relief of famine-stricken.

REPORTS.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH.

No. 3575S. Dated Naini Tal, September 30, 1896.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a Circular Letter, No. 3488S./I-73, dated 21st September 1896, addressed by this Government to the Commissioners in these provinces; and to give a brief description of the agricultural position and prospects of the provinces, whilst stating the considerations which have led the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to issue this circular. This communication, I am to say, is not meant as the report required to be submitted to the Government of India on the approach or threatening of distress; it is an additional and premonitory letter which, his Honour believes, the Government of India will think justified by the importance of the subject. The prescribed reports will follow in the end of October if the necessity should be found to exist.

2. The weekly crop and weather reports which have been recently submitted, have given an unsatisfactory picture of the condition of the people and the prospects of the crops. These reports have been growing more unsatisfactory since the beginning of this month. No doubt they are to be taken with reserve, as the subordinate native officials who supply them in the first instance are more or less prone to exaggerate crop-failure; but making allowances for this, they still afford reason for anxiety. The rains, which began late, have been scanty over a large portion of the provinces. During July the rainfall was in considerable defect everywhere, except in the Meerut division; and in August this defect was continued in the districts of the Agra and Allahabad divisions, in the districts of the Lucknow division except two, and in parts of the Rohilkhand, Benares, and Gorakhpur divisions. Since the end of August there have been only scattered showers; and practically the rains have ceased just when they were most wanted. Very serious damage has been already done to the *kharif** crops; but his Honour thinks that a sufficient rainfall before the middle of October would still do good to the standing *kharif*.* If sufficient rain falls before the end of October, the Lieutenant-Governor is in hopes that the usual *rabi** area will be sown, though the land will not be so well prepared as it would have been had the rainfall this month been propitious. If no rain falls, there will probably be a contraction in the *rabi** sowings; and the character of the harvest would then entirely depend on the advent of favourable rain about Christmas.

3. But while still hoping for an improvement in the condition of the standing crops and the prospects of the next *rabi* sowings, Sir Antony MacDonnell admits that there is much reason for anxiety, as the weather conditions are now such as usually prevail at the end of the monsoon; and though alive to the danger of causing premature alarm, his Honour has therefore thought it right to take some thought for the future. Should no more rain fall, undoubtedly the situation will become very serious. It is to be remembered that the unirrigated districts of these provinces have now suffered from two successive years of bad harvests. If the provinces had enjoyed the advantage of good seasons recently there would be less cause for anxiety now; but the general poorness of the crops for the last two years, and their failure in certain localities, have crippled the resources of the people and depleted their stocks of grain. The poorer classes have been hard pressed in many districts during the present year, and disquieting reports regarding their condition in several localities are now reaching the local Government.

* NOTE.—The word *kharif* throughout these papers signifies the main autumn crop; the word *rabi* signifies the spring crop, that is, the crop harvested in March and April.

4. The localities in which, in the event of no rain falling, it is feared that the crops will suffer most seriously are most of the Oudh districts; the parts of the Agra and Allahabad divisions unprotected by irrigation; and parts of the Benares, Gorakhpur, and Rohilkhand divisions.* The population of the affected tracts may be taken at about 25 millions; but, of course, only a part of the population would be touched should distress supervene.

5. The *kharif* and *rabi* areas in the divisions threatened with crop failure may be put at about 15 millions of acres for each crop. Some of this area is protected by canals, and more of it is irrigated from wells. Until the reports called for in my letter of 21st September are received and considered, it will not be possible to form an estimate of the extent to which this *kharif* area has been affected or the extent of contraction in the *rabi* area for next year. But, meanwhile, the following information may be not without interest to his Excellency in Council.

In the districts which are protected by irrigation from canals the increase in the demand for water for the irrigation of the *kharif* crops has been, up to the end of last month, very considerable, as would appear from the following acreage figures:—

Year.	Sugar-cane	Indigo.	Rice	Cotton.	Other Food Grains.	Fodder Crops.	Miscellaneous	Total
1894 - -	227,150	339,336	118,092	45,942	6,799	4,217	31,676	773,212
1895 - -	236,701	244,674	111,149	33,616	13,004	2,861	26,296	668,301
1896 - -	267,139	313,870	160,865	64,261	30,912	2,385	41,424	886,856

It will be seen that the area irrigated this *kharif* season has been considerably larger than in either of the two previous years. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has consulted his chief engineer of the Irrigation Branch as to whether it would be possible to increase that area still further by a temporary reduction of water rates; but his Honour is informed that the demand for water is already intense everywhere except from the Agra Canal, where it is rapidly rising, and from the Betwa Canal; that all the water which can be supplied is taken with avidity; and that, except on the Betwa Canal, no steps are necessary in any way to stimulate the demand. The irrigation of indigo has now ceased, and it would be useless, even if it were desirable, to attempt to divert water from sugarcane to the irrigation of food crops. The Betwa Canal has unfortunately hitherto been of little use for *kharif* irrigation; but his Honour, in order to stimulate the use of water on the black cotton soils of Bundelkhand, has, in anticipation of the sanction of the Government of India and as a temporary measure, reduced the rates on this canal to one-half.

The area of irrigated *kharif* land growing food grains is shown above at 197,777 acres (the Lieutenant-Governor is writing of canal irrigated land only). But Colonel Corbett, the secretary and chief engineer, Irrigation Branch, informs his Honour that doubtless this area will this year increase to 250,000 acres, which, at the moderate outturn of 10 maunds per acre, will yield 25 lakhs of maunds or nearly 100,000 tons of food grains. If the demand for water continues, at least 14 lakhs of acres will, the chief engineer reports, be irrigated for the *rabi*, which (deductions being made for poppy) should yield about 165 lakhs of maunds or about 700,000 tons of food grains. It may be taken, therefore, that even if no rain fall, the *kharif* and *rabi* harvests are protected by canal irrigation to the above extent. Of course they are very largely protected by well irrigation also. In the report to be submitted at the end of October an estimate will, if possible, be given of the well-protected area.

* The following extract from an official letter, dated 26th instant, from the Commissioner of Rohilkhand will give an idea of the state of a district in which the rainfall has been better than in many districts:—

"I went to Budaun last week. The portion of the district I passed through (which, I am informed, is one of the best parts of the upland) looked extremely dry, more so than the adjoining tahsil of Aonla in Bareilly. The grass along the road was as brown as it is in the cold weather. The rice I saw appeared to be completely gone. A great deal of the *kharif* had been removed in order that the land might be prepared for the *rabi*."

It may be noted that the *kharif* which "had been removed" is useless except for fodder.

6. Should no further rain fall, it cannot be doubted that relief measures will become necessary on an extensive scale. Even if sufficient rain does fall, some moderate assistance, here and there, will probably be unavoidable, at all events until the *rabî* is harvested. The programmes of relief works are now being carefully revised and expanded, and no apprehension need be entertained that this Government will be unprepared with works on which to give timely employment or with the organisation necessary to carry on those (and other) measures of relief (although some assistance in men may be necessary from the Government of India if matters grow very serious). These works, however, being in the nature of new roads, improvements on old roads, village tanks, &c., will not all be of general utility; and if the worst fears for the future are realised, it would be desirable to substitute for part of them some large schemes of railway construction which will be of more general benefit.

7. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has ascertained from the authorities of the Bengal and North-Western Railway that in the Azamgarh district there is still earthwork to be done, which will employ about 4,000 labourers for three months; while in the Gházipur and Ballia districts there is work for 20,000 labourers for six months. The Lieutenant-Governor has not yet had a reply to an inquiry addressed to the authorities of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway as to the quantity of earthwork remaining to be done on the Rae Bareilly-Benares extension; but he has reason to believe that but little remains to be done. In what way this programme of railway construction could best be expanded his Honour prefers to abstain at present from saying; that is a matter which will be discussed, if necessary, in the report prescribed by Article 18 of the Famine Code if it be necessary to submit such a report. But here it will do no harm if the Lieutenant-Governor mentions the following lines for new railways which would pass in the neighbourhood of or through the tracts in which, should no more rain fall, distress may be anticipated and which would be of great use to the provinces:—

- (1.) Railway from Bareilly to Soron.
- (2.) Railway from Ghaziabad to Moradabad.
- (3.) Railway from Shikohabad to Farukhabad.
- (4.) Railway from Gorakhpur to Bettiah.
- (5.) Branch railway from Azamgarh to Shahganj.
- (6.) Railway from Fyzabad to Allahabad.
- (7.) The East Indian Railway grand chord from Moghal Sarai towards Shergotty.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner understands that Nos. (1), (2), (3), and (7) have been surveyed, and could be at once begun. His Honour would be much obliged to the Government of India if he could be informed whether any surveys of the other three lines mentioned have been made; and how soon work on them could be undertaken were his Excellency in Council to decide on undertaking it.

A suggestion has been made to the Lieutenant-Governor that much suitable employment could be given in Azamgarh and the adjacent tracts by the construction of canals; and the great Sarda Canal project naturally occurs to one dealing with distress in Oudh. But the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the hasty inception of canal projects is to be avoided; and he is advised that, owing to the very slight fall in the country, there would be need of special care and forethought in constructing canals in Azamgarh. With reference to the great Sarda Canal project the Lieutenant-Governor has considered all the correspondence in communication with his advisers, and has come to the conclusion that it is very doubtful whether it ought to be undertaken on its merits, and still more doubtful about its being undertaken as a famine work. Having regard to the extremely high level of rents in Oudh, it would probably not pay its way, while it would be strenuously opposed by the Taluqdári body. Should occasion call for it, the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner will be prepared to state at length his reasons for the conclusion he has come to on this subject.

For reasons of a different, but no less cogent, character, the Lieutenant-Governor has abandoned the Kén Canal project in Bundelkhand. Our experience of the Betwa Canal is not hopeful for irrigation in black cotton soils. Generally, it may be said that, except on extensions of existing systems, *e.g.*, on the Fatehpur extension of the Lower Ganges Canal, Sir Antony MacDonnell is not in favour of undertaking canal work as a famine relief measure.

8. Another matter which, failing timely rain, will call for serious consideration is the question of the supply of food grain. At the present time the prices of all kinds of food grain are very high throughout the provinces, and some symptoms of discontent with the high prices current have become manifest. The following table shows the prices prevailing at the end of the second week of September in 1892, which appears to have been a normal year, and those prevailing at the same time in the present year:—

[Seers per rupee.]

Station	Wheat.		Barley.		Rice, common		Juar.		Bágrá.		Maruá.		Gram.		Maize.		Arhar.	
	1892	1896	1892	1896	1892.	1896.	1892	1896	1892	1896.	1892	1896	1892	1896.	1892	1896.	1892	1896.
Allahabad	12½	8½	17	11½	9½	8½	19	11	19	11	—	12	19	12½	—	14½	21½	14½
Agra	13½	10½	22½	12½	9½	9	21	13½	19	11½	—	—	22	12½	—	14	15½	11½
Cawnpore	14½	10½	20	13	11	10½	21	13	20	—	—	—	20½	12½	26	18	21½	14½
Benares	13	10½	17½	12½	10	9½	17½	13½	16½	12½	—	—	17½	14½	—	16½	20½	11½
Gorakhpur	12½	9½	16½	12½	12	10½	—	11½	—	10½	19½	17½	16½	13½	19½	18	18½	11½
Azamgarh	13½	9½	18½	12½	11½	10½	—	—	—	—	—	—	19½	13½	—	15½	16½	12
Jhansi	16½	10	22½	13	12½	10	21½	14½	21½	13	—	—	22½	11½	—	15	28½	12½
Bareilly	12½	9½	18½	12½	10½	8½	18½	12½	15½	9½	—	—	18½	12	18½	14½	20½	10½
Fyzabad	13½	10½	18½	13½	13½	10½	—	—	—	—	—	—	21½	18½	—	14½	20½	12½
Lucknow	13½	10	19½	12½	11½	9	20½	13½	21	12	—	12½	20½	11½	32	16	22	13½

It will be seen that the present prices are not only relatively but absolutely very high, and this is doubtless due not only to the unfavourable crop prospects, but to the depletion of stocks. Prices are rising, and the situation in this respect is aggravated by the fact that (as his Honour understands to be the case) the prospects of the next harvest are bad, not only in these provinces, but also in the Punjáb (from which these provinces usually draw much of their supplies), in the Central Provinces, and elsewhere. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard (but has not yet verified the information) that the export of food grain from Nepal has been stopped by the Darbár.

9. But even if no rain fall, it is not to be supposed that there will be absolutely no *kharif* harvest at all, or that no *rabi* will be sown or come to maturity. That is not the state of things which Sir Antony MacDonnell contemplates as possible; what he contemplates as possible in the event of the monsoon having ended in such a serious failure in the *kharif* crops, and such a contraction in *rabi* sowings (with the prospect of crop failure here too), as will drive up prices altogether out of the reach of large numbers of the poorer ryots, agricultural labourers, artizans, and others, and throw them on our hands for relief. In view of this possibility it is well to consider how this evil of famine prices may be best combated. Interference with the movement of private trade is not suggested; and the only measure which, at present, occurs to Sir Antony MacDonnell is a reduction of the freights for food grain on the railways converging on these provinces from the seaports and those parts of India which may have been fortunate enough to secure good crops. The Lieutenant-Governor does not recommend the adoption of any such measure at present; he notices the point in view of possible eventualities.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, I am to say, is afraid that the land revenue collections both for this and the coming year will be seriously affected by the agricultural conditions which threaten us; but he desires at present to do no more than notice the point, which will, if necessary, be dealt with fully in due time and place. He trusts, however, that the point will be borne in mind with reference to the revision of the Provincial Contract. The Financial Department is being addressed with a view to obtaining the funds from which agricultural advances may be made if the necessity for so doing shall arise.

11. In conclusion, I am to repeat that this communication has been made in view of the apprehensions entertained regarding the prospects of the *kharif* and *rabi* crops. These apprehensions may not be realised, but the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has thought it right to address the Government of India in view of the possibility of the situation becoming serious and of the obvious advantage of timely warning. On receipt of the full reports called for at the end of October a further communication will be made to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

H. F. EVANS,

Chief Secretary to Government,
North-West Provinces and Oudh.

Enclosure No. 3488S./I.-73.

FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-west Provinces and Oudh, to ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS (except KUMAUN), North-West Provinces and Oudh.

SIR,

Dated Naini Tal, September 21, 1896.

THE Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has had under his anxious consideration the character of this year's rainfall in each district of the provinces since last June, and the condition of the crops as reported by district officers in their weekly crop and weather reports, and by the Director of Land Records in his monthly statements. Generally speaking, it may be said that, except in parts of the Agra, Gorakhpur, and Lucknow divisions, the state of the crops up to the last week of August had given no substantial ground for anxiety. The rainfall had, indeed, in almost every district been tardy and less than the normal quantity; in several districts very much less; but the rain which fell was, on the whole, opportunely distributed, and the crops had germinated well. But since the latter end of August in some districts, and in other districts from an even earlier date, no rain of any consequence has fallen; the outturn of the early autumn crops has not been good, while in some districts those crops have seriously failed; and grave reports regarding the condition and prospects of the *kharif* crops are now reaching Government. In the ordinary course of things more rain should fall before the monsoon ends, and a sufficiently heavy fall would still materially alter prospects for the better. But in view of the abnormal character of the season; of the damage which the crops have already suffered over large areas; and of the reduced circumstances of the people, who have now experienced a succession of bad seasons, it is necessary that Government should be placed without avoidable delay in possession of such full information as will enable it to take prompt action, when the right time comes, in support of the local officers. I am therefore to request that if sufficient rain has not fallen before the 1st October and relieved you of anxiety, you will at once institute a special inquiry in each tahsil of each district in your division (the Lieutenant-Governor is aware that in some divisions measures in the direction indicated have even already been taken) into the actual condition of the crops and into the degree of probability which exists of failure and of the extent of such probable failure. The prospects of the *kharif* harvest should be fairly well disclosed by the middle of October; and it should also be possible then to form an opinion as to the probable extent of the *rabi* sowings. The Lieutenant-Governor then expects to receive from you not later than the 20th October, for each district in which serious crop failure is to be apprehended, a full report on the points noticed in Articles 19 and 22 of the Famine Code. A subsequent and supplementary report should be submitted so as to reach the Government at Allahabad on the 7th November, bringing the condition and prospects of the *kharif* crops, and the state of the *rabi* sowings, up to the 1st of the month. Thus by the end of October or, at latest, the middle of November, the Government will know what it has to expect. Meanwhile, should symptoms of distress appear, it is open to you and your district officers to begin those "ordinary" district works which are referred to in Article 60, Famine Code, and which serve the purpose of testing the approach of general or local pressure.

2. I am to take this opportunity of inviting a careful study by yourself and by all your district officers of the provisions of Chapters I.-IV. (inclusive) of the Famine

Code. These provisions are, you will notice, of a preparatory and precautionary nature, and do not involve any expenditure of money or the commencement of "relief" measures. The most important is the preparation of the programme of relief works referred to in Articles 13 and 17, Chapter I. On this subject you have already been addressed by the chief engineer, who has been in communication regarding it with the superintending engineer of the circle in which your division lies. Some doubt exists as to the sufficiency of the provision of relief works in the district programmes. On this point all the Lieutenant-Governor now desires to say is that, in estimating the numbers likely to come on relief works in the event of serious distress, special attention should be paid to the statistics in Table XVII., Part B., Volume II., of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Census Report for 1891. Knowing the classes most likely to be affected by the failure of the crops, each district officer (subject to your control) should be able to estimate the *maximum* numbers (distinguishing, so far as possible, men, women, and children) for whom provision should be made both on relief works and by the other measures of relief specified in the Famine Code. In this connexion I am to invite your attention and that of your district officers to paragraph 75 of the "Report of the Indian Famine Commission" of 1880, Part I.

3. Should your inquiries lead you to the opinion that the crop failure and general condition of any district in your division is likely to result in serious distress, I am to request that the provisions of Article 43, Chapter IV., and Article 115, Chapter VIII. of the Famine Code, may receive the immediate attention of yourself and your district officers and be reported on in the supplementary report referred to at the close of paragraph 1 of this letter, so that the Lieutenant-Governor may be in possession of your proposals on 7th November. When sufficient certainty exists as to the locality in which distress may be expected to occur, no time should be lost in selecting from the programme those relief works to be first undertaken; deciding whether those works should be placed in charge of the Public Works Department or the local civil officers; marking out relief circles on the map; nominating officers for the executive charge of those circles and works or applying to the Government for the services of such officers if they are not locally available; and fixing on the sites for poorhouses, which should be ordinarily located at the headquarters of *tahsils*. On such executive duties no person should be employed below the rank of a naib tahsildár or a kánúngo.

4. I am in a special manner to call your attention to that provision of the Famine Code (Article 63) which requires that "relief works" are not to be undertaken nor any other measures for the relief of distress specified in Chapters V., VIII., IX., and X., Famine Code, initiated, until the orders of Government are received in accordance with Article 31 of the Code. These orders cannot be passed until the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has examined the reports under Article 22 of the Code now called for. Until those orders are issued, or special instructions given by Government on special application made to it, the means at your disposal for affording assistance are those referred to in Article 60, Famine Code. It is absolutely essential to successful working that the plans of the Government should not be embarrassed by isolated or spasmodic action. Should relief works on a large scale be required, the Lieutenant-Governor will visit your division in November, or earlier if necessary, and settle with you on the spot the line of action to be pursued.

5. In conclusion, I am to add that in dealing with famine relief the all-important point to bear in mind is that the preparations must be well in advance of the pressure. If pressure supervenes while preparations are incomplete, numberless embarrassments result. If, on the other hand, the executive is not surprised or overtaken by famine, matters go as smoothly as in such cases they can go. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner sincerely trusts that there may be no necessity to undertake relief measures, at all events on a large scale; but the necessity is not increased by timely preparation, while the cost to the State is greatly lessened, and the advantages to the distressed population greatly enhanced, by the existence beforehand of a settled programme, and an organisation ready to be called into immediate activity.

I have, &c.

H. F. EVANS,
Chief Secretary to Government, North-West
Provinces and Oudh.

BENGAL.

No. 565 G., dated Bankipore, the 8th October 1896.

From J. A. BOURDILLON, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Patna Division, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

With reference to Government order No. 821T.-R., dated the 30th ultimo, and in continuation of my letter No. 119Ct. of the 25th idem, I have the honour to submit the following report on the condition and prospects of crops in the districts of this division for the fortnight ending on the 3rd instant.

GENERAL REMARKS.

2. During the period under report there has been no rain anywhere, except less than half an inch at Barharwa in the north-west of the Bettiah subdivision in Champaran. From about the 20th to the 25th, and again during the last few days, a strong west wind has been blowing in the middle of the day, which has had the effect of greatly drying the land and withering the standing crops.

3. The period covered nearly corresponds with that of the Hathiya asterism (September 25th to October 10th), and is therefore one in which plentiful rain is expected and is required to keep alive the *kharif* and to moisten the land so as to enable the cultivators to begin sowing the *rabi*. In those districts where water is carefully stored, e.g., Gaya and parts of Shahabad and Patna, the standing crops up to date are in good condition and will in any case give a fair return. Further, in all the area commanded by the Sone canals the *kharif* crops are magnificent. Elsewhere rain is badly needed, and if it does not fall within the next few days the standing crops will suffer greatly and the area of *rabi* sowings will be much contracted.

4. I have just returned from a visit to Dehree and the Sone canals, and have spent three days in Mr. Buckley's company. Every effort is being made to work the canals to the best advantage, and not a drop of water is being wasted which could be profitably used for irrigation.

5. As regards prices, there has been a sharp rise in the price of all grain almost everywhere within the last week, which is due to two causes, (1) the practical certainty that the Hathiya rains have failed, (2) large purchases made for despatch to the North-Western Provinces. There have been some ebullitions of popular feeling which will be noticed below in their proper places, but after some oscillation prices have steadied down for the present and confidence has been restored.

6. All the information that I have been able to obtain, both official and non-official, points to the fact that there is a sufficiency of grain in the division, and what is needed is money to buy it with. For this reason I think that before long test relief works will have to be opened almost everywhere in order to give work to the unemployed. These will take at present the form of repairs to roads or construction of new roads in accordance with the usual civil works programme of the district boards. Large quantities of earthwork have to be executed on the projected railways in Gaya, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga, which will employ thousands of workpeople through the winter. I now turn to make a few remarks on the condition of the different districts.

7. *Patna*.—The collector reports that rain is not urgently wanted; but if it falls within a week, the estimated outturn of winter rice will be 12 annas, otherwise the crop will not exceed an 8-anna one, and in many places it will be as low as 6 annas. The floods in the south and south-west of the Bihar sub-division, referred to in my last report, have caused very little damage and will lead to no distress. On the contrary, the area inundated by them is a *rabi* country, and the floods have supplied the necessary moisture. The event of this week has been the sharp rise in prices all over the north of the district and in the case of all classes of food grains.

8. The local *goladars** in Barh and Phulwari closed their *golas*† to retail sale about the 30th ultimo, and the people were put to great straits to obtain grain. The collector has pointed out to the *goladars*, as far as possible, the danger they are running in pursuing this policy, and has advised them to sell by retail as before. In this he has been very successful. Mr. Inglis also held a public meeting in the city on Sunday, the 4th, to consider the situation, at which it was decided to raise funds privately to aid the necessitous by selling small quantities of grain at a somewhat lower rate than that quoted by the regular dealers. I have impressed on Mr. Inglis that this must be treated as an entirely private arrangement, and at my request he has withdrawn all officials from the managing committees. Government is therefore in no

* Dealers in grain who own storehouses.

† Storehouses.

way committed to this charitable policy. I have in a separate letter reported on the ebullitions at Dinapore and elsewhere.

9. *Gaya*.—Prices have risen and common rice is now selling at 9 seers per rupee. During the last fortnight I have traversed the whole district, and have satisfied myself that for the present there is nothing to fear. While I was in Gaya there were clamorous crowds asking for a Government rate to be fixed for the sale of grain; this was of course rejected. After I had left on Sunday, the 4th, there was an alarm of loot, but the Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police had already taken precautions, and the police were so quickly on the spot that nothing occurred. The price of common rice, which was 12 seers up till the 1st, when I left, rose to 9 seers by the 5th, and has there stayed.

Mr. Savage has asked the Mohunth of Budh-Gaya, who has large hoards of grain, to come forward and sell it to the poor in small quantities on easier terms than the Banias.

10. *Shahabad*.—Owing to the causes enumerated in paragraph 5 above, and specially to the operations of purchasers from the North-Western Provinces, the price of grain at Arrah rose suddenly on the 30th ultimo and 1st October. On the latter date the grain-dealers suspended retail sales, and there was considerable apprehension of a grain riot. In these circumstances the Officiating Magistrate, Mr. Egerton, took the unwise step of forbidding the exportation of grain, by an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, dated the 2nd October. Fortunately, however, he reported his proceedings to me by telegram, and I forthwith cancelled his order by wire. Both then and since I have impressed upon him that no direct interference with trade can possibly be allowed, although he is at liberty to use persuasion and advice as much as he pleases to induce the Banias to sell at fair rates. Police protection has been given to those grain-dealers who asked for it, and I have directed the Magistrate to realise the cost under section 13 of the Police Act, and also to enlist special constables if required. The latest reports state that up to yesterday all was quiet again, and the Magistrate is now taking proper steps to maintain order.

11. *Saran*.—Mr. Wheeler says that further reports and inquiries seem to show the general yield of the *Makai** crop has not been much more than six annas for the district as a whole. The rice is withering away daily, and even were good rain to fall now, a large proportion must be lost.

12. He also reports that within the last few days he has received several complaints from Chapra, that the Banias do not sell at the prices they report, and that they are inflating prices unduly, sometimes changing the rate two or three times in the day. Agents from the North-Western Provinces are also in the district buying up grain for exportation, and this has also tended to raise prices. Applications have been made to the collector to interfere, which he has of course declined to do.

13. A meeting of the District Board was held on the 3rd instant, to discuss what preliminary measures were advisable in order to enable the Board to start relief works as soon as the necessity for them was demonstrated. It was resolved—

- (a) to empower the Chairman to stop any works now in hand which are not of urgent necessity;
- (b) to request all planters as far as possible to execute the repair works made over to them on a system of *haziri*†, so as to enable them to gauge the demand for labour;
- (c) to circulate the authorised programme of relief works for the suggestions of members.

These moderate proposals have my approval.

14. *Champanan*.—Under date the 5th instant, Mr. Macpherson, Collector of Champanan, writes that there was a fall of .37 of an inch at Barharwa, and that all over the district much has been done to irrigate the crops by damming the hill streams. His opinion is that the winter rice crop continues to hold out, and it will be saved if there is rain during the Hathiya asterism. In one or two tracts the winter rice crops will be very poor even if good rain falls.

15. During the first week of the fortnight, prices fell somewhat owing to new grain (*bhadai*)‡ coming into the market, but during the last week there has been a sharp rise, and common rice is selling for 11 seers at Motihari and 12½ seers at Bettiah, instead of 14 or 15 seers, which is the usual rate at this time of the year.

16. *Muzaffarpur*.—The winter rice crop is daily deteriorating for want of rain, which is most urgently needed to prevent the plants from withering. Prices are steadily

* Indian corn.

† Daily labour sheet.

‡ Early or lesser autumn crop.

rising, and rice has already reached almost famine rates. No rioting or disturbance is reported.

17. *Darbhanga*.—There was no rain during the fortnight, and a good fall is urgently required. If there is rain, there will be very fair paddy over the greater part of the district; otherwise it will be poor everywhere, and there will be scarcely any in the west and north-west of Madhubani. Mr. Carlyle thinks there is some risk of prices rising so high as to cause a good deal of distress, as prospects are so bad in other parts of India. He was with me here on the 6th, and returned to Madhubani the same night to watch the development of affairs.

18. *Conclusion*.—In view of the disturbed state of public feeling, and the risk of grain riots should the market grow tighter, I have thought it right to cancel all leave for the Puja holidays, and to ask district and subdivisional officers to remain at or near their head-quarters. These orders have been loyally accepted, and indeed in most cases the district officers, at any rate, had anticipated my wishes. A concession has been allowed in one or two special cases.

19. You will recognise that this is not the report required by section 9 of the Famine Code. I cannot say that "scarcity actually prevails" or that "famine is imminent" in any part of the Patna Division; but if no rain falls by the end of the Siwati asterism, which closes on the 6th November, there will be no doubt of the matter. Meanwhile I am issuing a circular to all district officers, calling their attention to section 11 of the Famine Code, and instructing them to start test works carefully as they find necessary.

20. I propose to submit a further report on or about the 22nd instant, and will remain at my head-quarters throughout the holidays.

Agriculture, No. 940T.-R., dated Darjeeling, the 15th October 1896.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to
the COMMISSIONER OF THE PATNA DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 565G., dated the 8th October 1896, reporting on the condition and prospects of the crops in the districts of the Patna Division.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that the fact that no rain has fallen since the date of your report has made the outlook even more gloomy than you describe it to be. There can even now be no doubt that the serious rise in prices is pressing with great severity upon the labouring classes, and no time should, in his Honour's opinion, be lost in offering work on the district roads under the conditions prescribed in section 56 of the Famine Code, treating these for the present as "test works" under section 11. The district boards must now be called upon to revise their budgets by cutting out all avoidable expenditure and appropriating all the funds they can find to relief works proper. There will certainly be full demand for all the work that the boards can supply. Should no rains fall before the end of this month, there can be little doubt that a serious failure of *aman** rice and *rabi* crops will be inevitable, and the local Government will have to largely supplement the board funds. It is fortunate that the railway extensions both in South and North Bihar are likely to supply work for a large section of the population during the coming winter. You should certainly submit the report prescribed by section 9 of the Famine Code by the first week in November if the rain still holds off.

3. Meantime all executive officers should carefully study the Famine Code and the history of past scarcities. The magistrates and police must keep a sharp look out for any indications of rioting, and take prompt steps to suppress it. The standing crops must be carefully watched, and their condition reported weekly in detail of local areas. The stocks of food-grain should be inquired into. Every effort should be made to utilise whatever water-supply there may be from hill streams, tanks, and wells, for purposes of irrigation. Loans for well-sinking should be freely given. The officers of the Opium, Survey, and Settlement Departments may be utilised for the purposes of these local inquiries. This need not at present interfere with their ordinary duties.

* Winter crop.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor approves of the action so far taken by yourself and the district officers as now reported, except in the case of the officiating collector of Shahabad, whose order forbidding exports of grain under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code was rightly cancelled by you as both ill-advised and illegal. As regards the action taken by the district board of Saran, the Lieutenant-Governor approves of it; but with reference to the execution of work by planters on a system of *haziri*, I am to point out that no relief work can under the Code be paid by daily wage irrespective of task. The Code rules must be strictly followed in all district relief works, whether test or other.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor will be prepared, if the situation becomes worse, to place an officer on special duty to assist you. Meantime the Director of Land Records and Agriculture has been instructed to proceed to Bihar at an early date.

I have, &c.

M. FINUCANE,
Officiating Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

No. C/451, dated 23rd October 1896.

From the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO
THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

THE Government of India will have learnt from the weekly crop and weather reports recently submitted that, owing to the failure of rain since the beginning of September in almost every district of these provinces, there is a prospect of serious scarcity having to be dealt with at a very early date. The position is that the autumn crops have already been irretrievably injured, and their condition is becoming worse with every additional week's drought, while the sowings for the *rabi* harvest are universally retarded, and in many places have now become impossible. It cannot yet be said whether even when sown the grain will germinate, or whether the seedlings, if they germinate, will be able to support the fierce heat of the autumn sun until the dews and the advent of colder weather give them some chance of surviving. It will have been noticed in the weekly reports published in the "Central Provinces Gazette" that prices already rule excessively high in all but a few localities. This is, in centres of trade accessible by railways, in a large measure due to the export of stocks towards the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, where scarcity is believed to be imminent. But even in the more land-locked districts prices are far above the average, indicating that failure of harvests is apprehended, and that the utmost economy is felt to be necessary.

2. The Chief Commissioner some time ago addressed Commissioners of divisions with a view to elicit more exact information as to the condition of each district, and the probable necessity of relief operations in it. Some time must, however, elapse before this information can be fully collected. The *kharif* crops are for the most part still on the ground, and the extent of the area sown with *rabi* is as yet uncertain. Plans for relief works have to be elaborated, and estimates framed of the probable numbers who will require to be provided for. The emergency which appears to be at hand is, so far as Mr. Lyall can ascertain, one much in excess of any which have previously been experienced in these provinces; and the schemes of famine works, drawn out at a time when no such severe scarcity as seems to threaten was apprehended, require careful review before they can be pronounced satisfactory. For this reason the Chief Commissioner is not yet in a position to submit the complete report on the situation required by section 11 of the Famine Code. He hopes, however, to do so at an early date, after he has personally conferred with the Commissioners and the officers of their divisions.

3. In my letter No. 2161, dated the 13th June last, an account was given of the agricultural situation as it then presented itself in these provinces. It was shown that in spite of the drought of last autumn and winter, which caused partial failure of both the *kharif* and *rabi* crops over large areas, chiefly in the north of the province, the condition of things generally was not so grave as to require any far-reaching measures of relief. The three previous years had, however, been in a great part of the province not years of full crops, and in the three districts of Saugor, Damoh, and Jubbulpore they had been years of widespread failure of the important *rabi* harvest. The Chief

Commissioner expected that in these three districts the construction of the Saugor, Katni Railway (which at the time of writing was employing over 30,000 persons) would, with some minor works carried out from district funds, afford sufficient labour for the support of the poorer classes, while in Seoni and Mandla other measures of relief had been taken. He concluded:—"So far as present developments go, and if the coming monsoon rains are favourable, Mr. Lyall does not anticipate that any further measures beyond those which have been described will be necessary for the relief of the poorer classes." This forecast, I am to say, has, as the Government of India will have learnt from the monthly reports submitted to them of the progress of affairs in the Jubbulpore Division, been on the whole fairly justified. But the situation is now completely changed. Instead of the favourable monsoon anticipated, a drought considerably more severe, and much more general, than that of last autumn has fallen upon the province. The necessities of other parts of India have led to the export of such surplus produce as was in store here, and prices have gone up with a bound; and after four years of hardship and short harvests the agriculturists find themselves in face of a prospect of some pressure, which cannot be expected to slacken until the next monsoon, it may be hoped, brings back normal weather conditions. The cumulative force of these adverse circumstances makes the situation one of great gravity. With exhausted stocks, deficient harvests, and the pressure of a load of debt which has steadily grown during the succession of unfavourable years, it is not surprising that the feeling of the agricultural population should be one of great despondency, almost of despair, and that the position of the landless classes should cause the gravest anxiety.

4. The condition of the provincial finances is not such as to enable this Administration to meet any considerable expenditure upon relief. Some money has already been spent in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division from provincial funds on relief works, but the bulk of the expenditure on this object has hitherto been met from local funds. But the Budget estimate for 1896-7 which was enabled to show a closing balance of 6 lakhs only by the restoration by the Government of India of the contribution of Rs. 4,30,000 taken from the province in 1894-5, has, as reported in my letter No. 2921, dated the 1st August last, been subjected to a further reduction owing to the remission and suspension of Rs. 4,84,000 of land revenue in the three northern districts of the Jubbulpore Division. Land revenue collections so far are still considerably in arrear in several other districts of the province, and there is reason to apprehend considerable delay and difficulty in realising the February kist.* The revenues under forests and excise show a serious falling off, which in the circumstances of the year cannot be expected to be recouped. On the other hand, the expenditure under gaols, as well as under certain minor heads of "law and justice," will certainly exceed the estimate; while the necessity which is apparent of giving compensation for dearness of grain to the subordinate establishments to which it is admissible under Article 72 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I., will add to the expenditure in several departments. It may be expected, therefore, that the provincial balance shown in the Budget Estimate will not be realised.

5. In these circumstances, and in view of the probability that it will become necessary to start relief operations under the Famine Code in several districts about the middle of next month, I am to ask the Government of India for a provisional grant for famine relief purposes of 5 (five) lakhs of rupees from Imperial funds. The complete report, which will be submitted as soon as full information is available, will show how it is proposed to distribute this sum; but it is necessary at once to furnish Commissioners with the means of opening works and poor-house relief, where distress declares itself in an acute form; and from many indications, Mr. Lyall considers that this cannot be postponed in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, in Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad, in Raipur and Bilaspur, and probably in some other districts, beyond the 15th November. Whether the amount now mentioned will suffice to cover the expenditure till the 31st March next, or whether it will be more than sufficient, cannot yet be stated; but the Government of India may rely on its being expended with all due economy consistently with the primary object of saving life.

(True copy.)

A. R. TUCKER,
Registrar,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

* Instalment.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH.

No. 3945S./1.-58, dated Naini Tal, the 20th October 1896.

RESOLUTION.

REVENUE (SCARCITY) DEPARTMENT.

Scarcity and Relief Operations in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh during the Spring and Summer of 1896.

RESOLUTION.—The Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India gives the following account of the rainy season of 1895 in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh:—

“The rainy season began in June about the usual time. The air was more humid and the sky more clouded than usual during that month. The rainfall was abundant everywhere, and especially so in the central and western divisions of these provinces, where about double the usual amount was registered during the month. July was dryer than usual almost everywhere throughout the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. The principal rainy periods were during the first and the last weeks of the month, the second and the third weeks being almost entirely rainless. The rainfall during August was about average in amount and well distributed over the reporting area. In September practically little or no rain fell over the southern, central, and western districts of these provinces after the 10th or 11th. The eastern districts, however, received heavyish rainfall during the advance of a cyclonic storm on the 20th. Defects in the season's total appeared in all divisions except Fyzabad, which showed a 10 per cent. excess, and Meerut, which had a 20 per cent. excess * * * * * The remaining three months of the year were almost entirely rainless, November on the plains being completely so.”

2. The unsatisfactory character of the rainfall of 1895 resulted in varying degrees of pressure on the agricultural population of the provinces. Relief operations, however, only became necessary in the four districts of Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun, and Jhansi, known as British Bundelkhand (where the effects of the short rainfall in September, and the total absence of winter rains, were specially marked); and in parts of the Allahabad, Hardoi, Pilibhit, Garhwál, and Almora districts. But it was only in Bundelkhand that relief measures on an extensive scale were undertaken; the operations in the other districts named were both in extent and character of minor importance. The relief operations which were carried on in the Bundelkhand districts will therefore form the principal subject of this review, and the period dealt with runs from the beginning of February to the end of August, when the early *kharif* crops ripen.

3. British Bundelkhand has suffered from agricultural depression for the past three years. The country is for the most part black cotton soil and, except in Jalaun and Hamirpur, which are to some extent traversed by branches of the Betwa Canal, is unprotected by irrigation. The cultivated area commanded by this canal is nominally 310,000 acres, two-thirds being “black cotton” soil; but in the *kharif* and *rabi* seasons under notice the areas irrigated from it were only 4,312 acres and 30,156 acres respectively. For reasons which the Lieutenant-Governor has discussed elsewhere the value of the Betwa Canal as a protection against the failure in the monsoon or the winter rains is not as great as had been expected; but the results* promised for the current season (owing doubtless to the fresh failure in the rains) far exceed those stated above; and give grounds for hoping that, with more experience of irrigation in black soil, we can make the canal a valuable protective work, if, indeed, it does not come up to the expectations of its designers.

In point both of fertility of its soil and of the industry and agricultural skill of its population Bundelkhand compares unfavourably with the rest of the provinces. Since the autumn of 1893 the outturn of the *kharif* crops there, as shown in Appendix A., has been uniformly poor, while that of the principal *rabi* crop (wheat mixed with either gram or barley) has been worse. The abnormal succession of bad seasons had also encouraged the growth in the culturable area of the coarse grass known as *káns*. The result of this prolonged period of adversity was, according to the statistics supplied by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, a decrease in 1895 of 192,672 acres, or 13·5 per cent., in the normal *kharif* area, and this was followed by a still more serious

* * * * * of 20,000 acres; *rabi* (first watering), 60,000.

decrease in 1896 of 292,362 acres, or 19 per cent., in the normal *rabi* area. The monsoon of 1895 ceased early in September, and the winter rains entirely failed. The stock of grain in the villages, reduced by double *rabi* sowings, became low, prices began to rise before the end of the year, and the impoverished landowning classes were unable to assist their tenants. By the beginning of 1896, when the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner visited Bundelkhand, it was manifest that the districts were about to pass through a period of distress.

4. The affected area was fortunately well served by railways (the result of a wise employment of the Famine Insurance Fund), and it was from the first apparent that private trade would be capable of supplying all the food required, and that no heavier burden would fall on Government than attaches to the provision of relief works and of those other measures of charitable or gratuitous assistance which are described in the Famine Code.

5. In the first week in February, when the failure in the *rabi* had been placed beyond doubt, test works were started in the form of improvements and repairs to roads in all the districts of Bundelkhand, a sum of Rs. 50,000 being placed at the Commissioner's disposal for expenditure on such works.

At the same time preparatory steps were taken to deal with distress when it should show itself. Relief circles were formed, and officers to take charge of them were nominated; the executive staff of the various districts was strengthened; sites were selected for poorhouses; and the programme of relief works was revised and expanded. Preparations were made for dealing with sickness should it occur, and a staff of hospital assistants was deputed to supervise sanitary arrangements on relief works and administer medical comforts in temporary hospitals. The administrative framework necessary for the management of large relief operations was thus in readiness at the beginning of the emergency, and all that was afterwards necessary was to fill it in as necessity required.

6. The number of applicants for employment on the test works opened soon became so considerable that, on the 28th February, Government ordered the conversion of these works into regular relief works under the famine code, and placed a further sum of Rs. 50,000 at the disposal of the Commissioner with effect from the 1st March. The Commissioner was at the same time instructed that in selecting famine relief works regard should be had to the feeder roads required by the Indian Midland Railway.

7. In view of the growing magnitude of the scarcity the Lieutenant-Governor again went to Bundelkhand and held a conference at Jhānsi on the 11th and 12th March to discuss questions connected with famine relief. It was laid down that the object of Government in its famine relief policy would be (subject of course to the dominating idea of preventing starvation), first, to secure that expenditure on famine relief should be of permanent benefit to the several districts and help towards their commercial development and agricultural security; second, so far as possible to keep people employed near their homes and to prevent the disintegration of villages. Up to the date of the conference relief works of all kinds had been under the control of the district officers; but the increasing pressure rendered a continuance of this arrangement undesirable, and it was accordingly arranged that, with effect from the 1st April, all large works should be carried out by the Public Works Department in accordance with the rules laid down in Chapter VI. of the Famine Code, while minor works were to continue under the control of the district officers, who should work through the local landowners. At the same time the necessity for a further increase of the local staff was recognised, and 24 naib tahsildārs were deputed to the affected area to be employed under the Public Works officers as paymasters on large works. To the employment of responsible officers as paymasters the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner attributes much of the economy in expenditure which resulted. The end of March may thus be taken as the period at which the relief operations assumed their settled character, large operations such as roads being in charge of the Public Works Department and minor works, such as village tanks, reservoirs, &c., being carried out by local agency controlled by the district officers. Up to the 31st March the actual expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,43,400.

At the Jhānsi conference the provision made for other methods of relief, especially for the relief of respectable women who are debarred by national custom from appearing in public (Article 124, Famine Code), was revised and expanded. In addition to the increased staff of hospital assistants already provided, an assistant surgeon was placed at the Commissioner's disposal for general inspection duty, and it was ordered that a hospital assistant should be deputed for each work on which more than 1,000

persons might be employed. The question of grazing for cattle was also considered; and when afterwards the necessity arose, free grazing was allowed in the Banda and Jhansi Government forests.

8. In Bundelkhand the population, which contains a considerable admixture of aborigines, depends a good deal for sustenance during the summer on the *mahua* crop and other edible forest products. But by April it became manifest that the *mahua* crop had failed while the prices of the staple food grains rose steadily, and the numbers on relief works increased. It had been estimated by the local officers in March that at the period of greatest pressure the numbers in receipt of relief would not exceed 140,000; but by the middle of April that number was exceeded, and the numbers continued to rise, till in the third week of May they reached their maximum pitch of 263,961. Comparing districts, Banda had by far the greatest number on relief works, but the Lieutenant-Governor, on a review of the whole facts, is disposed to think that the numbers in this district would not have been so large had the "gang" and "task" systems prescribed by Articles 70 and 74 of the Famine Code been more rigorously enforced from the outset. However, the defect was soon corrected; and the unprecedentedly low rate of wages paid combined with the not unsubstantial outturn of work done proves that the people were in real need of help.

9. On the 2nd of May the Lieutenant-Governor again conferred with the officers in charge of the relief measures on the progress and prospects of affairs. At this conference the whole conduct of the famine relief organisation was subjected to minute scrutiny with the object of ascertaining whether the organisation was good and sufficient; whether any further modifications were necessary with reference to future prospects; and whether the administration, while being efficient, was also economical. It was found that, excluding charges for establishment, tools, and plant, the average daily wage for men, women, and children per head on the Public Works Department relief works fell at about $9\frac{1}{2}$ pies a day, and although, here and there, things might have been better done, still, on the whole, the business had been well managed. The wages paid were regulated carefully with reference to the rations prescribed by the Famine Code. Indeed, the tendency was towards over-scrupulosity in following the fluctuations of the grain market so that the relief workers might get the benefit of any variation. It is now the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that this constant and minute adjustment of wages to ever changing prices caused unnecessary labour and complication and should be avoided in any future operations of the kind. His Honour thinks that ordinarily wages on relief works need not be altered when the change in prices is less than 10 per cent.; and that ordinarily no alteration should be made without the previous sanction of the Commissioner of the division when he controls the relief operations.

10. In addition to the relief afforded by public works, by the establishment of poor-houses, and by the distribution of assistance to respectable but indigent people under Chapter X. of the Code, much help was also given by granting advances of money, under the Agriculturists Loans Act, and by suspensions and remissions of revenue. The actual sum distributed by way of recoverable advances without interest was Rs. 1,85,118; and the actual amount of revenue suspended by the Commissioners was Rs. 2,16,000 on account of the *kharif* instalment of 1895 and Rs. 8,78,000 on account of the *rabi* instalment of 1896. No doubt it will be ultimately necessary to remit some part of these suspensions. In this way substantial assistance was afforded to the land-owning and cultivating classes, as the suspension or remission of a certain amount of revenue carries with it, under the North-Western Provinces Rent Act, the suspension or remission of double that amount in rent.

11. During May the numbers on relief works continued to increase until the last week of that month, when, notwithstanding the sanitary precautions taken, cholera, which had previously shown itself in a serious form only in the Lalitpur sub-division, broke out on the relief works with some virulence. Energetic steps were taken to break up large masses of labourers, to draft off relief workers from the works on which cholera had appeared to other works, and to disinfect all wells used by relief labourers with permanganate of potash (this latter measure did much good, and is recommended for future adoption in similar emergencies). The policy of expanding village works so as to relieve the pressure on the larger undertakings was also pressed.

12. At the beginning of June the Government laid down the policy to be adopted after the breaking of the rains with the object of inducing the people to return to their ordinary avocations as soon as possible. Village works being carried out by civil officers were to be contracted to a minimum on the breaking of the rains, and no further grants

for such works were to be made, it being left to the Commissioner's discretion to continue the distribution of gratuitous relief in villages and at poorhouses when absolutely necessary. With regard to road works, orders were issued that all operations under the control of the Public Works Department should be reduced to a skeleton at the break of the rains in the districts of Jhānsi and Jalaun, where the distress was judged to be less acute; and that in Banda and Hamírpur the extent of the works should be greatly contracted. The works remaining were to consist in stone-breaking and quarrying, which were considered suitable for the rainy season as they could be done under cover. Task work was to be strictly exacted, and only persons capable of earning a living on task work were to remain on the public works, debilitated persons being provided for in poorhouses. It was also laid down that, with a view to inducing people to revert to agricultural work, no wages should be paid to any person on relief works in excess of the minimum subsistence wage (or its money equivalent) prescribed by Article 108, Famine Code.

13. The combined effect of these measures, reinforced by the certainty of ordinary agricultural employment when the rains would set in, and also to some extent no doubt by the fear of cholera, was seen in a great decrease of relief workers. The numbers, which in the third week of May had approximated to 2½ lakhs, fell by the third week of June, when the rains had broken, to 52,619. As a consequence the estimate of expenditure far exceeded the actual sum spent.

By the middle of July all Public Works Department relief works had been closed, except in Banda, where four quarry works were still open; and all village works had been closed, except in Jhānsi, where some were still unfinished. The relief administered after that time consisted almost entirely in that given at poorhouses and in the gratuitous relief administered through the agency of *patwāris* to respectable persons debarred by national custom from appearing in public. At the end of August the total number in receipt of any form of relief in Bundelkhand had fallen to 5,904, and without doubt this number would have melted away by now had not the threatenings of even far greater difficulties than had beset us last year completely altered the situation.

14. Under Article 63, Famine Code, relief works are divided into "large" and "small," those works being regarded as "large" which provide simultaneous employment for three months for at least 1,000 persons. (This latter portion of the definition it was not found desirable on this occasion to adhere to rigorously.) From the 1st April all large relief works which had till then been under the control of the district officers, were transferred to the agency of the Public Works Department, and the district officers were thus enabled to pay greater attention to those other very important methods of relief prescribed by Chapters VIII., IX., and X. of the Famine Code (poorhouses, State kitchens, and relief at their homes to respectable people unused to working in the fields or debarred by national custom from appearing in public) which none but district officers can successfully administer. The result of this change was an expansion of the employment of subordinate public works officers to set out and supervise the work; the employment of men of some standing as "officers in charge"; the keeping and rendition of accounts of large relief works by the Department of Public Works, and the devotion of greater attention to the division of the workers into gangs; and to the exaction of task work. It may be stated here that too much importance cannot be attached to the enforcement from the very outset of the "gang" and "task" systems declared to be imperative by Articles 70 and 74 of the Famine Code. They lie at the very root of successful management of relief works. Works on which the systems are not enforced become demoralizing, wasteful, and chaotic.

15. It was recognised that it must lie with the district officer to select the works to be started (as he was most competent to decide where relief labour could be concentrated most advantageously); to adjust the scale of wages to the varying current prices of food grains; and to arrange for the provision, transport, and safeguard of the enormous sums of copper coins required for wages. But the actual execution of the works was left to be carried out by the Public Works officers. The "large" relief works were of three classes: (1) roads, (2) large tanks, and (3) small roadside tanks. On these works the number of women and children employed far exceeded the number of men. It has been calculated that to every 100 men 306 women and children were in receipt of wages in addition to 171 dependants, nearly all infirm women and very young children, who could not work and had to be relieved gratuitously. There was thus one man to four or five women and children. The explanation of the disparity is that the people migrated in families from their homes, where they were foodless, to the relief works, where they were sure of a subsistence.

One male member ordinarily remained behind to watch the cattle and the house ; but the rest of the family went together to the relief works.

One result of this family migration was that in the case of road work, where the hard surface soil had to be dealt with, the amount of work done by the men who were employed in digging was insufficient to employ the women and children, who were made use of as "fillers." But it was found that digging tanks gave more equal employment to both classes, because the tank earth was more easily dug, being damp and soft, and the length to which the earth had to be carried was relatively much greater than in the case of roads.

It will be noticed that the number of "dependants" gratuitously relieved on the works under article 99 of the Famine Code considerably exceeded the 10 per cent. laid down by article 100 as the limit to be relieved in that way. The point did not escape the attention of Government during the progress of relief operations; but the Lieutenant-Governor decided that the balance of convenience and general advantage lay in the direction of keeping families together rather than in the direction of breaking them up, employing some on relief works and sending the others to a poor-house. Sir Antony MacDonnell is not in favour of extending the working of poorhouses beyond a strict interpretation of article 112 of the Famine Code.

Care was taken to use the labourers according to their castes and aptitudes, land-owners being employed as "mates;" literate persons in helping to keep tallies; Bráhmans in distributing; and Kahárs in carrying water. But experience in this, as in other scarcities, has shown that high caste people do not shrink from seeking subsistence on relief works when starvation awaits them at home. Relief in their homes was, under article 124 of the Famine Code, afforded to respectable indigent women whom national custom debars from appearing in public.

16. The rate for earthwork averaged on roads managed by the Public Works Department very nearly Rs. 11 per 1,000 cubic feet. The chief cause of this high rate was that most of the work done was on roads in black cotton soil, and in the height of the hot weather. That soil when dry is extraordinarily hard, and under ordinary conditions the work would never have been done at that season of the year. Some increase in the rate was also due to the large number of carriers as compared with diggers, to which allusion has been already made.

In case of tanks, on the other hand, for reasons above indicated, the rate was only Rs. 5.40 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Of the total expenditure on works, accounted for in the Public Works Department, which is calculated to have amounted to Rs. 7,15,088, about two-fifths represent the value of the work done, if carried out at the most suitable time of the year with labour (*beldárs*) appropriate to the work, and also assuming that there is no loss of efficiency from sickness or other causes.

17. Statement C. appended to this resolution gives the numbers in receipt of relief of all kinds in the Bundelkhand districts on the last Saturday of each fortnight from February 29th to August 29th. It is noticeable that the period of greatest pressure on the relief works did not in all cases coincide with the period during which the prices of the staple food grains ordinarily consumed by the labouring classes of the people (*gram*, *arhar*, rice, and *juár*) ruled the highest. Thus, while in every district the largest number of persons in receipt of relief was reached on the 23rd May, it was only in Hamírpur and Jhánsi that prices also were highest during the week ending on that date. In Bánda the district where distress was most severe, and in Jalaun food grains were dearest during the weeks ending the 9th, and the 30th June respectively. These variations are probably attributable to fluctuations in the market rather than to any more recondate cause.

18. At the time of recording this resolution still higher prices rule than prevailed last May and June in Bundelkhand; yet pressure on the few relief works which have been kept open at subsistence wages as a precautionary measure is only beginning to make itself felt. The explanation doubtless is that the early *kharif* crops were not so bad as report makes out; and that they have given the poorer classes of the people something to go with. And this will continue, with more or less variation, possibly until December, when, if no rain falls in the interval, a severe strain may again commence.

19. The health of the relief workers was, on the whole, very good. They were usually, on first coming on the works, in an emaciated and reduced condition; but when afterwards the distressed tract was visited both by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and the Sanitary Commissioner, these officers reported that there was no

appearance of general starvation, let alone famine, among the men, women, and children on the works. Had there been, the relief operations would have failed of success. There were during the whole period only 26 deaths reported as due to starvation. But in spite of all the sanitary precautions that were taken, cholera prevailed from time to time in a sporadic form, and there were three serious outbreaks—one in the Lalitpur sub-division on the 4th April, one in the Karwi sub-division on the 18th May, and a third in Jhānsi on the 29th May. The seriousness of these outbreaks is thought by the Sanitary Commissioner to have been partly due to defective arrangements for the supply of water in connexion with the large relief works. He recommends that a standard plan of water cart and water distributing appliances should be adopted for such cases. It has been reported that the Sunday holiday prescribed by Article 91 of the Famine Code is dangerous from the sanitary point of view, as the workers flocked into the towns on that day, camping near polluted tanks, &c., at the risk of acquiring or rapidly disseminating disease. This is probably correct; but the matter concerns, not only the non-Christian labourers, but the officers controlling the works, and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot compel the regular performance of official duties on Sunday. It seems clear, however, that the payment of the Sunday wage leads to abuses, as people flock to a relief work on Saturday who are in no need of relief, merely to get the Sunday wage; that the labourers earn during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day; and that no difficulty is felt in giving gratuitous relief in kind if really required to newcomers arriving on a relief work on Sunday.

20. On the 20th July a final Famine Conference was held by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at Aliahabad, at which the results of the whole system of relief up to that date were considered. The figures then furnished have been since supplemented by a statement of famine expenditure incurred up to 31st August prepared in the Accountant-General's office, and this more precise statement has, where possible, been used in the following summary.

The expenditure on relief work falls under two heads according as it was accounted for by the district officers or the Public Works Department.

Up to the 1st April the district officers accounted for all such expenditure, but after 1st April the Public Works Department accounted for the expenditure on the "large" relief works, which were under their direct control, while the district officers accounted for the "small" relief works generally described as "village works."

The expenditure will then be shown separately—(A) that accounted for by the Public Works Department, and (B) that accounted for by the district officers.

21. (A) The total amount expended by the Public Works Department was Rs. 715,088, of which sum—

Rs.	
5,37,608	was paid in wages for labour done.
43,758	was paid in gratuitous relief to the dependants of the relief workers.

1,33,722 was paid in cost of tools, hutting, and temporary establishment. The work in return for this expenditure consisted of (1) 345½ miles of road remodelled and repaired (in which work is included the clearing out of small roadside tanks); (2) 47 large tanks excavated. The amount of earthwork done amounted to—

		C. ft.
(1) On roads and small roadside tanks	- - - -	41,923,055
(2) On large tanks	- - - -	13,984,102
The total earthwork thus was	- - - -	<u>55,907,157</u>

This work cost in wages only—

Rs.		Rs.
(1) 4,60,908	- - - -	rate per 1,000 cubic feet 10·99
(2) 75,700	- - - -	ditto ditto 5·41
Total - 5,37,608		<u>9·62</u>

The sum of Rs. 43,758 expended on gratuitous relief, and Rs. 1,33,722 on tools, hutting, &c., added to this amount spent in wages, make up the total expenditure of Rs. 7,15,088 expended by the Public Works Department.

The number of persons relieved, including dependants, (reduced to relief for one day) on the Public Works Department works in Bundeikhand was 12,843,200, and the

cost per head (including wages and gratuitous relief, but excluding tools, &c.) was 8·7 pies per diem. It is believed that this is the lowest rate yet reached in effective famine relief administration in India by the Public Works Department.

22. (B.) In paragraph 14 above, the difference is stated between the relief which fell within the province of the Department of Public Works and within the province of district officers to administer respectively. The total amount expended by district officers on relief works (exclusive of expenditure on poor-houses and on the miscellaneous forms of relief prescribed by Chapter X. of the Famine Code) was Rs. 2,94,951.

The work done consisted of—

132½ miles of road re-modelled.	
559 village tanks	} re-excavated.
225 „ wells	
39 reservoir embankments constructed.	

The amount of earthwork done on the roads amounted to 11,877,466 cubic feet (measured), and that on the village works was estimated to have been about 53,000,000 cubic feet.

The expenditure was—

	Rs
On the roads - - - - -	1,37,094
„ village works - - - - -	1,57,857
	<hr/>
Total - - - - -	2,94,951
	<hr/>

This gives a rate of about Rs. 12 per 1,000 cubic feet on road work (done at the time of year before April, when such work could be done most cheaply), and a rate of about Rs. 3 per thousand cubic feet on village works (tanks, wells, &c.). It will be observed that while the district officers' rates for road work are greater than the Department of Public Works rates (without the excuse for high rates, which, as stated in paragraph 16 above, the Public Works Department had), their rate for village works is extraordinarily less. The explanation lies in the system followed, and in the supervising agency employed. For road works the district officer had, especially during the "test" stage, to rely on temporary establishments, aided no doubt to some extent by the district engineer, and the "gang" and "task" systems referred to in paragraph 14 above do not appear to have been at the outset as strictly enforced as was desirable. But for village works the district officers acted through the village zamindárs. As the latter had not to repay the expenditure incurred and got the full benefit of the improvement in their villages, they acted honourably by the Government in making the Government expenditure go as far as possible. The important lessons to be learnt are (1) the advantage of employing the professional agency of the Public Works Department from the earliest period possible, in controlling all relief works other than those described in Article 65(a), Famine Code; (2) the advantage of working through the village proprietors or village headmen in controlling the works described in that article.

23. The total number of relief workers and dependents relieved on these "small" relief works, plus the number gratuitously relieved by district officers, was 5,533,391 (reduced to units relieved for one day).

The total amount placed at the disposal of the district officers is reported by the Accountant-General to have been 4½ lakhs in round numbers. The accounts have not yet been cleared; but in the returns submitted from the districts the amount actually disbursed is given as Rs. 3,58,777, and may be safely assumed to have fallen short of four lakhs.

24. The total number relieved for one day throughout the districts of Bundelkhand in the relief operations from 1st February to 31st August was thus approximately 18½ millions, and the total cost of relief of every kind in that region, and including tools and plant, hutting and similar items of expenditure, amounted to about 11 lakhs. This gives an average cost of 11¼ pies per diem per head of the people relieved.

25. It is stated in paragraph 3 above that the quantity of land cultivated with *kharif* and *rabi* during the period referred to fell short of the normal quantity by about 485,000 acres, or about 17 per cent. of the total. The crop yield in the area that was sown was also up to the end of June deficient as shown in the statistics supplied by

the Director of Land Records and Agriculture (Appendix A. to this Resolution). To make up for the deficiency of food, importation of food grain was active during the period of distress. The figures for the imports and exports by rail of food grains for the railway stations situated in the four districts of Bundelkhand during the six months from January to July inclusive are shown in Appendix D. The total net imports for the whole affected tract are shown as 743,227 maunds. There was doubtless also some importation by road, especially into the Hamirpur district from the north; but imports by road are not thought to have been large. Probably the total imports were about $7\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of maunds. Thus the net quantity of grain imported allowed but a small margin over the quantity actually required for the subsistence of the $18\frac{1}{2}$ millions of people (reduced to units of one day) who came on relief; and its cost at the average price ruling during the scarcity of the commonest grain (gram) which constituted the chief article of import approximates to the cash expenditure on the relief operations. The argument, or perhaps it should be said the coincidence, need not be pushed too far, but the figures tend to show that, substantially, there was no unnecessary expenditure on relief, and that private trade correctly gauged the extent of the emergency and the necessities of the districts.

26. The Famine Code (Article 53) provides for the association, with the collector, of district or local boards "for the purpose of advising and assisting in all matters connected with the prevention or relief of famine." The Code does not enjoin the creation of unofficial charitable committees, though it does not say they shall not be created. The social conditions of Bundelkhand were not favourable to unofficial efforts in the cause of charity; and probably the district boards contained the intelligence of the region. But in more advanced districts the Lieutenant-Governor is convinced that, should circumstances require the undertaking of relief operations on a large scale, the greatest benefit will accrue from the organisation of private effort and private charity in supplement of the Government system of relief. In Bundelkhand most valuable assistance was given by private landlords and others in the control of the smaller relief works; and advantage should, in future cases, be taken of the landlords' willingness to help in this and other ways. They should, so far as possible, be associated with the officers of Government in the general scheme of relief.

27. It has been stated in paragraph 2 above that, besides the relief operations in the Bundelkhand districts, some measures of relief were also found to be necessary in the Allahabad district, the Hardoi district of Oudh, the Pilibhit district of Rohilkhand, and the Garhwál and Almora districts of Kumaun. In the part of the Allahabad district bordering on Bundelkhand, and resembling it in climate, soil, and population, the distress was for a time severe, but fortunately in none of the other districts did the reality come up to the local officers' early apprehensions. The relief measures adopted in these districts do not call for any lengthened comment. They were carried out by the district officers without assistance from the Department of Public Works and comprised repairs to unmetalled district roads, poorhouses, and some gratuitous relief under Chapter X. of the Famine Code. In all the districts except Hardoi the pressure practically ceased when the rains had regularly set in; but in Hardoi, during the latter portion of July, when there was a prolonged break in the rains, distress threatened to assume somewhat serious proportions. The total expenditure in these five districts up to 31st August, as shown in the returns received from the district officers, amounted to Rs. 1,17,431. The number of persons relieved (reduced to relief for one day) was nearly one million.

Throughout the provinces, therefore, the total number of persons relieved up to 31st August (reduced to units of one day) was $19\frac{1}{2}$ millions (the earlier estimates overstated the numbers), and the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 12,17,431. The number of deaths reported as due to starvation was, as already stated, altogether insignificant; but the mortuary statistics from the distressed districts showed a death-rate much above the normal, from which the Lieutenant-Governor infers that, although the number of deaths from actual starvation was almost nil, the pressure of hard times claimed many victims, mostly among the old and the very young.

28. Before bringing the review to a close the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner desires to record, for information and future guidance, the more useful lessons which actual experience in these relief operations has taught. On the whole, the rules and procedure prescribed by the Famine Code have been found to be effective and easy to work; but they naturally do not provide for all contingencies; while relief operations are fruitful in surprises, which call for decision and resource in the man on the spot. The following instructions therefore, which are the results of

practical experience, will be useful to all officers engaged in future relief operations:—

- (i.) Test works fail to fulfil their object if full tasks are not exacted, and if wages are not regulated with reference to the provisions of Chapter VII. of the Famine Code. Close supervision is therefore essential.
- (ii.) Where test works show the necessity of relief works, the management of the latter, not being of the kind specified in Article 65 (a), Famine Code, should be entrusted from the outset to the Public Works Department.
- (iii.) Relief works of the kind specified in Article 65 (a), Famine Code (*i.e.*, works specially intended for the relief of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages"), are best carried out through the agency of the village landlords and headmen. The quantity of work to be done can usually be accurately calculated, and the cost fixed with reference to a fair task and the current price of food. Advances can then be made and the account cleared up on completion of the work.
- (iv.) Article 77 of the Famine Code provides that over each separate work managed by the Public Works Department shall be placed an "officer in charge." The number of labourers under an "officer in charge" should ordinarily not exceed 5,000; and if there are more than 3,000, there should also ordinarily be two sub-overseers or work agents. In every case each sub-overseer or work agent should have an intelligent assistant or "mate" to help him to lay out the work. For every five or six "charges" an inspecting officer of the standing of a Public Works upper subordinate is required.
- (v.) Officers of the naib tahsildár class or of similar standing on the regular establishment of Government should whenever possible be employed as "officers in charge." They should be placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department and employed where required, postings being made by the superintending engineer.
- (vi.) Reserves of tools and baskets should be established at convenient centres, whence they can quickly be sent where wanted; and as baskets wear out quickly and take time to procure, arrangements should be made in advance for their supply.
- (vii.) On relief works the "gang system" should be rigidly enforced from the very outset and gang registers kept up. A gang register is a card or piece of stout paper containing the names and classification of all persons in the gang. Any gang can thus at any time be checked independently of other gangs, and by "sampling" a few gangs the whole work may be effectively checked. These great advantages do not attach to the alternative "ticket system," under which vouchers are delivered to individuals in the morning, to be exchanged for money in the evening. Under the "ticket system" it is obligatory to count and classify at a particular time in the afternoon the whole of the persons present on a work, in order to obtain a satisfactory check; and this has been found to be not only extremely laborious but usually impracticable.
- (viii.) Wells likely to be used for drinking water by labourers on relief works should be examined, and, if found pure, should be guarded from contamination for a week before required, and the water supply arrangements perfected before the labourers arrive. Foul wells should be absolutely closed. Should cholera break out, the wells should be disinfected at intervals of two or three days with permanganate of potash until the labourers are split up and drafted off to other works.
- (ix.) From the labourers, Bráhmans should be selected to draw water from the wells for Hindus, and Kahárs to distribute it. The vessels employed in drawing and distributing the water should be ordinarily of metal and scrupulously clean. Kerosine tins have been found to be most useful and acceptable.
- (x.) A superior medical officer should inspect periodically (1) the relief labourers on relief works not of the Article 65 (a) class, (2) the sanitary and medical arrangements in connexion with such works, and (3) poorhouses and hospitals.
- (xi.) The Famine Code (section 85) provides for the erection of latrines. These should usually be on the trench system and provided with grass screens.

A line of flags and posts should be placed all round each relief work, and 300 yards from the same, and great care should be taken that no nuisances are committed within the area enclosed by such flags and posts.

- (xii.) Medical officers in charge of hospitals on relief works should very carefully watch for the occurrence of any cases of relapsing or famine fever, and immediately isolate any such cases.

Provision for the immediate isolation of cases of cholera, small-pox, or other epidemic disease should be made at each work. Grass huts, which can be subsequently burnt, will usually be the best form of isolation hospital.

- (xiii.) Article 87 of the code provides for daily, bi-weekly, or tri-weekly payments (with certain exceptions). Wages should ordinarily be paid twice a week. Bi-weekly payments save the labourers a daily wait until a late hour on the works. They also reduce the difficulty of providing a sufficient supply of copper coin, as small silver coin can then be used also. But bi-weekly payments can only be introduced if "gang registers" are maintained in perfect order. (The difficulty, which is sometimes serious, of providing large quantities of copper coin can be reduced by arranging with the gram sellers on the works to exchange copper for silver daily.)
- (xiv.) No change in wages should be made if prices vary by less than 10 per cent., and ordinarily no change should be made unless with the previous sanction of the Commissioner of the division (or Famine Commissioner if one is appointed).
- (xv.) When a variation in prices of food grain necessitates an alteration in wages, notice of the new rate of wages should be sent to the district engineer and not to the "officers in charge."
- (xvi.) No incomplete work should be closed by the controlling authorities, except on account of sickness, unless seven days' notice be previously given to the Divisional (Executive) Engineer, to break up the staff and close the work.
- (xvii.) If article 91 of the Famine Code be retained unaltered (*see* paragraph 19 above), the Sunday should be reckoned, for account and statistical purposes, as the last day of the week, in order that the payments for the holiday, which are made on Saturday, shall fall in the week covered by the numerical returns. This slight change, which will greatly facilitate check on expenditure, necessitates placing Sunday at the end, and not at the beginning of the week in the Progress Return (Form III. of the Appendix to the Famine Code).

29. In conclusion, it is the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner's pleasing duty to notice the services rendered by the principal officers employed in conducting the relief measures which have proved so successful. The chief burden of directing the relief operations fell upon the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division, Mr. G. R. C. Williams, and the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Mr. C. G. Palmer. Mr. Williams successfully maintained control over all the relief measures without neglecting any of the ordinary duties of a very important division; while Mr. Palmer's management of the Public Works operations was both effective and resourceful. To both of these officers the special thanks of Government are due.

On the collectors of the various districts the brunt of the executive work fell as an addition to their ordinary duties; and it was carried on in very trying circumstances with a self-sacrifice and devotion to duty which the Lieutenant-Governor cannot praise too highly. The heaviest responsibility fell on Mr. Ferard, officiating collector of Banda, and next on Mr. Warburton, officiating collector of Hamirpur, and Mr. Calnan, officiating collector of Jalaun. To these officers the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner gives his best thanks. In Jhansi the distress was less than elsewhere in Bundelkhand, but still a considerable strain fell on the collector, Mr. Steel. Mr. Bird, collector of Allahabad, administered relief in his district in an efficient manner, chiefly through local agencies, and Mr. Partridge, officiating collector of Pilibhit, also merits favourable mention. Mr. Hoare, sub-divisional officer of Lalitpur, and Pandit Jwala Parshad, sub-divisional officer of Karwi, managed difficult charges well. All these officers in their several degrees deserve the thanks of Government.

In the Public Works Department the good services of Mr. Battie, executive engineer, 2nd Allahabad Division, have been brought to prominent notice; and Mr. Thompson, district surveyor, Banda, and Babu Kula Nand, district surveyor, Jalaun, have rendered good service, which the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner desires to acknowledge.

His Honour notices with much satisfaction that several officers among the tahsildárs, and naib tahsildárs, and among the upper and lower subordinates of the Department of Public Works, have shown marked zeal, probity and ability in carrying out the work entrusted to them. On fit opportunity the services of these officers will be suitably rewarded.

It was not to be expected that, subject as the executive staff was to great exposure and privation during a Bunkelkhand summer, there should be no casualties, but the casualties were comparatively few. In the Civil Department the Naib Tahsildárs Maulvi Muhammad Ali and Bábu Joti Parshad, in the Department of Public Works, Mr. J. C. Rose, sub-overscer, and in the Police Department Sub-Inspector Niaz Husain died on the works. They were reported as zealous and efficient officers; and the Government regrets their loss.

Finally, the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner desires to acknowledge the very great assistance he has throughout these operations received from the Honourable Mr. Odlin, Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Department of Public Works.

Order.— Ordered that copies of this resolution be forwarded to—

(1) The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for the information of the Board;

(2) All Commissioners of Divisions and all District Officers, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information and guidance;

(3) The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information and communication to civil surgeons;

(4.) The Sanitary Commissioner, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information;

(5.) The Inspector-General of Police, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information.

Ordered also that copies be furnished to the secretary to this Government in the Public Works Department, buildings and roads branch, for information and circulation to officers of the department for information and guidance.

Ordered also that the resolution be published in the "North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Gazette."

H. F. EVANS,
Chief Secretary to Government
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

KHARÍF and RABÍ JINSWÁRS (crop tables of the four BUNDELKHAND DISTRICTS { An average crop = 16 annas.
A bumper crop = 20 annas.

Crops.	BÁNDA.						HAMÍPUR.						JHÁNSI.						JALÁUN.						BUNDELKHAND.					
	Acreage.			Outturn in annas.			Acreage.			Outturn in annas.			Acreage.			Outturn in annas.			Acreage.			Outturn in annas.			Total Acreage.			Outturn in annas.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
<i>Kharíf.</i>																														
Rice - - -	70,645	74,865	81,474	13	7	11	4,922	4,768	5,697	15	15	14	25,545	26,551	25,548	11	16	9	1,629	1,210	1,966	15	15	15	102,739	107,392	114,685	13	13	12
Indian corn -	199	198	189	11	5	14	10	10	5	15	14	13	7,053	8,117	6,182	13	14	15	16	22	36	14	15	16	8,177	8,347	8,412	13	12	14
Cotton and arhar (a)	104,329	96,579	86,697	10	5	17	80,790	94,367	76,618	14	10	16	25,160	33,345	26,323	14	12	13	50,861	64,163	50,886	14	8	17	261,140	283,453	240,622	13	9	13
Juár and arhar (b)	193,808	156,530	133,220	11	6	13	154,823	151,016	122,045	14	10	13	53,519	66,351	45,648	13	12	11	73,009	100,510	60,356	13	8	11	475,553	474,407	361,269	13	9	12
Bájrâ and arhar (c)	41,618	28,425	30,065	11	4	12	23,314	19,557	19,755	15	8	14	2,296	3,160	1,696	14	11	9	50,677	42,802	42,802	12	7	9	118,405	95,084	94,308	13	7	11
Urd and mung	1,089	828	934	9	5	10	3,298	2,664	5,103	11	11	11	16,732	15,824	15,305	13	13	9	82	187	193	15	11	7	21,201	19,503	21,533	13	10	9
Til - - -	47,438	26,631	25,173	13	5	10	47,107	37,548	31,979	16	12	14	66,958	77,585	6,244	—	14	8	4,901	5,834	4,439	14	11	12	166,404	147,599	124,225	14	10	11
Moth (d)	1,579	1,004	853	—	—	—	171	123	85	—	—	—	255	241	236	—	—	—	79	56	31	—	—	—	2,084	1,424	1,205	—	—	—
Kodon - - -	20,730	27,427	28,576	11	8	13	24,356	32,106	35,955	16	13	12	63,320	68,950	67,892	15	—	—	—	2,123	2,927	16	13	11	109,408	130,605	135,350	14	11	13
Garden crops (food)	703	703	863	—	—	—	1,692	1,652	1,333	—	—	—	1,535	1,239	1,265	—	—	—	1,004	1,022	979	—	—	—	4,934	4,616	4,940	—	—	—
Total - - -	482,130	414,190	388,044	—	—	—	341,484	343,808	299,073	—	—	—	264,173	301,363	254,869	—	—	—	182,253	218,018	164,675	—	—	—	1,270,045	1,277,379	1,106,461	—	—	—
<i>Rabí.</i>																														
Sugarcane - -	23	27	—	14	16	—	2,503	2,026	—	16	12	14	931	926	—	16	16	13	663	430	—	14	15	12	4,120	3,409	—	15	14	—
Arhar, pure -	376	893	—	13	12	12	184	114	—	16	16	10	462	470	—	16	16	8	25	21	—	15	16	8	1,047	1,498	—	15	15	—
Wheat and gram (e)	211,201	192,863	—	8	9	4	214,010	163,948	—	10	6	7	104,361	55,548	—	10	10	5	213,152	112,319	—	7	10	4	742,724	524,573	—	8	9	—
Wheat and barley (f)	4,227	6,393	—	—	—	—	1,786	6,297	—	—	—	—	16,463	16,932	—	—	—	—	5,314	9,090	—	—	—	—	27,790	33,612	—	—	—	
Barley and gram	71,175	112,271	—	14	13	7	24,551	51,920	—	15	14	8	3,254	4,776	—	16	16	7	34,822	86,974	—	16	16	5	133,802	253,941	—	15	15	—
Gram, pure -	165,427	205,407	—	13	12	8	67,039	93,742	—	15	15	7	59,641	99,178	—	16	16	7	46,655	61,700	—	13	15	7	338,763	460,027	—	14	14	—
Alot - - -	30,687	23,261	—	10	1	2	44,695	64,263	—	15	—	3	18,955	28,353	—	15	3	3	68,764	92,970	—	13	2	2	163,101	213,947	—	13	3	—
Zira - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	15	—
Dhana - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	15	—
Vegetable (said)	57	123	—	—	—	—	26	27	—	—	—	—	355	377	—	—	—	—	38	49	—	16	15	—	476	576	—	16	15	—
Total - - -	488,173	546,138	—	—	—	—	354,794	384,337	—	—	—	—	204,423	304,560	—	—	—	—	369,433	363,453	—	—	—	—	1,411,323	1,493,488	—	—	—	—

(a) Outturn for cotton only.
(b) " " juár "
(c) " " bájrâ "

(d) Outturn included in urd and mung.
(e) " " for wheat only.
(f) " " barley "

(1.) PRICES per RUPEE RULING in the BANDA DISTRICT from 1st March to 18th August 1896.

District.	Week ending—	Wheat.	Gram.	Arhar dal.	Rice, common.	Juar	Maize.	Barley	Bajra.
BANDA.		Sérs.	Sérs.	Sérs.	Sérs.	Sérs.			
	7th March 1896 -	10 97	19 81	14 31	12 94	16 06	—	—	—
	14th " -	11 46	20 19	15 38	12 69	15 69	—	—	—
	21st " -	11 78	19 13	15 38	12 63	15 06	—	—	—
	28th " -	12 03	18 41	15 13	12 63	14 69	—	—	—
	4th April 1896 -	11 84	17 97	15 00	12 38	14 57	—	—	—
	11th " -	11 91	18 06	14 31	12 19	14 33	—	—	—
	18th " -	12 25	18 25	14 44	12 19	14 50	—	—	—
	25th " -	12 31	17 91	14 19	11 94	14 42	—	—	—
	2nd May 1896 -	12 22	17 28	13 93	11 50	14 42	—	—	—
	9th " -	12 09	16 31	13 47	11 31	13 83	—	—	—
	16th " -	11 78	15 16	12 66	11 16	13 33	—	—	—
	23rd " -	11 75	14 69	12 28	10 78	13 17	—	—	—
	2nd June 1896 -	11 31	14 94	11 96	10 66	12 92	—	—	—
	9th " -	11 06	14 47	11 75	10 53	13 75	—	—	—
	16th " -	11 25	14 94	12 21	13 71	13 58	—	—	—
	23rd " -	11 0	14 75	12 03	10 56	13 58	—	—	—
	30th " -	10 78	14 72	11 97	10 75	13 75	—	—	—
	7th July 1896 -	10 69	14 88	12 06	10 22	12 42	—	—	—
	14th " -	10 75	14 84	11 91	10 34	12 0	—	—	—
	21st " -	10 75	14 84	12 00	10 06	11 83	—	—	—
	28th " -	10 78	14 88	12 28	10 19	12 33	—	—	—
	4th August 1896 -	10 75	15 0	11 81	9 94	12 25	—	—	—
	11th " -	10 78	14 88	11 73	10 19	12 54	—	—	—
	18th " -	10 69	14 66	11 72	9 94	12 88	—	—	—

(2.) PRICES per RUPEE RULING in the DISTRICT of HAMIRPUR from 1st March to 18th August 1896.

District	Week ending—	Wheat.	Gram.	Arhar dal.	Rice, common.	Juar.	Maize.	Barley.	Bajra.
HAMIRPUR.		S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.
	7th March 1896 -	10 12	18 9	14 14	11 8	14 9	16 3	16 1	13 13
	14th " -	11 4	18 13	16 8	11 4	15 2	18 6	15 3	15 0
	21st " -	11 3	18 9	14 11	11 5	14 13	18 6	15 5	15 2
	28th " -	11 4	18 8	14 6	11 3	12 2	18 6	15 9	13 14
	4th April 1896 -	11 3	17 14	13 14	11 0	14 8	19 8	15 6	—
	11th " -	11 3	17 4	13 10	10 12	14 10	19 8	15 2	13 0
	18th " -	12 1	17 3	14 0	11 8	14 8	20 10	15 2	—
	25th " -	12 4	16 7	13 14	10 11	14 10	19 13	14 13	—
	2nd May 1896 -	12 2	16 0	13 14	10 8	14 6	17 0	14 10	—
	9th " -	11 15	14 13	12 14	10 6	14 3	16 12	14 5	—
	16th " -	11 14	14 6	12 3	9 14	13 15	15 8	14 6	—
	23rd " -	11 8	13 10	11 13	9 8	14 0	14 10	13 1	—
	Fortnight ending—								
	15th June 1896 -	11 6	14 2	12 3	9 11	13 1	15 0	13 1	13 1
	30th " -	11 1	13 13	13 0	9 5	12 15	14 13	13 2	—
	15th July 1896 -	11 2	13 2	11 2	9 12	13 0	13 13	12 13	11 8
	31st " -	11 8	15 0	12 8	10 0	13 3	15 0	12 10	11 8
	15th August 1896 -	10 11	14 13	12 8	9 8	13 3	15 0	12 10	11 8

(3.) PRICES per RUPEE RULING in the DISTRICT of JHANSI from 1st March to 18th August 1896.

District.	Week ending—	Wheat.	Gram.	Arhar dal.	Rice, common.	Juár.	Maize.	Barley.	Bájrá.	
		S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	
JHANSI.	7th March 1896 -	11 9	17 15	14 0	10 11	16 15	—	—	—	
	14th „ -	11 9	18 6	15 0	10 10	16 15	—	—	—	
	21st „ -	11 10	18 11	15 0	10 8	16 15	—	—	—	
	28th „ -	11 9	17 6	14 13	10 9	16 11	—	—	—	
	4th April 1896 -	11 10	17 10	14 13	10 10	16 8	—	—	—	
	11th „ -	11 15	17 9	14 6	10 12	16 8	—	—	—	
	18th „ -	12 0	17 0	14 6	10 12	16 8	—	—	—	
	25th „ -	12 0	16 5	14 7	10 12	16 8	—	—	—	
	2nd May 1896 -	12 3	15 15	14 0	10 11	16 8	—	—	—	
	9th „ -	12 3	15 11	13 13	10 11	16 8	—	—	—	
	16th „ -	12 1	15 0	13 13	10 11	15 11	—	—	—	
	23rd „ -	11 15	14 8	13 11	10 9	15 1	—	—	—	
	Fortnight ending—									
	16th June 1896 -	11 14	14 10	12 0	11 0	14 12	14 8	15 8	14 0	
	30th „ -	12 0	14 14	12 4	11 0	15 1	15 1	15 8	14 0	
	15th July 1896 -	11 12	14 0	16 8	11 8	15 4	15 8	15 8	14 0	
	31st „ -	11 12	14 0	16 8	10 0	15 4	15 0	14 12	14 0	
	15th August 1896 -	11 12	13 12	12 12	10 0	15 0	15 8	14 12	—	

(4.) PRICES per RUPEE RULING in the DISTRICT of JALAU from 1st March to 18th August 1896.

District.	Week ending—	Wheat.	Gram.	Arhar dal.	Rice, common.	Juár.	Maize.	Barley.	Bájrá.	
		S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	S. c.	
JALAU.	7th March 1896 -	10 13	21 11	16 4	—	16 6	—	17 12	15 13	
	14th „ -	11 3	20 12	16 4	—	16 6	—	17 0	15 10	
	21st „ -	11 4	20 11	15 12	—	16 6	—	17 8	15 10	
	28th „ -	11 9	20 8	15 8	—	16 6	—	16 14	15 10	
	4th April 1896 -	11 10	19 13	15 12	—	16 0	—	16 12	15 4	
	11th „ -	12 0	19 6	15 12	—	15 12	—	16 10	15 4	
	18th „ -	12 9	18 6	15 4	—	15 6	—	16 7	15 2	
	25th „ -	12 8	17 9	14 8	—	15 0	—	15 15	14 10	
	2nd May 1896 -	12 9	16 13	14 4	—	15 0	—	15 12	14 10	
	9th „ -	12 4	15 14	13 9	—	14 8	—	14 2	15 0	
	16th „ -	11 8	15 4	14 0	—	14 5½	—	14 4	13 12	
	23rd „ -	11 3	14 11	12 12	—	13 13	—	14 3	13 7	
	Fortnight ending—									
	15th June 1896 -	11 0	15 0	12 0	11 0	14 0	14 0	14 8	13 0	
	30th „ -	11 0	14 8	12 0	11 0	14 0	14 0	14 8	13 0	
	15th July 1896 -	11 0	14 8	12 0	11 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	13 0	
	31st „ -	11 0	14 0	12 0	11 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	13 0	
	15th August 1896 -	11 0	14 0	12 0	10 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	13 0	

STATEMENT showing fortnightly the numbers on RELIEF WORKS and gratuitously relieved in BUNDELKHAND from the opening to the closing of the WORKS.

District.	Feb. 20	Mar. 14	Mar. 23	Apr. 11	Apr. 25	May 8.	May 23	June 6.	June 20.	July 4	July 18	Aug. 1	Aug. 15	Aug. 29.
Bánda - . . .	6,630	21,314	47,307	75,681	94,814	117,554	133,739	71,259	61,718	30,642	6,458	3,460	2,831	2,059
Hamirpur - . . .	2,380	20,459	31,559	30,009	44,090	41,371	47,960	54,440.	8,108	3,238	3,767	3,619	3,611	2,622
Jhánsi - . . .	2,256	7,917	22,040	17,318	29,511	32,301	42,645	36,998	8,348	1,109	523	515	407	142
Jalaun - . . .	1,616	5,905	27,102	33,325	24,118	24,649	40,617	33,718	7,065	1,780	1,981	1,831	1,401	1,081
Total - . . .	12,891	55,495	128,628	165,330	192,533	215,875	263,961	176,103	85,229	36,769	12,729	9,455	8,390	5,504

The Imports and Exports into and from the Bundelkhand Districts are shown in the following table:—

District.	Months.	Imports	Exports	Net Imports.
Bánda	January	20,381	2,116	
	February	7,488	1,488	
	March	8,353	193	
	April	13,769	143	
	May	37,244	2,905	
	June	75,041	8,520	
	July	64,631	5,214	
	Total	226,907	20,579	206,328
Hamirpur	January	26,991	21	
	February	9,745	118	
	March	5,587	—	
	April	9,628	2	
	May	27,547	13	
	June	26,698	—	
	July	41,869	118	
	Total	148,065	272	147,793
Jhánsi	January	44,577	13,922	
	February	29,932	11,733	
	March	27,555	6,454	
	April	46,183	2,932	
	May	83,459	7,997	
	June	92,858	3,232	
	July	62,430	1,112	
	Total	386,994	47,382	339,612
Jalaun	January	5,283	600	
	February	4,518	1,218	
	March	7,458	1,220	
	April	13,267	2,457	
	May	11,654	5,831	
	June	10,011	1,404	
	July	10,035	2	
	Total	62,226	12,732	49,494
Total for the four districts		824,192	80,965	743,227

PUNJAB.

No. 13.—Dated Lahore, 23rd November 1896.

From M. W. FENTON, ESQUIRE, REVENUE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In the circular of the Government of India, No. 5--48, dated 2nd March 1892, the rule which is reproduced in section 45 of the Punjab Famine Code,* prescribes the

* III.—As soon as the information is available, a general report should be submitted, giving an account of the economic condition of the affected districts or groups of districts in ordinary times, and indicating the crops affected and the extent to which they have suffered; the contingencies on which the probable duration of distress depends; the position of the affected area as to local trade, food supply and communications; and any other general information likely to be instructive.

submission to the Government of India of a general report on the conditions of tracts suffering from failure of crops.

2. *Present Report not confined to particular Districts.*—The Government of India have already been made aware from the weekly telegraphic reports that famine relief works are in progress in the Phália Tahsil of the Gujrat District, that test relief works have been opened in the Karnál District, and that relief works are about to be commenced in the Hissar District. In addition to these tracts the districts of Rohtak and Umballa (southern tahsils) have just been reported to Government as areas in which scarcity is prevalent and famine is imminent; and the Commissioner of Delhi has directed the submission of similar reports under section 43 of the Famine Code for the remaining plains districts of his Division. The Lieutenant-Governor does not, however, in the present report propose to deal only with the circumstances of the tracts so affected. The present scarcity or famine appears to have visited practically the whole of India, and though particular districts may, from their having obtained timely rain or in consequence of the large proportion of irrigated area which they contain, have enjoyed good harvests and produced a sufficiency of grain and fodder for their own requirements, yet such tracts in the present days of improved communications cannot remain isolated from the effects of the generally prevailing scarcity; and high prices with their attendant consequences make themselves felt even in localities so favoured. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's view of the situation thus created is explained in the following extract from a circular issued to district officers a fortnight ago:—

The period during which sowings for the rabí are possible is now rapidly passing away without any sign of rain, and a point may very soon be reached at which a widespread failure of the rabí crop will be a certainty. The result of this would in all probability be that prices, high as they are now, would go up much higher with a sudden bound, and that though there might be ample stocks in the country to last for a long time to come, vast numbers of people would not be able to pay the price of their daily food, and would be thus thrown on our hands.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to draw the attention of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to the possibility of this happening very suddenly and very soon, and to remind them that, owing to the failure of the crops extending over so many parts of India and to the great facilities of transport created of late years tending to equalise prices all over the country, this result may come about very suddenly and very soon, not only in those tracts where the crops fail for want of rain, but also in tracts which may be regarded as from the agricultural point of view well protected. It is therefore most necessary that *everywhere* preparations for relief should be so complete that relief measures could be started at a moment's notice.

For the above reasons it is now proposed to discuss the situation for the Province as a whole.

3. *Causes of the present Situation.*—It is apparent that the present distress is due to two causes, viz. :—

- (1.) Failure of harvests within the Province itself; and
- (2.) Rise in prices caused partly by (1) and partly by the conditions existing in other parts of India.

It will be convenient to deal with these two causes separately.

4. *Normal Crop Statistics for the Province.*—The normal* area of matured crops in the Punjab is as follows :—

	1. Harvest.	2. Irrigated.	3. Unirrigated.	4. Total.
Kharif	-	Acres 2,562,219 [25]	Acres. 7,591,927 [75]	Acres. 10,154,146 [43·5]
Rabí	-	4,515,983 [34]	8,684,425 [66]	13,200,408 [56·5]
Total	-	7,078,202 [30]	16,276,352 [70]	23,354,554 [100]

NOTE.—The figures in brackets in columns 2 and 3 represent percentage of irrigated and unirrigated to total area on which crops have been matured; those in column 4 indicate the relative proportions of kharif and rabí.

* Based on the returns of 10 harvests for kharif and 11 harvests for rabí.

It will be seen from the above table that the rabi is the most important crop both in point of the actual area sown and the greater predominance of the edible grains, that 30 per cent. of the crops grown are irrigated, and that the largest proportion of irrigation takes place in the rabi. In different parts of the Province, however, the proportions indicated by the percentages shown in the table vary considerably. Thus the proportion of crops irrigated to total crops in the six Divisions is as follows:—

Division.		Percentage.	Division.		Percentage.
Delhi	- - -	11	Rawalpindi	- - -	31
Jullundur	- - -	26	Peshawar	- - -	35
Lahore	- - -	57	Derajat	- - -	41

The Delhi Division is thus much more dependent upon rainfall, and therefore a much more precarious tract than any other portion of the Province. In respect of the greater importance of the kharif harvest the Delhi Division also suffers from the rest of the Punjab. There are only seven districts in the Province in which the normal kharif area exceeds that of the spring harvest. Three of these, Simla, Kangra and Hazara, are in the hills, and can generally count on a sufficiency of monsoon rain; a fourth, Dera Ghazi Khan, is largely dependent upon inundation canals. The remaining three, Hissar, Rohtak and Gurgaon, are in the Delhi Division, and the kharif harvest in these three districts, which depends almost entirely upon the monsoon rains, is in area on the average about double the rabi. In the remaining districts of the Delhi Division the normal rabi area only just exceeds that of the kharif harvest. The average area under wheat in the whole of the Delhi Division is less than the average area of this crop in the Dera Ismail Khan and Bannu Districts together, and amounts to only 9 per cent. of the total area under the crop. It will therefore be understood that this division is more affected by bad kharif harvests than by failure of the spring crops; and, as of the past three harvests which have been much below the average two are kharif harvests, the calamity is most felt in this part of the Province, and perhaps most of all in the Hissar District, in which the kharif harvest in a normal year amounts to 70 per cent. of the total crops and pays five sixths of the revenue of the district.

5. *Abstract of Information contained in District Reports.*—Reports as to the character of past harvests and as to present agricultural prospects were called for from all Deputy Commissioners last month. These have now been received, and an abstract* of their contents in tabular form is annexed to this letter. The percentages shown in the abstract indicating the proportion of the area of crops in each harvest to the normal area do not of course make any allowance for poorness or excellence of outturn as distinguished from area matured. In the districts of Jhang and Gujranwala there has been a considerable extension of cultivation on the Chenab Canal, and the percentage figures for recent harvests are on that account largely swollen.

6. *Character of Rabi Harvest of 1895.*—Generally speaking the spring harvest of 1895 was a good one. In area it was 10 per cent. above the normal and the outturn was estimated by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture as an average one.

7. *Character of Kharif Harvest of 1895.*—The kharif crop of 1895 was a bad one. In area it was 15.5 per cent. below the normal, and was rated by the Director of Land Records and Agriculture as a 12-anna crop. The Hissar District suffered most, the matured area being only 30 per cent. of the normal. Those districts in or near the hills which are generally in danger of suffering from an excess of rain did well. There was a great lack of fodder in most districts.

8. *Character of Rabi Harvest of 1896.*—The rabi crop of 1896 may be described as decidedly bad. In area it was 20.6 per cent. below the normal. Not only were sowings greatly contracted owing to the early cessation of the previous monsoon, but the winter rains in December and January failed largely. The contraction of the unirrigated area amounted to 37.7 per cent. as compared with the average of 11 years, but this was to some extent compensated for by an increase of 543,750 acres (or 12 per cent. above the normal) in the irrigated area. In fact the irrigated area, which on the average amounts to 34 per cent. of the whole, in this season amounted to 48 per

* Not reprinted.

cent. of the cropped area. The proportion of matured crops to normal area in the six Divisions was as follows :—

Division.		Percentage.	Division.		Percentage.
Delhi	- - -	61	Ráwalpindi	- - -	83
Jullundur	- - -	85	Pesháwar	- - -	83
Lahore	- - -	87	Deraját	- - -	90

The Delhi Division, as in the previous season, suffered the most. In no tract except the Chenab Colony was the harvest a good one. In the Sharákpur Tahsíl of the Lahore District, a purely unirrigated tract, it was found necessary to start relief works which were continued until the autumn of the year. They have not been re-opened, as the work on the Gugera Branch of the Chenab Canal in the adjoining district affords employment to residents of this tract.

9. *Present Kharíf Harvest.*—The area returns of the present kharíf harvest are not to hand yet, but are being compiled, and a detailed report on the character of the harvest will shortly be submitted. It, however, may be stated that except in a few localities the crop is a bad one. The estimates of the District Officers as to the character of the harvest are noted in column 5 of the annexed abstract,* but can be regarded only as estimates of the roughest description. The Director of Land Records and Agriculture has examined these estimates and has recorded a note thereon which is enclosed,* but which I am to say His Honour is inclined to think takes too sanguine a view of matters. There has, it should be stated, been a great increase in the area irrigated from Government canals which will to some extent counterbalance the falling-off in the area of rain crops.

10. *Prospects of coming Rabi Harvest.*—As regards the prospects of the coming rabi, the early failure of the monsoon rains and the almost total absence of rain since the end of August are undoubtedly very serious features in the situation, as implying very contracted sowings on rain lands. In this respect the prospects are as unfavourable for the spring crop as they were on the same date last year, but even yet there is a hope that if rain fall in November or in some parts of the Province early in December, which is, however, not likely, there will be a considerable area of unirrigated land sown, especially in the northern and western districts of the Province. Even if this does not happen, it is not to be assumed that the usual winter rains will fail. Should they come at the usual time and be sufficiently copious, a large area of crops that would otherwise fail may be expected to reach maturity, especially in the case of late baráni sowings and irrigated crops on overworked wells and on inundation canals, as well as of crops on *sailáb†* lands. The irrigated area also may be expected to exceed even that of last year, as the tendency in this direction is progressive. In the Delhi Division, however, the ordinary time for sowings has already passed, and apart from this circumstance the rabi crop in the distressed tracts is of minor importance as compared with the kharíf, and its success would not so much improve the situation as its failure would aggravate it.

11. *Rise of Prices.*—Adverting now to the other cause of the present distress—the rise in prices—this is undoubtedly as much due to failure of crops in other parts of India as to short harvests in the Punjab. The present unfavourable prospects of the coming rabi are without doubt a factor in the situation, as speculation and market prices are influenced as much, if not more, by future prospects as by past events. The speculation or gambling—for this it often amounts to—which is reported to be taking place on a large scale among grain dealers, is regarded by the Native Press and by the Native public generally as the main cause of the present famine prices. It is no doubt largely owing to this that the prices are raised and kept high. The cause of this state of things is the anticipation of an insufficiency of stocks and the absence at present of any favourable agricultural prospects. Nothing but the appearance of some favourable feature, such as an early and wide spread fall of rain in tracts which would benefit thereby, is likely to bring about that turn of the market which would convert those who bought for a profit into sellers to secure that profit or to save a loss. When the highest point will be reached it is difficult to say, but if the speculation is as wide-spread as is reported, it seems likely that when the corner is turned and prices begin to fall there will be a scramble to realise profits or avoid losses.

* Not reprinted.

† Inundated.

12. *State of Grain Stocks.*—As to the extent to which the depletion of stocks of grain is responsible for the present high prices it is difficult to obtain any accurate information. In the reports which Deputy Commissioners have submitted, as noted in the enclosed abstract, attempts have been made to estimate the stock of grain in each district, but with the free flow of produce from surplus tracts into distressed areas no estimate of the stocks in existence at any moment in a single district is of much value. The Director of Land Records and Agriculture in an addendum* to the note referred to above has calculated the outturn of past harvests, and, deducting therefrom the amount of grain estimated to have been consumed and exported, he arrives at the conclusion that, apart from the produce of the present kharif and the coming rabí harvests, there is a sufficient stock of grain in the province to carry us on to the 15th of April next. The kharif now being garnered is estimated to provide for the consumption of a further three months, after which there would be the whole of the produce of rabí 1897. There are, however, so many speculative elements in such calculations that it would be unsafe to rely much on them.

13. *Relief Works for what Classes required.*—The extent to which recourse will be necessary to relief works cannot at present be very well gauged, and the estimates given in our returns of the number of persons we are likely to have on our hands in a season of distress in each tract are, his Honour thinks, purely speculative. For the reasons explained in paragraph 2 above, relief works may, owing to high prices, be found necessary in districts in which the character of the harvests alone would not point to the necessity of any such measures. In such districts, and indeed in any district, the chief class for which relief works may be expected to provide employment is that of agricultural labourers or *kamins*.† In 1888 a confidential inquiry was made in this as in other provinces into the allegation that a large proportion of the population habitually suffer from insufficiency of food. In the report submitted to the Government of India (Punjab Government letter, No. 263 S., dated 23rd June 1888), which was based on inquiries made in the districts, Sir James Lyall, while repelling the above assertion as regards the population generally, was of opinion that in insecure tracts when crops fail badly or are scanty for two or more seasons the village artisans, field labourers, and some of the poorer tenants show signs of insufficient diet. These, together with the poorer classes in towns who suffer from high prices, are the classes who will first be driven to the acceptance of famine wages on relief works. The experience up to date in Gujrát where relief works are in progress is that very few agriculturists apply for work. In Karnál upon the test works which have been started according to recent reports agriculturists have not yet applied for employment. No reports have yet been submitted from Hissar. Generally it may be anticipated that if the winter rains do not fail such relief works as may be started will be mainly required for workers of the *kamin* classes, though in some districts considerable numbers of the poorer agriculturists too will be driven to look for employment. If, however, the rabí harvest proves a failure, relief operations for agriculturists as well as for other classes may be necessary on a very large scale. In this connexion, however, it must be borne in mind that in a season like the present those zamindárs whose holdings are irrigated, especially from a perennial canal, must reap very large profits, and it is only reasonable to suppose that a portion of those profits would find its way in some shape or other into the hands of their poorer neighbours.

14. *State of Preparedness.*—It is of course necessary, while not at present assuming that the next rabí harvest will be a failure, to make preparations for such a contingency. For the past year the Lieutenant-Governor has been constant in directing the attention of district officers to the preparation and revision of relief programmes for the insecure tracts mentioned in the list on page 6 of the Punjab Famine Code. For most of these fairly adequate programmes exist, and where this is not so steps are being taken to add new works. The preparation of relief programmes for districts not mentioned in the above list has been directed by the Lieutenant-Governor in the circular referred to in paragraph 2 above. It is believed that under the guidance of Deputy Commissioners district boards are generally alive to the situation, and will by carrying out ordinary works of a suitable description afford sufficient employment where more extensive relief measures are not required. The work on the Chenab Canal is of immense value in affording employment to the inhabitants of the distressed tract in the Lahore and Gujranwála Districts, and it even attracts labourers from the Phália Tahsil of Gujrát. His Honour is about to address the Government of India with a view to the provision of additional funds to admit of this work being continued and extended as a relief work. In general, his Honour prefers that money should be

* Not reprinted.

† Low caste people.

spent on large works of this description which must be constructed some day or another than that it be frittered away on small works of much less importance and utility.

15. *Immediate Outlook as regards Relief Operations.*—Pending the uncertainty as to the future of the next rabí, it will no doubt be necessary to continue the relief works in Gujrát. The numbers on the test works in Karnál are increasing week by week, and it will soon be necessary to adopt relief measures in that district under the Code rules. In Hissar the relief works about to be commenced will probably have to be kept open for several months, and the condition of Rohtak in this respect seems similar. As regards these districts and the Delhi Division generally it was found in the case of previous famines that provision had to be made not only for the inhabitants of the tract, but also for emigrants from the States of Rájputána. The extent to which emigration will take place on the present occasion depends upon whether sufficient employment on relief works for their subjects will be provided by the States concerned; and it is most desirable in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that the necessity for providing such employment be urged upon the attention of the Darbárs. Already an influx of men from Bikaner is reported from the Karnál District, the immigrants being described as begging their way from village to village. The difficulty will to some extent be met by the Ghaggar Canal project which will immediately be started on the border of Hissar and Bikaner and so supply relief work in the tract where it is most urgently needed, and the assistance thus rendered will be supplemented to some extent if the Ludhiána-Dhuri-Tohána and the Ludhiána-Ferozepore Railways are taken up.

16. A separate report will, as required by the rules in the circular of the Government of India, No. 5-48 of 2nd March 1892, be submitted to the Government of India in regard to the financial position. The abstract tabular report* which is among the present enclosures shows the amounts of fixed land revenue remaining uncollected on 30th September 1896 on account of the rabí harvest of 1896, and the amount which it is anticipated will, in addition, have to remain uncollected on account of kharíf 1896 on 31st March next. The former amount is just under 6 lakhs, the latter is estimated at a little over 19 lakhs, but this estimate can, pending the report of the Girdáwari, be regarded as little better than a guess in most districts. In addition to this it is probable that collections on account of fluctuating and miscellaneous land revenue will be some two lakhs below the budget estimate for the year.

I have, &c.

M. W. FENTON,
Revenue Secretary to Government, Punjab.

No. 2134, dated Lahore, $\frac{31st\ October}{2nd\ November}$ 1896.

From F. A. ROBERTSON, ESQUIRE, DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, PUNJAB, to the REVENUE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB.

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum on the present agricultural outlook which I have drawn up principally for the use of my successor. Mr. Fanshawe asked me to send you a copy of this memorandum as soon as it was prepared, which I have accordingly done. I also enclose copies of two printed* pamphlets, the one containing my reports on the last three harvests and the other containing the remarks of the Deputy Commissioner of each district on the last three harvests, with two tables which I think will be very useful, one giving the area irrigated and unirrigated for each tahsíl for the last three harvests and the other giving the total area irrigated and unirrigated of each district for each harvest for the last ten years, with the average area of the last ten years. I have also made a rough calculation of the production of and consumption from the last three harvests and the balance of food stocks which I calculate should still be available. The estimate is of course at least a rough approximation, but personally I believe it to be not far from the truth.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE USE OF MY SUCCESSOR.†

Scarcity in the Punjab.

I have been through the special reports called for by the Revenue Secretary's No. 922S., dated 1st October 1896, and have returned them all. I have had the notes

* Not reprinted.

† Enclosure to Director of Land Records and Agriculture Punjab's, No. 2134, dated $\frac{31st\ October}{2nd\ November}$ 1896.

on the three last harvests—rabí 1896, kharíf 1895, and rabí 1895—brought together and printed with two very useful tables, one showing the total area or crops irrigated and unirrigated in each tahsíl for each of those three harvests and the other giving the district totals, irrigated and unirrigated, for the last ten years for rabí and kharíf, and also the average of the last ten years. These will, I think, prove useful. They are* attached to this note.

DELHI DIVISION.

Hissar—*Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Afzal Khán.*—The tracts in the worst condition are undoubtedly the districts of the Delhi Division. For months past the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar has been sending in most gloomy accounts, and he now says that prospects are very gloomy; there is very little irrigation and no fodder. The irrigation on the average is only less than one-twentieth in the kharíf and one-ninth of the rabí. The rabí area of 1896 was only half of the average, and the kharíf of 1895 less than one-third. The rabí of 1895 was, however, 50 per cent. above the average or $\frac{3}{2}$. Hissar is really in a bad way, and relief works will be required.

Rohtak—*Deputy Commissioner, Captain Egerton.*—The special report has not been received. The proportion of irrigation is on the average one-seventh to one-eighth in the kharíf and one-sixth in the rabí. But the capacity for irrigation has much increased, and in rabí 1894, 110,000 acres were irrigated and only 64,000 not irrigated. The total rabí area of 1896 was far below average, rather over half; the kharíf of 1895 was four-fifths, and the rabí of 1895 much above average, about $\frac{3}{2}$.

28th October 1896.—Report just received. The unirrigated kharíf of 1896 will be only 6 annas. Fodder is scarce. Cattle in fair condition. Gram sufficient for four or five months. If no rain falls some relief works may be necessary in Jhajjar in November and elsewhere in January.

Gurgaon—*Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Rennick.*—In Gurgaon the Deputy Commissioner's remarks are far from clear, at one time suggesting a much better harvest than was expected, at another a much worse one. The average of irrigation in the rabí is two-sevenths. In the kharíf there is little irrigation as it is seldom required. Average less than $\frac{1}{2}$. Area rabí 1896 about two-thirds average, about three-sevenths of which was irrigated. Kharíf 1895, was about six-sevenths average, and rabí 1894 was above average, about $\frac{7}{8}$. Condition of the district is far from desperate, but there will be no unirrigated rabí if no rain falls before 15th November. Stocks are ample.

Delhi—*Captain Davies.*—Delhi is not in good case, but kharíf 1896 will be Re. 0-8-0 to Re. 0-10-0. There will be no unirrigated rabí unless rain falls by 15th November. The average irrigated area is about one-fourth of the total, but the irrigated area of 1896 was very nearly half the total, 100,000 acres, the average being 60,000. The possibilities of irrigation have increased. Rabí 1896 in area was three-fourths of average, kharíf 1895 average, and rabí 1895 above average— $\frac{6}{5}$. Fodder is very scarce. Stocks are sufficient for three or four months.

Karnál—*Mr. Connolly.*—The Deputy Commissioner reports very badly of Karnál. There have been no unirrigated rabí sowings, and will be none if no rain falls by 15th November 1896. The cattle graziers are removing their cattle; water is drying up in the tanks; zamíndárs are said to have no stocks, and banias stock for three months only. I do not think things are quite so bad as Deputy Commissioner does. In the last rabí 172,000 acres were irrigated; the average is only 98,000. Means of irrigation have increased. Rather more than one-fourth has been irrigated as the average in rabí and one-seventh in kharíf. The last rabí area 1896 was rather less than two-thirds, the kharíf 1895 about seven-ninths, and the rabí of 1895 much above average—about $\frac{3}{2}$. In rabí 1896 the unirrigated area was very small indeed, about one-fifth of the average. It is said that relief works will be required in November 1896.

Umballa—*Captain Parsons.*—The Deputy Commissioner of Umballa has submitted a very good note. He thinks the 1896 kharíf crop Re. 0-9-0 or Re. 0-10-0, but the Revenue Assistant puts it at only Re. 0-6-0 or Re. 0-7-0. I think the Deputy Commissioner quite as likely to be right. Fodder for four months is in hand, and zamíndárs have stocks for three or four months. Little or no rabí can be sown unless it rains

* Not reprinted.

before the 15th of November. The irrigated area is small, only on the average little more than $\frac{1}{20}$ in rabí and $\frac{1}{30}$ in kharíf. The district depends entirely on rain. Rabí area in 1896 was three-fifths average, kharíf 1895 nearly average, and rabí 1895 above average, $\frac{1}{10}$. The district is in some difficulty.

JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

The Jullundur Division is not yet in any severe straits. The Commissioner remarks that the present situation is simply a scare on the assumption that the next rabí will fail.

Kángra—*Mr. A. Anderson*.—Kángra reports a 10-anna or 12-anna crop; about one-fourth of the rabí and two-sevenths of the kharíf is irrigated. Area of rabí 1896 was nearly average, of kharíf 1895 above it, and of rabí 1895 much above it, $\frac{5}{8}$.

Hoshiárpur—*Captain Inglis*.—In Hoshiárpur there is about a 10 to 11 anna crop, and half the next rabí has been sown. Stocks are sufficient to next rabí. There is not much irrigation, but usually a good rainfall. A little irrigated in rabí and $\frac{1}{17}$ in kharíf. Rabí 1896 about three-fourths, kharíf 1895 average, and rabí 1895 average in area.

Jullundur—*Mr. Renouf*.—In Jullundur little rabí has been sown on unirrigated lands, but four-ninths of the rabí and about the same in the kharíf are irrigated. I believe Jullundur is not so badly off as Mr. Crosthwaite, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, thinks. Area of rabí 1896 $\frac{1}{3}$, kharíf 1895 nearly average, and rabí 1895 above average.

Ludhiána—*Mr. Rose*.—As to Ludhiána it may be noticed that the whole district is classed as "secure." The Deputy Commissioner takes a very gloomy view, more so than I believe the facts to justify. The kharíf of 1896 all over is put at 6 annas only. Stocks are ample. In the rabí one-fourth is usually irrigated and in the kharíf one-sixth. The rabí area of 1896 was four-fifths, the kharíf 1895 average, and the rabí of 1895 above average.

Ferozepore—*Captain Burlton*.—In Ferozepore the Deputy Commissioner takes a gloomy view, but the Commissioner thinks it too gloomy; so do I. Kharíf 1896 is classed as annas 6 to annas 8. Fodder is said to be available for two months only; grain stocks till April. Relief works not required before January 1897. There is a great deal of irrigation in Ferozepore. More than one-third in rabí irrigated on the average and nearly half in 1896 and about one-fourth in the kharíf. Area of rabí 1896 was about $\frac{1}{20}$, of kharíf 1895 two-thirds, and rabí 1895 about $\frac{6}{8}$, above average.

LAHORE DIVISION.

In the Lahore Division the Commissioner considers that the only tracts causing anxiety are Sharakpur and the high lands between the Sutlej and the Ravi. The high prices caused in great measure by grain gambling are, he considers, the main cause for anxiety.

Mooltan—*Mr. T. J. Kennedy*.—In Mooltan the crops are nearly all irrigated, four-fifths of the rabí and nearly all the kharíf. There is no trouble in this district.

Jhang—*Captain Douglas*.—In Jhang also there is no cause for anxiety. Rain is always scanty, and the new canal and railway give abundance of employment. Fodder is scarce. Here also most of the crops are irrigated—three quarters in rabí and two-thirds in kharíf.

Montgomery—*Diwan Narindra Nath*.—In Montgomery the sailába area has failed owing to scarcity of water in the rivers, and fodder is very scarce. The people to a large extent are nomadic graziers, and will go elsewhere in search of fodder. The district is not to any extent dependent on rainfall, and the gloomy report is rather difficult to understand, but there are large herds of cattle which will suffer for want of fodder. More than two-thirds of the rabí and seven-eighths of the kharíf is irrigated. I do not believe there is much cause for anxiety in Montgomery. Relief works not likely to be required.

Lahore.—*Mr. A. E. Hurry*.—The Lahore district is suffering. The rabí 1896 was poor, and small relief works were opened in Sharakpur. The kharíf on baráni* lands will be almost nil. Fodder is scarce and cattle much overworked in wells. Stocks

* Rain-watered.

with traders are large. Small relief works will soon be required. There is, however, a very large area of irrigation; two-thirds of the rabi and four-sevenths of the kharif are irrigated. This is worth remembering. The unirrigated portion in the west only can be really in distress. The area of rabi 1896 was rather over two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$), the kharif of 1895 about three-quarters, and the rabi of 1895 above average.

Amritsar—Captain Dallas.—In Amritsar there is not yet anything like real distress. The kharif of 1896 is nearly as good as that of 1895. There has been some portion even of barani lands sown for the next rabi, and stocks are ample. About half of the crops in each harvest are irrigated.

Gurdaspur—Mr. Love.—In Gurdaspur the kharif of 1896 is good on low-lying lands. Stocks are ample, and a brisk export is going on from Batála. It is said that relief works will be required in November. The special report says nothing about rabi sowings. About one-fifth of the rabi and one-fourth of the kharif is irrigated, but much of the district usually suffers from too much water.

Summary for Lahore Division.—The districts of Montgomery, Mooltan, and Jhang are not very dependent on rain; Lahore and Amritsar have much irrigation, and Gurdaspur is submontane and generally does well in dry years. Except in the restricted area mentioned by the Commissioner, there is no real cause for anxiety in the Lahore Division.

RÁWALPINDI DIVISION.

In parts of the Ráwalpindi Division there is more cause for apprehension. There is comparatively little irrigation, and there are tracts which have suffered somewhat severely.

Siálkot—Major Egerton.—In Siálkot there is a large amount of well irrigation which cannot always be depended on in bad years, as the cattle get worn out from scanty food and overwork. About half of the year's crop is irrigated. The rabi area of 1896 was not much below average; the kharif 1895 was average, and the rabi of 1895 was also average. More than half of the crops are irrigated in the rabi and rather less than half in the kharif. I have seen no special report from Siálkot.

Gujrát—Kazi Muhammad Aslam Khán.—In Gujrát the proportion of irrigation, mostly wells, is smaller,—rather more than one-third in rabi and one-fourth in kharif. I regret that no special report has been forwarded to me. I believe that there is trouble in parts of Phálian, where small relief works are open. The rabi of 1896 was about 13 annas, more than three-fourths, the kharif of 1895 was nearly average, and the rabi of 1895 above average. I am not very well informed as to the present condition of Gujrát.

Gujranwála—Mr. Drummond.—In Gujranwála there is a very large proportion of irrigation,—three-fourths in rabi and one-half in kharif,—and the amount is increasing with the extension of the canal system. Fodder is scarce. Grain is sufficient to next rabi. The canal colony has a good crop, and the new canal and railway will give plenty of employment. No relief works will be required before February next. The kharif of 1896 is about 8 annas. The area of rabi 1896 was not much below average, $\frac{3}{4}$, the kharif 1895 was below average, about $\frac{1}{3}$, and rabi 1895 was above it, about $\frac{5}{8}$.

Shahpur—Mr. Bridges.—In Shahpur there has been a moderate kharif of 1896, but it has not been a failure. Fodder is scarce, and little has been sown except on well lands. The Deputy Commissioner considers the quantity of grain to be insufficient, but this does not matter, as there is a railway through Khusháb and down to Bhera. The district is not well off, but there is no famine, and relief works are not expected to be necessary. There is a large irrigated area in this district,—over one-half of the rabi crop and one-third of the kharif is irrigated. As to area, the rabi of 1896 was four-fifths, the kharif 1895 was above average, $\frac{5}{8}$, and the rabi of 1895 was slightly above average.

Jhelum—Mr. Silcock.—Jhelum is much better off than might have been expected, especially in Chakwál and Talagang, where timely thunderstorms enabled the people to sow a good deal of rabi. Kharif 1896 poor. Cattle gone off in search of fodder. If good winter rains fall no trouble need be anticipated. Jhelum Tahsil is worst off. Stocks exist for six months at least, but are supposed to belong in part to traders in

Amritsar and Delhi. There is little irrigation in this district,—only $\frac{1}{20}$ in rabí and less in kharíf, mostly from wells.

Ráwalpindi—*Mr. J. Wilson*.—Parts of Ráwalpindi are really in trouble, probably more so than any other part in the division. Pindigheb, Fatahjang, and half of Attock are hot dry tracts, entirely dependent on rain, which has failed. In these parts fodder is very scarce. The Mari-Attock Railway gives a lot of employment, but work for non-professional labourers is required. It is not, however, expected that any relief works, except this and possibly a road to Chauntra, may be required. The eastern half of the district is much better off than the western. There is very little irrigation, and that is mostly in the north from cuts, but one-twentieth only is irrigated. The area of rabí 1896 was less than four-fifths of the average, the kharíf of 1895 was nearly average, and the rabí 1895 a good deal above average.

PESHÁWAR DIVISION.

In the Pesháwar Division there is nothing like famine. High prices obtain, but there is no sign of scarcity.

Hazára—*Mr. Bunbury*.—In Hazára the kharíf 1896 is very fair, and good rain fell in September and there have been full rabí sowings. There is surplus fodder in parts, which is being exported. Hazára need not be discussed further.

Pesháwar—*Major Leigh*.—In Pesháwar the baráni kharíf has been poor, but the crop was mainly irrigated. Fodder is scarce, but gram is sufficient. There is much irrigation here; four-ninths of the rabí and more than two-thirds of the kharíf is irrigated. The rabí 1896, was three-fourths average, kharíf 1895 average, and rabí, 1895 above it. There is no real trouble here.

Kohát.—*Captain Rawlinson*.—In Kohát an average area has been sown for rabí 1897, and beyond a scarcity of fodder there is nothing to note. About one-fourth of the rabí and one-third of the kharíf is irrigated.

DERAJÁT DIVISION.

There is little that is abnormal in the condition of the Deraját Division. The only difficulty appears to be in obtaining seed for sowing owing to high rates. Takkávi* is urgently asked for throughout the division.†

Bannu—*Mr. Younghusband*.—In Bannu there was good rain in the end of September, and rabí sowings are complete. Cattle are in much better condition than six months ago. There is plenty of gram. Fodder of course is scarce, but there is a good deal of *bhusa*.‡ About one-fourth of the crops are irrigated. The area of rabí 1896 was about $\frac{1}{2}$, kharíf 1895 about $\frac{1}{3}$, and rabí 1895 about average.

Dera Ismail Khan—*Mr. Homan*.—In Dera Ismail Khan the condition is much the same. The special report is very colourless and gives little information. Between one-third and one-fourth is irrigated in rabí and one-sixth in kharíf from river overflow and bill torrents. The area of rabí 1896 was about five-sixths, kharíf 1895 average, and rabí 1895 average.

Dera Gházi Khan—*Captain C. P. Thompson*.—In Dera Gházi Khan the state of affairs is better, indeed better than usual. There are stocks for 9 or 10 months, and no relief will be required. Nearly one-half of the crop is irrigated in rabí and a slightly smaller proportion in kharíf, but in all these Pesháwar and Deraját Districts the irrigated is far the most important part. Area of rabí 1896 nine-tenths, kharíf 1895 about nine-tenths, and rabí 1895 average.

Muzaffargarh—*Captain Bradshaw*.—In Muzaffargarh the condition of affairs is in no way unusual. No relief works will be required. More than two-thirds of the rabí and practically the whole of the kharíf is irrigated; and the last three harvests have all been about average.

Summary.

Taking the province as a whole, we have two patent facts to face,—very high prices and a scarcity of fodder. The high prices are produced by a number of causes.

* Advances of money to agriculturists for improvements.

† Orders have been issued as regards granting Takkávi in such cases in the Deraját and elsewhere.

‡ Chaff, and straw trodden or cut up, for fodder.

Scarcity in other parts of the country, gambling, and the possibility of a failure of the next *rabí* are the principal ones. The reports of the Deputy Commissioners and my own calculations and whatever information I have been able to collect show to my mind conclusively that stocks, particularly in the hands of traders, are still large, ample for the provincial consumption from six to ten months if not depleted by export elsewhere. Seed grain is dear and difficult to get in places, mainly because the owners are holding up for high prices. *Takkávi* is urgently called for in several districts.* Cattle are suffering from want of fodder and are being moved about to river sides, hills, &c., where more grazing can be got, but on the whole the account of the cattle is better than might have been expected, and it is remarkable that there is hardly any disease among them. A good deal more of the *rabí* crop for 1897 appears to have been sown than would have been supposed, and the situation really resolves itself into this, that if good rain falls in the winter, I mean at the ordinary time in December and January, there will be no famine, but only some scarcity, and should it fall by any extraordinary good luck by 15th November, there will be a fall in prices at once and very little trouble. Looking at special localities, we may say that if it were not for scarcity elsewhere and high prices there is nothing unusual in the condition of the Pesháwar and Deraját Divisions, which have much irrigation and mainly depend on their irrigated crops. The same may be said of the districts of Mooltan and Jhang. Montgomery is said to be worse off, and one part of Lahore is no doubt in difficulties. There is nothing alarming at present in Shahpur, Jhelum, or Siálkot, but the western portion of Ráwalpindi is in as bad a state as any in the province. Gujránwála is fairly safe with a large area of irrigation; in Amritsar there is nothing like serious distress, and a good deal has been sown for *rabí* 1896. Gurdáspur is not in bad case, and stocks of grain are large. Hoshiárpur and Kángra are not suffering. Jullundur, Ferózepore, and Ludhiána are all spoken of in somewhat gloomy terms by their Deputy Commissioners, all very junior officers, but the Commissioner does not take the same view.† The Delhi Division is really the only one which is seriously threatened. Hissar is suffering severely, and Karnál seems to be in a precarious state. Umballa wants watching, and neither Rohtak nor Gurgaon are in a very good condition.

Famine has certainly not reached us yet, and if the winter rains come in due course, even if we get no more till December or January, it will not come next spring, but there will be serious difficulty in places. If the winter rains fall, and there is no reason why they should, the situation will undoubtedly be a very grave one indeed. It may be as well to note here, however, that of the whole area of the province two-sevenths is irrigated in the *rabí* and one-quarter area in the *kharíf*. Over four millions of acres are produced on irrigated land each *rabí*. The *rabí* of 1896 for the Punjab was 13 annas, the *kharíf* of 1895 was above 13 annas, and the *rabí* of 1895 was above average, rather more than 17 annas. Taking the province as a whole the *rabí* of 1896 was not a good one. The *kharíf* of 1895 was a bad one, and there was a great lack of fodder. It was estimated at a 12-anna crop. The *rabí* of 1895, though it varied a good deal from place to place, was on the whole a good one and above average.

STOCKS AND CONSUMPTION.

As regards stocks in hand, to make any calculations of the actual produce of a large province like the Punjab, and also of the actual consumption, is obviously a very difficult matter and one into which large errors may very easily creep. The figures of the multiplicand are so large that a very trifling alteration in the calculation of individual consumptions must make an enormous difference in the provincial total. Still it seems to be worth while to make some calculation of the total outturn of the last three harvests, the home consumption during that period, and the export, and to see what it leaves.

The first factor to consider in this calculation is the rate of yield to be assumed. I have made two calculations on different lines, and put up both for what they are worth.

First, we have simply taken the rates of yield calculated in our office in 1892 and submitted to Government in reply to Government of India Circular No. 3-45, dated 20th February 1892, in regard to the principal crops. These were taken mainly from assessment reports, and, being used for assessment, are unquestionably under-estimates.

* See above.

† His Honour is inclined to think that the Commissioner, with whom he has discussed the position within the last few days, takes a somewhat too sanguine view.

For wheat we have in this calculation taken the figures published in the various yearly final forecasts.

As regards exports, figures are not available after June 1896, but as export from the harvest treated of could not commence before June 1895, we have equalised matters by adding in April, May, and June 1895. The figures taken are from 1st April 1895 to 30th June 1896. So much for the calculation of outturn and export.

Next we have to consider the question of consumption. I do not propose to make any new calculation, but to take the estimate given in the Decennial Material Progress Report of the Punjab, page 14. This gives the consumption per head at six maunds per annum for the whole population, a much higher rate than the Famine Code ratio.

The result of taking the figures in this way is as follows:—

Total outturn of the three harvests, rabí 1895, kharíf 1895, and rabí 1896, is 205,383,402 maunds. Total export from 1st April 1895 to 30th June 1896 is 18,722,668 maunds, leaving for consumption 186,660,742 maunds. The consumption for the period 15th June 1895, on which date the produce of the rabí harvest may be assumed to have been first indented on to 15th June 1896, on the above calculation comes to 145,779,691 maunds, leaving, on 15th June 1896, 40,881,051 maunds, which at the above rate gives sufficient for $3\frac{1}{2}$ months, or up to 1st October only, to which must be added the entire produce of the present kharif, which may be assumed as at least sufficient for three months. Thus even calculating at the higher rate of consumption, which includes allowance for cattle, seed grain, &c., &c., this would show a surplus which would last up to 1st January.

We have, however, now got more data than we had in 1892 on which to calculate the outturn of various crops, and a revision of our estimated rates has been ordered to be made in 1897. We have for the last three years been making careful experiments on the outturn of various crops in all parts of the province, and the result is to give a very materially higher rate than those hitherto assumed. Thus we find as the result of our three years' experiments, taking simply the arithmetical average, an outturn which compares as follows, omitting odd seers, with the rates assumed in the calculations given above:—

RESULT OF EXPERIMENTS.

	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Assumed in Estimate.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Wheat	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Gram	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Barley	18	$13\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Maize	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Jowár	$8\frac{1}{2}$	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Bájra	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$

These experiments are free from much of the suspicion attaching to experiments made during settlement operations. These experiments were made in 14 typical districts and tracts, and consequently I think we are quite safe in deducing the following rates, which are still moderate, from them on which to calculate the outturn: Wheat 10 maunds, gram 11 maunds, barley 11 maunds, maize 14 maunds, jowár 6 maunds, and bájra 6 maunds. These rates are still, I think, moderate. The result of the calculations made at these rates are as follows:—

OUTTURN.

Rabí 1895	-	-	-	-	Mds.	
Kharíf 1895	-	-	-	-		128,014,331
Rabí 1896	-	-	-	-		49,763,464
						90,834,806
						<hr/>
Total						268,612,601
Deduct export from 1st April 1895 to 30th June 1896	-	-	-	-		18,722,660
Deduct consumption by population 15th June 1895 to 15th June 1896	-	-	-	-		125,382,610
Consumption for seed, cattle, &c.	-	-	-	-		20,578,505
						<hr/>
Total consumption	-	-	-	-		164,683,775
						<hr/>
Balance on 15th June 1896	-	-	-	-		103,928,826

This balance gives sufficient for $8\frac{1}{2}$ months' consumption at ordinary rates and $11\frac{3}{4}$ months at Famine Code rates. But the assumption that there was no balance in hand on the 15th June 1895 is hardly justified, as will be seen:—

	Mds.
Out-turn of rabí 1894	- 137,936,020
„ kharíf 1894	- 54,596,736
Total	- 192,532,756
Total of one year's consumption of all kinds	- 145,961,115
Export between 1st April 1894 and 30th March 1895	- 29,132,720
Total consumption	- 175,093,835
Balance	- 17,438,921

which would be sufficient for the consumption at ordinary rates of $1\frac{1}{2}$ months, that is to say, at ordinary rates stocks should be sufficient for 10 months, or at Famine Code rates for rather more than 13 months. This calculation allows for all kinds of consumption, and is, I believe, not very far from the truth. Ten months from 15th June 1896 would carry us on to 15th April, and we have the entire kharíf crop of 1896 to add to this, which would take us on to 15th July 1897, without taking account of the rabí 1897.

This corresponds very fairly with the views generally expressed by Deputy Commissioners. It must also be remembered that in this calculation only cereals and pulses have been taken into consideration. I may note that the food crops grown on irrigated lands alone in the next rabí would in my opinion not fall short of 45,000,000 maunds, which is equal to three months' consumption, inclusive of seed, cattle, &c., and to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ months at Famine Code rates. This is assuming that there is no barám rabí at all, which is a very gratuitous assumption.

Thus according to my calculation, allowing for a minimum rabí, there should be enough food to last up to the kharíf of next year, 1897. This of course takes no account of possible export, which cannot be calculated.

October 30, 1896.

F. A. ROBERTSON.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH.

No. 196/S.-73, dated Allahabad, the 23rd November 1896.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In my letter, No. 3575S., dated 30th September 1896, the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner drew the attention of the Government of India to the agricultural position and prospects of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh as they were at that time disclosed, and promised a further and fuller report should a premature cessation of the monsoon rains come to pass, entailing failure in the crops. I am now directed to make good that promise, and to state, for the information of his Excellency in Council, the extent to which the early cessation of the rains has injured this year's *kharíf* harvest, prejudiced the prospects of the ensuing spring or *rabí* harvest, and affected the condition of the people at large. The delay in submitting this report is due to the desire which the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner felt of verifying the reports of the local officers by personal inquiry and communication with them on the spot. His Honour has now visited each division, except Gorakhpur, in which the crops have failed and pressure in consequence on the people is anticipated, and the conclusions stated in this report are the result of conferences held, not only with the officers of Government, but with the principal landlords of the districts affected. The detailed results of these conferences, both for the divisions as a whole and for

each district, will, with the statistical data for the *kharif* and *rabi* harvests, be found embodied in the memoranda appended to this letter.

2. It is known to the Government of India that the rainfall of 1895 was unequal and ill-distributed in these provinces, while in certain districts it was deficient. The consequence was that both the *kharif* and *rabi* harvests of last year were in many districts unsatisfactory, while in Bundelkhand and in isolated localities of Oudh and Rohilkhand the crop failure produced distress, which in Bundelkhand amounted to famine. The extent of this distress, and the measures taken to relieve it, have already been reported to the Government of India in Resolution No. 3545S., dated 20th October last, recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner. I am to invite a reference to that Resolution as introductory to the present report and as explanatory, to some extent, of the much severer pressure to which the same tract of country will, there is reason to fear, be again subjected during the coming year.

3. In Appendix A.* to this letter will be found a statement comparing the monthly rainfall from May to October of this year in each tahsil of each district of the provinces with the normal rainfall for the same period and area. The following statement, supplied by the Meteorological Reporter to Government, shows the percentage of deficiency for the year for each division :—

TABLE showing the PERCENTAGE OF DEFECT FROM NORMAL of the RAINFALL during the six months ending 31st October 1896, in the REVENUE DIVISIONS of the NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES and OUDH.

Division.	The period from 1st May to 31st October.		
	Actual Total.	Normal Total.	Percentage of Defect.
Meerut (exclusive of Dehre Dún) - -	21·38	25·85	—20
Agra - - - - -	13·21	28·46	—54
Rohilkhand - - - - -	28·59	37·91	—25
Allahabad - - - - -	19·24	33·73	—43
Benares - - - - -	24·59	37·29	—34
Gorakhpur - - - - -	23·37	41·38	—44
Lucknow - - - - -	21·02	34·79	—40
Fyzabad - - - - -	25·42	36·68	—31

Taking the provinces as a whole, the deficiency in the rainfall first became pronounced in July ; but, as will be seen from the statement* of rainfall appended to this letter, the June rainfall was also seriously defective in the districts in which the *kharif* crop has suffered most. In July the fall was less by one-third than the normal for that month. In August, owing to good rain in the first three weeks, the normal was reached or nearly reached in all divisions except Lucknow, in which division it was seriously deficient, Agra, and Allahabad. Beyond a few ineffectual showers, there was practically no rain to speak of in September and October. The rain therefore ceased just at the time when it was most needed to bring the growing crops to maturity.

From this general deficiency and early cessation of the monsoon rains, no portion of the province has escaped injury except the Meerut Division, and the parts of the Agra Division which are protected by canals. In the rest of the provinces the failure in the *kharif* crop varied, as will presently be seen, from a loss of one-fourth in certain localities to a loss of three-fourths and over in others, the failure being greatest in those districts in which the rice crop, which is peculiarly affected by short rainfall, is most largely grown.

4. From Appendix III. to the Board of Revenue's last report on the land administration of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, copies of which were submitted for the information of the Government of India, a clear conception may be formed as to the normal condition of agriculture in these provinces. Broadly speaking, the crops grown are three in number, the autumn or *kharif* crop, the spring, or *rabi*, and the *zaid* (or miscellaneous) crops which, covering an inconsiderable area, are harvested in the

* Not reprinted.

summer. The following table, compiled from the local returns, shows the areas usually cropped in the various divisions of these provinces (the Kumaun division excluded).—

Division.	Cropped in Kharff.	Cropped in Rabi.	Zaid Crops.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Meerut - - - -	2,519,430	2,918,714	29,513
Rohilkhand - - - -	2,809,432	2,443,802	34,507
Gorakhpur - - - -	2,743,346	2,411,686	24,527
Benares - - - -	1,952,097	1,793,390	10,594
Allahabad - - - -	2,866,645	3,012,173	22,971
Agra - - - -	2,250,272	2,194,587	28,245
Lucknow - - - -	2,797,646	2,472,713	62,426
Fyzabad - - - -	3,373,178	2,804,092	62,990
Total - - - -	21,312,046	20,051,157	275,773

The preceding figures represent with sufficient accuracy the areas usually sown with each crop; but this year the area sown in *kharif*, while in some divisions below the normal, was in others, notably in the Allahabad Division, above the usual quantity, a testimony to the endeavour made by the people to recoup themselves for the losses of the preceding years. Allowing for access and defect (the precise extent of which will be apparent from the crop statistics for each district in the Appendix), it may be said that the area cropped in *kharif* this year amounted to about 21 million acres. Excluding the canal-protected Meerut Division, in which the *kharif* harvest has been excellent and where the prospects of the *rabi* are good, the area cropped this year in *kharif* in the divisions affected by crop failure may be taken at 18½ millions of acres.

5. Attached to this letter is a map* showing the extent and intensity of the failure in the *kharif* harvest. Generally speaking, it will be seen that the crops have been good, indeed in some districts excellent, in the Meerut Division and in the canal-irrigated portion of the Agra Division; that there has been considerable failure in part of Rohilkhand, the north of Oudh, and parts of the Benares and Agra Divisions; still more severe failure in the rest of Rohilkhand and parts of the Gorakhpur, Fyzabad, and Allahabad Divisions; and that the failure has been greatest in the Gogra-Ganges Doab, which includes the greater part of Oudh and the district of Azamgarh, with outlying districts to the south. The area least affected contains about 11,900 square miles with a population of 6,006,819; the area of considerable failure consists of 25,266 square miles, with a population of 12,530,808; the area of severe failure covers 30,812 square miles with a population of 13,520,258, while the area of greatest loss comprises 25,217 square miles, with a population of 13,494,498. In the first of these four portions into which the province has been thus divided, the *kharif* harvest has yielded not less than three-fourths of the normal outturn (in the Meerut and Muzaffarnagar districts it has been a splendid crop); in the second portion the outturn has varied from one-half to three-fourths; in the third region the outturn varies from one-third to one-half; and in the last tract the outturn has not exceeded one-third of the average, with particular localities of complete failure.

The circumstance, however, that Bundelkhand suffered from famine this year calls for its classification now with the worst area, although the *kharif* in three out of four of the Bundelkhand districts has been returned as a trifle over one-third of an average harvest. In this way the area of greatest failure is raised to 35,420 square miles, with a population of 15,794,060.

6. Coming now to the probable outturn of the *rabi* crop, I am to say that in the Meerut Division, with 2,918,714 acres usually cropped in *rabi*, the prospects are at present distinctly good. Of that acreage one-fourth is irrigated from canals and is absolutely safe; a very large portion of the remainder is protected by wells; and there is also a large extent of low-lying land which retains moisture and may be expected to yield a good crop with the usual winter rains. The Director of Land Records and Agriculture, in his *rabi* forecast published in the last issue of the "North-Western Provinces and Oudh Gazette," anticipates that in this division the ensuing *rabi* area will be 37 per cent. below the normal; but, according to more recent information, the Director's figures have been exceeded, and there is now no doubt that not less than

* Not reproduced.

three-fourths (if not more) of the normal area cropped in *rabi* will be sown in this division; and in considering the prospects of the coming year, the Meerut Division gives at present no ground for anxiety.

In regard to the remainder of the provinces, the first matter which, in considering the *rabi* prospects, arrests attention is the contraction of the area now in process of being sown as compared with the area which is usually sown in ordinary years. In ordinary years *dofasli* or double-cropped lands are usually sown in *rabi*; but, owing to the cessation of the rains before the *kharif* crops had been removed from these lands, it was not generally possible to plough them, and they will to a very great extent lie fallow this season. In the district and divisional memoranda appended to this letter, and in the detailed statistics on which these are based, the best local opinion is given as to the extent of land which will be cropped in *rabi* this year. That opinion is to the effect that, failing rain before the end of the current month of November, when the sowing season may be said to end, the *rabi* area will not exceed $9\frac{1}{2}$ million acres or 54 per cent. of the normal area, amounting to about $17\frac{1}{4}$ million acres. But the lands that will be sown are the best lands, and more than one-half are irrigated from canals, wells, and tanks. More wells are being made every day, which will have the effect, not only of extending the cropped area, but of protecting the area already sown. We have at present, owing to the extent of land protected by irrigation, a more or less certain promise of a crop from nearly 58 per cent. of the area sown, or 31 per cent. of the total area usually cropped in *rabi*; and this protected area is increasing every day by the construction of new temporary wells. Of course the protection will be less efficient if the winter rains fail and the wells run dry; but still there will be protection. On the whole, there is no reason to think that the ensuing *rabi* harvest will, even without favourable winter rains, be less than one-third of the normal crop, while with winter rains it will probably be well over one-half. If regard be had to the high pitch of prices, this means for the province as a whole a substantial money value compared with what an average harvest would bring in at prices prevailing in an ordinary year.

It is of course to be understood that if sufficient rain were to fall before the end of the sowing time, the situation would be at once relieved. In that case the cropped *rabi* area would be very greatly increased and with favourable winter rain most, if not all, our difficulties would be entirely removed in some, and greatly lessened in the remaining, districts.

7. The following table exhibits the present prospects of the *rabi* crop in convenient form:—

Division.	Normal Rabi area in Acres.	Probable Rabi Area of 1896-97.				Total of Columns 3, 4, 5, and 6.	Percentage of Column 7 on Column 2.
		Irrigated from Canals.	Irrigated from Wells.	Irrigated from Tanks.	Unirrigated, but likely, with Winter Rains, to yield some Crop.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Meerut - - -	2,918,714	654,971		676,921	845,355	2,177,247	71
Roilkhand - - -	2,443,802	57,398		510,327	1,255,831	1,823,556	75
Gorakhpur - - -	2,411,686	—		1,071,954	388,901	1,460,855	60
Benares - - -	1,793,390	—		629,355	425,813	1,055,168	59
Allahabad - - -	3,012,173	206,053		385,406	671,619	1,263,078	42
Agra - - -	2,194,587	417,754		651,853	204,303	1,273,910	58
Lucknow - - -	2,472,714	—		489,839	512,993	1,002,832	41
Fyzabad - - -	2,804,092	—		918,775	593,073	1,511,848	54
Total - - -	20,051,158	1,336,176		5,334,430	4,897,888	11,568,494	58

According to the returns more recently received from the Irrigation Department, the area that will be irrigated from canals in the *rabi* will be 1,559,000 acres instead of 1,336,176 acres as shown in this Statement.

8. The general facts upon which the condition of the provinces regarding food supply locally produced at the last *kharif* and ensuing *rabi* may be estimated have been set forth in the preceding paragraphs, but a very important factor in the question is the quantity of stocks in hand. From the information forthcoming it may be assumed

with considerable confidence that the stocks of grain in the country are considerable. It is true that the prices of food grains have already attained a phenomenally high pitch. From Statement E., appended to this report, which compares the prices now current with those current at the corresponding period of an average year, it will be seen that the prices now prevailing are not only phenomenally high, but present that feature peculiar to famine periods of approaching equality between the prices of the coarsest and of the best grains. But although the pitch of prices is usually an indication of the quantity of stocks, the Lieutenant-Governor is, in the present case, unable to infer from the extreme dearness of provisions that supplies are deficient. His information leads him to believe that supplies are not deficient; that food will be forthcoming for those who have the money wherewith to buy it; and that prices will find their natural level when the prospects of the *rabi* harvest are disclosed.

The general conclusion which the Lieutenant-Governor draws is that with sufficient rain during the *rabi* sowing time the full or nearly the full normal *rabi* area will be sown, and most of our difficulties removed; that if sufficient rain does not fall while it is yet time to sow the *rabi* on unirrigated lands, still, with the usual winter rains, there will be sufficient food in the country for the people if only it could be distributed in accordance with the people's requirements. In certain regions there will be abundance, and in other regions supplies will be deficient if local wants have to depend for their supply on local production. But of course no such stagnation of trade as that consideration implies need be apprehended. High prices will prevail throughout the year, which will enrich the cultivators of the canal-protected districts, and the fortunate holders of stocks elsewhere; but these high prices will stimulate importation when the time for sowing the *rabi* has passed without rain, and it has become certain that scarcity over great areas and famine over smaller, but still large, regions must prevail until next year's *khariif* crops ripen.

9. And these considerations lead the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to consider what effect upon the people of the provinces may be expected to follow during the coming year from the circumstances of crop failure and dear prices which have been set forth above. In this connexion I am to invite attention to the following extract (paragraph 77) from the Report of the Indian Famine Commission:—

“From what is known of famines in respect to which any materials for a detailed estimate exist, it is calculated that from a half to three-quarters of the ordinary outturn of the food grain of the year has been lost in the tracts most severely affected. It may therefore be inferred from the experience of the past that a year which yields more than 50 per cent. of a full crop will produce food enough for the population under the stimulus to economy caused by high prices, and that, taking into account the grain stores and the probable importation, there will be no such pressure as to require special measures of relief. When the crop is so reduced that the whole outturn of the year is diminished to 25 per cent. of a full crop, it may be taken as certain that intense famine will prevail. Great uncertainties, however, surround all estimates of failure of crops in such a country as India, and it may easily happen that the particular circumstances of a province will render the effect of a drought more than ordinarily disastrous. An estimated failure of even a third of the year's outturn will always demand the utmost vigilance and preparedness on the part of the authorities, as relief measures may at any moment become necessary.”

In the opinion thus expressed by the Famine Commission the Lieutenant-Governor generally concurs. Applying this opinion to the local circumstances, and bearing in mind the exception mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, his Honour's conclusion is that in the area of greatest crop failure, comprising about 35,420 square miles, with a population of $15\frac{3}{4}$ millions, there will be famine, whether we have winter rains or not, although its severity would be mitigated by timely winter rains, improving the yield of the *rabi* crops. In the area of less serious crop failure, comprising about 20,600 square miles with a population of $11\frac{1}{4}$ millions, there will be much distress, deepening in particular localities into famine; but here too the severity of the distress will be alleviated by sufficient winter rains. In the remaining area of canal protection and mitigated crop failure high prices will cause much hardship among certain classes; there will probably be a further contraction in private charity, which will send to the State poorhouses indigent people who in ordinary years find subsistence in the villages; and there will probably be some emigration of labourers during part of the year into the localities in which relief works are established. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not think, if the railways mentioned in paragraph 18 below are undertaken, there will be need for further public works in this area.

10. From the divisional and district memoranda appended to this letter it will be noticed that the district officers, as a general rule, take a much more gloomy view of the situation and prospects than do the Commissioners of Divisions, while the Lieutenant-Governor is perhaps more hopeful than are most of the Commissioners. The following tables show (in round numbers), division by division and reduced to units of one day's rations, the numbers of people for whom, (A) in the opinion of district officers, (B) in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, provision should be made in the event, first, of rain falling while it is yet time to sow the *rabi*; secondly, in the event of the usual winter rains falling (no rain falling while it is yet time to sow the *rabi*); thirdly, in the event of a total failure in these winter rains:—

A.—ACCORDING TO DISTRICT OFFICERS.

Division.	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case Rain falls during Sowing Time.	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case the usual Winter Rains fall (no Rain falling while it is yet time to sow the <i>Rabi</i>).	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case the usual Winter Rains do not fall.
Rohilkhand - - - -	7,000,000	8,500,000	26,000,000
Gorakhpur - - - -	2,000,000	15,000,000	31,500,000
Benares - - - -	3,000,000	18,500,000	22,000,000
Allahabad - - - -	22,500,000	50,000,000	82,000,000
Agra - - - -	2,000,000	15,000,000	80,000,000
Lucknow - - - -	19,500,000	40,000,000	98,500,000
Fyzabad - - - -	13,000,000	28,000,000	45,000,000
Total - - - -	69,000,000	170,000,000	335,000,000

The first of these estimates is equivalent to a daily average of about 730,000 persons, the second to a daily average of nearly two million persons, and the third to a daily average of about $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions, for three months. It must be stated, however, that the district officers seemed to attach but little precision to the first estimate, and that, in their opinion, the third estimate, that is, the estimate for the worst case, had more pretensions to accuracy than the second.

B.—ACCORDING TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

Division.	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case sufficient Rain falls while it is yet time to sow the <i>Rabi</i> .	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case the usual Winter Rains fall (no Rain falling while it is yet time to sow the <i>Rabi</i>).	Number of People on Relief for One Day in case the usual Winter Rains do not fall.
Rohilkhand - - - -	2,000,000	8,000,000	15,000,000
Gorakhpur - - - -	3,000,000	8,000,000	20,000,000
Benares - - - -	2,000,000	7,000,000	20,000,000
Allahabad - - - -	10,000,000	30,000,000	60,000,000
Agra - - - -	2,000,000	10,000,000	20,000,000
Lucknow - - - -	7,000,000	25,000,000	60,000,000
Fyzabad - - - -	3,000,000	12,000,000	30,000,000
Total - - - -	29,000,000	100,000,000	225,000,000

The first of these estimates is equivalent to a daily average of about 330,000, the second to a daily average of over one million, and the third to a daily average of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ million people, for three months.

11. His Excellency in Council will not fail to observe the great difference between the estimates made by the local officers on the one hand and by the Lieutenant-Governor on the other. In his lower estimate of the difficulties his Honour was supported generally by the Commissioners of Divisions, but the estimates make no special claim to precision. In this connexion I am to say that nothing struck the Lieutenant-Governor more during his conferences than the much greater importance which the

district officers attached to their quantifications of crop failure than his Honour was disposed to attribute to them. The district officers—all gentlemen of earnestness and ability—were quite alive to the facts that the subordinate native officials who supply these estimates in the first instance are extremely prone to estimate too low; and that it is very difficult, from mere observation and without extended experimental cuttings and weighings, to be accurate in estimating a crop at two annas of a full average and not at four; but, nevertheless, they adhered to their opinions. The significance of this fact must not be ignored.

The Lieutenant-Governor found confirmation for his view that even in the worst tracts the *kharif* has not been altogether so bad as represented by the fact that, except in a few localities which suffered severely last spring and summer, there are at present no general or widespread signs that the rural population is in a distressed condition. He has indeed been told by some native gentlemen that the people are already on short commons, and are saving their food against a period of still greater pressure; but the fact remains that, except in Bundelkhand, in part of Oudh, and in a few other isolated tracts of severest crop failure, the people do not seek employment on relief works; and the forced sales of jewellery and of cattle (though taking place), the increase in the number of beggars, and the increase of crime are not so great as one would expect to find if the province were passing under the shadow of the overwhelming disaster which the estimates of the district officers imply. That a period of famine in several districts and of great distress for great numbers is imminent if rain does not fall within a few days, there is no doubt; but that, if we have the usual winter rains, it will attain the magnitude apprehended by the district officers the Lieutenant-Governor does not believe. But he has not thought it right to give effect to his own ideas on this matter to the extent of curtailing the provision to be made for relief in the event of the worst anticipations being verified. Sir Antony MacDonnell hopes that his own expectations may be verified; but he has not trusted to chance, and the relief system established will, he believes, fully respond to the larger strain. The demands upon it have already begun, there being at present 100,000 persons on relief.

12. The preceding paragraphs have dealt with the reasons for anticipating that distress will occur, and also with its probable extent and severity. I am now to state the measures which have been taken to meet the difficulties which confront us. These measures may be divided into two broad classes: first, measures devised with the object of preventing famine; second, measures concerned with the relief of famine where it occurs.

Under the first class come (a) the advances made for the construction of wells and for the purchase of seed; (b) suspensions of revenue; (c) facilitation of private trade. In most parts of these provinces irrigation from wells is generally practised, and, wherever the nature of the subsoil permits, temporary or *kachchá* wells are usually made by the people. In order to stimulate activity in this direction and thus in some manner neutralise the effects of the short rainfall, advances to the extent of 18 lakhs of rupees were made since the 1st October partly for the construction of wells, partly for the purchase of seed. The effect of these advances has been everywhere excellent, and the following passage taken from a report by the Commissioner of the Fyzabad Division, dated 12th November, may be taken as applying to all parts of the provinces where the construction of temporary wells for irrigating purposes is practicable:—"I would invite attention to the marked spirit of energy aroused amongst the agricultural classes by the system introduced of giving timely advances for earthen wells to village communities on the joint security of proprietors and tenants. In many villages a system of co-operative labour has been organised out of the funds so advanced, with the very best results, every man having an interest in seeing that the money is devoted to the purposes for which it was given. The stimulus so imparted has been widespread and has led indirectly to the construction of many wells other than those paid for out of Government funds. The people have thus responded to the aid so opportunely given them in a manner that must be seen to be realised; and the heart given them has enabled them to meet the crisis with a spirit that in 25 years' residence in India I have never seen equalled." The returns of the number of temporary wells constructed by means of the Government advances, by means of the funds which the partial suspension of the *kharif* instalment of revenue has permitted the landlords to devote to the same object, and from other sources, are not yet complete, but from the figures received it seems that in five out of the seven divisions affected the number has already reached 225,000. And doubtless many more will be made. In the estates

under the management of the court of Wards advances have been made liberally from the funds at their disposal in furtherance of this same object. All of these wells may not last throughout the entire cold season; but the probability is that their construction will add about half a million acres to the *rabi* area which, failing rain, will this year yield a crop. On this head, therefore, the measures adopted with the approval of his Excellency in Council have proved highly successful.

13. In connexion with the subject of advances by Government, the great assistance which the people are deriving from the opium advances must not be overlooked. According to statements submitted by Mr. Wright, Opium Agent, Benares Agency, these advances have already amounted to Rs. 34,99,510, besides Rs. 97,598 for wells. Should the opium crop verify its present good promise, the cultivators should receive before next June a further sum of about 90 lakhs of rupees in these provinces. The money already advanced, *i.e.*, 35 lakhs in round numbers, has been paid out in the ordinary course of the business of the Opium Department and independent of the threatened scarcity; but obviously these advances have very greatly improved the condition of the cultivators to meet the pressure of hard times.

14. A minor method of increasing the food supply of the country which this Government, with the assistance of the Government of India, has adopted, is the purchase of potato and carrot seed for distribution to the various districts which are unable to provide themselves with an adequate supply of those quick-growing and nutritious vegetables. The potato seed was procured locally in districts not affected by scarcity; but the local supply of carrot seed in the quantities required was wholly insufficient. The resources of the English market have been drawn upon; but it is a curious fact that, although it was desired to procure 200 tons of carrot seed, the resources of the English market were able to supply but little more than one-half of the quantity. The seed, usually sold in ounces or pounds, we wanted in tons.

15. The second of the preventive measures was the suspension of revenue. The suspensions of revenue allowed up to date amount almost exactly to 80 lakhs of rupees. Besides this, the new assessments in Oudh, which were to have come into force this year, amounting to 6½ lakhs of rupees, and the balances outstanding in the Allahabad Division owing to the Bundelkhand famine, amounting to 14 lakhs of rupees, have been postponed. The total relief thus given to the landlords of these provinces exceeds one crore of rupees.

This relief has had a most excellent effect upon the capacity of the people to withstand the pressure of hard times, while it has been most opportune for the landlords. No remissions of revenue have yet been made, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner proposes to make none until, from knowledge of what the coming months may bring forth, and of the prospects of the succeeding year, he is in a position to judge of the material condition of the country and the chances of its speedy recovery from the existing depression.

16. In regard to the question of food supplies and private trade, the only measure which the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has been able to suggest was the reduction of railway freights on food stuffs consigned to these provinces. All that could be done in this way has been done by the Government of India and no further measure seems practicable, unless a departure be made from the principle of non-intervention with private trade. But the Lieutenant-Governor is strongly averse from such a departure, and has publicly expressed his aversion. It is true that the prices of food grains throughout these provinces at the present time are phenomenally high, and that the lists of prices current present many of the features, notably that of approaching equality between the prices of the coarsest and the best food grains, which characterise famine times. But trade at the present time is active. Without pretending to accuracy on the question of food stocks available in the province—a matter on which, indeed, accuracy is unattainable—his Honour believes that there is an ample supply for three or four months, and even should this supply not receive the full accretion from the *rabi* crops which is to be reasonably expected, still he thinks that private trade may be fairly trusted to make good the deficiency. At all events there is nothing in the present condition of things which induces Sir Antony MacDonnell to recommend any interference with the free play of private trade.

17. Coming now to the measures taken for dealing with actual distress (which has already shown itself in the Lucknow, Benares, and Allahabad Divisions), I am to offer

the following explanations. Under the Famine Code the relief system falls under the following heads :—

- I. Employment on large relief works entered on the administrative programme (article 17, Famine Code) and managed by the Public Works Department or similar agency.
- II. Employment on small relief works [article 65 (a), Famine Code] controlled by District Officers.
- III. Gratuitous distribution of relief in poorhouses, State kitchens, and hospitals to the poor and infirm unable to work, until they can be sent to their villages or become fit for labour.
- IV. Employment at their homes of respectable, but indigent people who are debarred by national custom from appearing in public.
- V. Gratuitous distribution of relief at their homes to persons of respectable position and family who are reduced to starvation.

18. The employment offered by the Public Works Department (head I.), will consist in the repair of old and construction of new district and provincial feeder roads, and of large and roadside tanks and reservoirs, in the construction of the embankments of new lines of railway, and in the extension of the existing system of canal works. The roads which will be undertaken or repaired have been selected with a view to improving and completing the system of inter-district communications and railway feeder roads. This scheme was discussed some time ago, but work on it was postponed owing to the poverty of local funds. The present opportunity will be made use of in order to give effect to the policy which had been previously considered. In regard to railways, the Lieutenant-Governor is in hopes that the Government of India may see their way to beginning work not later than the commencement of the new year on the Agra-Delhi line, the Gháziabad-Moradabad line, and the Shikohabad-Farukhabad line. A good deal of work yet remains to be done on the extension of the Bengal and North-Western system in the Gonda, Azamgarh, Gházipur, and Ballia districts, and in the extension of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway from Rae Bareilly to Benares. These lines will afford suitable employment in portions of the country which will need relief works; later on it may be desirable to afford relief in Dehra Dún by undertaking the Hardwár-Dehra extension of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway line.

The Lieutenant-Governor has been in communication with the Agent of the Bengal and North-Western Railway as to further possible extensions of that line which might be serviceable as famine relief works, and Mr. Izat has promised to submit a scheme for the consideration of Government at an early date. On this point a further reference will be made to the Government of India should it appear desirable.

19. The canal works on which the Lieutenant-Governor intends to give employment are extensions of the Lower Ganges and Eastern Jumna Canals which have already been projected and some of which are now in hand. A special local inquiry has been set on foot in respect to the Sarda Canal scheme in Oudh; but Sir Antony Mac-Donnell does not think that the inquiry will be so far advanced or the preliminary negotiations with the Government of India and the Taluqdárs of Oudh so far concluded as to warrant an expectation that this great scheme can be turned to account as a famine relief work.

The number of labourers for whom employment is provided by the present Public Works Department programme is as follows, division by division (Meerut and Kumaun omitted) :—

Division.	Number of Labourers reduced to Units of one Day for whom Work on District and Provincial Roads is available.
Rohilkhand	27,478,440
Gorakhpur	57,545,160
Benares	30,835,680
Allahabad	74,892,880
Agra	29,160,000
Lucknow	31,834,680
Fyzabad	26,063,160
Total	277,800,000

This gives a daily average of 3,086,000 persons for three months.

It will be noticed that the programme suffices for the numbers which, according to the Lieutenant-Governor's worst anticipations, may be expected to come upon our hands except in Oudh, though not sufficient if the worst anticipations of the district officers are realised. But this programme takes no account of the railway and canal works referred to above, nor of the village works which it is the Lieutenant-Governor's intention to employ in the way I am now to explain. With those works added, the provision is ample for all contingencies.

20. In the system of the Famine Code small relief works "should be utilised in the early days of a scarcity," while large relief works "are the backbone of the system of relief in the later stages of the famine." The experience which Sir Antony MacDonnell has had in the administration of famine relief leads him to differ from the Code procedure on this point and to claim a much wider discretion as to the order of employing these methods of relief. It is perhaps, on the present occasion, unnecessary to dwell on the numberless embarrassments attaching to the prosecution of large relief works in the plains of India during the hot months of the year. These embarrassments were, his Honour cannot doubt, present to the minds of the framers of the Famine Code; but they were driven to incur them in the belief that the successful employment of large numbers of people on small works near their homes was impracticable. But this Government believes that there is nothing impracticable about it if the administration only succeeds in associating the landlords and village headmen with it in the control and supervision of the village works. Our experience in Bundelkhand last year has abundantly proved that the system of village works controlled by men of local influence is not only an effective method of affording relief, but a very economical method. It is true that instances have occurred, and may again occur, in which village landlords entrusted with the distribution of relief funds have abused their trust. But the public feeling is against them; and a distressed village will not be slow to bring the shortcomings of the landlord in this connexion to official notice should his backsliding escape the scrutiny of the supervising officers.

But even if this system of village works were not economical, it would still in certain circumstances have advantages over the system of the Code, which, leaving no discretion, makes "large relief works the backbone of the system of relief in the later stages of a famine." The difficulties connected with water supply in the hot weather months, the certainty of cholera and other epidemic disease, the frequent recurrence of panics, and the demoralisation attending the concentration within comparatively small areas of vast masses of people unaccustomed to discipline and control, produce dangers which should, when possible, be avoided. In addition to this, there is the consideration of the extreme unproductiveness of famine labour during the hot months of the year. These disadvantages present themselves in a much less aggravated form during the early months of the year, when the climate is temperate and control, especially by European officers, may be more constant and effective. For these reasons the Lieutenant-Governor intends to pursue, on a larger scale, the policy which he found effective in Bunkelkhand last summer, viz., the policy of expanding the system of village works on the approach of the hot weather, drawing the people from large works back to their homes and employing them in their own villages, the water supply and general sanitary condition of which he thus hopes to improve.

On the present occasion the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is encouraged to follow this plan sketched above by the arrangement which he has provisionally made with the Taluqdárs of Oudh and many of the landlords in the North-Western Provinces with whom his Honour has conferred. The arrangement is that the Government should ascertain the various works necessary for the improvement of the water supply, irrigation, and general sanitary condition of the villages; should estimate the cost of effecting these improvements; and then should carry out the works as measures of famine relief through the agency of the landlords, though under the general control of the officers of Government. The necessary funds would be advanced to the landlords on condition of their repaying a proportion which might in some cases be three-fourths, in some cases two-thirds, and in some cases one-half of the sum advanced, the balance being remitted. In this way the Government and the landlords will be associated together on suitable terms for the relief of distress, and the danger obviated to a large extent of relief intended for the distressed being intercepted in the process of distribution. Lists have been prepared, and more are in course of preparation, of village works which when executed will add to the comfort and the material prosperity of the people.

Some landlords have expressed to the Government their preparedness to accept these advances on condition of repayment in full. But these are matters of detail which will resolve themselves in practice, and nothing seems, in his Honour's opinion, to militate against the scheme, unless it be the indebtedness to Government on the landlords' part which the arrangements will entail, and the difficulty of finding sufficient work in all villages for all in need of relief. But the former difficulty is clearly not insuperable, while the latter difficulty, whenever found to be real, can be easily met by continuing relief on a Public Works Department work, which would be supplementary to the system of village relief. No hard and fast rule would be laid down, but each system would be worked according as it seemed more suitable to the requirements of the case and of the particular locality.

21. In regard to the third class of measures of relief mentioned in paragraph 17 above, viz., poor-houses, State kitchens, and hospitals, I am to say that the principles laid down in Chapters VIII. and IX. of the Famine Code for the regulation of these institutions will be strictly adhered to. The poor-house and the State kitchen are not intended as permanent asylums for famine-stricken people; they are merely intended as places of refuge in which the waifs and strays may be received and supported until arrangements can be made for sending them to relief works or to their villages. One of the first indications of approaching famine is an increase in the number of beggars. Private charity, which in ordinary years in an Indian village is liberally dispensed, becomes contracted when hard times come and the result is that beggars gravitate to the towns and other chief centres. This phase has already appeared in these provinces, and poorhouses have been already established at all these towns and centres for the reception of such wandering mendicants and other indigent persons. Others are in process of being opened to meet demands as they arise. But as time goes on the poor-houses should become of less importance in the general scheme of relief, as the inmates will on convenient opportunities be sent to their homes. Attached to each poor-house there is a hospital in which the sick receive medical treatment.

22. The fourth and fifth heads of the system of relief referred to in paragraph 17 above fall under Chapter X. of the Famine Code. In every town and in many villages there are respectable people in reduced circumstances whose women are debarred by national custom from appearing in public, while the men also have not been accustomed to such labour as can be offered on relief works. It is true, no doubt, that in past famines, when starvation had touched these people, they came upon the Government relief works, where they were employed, as far as possible, according to their castes and aptitudes.* But it is consonant with native feeling that relief should be distributed to these classes in their own villages, if this can be done consistently with reasonable economy and a due outturn of work. This is one of the chief reasons for establishing the system of relief circles prescribed in Chapter IV. of the Famine Code. The instructions contained in that chapter for the division of each district into relief circles, and the appointment of officers to the charge of circles, have been complied with in each district of these provinces in which distress is anticipated, and the lists of people entitled to gratuitous relief contemplated by Chapter V. of the Code are ready in some divisions in which distress is imminent and are in process of preparation for others. It is not the Lieutenant-Governor's intention that the provisions of Chapter V. should be rigidly interpreted; but that the chapter should be administered in the spirit which pervades the Code—the prevention of loss of human life.

23. Article 53 of the Famine Code enables the district officer to associate the local or district board with himself for the purpose of advising and assisting him in matters connected with the prevention and relief of famine. It is true that in some backward districts, as in Bundelkhand, these boards contain the intelligence of the district, and no practical good could come from going outside them for relief committees. But in most districts the case is otherwise, and accordingly local committees have been established in most districts in these provinces, more especially for the purpose of supervising the distribution of relief under Chapter X. of the Code. The principle in view is the association of men of local influence with the Government in the distribution of gratuitous relief, whereby the abuses inseparable from dependence on subordinate petty officials may be, as far as possible, neutralised.

* See paragraph 15 of the Lieutenant-Governor's resolution on the Bundelkhand Famine, referred to in paragraph 2.

24. Next in importance to the provision of relief for the people is the question of the fodder supply for cattle. Attached to this letter will be found a statement* drawn up under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders in consultation with the Conservators of Forests in these provinces as to what can be done and what it is proposed to do for the grazing of cattle in the Government forests should a scarcity of fodder make itself felt. In the event of its being necessary to open the Government reserves for grazing in the way set forth in the Conservators' memorandum, it would probably be necessary to suspend temporarily the levy of grazing fees.

25. It is essential that the ordinary district executive staff should be strengthened when apprehension of imminent and serious scarcity exists. It will be seen from the various district memoranda appended to this letter that sufficient action for the present has in the case of each district been taken in this direction. Should the scarcity not develop very greatly, the resources of the province may suffice to meet the call of the various districts for men: otherwise the provincial staff will not be sufficient, and the Lieutenant-Governor must in that case apply for assistance to the Government of India. The staffs which will need strengthening are:—

- (1) The ordinary District Executive staffs.
- (2) The Medical staff.
- (3) The staff of the Public Works Department.
- (4) The Accounting staff.

In regard to (1), the most efficient assistance would consist of civil officers accustomed to the ordinary executive work of a district. But if other Provinces can spare no men, the Lieutenant-Governor will be satisfied by the temporary deputation of young commissioned military officers acquainted with Urdu or Hindi, the vernaculars of these provinces. So far as his Honour can at present see, his maximum requirements in this way would be met by the deputation of fifty such officers.

In regard to the Medical staff, the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in these provinces has been for some time in communication with the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and the Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India, and with the medical authorities in other Provinces, and Surgeon-Colonel, Warburton has, his Honour is glad to say, received assurance of assistance as regards both the superior and subordinate grades of the medical service. On this head, therefore, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it unnecessary at present to trespass further on the attention of the Government of India.

In regard to the Public Works Department staff, the extent to which assistance will be required must depend first on the development of distress and next on the extent to which the system of village works can be expanded. His Honour has already made arrangements through the Board of Revenue for the enrolment of four hundred men of the naib tahsildár class for employment as officers in charge of large works under article 77 of the Famine Code, as our Bundelkhand experience (see clause 5, paragraph 28 of the Resolution dated 20th October on the Bundelkhand Famine) proved the great advantage resulting from the employment of officers of this class under the Public Works Department. But the provincial resources will not suffice to meet the demand for Public Works officers in case of severe famine, and in this case his Honour hopes to receive assistance from the Government of India. In this case he would put his maximum requirements at thirty engineers.

In regard to the accounts, there is the utmost advantage in keeping accounts and auditing them from the very outset in a regular systematic way. For all expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department that Department will provide the funds and account for them; and it will be the examiner's duty to see that his establishments are expanded sufficiently to meet any extra strain thus thrown upon them. But no organisation exists in the Commissioners' or Collectors' offices to meet the pressure which may be anticipated, and an organisation must be established. Accordingly the Lieutenant-Governor has already applied to the Government of India (Financial Department) for the services of two enrolled officers, whose duty it will be to visit in turn and constantly each district in which relief operations are in progress and elaborate and maintain a system of account and audit, whereby there may be no difficulty afterwards in accounting for the expenditure incurred.

26. The preceding remarks have set forth the action which the Lieutenant-Governor has taken and proposes to take on the chief points connected with the relief of distress in these provinces. There are many smaller, though not in themselves unimportant, matters which have been attended to, but with the relation of which it is unnecessary to load this report,

27. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner would bring to the notice of his Excellency in Council the great advantages which may be expected to result from the organisation of a general famine relief committee and the establishment of a famine relief fund outside the operation of the Government system of relief. The Government holds itself responsible for the prevention of all avoidable loss of life from starvation, but the State organisation, acting on uniform lines, may not always bring relief in a fully suitable way to those in need of it. There is, in the large cities and towns especially, a great mass of genteel poverty upon which the present famine prices of food must press with extreme severity. The district* notes appended to this report will show that district officers have already done much, and that they are daily doing more, for the relief of this mass of distress. But this Government would most willingly welcome, as it earnestly appeals to, the assistance of private charity in alleviating the suffering referred to. The Lieutenant-Governor is far from wishing to divest the Government of any of the responsibility which attaches to it in connexion with famine relief, and, needless to say, the appeal which he desires to make to public and private charity in England and in India is inspired by no wish to restrict in the slightest degree the operations of State relief. But Sir Antony MacDonnell believes that there are many *pardahs* behind which no Government relief agent can penetrate, but which conceal real suffering, that private charity and independent effort if unobtrusively exercised can do a great deal to alleviate. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore proposes, with the consent of the Government of India, to call a general meeting at Allahabad if the expiry of the sowing time without rain shall have removed his last hope of escape from famine; to establish a general committee under the presidency of the Chief Justice, which shall be representative of the influence and intelligence of the provinces, native and European, official and non-official; to submit for the consideration of that committee, outside of which he himself desires to stand, but with which he will cordially co-operate, a scheme for appealing to the English and Indian public for funds, to be expended as the committee may decide, in relieving distress independently of the Government relief organisation.

I have, &c.

H. F. EVANS,
Chief Secretary to Government,
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

* Not printed.

NORMAL KHARIF AREA and ACTUAL KHARIF AREA for 1896.

Division.	District.	Normal Kharif Area in Acres.					Actual Kharif Area in 1896.	Remarks.
		Irrigated from—			Un-irrigated.	Total.		
		Canals.	Wells.	Tanks.				
Allahabad.	Cawnpore -	50,556	11,211	6,667	387,590	456,024	479,769	
	Fatehpur -	—	8,577	32,137	275,599	316,813	318,972	
	Banda -	—	311	39	440,775	441,125	570,000	
	Hamirpur -	188	2,397	127	382,464	385,176	426,129	
	Allahabad -	—	2,815	23,200	605,374	633,389	620,999	
	Jhānsi -	48	1,513	2,258	426,048	429,867	433,505	
	Jalaun -	2,592	586	127	201,446	204,751	268,800	
	Total -	53,384	27,410	66,555	2,719,296	2,866,645	3,118,174	
Lucknow.	Lucknow -	—	4,682	2,082	236,827	243,601	249,890	
	Unao -	—	8,603	18,389	347,764	374,756	373,749	
	Rae Bareilly -	—	—	17,816	445,032	462,848	417,956	
	Sitapur -	—	19,307	—	684,298	703,603	550,717	
	Hardoi -	3,771	9,011	11,711	422,454	446,947	431,651	
	Kheri -	—	9,566	5,811	550,512	565,891	614,816	
	Total -	3,771	61,169	55,809	2,686,897	2,797,646	2,538,778	
Fyzabad.	Fyzabad -	—	41,693	5,970	430,474	478,137	494,721	
	Gonda -	—	7,493	9,229	876,250	892,972	831,097	
	Bahrach -	—	—	44	658,015	658,059	633,885	
	Sultānpur -	—	12,800	17,092	403,179	423,071	425,804	
	Partābgarh -	—	—	26,151*	323,013	349,164	362,536	
	Bara Banki -	—	13,517	963	547,295	561,775	555,571	
	Total -	—	75,503	59,449	3,238,226	3,373,178	3,323,564	* Irrigated from both wells and tanks. Separate figures not given.
Gorakhpur.	Gorakhpur -	—	37,963	—	1,395,942	1,433,905	1,430,971	
	Basti -	—	36,495	8,204	897,027	941,726	932,349	
	Azamgarh -	—	83,511	44,516	439,688	567,715	480,120	
	Total -	—	157,969	52,720	2,732,657	2,943,346	2,843,440	
Agra.	Muttra -	23,629	14,130	211	864,906	402,876	407,679	
	Agra -	6,588	30,112	515	426,212	453,375	472,563	
	Farrukhabad -	34,800	18,654	4,503	269,400	327,359	323,220	
	Mainpuri -	35,879	20,640	6,111	580,750	343,380	269,372	
	Etāwah -	73,005	30,573	6,511	254,837	364,976	376,286	
	Etah -	19,523	16,795	4,026	317,962	358,306	384,705	
	Total -	193,374	120,904	21,877	1,914,117	2,250,272	2,333,825	
Rohilkhand.	Bareilly -	40,773	15,985	14,095	487,064	557,917	561,293	
	Bijnor -	4,129	12,597	4,100	430,067	450,887	385,151	
	Budaun -	—	11,449	8,302	466,623	486,374	478,103	
	Moradabad -	—	40,243	1,843	549,205	591,291	607,187	
	Shāhjānpur -	—	16,628	27,558	378,997	423,183	406,070	
	Pilibhūt -	6,573	7,750	6,932	278,525	299,780	294,674	
	Total -	51,469	104,652	62,830	2,590,481	2,809,432	2,732,476	
Benares.	Benares -	—	21,147	769	225,131	247,047	223,295	
	Mirzapur -	—	7,496	(a.) 23,900	496,998	528,394	336,121	(a.) Includes 12,046 irrigated from both wells and tanks. Separate figures not given.
	Jaunpur -	—	54,084	(b.) 7,806	390,961	452,851	389,916	(b.) This area is irrigated from both wells and tanks. Separate figures not given.
	Ghāzipur -	—	—	39,418	328,365	367,783	339,236	
	Balla -	—	60,357	(c.) 23,902	271,763	356,022	325,086	(c.) Vide (a.) and (b.) above.
	Total -	—	143,084	95,795	1,713,218	1,952,097	1,613,654	
Total, N.-W P. and Oudh.		301,998	680,691	415,085	17,594,892	18,992,616	18,503,908	

KHARIF of 1896 (OUTTURN calculated on AVERAGE CROP of 16 ANNAS).

Division.	District.	Early Rice.		Late Rice.		Maize.		Juár.		Bájrá.		Other millets.		Pulses.		Other Fruit Crops.		Cotton.		Sugar-cane.		All other Crops.		General Kharif Outturn.
		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		
Allahabad.	Cawnpore	86,541	7	9,107	7	57,809	8	485,288	2	24,525	2	15,692	6	722	8	6,804	8	109,560	4	9,377	11	45,840	5	
	Fatehpur	29,570	1	62,155	1	596	8	69,621	1	15,718	2	14,087	13	58,135	2	12,627	6	25,340	2	5,053	8	29,962	8	
	Bánda	40,747	2	—	—	208	9	250,234	6	35,832	6	22,582	13	2,251	4	23,800	7	115,211	6	15	6	47,808	6	
	Hamirpur	150	7	4,351	4	101	12	203,930	5	31,988	5	48,506	7	2,043	4	1,031	10	98,694	6	2,229	9	43,796	6	
	Allahabad	207,487	1	38,725	4	1,282	12	142,903	4	110,817	4	56,286	13	12,454	2	22,143	12	27,256	4	11,182	9	28,217	4	
	Jhansi	8,770	4	14,533	5	8,713	14	146,328	5	6,018	3	75,819	4	16,567	4	62,068	16	33,170	7	853	16	80,261	6	
	Jalaun	1,419	5	62	6	436	4	128,324	4	55,070	4	17,580	10	1,352	2	1,189	5	73,450	5	686	9	11,679	5	
	Total	324,684	4	131,933	4	69,145	10	1,126,624	4	279,974	4	250,552	9	93,524	3	129,612	9	477,682	5	29,395	10	287,563	5	
Lucknow.	Lucknow	92,270	16	12,253	—	7,210	5.8	25,912	2.4	19,501	5.0	22,721	5.0	84,235	2.6	28,017	3.8	1,917	6.0	4,563	6.8	4,668	4	
	Unao	17,800	1.9	2,400	1.0	11,660	4.3	39,000	2.9	14,000	3.6	5,700	6.2	4,000	3.4	8,400	4.0	11,200	3.3	16,500	8.6	3,561	4	
	Rae Bareli	183,613	2.0	—	—	429	5.0	88,065	8.0	17,358	7.0	43,821	8.0	37,170	6.0	56,656	4.0	151	3.0	5,805	10.0	10,148	4	
	Sitapur	174,685	5.6	70,558	1.6	19,861	10.6	16,926	7.0	38,826	6.6	47,295	10.0	131,093	2.6	88,191	8.0	1,933	7.9	29,497	7.9	14,599	6	
	Hardoi	76,925	2.3	17,867	1.0	43,748	4.0	72,867	1.6	89,679	3.3	14,403	2.4	56,132	2.0	14,662	3.3	19,045	7.3	25,581	6.3	23,075	5	
	Khera	153,098	12.0	93,773	5.4	34,991	15.4	8,222	11.4	16,567	10.8	78,777	13.8	63,107	10.4	23,381	10.4	95	12.0	41,937	11.8	2,726	12	
		Total	693,391	4.2	196,851	2.1	117,399	7.5	250,992	5.6	185,931	6.0	212,722	7.6	325,737	4.5	219,307	5.6	34,341	6.6	123,485	8.6	58,797	5
Fyzabad.	Fyzabad	223,510	5	53,416	—	18,859	7	200	4	101	4	25,797	7	105,197	7	4,199	8	137	8	42,744	10	18,430	7	
	Gonda	325,012	4	217,532	0.6	155,202	9	—	—	—	—	39,958	9	29,713	7	23,326	6	—	—	24,388	12	—	7	
	Bahraich	193,312	8	163,733	2.0	111,365	10	1,448	9	163	9	24,053	12	32,230	8	122,912	10	175	16	3,483	11	9,561	12	
	Sultánpur	180,010	4	89,558	3.0	2,051	8	36,330	7	2,428	5	17,212	9	66,081	4	11,813	8	69	4	20,605	9	11,136	5	
	Partábgarh	154,845	4	—	1.0	1,365	11	66,014	4	45,553	6	28,216	11	20,914	3	17,674	8	103	—	13,189	7	14,669	5	
	Bara Banki	311,852	5	—	—	21,643	9	5,265	8	1,430	9	19,966	9	55,182	8	54,462	9	36	4	28,993	12	8,843	7	
	Total	1,388,541	5	524,539	2.0	309,985	9	109,252	6	49,675	7	205,202	9	309,317	6	234,386	8	520	8	133,396	10	62,639	7	
Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	642,441	4.6	294,646	3.0	110,185	7.3	1,145	7.4	2,790	7.1	270,473	6.11	47,546	8.8	8,811	7.2	1,620	9.0	75,489	11.3	33,934	6	
	Basti	409,136	6.5	254,278	3.0	40,134	9.2	1,234	2.0	3	—	97,106	8.7	57,106	8.7	70,303	8.9	681	13.0	50,718	11.4	8,456	8	
	Azamgarh	127,970	3.0	139,687	1.0	22,576	6.0	509	5.0	566	—	899	6.0	57,803	9.0	1,355	8.0	156	4.0	73,669	5.2	84,920	4	
	Total	1,179,547	4.7	688,611	2.0	172,895	7.5	2,888	4.9	3,668	4.7	369,372	6.5	202,455	8.9	80,469	8.0	2,457	8.8	199,876	8.11	77,310	5	

KHARIF of 1896 (OUTPUT calculated on AVERAGE CROP of 16 ANNAS—continued.)

Division.	Districts.	Early Rice.		Late Rice		Maize.		Juar.		Bájrâ		Other Millets.		Pulses.		Other Food Crops.		Cotton.		Sugar-cane.		All other Crops.	General Kharif Output.
		Area		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.		Area.	
Agra.	Muttra - -	26	60	—	—	16,194	70	199,539	60	36,414	70	8,829	50	1,149	40	8,210	90	111,815	100	1,602	130	61,104	7
	Agra - -	282	70	—	—	14,187	90	116,886	80	170,021	70	5,938	80	11,411	60	4,608	100	130,753	90	1,729	120	56,619	8
	Farukhabad - -	4,741	40	24,715	30	77,909	80	95,819	60	37,934	70	6,626	100	5,531	50	7,427	100	34,269	70	16,118	120	24,817	8
	Mainpuri - -	9,824	30	3,789	50	65,194	90	80,781	90	51,156	70	6,111	80	—	—	1,020	90	44,893	100	13,825	110	55,671	8
	Etawah - -	4,770	86	8,588	80	42,869	98	75,901	66	62,631	76	2,239	103	238	56	6,820	106	64,703	79	8,746	119	62,797	8
	Etah - -	5,649	70	9,215	70	80,021	110	23,015	90	16,770	80	135,321	60	1,468	40	6,815	80	47,727	100	17,551	110	44,988	9
	Total - -	25,292	60	46,307	60	297,374	90	591,941	70	374,926	70	165,064	80	19,797	50	29,400	90	434,160	90	59,573	120	305,396	8
Rohtakband.	Bareilly - -	107,169	90	121,757	40	67,739	140	29,864	110	91,863	100	11,695	140	5,113	110	29,363	120	18,845	120	56,223	90	28,945	10
	Bijnor - -	97,467	150	112,527	50	6,078	160	661	160	48,303	160	5,421	160	36,667	160	17,089	160	36,553	150	61,000	100	20,830	10
	Budaun - -	90,695	60	5,920	80	27,200	120	90,351	60	172,588	90	2,706	130	6,300	60	9,294	100	27,350	90	33,592	106	21,939	8
	Moradabad - -	140,567	80	67,817	40	20,373	120	50,502	100	86,823	110	18,243	140	74,543	110	26,845	120	41,519	130	64,700	110	33,767	10
	Sháhjahánpur - -	113,340	80	57,670	20	3,196	80	33,362	80	87,167	100	13,779	120	22,762	80	8,246	80	7,868	60	53,327	80	22,896	4
	Fáhibát - -	75,950	70	128,682	40	2,551	140	887	100	8,091	100	14,106	120	26,391	50	7,582	100	1,166	80	89,509	80	11,860	7
	Total - -	625,188	90	493,873	40	137,137	130	205,627	100	494,835	110	65,950	140	171,776	90	98,419	110	132,801	100	308,351	90	130,237	9
Benares.	Benares - -	11,981	36	87,967	1	6,392	10	13,661	4	11,740	10	24,566	6½	36,173	6	5,281	6	1	12	19,671	8	6,787	4
	Mirzapur - -	43,734	5	104,420	5	7,664	11	27,673	2	44,432	4	54,915	13	17,876	6	19,225	5	1,231	4	9,679	6	7,521	7
	Jaunpur - -	—	—	13,405	2	76,198	11	5,271	3	3,069	4	30,484	11	22,958	5	62,458	—	57	4	49,768	—	18,697	7
	Gházipur - -	18,050	8	90,263	3	9,593	11	27,771	8	56,333	8	60,074	10	18,991	9	1,527	13	18	6	26,087	10	10,700	8
	Bálúa - -	33,607	5	79,895	2	57,843	9	4,974	10	3,177	10	91,024	9	84,434	11	14,345	—	1,246	10	35,352	10	1,314	10
	Total - -	107,372	5	375,940	27	157,690	10	79,350	5	118,751	5	261,063	10	130,432	7	102,836	8	2,553	7	140,557	7	45,019	8
	Total North-Western Provinces and Oudh	4,349,015	55	2,458,054	88	1,261,625	95	2,366,674	60	1,517,760	68	1,498,925	92	1,253,038	62	894,429	84	1,084,514	79	994,633	94	966,961	7

RABI AREA, 1896-97.

Division.	District.	Normal Area in Acres under Rabi Crops.	Estimated Area in Acres of Rabi Sowings for the present Year.				Per-centage of Nor- mal Area.
			Irrigated from Canals.	Irrigated otherwise than from Canals.	Unirrigated.	Total.	
Allahabad.	Cawnpore	471,440	188,024	70,802	75,979	284,805	60
	Fatehpur	329,256	—	73,645	49,223	122,868	38
	Banda	483,480	—	9,099	225,556	234,655	48
	Hamirpur	391,094	1,952	14,399	184,311	200,662	51
	Allahabad	652,453	—	100,000	50,000	150,000	23
	Jhansi	313,909	3,852	56,539	58,024	118,415	38
	Jalaun	370,541	62,225	10,922	28,526	101,673	27
	Total	3,012,173	206,053	335,406	671,619	1,213,078	40
Lucknow.	Lucknow	190,555	—	39,009	22,000	61,009	32
	Unao	364,645	—	74,500	—	74,500	20
	Rae Bareli	324,022	—	108,000	2,000	110,000	34
	Sitapur	577,959	—	84,830	250,493	335,323	57
	Hardoi	598,127	—	155,000	25,000	180,000	30
	Kheri	417,705	—	28,500	213,500	242,000	57
		Total	2,472,713	—	489,839	512,993	1,002,832
Fyzabad.	Fyzabad	427,924	—	131,168	17,254	148,422	43
	Gonda	670,062	—	244,871	84,642	329,513	49
	Bahraich	616,763	—	71,398	317,488	388,886	62
	Sultánpur	365,494	—	190,476	32,904	223,380	64
	Partábgarh	302,332	—	131,200	3,000	134,200	44
	Bara Banki	421,517	—	149,662	137,785	287,447	68
		Total	2,804,092	—	918,775	593,073	1,511,848
Gorakhpur.	Gorakhpur	1,232,537	—	400,911	274,807	675,718	54
	Basti	717,394	—	428,043	98,844	526,887	73
	Azamgarh	461,755	—	243,000	15,250	258,250	56
		Total	2,411,686	—	1,071,954	388,901	1,460,855
Agra.	Muttra	377,693	70,203	112,225	30,731	213,217	56
	Agra	373,547	26,189	153,330	7,356	186,874	50
	Farukhabad	371,267	48,330	116,496	68,030	233,356	63
	Mainpuri	356,854	92,567	102,997	52,659	248,223	69
	Etawah	312,687	102,056	38,477	11,283	151,816	48
	Etah	402,539	77,849	128,328	34,245	240,422	59
	Total	2,194,587	417,754	651,853	204,303	1,273,910	58
Rohilkhand.	Bareilly	443,062	36,430	100,797	165,671	302,898	70
	Bijnor	309,571	14,968	10,150	210,400	235,518	73
	Budaun	474,185	—	151,226	226,774	378,000	79
	Moradabad	543,256	—	51,633	397,430	449,062	81
	Sháhjahanpur	456,112	—	151,522	190,556	342,078	75
	Pilibhit	217,616	6,000	45,000	65,000	116,000	53
		Total	2,443,802	57,398	510,327	1,255,831	1,823,556
Benares.	Benares	278,688	—	77,392	104,691	182,083	65
	Mirzapur	441,893	—	32,423	93,517	130,940	25
	Jaunpur	355,000	—	222,000	—	222,000	62
	Gházípur	380,144	—	164,540	80,605	245,145	64
	Balua	337,665	—	133,000	142,000	275,000	81
		Total	1,793,390	—	629,355	425,813	1,055,168
	Grand total	17,182,443	681,285	4,607,509	4,052,593	9,341,247	54

STATEMENT E.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing PRICES of important FOOD GRAINS for Fortnights ending 31st October 1892 and 31st October 1896.

District.	Wheat.		Barley.		Gram.		Arhar (dal).		Juar.		Maize.		Rice (common).	
	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.
Dehra Dun	8 8	8 4	16 8	9 9	16 0	8 4	18 0	9 8	15 0	10 8	20 0	11 8	9 0	7 9
Saharanpur	13 0	8 13	17 0	9 15	19 8	9 15	14 0	16 12	23 0	11 13	22 0	12 6	10 0	8 9
Muzaffarnagar	14 14	8 15	22 0	—	22 0	9 2	14 8	8 8	23 0	12 2	17 10	11 8	11 8	6 14
Meerut	14 8	8 8	21 0	—	22 8	10 0	23 0	11 0	26 0	11 0	20 0	11 0	13 0	10 0
Bulandshahr	15 4	8 14	23 0	8 12	24 0	9 12	17 0	9 0	23 12	11 4	23 0	11 2	9 15	8 0
Algarh	14 8	8 4	24 0	9 0	23 0	9 8	24 0	9 0	22 0	10 0	28 0	11 8	9 0	7 8
Divisional average	14 2	8 10	20 9	9 5	21 8	9 7	18 3	9 9	21 10	11 2	21 10	11 8	10 4	8 7
Muttra	14 8	8 8	25 8	9 8	26 0	9 8	26 0	12 0	27 0	10 0	23 0	11 8	11 8	8 0
Agra	13 8	8 0	23 0	9 0	23 0	8 12	15 8	9 0	21 0	10 0	23 0	11 0	9 8	7 8
Farakhabad	13 12	7 10	19 12	8 3	21 0	9 1	22 8	10 8	19 12	9 8	21 0	10 8	8 0	6 8
Manpuri	15 0	7 12	20 4	8 6	20 12	8 5	23 0	8 8	20 0	9 1	23 8	9 15	10 0	6 6
Etawah	14 10	7 12	20 12	8 12	20 4	9 0	25 0	8 0	19 4	9 8	24 0	10 8	13 0	7 0
Etah	15 12	8 7	24 8	9 6	24 8	9 10	17 8	9 2	—	—	30 8	10 10	12 8	7 2
Divisional average	14 8	8 3	23 5	8 14	23 9	9 1	21 15	9 7	21 6	9 10	24 0	10 11	10 12	7 1
Bareilly	12 14	7 10	18 12	8 13	18 12	8 12	21 2	7 0	21 2	10 9	21 12	11 8	11 8	7 10
Bijnor	13 12	8 12	19 2	8 2	19 8	10 2	—	—	—	—	20 4	10 11	13 0	9 0
Budaun	15 12	8 8	21 0	8 15	23 0	9 14	23 0	8 11	19 0	11 10	24 0	12 8	—	9 5
Moradabad	14 6	7 15	20 0	7 7	20 12	8 12	20 0	6 4	23 0	11 0	23 8	12 0	11 4	8 12
Shahjahanpur	14 8	8 8	20 0	9 8	20 0	10 0	20 8	7 4	20 0	—	20 0	—	8 8	8 4
Pilibhit	13 2	8 2	27 8	11 0	21 14	9 14	—	7 12	26 4	—	26 4	12 6	13 2	9 10
Divisional average	14 1	8 4	21 1	8 15	20 10	9 9	21 15	7 12	21 11	11 1	22 10	11 12	11 7	8 12
Cawnpore	14 0	8 5	20 8	9 6	21 0	9 6	21 0	7 8	21 0	10 12	24 0	11 4	12 0	8 0
Fatehpur	12 8	7 8	19 0	8 12	18 8	8 12	23 0	7 8	—	—	—	10 0	12 0	7 0
Banda	16 4	7 8	21 8	8 4	22 0	9 8	26 0	7 8	—	10 4	—	10 8	12 8	7 0
Hamirpur	17 0	7 6	18 8	9 1	23 0	9 8	23 0	7 0	20 8	9 5	—	10 7	11 8	7 6
Allahabad	13 4	7 12	17 4	9 0	20 4	9 5	21 0	10 12	20 0	10 0	19 0	12 2	8 8	8 1
Jhansi	16 0	8 4	24 0	10 0	21 8	10 0	27 4	8 12	21 4	11 0	—	11 0	12 0	7 8
Jalaun	17 0	7 8	21 0	9 0	23 0	9 8	24 0	8 9	21 0	10 0	18 0	10 0	9 0	6 0
Divisional average	15 0	7 10	20 4	9 1	21 3	9 6	24 14	8 3	20 12	10 3	20 5	10 10	11 2	7 9
Benares	13 4	7 13	17 1	9 12	18 2	9 12	20 14	11 2	17 7	11 2	20 14	11 8	11 8	8 9
Mirzapur	12 0	7 14	18 0	9 10	18 0	9 7	20 0	7 4	20 8	10 0	20 0	11 0	12 8	8 12
Jaunpur	12 8	7 10	18 0	9 2	21 0	9 2	22 0	7 10	—	—	21 0	11 4	11 0	7 5
Ghazipur	14 3	7 8	17 8	10 4	16 1	10 0	20 0	9 0	18 0	—	20 10	10 0	10 5	7 12
Balha	14 12	7 8	18 12	10 10	16 12	10 4	19 8	9 8	—	—	20 0	10 4	14 4	8 9
Divisional average	13 5	7 11	17 13	9 14	18 0	9 11	20 8	8 14	18 10	10 9	20 8	10 13	11 14	7 11
Gorakhpur	12 0	7 8	18 0	9 0	17 1	9 14	18 14	7 9	—	—	19 12	11 11	13 2	9 0
Basti	16 0	8 12	20 0	11 4	18 0	9 14	20 0	9 4	14 0	12 0	23 0	11 8	23 0	8 12
Azamgarh	15 5	7 12	18 1	9 10	18 7	10 0	15 8	7 6	—	—	—	10 0	14 1	8 2
Divisional average	13 12	7 14	18 11	9 15	17 12	9 15	18 14	7 11	14 0	12 0	20 14	11 1	10 14	8 10

STATEMENT E.—continued.

District.	Wheat.		Barley.		Gram.		Arhar (dal).		Juar.		Maize.		Rice (common).	
	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.	31st Oct. 1892.	31st Oct. 1896.
Almora	9 8	7 8	11 4	9 2	12 0*	8 8*	9 0†	7 0	—	—	—	—	8 8	8 0
Garhwál	7 0	7 0	10 0	8 0	7 0	7 8	7 0	8 0	—	—	—	—	6 8	6 8
Naini Tal	10 0	7 0	16 0	9 8	14 8	7 0	8 0	8 0	—	—	—	—	8 0	6 0
Divisional average	8 13	7 2	12 7	9 0	11 3	7 11	8 5	6 5	—	—	—	—	8 0	6 13
Lucknow	12 8	8 4	19 14	10 2	20 0	9 14	20 8	10 10	22 0	10 10	26 0	12 6	14 0	9 2
Unao	13 0	7 8	18 0	9 0	18 8	7 8	16 0	8 0	19 0	10 0	21 0	10 0	14 0	8 0
Rae Bareilly	12 0	8 2	21 0	9 8	22 8*	9 12	25 0	8 0	22 0	16 0	16 0	11 4	15 0	7 8
Sitapur	14 12	8 0	23 0	11 0	27 0	10 0	22 8	11 0	25 0	—	29 0	11 0	18 0	9 0
Hardoi	12 8	7 12	23 0	9 8	23 0	9 4	16 0	8 4	22 0	11 4	23 0	11 8	16 0	8 4
Kheri	16 0	9 4	26 0	11 8	25 0	11 0	24 8	12 8	30 0	—	30 0	14 6	14 0	10 4
Divisional average	14 2	8 2	21 8	9 12	22 8	9 9	20 12	9 22	23 5	10 7	24 3	11 12	15 3	8 11
Fyzabad	13 2	8 2	18 2	9 12	20 0	9 15	20 0	8 8	—	—	25 0	11 11	16 0	9 8
Gonda	15 0	8 7	19 0	9 12	21 0	10 2	23 8	11 4	23 0	12 0	34 0	12 13	15 4	9 5
Bahraich	16 8	7 4	22 12	10 4	20 8	9 4	22 12	10 4	26 0	19 8	35 0	12 4	13 0	7 12
Sultánpur	14 8	8 4	20 8	9 4	24 0	9 12	25 0	11 0	23 8	—	16 0	11 0	16 0	8 0
Partárganh	14 0	7 0	23 0	8 0	23 0	8 8	16 0	6 8	—	8 0	—	9 8	15 0	6 12
Bara Banki	12 12	8 4	20 0	9 8	24 0	10 12	21 0	8 0	24 4	11 0	27 0	11 0	14 0	8 12
Divisional average	14 2	7 14	20 7	9 7	22 1	9 13	21 6	9 4	24 3	11 2	27 10	11 6	14 11	8 6
Provincial average	13 9	7 16	19 7	9 6	19 11	9 6	19 2	8 9	20 11	10 12	22 11	10 13	12 9	8 0

* Husked.

† Unhusked.

W. H. MORELAND,
Officiating Director.

MEMORANDUM ON THE GRAZING AND FODDER AVAILABLE IN THE FORESTS OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

OUDH CIRCLE.

The forests in this circle lie either below the Taráí, as in Kheri and Bahraich, where the water is some 30 feet below the surface, or above the Taráí along the slopes of the hills, as in Gonda. It is only in Gorakhpur that they are in the Taráí land. Consequently the grazing is nowhere in these forests, except in Gorakhpur, of a really satisfactory character.

In our territory the Taráí has been brought under cultivation, and no forests exist on it.

With the Nepal forests, however, the case is different. They all occupy the belt of Taráí land, and the grazing they afford is both excellent in quality and almost unlimited in quantity. For this reason all the cattle, that is, the milch and breeding cattle that are within reach of it, are taken up from Oudh to graze in the Nepal forests.

In our forests we have (1) the open areas, and (2) the closed or tree forests.

In Pilibhit and Gonda the open areas can only maintain the cattle of the tenantry within five miles of their limits, who are privileged to graze in them.

In Kheri and Bahraich there would be grazing for perhaps 20,000 head of cattle, besides the cattle of the privileged tenants.

In Gorakhpur there is grazing for some 25,000 head of cattle.

The closed tree forests cover 739 square miles. The grass in them is rank and coarse. Calculating three acres as able to support a cow for four months, there would thus be grazing for nearly 160,000 head of cattle; but there can be no doubt that if grazing was permitted in these tree forests, it would be at the risk of losing a greater part of them by fire, a loss which would, of course, be far greater than the value of the cattle preserved.

It is clear then that it is to the Nepal forests that we must look to provide grazing for the cattle of Oudh. They are taken there annually as it is; and it is only necessary to do what we can to facilitate their going. At present all cattle passing

into Nepal have to pay a toll of one anna per head, which is supposed to cover the fee for grazing during the three or four days that they are marching through our forests.

To provide grazing for the cattle of Oudh, then, the following measures seem advisable:—

- (1.) To facilitate, as far as possible, the taking of cattle into the Nepal forests (a) by adding to the number of lines of passage by which they may travel, and (b) by abolishing the toll and allowing them to pass through without payment;
- (2.) To allow grazing in the open forests to the utmost extent to which they will afford grazing in addition to maintaining the privileged cattle;
- (3.) To allow lopping of tree fodder and grazing in the closed tree forests.

The second of these measures should not be adopted until it is found that the demand for grazing is more than the Nepal forests can supply, and the third measure should not be resorted to until the open areas are full of cattle. In any case, if the tree forests are opened to grazing or lopping, the cattle stations should be kept outside the limits of the forests, and the owners should only be permitted to go into the forests to cut the leaf fodder, to take the cattle in there for the day, but they should not be allowed to remain there during the night.

It is most probable that all the cattle that are within travelling distance of the forests will be able to be maintained in the Nepal forests.

There are also very large grazing grounds belonging to Balrampur and Nanpara and in the areas of Government waste lands, as in Kheri on the Kutna river.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

The forests in this circle consist of—

- (1) the hill forests of Ránikhet, Almora, and Naini Tal;
- (2) the submontane forests between the Sarda and the Ganges;
- (3) the Bundelkhand forests.

The hill forests are practically too far away, and are so precipitous and deficient in water supply that they would not be of much use, even if they were within a practicable distance.

In the submontane area it is estimated that some 200,000 head of cattle could be supported in addition to the cattle of the privileged tenants.

The Bundelkhand forests would, of course, afford some subsistence to the cattle of Bundelkhand.

In this circle the only measure to be adopted is to admit freely to grazing in the open areas as many head of cattle, up to 200,000, as would be brought to graze in them.

In the neighbourhood of these forests there are also the forests in the Tarái and Bhábar, which could provide grazing for a large number of cattle. Here there is plenty of water and the soil is moist, and the grazing would be both abundant and excellent in quality.

THE TARÁI AND BHÁBAR FORESTS.

The grazing ground in these forests is comparatively poor, and the maximum number of cattle for which grazing can be obtained cannot be taken at over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per acre.

In the Tarái the total area available for grazing is about 300,000 acres, which could maintain about 450,000 head of cattle. The number of cattle of all kinds grazed last year was about 300,000, and there would then be grazing available for 150,000 head of cattle over and above those that usually graze there.

In the Bhábar there are 112,000 acres of grazing, on which about 173,000 of local cattle graze annually; it is calculated that 60,000 more would be grazed.

There is, lastly, the Talla Des grazing land, which could support about 20,000 more. In all grazing could be found for about 250,000 head of cattle in addition to the cattle of the villagers already grazing in these forests.

Owing to the rank character of the jungle grass, it is not fit for grazing until the jungles have been fired. The young grass comes up in January, from which time till June cattle could be kept on these lands.

Cattle from Pilibhit would be grazed on the eastern Tarái and Bhábar, and cattle from Bareilly on the middle Tarái, and from Moradabad and Bijnor on the western portions.

Notice should be given to the local officers to enable them to arrange for the location of the cattle. Herdsmen should accompany the cattle. Watchmen and enumerators will be required to prevent the cattle from trespassing on the cultivation, and to collect the fees, which are 3 to 4 annas per cow and 7 to 8 annas per buffalo.

DIVISIONAL MEMORANDA.

MEERUT DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

The area of the Meerut Division is 11,326 square miles, with a population of 5,326,833, giving an average density of 470 to the square mile.

The census classification shows—

Under Class B., Agriculturists	-	-	-	-	2,579,181
,, D., Artizans	-	-	-	-	1,171,896
,, G., Labourers	-	-	-	-	692,484
				Total	4,443,561

2. The harvests of last year were, on the whole, good, and the resources of the division were practically unimpaired at the beginning of the present agricultural year.

3. The rainfall was above the average in June and July throughout the greater part of the division, and was slightly below the normal in August. In September there was practically no rain; but this early cessation of the rains was less injurious here than elsewhere in the provinces, as the soil had been saturated.

4. The *kharif* harvest may be described as having been little below a full average crop over most of the division, the only parts where the yield was deficient being the south of the Chakráta tahsíl (Dehra Dún) and a few villages in the Háthras tahsíl (Aligarh). In Meerut the *kharif* is said to have been the very finest on record, and in Muzaffarnagar it was better than last year.

5. The normal *rabi* area of the division is 2,918,714 acres. It is estimated that 75 per cent. of the normal *rabi* area will be sown whether there is rain before the end of the sowing season or not, and there is but little doubt that the full area will be worked up to.

6. There are at present no signs of distress, though prices are very high; stocks are everywhere plentiful, and the condition of the labouring classes is good. It is not anticipated that even in the event of no rain falling poorhouses or relief works will be required elsewhere than in parts of the Dehra Dún and Aligarh districts.

In fact, the cultivators of the Meerut Division are reaping enormous profits from the high prices which prevail; and the excellent *kharif* they have had coupled with the good prospects of the *rabi* place them this year in a very favourable position.

ROHILKHAND DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

1. The area of the Rohilkhand Division is 10,908 square miles, and the population in 1891 was 5,343,674. Although the population is mainly agricultural (the numbers grouped under Class C., "Agriculture," in the Census Report, form 60 per cent. of the whole population), still there are large numbers of artizans and others (amounting to 20 per cent. of the whole) engaged in the "preparation and supply of material substances" (Class D. of the census nomenclature) who are peculiarly sensitive to the pressure of high prices. The same may be said of a large portion of the urban population, which is considerable. There are 650 large villages with populations varying between 1,000 and 3,000; over 80 towns with populations varying from 3,000 to 20,000; six towns with populations between 20,000 to 50,000, and three cities with populations over 50,000. In these large towns and cities there are numerous poor, but respectable, people on whom pressure of the high prices and scarcity is now beginning to tell.

2. The division has suffered considerably for the last two years from deficient harvests; the deficiency last year being, however, more marked in the Pilibhít and Sháhjahánpur districts than elsewhere. The consequences have been threefold. The actual stocks of grain at the commencement of the present agricultural year were deficient, the available capital was reduced, and credit on which for the most part the people have to work was diminished. The general population thus enter upon this year less able than under other circumstances they would have been to withstand the effects of the extraordinarily high prices which prevail, and the partial failure of the present *kharif* harvest. But stocks, including the produce of the *kharif* harvest, are estimated to be nowhere under a three months' supply, while in some districts they are thought to suffice for four or five months' consumption. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, doubts the correctness of the higher estimate.

3. The present *kharif* harvest may be roughly estimated to have yielded about a nine annas outturn for the whole division; the crop as a whole varying from 10 annas in some districts to as low as seven annas in Pilibhít. The *kharif* area actually sown was somewhat above the normal area of past years; but owing to the character of the rainfall and its cessation in August, the result has been disappointing.

4. Up to the end of August the rainfall, though generally falling below the normal quantity, was on the whole opportunely distributed. In June the fall was, in four out of the six districts, above the average. In July it was considerably below the average in all districts except Bijnor, where the defect was not large; but the rain that fell was well distributed. In August the rain was ample everywhere, except in some tahsils of Budaun, Moradabad, and Sháhjahánpur. But in September, except a few altogether inadequate showers, very local in their effects, practically no rain fell. Instead of a normal fall of some seven inches the actual fall exceeded half an inch in hardly any district. This loss of the September rains, following on a capricious rainfall in the earlier months, reduced what promised to be a very good crop to little above half the normal outturn.

5. The failure of the September rains has also affected the prospects of the coming *rabi*, and, owing to the lack of moisture in the soil, the area likely to be sown with the spring crops is everywhere less than the normal quantity. It reaches 80 per cent. of the normal area in four of the districts, it falls to two-thirds of that area in Bareilly and to one-half in Pilibhít. But it is expected that this area will be sown, and if the usual winter rains fall, and the crop encounters no serious accident before ripening, the division will pull through the year without famine, though there may still be need for some little assistance in certain localities, especially in the towns. If the *rabi* fails, then the division will need a good deal of help.

6. In considering the degree and extent of the crop failure, and the difficulties to be apprehended therefrom, the division may be divided into three portions: (a) the portion in which the *kharif* has seriously failed; (b) the portion in which the failure is less serious; and (c) the portion in which the crop has been good, and difficulties can arise only through high prices and sympathy with the adjacent less fortunate localities. The first of these portions covers an area, it is calculated, of about 2,300 square miles with a population of 1,075,000. The second covers an area of 6,000 square miles with a population of about three millions; the third portion accounts for the balance.

7. If the *rabi* outturn is fair, that is, if we have the usual winter rains, it is estimated that the necessity for relief will be mainly restricted to the area (2,300 square miles) of greatest failure, that the numbers then needing relief reduced to units of one day's rations would be about 7,000,000. If the *rabi* fail, it is considered that the necessity for relief measures will be general, and the local officers in this case estimate that reduced to units of one day's rations about 30,000,000 of people would need relief. The estimates of the local officers have been carefully prepared, and the Commissioner, Mr. Hooper, is disposed generally to accept them. Although the Lieutenant-Governor is in hopes that things will turn out better than expected, he abstains from altering the estimates.

8. At present there is no demand for employment on relief works, and no tangible signs of distress, except an increase in the numbers of beggars, complaints of high prices of food grain, and some dakáitis and grain-thefts well within the ordinary powers of the police to deal with, which are probably attributable in some degree to

those high prices; and it is anticipated that matters will continue much as now towards the middle or end of December, when the probabilities of the *rabi* harvest will be more clearly disclosed. The high prices, however, are seriously affecting the population of the towns: The rural population is not equally affected, because the cultivators in the villages, instead of bringing their produce to market, have to a large extent kept it back. But this very fact has prevented them from paying their rents, and has thus added very considerably to the difficulty of the landlord class. There is no doubt at all that the landlords, except the richer and more independent among them, would at the present time be forced to borrow in order to pay their revenue (if it were demanded from them in full); and even if they could obtain loans for that purpose—a doubtful supposition in the case of large numbers whose credit is small—they could only do so at unusually high rates of interest.

9. Thus arises the necessity and justification for some suspensions of revenue. The district officers have applied for suspensions amounting for the whole division to Rs. 11,67,000. The Lieutenant-Governor has been compelled to consider these applications carefully, not only with reference to the more pressing requirements of some other divisions, but also with reference to the general financial situation. He recognises the advantage of liberal suspensions; but there are other important considerations to be attended to, among them the necessity of placing the Government in funds for the large expenditure on relief works, which is probably inevitable. After a careful scrutiny of the arguments and statistics produced by the local officers, his Honour considers that the suspensions in the Rohilkhand Division cannot safely be reduced below a minimum of 9½ lakhs, and this sum will be suspended. Advances for wells (Rs. 1,22,000) and for the purchase of seed grain (Rs. 90,000) have been made, and a most satisfactory effect thereby produced. Everywhere wells are being made in large numbers where they are required, and will be made in still greater numbers should a continuance of dry weather make their use essential, even in the soils which now have some moisture.

10. In regard to relief measures, every necessary preparation has been made, as far as this can be done, in anticipation. The programmes of works are sufficient to give employment to the number of persons likely to require relief; the plan of operations is understood by all the officers concerned, and the establishments are ready when required. Should the winter rains fail, and relief works on a large scale become necessary, the Lieutenant-Governor concurs with the local officers in thinking that money would be well spent on the earthwork of the Ghaziabad-Moradabad Railway. This line would not, it is true, pass through as bad a tract as the Soron-Bareilly line would; but the circumstances of the division, assuming the winter rains not to fail, are not, so far as famine relief is concerned, such as to induce his Honour to press the latter line on the attention of the Government of India, since he understands that his Excellency in Council is averse from undertaking it. Pending the necessity for large works the district officers have been put in possession of funds (Rs. 45,000) sufficient to enable them to meet such distress as is likely to show itself for the next six weeks, to maintain poor-houses, and to start ordinary test works when any feeling of unrest declares itself or agricultural work begins to flag. If not wanted, the money will not be spent; the expenditure will, in the beginning, take the form of grants-in-aid of local charity or district funds.

11. On the whole the Lieutenant-Governor considers that the condition of Rohilkhand gives no ground for immediate anxiety. The revenue suspensions now approved will be made without delay, and the balance of *takavi* distributed. This will afford relief to both landlords and tenants as, under the North-Western Provinces Rent Act, a suspension of revenue carries with it a suspension of double the amount as rent. Some moderate measure of relief will be afforded to the poor respectable classes, unable to appear in public, on whom the high prices are telling severely; and the wandering beggars, whom the contraction of private charity has sent adrift, cannot be allowed to die by the wayside, but must be swept into the poor-houses. All this is being done. For the rest all that is at present needed is watchfulness. The organisation for relief is ready, and there is no fear of any delay. But it is not necessary to spend money before the necessity for expenditure has arisen. The large assemblage of landlords whom the Lieutenant-Governor met at Bareilly admitted that the pinch has not yet come, and even if no rain falls will probably not come until the middle of December.

GORAKHPUR DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

1. This division contains an area of 9,491 square miles and a population of 6,508,526, as ascertained in 1891. This gives a density of 685 to the square mile. Of this population, 4,421,378 were classed by the census as deriving their livelihood from agriculture (Class B.), while 888,565 are artizans (Class D.), and 470,177 are day labourers and mendicants (Class G.-74).

2. Generally speaking, the harvests during the last preceding agricultural year were very fair, except in the Azamgarh district, where the yield was only five-eighths of an average outturn.

3. The rainfall this year was somewhat deficient in June, and still more so in July. In August the only district in which it was not up to average was Azamgarh; but in September and October was less than half an inch throughout the whole division, except in three tahsils.

4. The *kharif* harvest was half a normal crop in Basti, somewhat less than half in Gorakhpur, and barely one-fourth of the average in Azamgarh. Over the division as a whole, the early rice may be reckoned as having given at least one-fourth of a normal crop. The late rice crop promises to be about one-fifth of the normal in Basti and Gorakhpur, and a complete failure in Azamgarh. The maize and pulses gave about half a normal yield.

5. The normal *rabi* area is given as 2,411,686 acres, of which 1,465,149 acres are in years of normal rainfall usually irrigated from wells and tanks. In this year it is not expected that more than 1,071,954 acres will be so irrigated; but it is anticipated that in addition about 700,000 acres more of unirrigated land will be sown with *rabi* on the chance of a crop. If rain falls this month this area will be considerably increased. With winter rains there ought to be half the normal *rabi* outturn.

6. The stocks in the division are, it is believed, sufficient for a three months' consumption.

7. It has only been found necessary to open test works in the Azamgarh district, but there is at present no demand for employment on relief works even there. This is said to be due to the fact that the railway work in progress employs all the labour not required by agricultural operations; when the *rabi* sowings are completed labourers will be in need of work, and will, it is believed, come on relief works more particularly from the Azamgarh district.

8. If two inches of rain were to fall before December, the Gorakhpur district would be relieved of all, and the Azamgarh district of almost all, its present and prospective difficulties. Some assistance might be required, but not much.

9. In the event of rain not falling before December, but falling, as usual, about Christmas, the yield of the *rabi* would be improved and the districts' difficulties reduced by perhaps one-third.

10. In the event of the rains failing altogether, the numbers that may require relief reduced to units of one day are expected by the local officers to be in Azamgarh 22½ millions, and in Gorakhpur 9¼ millions. The estimates have been carefully prepared, and though in the worst case they may be worked up to, the Lieutenant-Governor himself does not think it probable that more than 20 millions in the one case and 8 millions in the other need be anticipated. In Basti the numbers that will require relief will in any case be small.

11. The *kharif* instalment for the division amounts to Rs. 30,98,400.* Of this amount the Lieutenant-Governor has decided that the collection of 3½ lakhs may be postponed for the present in Gorakhpur, Rs. 2,40,000 in Basti, and that 4½ lakhs may be suspended in Azamgarh. This makes less than one-third for the division.

12. In the event of rain falling before December, half the amount postponed in Gorakhpur and Basti will be collected in January, the balance only being postponed till the following year.

13. A credit of Rs. 50,000 has been given to the Commissioner for expenditure on relief under Chapters VIII., IX., and X., Famine Code, when the necessity shows itself, and for test works. This is in addition to previous smaller grants.

* Gorakhpur, Rs. 11,51,000; Basti, Rs. 9,89,000; Azamgarh, Rs. 9,58,400.

BENARES DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

1. The area of this division is 10,414 square miles, with a population of 5,368,774, and an average density of 515 to the square mile. But this average is misleading. The density in Jaunpur and Gházipur is very great, while in Mirzapur there is a large area very sparsely inhabited. The census classification shows under—

Class B. (Agriculturists) - - -	3,379,910
„ D. (Artizans) - - -	829,844
„ G. (Labourers and mendicants) - -	560,802
Making a total of - - -	<u>4,770,556</u>

who are most affected by crop failure.

2. The harvests of last year were better than in many parts of the provinces; and though in preceding years the crops had been deficient, the division, on the whole, entered on this year with its resources fairly complete.

3. The rainfall was fairly sufficient for the crops till the end of August. Though defective in July, the defect was to some extent neutralised by good distribution. It was the early cessation of the rains and the want of rain in September and October that have injured the harvest. Ballia was the only district in which there was any rain of value in September. It had $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in that month. Doubtless it owes to this its more prosperous condition as compared with the rest of the division.

4. The chief characteristic of the kharif harvest was the very poor outturn of the early rice, and the practical failure of the late rice.

5. The total kharif area of the division is 17 lakhs of acres in round numbers, and out of this about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres is taken up with the early, and about 4 lakhs of acres with the late rice. The early rice has been about one-third of an average crop; but the late rice is not expected to yield more than a 2-anna crop. It must be borne in mind that the rice crop in this division rarely approaches a full crop. The other early kharif crops, such as maize, &c., covering about 12 lakhs of acres, gave about a 9-anna crop.

6. The normal rabi area is given as 1,646,557 acres, exclusive of the Family Domains of the Maharája of Benares. The area estimated to be sown this year is 1,055,168 acres. This estimate, however, has not been prepared in a manner that inspires much confidence. It is certainly a minimum estimate, which will most probably be exceeded, especially if rain falls before the end of November. The Commissioner in his report expressed an opinion that in every district but Mirzapur the deficiency in the area sown as compared with the normal area would be small.

7. The only portion of the division in which there is at present danger of distress consists of parts of Jaunpur and Mirzapur, and possibly some parts in Benares, but up to date the only place in which there has been any clear indication of existing distress is the north of Jaunpur. In that part the test works, on which wages were kept carefully down to a bare subsistence, attracted large numbers, many of whom are reported to have shown sign of emaciation. The area which is thus distressed owing to the failure of its chief crop (rice) is about 200 square miles with a population of about 100,000. It lies along the north border of the district and is contiguous to the district of Azamgarh, which is also feeling the effects of crop failure, a noted elsewhere.

8. The estimates made by the local officers of the numbers likely to require relief are not supported by the character of the harvest or the condition of the people. In Ballia the Collector's calculations, in the event of rain not falling before December, points to a total of $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions requiring relief for one day, while the Commissioner thought 200,000 would be the maximum. With the usual winter rains the Lieutenant-Governor thinks there should be no need for relief in Ballia, beyond perhaps a poorhouse or two for mendicants. If the winter rains fail, some further provision would be necessary.

9. In Jaunpur, which is no doubt worst off, the estimate is that seven millions will require relief if no rain falls this month. If rain falls this month, the Collector estimates for two or three millions. The Lieutenant-Governor believes that the former

estimate may be reduced to five millions, which in case of winter rains may be reduced to three millions.

10. In Gházipur the Collector suggests that in the event of rain falling, or not falling this month, there would be need to make provision for $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions, while the Commissioner would put the number at 450,000, or one-tenth of the Collector's estimate. The Lieutenant-Governor considers the Commissioner's estimate to be the more rational of the two in the event of rain falling. If no rain falls, provision may be made for three million units.

11. In Mirzapur the Collector's estimate is for $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions if no rain falls, and for about half a million if rain falls. The former estimate may be reduced to one-half.

12. In Benares, exclusive of the city, the number that will require relief in the event of no rain falling is put at $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions for one day. In the city it is estimated that relief will be wanted for 2,000 people or more daily for six or eight months, or say 400,000 for one day. His Honour would increase this estimate by at least one-half, and has contributed Rs. 5,000 monthly till further notice to the city relief fund, which will be administered by sub-committees under the control of the Municipal Board. Generally, the number may be for the division estimated, if we have the usual winter rains, at about six million units for one day, and at 15 million units for one day if the winter rains fail. Rain before the end of November would reduce the trouble within small dimensions.

13. The kharif revenues in the several districts, with the amounts the Collectors would suspend, are as follows :—

Districts.	Revenue.	Suggested Suspensions
	Rs.	Rs.
Benares - - - - -	3,60,000	1,20,000
Ballia - - - - -	4,25,000	1,42,000
Jaunpur - - - - -	6,80,000	1,45,000
Gházipur - - - - -	5,00,000	2,50,000
Mirzapur - - - - -	4,43,000	1,37,000
	24,08,000	7,94,000

14. The Lieutenant-Governor has given the Commissioner a credit for Rs. 20,000 for relief under Chapters VIII., IX., and X. of the Famine Code and for test works. The large relief works will be managed by Department of Public Works, which will provide the funds. His Honour has also authorised the Commissioner to suspend up to the sum of Rs. 550,000 for the whole division (excluding the Family Domains, in which suspension is not called for). The Commissioner will use his discretion as to the amount to be suspended in each district. If the *rabí* is good, half the suspensions should be recovered within the current financial year.

15. The Lieutenant-Governor, at a conference with the chief landlords, stated his willingness to advance money without interest, repayable within two years, for village relief works. The zamindárs did not appear willing to take money on these terms. It is the Lieutenant-Governor's belief that with the ordinary winter rain, the *rabí* crop in all districts except Jaunpur and Benares, and perhaps part of the south of Mirzapur, should be sufficient to save the people from want of food, though there may be pinching. In the excepted districts there will, His Honour fears, be need for relief works, unless sufficient rain falls this month and saves the situation by allowing the full *rabí* area to be sown.

16. But although the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, agreeing with the Commissioner of the Division, has not taken the gloomy view of the future adopted by the district officers, he has thought it right to prepare for the contingency of relief being required on a larger scale than he himself thinks will be found necessary. No appreciable expense will be incurred by completing these preparations, while every danger will be provided for. The general organisation therefore has been set on foot.

17. The Lieutenant Governor has intimated to the Mahárája of Benares his hope that His Highness will entrust Mr. Wyndham, the Superintendent of the Family Domains, with the chief control over all relief operations within the Domains. In no other way can the Lieutenant-Governor be confident that no untoward accident may not occur.

ALLAHABAD DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

This division, with its seven districts, comprises an area of 17,264 square miles, with a population of 5,757,121, which was classified at last census as follows:—

Class B.—3,373,618 (pasture and agriculture).
 „ D.—1,044,179 (artisans).
 „ G.— } 581,670 (labourers).
 (Sub-orders 74)

2. The division consists of two distinct portions—(a) that lying in the Doab between the Ganges and the Jumna; (b) the tract south of the Jumna, generally known as Bundelkhand. The former includes the districts of Cawnpore and Fatehpur and the greater part of Allahabad (a small portion of this last-named district, lying to the north of the Ganges, may be classed with the Doab portion), and the latter including a portion of the Allahabad district and the districts of Banda, Hamirpur, Jalaun and Jhansi.

3. The condition of the Bundelkhand districts since the beginning of this year (1896) is sufficiently well known to call for no further details; it has been dealt with in the resolution recorded by the Lieutenant-Governor on the 20th October. The districts were, generally speaking, famine stricken, and very considerable relief measures were carried on in them from February to July last.

4. The harvests in the last agricultural year in Cawnpore, Fatehpur and the Doab portion of Allahabad were not good, but varied from half to three-quarters of the normal amounts.

5. The chief characteristic of the present year's rainfall was that it was more copious up to the end of August in the Bundelkhand districts (except in Banda) than in the Doab districts.

6. In Hamirpur, Jhansi, and Jalaun, had the rain not fallen in September, there was every prospect of an excellent *kharif*. In Banda, as in the Doab, the rainfall was deficient throughout, being, generally speaking, from one half to two-thirds of the normal in July and August.

7. But the feature that has injured the harvests throughout this division, as elsewhere in these provinces, was the absence of any appreciable amount of rain in September and October. The area that was cultivated in the *kharif* harvest was in every district in excess of the normal area, and in some districts the excess was very considerable.

8. The people had made an effort to recoup themselves for their previous losses by sowing more land than usual. Had the rains been propitious the outturn would have been very large, as it is the result is most disappointing.

9. The estimates of the local officers give an outturn in the various districts varying from one-fourth to three-eighths of a normal yield. In Allahabad and Fatehpur it was only one-fourth; in Cawnpore and Jalaun one-third; in Banda, Hamirpur and Jhansi three-eighths. These calculations indicate for the division as a whole a yield of scarcely one-third of a normal harvest.

10. The normal area under *rabi* in the division is 3,012,173 acres. The proportion of this that is protected by irrigation varied very largely from Cawnpore with a considerable area of canal irrigation to Banda with hardly any irrigation of any kind. As the area that is likely to produce a *rabi* crop (in the event of no more rain falling this month) is but little in excess of the irrigated area, the condition of the different districts in their *rabi* prospects varies very largely.

11. The areas which, it is estimated, will give a *rabi* crop are (in round numbers)—

	Acres.
In Cawnpore	285,000
„ Fatehpur	123,000
„ Allahabad	214,000
„ Banda	170,000
„ Hamirpur	150,000
„ Jalaun	102,000
„ Jhansi	118,000
	1,162,000

or 38 per cent. of the normal area cropped in *rabi*. But without the usual winter rains, the crop in this area not irrigated from canals will probably be very small.

12. In the possible, but improbable, event of rain falling before the end of November, this area will be increased; possibly if rain fell in time it might be doubled.

13. There is no complaint made at present that stocks are running short. Where the produce of the districts has been deficient, importations are going on. Nothing is more difficult than to estimate the quantity of stock: it is essentially a matter of inference from general consideration; but premising this, the Lieutenant-Governor believes that there is in the division a three months' supply.

14. In Cawnpore and Fatehpur there are not as yet any marked signs of distress such as are afforded by the wandering of families in search of food, or by a demand for employment; but crime is increasing. The Fatehpur Canal Works could employ much more labour than comes to them.

15. In Banda, Hamirpur and Allahabad relief works under the supervision of the Public Works Department are already in operation, and some 40,000 labourers are engaged on those works on which stringent tests are enforced.

16. The local officers have given their estimates of the numbers they consider likely to require relief (reduced to units of one day) in three events—

- (a) if rain falls in time for the *rabi* sowings;
- (b) if rain does not fall now, but falls about Christmas;
- (c) if no rain falls till the next rainy season.

These estimates are tabulated below:—

District.	(a.)	(b.)	(c.)
	Millions.	Millions.	Millions.
Cawnpore - - - - -	1½	6	12
Fatehpur - - - - -	—	3	4
Allahabad - - - - -	5	11	18
Banda - - - - -	6	10	20
Hamirpur - - - - -	4	7	10
Jalaun - - - - -	4	7	10
Jhansi - - - - -	2	6	8
Total - - - - -	22½	50	82

Bad though the outlook undoubtedly is, the Lieutenant-Governor considers these estimates excessive, and thinks that it will suffice to estimate for 12 millions, 30 millions, and 50 millions in the three cases given.

17. The portion of the division most seriously affected unfortunately coincides with the area which has suffered so severely already this year from deficient harvests following on a series of bad harvests for some years past. It is stated unanimously that the condition of this tract is very distinctly worse than it was at the corresponding date last year. It is known that in consequence of the failure of last year's rains, 18 millions of people came on our hands from these tracts.

18. Programmes of relief works, sufficient to meet any demand likely to arise, have been completed for every district.

19. Relief circles have been marked out, and the lists of respectable but indigent persons who will require house-to-house relief are being revised. The organisation of last summer has been called again into activity, and all the Bundelkhand districts with Allahabad are officially recognised as "distressed." This enables the Department of Public Works to begin relief works, and this the Department has done in all five districts. Village works under article 65 (a) will be taken in hand later on, when the pressure on the large relief works managed by the Department of Public Works shows that there is a serious demand for employment which renders it necessary to relieve the attendance on those works and provide people with employment near their homes. In some parts it will be possible to recover one-half or more of the advances to be made for village works; but in Bundelkhand, having regard to the ordinary conditions of the zamindars in that tract, and the strain on their resources for some years past, there is less prospect than elsewhere of recovering any material portion of such advances.

20. The *kharif* instalment of the division amounts to something over 43 lakhs, and there are 14 lakhs of arrears from last year. The arrears will stand over and not be collected now, while the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has authorised the Commissioner to allow suspensions for the whole division to the amount of 25 lakhs out of the current instalment, leaving it to the Commissioner to decide in what proportion he considers it advisable to distribute this amount over the individual districts with regard to the varying extent of their requirements in this respect.

21. The sum of Rs. 25,000 has been already placed at the Commissioner's disposal for the various branches of famine relief expenditure in his division comprised under article 65 (a) and chapter VIII., IX. and X. of the Famine Code. This grant has now been raised to one lakh. It is a first instalment of what promises to be a very large expenditure.

AGRA DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

The area of this division is 10,140 square miles, with a population of 4,767,759, which gives a density of 470 to the square mile.

2. It contains one large city, Agra, with 187,000 inhabitants, and two smaller cities, viz., Farukhabad with 73,000, and Muttra with 57,000 inhabitants. The classification of the population of the division made at last census shows 2,633,631 engaged in pasture and agriculture (class B.), 945,692 artisans (class D.), and 365,857 unskilled labourers (class G., sub-order 74).

3. With unimportant variations from district to district the harvests last year were good, and in some districts extremely good. The people of this division thus entered on the current agricultural year with their resources unimpaired, a condition of things not found to exist in the more eastern districts. The rainfall this year, however, has been everywhere very deficient. It was deficient in June in four of the six districts. In July it varied from one-half to two-thirds of a normal fall. But it was in August that the deficiency was most remarkable. It was in some districts only one-third and in others one-half of the normal; in Etah alone did it reach two-thirds. In September and October here as elsewhere there was practically no rain. This remarkable failure of the rain in August in the Agra division compared with other divisions has not been productive of proportionate crop failure, because the crop which would have been specially affected by such deficiency, rice, is only grown in small quantities in this division, and because a very considerable part of the division is protected by canals and wells from drought.

4. The area sown with *kharif* crops this year in the Agra division was somewhat in excess of the normal area, but the yield, owing to the deficient rainfall, has been only half a normal harvest. This half normal crop is to be found in every district, except Muttra, in which the yield was possibly slightly *less*, and Etah, in which it was slightly *more*, than that general average.

5. The *rabi* estimates fall into two classes, according as rain (a) falls, or (b) does not fall, within the sowing period, say up to the end of November. In the former case, that is, the case of rain falling, there is every hope that the full *rabi* area ordinarily sown will be sown this year. In the other alternative, that is, in the case of no rain falling before the end of November, then the area which will give a harvest next spring will fall far short of the normal area, as most of the land that is not protected by irrigation will not be sown, and if any portion of this unirrigated land is sown, the return of a harvest cannot be counted upon. The normal *rabi* area of the division is shown as 2,194,000 acres; of this area, 523,000 acres are returned by the Irrigation Department as irrigated from canals this year. In addition 601,000 acres are shown as irrigated from wells and 71,000 as irrigated from tanks, making a total of 1,195,000 acres, or 54 per cent. of the entire *rabi* area, protected by irrigation. From that area a normal outturn, or, if provision is to be made for the possibility of some tanks and wells running dry, three-fourths of the normal outturn, is to be expected.

6. Besides this there is a considerable area of low-lying lands, beds of rivers, of *jhils* or lakes, and so forth, from which a moderate *rabi* crop is expected with the usual winter rains. Perhaps it may be said that these low-lying lands are estimated at about 200,000 acres. With the usual Christmas rains an average harvest may be reasonably expected from 60 per cent. of the normal *rabi* area. Should favourable rain fall in time to allow of further sowings, there is no reason why a much larger area

should not be sown, and it may be expected that almost all of the normal *rabi* area would in that event be sown. But the Lieutenant-Governor himself does not now count on rain falling in the current month (November), or on any extension of *rabi* sowings beyond the area mentioned above. But the crop on that area should give at least half the crop grown on the full *rabi* area. With half a *kharif* crop and half a *rabi* crop, there should be no general famine if the opinion expressed by the Famine Commission in paragraph 77, Part I., of their report be true. But no doubt there is a disturbing element in the phenomenally high prices of this year, and abundance in one part of a district may mean starvation to those who have no money to buy food with. If there be no rain at Christmas, *i.e.*, if the winter rains fail, the situation will be greatly aggravated, and in this case only one-third of the normal outturn can be counted upon, if, indeed, this be not a too sanguine estimate. The scheme of relief has been devised to meet the strain.

7. Owing to the satisfactory harvests of last year, the stocks in every district are reported to be as large as usual,

8. The local officers are unanimous in stating that there have been as yet no signs of any serious distress amongst the people. There is no marked or substantial increase in the amount of pauperism, though beggars in greater numbers than usual have gravitated to the large towns. Poorhouses where open have had no great influx of paupers, and their inmates are composed almost entirely of the regular mendicants, to whom, owing to the pressure of high prices, private charity is less liberal than usual.

9. Test works, even though the wages have not been very strictly limited to a subsistence wage, do not attract labourers to any significant extent.

10. The cultivators are represented as being everywhere in good heart, and to be busily engaged in preparing every acre of land that can in any circumstances possibly be made fit to sow in the event of rain falling. Much of this will be sown later on, on the chance of some yield.

11. A certain amount of distress, more particularly in the cities of Agra and Farukhabad, will, even in the most favourable circumstances, require relief until prices fall. But among the rural population the numbers that will require assistance if rain falls during November will not exceed a comparatively insignificant scale. Here as in other divisions the information is that the cultivators are holding the proceeds of the *kharif* harvest pending more certain disclosure of the *rabi* prospects.

12. The local officers have submitted estimates of the numbers they anticipate will require relief in the alternative events of rain falling or not falling within this month or early in December. Those estimates reduced to numbers relieved for one day are as follows, district by district:—

(A) If rain does not fall—

In Agra	-	-	-	-	-	5 to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ millions
Muttra	-	-	-	-	-	5 to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Etah	-	-	-	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Farukhabad	-	-	-	-	-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Etawah	-	-	-	-	-	3 "
Mainpuri	-	-	-	-	-	3 "
						Total
						23 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions
						or (say) 26 millions

(B) If rain does fall while it is yet time to sow the *rabi* seed—

In Agra	-	-	-	-	-	1 million.
Muttra	-	-	-	-	-	None.
Farukhabad	-	-	-	-	-	1 million.
Etawah	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Mainpuri	-	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
and in Etah	-	-	-	-	-	None.
						Total
						3 $\frac{1}{2}$ millions.

13. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, three cases have to be considered:—

- (i.) The case of sufficient rain (say about 2 inches) falling while it is yet time to sow the *rabi*.
- (ii.) The case of no rain falling while it is yet time to sow, but rain falling about Christmas.
- (iii.) The case of a complete failure of the winter rains.

In the first case there will be, in his Honour's opinion, no necessity for any important relief works in the division, though there will be need for some poorhouses and some charitable relief in the cities until prices become lower. The estimate may stand at 3½ millions for one day.

In the second case there will be the need, owing to the severity of crop failure in particular tracts and the extraordinarily high prices, for some moderate measures of relief, which the Lieutenant-Governor estimates at what will suffice for 8 millions of people for one day.

In the third case there will be need for extensive relief measures. Had the pitch of prices not been so phenomenally high, the Lieutenant-Governor would have ventured to predict that even in this case the numbers of people on relief would not exceed 15 millions for one day. But with prices so high, he prefers to follow the local estimates more closely and to take the numbers at 20 millions for one day in the worst event.

14. Programmes of ordinary road relief works have been prepared for the division; but the Lieutenant-Governor is in hopes that it may be consistent with the plans of the Government of India to begin not later than January the earthwork of the Shikohabad-Fatehgarh and the Agra-Delhi lines of rail. The earthwork on these railways would afford all the employment that would be required on large relief works. Without these works there is no doubt sufficient work in the relief programme to afford the requisite employment; but if these railways are to be made, it is well to begin the earthwork at once. The Lieutenant-Governor would have no objection to a very large portion of the earthwork being carried on in the usual way and with no special reference to the "famine wage."

15. The raising of the berms of the Bewar Canal is another scheme which would afford the right sort of work to those that might require relief in Mainpuri and Etah, and this work will be begun when the demand for employment shows itself. In addition to these large works there will be the village works under article 65 (a) of the Famine Code; but having regard to the comparatively good position of the division, these small works would not be taken in hand in any large numbers, except in the improbable event that the railway and canal works did not afford suitable employment; or that the distress was developing to such an extent as to require employment for the people near their homes.

16. The *kharch* revenue demand for the whole division amounts to about 40 lakhs. The circumstances of the different districts vary to some extent, but not very largely. The amount of relative relief to be given to the several districts will be better calculated by the Commissioner with the aid of the district officers. Some relief is doubtless necessary, and the Commissioner has therefore been authorised to suspend up to Rs. 6,00,000 in the whole division, the suspensions to be given with reference to the relative necessities of the different tracts of country and the capacity of the individual zamindárs to pay their revenue.

17. An initial grant of Rs. 20,000 has been made to the Commissioner for expenditure on relief under Chapters VIII., IX., and X. of the Famine Code. From this sum he is authorised to allot Rs. 2,500 per mensem as a grant in aid to the charitable relief funds in the Agra city, and Rs. 1,500 per mensem for the same purpose in the city of Farukhabad.

18. The Public Works Department has been directed to take over the management of relief works in the Agra and Etawah districts at such time and places as the Commissioner shall consider it to be advisable. The Commissioner will issue the necessary instructions to the superintending engineer.

19. A deputy collector and a tahsildár will be given, when the Commissioner applies for that purpose, to each of the districts of Agra and Muttra in addition to the normal district staff.

20. On the whole the Lieutenant-Governor is, in the circumstances, well content with the state of things he finds in the Agra division. With good luck, by which is meant two inches, or even an inch and a half, of rain within a month, there would be no trouble

to speak of. Without that rain, but with the usual showers in December and January, we shall have over the irrigated area at least three-fourths of a full average harvest, thus allowing for shrinkage in supply of well and tank water. This is equivalent to nearly one-half of an average harvest over the full quantity of land usually sown with *rabi*. That will save the people from the extremity of famine, though it will not, having regard to the high prices, save the wage-earning classes from distress which will call for our help. If the winter rains fail altogether and the wells run dry, there will then certainly be distress over a large area, and famine within a smaller, though still considerable, tract of country. But we do not look with fear on the future; we have confidence in our arrangements, which are, we think, sufficient to meet any strain likely to come upon us.

But the success of our efforts under the worst conditions depends on the effectiveness of private trade to supply food to the people. We supply the wherewithal to pay for it.

LUCKNOW DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

1. The area of the Lucknow Division consists of 12,040 square miles, and the population is 5,325,601, which gives a density of 442 to the square mile. Excluding the Lucknow district with its city population, the density is greatest in Rae Bareilly (552), and least in Kheri (304).

2. Of this population 3,753,350 persons were classified at the last census as agriculturists (class C); 876,653 as artisans (class D), and 408,007 as labourers and mendicants (class G). The city of Lucknow, with its 273,000 inhabitants, largely contributes to the artisan class.

3. The harvests in recent years varied in the different districts, but have, on the whole, been good. Hardoi was less fortunate than the other districts, having suffered from crop failure last year.

4. In June of this year the rainfall was short, but not seriously deficient, except in Lucknow and Unao. In July, the deficiency was very serious throughout the division (except in Kheri), being barely half the average in four districts, while in Rae Bareilly it did not reach one-fourth of the average. In August the rainfall in Sitapur was above, and in Kheri largely above, the normal; in Lucknow and Rae Bareilly it was very much below it. In September and October the failure in the rains was practically complete throughout the division.

5. The result has been a very general failure in both the early and late rice; the latter crop, owing to the absence of rain in September and October, will practically give no yield. The only district in which the early rice was a fair crop was Sitapur. The best crop has been maize, which has, except in Hardoi, done very fairly; in Sitapur it has given three-fourths of a normal yield. The *juar* and *bajra* crops have not yet been completely reaped, and their outturn is a matter of estimate. In most districts *juar* is expected to yield a half crop, and *bajra* rather less. The *arhar* is said to promise well. On the whole, the *kharif* harvest in the Lucknow Division, excluding the Kheri district, has been about one-third of the average. In Kheri it has been nearly three-fourths of the average.

6. The normal *rabi* area of the division is 2,473,000 acres. From one-half to two-thirds of this normal area has been prepared for sowing; much of it has already been sown, and much of what has been sown has germinated. If rain falls this month (November) or during the sowing time, it is generally admitted that very nearly a full normal area will be sown, and will yield a crop. If rain does not fall during the sowing time the area sown will be much contracted, but as it will be almost entirely irrigated, a crop is certain, although the outturn may not be a full one. It is to be remembered that the area prepared for sowing is the most fertile land.

7. The stocks of grain are generally admitted to be sufficient for three months' consumption. But this estimate is probably below the actual quantity. The two districts which appear to be the worst off in this respect are Hardoi, which suffered from crop failure last year, and Rae Bareilly, which is stated to be importing daily.

8. Poorhouses have been opened in every district, but, except in Hardoi, the number of inmates is nowhere large.

9. Relief works have been open in Hardoi since last summer, and the latest report shows some 7,159 persons are employed on them. The smallness of this number ill agrees with the very gloomy opinion regarding the outturn of the *kharif* and the

prospects of the *rabi* expressed by the Deputy Commissioner; and the Lieutenant-Governor doubts that the *kharif* was quite so bad as the district officer believes it to have been.

10. In Rae Bareli three relief works were started as test works, and the numbers on them having risen to nearly 10,000, they have been transferred to the Public Works Department as regular relief works. In Sitapur the test works have also shown the existence of distress, and will now be made over to the regular Public Works agency. In the other districts test works have hitherto failed to attract labour to any significant degree.

11. The fact is that at present the agricultural population is for the most part busily engaged in the fields; they are occupied either in reaping the *kharif* crops, or in sinking temporary wells and preparing the ground for the *rabi*. The advances made for wells by Government have had a most excellent effect, and, taken with the suspensions of revenue, have stimulated the liberality of the landlord body. It will not be until work in the fields has ceased that there will be any demand for employment on relief works.

12. In estimating the probable extent to which relief measures may be necessary, the one factor on which all calculations must depend is the rainfall.

13. The district officers have made estimates of the numbers they anticipate will require relief—(A) in the event of rain falling before the sowing season is over; (B) in the event of a failure in the winter rains. These estimates expressed in units of one day's rations are as follows:—

A.—On the assumption that rain falls before the end of November—

Lucknow	-	-	-	-	5	millions.
Hardoi	-	-	-	-	2½	„
Unao	-	-	-	-	3	„
Rae Bareli	-	-	-	-	3½	„
Sitapur	-	-	-	-	5½	„
Total				-	19½	millions. Units for one day.

B.—On the assumption that no winter rain falls—

Lucknow	-	-	-	-	25	millions.
Hardoi	-	-	-	-	20	„
Unao	-	-	-	-	12	„
Rae Bareli	-	-	-	-	17½	„
Sitapur	-	-	-	-	24	„
Total				-	98½	millions. Units for one day.

Kheri may be omitted from the calculations, as distress, if it occurs at all in that district, will be limited in extent.

14. These estimates are, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, excessive. It is admitted on all hands that as yet there are apparent none of the more significant signs which precede a famine, such as people wandering from their homes, emaciation, &c. There is as yet no general demand for employment on relief works, while the people are vigorously sinking wells and preparing the land for the *rabi*. If two inches of rain fell before the sowing time ends, about end of November, the whole aspect of the case would be changed, and the necessity for relief operations would, except in a few localities, disappear. The difference between rain falling before the end of November and its not falling, is, that in the former case, we should be sure of a two-thirds or perhaps three-fourths *rabi* harvest, while in the latter we shall be sure of not much more than one-third. The difference does not correspond to the difference between 19 millions and 98 millions on relief. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that the phenomenally high prices of food grains (the result of a variety of causes into which the depreciation on the value of silver, withholding the *kharif* grain by the cultivators till the prospects of the *rabi* are disclosed, and panic, largely enter) and the pessimistic opinions regarding the outturn of the crops submitted by native officials and some others have led some district officers into excessive estimates. After personal discussion with each local officer, and after hearing the views collectively and severally of

the chief landlords of the division, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that, should rain fall while it is yet time to sow, the numbers requiring to be assisted will fall under the estimates of the local officers. If, on the other hand, rain should not fall during the sowing time, but should fall about Christmas, then we might count on a six-anna harvest; and, in this case, the Lieutenant-Governor would not deem it necessary to provide assistance for more than 25 or at the outside 30 millions reduced to units of one day. If a total failure of the *rabi* had to be encountered, then indeed, having regard to the failure in the *kharif*, it might be necessary to make the extreme provision proposed by the local officers, as it would not be much in excess of 15 per cent. for four months of the population specified in paragraph 2 above as most subject to distress. But having regard to the area protected by wells, there is no probability of a total failure of the *rabi*; and it seems to His Honor that, even in the case of no winter rains falling, it will not be necessary to provide for more than 10 per cent. of the population (given in paragraph 2) for four months. The numbers reduced to units of one day would come to 60 millions, or three-fifths of the estimate of the local officers.

In framing these estimates we are not of course bound by them should famine develop to larger dimensions. The organisation we have established admits of indefinite expansion to meet any degree of pressure that may arise.

15. The character of the *kharif* harvest clearly calls for some relief in the matter of the enforcement of the revenue demand. In the Rae Bareli, Lucknow, Hardoi and Sitapur districts the effect of the recent revision of settlement would have been to raise the revenue demand, and the aggregate of those enhancements would have been Rs. 4,55,093.* In the present circumstances, which render districts unable to pay the existing demands in full, it is out of the question to introduce these enhanced assessments, and the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner has decided to postpone their introduction.

16. The revenue demands for the *kharif* instalment on the existing settlements in the districts are as follows (in round numbers):—

	Rs.
Lucknow - - - - -	3,07,000
Hardoi - - - - -	5,07,000
Rae Bareli - - - - -	6,45,000
Sitapur - - - - -	5,50,000
Unao - - - - -	7,29,000
Kheri - - - - -	3,73,000

The Lieutenant-Governor has given the local officers discretion to make suspensions of the *kharif* instalment in this division up to a maximum of 14 lakhs as shown below.† This amount will afford very substantial relief to the zamindárs and their tenants. Should rain fall during the sowing time, and a good *rabi* is assured, half of these suspensions may be collected within this financial year; otherwise the collections must be postponed till the following year or years.

There is in the Oudh Rent Act no provision corresponding to section 23 of the North-Western Provinces Rent Act under which a suspension of the revenue demand secures to the tenant the suspension of rent to the limit of twice the revenue suspended. On suitable opportunity, the Oudh Rent Act must be amended on this point; meanwhile the Oudh landlords may be trusted to be lenient. One can't take "the brecks off a Hielanman," and, besides, the tenants are holding the harvest.

17. The existence of a large city like Lucknow gives a special significance to the existing pressure from high prices. There are two classes amongst the inhabitants of that city on whom that pressure falls with the greatest severity. The first consists of decayed gentry, large numbers of whom depend for their living on small pensions or the small remains of their former wealth; they are for the most part destitute of other means of livelihood, and the phenomenal dearness of the food grains has greatly diminished their petty resources. The second class consists of the small artisans who, with wages which have not risen in proportion to prices, feel the pinch more acutely than their rural neighbours, who are often paid in kind. Measures—referred to in the remarks on the Lucknow district—have been taken to bring relief to these two classes, a contribution of Rs. 15,000 per mensem having been made by Government in aid of the relief fund established in the city. The standard of relief would be the

* Hardoi, Rs. 1,29,841; Lucknow, Rs. 93,386; Rae Bareli, Rs. 1,79,110; Sitapur, Rs. 52,766.

† Lucknow, Rs. 1,50,000; Hardoi, Rs. 3,00,000; Rae Bareli, Rs. 3,00,000; Sitapur, Rs. 2,00,000. Unao, Rs. 3,50,000; Kheri, Rs. 1,00,000. Total, 14,00,000.

difference between the present average prices of food grains and a price, say, 15 seers for the rupee more within their means.

18. It has been stated above that in the worst case that we need contemplate at present (*i.e.*, the case of no rain falling before Christmas but falling then), the numbers requiring assistance in the division will be about 25 or 30 millions reduced to units of a day's rations. The Government organisation, acting on uniform lines, may not in all cases bring perfectly suitable relief to this mass of distress. We shall doubtless enable all persons, not being mere suicides, to avoid death from starvation, but we shall not be able to prevent all suffering. There must be *pardahs** behind which the Government relief agent cannot always penetrate. Herein lies the opportunity for private effort, and the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that an appeal to private charity in England and in India might be of great use in supplement of the Government organisation whereby a fuller measure of relief may be brought to suffering genteel poverty which official action may not reach in a suitable way. This will be especially necessary in the case of the city of Lucknow and other large towns, especially the decaying ones, which trade does not favour.

One of the methods of relief prescribed by the Famine Code is village works. These works are directed to improving the water supply and general sanitary condition of the villages, and will become the property of the local proprietor or village. The British Indian Association, that is the Talúkdárs of Oudh, have undertaken to carry out such works on plans to be approved by the district officers, employing relief labour only, if Government will give advances free of interest, one-half to be recovered within two years and the other half remitted. The Government is at liberty to select the works, and, of course, to refuse assent to the undertaking of any particular work, if circumstances do not approve the general or local necessity for them. But when a work is undertaken on these terms the effect is that the Government is freed from the cost and necessity of close supervision, and that it is recouped half the cost. The Lieutenant-Governor regards the arrangement as alike beneficial to the State, the Talúqdárs and the people. In other tracts not so badly off as the Lucknow Division, the terms need not necessarily be those of contribution of half cost by Government. The arrangement will only come into force when Government decides to open village relief works, the lists of which are ready. This it will not do until the Public Works Department works, on which tasks and subsistence wages are strictly enforced, prove the existence of real distress in any particular district or tract. Measures have been taken for exercising general control over the plan and execution of the village works referred to in the preceding paragraph. The question will be referred to in the general letter to the Government of India, under cover of which the Lieutenant-Governor's divisional and district memoranda will be submitted.

19. The general scheme of public works to be controlled by the Public Works Department is ready for each district. It is now in operation in Rae Bareilly and Hardoi, and can be brought into operation at once in the other districts. It will be directed to completing the system of provincial roads on a concerted plan which has been worked out.

20. The district officers have completed their arrangements for relief circles, and for circle committees which will be entrusted, subject to control, with the administration of charitable relief to distressed respectable people debarred by national custom from appearing in public contemplated by Chapter X. of the Code. The lists of all such indigent persons have been undertaken. They will need close scrutiny; and it is in his Honour's opinion essential to associate with us the village landlords in the administration of this species of relief. The Talúkdárs have promised their best assistance, and this body of gentlemen may be trusted to be as good as their word.

21. The Lieutenant-Governor, encouraged by the preceding analysis of the facts, as well as by the attitude of the people, their energy and quietness, is in hopes that the difficulty which threatens this division, though undoubtedly serious, may not reach the proportions which some fear. But should the worst happen, the arrangements made will, his Honour thinks, stand any strain likely to be put on them.

22. A sum of two lakhs of rupees has been placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Division for relief under Chapters VIII., IX., and X. of the Famine Code, and for relief works under Article 65(a) should any sudden emergency arise. Meanwhile the Department of Public Works provides its own funds and establishments and thus frees the hands of the district officers for the ordinary work of administration and for village relief.

23. The staff of each district in the division is being strengthened.

* Curtains, *i.e.*, private or women's apartments.

MEMORANDUM of REPRESENTATIONS made by MEMBERS of the BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION at a MEETING held by His Honour the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR and CHIEF COMMISSIONER on 2nd November 1896 at LUCKNOW.

At the request of His Honour various members of the Association gave their views of the situation as follows:—

Rája Jagmohan Singh (of Rae Bareli)—

The *kharif* crop has been unequal, varying from 1 to 3 annas.

As to the *rabi*, if rain falls within 15 days, wheat will be sown; if within 25 days, gram, and the whole area will be sown. If rain does not fall, only one-third of the normal area will be sown.

Labourers do not go to the test works because the wages are so low.

Rána Sir Shankar Bakhsh Singh said the *kharif* crop would be a 3-anna crop, and as regards the *rabi*, agreed with Rája Jagmohan Singh. In any case, the rice crop was a complete failure.

Rája Amir Hassan (of Sitapur) expects a 5-anna *kharif* crop, and a full *rabi* area if rain falls.

Muhammad Azim (of Hardoi) stated that the *kharif* would give a 3-anna yield, and that the *rabi* would with rain reach two-thirds of the normal area, but without rain would be no more than a quarter to one-third.

K. B. Haji Shaban Ali Khan and the Honourable Babu Sri Ram, Rai Bahadur (of Lucknow), estimated the *kharif* to be but a 3-anna harvest. The effect of the loss of the *kharif* would begin to be felt soon; and if no rain falls, that will happen at the end of this month.

It was generally agreed that large relief works would not be required for one or one and a half months, and that it would be well to wait till the outturn of the *juar* was ascertained. At present the cultivators are all engaged in the fields, and it would be a mistake to take them away.

There is still hope of rain till the middle or end of this month.

Coming to methods of relief, if necessary, his Honour proposed that in regard to relief works he should make advances to the talúqdárs without interest, the works to be selected by the collector, and their execution to be under his supervision, though carried out by the talúqdárs; half the advances only to be recovered within two years. It was agreed that the association would charge itself with the preparation of a list of the various village relief works to be undertaken in each district, and would submit them to the district officers. The object to be aimed at in these works is to place the village in a good position with regard to water supply, sanitation, and general convenience. The talúqdárs expressed unanimous satisfaction with these proposals, and declared their readiness to act upon them freely.

It was agreed that relief to the respectable poor could often be best administered through the agency of the landlords and not directly by official agency; and the talúqdárs expressed their readiness and willingness to co-operate with Government as its agents on this kind of relief.

The question of the construction of the Sarda Canal was then discussed.

The Mahárája of Ajudhya submitted that until it was demonstrated that the objections which they had urged in 1872 had been shown to be without foundation they were not prepared to change their views. Rána Sir Shankar Bakhsh and Rája Tasadduk Rasul Khan seemed disposed to admit the advantages of the irrigation it would supply.

Shaikh Inayat-ul-la and Chaudhri Nasrat Ali stated, and it was generally agreed, that the Association would be prepared to reconsider their opposition to the scheme if it was again laid before them, and their former objections were disposed of.

The talúqdárs generally pressed on His Honour the necessity of giving suspensions and remissions of revenue. They represented that their tenants were unable to pay any rent from the *kharif* harvest, and that if the landlords had to pay the revenue in full, they would have to borrow. Some gentlemen admitted that they could, of course, meet the Government demands in full, but that doing so would weaken their ability to assist their tenants. After discussing the point at some length, the Lieutenant-Governor stated that he would postpone the enhanced demand under the new settlement wherever it had not already been introduced, and that he would partially and to a reasonable extent suspend the *kharif* instalment, but that he was not prepared at that moment to state the extent of such suspensions. His Honour was not in favour of all-round suspensions at an uniform rate, but the suspensions would be adjusted to the

extent of crop failure in particular localities and to the capacity of the landed proprietors to pay. In some instances it might be necessary to suspend up to half the *kharif* instalment as a maximum, while in others a smaller suspension would meet the necessities of the case.

His Honour intimated that before leaving Lucknow he would instruct the Commissioner and the district officers as to the extent of suspensions to be made in each district.

In reference to the request for remissions, his Honour said that that question did not arise at the present time; what was necessary now was such postponement of the revenue demand as would enable the landlords to avoid borrowing, and to help their tenants with advances for seed, wells, and such like, which he looked to the landlords to make in supplement to what Government had already done. The Lieutenant-Governor's announcement with regard to suspensions was received with much satisfaction by all present.

On the general question, the Lieutenant-Governor stated that the impression he had formed from what he had heard from the deputation and from the district officers was that the failure of the *kharif* cannot have been so extreme as it was supposed to be in some quarters. His Honour thinks that a 2-anna crop (the estimate made by some gentlemen) is not capable of perception and that if any tangible and substantial portion of a crop remained, it would probably be not less than 4 annas in any district. It may have been more, but in his Honour's opinion it can hardly have been less. The fact that people at the present time are not wandering from their homes in search of labour; that the test relief works are drawing no workers in most districts; and that talúqdárs themselves say there will be no necessity for relief works on any large scale for a month or six weeks, points to the conclusion that the *kharif* cannot have been the utter failure that it had been stated by some gentlemen. It was the general opinion of the talúqdárs that if rain should fall during November, the full area of *rabi* would probably be sown, in which case, with the usual ripening rains, the difficulties of the situation would be reduced to very manageable limits, and that there would be no famine, though there might be severe pressure in the towns and isolated rural localities in several districts for some little time.

If no rain falls, during the sowing time undoubtedly the *rabi* area will be greatly contracted, and the crop will be precarious unless where protected by efficient wells. In that case the necessity for relief works on a large scale would certainly arise. The conclusion His Honour came to was that except in some localities that have fared specially badly and in which distress has to some extent already appeared, the necessity for these works would not occur for another month or six weeks. This is also the talúqdárs' estimate of the situation. The distribution of help to the poor, respectable people in towns and the grant of relief in poorhouses will in many places be called for earlier. But the relief system should be everywhere put at once in readiness, so that any distress that shows itself may at once find relief. As a matter of fact, arrangements are complete to meet any distress likely to show itself at present.

FYZABAD DIVISION.

General Memorandum.

1. This division has an area of 12,176 square miles, with a population of nearly 6,800,000 inhabitants. Of this number 4,484,000 were classed at last census as agriculturists, 947,000 are artisans, and 564,000 are day-labourers. The population is dense in all the districts except Bahraich.

2. The chief features of the rainfall this year were a fairly normal fall in June, a very short fall in July, a full fall in August, and practically no rain in September and October. The only marked exception to this general character of the rainfall occurred in the Bahraich district, in which the rain very nearly reached its normal amount, both in June and in August, and in July did not fall so far short of the average as was the case in the other districts.

3. The normal *kharif* area for the division is 3,373,200 acres. Out of this area 3,300,750 acres, or nearly the whole, was sown this year. The outturn of the *kharif* harvest over the division as a whole may be taken as about equal to seven-sixteenths of a normal harvest. The variations from district to district were considerable, as

Bahraich had three-fourths of an average crop, and was the most fortunate; districts Fyzabad, Bara Banki, and Gonda had seven-sixteenths of an average crop, and Partágarh and Sultánpur something under a third of the average. The only crop that has failed completely and universally is the late rice owing to the early cessation of the rains, and this crop covers $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of acres out of the total *kharif* area of $33\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of acres. Early rice, which covers $13\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs of acres, was somewhat better, but, on the whole, did not give more than from one-fourth to one-third of the average yield. Thus more than one-half the *kharif* area has not given more than a quarter of the average yield. Of the other important crops, the maize, smaller millets, and other miscellaneous food crops gave well above half the normal yield. Sugarcane, which covers 133,396 acres, promises to be about a three-quarter crop, except in Partágarh.

4. The normal *rabi* area of the division is about 2,804,000 acres. The estimates of the local officers point to rather more than half this area being sown this year in the case of no more rain falling during the sowing season. If rain falls before the sowing season ends, at least 75 per cent. or 80 per cent. of the normal *rabi* area will be sown. Indeed, there is no reason to think that with earlier rain there will not be a full *rabi*. Even if no rain falls the outturn will still be moderate, as the best lands have been, or will be, sown, and about 33 per cent. of the *rabi* area of the division is protected by wells.

5. Both the harvests last year were fair, and the division entered upon this agricultural year in fairly good condition.

6. The stocks in the districts are generally estimated to be sufficient, at any rate, for a three months' consumption.

7. The only outward indication of suffering from scarcity consists of a slight increase, in some districts, in the number of beggars; but local officers are unanimous in stating that no general wandering of families in search of a livelihood has yet begun to take place, that there is no demand for employment on test relief works, and that the people present no signs of suffering from want of food.

8. It has not yet been found necessary to open poor-houses generally. The whole of the labouring population is at present busily engaged in the fields in operations connected with the *rabi* sowings. Labourers find no difficulty whatever in getting employment. It is when the *rabi* sowings are completed or the sowing season has ended that it is anticipated the labouring population will begin to feel the pinch.

9. It is generally admitted that if rain (say two inches) were to fall before the end of November, some say even as late as 15th December (the end of *Aghan*), there would, barring accidents, be a full *rabi*, and most of our difficulties would disappear.

10. The local officers have submitted estimates of the numbers, reduced to units of one day, that they anticipate will require relief in the event (a) of no rain falling before the sowing time ends, (b) in the event of sufficient rain falling before the sowing time ends. The numbers thus estimated are as follows:—

	If no Rain falls.	If Rain falls.
Fyzabad	10,000,000	3,000,000
Sultánpur	9,000,000	3,000,000
Bari Banki	6,500,000	2,000,000
Partágarh	10,000,000	3,000,000
Gonda	8,000,000	2,500,000
Bahraich	—	—
Total	43,500,000	13,500,000

11. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the estimates in both cases are excessive if regard be paid not merely or exclusively to the statistical *data*, but also to the broad facts of the situation. These broad facts are that in the division as a whole there has been a seven or eight *anna kharif* crop, that is nearly half the normal, and that there is hope in the worst event of one-third of the normal *rabi* being sown and yielding a fair crop. If we have the usual winter rain this one-third will be considerably improved. If these hopes are not disappointed, and if the division, tempted by high prices, does not starve itself by exportation, then there will not be universal famine, though in particular tracts there may be great distress, and generally much pressure when there is no labour in the fields. In the case of winter rains falling, the Lieutenant-

Governor would not expect to have on his hands for the whole division more than 10 millions of units for one day. In the worst case he does not expect that there would be more than three times that number.

12. The following statement shows the suspensions of revenue allowed by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner :—

District.	Kharif revenue.	Suspensions suggested by Deputy Commissioner.	Suspensions approved by the Lieutenant-Governor
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fyzabad	5,73,346	1,90,000	1,50,000
Sultánpur	6,00,000	1,50,000	1,50,000
Bara Banki	7,86,635	2,00,000	2,00,000
Partábgarh	6,16,000	2,00,000	2,50,000
Gonda	7,69,577	3,00,000	2,00,000
Total	33,45,558	10,40,000	9,50,000

In Bahraich no suspensions are considered necessary.

13. At an interview with the talúqdárs of the division, the Lieutenant-Governor explained the system of relief which it was intended to follow, should the necessity for relief in any considerable scale arise, and especially dwelt on his wish to associate the talúqdárs with Government in the prosecution of the scheme of village works, and as the administrators of village gratuitous relief. His Honour's proposals were well received. Minutes of the proceedings of the Conference are appended to this memorandum. The Lieutenant-Governor is in hopes that the talúqdárs of the division may to a considerable extent take advances on the conditions stated, whereby the expenditure to Government will be lessened, relief will be administered to people near their homes, and the sanitation of villages will be promoted.

14. A sufficient credit was given to the Commissioner for village relief works, and for relief under Chapters VIII., IX., and X., Famine Code. But apart from some small outgoings on poorhouses no immediate expenditure of Government money is anticipated. But his Honour thought it right to place the Commissioner in funds to meet any sudden emergency.

MEMORANDUM of CONFERENCE held at the MAYO HALL, ALLAHABAD, on November 13th, between the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR and REPRESENTATIVE LANDLORDS of the ALLAHABAD DIVISION.

ALLAHABAD DISTRICT.

The first speaker, who said that he spoke for the parts of the district bordering on Fatehpur, declared that the *kharif* outturn had not been more than four annas. In the case of the coarser grains the yield had been five annas; but many of the crops, especially the *juár*, had been a complete failure. With regard to the *rabi*, he thought that if rain fell within 20 days, the whole area would be sown. If no rain fell before the end of December there would be a crop only on the irrigated lands. Up to the present only three annas of the whole *rabi* area had been sown. Distress, he thought, had already begun.

The Rája of Bara said that the whole average yield of the *kharif* had been only two annas. The rice had been a complete failure. None of the crops came properly into ear.

Distress, he thought, was already beginning to prevail. Relief works were already in progress and *takávi* was being distributed. The ground in the Rája's neighbourhood was, however, so stony that the making of wells was a matter of great difficulty. Distress, the Rája thought, would last eight months and 20,000 or 25,000 men would be in want of food in his tahsil alone. The distress, he believed, was very much worse this year than last, and worse also than it was in 1877.

FATEHPUR DISTRICT.

The Rája of Asota said that the harvests had been poor for three years. The *kharif* yield had not been more than two annas. As to the *rabi*, if rain fell in ten days, half

the crop might be secured. Wells were difficult to make, as water was everywhere 40 feet at least below the surface. Distress was already acute, and a great many people had already left their homes. The Rájá explained the fact that the works opened by the Canal Department in his district had not yet attracted labourers by the assertion that the works were being managed by grasping contractors.

CAWNPORE DISTRICT.

The representative landlord said that most of his villages were protected by canal irrigation, and there would be little distress. If rain fell within three weeks, there would be a ten-anna *rabi*; but distress would not be altogether mitigated. Two-thirds of the normal *rabi* area had already been sown. People would not go on the relief works because they only got one anna a day, and that was not sufficient to support a man in full strength. A labourer, he estimated, required 20 *chhatáks* of food a day; 16 *chhatáks* a day he thought a sufficient allowance as an average for men, women, and children.

BÁNDA DISTRICT.

The first speaker said that the conditions this year were much worse than last, and distress was now as acute as it was in April last. He could not afford to take *takávi* for the digging of tanks, because he had received no rents for two years, and tanks would be of use to his tenants only and not to himself.

The *takávi* given last year could not be recovered from the people.

The second speaker said that if there was rain in fifteen days, the whole *rabi* area would be sown; if there was no rain in that period, distress would be two or three times as acute as last year.

There had been bad harvests for six years. It was impossible to make unbricked wells in Bándá owing to the great depth below the surface of the water level.

The zamindárs of Bándá would be willing to distribute Government money to respectable people on the patwáris' lists, which were already being drawn up, but they could not afford to take *takávi*.

His Honour then asked the zamindárs generally whether they would take *takávi* for the construction of wells, &c., on condition that it should be given without interest and that not less than half should be recovered within two years, it being left to the Collector to decide within that limit what amount should be recovered and what amount altogether remitted.

The representative landlords of the Allahabad and Fatehpur districts declared themselves willing to take advances on these terms; but landlords from other districts did not appear to be disposed to accept these conditions.

His Honour, in conclusion, said that some portion of the *kharif* instalment would be suspended, and that the collection of the amounts suspended last year would also be postponed.

The question of remission could not at present be considered.

MEMORANDUM of a CONFERENCE held at BENARES, on November 7th, between the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR and the PRINCIPAL LANDLORDS of the BENARES DIVISION.

BENARES DISTRICT.

Munshi Madho Lal said that the yield of the *kharif* harvest, excluding rice, had been from two to four annas of the normal *rabi* area. Three-quarters had already been sown, and the yield would in any case be good in the low-lying lands. If rain fell within one month the whole *rabi* harvest would be saved, and the distress would be greatly alleviated, although it would not altogether disappear. In any case there would be need of Government help. The water level was so far below the surface that large areas would be irrigated only by the use of regular pumping engines. He hoped, however, that as matters stood, half the *rabi* area would be irrigated from wells.

GHÁZIPUR DISTRICT.

Bábu Gopi Narayan Singh said that the yield of the *kharif* harvest had been, at the most, six annas. Of the normal *rabi* area, half had already been sown and one-eighth

more would certainly be sown. If no rain fell, the *rabi* yield would not, however, be over three annas. *Arhar*, sugarcane, and poppy were all doing well.

The great difficulty at present was the dearness of the seed, which put it beyond the reach of those cultivators who had not sufficient in store. The Bábu said that he was not willing to take *taqávi* for the construction of wells and tanks without interest, as it would benefit his tenants and not himself.

BALLIA DISTRICT.

Padam Deo Narayan Singh said that the average yield of all *kharif* crops had not exceeded four annas. The zamindárs of the district were small and unsubstantial, but they would be glad to take advances on the terms suggested by his Honour if they were allowed to make their tenants jointly responsible for repayment.

JAUNPUR DISTRICT.

Muhammad Nur said that the tahsils where conditions were worst were those of Kutahan and Machhlishahr. In Machhlishahr the early rice, a crop covering 56,000 acres, had yielded only four annas, and in Kutahan the yield had been less.

The average yield of early rice for the whole district had been only four annas. Maize had yielded four annas, *arhar* would be a good crop, and sugarcane an eight-anna crop. The whole *kharif* yield had been about six annas. As to the *rabi*, the seed already sown was germinating well; but more seed was badly needed, and the zamindárs were helping their tenants in this matter. The whole normal *rabi* area would probably be sown; but the conditions of the *rabi* harvest would not disclose themselves fully till the end of November, when it would be possible to say whether relief works would be wanted or not.

MIRZAPUR DISTRICT.

Munshi Mazhar Ali Khan said that the district was divided into two very different tracts:—

- (a.) *The Hilly Tracts*.—In these irrigation from wells was impossible. The *kharif* had been very bad, and the *rabi*, whether rain should now fall or not, would be a complete failure.
- (b.) *The Low-lying Lands*.—In these the *kharif* yield had been about six annas, except in the strip lying along the Ganges, where it had been 12 annas. The *rabi* depended largely upon the annual overflow of the Ganges, and this had not taken place this year and the ground was very hard.

One-quarter of the normal *rabi* area which would be irrigated from wells would, however, be probably sown.

MINUTE of a CONFERENCE held at AGRA on November 15th between the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR and the principal LANDLORDS of the AGRA DIVISION.

AGRA DISTRICT.

Pandit Jagannath said that up to the present there was a certain amount of distress, but no famine. Real pinching would begin about the middle of December. If rain should fall before the end of December distress would be much mitigated, but would not altogether disappear. The Pandit said that he had himself offered to advance money to his tenants, but a large number of them had refused to take advances, because they thought there was still a chance of getting along without them. If no rain at all should fall, only irrigated land would, the Pandit thought, be sown. The *kharif* outturn had been from six to three annas.

Questioned by his Honour as to the arrangements made for relief in the city of Agra, the Pandit said that several sub-committees had been established for different quarters of the town under one central committee. A number of poorhouses had been opened, and the sub-committees were conducting inquiries into the circumstances of respectable distressed people unable to do rough work. The number of people of this kind standing in need of daily relief would, the Pandit thought, be 4,000 or 5,000. As yet no one in the city had been actually brought to the verge of starvation. He feared that

voluntary subscriptions would not produce more than Rs. 2,000 per mensem, while Rs. 5,000 per mensem would be required for the support of distressed people of this class.

His Honour said that the Commissioner would have authority to give Rs. 2,500 a month for the purpose, and that he hoped voluntary subscriptions would amount to an equal sum. If the Commissioner should wish to give more than Rs. 2,500, he would have authority to do so. This sum was for expenditure on the relief of distressed respectable persons only, and not on poorhouses or any other form of relief.

MUTTRA DISTRICT.

Seth Lachman Das said that the *kharif* outturn had been eight annas, and the *rabi* would give only four annas at the most. Less than 50 per cent. of the district was protected by irrigation. If rain fell within a month distress would be somewhat mitigated, but would not disappear. Conditions were, the Seth thought, worse than in 1877; because in 1877 there was a failure of *kharif* only, while this year there was a prospect of both the *rabi* and *kharif* failing.

Another landlord, who spoke for the Sadabad tahsíl, said that the *kharif* had not yielded more than six annas; the *rabi* would give a yield of four annas only. Sadabad tahsíl was not touched by any canals; but a large number of *kachchá* wells had been made at considerable expense, as water was 30 to 40 feet below the surface. There was as yet no sign of distress; but this might be expected about the end of November, when there would be great need of relief.

A third landlord who spoke for the Chhata tahsíl, said that the *kharif* had been on the whole good. The *rabi*, where irrigated, would be better than last year, and the irrigated area had increased by more than one-third since last year. Altogether there would be little distress in the Chhata tahsíl.

A fourth landlord from Muttra said that collections of rent were just beginning, but the cultivators were withholding their rents and were not sending their grain to market, as they were waiting to see what Government would do for them. There were large importations taking place of *juár* from Bombay and maize from Guzerat, and there was at least three months' stock in the district.

With regard to the measures of relief to be adopted in the city of Muttra, Seth Lachman Das said that he was willing to make great personal efforts, but that he did not think the city could dispense altogether with relief from Government.

His Honour remarked that he should have expected so rich a community as that of Muttra to be able to provide ample money for the relief of distress within the city.

The Rája of Awa then stated that he was willing himself to subscribe Rs. 10,000. His Honour thanked him.

ETAH DISTRICT.

The Rája of Awa said that the yield of the *kharif* had been 10 annas on irrigated and five annas on unirrigated lands.

The yield of the *rabi* would be 12 annas on irrigated and five annas on unirrigated lands. The whole district, and especially the tahsíl of Aliganj, had had bad harvests for 10 years. The soil was light, and irrigation was little resorted to. There had been for some years a continual reduction of population in every pargana.

MAINPURI DISTRICT.

The principal landlord stated that the *kharif* yield had been eight annas, and the estimate for the *rabi* was eight annas.

ETÁWAH DISTRICT.

The Rája of Mahbatta said that the *rabi* would be good in irrigated tracts, but not more than a two-anna crop in the unirrigated. He complained that the canal officials had refused to give water to various villages situated quite close to canals.

The Collector explained that canal irrigation was not allowed in the neighbourhood of the city of Etáwah, because it was thought to be unhealthy. The Rája went on to

say that in the Chambal-Jumna doab things would be very bad, as the water level was too low to admit of wells being dug. Acute distress must be expected in that tract if there should be no rain.

In conclusion, his Honour said that the Commissioner would have power, in cases where the landlord was unable to pay his revenue, to suspend a certain amount of the *kharif* instalment.

As far as his Honour had heard, the state of things in the Agra Division was not so bad as that in the Lucknow or Allahabad Division, but he admitted that if no rain fell there would be distress. His Honour then asked whether the landlords would be willing to take advances from Government for the purpose of undertaking useful works in their villages without interest, to be repaid in part in two years, and received a reply in the affirmative.

No. 161S./I.-64, dated Allahabad, November 17, 1896.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND
 OUDH, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE
 AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the monthly Famine Statements A. and B. for these provinces, which give an account of the operations up to the end of October 1896. The only change which has taken place since the submission of the last report is the addition of the district of Rae Bareli to the affected area. For this district the prescribed map* is submitted.

2. I am to add that a full report on the present and prospective condition of affairs in these provinces is under preparation and will shortly be submitted to the Government of India. A new and greatly enlarged programme of relief works has been prepared and will be embodied in the next month's return; and the Lieutenant-Governor proposes that the return should henceforward show figures as beginning from the first current, in order that the financial and material effects of the present scarcity may be distinguished from those of last year's scarcity. The figures for recoverable advances, however, will be shown from the 1st October last, as these advances had sole reference to the scarcity now prevailing.

I have, &c.

H. F. EVANS,
 Chief Secretary to Government,
 North-West Provinces and Oudh.

* Not reproduced.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Five Weeks ending Saturday Evening, the 31st October 1896.

District.	Area.	Popula- tion in Thou- sands	Affected Area.	Esti- mated Popula- tion in Thou- sands of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on the last Day of the Period under Report.					Numbers on gratui- tous Relief	Price of One or more Principal Food Grains in Sers per Rupee.							Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Juar.	Arhar.	Chapri (a small Species of Pulse resembling Gram).	Maize.	For the Period under Report.	For the corre- sponding Period of the Previous Year.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	14A.	14B.	14C.	14D.	15.	13A.	16.
Banda	Sq. Mls. 3,061	705	Sq. Mls. 3,061	(a)705	1,714	5,731	1,631	3,725	12,803	6,509	—	10 to 9	—	—	12 to 10	—	—	Not available (see separate mortality statement for Sep- tember).		Nil
Hamirpur	2,289	513	2,289	513	—	1,953	—	901	2,854	5,741	7½	9½	—	—	7½ dal	—	—	8.02	3.10	4.
Jhānsi	3,587	683	3,587	683	—	—	—	—	—	2,433	7¼	9½	—	10½	—	—	—	Not available (see separate mortality statement for Sep- tember).		Nil.
Jalaun	1,477	396	1,477	396	1,867	1,223	575	263	3,928	3,790	7	9¾	8½	—	—	—	—	3.24	4.08	Nil.
Hardoi	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	2,317	282	168	422	3,189	2,740	8	9	9	—	—	—	—	Not available (see separate mortality statement for Sep- tember).		3
Rae Bareli	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	—	4,346	—	3,132	7,478	516	—	—	—	—	—	11½	11	2.01	1.96	N
Total	14,491	4,447	14,491	4,447	5,898	13,537	2,374	8,443	30,252	21,729	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

REMARKS to accompany FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Five Weeks ending 31st October 1896.

PRIVATE RELIEF, VILLAGE and POORHOUSE RELIEF.

Banda.—There is little private relief afforded in the district. There were seven poorhouses open during the period of report. The total number of inmates was 1,847 against 1,368 in the previous month. The numbers of men and women have increased slightly, while the number of children has decreased. The increase in the number of men and women is due to the prevailing distress, while the falling off in the number of children is due to the fact that some 50 unclaimed and friendless children were made over to orphanages and respectable persons on the understanding that they would be given up to friends or legal guardians claiming them. Nine thousand nine hundred and sixty-four persons were gratuitously relieved under Chapters V. and X. of the Famine Code at a cost of Rs. 2,981, and 1,012 persons were relieved under Chapter XIII. of the Code at a cost of Rs. 64. Blankets and clothing have been and are being provided for the inmates of poorhouses to guard against the effects of the cold season.

Hamirpur.—Ordinary charity is very much contracted; a few well-to-do persons distribute doles to numbers of beggars. There were four poorhouses open on the last day of the period under report, which, with the famine hospitals attached to them and a famine hospital at the *sadar* provided relief for 3,118 persons. One thousand six hundred and thirty-three persons were in receipt of gratuitous outdoor relief in villages, exclusive of 87* *parda nashin* women gratuitously relieved at their own homes. An additional poorhouse is being built and will shortly be opened at the *sadar*.† One hundred and eighty-four persons, chiefly *parda nashin* women, were relieved by employment in spinning and weaving.

Jhansi.—There is no private or village relief. People were gratuitously relieved in poorhouses. The poorhouse population increased considerably during the period of report, and an additional poorhouse was opened at the *sadar*.

Jalaun.—There were four poorhouses open during the period under report against one during the previous four weeks.

Hardoi.—There was no organised private relief in the district, but subscriptions have been obtained for providing clothing to inmates of the poorhouses.

Rae Bareilly.—Two poorhouses were opened during the period under report.

GENERAL CHARACTER OF RELIEF WORKS.

Banda.—The large works under the Public Works Department Agency consisted of special repairs to the existing roads.

Hamirpur.—The large relief works consisted of raising of roads.

Jalaun.—The works consisted of special repairs to an unmetalled road.

Hardoi.—The works consisted of raising of roads.

PHYSICAL CONDITION of the PEOPLE.

Banda.—There was no prevalence of disease. The health of the inmates of the poorhouses was fair. There were 81 deaths in all the poorhouses against 35 during the preceding four weeks. All these deaths were due to illness excepting three cases, which the Civil Surgeon reported as indirectly due to want of food.

Hamirpur.—Fever was still prevalent, and the death-rate consequently increased. Mortality was greatest in the south and west of the district, though distress is most acute in the east. The condition of the people is generally fair.

Jhansi.—The physical condition of the people was fair.

Jalaun.—The physical condition of the people was good in all places where jungle fruit and grasses were available. In other places numbers of emaciated people are met with.

Hardoi.—Generally fair; but the poorer classes are feeling the severity of the distress, and many are weakened from want of food.

* Sitting behind the curtain, i.e., secluded in the women's quarters.

† Headquarters of the district.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.

It is reported that four deaths from starvation occurred during the month in the Hamirpur, and three in the Hardoi district. Poorhouses were open. It is a heavy task to search out all such cases in the villages, and force people to help themselves, but the work is in hand.

FOOD STOCKS AND IMPORTATION OF GRAIN.

Banda.—The markets were amply stocked and importation of grain from out stations continued on a large scale. There is no fear of food stocks running short at present. Prices ruled high and show a tendency to rise still higher.

Hamirpur.—Food stocks were very low. Importations were slow but still sufficient. Nor failure of supplies is anticipated. Prices rose during the period under report and are still rising.

Jhansi.—Food stocks were sufficient, and importation of grain brisk.

Jalaun.—There was sufficient grain in the district. Importations continue largely of *makka* from Cawnpore, a food grain new to the people of the district.

Hardoi.—Food grains were imported from Bahramghat, Sitapur, and other districts.

Rae Bareilly.—Importation of maize and *chapri* was and is still brisk.

GENERAL CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF AFFECTED AREA.

Banda.—The prospects of the district are unfavourable, almost the whole area being affected. The *kharif* crop has been very seriously damaged, and the *rabi* ploughings and sowings are nearly stopped for want of rain. The field work is at a standstill and credit contracted to *nil*.

Hamirpur.—There was no rain during the period of report and the outturn of the harvest will not be more than about $\frac{1}{3}$. The *rabi* area will be much restricted. The greater part of the district is not suitable for irrigation.

Jhansi.—The general condition and prospects have changed for the worse.

Jalaun.—With the extra *kharif* area brought under the plough (*i.e.*, an increase of 50 per cent. of last year's area) it is expected that the outturn will amount to somewhat more than a six-anna crop of the normal *kharif* area. The prospects for the *rabi* are extremely gloomy. It is anticipated that produce will be limited to the irrigated and alluvial areas.

Hardoi.—The general condition is unsatisfactory. Prospects are unfavourable. If rain does not fall during the present month, the position will be extremely serious.

Rae Bareilly.—The general condition and prospects are unsatisfactory.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

In all districts the wages paid on relief works and in gratuitous relief have been fixed in accordance with the rules of the Famine Code, having regard to the prices current of staple food grains.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MONTHLY FAMILY STATEMENT B. for the Five Weeks ending Saturday Evening, the 31st OCTOBER 1896.

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Number of Persons for whom Relief was provided in the last Programms of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be provided on Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st April 1896.			Advances since 1st April 1896 up to end of Month under—		Revenue suspended.
		Date of Publication of Programme.	On large Works.	On others.	On large Works.	On others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works	On gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Rupees in thousands.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	*9.	*10.	*11.	*12.	13.
Bānda	130,000	29th October 1896	142,000	8,000	84,000	8,000	31st October	Rs. 3,59,290	Rs. 51,033	Rs. 29,000	Rs. 96,000	72.86
Hamīrpur	50,000		72,000	6,000	59,000	6,000	Do.	1,61,783	49,761	8,000	78,000	1.72
Jhānsi	30,000		98,000	4,000	95,000	5,000	Do.	1,37,201	18,307	10,870	28,239	98
Jalaun	60,000		96,000	5,000	86,000	5,000	Do.	1,40,098	14,471	27,000	1,27,000	2.98
Hardoi	50,000		4,000	11,000	4,000	7,000	Do.	41,473	11,367	64,168	57,847	11.24
Rae Bareli	150,000	147,000	4,000	160,000	40,000	Do.	13,500	§—	73,000	69,000	—	
Total	470,000	—	559,000	88,000	488,000	71,000	—	8,53,445	1,44,939	2,12,038	4,56,086	9.78

* The expenditure in the previous financial year was as under :—

	Bānda.	Hamīrpur.	Jhānsi.	Jalaun.	Hardoi	Rae Bareli.	Total.
(a) On relief works	Rs. 54,139	Rs. 52,238	Rs. 35,762	Rs. 17,646	Rs. 1,253	Rs. —	Rs. 1,61,038
(b) On gratuitous relief	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act	4,956	2,174	1,505	10,750	400	1,220	21,005
(d) Advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act	31,652	6,799	27,953	13,000	30,242	16,332	1,26,578

† Includes remissions.

‡ Proposed, but not yet sanctioned.

§ Rupees 661 were expended from private funds.

SEPARATE MORTALITY STATEMENT

District.	Monthly Death Rate	
	For September 1896.	For the corresponding Period of the previous Year.
Bánda	3.84	2.13
Jhánsi	7.10	3.27
Hardoi	4.99	2.84

MADRAS.

No. 629, dated Fort St. George, the 16th November 1896.

From G. STOKES, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

I AM directed to forward copy of the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 299, dated 29th October 1896, furnishing information on the prospects of the season in this presidency.

2. It will be seen therefrom that owing to short rainfall cultivation has been restricted, especially in the four Deccan districts, the deficiency in the cultivation up to September last, as compared with the average for the corresponding period of previous years, being 233,497 acres under dry and 21,866 acres under wet. The ryots have been unable to make the late sowings, which usually take place about September on the better soils of these districts. The harvest of the early sown cereals is now going on, but the outturn is expected to be poor. The portions of these districts which have been most affected are indicated in paragraph 7 of the Board's proceedings and the statements printed therein. Owing to the large rise in the prices of food grains in the latter half of September and in the beginning of October, caused partly by exports to Northern India, relief will have to be afforded to the labouring classes in the affected areas. Orders have been issued for the opening of a few test relief works

3. In the two northern districts also—Ganjam and Vizagapatam—the deficiency in the rainfall has caused the exhaustion of the supplies in rain-fed tanks and the drying up of crops dependent on falling rain. The loss is likely to be serious in the littoral portions of the two districts, especially in the southern portions of Ganjam. But as grain stocks are believed to be considerable, there is reason to hope that distress will affect only the unattached labourers.

4. In the other portions of the presidency, though the extent cultivated shows a fall and the prices have risen sharply in the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, and South Arcot, there is no cause for anxiety except as regards weavers and artisans.

5. I am to state that it is yet too early to make a very detailed or accurate forecast, but that a further report will be submitted when fuller information becomes available.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Madras.—No. 299, dated 29th October 1896.

READ the following paper:—

OFFICE MEMORANDUM FROM LIONEL DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Under Secretary to Government of Madras, to the BOARD OF REVENUE (Revenue Settlement, Land Records, and Agriculture).—No. 157, dated Fort St. George, 26th October 1896.

Copy of a demi-official from the Government of India, dated the 20th instant, calling for a report on the prospects of distress as they stand at present, is forwarded to the Board of Revenue.

2. It is requested that the report may be furnished to this office at an early date for transmission to the Government of India.

RESOLUTION.—In the demi-official note, communicated with the official memorandum read above, the Government of India desires to be informed whether anything like severe distress is anticipated in this Presidency, and, if so, in what parts thereof, premising that it is yet too soon to make a detailed forecast.

2. To fully understand the situation, it is necessary to briefly review the conditions of the present season, but it may be premised that, as regards the districts on the West Coast and the Nilgiris, there seldom is, and this year there never has been, any ground for apprehension, and these districts will not be further alluded to. Over the remainder of the Presidency, although the average figures show that a certain amount of rain may fall during April and May, it is only in a few districts that this rainfall is not altogether precarious, and if any falls, it is not of much agricultural value. The exceptions are the two northern districts, those grouped as the Central districts, and Madura and Tinnevely.

April and May Rainfall.	Average.	1896.	April and May Rainfall.	Average.	1896.
Circars—	Inches.	Inches.	Southern—	Inches.	Inches.
Ganjam - - -	3·4	2·8	Madura - - -	4·1	2·6
Vizagapatam - - -	3·5	2·7	Tinnevely - - -	3·4	2·3
Central—			Deccan—		
North Arcot - - -	3·3	2·2	Kurnool - - -	1·8	1·5
Salem - - -	5·2	2·9	Bellary - - -	2·5	2·2
Coimbatore - - -	5·2	2·8	Anantapur - - -	2·7	2·8
Trichinopoly - - -	4·4	2·8	Cuddapah - - -	2·2	1·9

During the current year this rainfall in the districts mentioned was in some defect, but not seriously so on the whole. On the other hand, in the Deccan districts, where the rainfall of these months is more precarious and of less importance, this year the fall during April and May was up to the average, and encouraged early sowings on the lighter unirrigated land.

3. The south-west monsoon rains set in fairly well, and from June to August were on the whole, fairly well up to the average, save in the Carnatic districts and North Arcot, Salem, and Trichinopoly. Notwithstanding the fair amount of rain that had fallen, so long ago as the end of July last, the attention of the Commissioner, who was then on tour in the Anantapur district, was drawn to the unsatisfactory state of the crops there, and the collector was called upon for information.

June to August Rainfall.	Average.	1896.	June to August Rainfall.	Average.	1896.
Carnatic—	Inches.	Inches.	Central—	Inches.	Inches.
Nellore - - -	7·3	9·0	North Arcot - - -	11·4	7·8
Chingleput - - -	11·6	8·7	Salem - - -	9·3	6·1
South Arcot - - -	10·7	4·9	Trichinopoly - - -	7·6	3·5

As soon as the cultivation returns for August—containing figures showing the area, sown up to about the 20th of that month—were available, it was found that in Kurnool and Caddapah there had been a considerable falling off in the sowings on “dry” land as well as in most of the Carnatic and Central districts; the falling off in South Arcot being very serious. The decrease in the area of “wet” land sown in the Carnatic was also very marked.

4. At the time when the above information became available the south-west monsoon season had nearly closed, and the rainfall of September had proved scanty in the Circars and the Deccan districts, and had been light in the Carnatic.

Rainfall of September.	Average.	1896.	Rainfall of September.	Average.	1896.
Circars—	Inches.	Inches.	Deccan—	Inches.	Inches.
Ganjam - - -	8·0	4·4	Kurnool - - -	5·8	1·7
Vizagapatam - - -	7·7	4·7	Bellary - - -	4·7	0·9
Godavari - - -	7·2	3·1	Anantapur - - -	4·5	1·9
Kistna - - -	5·9	4·3	Cuddapah - - -	5·0	2·4

On the other hand, the rainfall of the month in the Central districts was good, but most of it came towards the end of the month, too late to have much effect on the cultivation returns for the month. In the Southern districts also the rainfall in September was seasonable, and as this has been followed by copious rain during the current month (October), it is unnecessary to refer to them further. The same remark applies to the Coimbatore district.

5. The effect of the failure of the rains during September is not clearly shown in the cultivation returns for that month, which are the latest available. The village accounts are closed between the 20th and 25th of the month. The figures for the districts not excluded above are given below:—

Districts.	In September 1896.		Up to September.				† Average Cultivation for the whole Year.	
	First Crop.		In 1896.		* Average for the corresponding Period.		First Crop.	
	Dry.	Wet.	First Crop.		First Crop.		Dry.	Wet.
			Dry.	Wet.	Dry.	Wet.		
CIRCARS.								
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ganjam - - -	49,733	45,038	176,209	155,384	156,555	152,960	226,416	193,513
Vizagapatam - -	26,891	35,379	108,251	59,832	77,858	68,810	89,278	72,826
Godavari - - -	50,109	51,366	275,413	482,845	282,450	501,749	387,764	539,063
Kistna - - - -	358,485	76,315	1,036,679	266,151	948,124	307,048	1,622,935	352,831
Total - - - -	485,218	208,098	1,595,552	967,212	1,464,987	1,030,563	2,326,393	1,156,233
DECCAN.								
Kurnool - - - -	322,792	9,037	976,452	29,101	1,100,532	29,357	1,759,738	42,736
Bellary - - - -	348,741	5,162	1,152,612	34,155	1,228,251	33,744	1,909,979	42,234
Anantapur - - -	174,186	8,471	909,800	53,589	856,571	59,475	1,196,004	84,944
Cuddapah - - - -	394,368	22,164	791,745	76,346	878,752	92,471	1,349,479	153,946
Total - - - -	1,240,087	44,834	3,830,609	193,191	4,064,106	215,057	6,225,200	323,860
CARNATIC.								
Nellore - - - -	82,678	66,198	329,484	110,478	308,865	117,153	811,769	214,216
Chingleput - - -	55,598	137,240	121,009	193,343	133,424	189,067	215,557	333,986
South Arcot - - -	200,462	41,700	426,353	110,686	597,138	158,917	972,254	325,949
Total - - - -	338,738	245,138	876,846	414,457	1,039,427	465,137	1,999,580	874,151
CENTRAL.								
North Arcot - - -	111,779	41,972	349,038	127,096	369,546	137,826	540,306	260,755
Salem - - - - -	923,238	12,539	790,828	61,571	829,438	65,730	1,118,246	92,550
Trichinopoly - - -	161,196	29,608	306,077	78,821	331,982	83,082	747,468	135,304
Total - - - -	566,213	84,119	1,446,003	267,488	1,530,966	286,638	2,406,020	488,609

* Of the five previous years, including last year.

† Of the five years ending 1894-95.

It will be seen that, in the Circars, the favourable character of the opening months of the season encouraged early sowings on "dry" land, but that those on "wet" land were materially behindhand. This latter fact may in part be due to the great floods that occurred in the Kistna and the Godavari in August last. In Ganjam and Vizagapatam, however, it must be remembered that the figures relate to only a small proportion of the total area of the districts; much of both being zemindari, for which no statistics are available.

In the Deccan districts, the sowings on "dry" land were about 223,500 acres below the average figure, and those on "wet" land about 22,000 acres deficient. The former is the more serious item, as it indicates the fact that the ryots have found it impossible to make the late sowings, which usually take place about September on the better—the black cotton—soils of these districts. There has been no rainfall later to enable them to effect these sowings.

In the Carnatic, again, the sowings, both on "dry" land and on "wet," up to September, were behindhand by about 162,600 acres and 50,700 acres, respectively.

although, in Nellore, where, on the whole, the September rainfall was good, the sowings on "dry" land were forward. This district is always late in reporting sowings. In the other two districts, and especially in South Arcot, the sowings on "dry" land were very backward. On the "wet" land more than half the usual sowings or planting still remained to be made, and, since these accounts were made up, supplies of irrigation water from the Penner to the Vellar have been bad throughout the Carnatic, and have totally failed in the northern river.

In the three central districts specified, the "dry" sowings were 84,000 acres, and the "wet" 19,000 acres deficient up to September, but in these districts there was good rain towards the end of September or early in October, and the small deficiency in sowings may be expected to have been made up by this time, unless it be in those portions of North Arcot bordering on Chingleput and South Arcot.

6. It will thus be seen that, at the end of September, those portions of the Presidency giving chief cause for anxiety were the Circars, and the Deccan and Carnatic districts. The rainfall reported in these districts during each of the eight weeks ending on 24th current, was as follows:—

Districts.	Rainfall reported during the Week ending								Total
	September.				October				
	5th.	12th.	19th.	26th.	3rd.	10th.	17th.	24th.	
CIRCARS.									
	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
Ganjam - - - - -	1.7	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.8	—	—	—	5.2
Vizagapatam - - - - -	0.7	2.1	0.6	1.3	1.1	—	—	—	5.8
Godavari - - - - -	0.6	1.0	0.2	1.3	1.0	0.1	—	—	4.2
Kistna - - - - -	0.7	2.3	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.1	—	—	5.7
DECCAN.									
Kurnool - - - - -	0.1	0.9	0.1	0.7	1.1	1.1	—	0.1	3.1
Bellary - - - - -	—	0.3	—	0.6	0.5	0.4	—	0.1	1.9
Anantapur - - - - -	—	0.3	—	1.6	0.6	0.2	—	—	2.7
Cuddapah - - - - -	0.3	1.0	—	1.1	0.6	0.1	—	0.2	3.3
CARNATIC.									
Nellore - - - - -	—	1.3	0.1	1.8	2.9	—	0.2	0.4	6.7
Chingleput - - - - -	0.2	1.1	0.6	1.1	2.3	—	—	0.5	5.8
South Arcot - - - - -	0.9	1.3	0.6	2.5	2.5	0.5	0.2	1.0	9.5
CENTRAL.									
North Arcot - - - - -	2.1	1.8	0.8	1.6	1.5	0.2	—	0.4	8.4

In the Circars the normal rainfall during September and October averages from 12.5 to 16 inches; in the Deccan districts about 10, and in the Carnatic and North Arcot about 13 inches. The deficiency, therefore, is very serious, and especially so in the two groups of districts first mentioned. In the Carnatic and the adjoining country inland, the chances of later rain under the north-east monsoon are much greater than in the more northerly districts, and, until the character of that monsoon has further developed, it is impossible to make any forecast for those districts. If these rains fail, or are largely deficient, there must be most extensive losses of "wet" crops and very large remissions. Whether any distress will arise will depend chiefly on the course of prices.

7. Turning next to the Deccan districts, which are notorious for the precarious character of their rainfall, the information at present before the Board shows that, in the most part of the area lying to the west of the ghâts, it has been impossible to sow the late crop which is usually put in during September and October, and that the cotton crop of these districts can only be saved in the unlikely event of very early rain. The harvest of the early sown cereals, is now going on, and the crops are expected to yield very poorly. Detailed information is not yet available, but in parts of this tract considerable areas of these early crops have withered entirely. The damage and loss has been least in the southern portion of Cuddapah and Anantapur, and the western taluks of Bellary, and the north-central part of Kurnool, lying east and west of the town of that name. The greater part of these last-mentioned are

are occupied by land that is usually sown with early crops. Thus the area most seriously affected by the recent deficiency of rainfall is a broad band occupying the north-western part of Cuddapah, the taluks of Kurnool immediately adjoining on the north, the northern half of Anantapur and the eastern half of Bellary with some parts of Kurnool adjoining. Particulars of the recent rainfall of this tract are noted below, together with the averages to be expected during the next two months. It will be seen that the expectation of rain in the future is very slight:—

Taluku.	September.		October.		November Average.	December Average.
	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896 up to 24th.		
CUDDAPAH.						
Rayachoti - - - - -	5.02	2.31	5.31	0.30	3.78	0.79
Pulivendla - - - - -	4.59	2.00	5.19	1.35	2.48	0.32
Proddatur - - - - -	5.66	0.82	4.75	0.21	2.27	0.41
Jammalamadugu - - - - -	4.38	1.06	4.53	0.68	1.62	0.29
KURNOOL.						
Sirvel - - - - -	6.84	1.32	5.57	0.40	1.45	0.45
Nandyal - - - - -	6.81	3.51	4.42	1.45	1.13	0.20
Koilkuntla - - - - -	4.47	3.00	4.67	0.65	1.31	0.14
ANANTAPUR.						
Tadpatri - - - - -	4.30	1.84	4.97	0.86	1.65	0.25
Goofy - - - - -	4.44	1.94	5.01	1.27	1.72	0.18
Anantapur - - - - -	4.45	0.89	4.99	0.30	1.44	0.14
Dharmavaram - - - - -	4.20	1.61	4.98	0.93	2.16	0.18
BELLARY.						
Bellary - - - - -	4.31	0.48	4.75	0.66	1.45	0.06
Hospet - - - - -	4.96	1.12	4.87	1.02	2.06	0.18
Alur - - - - -	4.09	0.42	4.98	—	1.12	0.12
Adoni - - - - -	4.91	1.57	4.34	0.23	1.05	0.17
KURNOOL.						
Pattakonda - - - - -	4.93	0.29	5.36	0.55	1.35	0.15

The consequence of the restriction of cultivation and the probable loss of, or injury to the early crop must be that employment for the labouring class—and this includes a large number of the smaller landholders—must be very limited, and these are the persons who must first feel the pinch caused by high prices; for they habitually live from hand-to-mouth and have few reserves. Had it not been that prices had recently risen so rapidly, these people would probably have been able to tide over the season unaided; but, with high prices, their resources will soon be exhausted, and it will probably be necessary to provide considerable numbers with employment in order that they may earn the means of subsistence. This matter is dealt with further below.

8. In the Circars the recent deficiency in the rainfall has caused the rapid exhaustion of the supplies in all rain-fed irrigation works, and also the rapid drying up of all the crops dependent on the falling rain. So far as the Board is aware, this has so far only been serious in the littoral portions of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, and the uplands of Godavari. It is in Ganjam, however, that matters are most serious, and especially so in the southern portion of that district. Information regarding the other districts is very limited at present. In Ganjam, however, where paddy is the principal cereal food-grain, this crop is, to a very large extent, dependent on the falling rain, and this rain-fed paddy, in the southern half of the district, is reported to be already lost. Some early ragi crop has been, however, harvested. The district has recently had a series of good years, and grain crops are believed to be considerable. Thus, should distress arise, it is likely only to affect the unattached labourers.

9. Nowhere, however, would the present season have caused very serious anxiety had it not been for the recent very rapid and large rise in prices. During the agricultural year, fasli 1305 (1895-6), ending in June last, the average of prices was

remarkably low for all the dry food-grains, having receded from the high level of recent years to about that of fasli 1283 (1873-74), while rice had also become much cheaper than during the preceding year. The dry grains were, in fact, about as cheap as they were before the great famine of 1876-78. This is shown in the following table, where the prices of fasli 1283 are taken as equal to 100, and those for subsequent years compared with that standard:—

The average prices of fasli 1283, are taken as equal to 100.

Groups.	Three years ending fasli 1285.	Five years ending		During fasli		Three years ending fasli 1285.	Five years ending		During fasli	
		Fasli 1298.	Fasli 1303.	1304.	1305.		Fasli 1298.	Fasli 1303.	1304.	1305.
RICE.										
Circars	100.5	131	145	136	127	96	117	132	124	114
Deccan	94	108	130.5	125	124	102	96	118.5	109	96
Carnatic	98	103	136	120	116.5	96	88.5	120	104	96
Central	103	104	137	128	124	102	94	127	116	102
Southern	101.5	97	123	116	104.5	99	102	139	124	107.5
West Coast	103	96.5	116	112	109	105	97	114	80	84
Nilgris	99	87.5	108	104	102	103	87.5	101	94	91
The Presidency	99	107	132	124	118	99	99	125	112	101
CHOLUM.										
Circars	87	109	128	119.5	108	98	126	133	124	114
Deccan	97	95	115	103	92	97	101.5	130	117	105
Carnatic	90.5	90.5	114	94	89	93	92.5	125	10.	91
Central	(a) 100	(a) 94	(a) 123	(a) 114	(a) 105	97	92.5	123	116	100
Southern	(b) 108	(b) 106	(b) 140	(b) 132	(b) 128	98	105	140	119	105
The Presidency	(c) 95	(c) 97	(c) 121	(c) 108	(c) 99	97	103	130	114.5	103
CUMBU.										

(a) Excluding Trichinopoly.

(b) Excluding Madura.

(c) Excluding Trichinopoly and Madura

In June last prices generally were almost at the level of the average of the year then closing. Usually, prices in June are a good deal above the average for the year. During July, August, and September prices generally rose slightly, but nowhere, even in the districts mentioned in paragraph 5, was the rise serious. During the latter half of September, however, a rise set in the Circars and Decan districts, but it was only after the commencement of the current month (October) that the rise became rapid. Particulars are given in the Appendix to this paper, but the principal features of the recent rise are noted below for the districts alluded to:—

Prices in seers (of 80 tolas) per rupee.

Districts.	Rice.			Ragi.			Cholum.			Cumbu.		
	September.		Oct. 24th.	September.		Oct. 26th.	September.		Oct. 24th.	September		Oct. 24th.
	Average	On 26th.		Average	On 26th.		Average	On 26th.		Average	On 26th.	
CIRCARS.												
Ganjam	16.1	15.6	11.8	29.7	29.1	22.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vizagapatam	12.9	12.8	10.2	28.6	28.3	20.8	—	—	—	29.3	30.4	20.6
Godavari	12.6	12.4	9.7	24.6	24.1	16.0	21.6	21.7	15.2	—	—	—
Kistna	12.8	12.2	9.7	—	—	—	20.0	20.1	16.3	20.4	21.0	16.9
DECCAN.												
Kurnool	11.9	11.8	9.0	—	—	—	26.2	24.7	15.9	—	—	—
Bellary	11.2	10.6	8.8	—	—	—	28.8	27.3	16.2	—	—	—
Anantapur	12.0	11.8	9.2	31.3	31.0	20.7	27.9	26.6	16.9	—	—	—
Cuddapah	12.4	12.5	9.4	27.4	27.0	19.4	23.7	23.5	17.4	23.9	24.1	17.2
CARNATIC.												
Nellore	13.4	13.4	11.8	28.6	28.6	23.8	26.7	26.8	20.9	22.8	22.4	20.5
Chingleput	12.9	12.8	12.1	20.5	20.5	20.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Arcot	14.2	14.0	13.6	23.8	23.9	24.8	—	—	—	24.0	23.7	24.5
CENTRAL.												
North Arcot	13.0	13.1	12.2	25.7	25.3	23.8	23.5	23.8	21.6	20.7	21.0	20.2
Salem	12.6	13.2	12.6	25.2	25.9	25.4	22.1	22.7	22.0	21.7	21.3	21.1
Trichinopoly	12.8	12.6	12.7	26.4	25.4	27.2	22.7	22.4	22.2	23.2	23.0	23.0

It will be seen that, except in Nellore, the recent rise has not extended materially to the Carnatic or Central districts, although a general hardening of rates is observable. In the Deccan and Circars, however, the jump has been enormous. In Ganjam, during the four weeks ending 24th October, both rice and ragi became upwards of 30 per cent. dearer; in Vizagapatam, the dry grains became upwards of 35 per cent. dearer; in Godavari, upwards of 40 per cent., and in Kistna, about 25 per cent. dearer than they were at the end of September. In all these districts, rice is very near the scarcity rate, but ragi is still obtainable at reasonable rates in Vizagapatam and Ganjam. In Godavari and Kistna the dry grains are, however, much dearer. Much of this advance is due to demand for export to Bombay and northwards, and naturally the sharpest rise has occurred in the two more accessible districts.

In the Deccan districts, the price of cholam, which is there the principal food-grain, has advanced nearly 60 or 70 per cent. in Kurnool, Bellary, and Anantapur during the last four weeks, and nearly 40 per cent. in Cuddapah, and in all four districts the price is now not much cheaper than the scarcity rate, whilst at some stations it has become still dearer. The other dry grains are rather cheaper, but they are not so widely used. This rapid rise has also been caused, to a great extent, by demand for export. Exports northwards are believed to have been large till quite recently, and this caused a depletion of the stocks in the hands of the dealers. These stocks, the dealers have found it impossible to replenish locally, as the ryots, alarmed at the character of the season, and the holding off of the rains, are not bringing in supplies to the markets. Had it not been for the unusual demand for export, no very remarkable rise would have occurred. The demand appears to be especially for cholam, which is, in these districts, the food-grain preferred by the people themselves. They are not rice-eaters.

10. The people throughout the areas affected are, it is believed, in good condition. The last three years have been generally favourable, and, in Ganjam, the recent opening of the East Coast Railway has brought life into the district. In part of the Koilkuntla taluk, as well as in Jammalamadugu adjoining, the poorer classes have been reported to need employment; in Pulivendla, some are reported to be stinting themselves in food; and in Bellary it has been reported that some people are beginning to wander in search of employment. In order to test the demand for employment in these areas the opening of a relief work in each of the taluks mentioned below has been recently ordered under the provisions of the Famine Code. On these works, collectors have been directed to see that the tasks are fully exacted, and to make careful provision for the supervision of the works.

District	District	District.
Kurnool— Koilkuntla.	Bellary— Bellary.	Cuddapah— Pulivendla.

It is as yet far too soon to attempt to make any forecast as to what amount of relief will have to be given; but it may be taken as certain that, unless prices become very much cheaper, a considerable amount of relief on works will have to be given between this and the next south-west monsoon season in the Deccan districts, and possibly also in Ganjam. Except in the latter district, there is now but little chance of useful rain falling this year, and nowhere are "spring sowings" likely to be made. Such sowings rarely occur in the Presidency.

At present cholera exists in almost every district in the Presidency, and, if prices keep up, it is probable that it will become epidemic.

11. In consequence of the failure of the later rainfall over the Circars and the Deccan, pasturage, save in the forests, can scarcely be said to exist at present, and the latest reports point to lowness of stocks of fodder. The latter would have been partially replenished had the early sowings not so extensively withered, owing to the drought in September, and thus the outlook for the cattle is decidedly bad. In the Deccan districts, the more valuable tilling cattle are generally stall-fed, and the ryots will probably manage to find fodder for them. Breeding stock, except in the way of a limited number of stall-fed buffalo cows, are only kept in the Deccan districts in localities where wild grazing in forests, &c. is available, and these cattle have probably already been sent into the forests. Inquiries are, however, being made to ascertain whether it is necessary or advisable to make any special concessions this year in view to facilitating the use of the forests for grazing.

12. In all the districts concerned, the district officers are fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and the Board is carefully watching its development. The revised Famine Code has been communicated to all collectors, and is believed to provide, so far as a code can, rules for guidance in any circumstances likely to arise. The Board, however, does not consider that, for another month or six weeks, it will be possible to frame any really reliable forecast as to the extent to which distress may arise during the first half of 1897.

13. The conditions prevailing at present are not exactly those contemplated by the framers of the Famine Code, nor are they strictly analogous to the experience of the present generation in famine administration. Did this Presidency stand alone, it is improbable that the general position would have assumed—or at least so early—the accentuated phase now under observation. The extension of railways and telegraphs has, in one sense, tended at first to aggravate the position; for grain merchants in places very remote from each other now exchange views and issue orders by telegraph, which tend to reproduce, at the other end of the wire, the prices prevailing in the place from which the order issues. Where, as for instance in Cuddapah, such wire-orders from the Punjab for grain happen to be executed in a tract which has had a bad season, the despatch of the grain acts as an immediate fillip to the current prices, which mount at once to a point not exactly justified by the state of stocks. In the smaller scarcity of 1891–92, the Madras Presidency stood practically alone, and the position was not complicated by distress elsewhere. Even in the great famine of 1877–78, it was only in Bombay that distress existed outside the Madras Presidency. At present, however, there is distress in parts of Bombay, the north-west of India, the Central Provinces, Bengal, and even in a small patch in Burma. The markets, which now beat with one pulse throughout India, have taken the alarm; the earlier exports emptied merchants' hands, and the ryot, alarmed, refuses to part with his grain to replenish the merchants' stocks. Hence the rise of prices in Madras has been much greater than the actual failure of one season would justify. Formerly it used to be held that scarcity rates and famine were the results of the failure of two or more bad seasons. In the present case the failure of a single season has resulted in warning or scarcity rates, and, for the poorer classes, which habitually have to buy grain, the latter mean distress and famine, unless their condition is alleviated. The chief difficulty, therefore, now felt in forecasting the coming distress, is that of differentiating the extent to which the present high prices are due to local failure of the season on the one hand, and to demand for grain from other districts, and consequent panic in the markets, on the other.

14. The coming cloud was, however, foreseen in time. The collectors of all districts seriously affected, or threatened, had timely warning to put their houses in order, and test works are following at once as soon as scarcity is diagnosed. Just at present, while the north-east monsoon is a doubtful quantity, and while reports are pouring in, not only from the immediately affected districts, but also from those threatened, the Commissioner feels that his duty requires him to remain in close touch with the Presidency as a whole. As soon as the position has crystallised, he will visit, in succession, all the affected districts.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT comparing the RAINFALL of 1896 with the average expected.

Districts.	April and May.		June and August.		September.		October.		Average expected.	
	1896.	Average.	Average.	1896.	Average.	1896.	Average.	*1896.	Nov.	Dec.
CIRCARS.										
Ganjam - -	3.44	2.76	20.02	25.54	7.97	4.41	8.04	0.43	2.82	1.12
Vizagapatam - -	3.52	2.73	16.28	15.64	7.70	5.65	8.53	0.41	3.16	1.47
Godavari - -	2.09	0.92	16.80	17.61	7.22	4.02	8.91	0.51	3.59	0.54
Kistna - - -	1.80	0.77	14.64	15.43	3.88	5.45	6.55	0.86	3.42	0.41
DECCAN.										
Kurnool - -	1.79	1.53	12.84	9.28	5.75	2.57	5.05	0.29	1.56	0.28
Bellary - - -	2.51	2.20	8.90	8.18	4.65	1.32	4.79	0.55	1.39	0.20
Anantapur - -	2.72	2.75	8.87	6.20	4.45	2.52	5.49	0.84	1.80	0.23
Cuddapah - - -	2.24	1.90	9.88	6.88	4.98	2.93	6.30	0.59	3.61	0.91
CARNATIC										
Nellore - - -	1.61	0.84	7.29	9.03	3.74	5.88	9.53	1.23	9.12	2.41
Chingleput - -	2.38	0.16	11.55	8.65	5.07	4.96	9.54	0.40	11.60	3.98
South Arcot - -	3.12	0.84	10.72	4.88	5.54	7.21	7.87	2.35	9.15	4.36
CENTRAL.										
North Arcot - -	3.31	2.21	11.41	7.76	5.71	7.53	7.16	1.65	6.54	2.26
Salem - - -	5.18	2.93	9.29	6.14	4.79	9.97	6.30	3.64	3.59	1.09
Trichinopoly - -	4.41	2.82	7.63	3.52	4.10	7.13	6.24	4.69	5.91	2.79

* Up to 24th October 1896 only.

APPENDIX II.

STATEMENT showing PRICES of FOOD-GRAINS in SEERS (of 80 tolas) per RUPEE.

Districts.	Normal Rate.	Average, fasli 1805.	During 1896.								Warning Rates.	Scarcity Rates.	Normal.	Average, fasli 1805.	During 1896.								Warning Rates.	Scarcity Rates.													
			June.	July.	August.	Sept.	October		June.	July.					August.	Sept.	October																				
							3rd.	24th.									3rd.	24th.																			
CIRCARS.																			RICE.																		
Ganjam - - -	17.0	18.3	17.8	17.3	17.0	16.1	15.2	11.3	13.6	10.2	30.0	30.0	29.1	28.6	29.1	29.7	29.1	22.3	22.5	15.0																	
Vizagapatam - - -	16.0	15.1	14.7	14.8	14.4	12.9	12.4	10.2	12.8	9.6	28.0	29.8	28.0	27.7	28.2	28.6	28.3	20.8	21.0	14.0																	
Godavari - - -	16.0	14.6	13.9	13.8	13.3	12.6	12.3	9.7	12.8	9.6	28.0	28.8	28.2	27.3	25.9	24.6	23.8	16.0	21.0	14.0																	
Kistna - - -	15.4	14.1	13.8	13.7	13.2	12.8	12.2	9.7	12.3	9.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-																	
DECCAN.																			RAGI.																		
Kurnool - - -	13.2	12.9	12.7	12.6	12.5	11.9	11.6	9.0	10.6	7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-																	
Bellary - - -	13.2	11.5	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.2	10.4	8.8	10.6	7.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-																	
Anantapur - - -	13.2	12.0	12.7	12.6	12.3	12.0	11.4	9.2	10.6	7.9	32.0	33.7	33.4	33.6	33.2	31.3	30.4	20.7	24.0	16.0																	
Cuddapah - - -	13.2	13.0	12.8	12.5	12.5	12.4	12.3	9.4	10.6	7.9	32.0	30.2	30.9	29.4	28.6	27.4	26.7	19.4	24.0	16.0																	
CARNATIC.																			RAGI.																		
Nellore - - -	14.0	14.0	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.4	13.4	11.8	11.2	8.4	28.0	28.8	29.6	29.1	28.7	28.6	28.7	23.8	21.0	14.0																	
Chingleput - - -	14.0	13.4	14.1	13.5	13.0	12.9	12.8	12.1	11.2	8.4	24.0	22.5	22.4	21.4	21.1	20.5	20.5	20.7	19.0	12.0																	
Madras - - -	12.0	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	10.6	9.8	9.6	7.2	24.0	22.1	22.6	22.9	22.9	21.2	19.4	18.0	12.0	12.0																	
South Arcot - - -	14.0	14.8	15.3	14.7	14.5	14.2	14.0	13.6	11.2	8.4	28.0	29.4	28.8	26.8	25.1	23.8	23.9	24.8	21.0	14.0																	
CENTRAL.																			RAGI.																		
North Arcot - - -	14.0	13.1	13.5	13.2	13.1	13.0	13.2	12.2	11.2	8.4	32.0	27.0	27.1	25.7	25.8	25.7	25.4	23.8	24.0	16.0																	
Salem - - -	13.6	12.5	12.9	12.8	12.5	12.6	13.2	12.6	10.9	8.2	31.0	27.1	26.8	26.2	25.6	25.2	26.5	25.4	23.0	15.5																	
Trichinopoly - - -	14.0	12.6	14.0	13.2	12.9	12.8	12.7	12.7	11.2	8.4	28.0	28.6	28.7	27.9	26.2	26.4	25.6	27.2	21.0	14.0																	
CIRCARS.																			CHOLAM.																		
Vizagapatam - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	31.2	29.1	28.6	28.4	29.3	29.5	20.6	22.5	15.0																	
Godavari - - -	28.0	25.8	24.0	23.0	22.0	21.6	21.9	15.2	21.0	14.0	28.0	30.7	28.9	28.3	28.0	27.3	-	21.0	21.0	14.0																	
Kistna - - -	26.0	23.0	22.5	21.4	19.0	20.0	20.3	16.3	19.5	13.0	26.0	23.7	23.8	22.3	20.9	20.4	20.4	16.9	19.5	13.0																	
DECCAN.																			CUMBU.																		
Kurnool - - -	30.0	28.7	28.8	26.9	27.8	26.2	25.0	15.9	22.5	15.0	28.0	28.1	23.1	22.8	23.1	22.2	-	-	21.0	14.0																	
Bellary - - -	30.0	30.9	30.3	30.4	31.1	28.8	25.0	16.2	22.5	15.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-																	
Anantapur - - -	30.0	30.7	30.5	30.0	29.8	27.9	26.3	16.9	22.5	15.0	28.0	26.7	26.2	27.0	26.6	24.8	-	-	21.0	14.0																	
Cuddapah - - -	30.0	27.1	27.2	25.9	25.0	23.7	23.3	17.4	22.5	15.0	28.0	25.9	26.1	25.2	24.5	23.9	23.5	17.2	21.0	14.0																	
CARNATIC.																			CUMBU.																		
Nellore - - -	26.0	27.2	28.0	27.4	26.8	26.7	26.7	20.9	19.5	13.0	24.0	22.7	22.8	22.8	22.2	22.3	22.4	20.5	18.0	12.0																	
Chingleput - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22.0	19.7	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	-	-	16.5	11.0																	
South Arcot - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.0	31.3	29.9	27.4	25.4	24.0	23.6	24.5	19.5	13.0																	
CENTRAL.																			CUMBU.																		
North Arcot - - -	26.0	24.2	24.3	22.4	22.3	23.5	24.5	21.6	19.5	13.0	27.0	23.3	22.7	21.4	21.0	20.7	21.9	20.2	20.0	13.5																	
Salem - - -	26.0	22.2	23.1	22.7	22.0	22.1	23.0	22.0	19.5	13.0	27.0	24.3	24.0	22.9	23.0	21.7	21.3	21.1	20.0	13.5																	
Trichinopoly - - -	24.0	22.6	23.6	20.7	21.0	22.7	22.2	22.2	18.0	12.0	26.0	25.9	26.6	25.4	23.9	23.2	22.9	23.0	19.5	13.0																	

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

No. 4697.—Dated Nagpur, the 26th November 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to request that the Government of India may be pleased to place at the Chief Commissioner's disposal a grant of 10 lakhs of rupees for advances under the Land Improvement Act, to be applied to making grants for the purpose of aiding the construction of works of improvement in the tracts afflicted with scarcity, where such improvements can usefully be made.

2. Mr. Lyall has now discussed the situation in all the four divisions of the province with the Commissioners and district officers, and a comprehensive report will shortly be submitted for the information of the Government of India. The statistics as to the condition of the *kharif* harvest and the sowings for the *rabi* are, however, still somewhat incomplete, and an important modification of the general prospects has within the last week been caused by an unexpected fall of rain, which in the southern districts (Nagpur division, and Raipur and Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh) is likely to be of great benefit to the *rabi* already sown, and to enable a good deal of land which had been left fallow to be brought under tillage. This may also be the case to some extent in the Satpura or Plateau districts, though the fall there was not so heavy as in the south. In the Nerbudda Valley and Jubbulpore the rain was light and partial, and in the Nimar district trifling in quantity. In Damoh a fall of half an inch only is reported, and in Saugor there was unfortunately only a mere sprinkling. But even in these districts the increase in the humidity of the air and the lowering of temperature due to the rain will probably be of some benefit to the *rabi* crops which have already germinated and survived the drought of the past weeks, and prospects are on the whole more hopeful.

3. But these changes cannot effect the tracts, such as the Chhattisgarh division and the Wainganga districts of the Nagpur division, which depend almost wholly upon the *kharif* harvest, chiefly upon rice cultivation. Practically the whole population there lives upon rice, and the out-turn of the harvest, save in exceptional localities, has been extremely poor. Mr. Lyall visited Chhattisgarh at the end of last week and fully discussed the situation in that division with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. I am to enclose a copy of a memorandum written by Mr. L. S. Carey, Commissioner of Settlements, after careful inspection of the part of Raipur where distress seems most imminent, and of the notes of the conference held at Raipur on the 22nd instant. It will be seen that in paragraph 8 of his memorandum Mr. Carey gives reasons for believing that large sums of money would willingly be taken by the Raipur malguzars as loans for the construction of irrigation tanks, tank repairs, field embankments, and other irrigation works. He puts the amount for the Raipur khalsa* alone at five lakhs of rupees. In the Bilaspur rice country the same will probably be the case, and there also large sums could be profitably laid out. The Chief Commissioner need not enlarge on the great advantage, both from the point of view of famine relief and from that of finance, which will result from securing as soon as possible work in this form for the distressed population in the neighbourhood of their homes. The money spent will be recovered with interest, the people will be kept from wandering and starvation, villages will be held together, and cultivation will be rendered secure instead of precarious. No large public works started by Government can be so useful for relief purposes as such village works, to the construction of which the people are accustomed, and which will be supervised, and waste of money prevented, by the malguzars themselves.

4. In the rice tracts of the Nagpur division, and especially in Balaghat and the north and east of the Bhandara district, distress has already declared itself in an acute form. I am to enclose a copy of the Commissioner's report on the Nagpur division, with a copy of the orders issued thereon by the Chief Commissioner. It will be seen that Mr. Lyall has already sanctioned, from funds available in the Provincial Loan Account, a grant of Rs. 85,000 for expenditure in Nagpur, Bhandara, and Balaghat on works of agricultural improvement. But he has since had reason to think that much more might be done in this direction if more money could be made available, and

* British tracts, as distinguished from feudatory and other chiefships.

there can be no question that work of the kind is urgently necessary in the Balaghat district, where the population, owing to the sudden and unexpected failure of what promised in August and September to be a bumper crop, have been reduced to a state of very severe distress. In these districts, therefore, a liberal additional grant could be most usefully employed.

5. In the other divisions of the province the Chief Commissioner fears that there is not scope for much employment of loans on useful works of agricultural improvement. In parts of Chhindwara and Seoni tanks may be constructed with advantage, and in the eastern portion of Jubbulpore the Chief Commissioner hopes, in consultation with the Commissioner, to be able to induce landowners to take such loans. In Saugor and Damoh he fears that there is little prospect of advances being taken up for this purpose, and in the black soil tracks of the Nerbudda Valley, Narsinghpur, and Hoshangabad, irrigation would under normal conditions be useless or even harmful.

6. Mr. Lyall believes that the whole of the grant of 10 lakhs now asked for could be usefully employed before the end of the present financial year in works of the kind mentioned in this letter; and he trusts that the Government of India will agree with him that no scheme of famine relief-works could be more beneficial in its effects, or more economical to Government, than that now proposed. I am accordingly to ask that, with the permission of the Governor-General in Council, orders on this letter may be communicated by telegraph.

7. I am to take this opportunity to state that of the grant of five lakhs of rupees for famine relief purposes, sanctioned in your letter No. 1979—27-13, dated the 31st October last, the Chief Commissioner has allotted two lakhs to the Jubbulpore division, and one lakh each to the other divisions of the province. It is now probable that a considerable additional grant will have to be applied for to meet expenditure on relief before the 31st March next; but the reasons which make this necessary will be explained in the further detailed report which will shortly be submitted.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

MEMORANDUM ON POSITION OF AFFAIRS in the RAIPUR DISTRICT.

In company with the Deputy Commissioner I have toured from Baloda to Lown, thence to Rohasi, and passing south of Pallari into Raipur via Kharora. We have thus seen a good portion of the north-east corner of the district, *i.e.*, the Lown pargana and a section of the heart of the district lying north and east of Raipur. The country grows little besides rice, although the best situated black soil lands in years of normal rainfall bear a second crop of pulse or linseed (*utera*). The rice crop this year varies considerably from village to village according to the facilities for irrigation, the quality of the soil, the character of the position, the style of cultivation, &c. I am given to understand that the crop was becoming swamped in August after *biyasi*, owing to the very heavy rains which characterised that month. The field banks were accordingly cut, and when the rain suddenly ceased in September the fields were in many cases comparatively dry. The people attribute much of their losses to the excessively uneven distribution of the monsoon, the abnormally heavy rainfall of August, and the absolutely sudden cessation in September. Moreover the class of rice sown in the district appears to have altered very considerably during recent years. The people call the coarser description which ripen early *haruna*. The finer sorts which come to maturity later are designated *gharuna*. Under the old practice of the district, *haruna* was almost invariably sown in the higher lying *bhata* and *matasi* fields, which lost their moisture rapidly on the close of the heavier bursts of the monsoon, while *gharuna* was only sown in the better placed or irrigated lands. This year a very great deal of unsecured land has been placed under *gurmata* dhan, a description of *gharuna*. Two reasons are assigned—one that owing to the early cessation of the rains in September 1895 the *haruna* rice failed to a great extent, and there was great difficulty in obtaining seed. This position could, however, hardly have been reached, unless there had been other causes of a far reaching and more permanent character at work. The opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Calcutta and Katalni appears to have given a great stimulus to the growth of the finer and more remunerative species.* All went well during years of heavy rainfall, but a check was

* NOTE.—A change of a similar nature took place lately in Saugor, when, owing to the boom in wheat which culminated in 1891-92, 60 per cent. of that district was placed under that cereal.

bound to come with years of deficient autumn rain, and the *gurmata* of this year has in many cases barely come into ear, and is in many fields an absolute failure. Had *haruna* been sown, as before, in fields of average soil and position, it is reasonable to suppose that a portion would have come to maturity, and the losses sustained would have been less severe.

2. As matters stand, in no village that we have visited does the out-turn exceed 7 or 8 annas. In villages where there is irrigation such as Lown, Baloda, Kharora, &c., the yield on the irrigated lands brings up the all-round average; while in Bangoli, which is tenanted by Kurmis (the best cultivators in the district), early and efficient storage of water saved the crop in many fields. Some villages have 4 or 6 annas; but there are wide stretches where hardly a grain will be obtained from threshing, and I am disposed to accept the estimate of the inspector, Amir Khan, that around Baloda and Lown the crop may be taken at $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 annas. In Nilkant Rao's circle, conditions are not perhaps very different. Shamji states his out-turn at about 2 annas, and I am not disposed to question this estimate, seeing that there is much very poor and ill-situated land in this circle. Balaji has richer villages in his circle, and his estimate is, I understand, about 4 annas. There are not a few villages where the out-turn will be little or nothing. During the next fortnight the Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars, and Superintendent of Land Records should spare no effort to check all the village estimates throughout the district effectively. In Balaji's circle the estimates I tested were decidedly too low. In the other circles I had little fault to find.

3. So much for the tract we have visited. From information gathered from the Superintendent of Land Records, the Tahsildars, and various malguzars, it would appear that scarcity is to be apprehended throughout the Simga tahsil, also in that part of the Raipur tahsil which is north of the Great Eastern road. The state of affairs in the country between Rohasi and Kharora is not markedly different from that in the Lown and Baloda directions. Khallari from all accounts seems to have fared badly. In a very considerable part of Drug there will apparently be distress, but the crop in this tahsil is reported to have been better last year than in the Raipur and Simga tahsils. Around Patan the crop seems to be fair, but the country between Drug and Dhamdha, as also the strip to the west of Gonderdehi between Drug on the north and Pindkapor on the south, appears to have suffered considerably. From all accounts Dhamtari is all right. Towards Balod and Sihawa there is said to be an 8-anna crop, the rich Rajm country is in fair plight, and the southern portion of the Raipur tahsil on the Dhamtari border is reported to have fared pretty well. But more accurate information will be available shortly about these areas when the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Land Records, and Tahsildars have made more extensive tours. It is reasonable then to expect the greatest pressure in the tracts to the north-west, north, and north-east of the district, also in the Khallari pargana, while there will be some measure of scarcity in the west and central portions of the district.

4. As above remarked, there is but little rabi cultivation in the portion of the district we traversed. We saw some fields here and there, *e.g.*, at Saragaon along the Kolhan nala and in the vicinity of Raipur. Linseed appears to be drying off. Wheat and masur are looking much better. Balaji estimates that only 3 annas of the rabi area in his circle is sown, and of that but $\frac{1}{4}$ th has germinated. Shamji, Revenue Inspector, gives $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas sown, of which $\frac{1}{4}$ th has germinated. The Superintendent of Land Records furnishes the information given in statement marked C in regard to rabi sowings. The figures for 1894-95 may be taken as normal. There has evidently been a great shrinkage in rabi cropping, though the contraction may have been somewhat over-estimated. Around Raipur the prospects of the rabi seem very poor. Some rain at an early date would doubtless improve matters considerably, but at present the outlook is very unfavourable. Wheat could still be sown if rain came within a fortnight. But little *utera* appears to have been sown in the north of the district, but matters are better in Dhamtari in this respect.

5. The people are on the whole in fair plight at present, and where they have a 3-anna to 4-anna crop have presumably enough to carry them on for two months or so. In the villages entirely or almost devoid of irrigation, such as we came across round Pangaon and Dotopar, and near Khapri, Chorhadih, and Tipan, also round Khorsipar and Batia, it appears to me that almost immediate measures of relief are necessary. The people of Tipan have resorted to the forests across the Mahanaddi for fruits and roots on which they are now eking out a frugal existence. Mr. Lakhe of Pangaon

and the malguzars of Tipan have promised to start some tank work without delay. Some of the poorer classes are migrating towards Dhamtari in the hope of obtaining work on the tramway line. Employment for others is now available on the Tilda-Kharora road. The revenue inspectors state that some tenants have begun to leave their villages, but the tendency does not seem yet very widespread. We heard of some such cases, and one small and very poor village, Chorhadih, that we passed through was almost deserted. The better class of tenants have still some grain besides the crop of this year to carry them on for some months, but from all I can gather there are not very many such. The comparative failure of last year's crop greatly crippled their resources, and the stocks of rice in the hands of malguzars appear to be very greatly depleted indeed. It should be noted, moreover, that since September the people have been consuming the new rice of this year. This is a factor in the situation which should not be lost sight of.

6. The price of coarse dhan is now about 6 kathas to the rupee, *i.e.*, just double the price of normal times. Only 9 to 10 seers of husked rice (chawwal) are now obtainable per rupee as compared with 18 to 20 seers in days prior to September 1895. These quotations are for village rates as obtained from the inspectors and malguzars. I have not examined the tables of price currents. Exports of rice from Dhamtari were fairly extensive in October, but the prices in that tahsil have since risen, and there has during the last two weeks been a considerable falling off in the number of carts arriving from that tahsil. This is attributed to the fact that the people are engaged in harvesting their rice crop.

MEASURES OF RELIEF.

7. *Poor-houses.*—Arrangements have been made by charitable persons of Raipur town for the supply of cooked food to beggars and others, but I gather that the relief requires to be duly organised. The Deputy Commissioner has enlisted private charity at Baloda where there is a dispensary, and the institution which is being organised at Baloda will be converted in course of time into a regular poor-house. Similar steps are under contemplation at Simga and Drug as the necessity for them becomes apparent.

8. *Local Works.*—It is clearly advisable that at the outset the malguzars should start work in their villages, and afford labour to those requiring it. Early action in this direction is especially necessary in those villages which have suffered most, and where the scarcity is likely to make itself apparent within the next fortnight or month. If during the cold season the poorer classes are forced to find work miles away from their villages on the roads placed under construction by Government, it is not idle to suppose that the mortality from pneumonia and other chest diseases would be enormous. By the time the projects for malguzari villages are completed, the weather should have become warmer and no harm would result from the people concentrating on the roads during March, April, and May. Apart from the above consideration it is most desirable that each village in the district should have a block of land fully secured by irrigation. There are very few villages in Raipur, Simga, and Drug tahsils where there is not scope for further tank construction or field embankment. Many villages are practically devoid of tanks. The *dabris* cannot be accepted even as an apology for the same, and the character of the present season's crop is an unanswerable argument for the extension of irrigation facilities.

It has been explained by us to malguzars that local works will, besides ultimately increasing the food-supply of their villages and in consequence enhancing their profits,—

- (i) keep their tenants together, for which they are responsible to Government;
- (ii) enable them to realise, ultimately, arrears of rent and grain advances;
- (iii) give employment to the much-feared Satnami Chamar and keep him off loot and arson.

Many malguzars have readily admitted these arguments and have professed their willingness to start local works as soon as required.

Recalcitrant proprietors have been informed that their revenue will be punctually realised from them on the 1st March and no time given, while those who treat their tenants well have been promised consideration at the hands of Government.

These works will take the form of—

- (i.) Tank construction.
- (ii.) Tank repairs.
- (iii.) Field embankment.
- (iv.) Construction of "tars" or watercourses and their repairs and damming of nalas.

The richer men have agreed to spend their own money, the poorer members require takavi loans. During the few days we have been together we have dealt with about 275 villages, the malguzars of which have promised to spend Rs. 37,000 from their own pockets, or have asked for Rs. 86,000 takavi—*vide* Statement A. If it be assumed that there will be a scarcity more or less pronounced in 1,600 out of 3,732 villages of the Khalsa, owing to the high price of food-grains, then the amount of takavi required would be about five lakhs of rupees. It might suffice to ask for four lakhs. Some of the malguzars may possibly draw back when the time comes for taking a loan, but it appears to me that we should be in a position to help them liberally in this direction should they desire our aid. Even though the anticipations as to a demand for takavi for land improvement might ultimately be disappointed, the money would come in for seed-grain advances, which will certainly be required in very large amounts. I am, however, sanguine that the malguzars will rise to the occasion, and that by the increase of the irrigable area of the district some good will come out of evil.

Mr. Laurie proposes to dole out takavi in small sums of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, and to hold Revenue Inspectors responsible for reporting that the sum originally advanced is actually spent on the contemplated improvement before further advances are made. I think some such supervision very necessary if we are to attain the object we have in view.

To this end we have for the 275 odd villages dealt with listed the improvements to be made as selected by the malguzars.

The action I would now suggest is that each revenue inspector should similarly prepare for his circle a list of works to be undertaken by each malguzar. Every effort should be made to start some work small or great in each village, except in large estates like that of Kapilnath of Sirpur and the Kasdol property, where the malguzars have specified the villages where they desire to effect improvements, and the tenants of neighbouring villages can repair daily to the scene of operations, returning home at nightfall. Where the malguzars refuse to assist or are unable to do so owing to debt, it is sometimes possible to obtain the aid of substantial tenants. The Revenue Inspectors' lists should specify the amount of takavi, if any, required by each malguzar.

They should be submitted direct to the Tahsildar and not to the Superintendent of Land Records. The Tahsildar will deal with recalcitrant malguzars. I think it would be a fair standard to lay down that in villages with 40 to 50 houses about Rs. 500 should be spent; but in cases where the malguzar is poor or the crop is, owing to irrigation, fairly good, say 5 annas to 6 annas or over, some relaxation may be permitted.

We have associated the Tahsildars of Raipur and Simga with us in the work, and they fully understand, I believe, what is required.

As to the control of the Patwaris and Revenue Inspectors who have great responsibilities in connexion with this work, Mr. J. R. Scott, Assistant Settlement Officer, while completing the papers of the Drug tahsil will be able to afford the Deputy Commissioner much assistance in this tahsil. For the north of the district and the north-western zamindaris, I hold that the Deputy Commissioner of this enormous district requires the assistance of the best Assistant Commissioner who is available. If the Chanda Settlement is to be postponed, I would suggest that Mr. Blenkinsop be sent to Raipur. He could look after the north-western zamindaris, the Simga tahsil, and possibly the north-eastern portion of the Raipur tahsil.

9. Many of the tanks in Chhattisgarh are hollowed out of the *bhata* in such a way as to be of little use for irrigation purposes, owing to the level of the water being below that of the fields to be irrigated. They are probably intended for *nistar* purposes, for watering cattle, &c. I consulted Mr. Harriott on the point, and he explained to me how the tanks should be carved out of the *bhata* ridges, so that the water should reach the fields by gravitation. I feel convinced that a brief descriptive note from him on this subject would be invaluable, as he fully appreciates my difficulty.

ROAD WORK at GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

10. I have submitted my views to the Deputy Commissioner, and he has drawn up a fairly exhaustive scheme for submission to the Commissioner of the Division. Generally speaking, I concur in his proposals. I have not seen the Raipur road scheme. It is said to be under revision, and most of the work proposed will consist in raising roads in class, *e.g.*, the Lown-Baloda and the Raipur-Pallari Road.

If the Deputy Commissioner's scheme be approved, surveys are required at present only of the following roads:—

(i.)	Deorbija-Bemetara, about	-	-	12 miles.
(ii.)	Drug-Gonderdehi-Balod	-	-	24 „
(iii.)	Amera-Baloda*	-	-	6 „
(iv.)	Lown-Kasdol†	-	-	10 „

I have suggested connecting Rohasi with Pallari or with Baloda *via* Amera as a useful work. Moreover, if there is serious scarcity to be apprehended in the tract of country directly north-west of Raipur town, I would suggest the construction of a road between Raipur and Deorbija, or at least as far as the point where the Sheonath bends from a northerly into an easterly course. Unfortunately we have not been able to consult the executive engineer as to the amount of employment the scheme as now presented will give. This the Deputy Commissioner will now do, ascertaining the cost of each project.

Most parts of the district in which scarcity is apprehended should be provided for under the Deputy Commissioner's present proposals. I am somewhat doubtful as to Khallari. If the malguzars keep the people going with tank work until the mohwa crop ripens, they should do all right, provided that some work in the form of metalling or repairs is afforded on the Great Eastern Road or that connecting Arang with Khariar.

Mr. Laurie would construct a tank at Baloda for bazar purposes and not for irrigation. I fully concur as to the utility. Besides it is useful to have a work near a poor-house to utilise the services of those who can work. He has a similar project for Simga, which resembles a work recently undertaken at Murwara-Katni, in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Anderson and myself. If when the executive engineer has worked out the district scheme it be deemed insufficient to meet the probable demands for labour, then I would suggest the construction of some tanks along the Baloda-Lown or Pallari-Raipur roads. In the hot weather months travellers along these roads and their animals suffer much for want of water. I speak from personal experience. It might be deemed necessary to select one or two good sites with the aid of the sub-divisional officer, the schemes being held in reserve. Perhaps a tank in the *bhata* plan at Saragaon might be useful. I forget whether the Kolham nala holds water in the hot weather. The country round Khorsipar seems a very dry one. Anyhow, between Pallari and Raipur, 50 miles, there is a great dearth of water. The district council has practically no funds. Perhaps Rs. 3,000 may be forthcoming for expenditure on roads, and that is all. Provincial or Imperial aid must be invoked apparently at the outset.

11. *Suspension of Kharif Kist.*—Please see Statement marked B. From what I gather there is, as a rule, very little in the way of arrears for 1894-5. In 1895-6 two-thirds of the rental was recovered in the circles of five Revenue Inspectors where the scarcity was probably worse than in the rest of the district. The position of affairs revealed is not then very serious. But I think a fairly liberal policy desirable. I have been surprised at the amount of debt professed by the Simga malguzars. There is a fairly large proportion of small men who are indebted. Mr. Laurie is in favour of *informal* suspension, which would place him in a very strong position, and enable him to bring great pressure to bear on the malguzars to keep their villages together. I entirely agree with him. The tenants are not, I think, likely to pay much rent this year, and I hold that the malguzars may be left to collect what they can. The crop differs so much from village to village that a further reason for *informal* and not *general* suspension is afforded. The revenue of the district is Rs. 8,51,000. The

* To tie on Pallari to the Lown-Baloda-Bhatapara system.

† The Deputy Commissioner seems doubtful as to the construction of this road.

kharif kist of each tahsil represents practically half the demand. Approximate figures are given below :—

	Rs.
Raipur - - - - -	1,22,000
Drug - - - - -	98,000
Dhamtari - - - - -	98,000
Simga - - - - -	1,06,000
Total	<u>4,24,000</u>

After consulting the Tahsildar of Raipur, the southern part of whose tahsil is fairly well off, I am disposed to think that a suspension of Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 may suffice in this tahsil. Simga will require more liberal treatment, and it may be advisable to suspend about Rs. 70,000. Drug was better off last year. Perhaps a suspension of Rs. 30,000 would suffice. In Dhamtari the whole revenue can, I understand, be realised. While writing then with much diffidence owing to the statistics before me being hitherto incomplete, I would suggest that the Deputy Commissioner might be empowered to suspend about $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of the kharif kist. But when the statistics are all complete a better judgment can be formed. This is a mere rough forecast.

12. *Forests.*—The Chief Commissioner recently sanctioned the opening of the forests in the north-east of the district for the extraction of fruits and roots. The people, I hear, availed themselves largely of the concession. There is, I fancy, no immediate prospect of a failure of the fodder-supply. The rice-stalks are being cut for the purpose even in places where there is little or no grain. The malguzars are urging the ryots not to neglect this precaution. I do not think it would be any use allowing the poorer classes to remove for sale head-loads of grass and wood, free of charge, as there is no demand in Lown for the same.

13. What I have written above relates mainly to the Khalsa. Little is at present known as to the position of affairs in the zamindaris, but the eastern zamindaris are said to have had a very fair crop. In the north-western zamindaris, where rabi perhaps preponderates, the outlook is said to be unfavourable. It seems desirable that some officer of position should shortly visit these tracts and impress upon the Zamindars the necessity of keeping their people together and starting relief-works. Mr. May, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, starts, I gather, shortly, for a tour in the eastern zamindaris in connexion with Court of Wards' work in Birndranowagarh and Kauria; it would perhaps be well that he should ascertain how matters stand in Khariar, Fingeshwar, Suarmar, and Deori.

14. *Seed-grain.*—The people seem more anxious on this head than on any other, and the Deputy Commissioner shares their apprehensions. The experience we have derived in Saugor and Damoh tends to show that the Banya may be depended upon to get the land sown in June next. The help that Government can afford would be but a drop in the ocean, but some assistance may be desirable in the case of those whose credit is strained to the utmost. There is possibly risk of loss of money in this, but it may have to be faced. The mulgazars ask for early loans to enable them to send their carts to Bindranowagarh, Dhamtari, and Sambalpur during the open season in view to obtain seed-grain as cheap as possible. I see some danger in this, as the grain might be consumed before the sowing season comes. It is a subject, I think, on which further information is required before a decision is arrived at. I would ask what are the stocks in the hands of malguzars in each tahsil? and can the Revenue Inspectors ascertain whether the tenants generally or any section of them have put away sufficient rice out of this year's crop for seed purposes?

15. In conclusion, I would remark that even from purely selfish motives it is desirable that every effort should be made by Government to keep the tenants on the land at this juncture. Re-settlement is impending, and if large tracts are allowed to go out of cultivation and cash assets fall, we may find that the anticipated increment of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs may vanish. I venture then to think that early and strenuous action is called for.

16. I may add that from information gathered from the Tahsildar of Bilaspur, the Superintendent of Land Records, and some seven or eight Revenue Inspectors of that district, the position of affairs is very similar in the northern district to what has been

described for Raipur. Similar measures seem called for. Mr. Jagannath, Assistant Settlement Officer, has, at my request, furnished the Deputy Commissioner with a map showing, as far as possible, in colour, the distressed tracts and the degree of scarcity to be apprehended. He has recorded the statements of 10 out of 11 Revenue Inspectors as to the position of affairs in their circles and the character of the kharif crop. The Superintendent of Land Records and Revenue Inspectors have been instructed to prepare lists of local works from village to village as in the case of Raipur.

L. S. CAREY,
Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture,
Central Provinces.

The 17th November 1896.

A.

STATEMENT showing the AMOUNT proposed to be spent by some MALGUZARS, together with the AMOUNT of TAKAVI asked for by them, for IMPROVEMENT WORK.

Serial No.	Name of Inspector.	Number of Villages in which Improvement Work will be started	Amount which is proposed to be spent by Malguzars from their own Pocket.	Amount of Takavi requested by them.	Remarks
		No.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Amir Khan	107	18,900	25,150	
2	Nilkant Rao	73	10,800	35,200	
3	Gajanan Rao	11	500	10,200	
4	Shamjee	15	1,550	2,900	
5	Balajee Pant	5	2,700	900	
6	Bahadaralli	14	2,450	7,600	
	Total	*225	36,900	85,950	

* We have probably dealt with 275 villages in all, as it is not proposed that work should be started in all the villages of the Kasdol or Kapilnath's Sirpur estate, which consists of 40 villages.

NOTES of a CONFERENCE at RAIPUR on the PROSPECTS of the CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

A Conference was held on the 21st November 1896 at the Commissioner's bungalow, Raipur, to discuss famine prospects in the Chhattisgarh Division, at which the following officers were present:—

The Chief Commissioner.
Colonel Temple, Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division.
Mr. H. M. Laurie, Deputy Commissioner, Raipur.
Mr. F. J. Cooke, Deputy Commissioner, Bilaspur.
Mr. R. A. B. Chapman, Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur.
Mr. G. M. Harriott, Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatories.
Rao Sahib D. S. Sathaye, Executive Engineer, Eastern Division.
Mr. H. H. Priest, Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.

RAIPUR.

1. As regards the Raipur District, Mr. L. S. Carey's Memorandum dated the 17th November, recording his opinion and that of the Deputy Commissioner, formed after a tour in the north-east quarter of the district, was read and discussed.

2. The Chief Commissioner pointed out the importance of a careful collation and comparison, circle by circle, of the mortality statistics for the last three years as an index to the tracts where distress was likely to be most severely felt. It is true that cholera has this year prevailed in the district to an extent almost without parallel in recent years; but deaths due to cholera are separately shown in the returns, and eliminating these the remainder will show the mortality from ordinary causes.

3. Stress was laid upon the necessity of properly organising poor-houses and gratuitous relief, and exacting proper tasks at a subsistence wage, from the commencement of relief operations. Indiscriminate charity should be as far as possible

discouraged, and indigent persons concentrated into one place under proper supervision. Ordinarily poor-houses should not be established except where such supervision is possible, as at the head-quarters of tahsils, and there should be in the neighbourhood some relief work to which persons becoming fit to labour should be drafted. The Deputy Commissioner urged the necessity of one at Baloda in the north-east corner of the district, where the supervision available would be that of a sub-inspector of police and the hospital assistant in charge of the dispensary. Tahsil areas in Raipur are extremely large, and some such subsidiary poor-houses or relief centres may eventually be necessary; but every effort should be made to place them under a proper organisation, associating with the Government officers in charge a committee of leading residents.

4. Full approval was expressed of the scheme of local works, to be carried out by malguzars from advances under the Land Improvement Act, set forth in paragraph 8 of Mr. Carey's Memorandum. The Deputy Commissioner was desired to complete his inquiries as to the amount required for the Raipur District as soon as possible, in order that application might be made to the Government of India for a special grant. Meantime the Chief Commissioner promised to allot Rs. 50,000 for the division, to be distributed by the Commissioner, for immediate application to this purpose where the need of employment is most urgent.

5. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Memorandum, Mr. Harriott promised to prepare a note on the most advantageous way of constructing tanks for irrigation purposes, which should be widely circulated.

6. Mr. Laurig's road scheme, which has not yet been submitted officially, was laid before the Chief Commissioner. It was reserved for further consideration when so submitted. It contains projects which are estimated to cost Rs. 8,63,750 to complete, and it was stated that about four lakhs of rupees might be spent on them before next rains, and about one lakh before the 31st March next. It was agreed that, in tracts where local works to be carried out by malguzars were possible, these should have precedence, the reason stated by Mr. Carey in paragraph 8 of his Memorandum* being considered sound. It was agreed that the construction of wells and tanks for the supply of drinking water (preferably the former) should proceed *pari passu* with that of the roads, as much of the Chhattisgarh plain is extremely waterless during the dry season, and the concentration of large crowds of workpeople on road work would be impossible without an adequate water-supply.

7. As regards suspensions of revenue (paragraph 11 of the Memorandum) it was considered that the policy enunciated by Mr. Carey was on the whole sound. The Land Revenue demand for Raipur is however extremely light, the incidence varying from 5 annas 7 pies to 6 annas 9 pies per acre, and the majority of the malguzars are substantial persons who may be expected to pay up even in bad years. As at present advised, therefore, the Chief Commissioner does not think that they will require much leniency, even should they fail to realise much of their rental. It will be best for the present not to hold out any prospect of suspension, and certainly not to make any formal announcement of it, but to use possible future leniency to the malguzar in this respect as a lever to induce him to provide employment for his tenants, either from his private resources or by taking a loan from Government under the Land Improvement Act. [As rain has fallen since our conference, and a good deal of sowing for the rabi may be possible, the same argument should *if necessary* be used to induce the malguzars to find seed for their tenants; and no malguzar neglecting to do so without sufficient reason should receive any leniency in the collection of revenue.]

8. As regards the forests, it was mentioned that Mr. Blunt, the divisional forest officer, was inclined to advocate the lowering of the fee on head-loads of grass extracted from the forests. This matter will be separately submitted and considered. [The fall of rain may have removed the necessity for such a measure by allaying apprehensions of a failure of fodder.]

9. It was decided that no time should be lost in investigating the condition of things in the Zamindaris, especially those in the north-west and west of the district, and that Mr. Blenkinsop should at once on joining the district be deputed to tour in the

* "If during the cold season the poorer classes are forced to find work miles away from their villages on the roads placed under construction by Government, it is not idle to suppose that the mortality from pneumonia and other chest diseases will be enormous. By the time the projects for malguzari villages are completed the weather should have become warmer and no harm would result from the people concentrating on the works during March, April, and May."

northern portion of the Drug tahsil and north-west Zamindaris. Mr. May will be instructed to do the like in the eastern Zamindaris. [The recent rains if general should have much improved matters in the north-west Zamindaris.]

10. In reference to seed-grain, after considerable discussion it was decided to await further report as to the stocks in the hands of malguzars and tenants. The Chief Commissioner explained that he was much opposed to a policy which would tend to cause the people to lean on Government for the supply of seed-grain, to the exclusion of the ordinary sources, the malguzars and village banias. Such a burden is one which it would be highly imprudent for Government to undertake, which would involve it in an immense expenditure, with great difficulties in the way of recovery, and would have the effect of displacing the natural agencies which for centuries have undertaken the business. The objections to it are, in fact, not very different from those which apply to the direct purveying of food-grains by Government in times of scarcity and famine, which have been generally recognised as conclusive. If, in spite of these objections, any such scheme is put forward as necessary for Raipur, it must be clearly explained why it is considered necessary and what the estimated cost of it will be.

BILASPUR.

11. Mr. Cooke produced maps of the three tahsils of Bilaspur, Mungeli, and Janjgir, exhibiting the anna-outturns of the various Patwaris' circles as estimated by the Revenue Inspectors. These have still to be tested and revised in the light of further information.

12. As in Raipur, he was requested to make a careful examination and comparison with the figures of past years of the mortality statistics of 1896, with a view to ascertain where the scarcity of the past season had been most severely felt; the same tracts are evidently likely to be most affected by the failure of the present kharif.

13. Mr. Cooke's letter No. 6052, dated the 12th November 1896, submitting a programme of relief operations, was read, as also his further letter of the 14th November giving his views as to the extent of the probable failure and distress (the latter has not yet been received officially through the Commissioner).

14. It was agreed that, as in Raipur, the malguzars of Bilaspur should be encouraged by the same arguments as were used in the former district to apply for loans, and to provide funds from their private resources, for carrying out works of agricultural improvement.

15. The Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, produced a programme of road work to be carried out by the Public Works Department (this also has to be received officially and examined in the Public Works Secretariat, and should be expedited. The roads included in this were for the most part proposed to be constructed as Class IIIb. roads; but it was considered desirable to undertake them rather as Class II. roads, which involves a higher initial expenditure, but yields better results in permanent advantage to the district. The following is the list:—

	Rs.
(1.) Nandghat-Mungeli Road, 22½ miles in length, to be constructed as a Class II. road at a cost of Rs. 3,000 a mile - - - - -	66,750
(2.) Bilaspur-Seorinarayan Road, 40 miles, to be constructed as a Class II. road as above - - - - -	1,20,000
(3.) Bilaspur-Ratanpur Road, 14 miles, to be raised from Class IIIb. to II., at Rs. 1,250 per mile - - - - -	17,500
(4.) Kawardha-Simga Road, 4 miles in Bilaspur District, at Rs. 3,000 per mile - - - - -	12,000
(5.) Bilaspur-Mungeli Road, 54 miles— 9 miles are already Class II. 31 to be raised to Class II. at Rs. 1,250 per mile - - - - - = Rs. 38,750 14 to be constructed as Class II. at Rs. 3,000 per mile - - - - - = Rs. 42,000	} 80,750
54	Total - - - - -
	2,97,005

Of this total it was estimated that it would be possible to spend not more than a lakh of rupees during the present financial year.

The projects should be submitted as soon as possible through the Commissioner for orders.

16. Besides these works, Mr. Harriott reported that in the Pendra Zamindari works to the amount of Rs. 28,000 and in Pandaria to that of Rs. 20,000 were already being carried out.

17. An assistant (Mr. C. E. Low) will immediately be placed at the Deputy Commissioner's disposal, and he should employ him in making a rapid tour with a view to ascertain the real state of things prevailing in the rural tracts, and in particular in the Zamindaris. At present the Deputy Commissioner does not, in view of the employment afforded by harvest work, consider that much real distress exists; but he believes that, in the absence of rain which will enable a larger area to be sown with rabí, and give promise of a good yield in the area already sown, distress is certain to appear in the course of about two months. This district has during the past year been the scene of a large number of grain dacoities in consequence of which a proposal was recently made to quarter additional police in the Mungeli and Bilaspur tahsils at the cost of the inhabitants of the disturbed tracts. This proposal has been referred back to the Commissioner for further examination. It is clear that the maintenance of the peace will be a task demanding special vigilance in this district, and probably agricultural works carried out by malguzars will prove the most effectual means of keeping the Chamar population from violence.

SAMBALPUR.

18. A letter (not yet officially submitted) from the Deputy Commissioner, dated the 18th November, giving an account of the situation in the district as ascertained by Mr. Chapman from a rapid tour throughout it, was read. It appears from it that no anxiety need be felt, except as to distress which may result from high prices and the influx of wanderers from other districts, as regards the east and centre of the district. In the western portion, from the Barapahar westwards, assistance from loans under the Land Improvement Act amounting to an estimate of Rs. 12,000, and under the Agriculturists Loans Act of about Rs. 8,000, will suffice with the sums which gaontias themselves will expend on village works, to afford employment for those in need. There is said to be much labour afforded by work in the forests in the east of the district, for which considerable numbers of people have come from Bilaspur. The only really distressed portion of the district is the Chandarpur-Padampur Estate (commonly but wrongly called a Zamindari) in the north-west corner. Here the Deputy Commissioner suggests two roads, one from Malkhurda to Kharsia, 16 miles, and the other from Dabra to Kharsia, 12 miles, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 56,000 to afford employment to the people. These proposals should be submitted officially.

19. For the division generally, a lakh of rupees has been placed by the Chief Commissioner at the Commissioner's disposal for the purposes of famine relief, and, as already mentioned above (paragraph 4), Rs. 50,000 have been given for the present for loans under the Land Improvement Act. These will be utilised for immediate needs, and a complete scheme of operations should be matured as soon as possible.

H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,
Central Provinces.

Nagpur, 25th November 1896.

BOMBAY.

D.O. LETTER, dated 5th November 1896, from G. S. CURTIS, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

In continuation of Mr. Monteath's demi-official letter of the 24th ultimo, I am desired to forward copies of the accompanying reports from the Commissioners, Central and Southern Divisions, and to state that a more definite report under section 26

of the Code will be furnished to the Government of India as soon as the time for any fall of rain which would be of use is past and trustworthy estimates can be made.

(True Copy.)

A. R. TUCKER,
Registrar,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

No. 63 F., dated Belgaum, the 30th October 1896.

From E. J. EBDEN, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Commissioner, Southern Division, to the
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, REVENUE
DEPARTMENT.

With reference to your letter No. 165 M. of 20th instant, I have the honour to state that on the 20th idem I addressed the collectors of the affected districts in the southern division desiring them to proceed at once with the preparation of information under the heads mentioned in section 22 of the Famine Code in order that no delay may occur should it become necessary for me to report the imminence of famine under that section.

2. The time of the submission of this information is left to the discretion of the collectors under section 17 of the Famine Code. Up to date no collector has reported under that section, nor up to date has any abnormal demand for labour arisen in the shape of inclination to resort to test works.

3. The conditions, therefore, have not come into existence that would justify me in reporting the imminence of famine under the strict terms of the Code. It is not too late to expect that rain may fall and entirely alter the aspect of the affairs in the above ghaut districts. But I am now requesting the collectors to submit reports under section 17, Famine Code, on the assumption that no rain will fall. With the recent experiences of 1891-92 behind them they should have no difficulty in gauging prospects under the somewhat similar—but no doubt more serious—circumstances that promise to prevail now.

4. As far as can be judged at present, the districts that will be affected in the southern division are the whole of Bijapur, the three northern talukas of Dharwar and the eastern talukas of Belgaum, above the ghauts, and the four northern talukas of Kolaba and, perhaps, the southern portion of Ratnagiri, below the ghauts.

No. 4,320 R., dated Poona, the 2nd November 1896.

From the HONOURABLE MR. J. K. SPENCE, Commissioner, Central Division, to the
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, REVENUE
DEPARTMENT.

In answer to your No. 165 M., dated 28th ultimo, I have the honour to state that in my opinion it may be said that a famine is imminent throughout the whole of the central division.

2. It is a very difficult matter to say where scarcity ends and famine commences and at what precise period a famine may be said to be imminent. Strange to say, some of the people have not yet lost heart, and are confident that rain will fall heavily about the *Divali*,* and that though the season must necessarily be a hard one, there will be no famine. Personally I agree with those that think all hope of useful rain is now gone. Subject to the contingency of heavy rain falling within 10 days, I am of opinion that not only is famine imminent but that it may be actually said to be present in the districts of Sholapur and Ahmednagar, and will soon spread over the neighbouring portions of other districts.

3. The grounds of any belief are that the *kharif* crop has been entirely lost in many places and has been a bad one everywhere. The *rabi* crop has hardly been sown anywhere, and where it has been sown has not germinated or is withering for want of rain. Prices for food grains have risen to a rate which presses hardly on all people, and is almost prohibitive for those who live more or less on their daily wages. The

* A Hindu festival falling about the middle of October.

excessively high prices are due to an equal or greater scarcity prevailing in other parts of India and also to a determined effort on the part of grain dealers to hoard their stocks with a view to force the price to a height which will give them inordinate profits. Fodder is becoming so scarce and has become so dear that people are already selling their cattle at inordinately low rates. If no purchasers are found the cattle are turned out to graze where they please, and if impounded are not released. Migration has already commenced, though where the people expect to find a better livelihood than at their own houses it is difficult to say.

4. Eventually the whole area of the division will be affected, but for the present I estimate that the area and population likely to be affected are as shown in the following table :—

District.	Portion likely to be affected.	Area in acres.	Total Population.	Portion likely to be affected.
Sholapur -	Whole district -	29,07,065	7,50,689	10 per cent. - 75,069
Ahmednagar -	Ditto -	42,20,169	8,88,755	3 to 7 per cent. - 26,663, to 62,213
Poona -	Taluka of—			
	1. Indapur -	3,61,122	70,986	} 3 to 7 per cent. { 2,130 to 4,969 4,208 to 9,820 2,557 to 5,966
	2. Baramati -	6,62,686	1,40,281	
	3. Sirur -	3,84,134	85,222	
	Total -	1,407,942	2,96,489	8,895 to 20,755
Nasik -	Taluka of—			
	1. Yeola -	2,57,434	65,812	} 3 to 7 per cent. { 1,974 to 4,607 2,194 to 5,120 1,010 to 2,356
	2. Sinnar -	3,28,639	73,138	
	3. Nandgaon -	2,73,909	83,652	
	Total -	8,59,892	1,72,602	5,178 to 12,083
	Grand total -	93,95,158	21,08,535	1,15,805 to 170,120

The estimated figures in the preceding table are the most absolute guesswork.

5. Trade in the affected area has come to a standstill except as regards articles of daily food. Communications are good and sufficient everywhere as long as the fair season lasts. There are railways and plenty of made roads, which rank from good to fair, while the country tracks in the absence of rain leave little to be desired.

6. It is difficult to say what is the condition of the stocks of the staple food-grains and almost impossible to arrive at an estimate of the stock in hand, but from such information as I have been able to obtain it is ample for a year's supply. But there is always the fear of export to meet the demands of other parts of India if higher prices can be obtained than from local sale. I append a statement showing the normal prices together with the prevailing prices, on 15th October as supplied to me by the Survey Commissioner.

7. It is impossible to say from what source supplies of food as likely to come in in the event of the local supply running short. Northern India cannot be expected to supply anything, and there seems a terrible fear that Madras may also suffer from severe scarcity. In this event the only resource seems importation from foreign countries of wheat, a grain which the poorer classes here will only eat under necessity.

8. Should famine not be averted by a timely fall of rain, there is not a single measure of relief mentioned in the Famine Code that will not have to be resorted to. The people generally seem to think that the calamity will be greater than that of 1876-77, and I see no reason for holding a more hopeful view.

9. Without consulting the collectors I cannot say to what extent suspension or remission of collections of the land revenue and other relief of the kinds specified in Parts A. and B. of Chapter X. may be necessary. I see from the Gazetteers that in 1876-77 the amounts of remission and suspension were as follows:—

	Remissions.	Suspensions.
	Rs.	Rs.
Poona - - - - -	1,740	4,56,830
Sholapur . - - - -	7,530	8,49,490
Ahmednagar - - - -	1,31,740	3,51,260
Satara - - - - -	2,880	2,51,850
Nasik - - - - -	1,38,030	52,790
Khandesh - - - - -	21,290	2,160
Total - - - - -	3,03,210	19,64,380

I see no reason to suppose that any smaller measure of relief will be necessary on the present occasion should the full force of famine fall upon us.

10. Neither am I in a position to make any reliable estimate of the extra expenditure likely to be incurred. From the same source of information I see that in 1876-77 the expenditure was estimated as follows:—

	Rs.
Poona - - - - -	16,06,110
Sholapur - - - - -	20,65,025
Ahmednagar - - - -	8,59,360
Satara - - - - -	11,81,372
Nasik - - - - -	4,29,679
Khandesh - - - - -	3,06,160
Total - - - - -	64,47,706

The late famine extended over two seasons and was perhaps rather more widespread than it is hoped this may be, but I fear that the extra expenditure on this occasion will be at least 20 lakhs. Local resources are absolutely incapable of meeting more than a fraction of this large sum. The available balances of local funds in all districts will perhaps provide one lakh.

11. I have called on the collectors to supply the required information, but have not thought it right to delay my own report till it is received. I do not apprehend that they will be in any better position than myself to give reliable information except on points (1), (3) and (6) noted in section 22 on which I imagine we will be all agreed.

District.	Jowari.		Bajri.		Rice.		Wheat.	
	Normal.	1st Fortnight of October 1896.	Normal.	1st Fortnight of October 1896.	Normal.	1st Fortnight of October 1896.	Normal.	1st Fortnight of October 1896.
Ahmednagar .	21·11	S. Ch. 11 11	17·65	S. Ch. 10 4	9·34	S. Ch. 9 1	13·74	S. Ch. 8 11
Khandesh -	22·03	8 10	13·38	7 6	9·52	7 9	14·29	7 14
Nasik - -	31·45	Not sold.	16·98	9 14	11·29	9 8	14·8	10 1
Poona - -	19·09	10 9	15·38	9 3	9·93	8 6	11·7	8 2
Satara - -	16·67	12 9	15·60	11 7	9·85	8 8	11·48	10 14
Sholapur -	22·54	12 8	20·95	10 12	10·74	7 12	14·33	8 6

J. K. SPENCE,
Commissioner, Central Division.

BENGAL.

From M. FINUCANE, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal,
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Calcutta, the 18th November 1896.

SIR,

In continuation of this office letters, No. 951T.—R., dated the 16th October, and No. 1012T.—R., dated the 31st October 1896, submitting for the information of the Government of India preliminary reports dated the 8th and 23rd October 1896, by the Commissioner of Patna, on the state and prospects of the crops in that division, together with copies of the orders passed by the Lieutenant-Governor on them, I am now directed to lay before the Supreme Government the annexed report, dated the 11th instant, drawn up by Mr. Bourdillon, Commissioner of Patna, in conformity with section 9 of the Famine Code, and at the same time to offer the following remarks on the state and prospects of the crops and probability of distress in Bengal generally and in Bihar in particular.

Earliest Intimation of possible Distress.—The Government of India will doubtless have observed that in the weekly telegraphic weather and crop reports indications of the possible failure, in greater or less degree, of the coming winter rice harvest owing to the early cessation of the monsoon rains were given from nearly all the districts of these provinces; but though Sir Alexander Mackenzie and his officers, under his instructions, have been closely and anxiously watching the position, his Honour has hitherto thought it premature to address the Government of India, hoping as he did, till very recently, that a propitious fall of rain during what are known as the Hatiya and Siwati asterisms, *i.e.* from the 25th September to 10th October, and from 22nd October to the 5th of November, might still avert serious failure of the winter rice crop, and give promise of a favourable *rabi* harvest. These hopes have not been fulfilled.

2. *Principal Harvests in Bengal.*—As the Government of India are aware, there are three principal harvests in these provinces—

- (1.) The *bhadoi*, consisting principally of *aus* (early rice) in Bengal proper and Orissa, and of *makai* (Indian corn) and millets in Bihar and Chota Nagpur. This harvest, sown in April, May, and June, is reaped in August and September.
- (2.) The *aghani* or *hymanti*, corresponding, according to the Commissioner of Patna, to the *kharif* of the North-Western Provinces, and consisting of the great winter rice crop, reaped in November, December, and the beginning of January.
- (3.) The *rabi*, consisting of *boro* or spring rice and pulses in Bengal Proper and Orissa, and of wheat, barley, and pulses in Bihar, sown in October and November, and reaped chiefly in March, April, and May.

In order to estimate the effect of the early cessation of the rains which occurred in September, it is necessary to state approximately the relative importance of these different harvests as regards food supply, the rainfall conditions which produce good harvests, and the extent and effect of the divergence from these conditions which has taken place in the present year.

3. *Relative Importance of the principal Harvests.*—According to the statistics furnished by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture which, though not pretending to accuracy, and not based on patwaris' returns as in other provinces, but on rough estimates formed by collectors and other authorities, are still the best available, and are on the whole believed to be approximately correct, the following table shows the relative importance of the different harvests described in the preceding paragraph:—

<i>Total area under food-crops.*</i>		Acres
Rice (winter, <i>bhadoi</i> , and spring)	-	38,983,000†
<i>Bhadoi</i> (excluding <i>aus</i> rice)—		
Millets	-	1,240,000
Maize	-	2,041,000
		3,281,000

* Bengal Agricultural Statistics for 1894-95, page 25, column 2

† The winter rice area is estimated to be about three times that of the *bhadoi* or *aus* and *boro* rice, so that area under winter rice alone is about 30 million acres.

<i>Rabi</i> (exclusive of spring or <i>boro</i> rice)—		Acres
Wheat	- - - - -	1,472,000
Barley	- - - - -	1,023,000
Gram	- - - - -	1,566,500
Other food-grains	- - - - -	5,761,500
		9,823,000
Total area under food-crops		=52,087,000

Percentages on total area under food-crops—		
Rice	- - - - -	= 74·9
<i>Bhadai</i> (exclusive of <i>aus</i> rice)	- - - - -	= 6·3
<i>Rabi</i> (exclusive of <i>boro</i> rice)	- - - - -	= 12·8

It will be seen from the above table that the rice crop is incomparably the most important, covering, as it does, 39 million acres—an area three times as great as that under all other food-crops put together, and it therefore follows that meteorological conditions which cause a failure of that crop have a more serious effect in Bengal than they probably would have in provinces where the autumn (*bhadai*) and spring (*rabi*) crops are more extensively grown. All known famines in Bengal and Orissa have been rice famines. In Bihar and northern Bengal the *bhadai* and *rabi* crops may be the turning point between famine and no famine, but even there the immediate cause of scarcities and famines has always been the failure of the great winter rice crop. It is necessary to bear this fact in mind in estimating the probable results of the early cessation of the monsoon rains in the present year.

4. *Distribution of Rainfall favourable to the Crops.*—The distribution of rainfall most favourable to the winter rice crop is when premonitory showers fall in May or early in June. The rain in the latter half of June and in July should be heavy, then should come an interval of comparatively fine weather, so as to permit of weeding operations being successfully carried on. The September rains should be heavy, shading off into fine weather with showers in October. On the sufficiency of the rainfall in September, more than in any other month, depends the character of the out-turn of this crop. The preparation of rice land commences much earlier in East and North Bengal, and in the eastern districts of South-West Bengal, than in the rest of the Lower Provinces. The ante-monsoon showers, which fall in April, May, and the first part of June, are, in consequence, of more importance in these latter parts than in other places where lands are usually prepared after the commencement of the monsoon rains.

5. *Divergence of Rainfall Conditions this Year from the normal.*—The rainfall of the present year was far different from the cultivators' ideal, as will appear from the memorandum* annexed to this letter, prepared by Mr. Little, Meteorological Reporter to Government.

Other parts of the Province.—It will be seen on a perusal of that memorandum that the rainfall was below the normal in Bihar in every month of the present year, except May, and ceased prematurely in the most critical period by the 19th of September, since which date there has been practically none. On the other hand the fall in Orissa during June, July, and August, being far above the normal, resulted in floods. As regards the rainfall in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa generally, Mr. Little writes:—

“With the setting in of the monsoon a marked change appeared. A low pressure area formed over the north of the Bay, and within this one cyclonic storm after another developed. They followed almost the same track westward across Orissa and part of Chota Nagpur, and caused much heavier rainfall in the southern districts than in the north of the province.

“In June, South-west Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur received from 28 to 62 per cent., and in July, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur from 12 to 31 per cent in excess of the normal. During these weeks from the middle of June to the end of July the northern districts received less than usual. North Bengal had only 49 per cent. of the normal in June, with practically the usual amount in July, and Bihar rather over 80 per cent throughout. The effect, therefore, of the continued low pressure in the north of the bay was to deprive North Bengal and Bihar of a considerable portion of the rainfall in perhaps the most important part of the monsoon season.

* Not reprinted.

“ From the beginning of August there was a decided weakness in the monsoon current, except in Orissa, where the average rainfall was 28 per cent. in excess. The total fall in North Bengal was only 39 per cent., in East Bengal 46 per cent., and in south-west Bengal and Bihar from 70 to 75 per cent. of the normal. The rainfall occurred during the passage of shallow depressions, and it was not well distributed, especially in Bihar, where a large proportion of the rain was received in heavy falls on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Thunderstorms were more frequent than usual, and being followed by brighter sunshine, an appreciable part of the rainfall was probably soon lost in vapour.

“ There would have been very little rain in September but for a shallow depression which formed in the north of the bay about the middle of the month, and followed a zig-zag path, first north into the Sundarbans, then west across Lower Bengal into Chota Nagpur, and afterwards north-east into North Bengal, where it filled up. This irregular course brought every part of the province under its influence, except the extreme west of Bihar, where very little rain fell throughout the month. There were several days of general rain, moderate in amount, in Lower Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur, but excessive in the east of Bihar and north of Bengal during the two last days of the existence of the depression. The average fall during these two days must have been about 8 inches, a large portion of which must have been carried away by surface drainage. From the middle of the month rainfall became more scattered, and in Bihar almost entirely ceased. The greater part of the rainfall in the last week was in East and North Bengal, but at times it spread westwards, though in no great quantity, to south-west Bengal and Orissa. In consequence of the heavy fall in the middle of September in North Bengal and the continued showery weather throughout in East Bengal, these were the only divisions that received excess falls. In the west and centre of the province amounts were from 12 to 35 per cent. in defect—the latter in Chota Nagpur.

“ From the beginning of October rainfall all but entirely ceased, except in North Bengal, where light showers fell at the beginning and towards the end of the month. The average fall was practically nil, except in East Bengal, where it was 9 per cent. and North Bengal, where it was 26 per cent. of the normal fall. In addition to the absence of rainfall, day temperatures were steadily several degrees above the normal, and the hot dry westerly winds which blew across a great part of the province must have quickly dried up whatever moisture was near the surface.”

6. *Effect of the unfavourable Rainfall this Year.*—The effect of these abnormal meteorological conditions on the *bhadoi* and winter rice crop, according to the latest estimates of the Director of Land Records, is shown in the annexed table (Appendix II).*

It appears from these estimates that though the rice crop is everywhere likely to be seriously short, it is only in the Patna Division, and in parts of the Jessore, Nadia, Pabna, Rajshahi, Cuttack and Balasore districts, that it was reported to be so seriously deficient (considerably less than 8 annas) as to give cause for apprehension of local distress. The Lieutenant-Governor is unable to understand why the prospects of the rice crop in Nadia, Jessore, Rajshahi and Pabna should be so bad as they are reported to be, compared with other parts of Lower Bengal. It is probable that the local officers have overstated the extent of failure in these districts, and the Commissioners of the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions have been requested to make local inquiries on the point and report the result at an early date. In Manbhum, Palamau and Hazaribagh the rice crop is also reported to be less than 8 annas.

7. *First Indications of Scarcity shown in Bihar ; Comparison of Condition of Bihar now and in 1873-4.*—Though the monsoon rains ceased everywhere about the middle of September, the effect on the crops was more disastrous in Bihar than elsewhere, partly because the lands of that part of the country are comparatively high and require more moisture for the successful growth of rice and some of the other crops than the low-lying alluvial and partially water-logged districts of Bengal. In Bihar, too, the population is extremely dense, and the great majority of the people are much poorer than in most other parts of these provinces. The ordinary wages of agricultural labour are extremely low, being for an able-bodied agricultural labourer only from 1½ to 2½ annas a day, and they have, owing partly to the growth of population, and partly to the influence of custom, remained practically unaltered for the past 20 years or more, while the prices of food-grains have increased largely during the same period. On the other hand, it is to be noticed that the Bihar of to-day is in some respects far better prepared to meet a serious scarcity than it was in 1873-74. Then there were no canals

* Not reprinted.

completed, and there were no railways in North Bihar; in the south of the Patna Division there was no railway except the East Indian Railway. Now the headquarters of every district, and of most sub-divisions, are connected by rail with the markets of India. Canals have been completed in the Shahabad and Gaya districts, the country is better known than it was in 1873-4, the people have confidence in the power and will of Government to save them from starvation, and such problems as whether they will come on to relief works, accept task work, eat imported grain, and the like, which were cause for doubt and anxiety in 1873-4, have by experience been removed from the region of speculation, and no longer present any difficulties. It is known that the people will labour on relief works, and seek and accept gratuitous relief rather than starve in their homes, and it is also known that recent scarcities caused by the early cessation of rains in the years 1888-9 and 1891-2 were efficiently met without loss of life and at moderate expenditure. All this has to be borne in mind in considering the probable effect of a failure of crops in that part of the country at the present time.

But though there are many grounds for confidence now that did not exist in 1873-4, the fact cannot be overlooked that there are also some fresh grounds for anxiety. Prices of food-grains have steadily risen during the past 10 years, and are now higher than they ever have been before; this fact, coupled with the facts already mentioned that wages have not risen proportionately to prices, that the purchasing power of the poorer classes has therefore been steadily diminishing and is now less than it ever was, that whereas in former years of scarcity prices were kept down by importation from the North-Western Provinces and Lower Bengal, in the present year supplies from these sources cannot be confidently relied upon—are all circumstances that give fresh cause for anxiety which had no existence in 1873-4.

8. *Narrative of action hitherto taken.*—The areas to be affected by, and probable extent of, distress will, so far as possible, be described later on. I am here to summarise the action hitherto taken by the Lieutenant-Governor with a view to meet such distress as may occur. As was to be expected, it is in Bihar on the present, as on all former occasions, that the symptoms of approaching distress have first presented themselves, and have caused the most serious anxiety to this Government and the local officers.

The Lieutenant-Governor's special attention has been directed for some weeks back to this and other parts of the province where distress is apprehended. As even in the most favourable years some part or other of these provinces is known by experience to suffer from local and temporary distress due to floods, breaking of embankments, and other disasters, a letter was addressed to all collectors so far back as the 26th June last, in which their attention was called to the Famine Code, and they were requested to watch carefully the vicissitudes of the season, and to report promptly to Government any special circumstances, such as deficient or excessive rainfall, floods or other calamities which might indicate the probability that measures of relief or expenditure of money would be required.

In conformity with these instructions, the Commissioner of Orissa reported officially on the 21st September, in his letter No. 17 P.F. of that date, a copy of which was submitted to the Government of India with my letter No. 870T.—R., dated 8th October 1896, that injury to the standing rice crops of a more or less serious nature had been caused in all the districts of that division. Some hardship and temporary suffering had been caused to the people, but such distress as existed was met by advances under the Agricultural Loans Act, by the employment afforded by the railway line under construction in Orissa, and by private charity. The Commissioner at that time entertained no feeling of anxiety for the future unless the rains should cease prematurely. The rains, however, did cease prematurely, and the Commissioner now thinks that the winter rice crop will be seriously short, but does not apprehend any serious distress for a few months to come. This subject will be reverted to later on, and is mentioned here only in order to preserve the historical continuity of the narrative of the action taken by the Government.

9. Observing the shortness of the rainfall in September, and the high prices that prevailed in Bengal generally, and in the Patna Division in particular, the Lieutenant-Governor called on the Patna Commissioner, by telegram, for a special report on the state and prospects of the crops on the 23rd September. In response to this telegram the Commissioner reported on the 25th September that heavy rain which had fallen in every district of the division during the week ending the 19th September had done much good, that all cause for anxiety had disappeared for the time, and that if rain

should fall between the 25th September and 8th October (the *hatiya** rains) all would be saved. No rain did, however, fall in that period, and the Commissioner was obliged to report on the 8th October† that a strong west wind had been blowing from the 20th to 25th September, and again during the few days preceding the date of his report, which had the effect of greatly drying up the land, withering the standing crops, and retarding the preparation of land for sowing of *rabi*. It was at the same time reported that there had been a sharp rise in prices almost everywhere during the preceding week, due to the failure of the *hatiya* rains and large purchases for exportation to the North-Western Provinces, and that there had been some temporary ebullition of popular feeling. The Commissioner was of opinion that there was a sufficiency of grain in the division, and that what was required was money to buy it. He therefore proposed to open test relief works, but was unable to say that scarcity prevailed or that "famine was imminent." Mr. Bourdillon still hoped that rain might fall by the end of the "Siwati asterism" (*i.e.*, by the 6th of November), but if no rain were to fall by that date, he had no doubt that scarcity, if not famine, would supervene.

In passing orders on that report the Lieutenant-Governor, in my letter No. 940T.—R., dated the 15th October, again drew attention to the provisions of the Famine Code, and directed that no time should be lost in offering work on district roads under the conditions prescribed in section 56 of that Code, treating the districts roads for the present as test works under section 11, and that the district boards should be called upon to revise their budgets by cutting out all avoidable expenditure and appropriating all the funds they could find to relief works proper. It was pointed out by Government that should no rains fall before the end of October there could be little doubt that a serious failure of the *aman* rice and *rabi* crops would be inevitable, and that the local Government would have to largely supplement the board funds. Meantime all executive officers were to be instructed by the Commissioner to study carefully the Famine Code and the history of past scarcities. The magistrates and police were to keep a sharp look-out for any indications of rioting, and to take prompt steps to suppress it. The standing crops were to be carefully watched, and stocks of food-grain were to be inquired into, and every effort was to be made to utilise, for the purposes of irrigation, whatever supply of water there might be from hill streams, tanks, and wells. The Commissioner was also authorised to give loans freely for well-sinking, and to employ, for the purposes of local inquiries, the officers of the Opium, Survey, and Settlement Departments, without at the same time interfering for the present with their ordinary duties. It was added that the Lieutenant-Governor would be prepared to place an officer on special duty to assist the Commissioner should the situation become worse.

10. The Commissioner submitted another report, No. 579G., on the 23rd of October 1896. In this letter it was stated that the condition of the people had undergone no change, except in parts of Shahabad; but that the outlook for the future was certainly more gloomy, by reason of the total absence of rain. The want of the *hatiya* and *chitra* rains, which were necessary to keep the winter rice crop alive in tracts not commanded by irrigation, had, he wrote, made the failure of that crop certain. Mr. Bourdillon estimated that the outturn of the winter rice crop might, in case rain did not fall soon after the date of his report, be taken at 4 annas at the outside. In reply to this communication, the Lieutenant-Governor, in my letter No. 1010T.—R., dated the 30th October, remarked that if the Commissioner's estimate was correct the outturn would be less than in any previous year of scarcity on record, except perhaps 1873-4. His Honour expressed the hope that the Commissioner's estimate was unduly low; but added that if it were correct, the extensive failure of the rice crop, coupled with the facts that the *bhadoi* harvest was short, and that prices of food-grains were higher than they ever had been at that time of the year, while wages of able-bodied agricultural labourers were stationary could hardly fail to cause most serious distress. The Commissioner was at the same time called upon to submit the report required under section 9 of the Bengal Famine Code.

11. *Special Inquiries ordered to be undertaken in all Divisions.*—Meanwhile, pending receipt of the Commissioner's special report under section 9 of the Code, the Lieutenant-Governor caused to be prepared a note giving a *resumé* of the history of past scarcities in Bihar, comparative statements of rainfall month by month, outturn

* *Hatiya* is the name of the fortnight at or about the end of September and beginning of October.

† His No. 565G. of that date.

of crops, prices of food-grains, number of persons who came on to relief works or who received gratuitous relief in every year of scarcity since 1873-4, and circulated it with my letter No. 7T.—R., dated 3rd November 1896, to all Commissioners and Public Associations. In that letter and its annexures, copies of which have been submitted to the Government of India and published in the newspapers, the intention of Government to refrain from all interference with private trade was enunciated and emphasised—all the information then available to Government was given with the special object of assisting the mercantile community in forecasting the quantity of grain which it may be profitable for them to import, and further detailed inquiries were ordered to be undertaken with a view to ascertaining, as nearly as may be, the stocks in hand and the deficit or surplus under or over the requirements for local consumption. A supplementary note, of which a copy is annexed, giving similar information in detail for sub-divisions and for all districts, has since been prepared by the Director of Land Records, and is being also circulated.

12. *Patna Commissioner's Special Report under Section 9 of the Famine Code.*—Reverting to the narrative of the Patna Division, I am to state that the special report called for from the Commissioner under section 9 of the Code, as mentioned in paragraph 10 above, has now been received (Commissioner's No. 609G., dated the 11th November 1896), and is herewith submitted for the consideration of the Government of India.

The report has, in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's opinion, been prepared with much care and ability.

It will be noticed that the Commissioner traces an extraordinary similarity between the meteorological history of the present year and that of 1873-4 (paragraphs 94 and 95 of his report), and that while the estimated outturn of the crops is generally better now than in that year, Mr. Bourdillon adheres to his previous estimate of only a 4-anna rice crop for the whole division. There was a fairly good fall of rain, which saved the *rabi* crops in the months of December, January, and February 1874. If there should be similar showers in the coming year, which there is no reason to despair of, the outturn of food supply as a whole should be at least as good as it was in 1874, and will probably be better. But, as the Commissioner remarks, conclusions from the experience of the past are in this year liable to be vitiated by the predominating new factors already referred to in paragraph 7 above, and especially by the circumstance that whereas in former years of scarcity in Bihar, grain was available, and was largely imported from the North-Western Provinces, this year the North-Western Provinces require all that they can produce for their own consumption, and were till very recently importing largely from Bihar.

13. *Estimates of Area and Population affected in the Patna Division.*—The Commissioner estimates the total area and population of the area likely to be affected by distress respectively at 4,322 square miles and about 3,400,000 persons. He calculates that 5 per cent. of this population, or 170,000 persons, will require relief in the shape of employment on works, or gratuitously, during the next few months.

In the famine of 1873-4, 10 per cent. of the entire population of Bihar received relief for a period of nine months, and the numbers in receipt of direct relief at one time reached about two millions daily. Compared with these figures the Commissioner's present estimate* is extremely sanguine.

The Famine Commissioners, in page 26, Part I., of their Report, paragraph 75, take 15 per cent. of the entire population in the affected area as the maximum likely to be in receipt of relief in the worst months, and 7 to 8 per cent. of the population as the average number likely to require relief continuously, for a year, but Mr. Bourdillon† has only taken 5 per cent. of the urban population and of the tracts where the crops are particularly bad. Calculated on this basis, the numbers likely to require relief would, as above shown, be about 170,000. But it does not appear that the Famine Commissioners' estimates were intended to be thus restricted to percentages on the particular areas in which crops are particularly bad, and the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that Mr. Bourdillon's calculations in this respect cannot be relied upon.

The Commissioner also calculates that the numbers who may require relief will have to be supported for only a few months. According to all experience relief should be required from January at least till the rains break, or to the end of June, when credit

* Famine Commission's Report, Part I., page 26.

† Paragraph 48 of his Report.

may be expected to be restored and the people are assured of a coming harvest in August and September following.

14. *Estimates of Food Deficit in the Patna Division.*—Turning to the Commissioner's estimates of food supply, I am to observe that Mr. Bourdillon, taking the areas under food-crops and the average outturn per acre as given in the statistics furnished by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, calculates:—

- (a) the normal outturn of food crops in his division at 14,97,39,000 maunds of 82 lbs. each, and
 (b) the outturn of the present year, assuming the *rabi* to be as good as in 1874 *i.e.*, an average crop in South and an 8 to 10-anna crop in North Bihar), at 6,64,45,000 maunds, or about $\frac{7}{16}$ ths of the normal.

Assuming as Sir Antony MacDonnell does in his Report on "Food Supply and Famine Relief in Bihar and Bengal,"* that the rate of daily consumption per head is three-fourths of a seer, the total population of the division being 16 millions, the total requirements for local consumption for 12 months would be 108 million maunds against a total outturn of 66½ million maunds. Assuming also, as Sir Antony MacDonnell did, that the people always keep three months' supply in hand from previous years, equal to 27 million maunds, the figures will stand thus:—†

	Maunds.
Requirements for 12 months' consumption -	10,80,00,000
(1.) Outturn of this year's crop -	6,60,00,000
(2.) Stocks from previous years -	2,70,00,000
Total -	9,30,00,000
Deficit -	1,50,00,000 maunds, or 550,000 tons.

15. These figures would be alarming if they could be relied upon, but the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the outturn of this year's crops and the amount of the stocks in hand are under-estimated. Even in 1873-74 the total imports by Government and private trade together to all distressed districts were not more a million tons, or 27 million maunds. The Lieutenant-Governor has already expressed the hope in my No. 1010T.R., dated 30th October,‡ to the Commissioner of Patna, that Mr. Bourdillon's estimates of the outturn of the rice crops are below the truth, and the above figures would seem to support that surmise; but if Mr. Bourdillon's figures are even approximately correct, the question where this enormous deficit is to come from becomes one of the gravest importance. This is the question which has caused, and is causing, Sir Alexander Mackenzie the most serious anxiety. There will be no difficulty in providing relief works, of which programmes are ready for every district, as required by section 5 of the Famine Code. It is a fortunate circumstance also that railways are already in the course of construction between (1) Moghulserai, Dehree and Gaya, and (2) Lakhisarai and Gapa, and that the railways§ which pass through the most distressed districts, have been aligned or proposed and may be undertaken at any time with the sanction of the Government of India. As already remarked, among the beneficent effects of the policy of liberal expenditure adopted in 1873-4 were these—that the people of Bihar became accustomed to come on to relief works, that they learnt to have confidence in the power and desire of the officers of Government to save them from starvation, and that these officers acquired experience of relief administration which will stand them in good stead in the present time. But on the other hand, among the drawbacks of the policy it may be feared that the people may have too much confidence in Government and rely too little on themselves, that they may on this account, and also because of the great improvement in communications and high prices, have allowed stocks to become depleted. If the year's outturn plus stocks in hand is not sufficient for local consumption, and if private trade does not step in in

* Page 8, paragraph 36, *et passim*.

† Page 15, paragraph 64, of his Report.

‡ See page 44 of Sir Richard Temple's minute, dated 31st October 1874.

§ (1) Hajipur via Begumsaraj to Katihar, with branch to Khagaria (154 miles in the Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Moughyr Districts); (2) Segowli to Raksaul (17 miles, Champaran); (2) Sakri to Jainagar (27 miles, in Darbhanga); (4) Revilganj to Manjhi (7 miles, in Saran).

time to supply the deficit, there may at any time be a panic and a sudden rise of prices.

16. *Consideration of the Question—Will private Trade supply the Deficit?*—The question whether private trade will do all that is required is in reality the *crux* of the situation. As the Famine Commission* remarked, the action of Government itself prevented this question being brought to the test of experience in 1873-4 and no one can say with certainty what would have happened had private trade been left to itself. The Famine Commissioners themselves were of opinion that in consequence of the extension of railways no such measures of importation by Government as were adopted in 1873-4 would ever again be necessary, and should in no case be resorted to without the most complete proof of their necessity; but they added† that a resolution to rely on the ordinary operations of trade to meet the wants of the country unquestionably rests not only on the activity of traders, but also on the probability of the requisite supplies of food being forthcoming at the critical time. The question, they said, should therefore be asked whether there is sufficient ground for believing that the quantity of grain likely to be needed to meet the wants of such large areas as may be stricken with famine in a single year will be certainly forthcoming. In a subsequent paragraph, 159, of their Report they admitted that there may be cases in which Government interference is admissible, such as for the purpose of providing food required for payment of wages on relief works and distribution of gratuitous relief, stimulating trade where it is sluggish or fails to act, or grain-dealers combine and refuse to sell.

17. Sir Alexander Mackenzie agrees with the conclusions come to by the Famine Commission. His Honour gathers from the utterances of the Government of India that they expect that the requisite supply of food for India as a whole will be forthcoming through the operations of private trade; and in order to satisfy himself on this most important point as regards these provinces, he has caused inquiries to be made from local merchants and the Chamber of Commerce as to what is being actually done or intended to be done in the matter of private importation. Particular importance attaches to this question of importation from beyond sea, because the high prices in Eastern Bengal, and the indications of distress already existing in districts that were always considered free from risk of scarcity, show that little reliance can be placed on supplies from within the province.

18. *Importation of Wheat.*—His Honour is informed that three cargoes of Californian wheat aggregating about 14,500 tons, are on the way to Calcutta, but merchants generally are at present indisposed to import wheat largely from California, because of the uncertainty as to the demand in India, the high price for wheat prevailing throughout the world, doubts as to whether native dealers will purchase and have the grain, if imported, carried into the mufassal where it may be required, and generally because of the difficulties that attend on the diversion of trade from its ordinary channels, that is, from being an export to an import trade. They, moreover, believe that the stocks in Northern India and Bombay are sufficient for the requirements of local consumption. Cargoes of Californian wheat of 4,000 to 5,000 tons each can at present quotations be landed at Calcutta at Rs. 5 to Rs. 5-1 per maund. Offers for such cargoes to arrive in two months or more are not higher than Rs. 4-10 to Rs. 4-11, a fact which indicates that in the opinion of merchants, who ought to be the most competent judges in the matter, the price of wheat will not, in Calcutta, rise beyond Rs. 4-10 to Rs. 4-11 within the next two months. The importation of wheat is not, however, a question of so much importance to Bengal as it may be to other provinces.

19. *Importation of Rice.*—In Lower Bengal and Orissa rice is almost the sole article of food, and in Bihar rice, barley, maize, and millets (but not wheat) are principally consumed. It is fortunate that the rice crop is a good one in Burma. The quantity available for export in the present year is estimated to be 1,400,000 tons; of this about half would ordinarily be exported to Europe, but owing to high prices the demand for European countries is likely to be smaller than usual this year, so that the trade can be easily diverted to India. The rice crop is also reported to be good in Siam, Saigon, Java, and Shanghai, and the Lieutenant-Governor is informed that

* Page 148, paragraph 109, Part III.

† Paragraph 155, Part I., of their Report.

arrangements are already under consideration by private traders for large importations from Burma to Calcutta. His Honour is informed that 500,000 tons of rice can be landed in Calcutta two or three months hence if found to be required. Rice can now, it is understood, be purchased at about Rs. 3-6 to Rs. 3-8 a maund to be delivered in Rangoon two months hence, but purchases for Calcutta are so far limited—a fact which indicates that it is not anticipated by merchants that prices in Calcutta will be more than Rs. 4 to Rs. 4-8 a maund at that time.

Opinion that Food Wants of Bengal can be met by Private Trade.—The Lieutenant-Governor therefore thinks that there is ground for confidence that the food wants of these provinces will be met by the importations of private trade, but it is necessary to repeat that, in view of the unparalleled highness of prices and of extent of the area over which there has been shortness of crops throughout India, the situation as regards the food-supply is not free, even in Bengal, from elements of doubt and anxiety.

20. *Divisions other than Patna.*—So far particular stress has been laid on the requirements of the Patna Division. For other divisions special reports under section 9 of the Code have not yet been received, and these divisions may be treated very briefly.

Orissa Division.—The worst next to Patna is Orissa. The Commissioner of that division in his latest report, dated the 5th of November, says that the outturn of the rice crop will be very poor, but he does not apprehend distress for a few months to come. It is not now possible to say what the extent of that distress may be.

Presidency Division.—It is reported that some relief will be required in three thanas in the Satkhira sub-division of the Khulna district, where the rice crop is said to be likely to be a total failure. The Commissioner has been requested to go on the spot and arrange for such measures of relief as may be necessary.

Bhagalpur Division.—The Commissioner of this division reports that prices are high, but that so far there are no signs of distress, though anxiety prevails.

Dacca, Rajshahi, and Chittagong Divisions.—No reports of approaching scarcity have been received from these divisions, but prices rule unprecedently high, and districts which ordinarily export are said to have begun to import. This would indicate a dangerous depletion of stocks.

Chota Nagpur Division.—The Commissioner has just reported that Hazaribagh is the only district that gives any cause for anxiety in the immediate future, but even there no expenditure by Government is required at present.

21. *General Remarks.*—Most of the subjects mentioned in section 15 of the Famine Code have been touched upon in the preceding paragraphs, and such information as is available at present has been furnished; it only remains to add that it is not possible at present to give anything like an approximate estimate of the probable expenditure that may be required, and that this Government does not anticipate that there will be any necessity to remit or suspend Government revenue. The numbers of persons employed on test relief works are given in Appendix A. to the Patna Commissioner's Report.* The Lieutenant-Governor has observed that a certain number of persons have been employed on daily wages irrespective of task, and has called the Commissioner's attention to section 64 of the Code. Whether the provincial staff will have to be increased cannot be now stated with any certainty. The Lieutenant-Governor is about to visit Bihar, and after consulting local officers, indigo planters, zamindars, and others, his Honour will be in a better position, as events develop, to report to the Government of India on this and other questions. The Bengal Distress Relief Committee, formed in Calcutta in 1888, have in hand a sum of Rs. 34,000 which is now available for charitable relief. Sir Alexander Mackenzie proposes to ask the Committee to place this amount at the disposal of the local officers of distressed districts at an early date, as soon as he is in a position to say where it is most required.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor, agreeing with the Collectors and Commissioner of the Patna Division, the Director of Land Records and the Board of Revenue, has not thought it necessary to suspend settlement or survey operations in Bihar, at any rate for the present. The survey programme has been altered to this extent only, that the survey party is to be employed in South Darbhanga and South Saran, where distress has never been very great, instead of in North Darbhanga, where scarcity and distress

* Not reprinted.

have always been most serious. It is reported by Captain Ormiston that most of the field work will be completed by the end of March. If it should become necessary, the survey and settlement operations can then be suspended, and the officers engaged on these operations can be utilised on famine work.

I have, &c.
M. FINUCANE,
Officiating Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

No. 609G., dated Bankipore, the 11th November 1896.

From J. A. BOURDILLON, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Patna Division,
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, GENERAL
DEPARTMENT.

In continuation of my letter No. 579G. of the 23rd ultimo, I have now the honour to forward, under section 9 of the Famine Code, the following report which describes the state of affairs in the districts of the Patna Division on the 1st November 1896, and supplies the information required by the section quoted.

PART I.

Introduction.

2. After full consideration, I have decided that the time has come for declaring scarcity to be prevalent, and for submitting this report, because although there are so far no signs of distress among the mass of the population, yet grain is already at famine prices almost everywhere, and it follows that all those who have to purchase grain for their daily consumption must already be greatly straitened. I am also anxious to have all arrangements made in good time, and to place all the available information in the hands of the Government long before the actual onset of distress, which must certainly be felt in greater or less degree in the course of the next few months.

3. I propose first to set forth the condition of each district as reported by the district officer, with some remarks of my own, and then to review the whole situation, with such observations and recommendations as seem appropriate. The area and population in each case are taken from the latest census pamphlets. It is to be noted that the population figures are probably below the truth, as a period of nearly five years has elapsed since the census was taken, but there is a manifest convenience in using the figures of 1891, and I have adopted them throughout. The areas under each crop are taken from the forecasts published by the Director of Land Records, and the average outturn of each crop per acre has also been obtained from him; lastly the rainfall figures in Appendix B.* have been compiled from a memorandum supplied by the same officer. The terms *bhadoi*† and *kharif* used in the following paragraphs refer (a) to all the rainy season crops and (b) to the winter rice sometimes called *aghani*.

PART II.

Districts Reports.

4. PATNA.—[Area, 2,082 square miles; population, 1,772,509.] This district which lies wholly to the south of the Ganges, consists of four broadly marked tracts, viz. :—

- (1.) The deara land along the Ganges.
- (2.) A long and narrow strip of highland close to the bank of the Ganges, along which the East Indian Railway runs from east to west.
- (3.) A large tract of low land to the south of the railway and the high strip just mentioned, which is annually subject to inundation.
- (4.) The Bihar sub-division.

The first three areas are comprised in the Dinapore, Sadar, and Barh sub-divisions. Tracts Nos. 1 and 2 grow *bhadoi* crops in the rains and *rabi* in the winter; there is little rice. Tract No. 3 produces little rice or *bhadoi*, but usually grows a magnificent

* The Appendices and statements referred to in this paper have not been reprinted.

† *Bhadoi* is the Behar name for the early autumn crops reaped in September and October.

crop of *rabi*. The Bihar subdivision again is divided into the hills in the south and the low country to the north; the whole sub-division is intersected with streams, and the greater part is provided with a system of reservoirs (*ahars*), some of which are filled with rain water and natural drainage, while others are replenished by damming the rivers. An elaborate system of conduits (*pynes*) conveys the water from the rivers to the reservoirs, and again to the fields of the cultivators. Mention should also be made of the Sone Canal system, which runs for about 40 miles near the western border of the district, and irrigates in ordinary years about 40,000 acres of land, an area which has been increased during the present year to about 54,000 acres. The chief crop of the district is the *kharif*, which in an ordinary year produces 43·43 per cent. of the total food crop, 36·01 per cent. being *rabi* and 20·55 per cent. *bhadoi*.

5. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rains in the present year have been both unseasonable and deficient. They broke late, *i.e.*, at the end of June, and were heavy (the June rainfall being 7·19 inches against a normal fall of 6·24 inches). More rain followed in the first half of July, *viz.*, 8·97 inches against an average of 11·93 inches, and some little damage was done by floods. A prolonged drought succeeded, which lasted till the middle of August, during which month 10·05 inches fell against an average of 10·48. This fall saved the *bhadoi* and enabled the raiyats to transplant the rice seedlings, though the operation was later than usual and was not completed till well into September. A third downpour occurred in the middle of September, which was about half the average, *viz.*, 3·70 inches against 7·04. Up to this time the deficiency from the 1st of April was 7·28 inches, and not much harm would have been done had seasonable rain followed in October, but as a matter of fact not a drop has fallen since the 18th September, instead of the usual allowance of 3·25 in October, and by the end of that month the deficiency amounted to 10·53 inches or 25·53 per cent. of the average.

6. The result is that the *bhadoi* has been a short crop of 10 annas, the rice is estimated at 9 annas, and fears are entertained for the *rabi*. There is nothing in these figures to suggest scarcity in the district as a whole, and if sufficient rain falls during the cold weather months, the outturn of the *rabi* may be better than the collector expects, although he reports that the area sown is a good deal below the average. In 1873-4 a rainfall of 1·99 inches in the first three months of the calendar year 1874 produced what was estimated at 16 annas, or a full average crop of *rabi*. The crop where sown is said to be germinating freely everywhere, much of the land has been irrigated before sowing, and many temporary wells are said to have been made.

7. But though the crop outturn is not very bad, the sudden rise of prices to famine rates introduces a grave element into the situation. A good deal of excitement was felt in the first week of October, and prices oscillated considerably, but exportation has ceased to a great extent, and prices have now steadied down. I give below the prices of food grains in Patna on the 31st October 1896 and the corresponding date last year.

	1895.	1896.
Common rice	18½	9
Wheat	18½	8½
Barley	23	11
Gram	21	11
Arhar	20	11½

8. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—Certain parts of the district, however, are worse than the average. These are—

(a.) The Islampur thana in the south-west of the Bihar sub-division (area 117 square miles, population 81,401).

(b.) The high strip of land along the north of the district, especially parts of the Barh sub-division.

The tract first mentioned contains a good deal of poor sandy soil. It stands high and has few wells; *bhadoi* is little grown; the rice has been a failure, amounting only to 4 annas, and the absence of rain greatly jeopardises the *rabi* crops. The second tract is also high; its *bhadoi* has been poor, and it depends chiefly on its *rabi*. Further particulars are not given; they will be supplied in a later report. On the

whole it may be said that a rural population of about 600,000 will be earliest affected by the failure of the crops besides the urban population of the district, since it is upon them that the stress of high prices falls most severely. Their number under Mr. O'Donnell's average of 6·5 per cent. on the whole population comes to 115,263. The total is 715,263, and this is the population which we may expect to be affected within the next few months, whatever the result of the *rabi* may be. But it is not to be supposed that the whole will require aid. It is stated in the Report of the Famine Commission, Part III, pages 106, 107, that in the famine of 1868-9 in the North-Western Provinces, the largest number that Government ever had to relieve was 13 per cent. of the population for a short time, and 3·9 per cent for a continuance, and that was only in one exceptional district; in the same report, Part I, page 35, it is stated that in Bengal in 1873-4 the highest number in receipt of direct relief at any one time was 20 per cent., and the average about 10 per cent. for nine months. Looking at these figures and remembering that distress is always less acute at first, it seems to me that an estimate of 5 per cent. on the total would be a liberal estimate of the numbers to be provided for during the next few months, partly by charitable relief and partly on relief works. The nett result is 35·763.

9. *Communications*.—As regards communications, the district is most favourably situated; the East Indian Railway runs through its northern thanas from end to end, the Patna-Gaya Railway intersects the Sadar sub-division from north to south, the Sone Canal skirts the whole of its western border, and the Ganges, with a large boat traffic, bounds it on the north. Besides all this, it is well supplied with roads, the mileage being 1,212 on the 31st March 1896. Islampur is connected with Gaya, and with Fatuha on the East Indian Railway (28 miles) by a first class district road. In the matter of cross-roads it is rather badly off, but every village in the thana, and indeed in the whole district, can be reached by pack-bullocks, which are numerous and largely used.

10. *Grain Stocks*.—In the matter of grain stocks no very definite information is available, but the collector reports that they are said to be ample; the *bhaoli** system prevails largely over the whole of the south of the district, and it is believed that some zamindars have considerable stocks, while every rayat has something. Exportation is said to have ceased. This question will be more fully discussed in subsequent reports.

11. *Sources of Food Supply*.—The remarks in paragraph 8 above will show that grain can be imported by rail, road, canal, and river, and can be distributed by pack-bullocks everywhere. There are many large bazaars and marts, and Patna itself is a great grain emporium. Probably no district in the division offers so many facilities for private trade or is so well protected against exhaustion.

12. *Proposed Measures of Relief*.—So far the collector is of opinion that the necessity of relief works has not been proved. Early in October, when the sudden rise of prices caused by the assured failure of the hathiya rains, and the exportation of grain to the North-Western Provinces, caused a panic in the large towns, test relief works were opened at Patna and in various places in the north of the district, but these were not largely attended and were soon closed. The collector now proposes to open test works once more from the 16th instant at eight places in the north of the district, and also one at Islampur. These will afford employment to 1,676 persons for 90 days. If it is found that work is really needed, they will be promptly expanded and others started. Meanwhile the scheme of works submitted annually under Rule 5 of the Famine Code is being carefully revised, and work will be started as the need arises. The collector at my request is mapping out the whole district into relief circles, which will, however, not be manned till the proper time comes. Private committees for the relief of the indigent have been formed in Patna, and in all the chief centres in the north of the district, and loans have been offered to zamindars for the construction and repair of agricultural works, as well as to cultivators for temporary wells.

13. *Estimate of Expenditure*.—At this stage it seems absolutely impossible to form any definite estimate of what will be required, as so much depends on the outturn of the *rabi*, and the progress of prices. The District Board have, however, revised their budget, and have put a stop to all but unavoidable expenditure. By this means they have now available a sum of Rs. 25,000, including the estimated receipts up to the end of December, and a further sum of Rs. 25,000 will be available during the first three

* *Bhaoli* lands are those the rent of which is paid in kind by a division of the produce.

months of 1897. The collector's letter, however, is not quite clear on this point, and these figures will probably be modified. From the commencement of the financial year 1897-98, the District Board expect a large increase of revenue. An application is being separately made for an increase to the grant for advances under the Agricultural Loans Act, and the Land Improvement Act.

14. *Remissions or Suspension of Revenue.*—Nothing of the sort is required at present.

15. *Additional Establishment.*—None is at present needed, but the collector expects, if scarcity increases, that he will require three or four officers to take charge of circles, and some increase will be inevitable in the number of kanungos and ministerial officers.

16. *Conclusion.*—The condition of the district gives cause for no immediate anxiety. The first need here, as elsewhere, is a careful investigation of the state of towns and large villages, where the unusually high price of grain will first be felt by the non-agricultural population. I am drawing the special attention of the district officer to this matter.

17. *GAYA.*—[Area, 4,712 square miles; population, 2,138,343.] The district is very diverse in character, the north and west partake of the character of the Gangetic plain, while the south is hilly and jungly, and the Nawada sub-division on the east combines both these characteristics. The district is intersected with numerous streams flowing from the Chota Nagpur plateau, and these are largely used for the conservation of water in reservoirs, whence it is distributed by channels. This system prevails over nearly the whole district, except parts of Jahanabad and the northern areas of Aurangabad. The district is bounded on the west by the Sone River and the higher reaches of the Patna and Gaya Canal, which irrigates in ordinary years about 40,000 acres, and in the present year has irrigated as much as 53,000. The chief crop of the district, as might be expected, is the *kharif*; for out of the whole food crop usually produced in an ordinary year 65·89 per cent. is rice, 24·47 per cent. is *rabi* and *bhadoi* is represented by only 9·66 per cent. of the total.

18. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—As in the case of Patna, the Collector of Gaya reports that though the crops are not bad on the whole, the high prices ruling in the bazaars justify him in saying that scarcity prevails in his district to some extent. Here as in Patna the rainfall was scanty, and ceased early. During April and May only 0·27 of an inch fell, against an average of 2·02. In June the rain was late and heavy, being 8·34 inches against an average of 5·63. Early in July another downpour followed of 10·44 inches, the total up to date being then only $\frac{3}{10}$ ths of an inch below the average. A long drought succeeded, which was followed by 10·91 inches in August, against an average of 11·73, and after another long break, the middle of September gave another fall of 3·93 inches instead of 6·79. No rain has fallen since, and the deficiency to the end of October is 7·34 inches, or 17·8 per cent. These heavy falls alternating with long droughts did less harm in Gaya than they would have done elsewhere, for the water was carefully stored and used as required. Floods caused by heavy rain on the Chota Nagpur plateau did some damage in the Nawada sub-division at the end of September.

19. The result of these vagaries in the rainfall is an outturn which is estimated by the collector at 12 annas for the *bhadoi*, eight annas for the *kharif*, and seven annas for the *rabi* crop. The whole outturn of the district in an ordinary year is estimated at 2,44,01,000 maunds, and the equivalent of the above proportions, if the usual area has been sown this year, is as follows:—*Bhadoi*, 17,88,000 maunds; *kharif*, 81,22,000 maunds; and *rabi*, 44,79,000 maunds. The total is 1,43,89,000 maunds, which corresponds to 68·96 per cent. of an average crop.

20. These figures, as in Patna, give no cause for present anxiety, but that is unfortunately supplied, as indeed it is throughout the division, by the early rise of prices to famine rates. I give below the prices quoted at the Sadar station on the

	1895.	1896.
Common rice	14	8·4
Wheat	—	·8
Barley	—	·11
Makai	—	11·11
Gram	—	10·2
Arhar	—	10·4
Marua	—	13·4

31st October last, and the price of common rice on the corresponding date in 1895, which is the only grain mentioned in the return. Prices at the subdivisions are a trifle easier.

21. It is clear, as Mr. Savage observes, that "persons of the wage-earning class who receive their wages in money must find their means of livelihood seriously curtailed." To these I would add all persons on fixed incomes and all those who depend on charity; all those in fact catalogued in paragraph 109 of the Famine Commission Report, Part I. But here as elsewhere work in the fields is still plentiful, and as this is always paid chiefly in coarse grain, the daily labourer does not at present feel the high prices any more than the agriculturist who is living on his own stocks. There is no increase either in vagrancy or crime, and there are no signs of emaciation or distress anywhere.

22. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—But while the above paragraphs supply a satisfactory report on the general condition of the district, there are spots where the people are not so well off, because the rainfall has been scanty and the system of reservoirs is incomplete, or the land too high, so that there has been a more or less complete failure of the *kharif* crop. Three such tracts are marked by the collector and are described as follows:—

- (a.) The northern portion of the Jahanabad subdivision round the subdivisional head-quarters;
- (b.) The portion of the Sherghatti thana which lies to the south of the Grand Trunk Road; and
- (c.) A tract in the north-east of the Aurangabad subdivision between Aurangabad and Goh.

In the former of these tracts the area is about 100 square miles, and the population 65,000. The *kharif* crop here is placed at 2 annas only. In the second tract the area is much larger, being about 350 square miles, but it is hilly and is thinly populated, and the population is about 72,000. The crop here is expected to be about the same, *i.e.*, 2 annas. The third tract comprises an area of about 150 square miles with a population of 63,000, and here the rice is estimated at 5 annas. I also add the urban population, which at 6.5 per cent. of the whole population of the district comes to 139,291. The whole population to be first affected, therefore, comes to 339,291, and the area to 600 square miles. Taking 5 per cent. of the above total the number for whom some sort of relief may be necessary during the next few months is 16,645.

23. *Communications.*—The Gaya district itself is well supplied with communications. The Patna-Gaya Railway runs from Gaya to its northern boundary, about 40 miles; the Grand Trunk Road runs along through its southern thanas for about 70 miles; the Patna-Gaya Canal passes along its western boundary for about 40 miles; and the mileage of roads on the 31st March 1896 was as follows:—District roads, 849 miles; village roads, 554 miles; total, 1,403 miles. In the affected tracts also communication is ample. Through the Jahanabad area runs the Patna-Gaya Railway, and from Jahanabad itself unmetalled roads, passable at all times of the year, though heavy in the rains, radiate in all directions. To the Sherghatti tract there are two good roads from Gaya, and the Grand Trunk Road runs along its northern limit, but in the tract itself there is only one road which the collector proposes to raise as a relief work. To and through the Aurangabad tract runs a good unmetalled road fully bridged except at the big rivers, and from the centre of the tract (Rafingunge) radiate two fair-weather roads—one northward to Goh and the other westward to Okri. Means of communication are therefore ample and good till rain falls.

24. *Grain Stocks.*—The collector reports that every zamindar and every well-to-do raiyat has his *golah*. Exportation has stopped, and his information is that stocks are now everywhere held up partly for consumption and partly for sale when prices rise higher still. This was the experience of 1873-74, when in a year very similar to the present the stocks of the people enabled them to maintain themselves till the *rabi* was reaped, and again till the *bhadoi* harvest came in. A lakh and a half of maunds of grain were forced upon the Gaya officials, of whom I was one, but of this amount only 11,000 maunds were expended on relief in various forms, 50,000 maunds were sold, and the remainder was distributed to other districts, or returned to Patna.

25. *Sources of Food-Supply.*—Mr. Savage says that if a fair *rabi* crop is reaped the grain, together with that of the *kharif*, added to the stocks already in hand, will enable the district to support itself without special importation. The matter will be further

examined below. If importation has to be resorted to, it will no doubt be carried out by private enterprise along the lines of communication indicated above. Jahanabad, Sherghatti, and Rafigunge are all large villages with considerable grain marts.

26. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—The collector reports that exhaustive inquiries in every part of the district have satisfied him that there is no demand whatever for relief works at present, and in this view I entirely concur. There is plenty of field work to be had, which will carry on the labouring population till the South Bihar Railway breaks ground along a line from Baroon to Gaya, which will pass through Rafigunge, and will supply work for 10,000 able-bodied men for at least six months. Should the necessity for other relief works arise, however, the collector has arranged to open as test works the various feeder roads to the railway, which will provide for the Rafigunge tract, and in the Sherghatti and Jahanabad tracts to start work on the Sherghatti-Imamgunge and Jahanabad-Dharawat roads, which will supply all the work that is needed. If, contrary to all expectations, distress deepens, other railway feeder roads will be opened, and the scheme submitted under section 5 of the Famine Code will be utilised. This programme seems to me to be fully sufficient. In anticipation of their being required at some future date, the collector has mapped out his district into 14 relief circles, each circle comprising a thana, but he has so far only appointed circle officers to the three circles in which distress may possibly occur; moreover, they are at present engaged on famine work in addition to their ordinary duties.

27. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The Gaya District Board has as requested revised its budgets for 1896-7 and 1897-8. For the current year it has diverted Rs. 15,850 from various masonry works, and will also have at its disposal the estimated closing balance of Rs. 36,000, or Rs. 51,850 in all. For expenditure, if need be, in the early months of 1897-98 it has set aside Rs. 60,000, so that it has practically provided more than a lakh of rupees to meet the demands of the next eight or nine months. I consider the sum ample for the present at any rate.

28. *Conclusion.*—The condition of the Gaya district is the best in the division. The Nawada subdivision seems to be absolutely safe, and the doubtful areas in the other subdivisions are small and easily accessible. Here, as elsewhere, prices are already very high, and certain classes will feel the pinch this year much earlier than they have in former years of scarcity. As regards the agricultural population there is little to fear. The daily labourers will find employment on the South Bihar Railway, which runs right through the district, while it is almost certain the zamindars and the better class of cultivators will have sufficient stocks to carry them on till the *bhadoi* crop of 1897. The *bhaoli* system which prevails over so large a portion of the district directly tends to the hoarding of grain, and, in a year like the present, both landlord and tenant will reap large profits from the sale of surplus grain. For these reasons I have no fears for Gaya.

29. *SHAHABAD.*—[Area 4,375 square miles, population 2,063,927.] Like the district of Gaya the large district of Shahabad is divided into clearly defined tracts. In the south there is a large area of hill and forest thinly inhabited, while the central and northern portions of the district are fully cultivated, and carry a numerous population. On the north the district is bounded by the Ganges, and on the east by the Sone, while the Arrah Canal running along the bank of that river irrigates 475,000 acres with a perfect network of distributaries and village channels. Its operations cover the greater part of the Sasaram subdivision, all the south of the Buxar subdivision, and much of the Sadar subdivision, but only a small corner of the Bhabua subdivision is reached. The main crop of the district is the *rabi*; for out of the whole outturn of the district in ordinary years 48·11 per cent. is *rabi*, 44·27 per cent. is *khariif*, and only 7·60 per cent. *bhadoi*. Consequently the failure or success of the *bhadoi* is, comparatively speaking, a matter of little moment. The *khariif* is grown mostly in the neighbourhood of the canals and in the south of the district, while the Sadar subdivision, and the high land to the north along which the line of the East Indian Railway is carried, is chiefly devoted to *rabi*.

30. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rainfall in the Shahabad district was more deficient than in either Gaya or Patna, and was equally capricious, but the feature of the season was fair rain up till the end of August, and then a great deficiency in September. Here as in other Bihar districts the monsoon was very late; there was heavy rain early in July, then a long break till the middle of August, and a second lasting till the middle of September; but whereas up till the end of August the deficiency was only 7·09 inches, in September the rainfall was only 2·30 inches against

an average of 7.07. No rain has fallen since the middle of that month, and the total deficiency to the end of October is 10.30, which is equivalent to 25.84 per cent. of the normal fall. This explains at once why the estimated outturn of the crops is as low as the collector anticipates in spite of the efforts of the Sone Canal officers.

31. The crops resulting from these meteorological conditions are estimated by the collector as follows:—*Bhadot* 7½ annas, *kharif* 3 annas, and *rabi* 11½ annas. In 1873-4, with exactly similar conditions during August, September, and October, the *kharif* was found to be only a 2-anna crop and the *bhadot* 4 annas; but it is to be remembered that in that year the canals were not yet at work, and that damage was done by an abnormal fall of 16.79 inches in July. The whole outturn of the district in an ordinary year is 2,97,73,000 maunds, and the above estimates expressed in maunds and calculated on the areas cultivated, with the *rabi* estimate raised to 12 annas, work out as follows:—*Bhadot* 9,29,000, *kharif* 24,06,000, *rabi* 1,07,43,000, giving a total of 1,40,78,000 maunds as the produce of the district, which is equivalent to 47.28 per cent. of the produce of an ordinary year.

32. These figures, as has already been remarked in the case of Patna and Gaya, need cause no immediate anxiety for the district as a whole, but unhappily here as elsewhere famine prices have already appeared, and one part of the district is a good deal worse than the rest. As has been reported in a previous letter, prices rose very rapidly at the beginning of October, and a grain riot was apprehended. Exportation, which had been very considerable from Arrah and Buxar, was temporarily stopped at Arrah, but has since been carried on till it ceased from natural causes, and prices have now settled down. I give below, for convenience of reference, the prices of the principal food-grains at Arrah on the 1st November 1896 and on the corresponding day in 1895.

	1895.	1896.
Common rice -	13	9
Wheat -	13	8½
Gram -	18	11
Barley -	—	11
Makai -	—	12
Marua -	—	15

33. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—The figures just quoted show clearly enough that the urban population and all those who have fixed incomes or are paid in cash must be greatly pinched. Following the calculation adopted in the case of other districts, I take the non-agricultural population likely to be affected to be 134,155. Besides these there is the population of the Bhabua subdivision, in which is the area referred to above as being in worse case than the rest of the district. The area of this tract is 1,301 square miles, and the population 344,902. The collector reports that the whole of them are affected, and I accept the statement in the sense that this area will first require relief works. Five per cent. of the sum of these two totals is 23,952.

34. *Communications.*—The Shahabad district is not so well off in this respect as the other two districts of South Bihar, but there is no great cause for complaint. The Ganges bounds it on the north, and the East Indian Railway runs along its northern boundary for 60 miles. The Arrah Canal leaving the Sone at Dehree runs up to Arrah (60 miles), while other large branches diverge to Buxar and elsewhere. Lastly, the Grand Trunk Road traverses it from south-east to north-west, and the whole district is well supplied with district board and village roads, the mileage of which reaches a total of 1,855 miles. One-third of the area of the Bhabua subdivision, which is the affected tract, is covered with hill and forest and very thinly populated; the remainder is well supplied with communications. Besides the Grand Trunk Road, which runs through the centre of it for about 30 miles, there are three metalled roads and 35 unmetalled roads. All these roads are passable until the rains set in, and some of them can be used even after that. Many of them will be raised and levelled as relief works during the current season if the need arises.

35. *Grain Stocks.*—As elsewhere the collector reports that grain-stocks are said to be abundant, and I have every reason to believe that he is right. Sales to brokers have stopped, and not only the dealers, but the zamindars and cultivators are said to be holding up their stocks for consumption or for sale at higher prices later in the

year. There is a considerable *bhaoli* area in this district on the south and west, and hence, as stated in paragraph 28 above, it is believed that the habit of hoarding grain is well established and largely followed.

36. *Sources of Food Supply.*—Should necessity arise, grain can be poured into the district by all the means of communication noted above, and into the Bhabua subdivision from Zamania on the East Indian Railway (30 miles), from Dehree on the canal, through Sasaram, up the Grand Trunk Road, and by many cross-country roads from local marts in the Sadar and Sasaram subdivisions where grain is cheaper and more plentiful. Meanwhile the collector has arranged with two important local grain dealers to open markets near the test relief works to be mentioned in the next paragraph. These markets are reported to be in full swing and will meet all the requirements of the case for the present.

37. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—In paragraph 12 of my letter of the 23rd October I have already reported that test relief works were required in the south and east of the Bhabua subdivision. In accordance with my request the collector proceeded to the subdivisional head-quarters, and remained there till all arrangements were completed. The work, which consists of repairing, raising, and levelling existing unmetalled roads, has been commenced in five places, viz. :—

- (1.) Bhabua to Jahanabad (7 miles east).
- (2.) Bhabua to the Karamnasa river (20 miles west and north-west).
- (3.) Durgauti to Hata (12 miles south) (Durgauti is on the Grand Trunk Road).
- (4.) Mahania to Panjraon (17 miles north and north-west).
- (5.) Bhagwanpur to Rajghat (12 miles south).

Work was commenced on the 21st October, and a return in Form 19 of the Famine Code is appended, showing the numbers employed and other particulars. The daily figures are given below :—

21st October	-	-	13	27th October	-	-	1,159
22nd	"	-	57	28th	"	-	792
23rd	"	-	316	29th	"	-	1,478
24th	"	-	312	30th	"	-	1,289
25th	"	-	931	31st	"	-	766
26th	"	-	836				

On the first day only one work was opened; there were two open on the 22nd and 23rd, and after that date three were open. The work should not have remained open on the 25th, Sunday, and the sudden fall on the 28th and 31st requires explanation, which has been asked for. Mr. Egerton commenced by paying rates calculated under section 103 of the Famine Code, and the task set is that calculated by Mr. King (*vide* Appendix IV., page 80, of the Famine Code). A man and woman working together have to cut 100 cubic feet of earth with a 50-foot lead, the woman doing the carrying and a child assisting. The rate of wage in Government pice is man 6, woman 5, big child 3. This rate was based on a price-current of 11 seers to the rupee, but rice was selling at Bhabua on the 2nd instant at $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers. Mr. Egerton reported that this rate worked out to Rs. 2-4 per 1,000 cubic feet, whereas the district board rate is Re. 1-12 for piece work, and the railway authorities were offering only Re. 1-8, which has since been raised to Re. 1-12. I accordingly telegraphed to him to reduce his rate and to introduce calculations under section 104, though it is to be observed that the rise in price has considerably reduced the value of the money wage. These changes have been carried out since the 1st November, and the district engineer, Mr. Edwards, who was on leave when the work was first opened, has returned, and proceeded to Bhabua. The labourers are reported to be in good case, but there are a good number of B. class men, as the annexed statement (Appendix A.) will show. Further particulars will be given in my next report; meanwhile the Lieutenant-Governor may rest assured that these relief works will in no case be allowed to compete with those of the Moghalserai-Gaya Railway.

38. This work, which will supply many thousands of labourers with employment all through the cold weather, forms a splendid natural relief work, and will be of the greatest assistance to the people in the Bhabua and Sasaram subdivisions. It runs from Khajura on the Karamnasa to Dehree on the Sone, following generally the line of the Grand Trunk Road. I have been in telegraphic communication with the collector and the resident engineer, and have arranged that without waiting for the usual formalities work is to be started in several places, where this can be done without objection. This has already been done, and I fully expect that all the professional and

able-bodied labourers will be drawn away from our test works and find employment on the railway.

39. The collector has increased the allotment of the subdivisional officer, Bhabua, for advances, and loans for wells are being freely given. A deputy collector and a Khas Mahal Tahsildar have been deputed to assist the subdivisional officer. Mr. Egerton has also applied for sanction to start some agricultural improvements in the Government estates in the Bhabua subdivision, and has placed Rs. 500 in the hands of the district superintendent of police for use under section 12 of the Code.

40. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The collector finds that he cannot at present make any confident estimate of expenditure, and I agree with him. It is impossible at this moment to estimate even the numbers who will seek our relief works, as the effect of the opening of the railway work has yet to be noted. By revision of the district board budget Rs. 20,000 have been saved for the current year, besides the estimated closing balance of about the same sum. For the early months of 1897-8 the Board has provided Rs. 55,000 out of the civil works budget without touching the other heads. These sums seem quite sufficient for the present. The collector has addressed all the leading zamindars of the district on the subject of organising private charity and giving advances and remissions to their raiyats. No response has been received so far.

41. *Suspension of Government Revenue.*—This is not recommended at present, but, with my sanction, the collector has for the time being suspended the collection of rents from the raiyats in the Government estates in Bhabua, and has postponed all certificates except those which would be time-barred by the operation. These latter will be carefully looked into one by one.

42. *Additional Establishment.*—No confident estimate can be given, but the collector has been a good deal hampered by the transfer of two deputy collectors and a sub-deputy collector. If settlement operations in Bihar are suspended some of these should be posted to the district again; meanwhile the services of Mr. Ryan, assistant district superintendent, will be utilised in both the Sasaram and Bhabua subdivisions.

43. *Conclusion.*—With a good *rabi* crop Shahabad will do well enough. The Bhabua subdivision will require to be carefully watched, but I expect great things from the commencement of the Moghalserai-Gaya Railway.

44. SARAN.—[Area, 2,651 square miles; population, 2,466,065.] The Saran district is the most densely populated and the most closely cultivated district in the Patna Division. It contains practically no waste land, and is a fertile *doab* of rich alluvial soil washed on three sides by the Gogra, the Ganges, and the Gandak. It possesses a so-called system of canals, which are of little practical value, but its surface is pitted with innumerable wells, and it is cultivated by the most adroit agriculturists in the whole of Bihar. Unlike other districts which depend on one, or perhaps two, harvests, and stand or fall by them, the crops of Saran are almost equally divided among the three great harvests of the year, so that it is practically impossible for it to lose its whole crop. The area cultivated with food crops in an ordinary year is appropriated as follows:—*Bhadai*, 37·5 per cent.; *kharif*, 25·5 per cent.; and *rabi*, 37·4 per cent.; while the normal outturn is thus divided:—*Bhadai*, 31·5 per cent.; *kharif*, 30·11 per cent.; and *rabi*, 38·38 per cent.

45. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rainfall in Saran during the current year has been unusually short, the total, according to the published returns, being only 22·32 from 1st April to 1st November in place of a normal fall of 42·80. The rains commenced late in June, and from the first were insufficient, the monsoon current which came up from the east seeming to be exhausted before it reached Saran, and two long periods of drought in August and September occurred here also as elsewhere. In June the fall was 2·68 against 6·42; in July the fall was 3½ inches short, and in August the deficiency was an inch and a half; but worse was to come, for in September only 1·28 inches fell against an average of 7·45, and none has fallen since the middle of that month. Thus the three asterisms of the *Hathiya*,* *Chitra*, and *Srivati*, which are the most important in the whole agricultural year, have passed without a drop of rain in this district. The total deficiency is equivalent to 47·85 of the normal fall.

46. A glance at the above figures will show that they must mean a considerable failure of the *bhadai*, a great deficiency of the *kharif*, and very poor prospects for the *rabi*. Accordingly the collector's estimate for the two former is as follows:—*Bhadai*, 6 annas, and *kharif*, 3 annas, while he hazards no speculation for the *rabi*, since so much

* These are the names of three fortnights in the months of September and October.

depends on the rainfall during the current month, and again in the first three months of 1897. In 1873-4 the total rainfall from 1st April to 1st November was half as much again as in the present year, viz., 32.02 inches; but the conditions in September and October were practically the same; if we may assume that the fate of the *rabi* will be the same as in that year, then we may expect an 8-anna crop. Taking this as my standpoint and expressing the result in maunds, the outturn will be as follows, viz.:—*Bhadai*, 21,17,000; *kharif*, 10,74,000; and *rabi*, 34,39,000; total, 66,30,000. In an ordinary year the figures are:—*Bhadai*, 56,45,000; *kharif*, 53,95,000; and *rabi*, 68,78,000; total, 1,79,18,000 maunds. The total outturn will therefore be only 37 per cent. of that in an average year.

47. These figures suggest a serious failure of the food supply of the district, but for reasons which I will explain below, they would give me little concern but for the fact that the situation is complicated by the extraordinary high price of grain. This has been caused here, as elsewhere, by exportation, the natural result of improved communications and of greater distress elsewhere. The figures given below show the price of the ordinary grains on the 1st November 1896 and the same date in 1895. Obviously here as elsewhere, all but those who are paid in grain, or who live on their own stocks, must be much pinched already; but the collector reports that all persons are unanimous in saying that no general inconvenience need be expected till after the beginning of December, since the *bhadai* crop is still in hand, and there is ample employment available for cultivators and field labourers in the irrigation and preparation of lands for the *rabi* crop.

	1895.	1896.
Common rice -	17.8	9
Makai -	25.8	12
Marua -	—	14
Wheat -	—	8.8
Gram -	—	11

48. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—Bearing the above considerations in mind, the collector has reported that the whole district will be affected. Strictly speaking, this is true; but I do not think that it was the intention of the framers of the Famine Code that the expression should be taken so literally, and I prefer to confine the estimate of distress to the urban population and that of certain tracts where the crops have been particularly bad. These tracts are the thanas of Mirganj, Gopalganj, and Darauli, the gross area of which is 1,046 square miles and their population 860,670, but I cannot think that the whole of these thanas are in bad case, and we shall, I think, be near the truth if we divide the figures by two. The urban population taken at 2.9 per cent., Mr. O'Donnell's ascertained ratio for North Bihar, comes to 71,515, and if we add this total to half that of the above-named thanas, we get a grand total of 501,850 persons who are likely to be the earliest affected. Five per cent. of this total gives 25,092 persons who may require relief during the next few months.

49. *Communications.*—Saran is amply supplied with means of communication. On three sides it has the great waterways of the Gogra, the Ganges, and the Gandak. The Bengal and North-Western Railway traverses it for 84 miles from south-east to north-west, and it possesses a more complete reticulation of roads than any other district in Bihar. There are 66 main roads with a total length of 976 miles (of which 118 are metalled), and besides this, 470 so-called village roads with a mileage of 1,705, many of which are of great importance. All these roads can be used with effect till the rain falls, and many of them can be used throughout the year. The tracts likely to be first affected are well supplied with roads, and pack-bullocks are numerous and good. The railway runs past the northern boundary of the Darauli thana, and from the important station of Siwan grain can be easily and rapidly transported to any part of Mirganj and Gopalganj.

50. *Grain Stocks.*—The collector of Saran is no more able to give a confident opinion on this point than his brother officers. He has ordered detailed inquiries to be made, and in the meantime reports that there are said to be sufficient quantities in hand for present needs. In this opinion I fully concur, and I would go further and say that I have no doubt that, however high prices may rise, Saran will always have grain for those who have the money to buy it.

51. My reasons for this belief are many. In the first place, the Saran raiyat is notoriously capable, and he may be trusted, before any man in Bihar, to keep by him what he considers a fair supply of grain. But even in ordinary years this supply is not nearly enough to feed the whole of the teeming population of Saran, and the result is that there is always a large importation of food grains. Thus it follows that the habit of importation is of old standing, and all that is necessary, provided that grain can be procured elsewhere at a remunerative price, is for the dealer to extend his operations; there is no question of establishing a new trade, and development is all that is required. Moreover, it is particularly noted in the accounts of the relief operations of 1873-4, that Saran was preserved by the extraordinary activity of its private trade. Lastly, it is probable that more money is poured into Saran than into any other district in the division. The average annual payments of the Opium Department are very large, as are the sums paid out in the cultivation and manufacture of indigo, while lastly the vast numbers of Saran emigrants remit and bring home sums of money, which those who are unacquainted with the district find it difficult to accept. In a memorandum which was published in the "Calcutta Gazette" of the 10th December 1890, I pointed out that the value of money orders paid in Saran from other districts, which were nearly all in small sums, and almost certainly family remittances, was nearly 10½ lakhs of rupees, and it is believed that each emigrant brings back twice as much as he sends home. In 1893-4, according to Mr. Slack, the collector, the amount so paid was Rs. 13,33,450, and in 1894-5 it was Rs. 16,42,900; a very moderate estimate would therefore place the amount annually sent and brought home by Saran emigrants at 30 lakhs of rupees every year.

52. *Sources of Food Supply.*—The district generally can be easily and effectively supplied by rail and river, and what has been said above in respect of communications will show that internal distribution is easy. These remarks apply to the affected tracts equally with the rest of the district. Revilganj on the Gogra, seven miles from Chapra, is a famous grain mart, and is now connected with the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

53. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—Mr. Earle has gone very fully into this subject. After consulting the district board he has decided to open experimentally, under the Famine Code, a few small test works, which comprise the improvement of three roads in the Gopalganj subdivision and the construction of a new road in the Siwan subdivision, across the only part of the Darauli thana which is not yet completely supplied. It is not expected that the experiment will prove the necessity of opening regular relief works, but should this be so a second list has been prepared to which effect can be given at once. Another work proposed is the quarrying of *kankor* for a two or three years' supply; others of a less practical character it is unnecessary to mention. The authorised programme of relief works includes works under Public Works agency of which the cost is estimated at Rs. 80,722, but sanction to these has not been received; it would be well if this could be accorded without delay. Lastly, the authorities of the Bengal and North-Western Railway report that they are prepared to spend Rs. 30,000 on earthwork in the Saran district, partly in constructing the line from Revilganj to Manjhi (seven miles), and partly in petty works. In conclusion, as the Lieutenant-Governor is well aware, the Saran canals have been thrown open, and every effort is being made to send as much water down them as possible into one of the canals, viz., the River Dolia. Some water passed as early as the first week of this month.

54. No meetings for collecting subscriptions or organising charitable relief are spoken of, but there is no doubt that these will be called in due course. The late Maharaja of Hatwah expressed his intention of undertaking the assistance of the raiyats throughout his estates, and the Court of Wards will doubtless do what is needed.

55. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—Mr. Earle hesitates to offer any definite estimate of expenditure, as the magnitude of the crisis is still a matter of pure speculation; but the district board budget has been pruned down in accordance with the principles of the Famine Code and the instructions of Government, so as to provide an allotment of Rs. 78,000 in the current year, including the estimated closing balance, and arrangements have been made to make available Rs. 80,000 out of the budget of 1897-8 in the first few months of that year. The provision is ample for the present.

56. *Conclusion.*—For all the reasons stated above, I consider that Saran is in no real danger at present. The urban and non-agricultural population here, as everywhere,

will feel the pressure of high prices, and it is to them that attention must first be turned; but remembering the fact that the district grows three crops in something like equal proportion, that its agriculturists are resourceful and adroit above the general average, that the supply and distribution of food-grains in almost any quantity over its numerous roads is well understood, and lastly, that an unusually large number of emigrants has left the district this year at an unusually early date, so that not only will there be fewer mouths to feed but more money than usual to be sent home this year, I feel no anxiety for Saran, except in the improbable event of a total failure of the *rabi*.

57. CHAMPARAN—[Area, 3,531 square miles; population, 1,859,465.] The Champaran district is the westernmost of those north of the Ganges, and has all the characteristics of a sub-Himalayan tract. It is bounded on the west (with the exception of one outlying thana) by the River Gandak, on the north by the Nepal frontier, and on the south and east by the Muzaffarpur district. The eastern and southern portions are rich and fertile, but its northern and western thanas contain a large proportion of hill and jungle, and are thinly populated; the climate is humid, lakes and streams abound, and the normal rainfall (49·85 inches) is higher than that of any other district in the division. The chief crops of the district are the *bhadoi* and *kharif*, and the *rabi* is of comparatively little importance. Out of the area cultivated in an ordinary year, 41 per cent. is devoted to *bhadoi*, 39 per cent. to *kharif*, and 19·9 per cent. to *rabi*. In the matter of outturn these proportions are somewhat varied, for the *kharif* stands at 43·92 per cent., *bhadoi* at 35·04 per cent., and *rabi* at 21·02.

58. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rainfall at Motihari, the head-quarters station of the district, was of much the same character as in other districts of the division. The monsoon commenced late (25th June), and was four inches below the average of that month. In July there was not much to complain of, but in August the deficiency was 2½ inches, and the total deficit up to that time was 9·47 inches. This was bad enough, but the September rainfall was even more disappointing. This district usually receives 9·30 inches of rain in September and 3·54 in October, total 12·84, but in the present year there fell only 2·35 inches in September, of which almost all fell in the first week. No rain at all fell in October. To this cause principally, and also to the long droughts from the middle of July to the middle of August, and again from the middle of August to the beginning of September, is to be attributed the bad outturn of the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops, and the poor prospects of the *rabi*. The total deficiency of the year is 19·96 inches, or 41·67 per cent. In this respect Champaran stands second only to Saran. The collector estimates the *bhadoi* at about eight and the *kharif* at three annas, and has made no estimate of the *rabi* outturn yet, but the unusually early cessation of the rains, and the prevalence of west winds, give cause for serious apprehension. In the north of the district a good deal of irrigation is done from hill streams which are dammed for the purpose, but in the south of the district irrigation is not practised. Mr. Macpherson reports that *rabi* sowing can without disadvantage be postponed till the 20th November, if a good shower falls before that time. At present there are no signs of such an event, and the chances against it are very great.

59. In Statement D appended to this report, I have calculated that on the collector's first estimate of 8½ annas for the *bhadoi* and 3½ annas for the *kharif*, the outturn of these crops in Champaran will be 36,66,000 maunds and 15,31,000 maunds, respectively, as against a normal outturn of 67,52,000 maunds of *bhadoi* and 84,63,000 maunds of *kharif*. The totals are 51,97,000 and 1,52,15,000, which give an outturn of only 34·15 per cent. on the normal food-crop. If, as has been done elsewhere in the report, we assume that the *rabi* crop will be much what it was in 1874, viz., 8 annas, then the whole outturn will be 72,77,000 maunds against an average of 1,92,66,000, or only 37·48 of the ordinary outturn of the district.

60. Moreover, the collector reports that prices are high, as elsewhere, and that the non-agricultural population and those who are not paid in grain, or who have no stocks of their own, are already beginning to feel the effect of the rise. Mr. Macpherson reports that in Champaran the daily labourers are beginning to be in want. The failure of the rain means that the area sown with *rabi* will be contracted, and therefore the demand for field labour; in other districts the active irrigation which is going on makes up for this want, but, as has been stated above, over the greater part of Champaran irrigation is not in vogue, and the labourers have little or nothing to do. He also adds that two-thirds of the raiyati holdings in representative villages prove to be

less than three acres in extent, so that most of the cultivators are little better off than the daily labourers. The figures given below show the present actual price of the common food-grains at Motihari as compared with their average price in an ordinary year:—

	1896.	Average.
Common rice	10	17
Wheat	9	13 $\frac{7}{8}$
Barley	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{5}{8}$
Maize	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{3}{4}$
Giam	12	18 $\frac{1}{4}$

Grain has been largely exported from the district of late, but this is believed to have ceased, as the holders of grain have now parted with their surplus stock. Prices will probably now remain steady or fluctuate but slowly. The subject will be mentioned again below.

61. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—Obviously all parts of the district are not inconvenienced to the same extent, and the collector has been at great pains to work out in detail of areas the extent to which each is likely to be distressed; and he has illustrated his report with a map which I will submit with next report. He has based his forecast on the supposition that no rain will fall before the end of the present month to help the *rabi*, and as there seems little hope of that, the scheme of his forecast may be accepted whatever may be said of the anticipated degrees of distress. There are two tracts in which in his opinion relief, whether in the form of work or gratuitous distribution, will be wanted at once. The first of these is a tract of about 430 square miles and a population of 75,850, lying in the north of the Bettiah subdivision, and comprising parts of the thanas of Bagaha and Hurdi or Shikarpur). The second is a smaller tract of about 36 square miles in area with a population of 22,400, and it lies to the south of the Sikrana river, about 10 miles to the north-east of Bettiah. The first tract is purely rice land, and both the *bhadol* and the winter rice have been a failure, except where the latter has been irrigated from hill streams. The second tract grows all kinds of crops; but the *bhadol* was a 5-anna crop only, the *kharif* has been a total failure, and there is no moisture for the *rabi*. In both these tracts Mr. Macpherson proposes to start test relief works forthwith. The rest of the district he has divided into areas in which he anticipates that relief will be required in three further stages, viz., in December, in February, and in April. In some parts relief will not be required at all. I give below a synopsis of his distribution of areas, including that in which relief is wanted at once. The difference between the total area and that mentioned in paragraph 57 above is said to be hill and jungle. He explains further that at the periods mentioned distress will not be acute among all the population in each case, and it would be perhaps fair to say that 10 per cent. is a reasonable percentage:—

Month in which Relief will be wanted.	Area in Square Miles.	Population
1.	2.	3.
November 1896	467	177,506
December "	1,385	883,243
February 1897	436	261,665
April "	304	146,904
Not at all	641	390,157

62. This estimate I venture to think is somewhat too gloomy. As I understand Mr. Macpherson, he has based it on the assumption that the *rabi* will be a total failure, or nearly so; but for reasons which have been explained elsewhere in this report, I consider that such an event is most unlikely, and I confidently anticipate rainfall and crops similar to those which were recorded in 1874. If I am right in my interpretation of Mr. Macpherson's meaning, he is working on the belief that (as shown in Appendix D. below) the crop outturn of the year will be that of the *bhadol* and *kharif* alone, viz., 51,97,000 maunds, while I anticipate that it will be 72,22,000, including an 8-anna crop of *rabi*. In other words, he has, I think, considerably over-estimated the

probable distress, for not only will the harvesting of the *rabl* employ large numbers in March, but the crop then reaped will feed many of those who, according to his present estimate, will come on our hands during February and April, and will take off many of the November and December folk. I purposely do not go into his calculations for the future, as they depend upon a contingency which I do not think likely to occur. At present we are immediately concerned with those who, in Mr. Macpherson's opinion, will come on our hands at once in November and December; these amount to 177,506 for nine months (till the end of August) and 883,243 for eight months. Add to these the urban population, which at 2·9 per cent. of the whole district population comes to 53,924. The total is 231,430 for November onwards and 1,114,673 from December onwards. Taking the proportion of 5 per cent. stated in paragraph 8 above, this will give us 12,571 for whom employment is required every day in the present month, and 55,733 in December. The average daily attendance on relief works in 1873 was 561 in November and 4,509 in December. Even if we double those figures to include those on charitable relief, the figures are much smaller than those now estimated.

63. *Communications*.—Champaran is not so well off in this respect as other districts in Bihar, though the Bengal and North-Western Railway runs for about 55 miles through the district from south-east to north-west. The road mileage is 1,359, but the roads are not all in good order. The district fund is a poor one, and most of the roads being unmetalled, they have in so dry a season become very much worn. The northernmost of the two tracts where distress is first anticipated is at a considerable distance from the railway, Ramnagar, the centre of the tract, being 28 miles from Bettiah. The western and north-eastern portions of this area are also decidedly badly off for roads. The other tract is close to Bettiah. However, until the rain falls carts and pack-bullocks can make their way all over both areas.

64. *Grain Stocks*.—Mr. Macpherson reports that it is extremely difficult to estimate the grain still held in the district, but he judges that the zamindars, banias, and larger cultivators have sufficient everywhere to keep them till the next *bhadoi* is harvested, while the petty cultivators and landless men have enough to keep them till a little beyond the date at which he believes distress will be declared in the various areas he has noted. But he reports that owing to heavy exports there cannot be much surplus. The figures below give the operations by rail, showing a net total export of 136,739 maunds.

Periods.	Exports.	Imports.
	Mds.	Mds.
From April to August 31st	95,379	4,937
September 1st to October 4th	19,399	2,362
October 5th to October 31st	30,277	997
Total	1,45,055	8,316

The collector also reports that during the last two months grain has been exported largely to Saran and Gorakhpur by road, but he has omitted to notice the imports from Nepal, which, from all I can learn, were large till they were stopped by order of the authorities. Mr. Macpherson reports that he has been recommending zamindars and planters to buy grain to supply the deficiencies of their tenants and labourers. If possible these purchases will be made elsewhere; but if this cannot be done at a cheaper rate, Mr. Macpherson argues that their purchase locally will prevent the grain from being exported. If there is still a margin, the argument is sound enough, but if all the surplus grain has already been exported, large local operations will have no effect but to raise prices.

65. *Sources of Food Supply*.—The railway and the River Gandak will enable food grain to be landed in the district from other parts of India and from abroad when they are once landed in Calcutta. Mr. Macpherson suggests that Calcutta merchants should be informed of the character and prospects of the crops in Bihar, and of its probable requirements. I believe that this question is now occupying the attention of Government.

66. *Proposed Measures of Relief*.—The programme of relief works prepared under section 5 of the Code provides for local agency works to employ 175,835 people for 90 days, and there are also works to be carried out by professional agency, to employ 4,434 persons for the same time. The total is 180,269 for three months. Mr.

Macpherson has given an elaborate abstract of these works thana by thana, which it is unnecessary to reproduce here. A proposal has been made also to the district board by Sir William Hudson to arrange for the construction of a line from Bairagnia on the extreme north-west corner of Muzaffarpur to Balthar and Bagaha in the Champaran district. The matter is being separately dealt with. If the scheme is sanctioned, the second length from Balthar to Bagaha would run through the south of the Ramnagar tract mentioned above, but the first length would run through a tract marked as quite safe; it would nevertheless probably attract large numbers of labourers from less favoured tracts. Further than this, Mr. Macpherson has a proposal that the silted-up channels which once formed a connexion between the Gandak river and the Dhanauti, should be re-excavated and some of the loops in the tortuous course of the latter cut through. This is largely a sanitary and an engineering question, and might perhaps be taken up under the Sanitary Drainage Act hereafter. At present it requires much further consideration before an opinion can be expressed upon it. Lastly Mr. Macpherson is busy with his district engineer in looking into the feasibility of introducing into Champaran the Gaya system of *ahars* and *pynes*.

In the sanctioned scheme, work on tanks all over the district is entered as capable of supplying work for 100,000 people for 90 days. Work will at once be started as an experiment on such of these as lie within the two affected areas.

67. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The collector propounds some alternative calculations, but admits that at this moment they are purely hypothetical, and I do not reproduce them. For the present he has only been able to provide Rs. 50,000 in all; this seems insufficient if distress is so imminent as Mr. Macpherson believes, and I will address him again on the subject. He rightly says that large contributions cannot be expected from the zamindars of the district, as their funds will be fully occupied in protecting their own tenantry, but the Bettiah Raj may be expected to take its proper share in relieving distress, if not with cash, at any rate with grain and employment on works of improvement.

68. *Conclusion.*—Mr. Macpherson asks that the settlement operations may be suspended, and that the officers at present employed in them may be placed at his disposal for relief work. Orders on this subject will no doubt be passed by Government in due course. The collection of land revenue and cesses need not be suspended. This report though very thorough and careful, has been received so late that I have not had time to examine fully Mr. Macpherson's estimates of area and population affected, or to compare them with the figures of 1873-4. On the whole I think the collector's view is somewhat too gloomy, but the figures in paragraph 102 and in Appendices C. and D. show that Champaran has little to expect from its *rabi*, and that even with an 8-anna crop it will have much less than half its usual food-crop. An additional cause of concern is that the raiyats of the district, especially those of the north and west, are inert and wanting in energy and resource, so that they will do little to help themselves.

69. MUZAFFARPUR.—[Area, 3,005 squaremiles; population, 2,712,857.] The Muzaffarpur district is bounded on the south by the Ganges, on the north by the Nepal Terai, on the west partly by the Rivers Bagmati and Gandak, and partly by an imaginary line. On the east such a line is its only boundary. It is an alluvial tract of great fertility, particularly the southern subdivision of Hajipur; it is well watered, and possesses large expanses of swamp and jhil. The chief crop is the *kharif* owing to the great extent of rice cultivation in the Sitamarhi subdivision. Out of the total cultivated area 35·2 per cent. is devoted to *bhadai*, 36·5 per cent. to *kharif*, and 28·1 per cent. to *rabi*. Of the outturn in an ordinary year the *kharif* represents 45·65 per cent., the *rabi* 30·21 per cent., and the *bhadai* 24·11 per cent. In respect of the relative proportions of the crops it is not unlike Saran, but one of its weak points is that the rice cultivation is concentrated so much in one part of the district to the exclusion of other crops, that the loss of the *kharif* crop is a heavy calamity over a considerable tract of country, and there are no compensations there to fall back upon.

70. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rainfall of the present year was marked in Muzaffarpur by the same general characteristics as are found in the other districts of the division, but with some special incidents. Rain commenced here not so late as elsewhere, as there was a good fall of 2·09 inches in May. June gave 6·07 inches against a normal fall of 7·42, and this was followed early in July by a heavy fall of 13·61, which caused some floods and filled the swamps at an unusually early date, thus preventing the cultivation of much land from which a crop is usually obtained. Up to the end of July Muzaffarpur had a total fall which was only one tenth of an inch below normal. This

heavy rain was followed by a long drought in August, and another in September, and the rainfall of those two months was only 12·41 inches against a normal fall of 19·07. No rain has fallen since the 18th of September, and by the end of October the deficiency amounted to 10·16 inches, leaving a rainfall of only 77·12 per cent. of the average. These facts imply damage to the *bhadoi* from floods, a short area of *bhadoi* and rice from the same cause, some loss of rice from the two periods of prolonged droughts, and very poor prospects of the *rabi*. The collector's estimate is only 5 annas for the *bhadoi* and 3 annas for the *kharif*; these figures seem to me to be unduly low, but I do not propose to alter them without further reference to him; this impression of mine is strengthened by the fact that in 1873-4, when meteorological conditions were almost exactly the same, except that rain was not so heavy in July, the outturn was estimated at 11½ annas for the *bhadoi* and 4½ for the *kharif*. Moreover, prices in this district are higher than elsewhere, and are much above the rates of last year, as the figures below (which are for Muzaffarpur) will show. For these reasons the collector reports that scarcity is present, and that unless the *rabi* is a good crop distress will probably grow in intensity till next rainy season. His report is confessedly incomplete, but he has been making arrangements for careful inquiries through the police, and when these are completed we may expect more exact information:—

	1895.	1896.
Common rice -	15	8
Wheat -	15	8
Barley -	15	13
Makai -	27	12
Gram -	27	10
Marua -	27	15

71. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—Mr. Hare reports that if prospects do not improve the whole district will be affected, except perhaps the Hajipur subdivision with its *petite culture* and its well irrigation. Further than this he does not go, but promises fuller information in his next report. There can be no doubt, however, that whatever may happen to the centre and south of the district, Sitamarhi, with its predominant rice crop, must suffer, and I should be inclined without further delay to assume, as a first estimate, that half its area and population may be accepted as particularly affected, together with the urban population all over the district. The total population of the Sitamarhi subdivision is 924,396, of which the half is 462,198, and half the area is 507 square miles. If we accept the usual calculation for North Bihar and take 2·9 per cent. of the population of the district as its urban population, we get a non-agricultural total of 81,672, and a grand total of 543,870, who will be the first to be affected. Five per cent. of this sum is equivalent to 27,193 persons who may request relief during the next few months.

72. *Communications.*—The means of communication throughout the district are extremely good. From Muzaffarpur itself radiate lines of railway north-west to Motihari, south-east to Darbhanga, and south to Hajipur, while the Darbhanga-Bairagnia branch traverses the centre of the Sitamarhi subdivision. The road system is good and sufficient, especially in the Sadar and the Hajipur subdivisions, though some of the most important roads are unbridged at the great rivers. The total mileage of the district is 1,630. In Sitamarhi there need be no difficulty in procuring carts and pack-bullocks to carry grain off the main roads if need be. The Gandak could be utilised, if necessary, to bring supplies to the railway at Hajipur and to the marts along the southern boundary of the district.

73. *Grain Stocks.*—In regard to this question Mr. Hare admits his inability to give precise information, and the result of inquiries made from many planters and from the Secretary of the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association is a collection of the most discrepant estimates. It is admitted that the most experienced planters themselves can form no idea of the stocks in their own *dehats*. The estimates are too vague to be worth reproduction, but the general opinion is that some of the zamindars have large stocks and all but the daily labourers and the non-agricultural class have grain in reserve which will feed them for from two to six months. Detailed inquiries are being made through the police, but I am not sanguine as to the result either here or anywhere else.

74. *Sources of Food Supply.*—No special report need be submitted on the subject since with such excellent railway communication as the district enjoys the markets of the world are open to its inhabitants. The district imports annually between 7,00,000 and 8,00,000 maunds of food-grain from Nepal, but this has probably been stopped for the present, as in Darbhanga, although the collector does not refer to the matter.

75. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—Mr. Hare reports that the schedule of famine works is being revised and added to; for the present, three experimental relief works are to be opened at once, and I have ascertained from Mr. Mills, Inspector of Local Works, who has just returned from the spot, that they are located on (1) the Sheohar Road (No. 45), (2) the Purihar Road (No. 54), (3) the Nanpur-Pipri Road (No. 20). The construction of the branch line from Hajipur through the Darbhanga district to Katihar will provide employment for thousands of able-bodied labourers in the south of the district, and labourers from relief works in other parts of the district will be drafted to it as opportunity offers. The collector has asked for a further large additional grant for advances under both the Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans Act. This matter is being separately dealt with.

76. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The district board budget is being revised, and it is reported that funds will be saved wherever possible. This should have been done some time ago, and I will see that no time is lost in arriving at some reasonably exact figures. Mr. Hare says generally that heavy expenditure will be required, and talks of 10 lakhs, but no details of the estimate are given.

77. *Miscellaneous.*—Two other points require to be noticed, though they are not referred to in the collector's report. The first is that at an extraordinary meeting of the Planters' Association held at Muzaffarpur on the 24th October, which was largely attended, a resolution was passed by which the members present determined to offer to Government their services and those of their assistants without remuneration for employment in relief work. It was also announced that a fund was being formed for purchasing grain for distribution or sale on easy terms to villagers. Orders were registered for the purchase of 37,500 maunds for factories in Saran, Champaran, and Muzaffarpur, and many other orders are expected. The matter has been reported to me demi-officially only, and I have in the same manner thanked the secretary and pointed out to him the paramount importance of making purchases from some distant mart so as not to disturb the local market; he is in communication with Chittagong and other places. No doubt when I can report the proceedings officially the public spirit of the planting community will be suitably acknowledged by Government. Another point of interest in the Sitamarhi subdivision is the very general damming of hill streams and rivers issuing from Nepal. A considerable area of land has been irrigated in this manner, and although there has been some quarrelling the operations on the whole have been conducted with amity and good feeling. The Inspector of Works, Bihar Division, on return from leave, proceeded at once to Sitamarhi with the new District Engineer in order to view the work, and if possible to evolve some schemes by which some permanency may be given to this irrigation. His report is awaited.

78. *Conclusion.*—It will be seen that the information available about Muzaffarpur is a good deal less than is the case with most other districts, and I hesitate to accept the collector's views. I think myself that more complete information will induce a modification of his present opinions, and I await the submission of his next report, which will doubtless be complete. If his prognostications are correct, the situation is serious.

79. *DARBHANGA.*—[Area, 3,335 square miles; population, 2,801,955.] The district of Darbhanga is in many respects the counterpart of that of Muzaffarpur. It is bounded on the south by the River Ganges and the Monghyr district, and on the north by the Nepal Terai. Numerous streams flow into the district from the Nepal hills, and south of the boundary stretches a broad belt of rice land, across the north of the Madhubani subdivision. The centre and south of the district partake of the general character of the districts north of the Ganges, but it contains a larger proportion of rice land than Muzaffarpur or Champaran. The main crop of the district is the *kharif*. Out of the whole cultivated area it is calculated that in an ordinary year 49·6 per cent. is in *kharif*, 27·2 per cent. in *bhadoi*, and only 22·9 in *rabi*. Turning to outturn, it is estimated that 57·71 per cent. of the whole is contributed by the *kharif*, 21·05 per cent. by the *rabi*, and 21·23 per cent. by the *bhadoi*.

80. *Reasons for apprehending Scarcity.*—The rainfall in this district during the present year has been unsuitable, not so much on account of deficiency as on account of its capricious character and unseasonable advent. Up till the end of July the deficiency was only an inch and a quarter, but the district suffered from two long periods of drought in August and September, and much damage was thus caused to the rice. In August the rainfall was nearly up to the average, but in September it was 3 inches short, and no rain has fallen since the middle of that month, though a fall of about 3 inches is expected in October. The net result is a deficiency up to the end of October of about 17 per cent.

81. Weather such as that just described is necessarily fatal to a full crop either of *bhadoi* or *kharif*, and supplies very little hope for the *rabi*. Accordingly the collector estimates for the *bhadoi* an 8-anna crop, and for the *kharif* one of 5 annas. He has made no guess at all for the *rabi*. Accepting these figures as correct, the outturn in maunds will be *bhadoi* 2,605,000, *kharif* 4,219,000, and *rabi* 2,719,000, total 9,543,000, as against an ordinary total of 25,843,000 maunds, distributed as follows: *bhadoi* 5,485,000, *kharif* 14,906,000, and *rabi* 5,437,000. The result is therefore only 36.94 per cent. of the average.

82. These figures, however, are confessedly only a first guess, and Mr. Carlyle's report generally is wanting in fulness. The reasons are, first, that information he has called for has not all been supplied; and secondly, that he has been away from headquarters a great deal during the last month, employed in making a personal examination of the whole district, which will in the end be well worth the time and trouble expended, as he will be able to check the reports of subordinates and to supplement them from personal knowledge. Mr. Carlyle also notices the high prices of grain, and points out that the price of the commonest rice in Darbhanga is now higher than 9 seers to the rupee, a rate not touched in 1874 till the month of March.

83. *Area and Population likely to be affected.*—The collector rightly reports that as time passes the whole of the district must be affected, more or less, by the high price of grain, and he thinks that the only exception will be the south of the Somastipur subdivision and a few oases elsewhere. For the present we may assume as liable to distress in the first instance, the urban population and half that of the Madhubani subdivision. At 2.9 of the district total, the urban population amounts to 81,256, while half the population of the Madhubani subdivision is 507,350. The grand total is 588,606, and the area of the subdivision 1,349 square miles. Five per cent. on this total gives 29,430 persons as those likely to require relief in the next few months.

84. *Communications.*—The communications in the Darbhanga district leave little to be desired. The Bengal and North-Western Railway runs into the centre of the district from Muzaffarpur in the north-west, and thence nearly due east towards Purnea, while another branch runs south to Dulsing Sarai and Mokameh. At present two portions of the district are rather remote from the railway, viz., the north of Madhubani and the south and east of the Sadar subdivision. The defect in both cases will soon be cured, however, as the Sakri-Madhubani line will bisect the Madhubani subdivision, while that from Hajipore to Katihar will run through the south of the Somastipur and Sadar subdivisions. Roads are numerous, the mileage being 2,331 on the 31st March 1896.

85. *Grain Stocks.*—Mr. Carlyle has no definite information, but he points out that according to local opinion some of the zamindars have immense stores of grain, and he adds that it is believed that this year these are larger than ever, because alarms of scarcity began early, and much has been held back which would otherwise have been sold.

86. *Sources of Supply.*—The railways, as in other districts, keep Darbhanga in touch with the wheat markets of the world. It has, moreover, in ordinary years a considerable import trade in food-grains with Nepal, the net imports, as the Divisional Administration Reports show, having been 374,000 maunds in 1894-5 and 387,000 in 1895-6. This exportation from Nepal has now been entirely stopped by the Nepalese authorities until further orders.

87. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—Mr. Carlyle reports that so far he has started only one test relief work, viz., at Phulparas, in the extreme east of the Madhubani subdivision. No official report has been received so far of the result. As necessity arises,

the collector will open more test works in the Madhubani subdivision, but he does not expect to have relief works in full swing before February. The Sakri-Madhubani feeder line, which I believe has not yet been finally sanctioned, will provide employment for thousands of the professional labourer class for many months. I have addressed Government separately with a request that all preliminaries may be pushed on, so that earthwork may be started without delay.

88. Mr. Carlyle reports that so far he has given no advances for wells. He writes:—

“I have consulted a large number of gentlemen, European and Biharis, long resident in this district, and they are all agreed that advances for *kutch* wells would be useless in this district owing to the nature of the soil, &c., nor can they recommend any other form of agricultural advances. Several months hence probably liberal advances will have to be given for seed for next year's sowings, but I do not propose at present to advance money, except where I am certain that it will be spent on some definite agricultural improvement, such as irrigation channels and tanks.”

I have further discussed the matter personally with Mr. Carlyle, and agree that he is right.

89. A public meeting has been called for an early date in November to raise subscriptions and organise private relief. Raja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur was to preside.

90. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The collector reports that at this stage he is quite unable to frame any estimate of expenditure. About Rs. 25,000 can be diverted from the sanctioned allotments under civil works, and there is also the estimated closing balance of Rs. 20,000, upon which the collector can draw. Next year about a lakh of rupees could be provided. For the present this may suffice, but it is hardly necessary to remind Government that Darbhanga is usually the first district in the division to require relief works, and that its resources are never equal to its expenditure on these occasions. In 1888–9, between January and October, the district board spent Rs. 94,849, and Government Rs. 1,17,344. In 1892 relief operations were commenced in May and ended in July; the total expenditure was Rs. 2,69,816, of which the district board contributed Rs. 69,816 from its own resources, and borrowed a lakh from Government, while Government contributed another lakh. For next year if relief has to be undertaken on a large scale, the collector will have to ask for an advance from Government, and also for the suspension of repayment of the loan made in 1892–3. All this, however, is a matter for future consideration.

91. *Conclusion.*—I have also to notice that I hear demi-officially that the Maharaja of Darbhanga desires to help his raiyats to the fullest extent. He is reported to be endeavouring to buy a lakh and a half of maunds of grain for distribution and sale at easy rates. I have warned the collector that such large operations as these must be conducted with special prudence lest they dislocate the local market and discourage private trade. Mr. Bell, the manager, has just returned to India, and is ready to give every assistance.

92. The evidence before me is not sufficient to enable me to form a definite opinion on the state of Darbhanga. At present much distress need not be apprehended; but, if the collector's estimates of the *bhadai* and *kharif* crops are correct, severe scarcity must follow even if we get a fair *rabi* crop, because at the best of times the latter provides for the district only one-fifth of its food crop. The assistance and support of the Darbhanga Raj will be of great value.

PART III.

General Remarks.

93. Having now examined the condition of each district, chiefly upon the basis of the reports submitted by the collectors, I turn to make some observations on the state of affairs in the division as a whole, and upon certain points which are not touched upon in the preceding paragraphs. I follow in general the list of subjects mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Famine Code.

94. *Grounds for apprehending Scarcity.*—These have been set forth in detail in the account for each district, and need not be referred to again at any length. There has been all over the division a deficiency of rainfall, as shown below :—

District.	Deficiency.	Percentage on Normal.
1.	2.	3.
Patna - - - - -	10·53	25·53
Gaya - - - - -	7·34	17·80
Shahabad - - - - -	10·30	25·84
Saran - - - - -	20·48	47·85
Champaran - - - - -	19·96	41·67
Muzaffarpur - - - - -	10·16	22·87
Darbhanga - - - - -	7·95	17·33

But as is well known, this does not necessarily give rise to scarcity, provided that the rain is well distributed. This year, however, that element of disaster also was forthcoming, and the characteristics of the rainy season of 1896 have been everywhere a late commencement of the monsoon in June, and heavy rain early in July; then followed two long periods of drought till the middle of August and the middle of September respectively, since which time no rain has fallen at all. The universal result has been damage to the *bhadoi* from floods first in some places, and afterwards from drought, a withering of the rice seedlings, and late transplantation, and then the dying out of much of the crop; for the *rabi* crop the preliminary moisture, which is so essential in September and October, has been entirely absent, and thus great fears are entertained for it also. In these circumstances, the estimates of the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops, framed by the district officers, are, as given below, expressed in annas of an ordinary average crop.

1896	Bhadoi.	Kharif.
1.	2.	3.
Patna - - - - -	10	9
Gaya - - - - -	12	8
Shahabad - - - - -	7½	4
Saran - - - - -	6	3
Champaran - - - - -	8½	3½
Muzaffarpur - - - - -	5	3
Durbhanga - - - - -	8	5

Naturally, the mind turns to a comparison of these figures of rainfall and outturn with those recorded in 1873-4. In Appendix B. I have given figures comparing the rainfall month by month in every district, together with the normal fall. An extraordinary similarity is visible in the meteorological history of the two years in every district; but in spite of that the estimated outturn of the two crops, as given below, varies a good deal from that of the present year.

1873.	Bhadoi.	Kharif.
1.	2.	3.
Patna - - - - -	4	2
Gaya - - - - -	8	6
Shahabad - - - - -	4	2
Saran - - - - -	10½	1½
Champaran - - - - -	10	2
Muzaffarpur - - - - -	11½	4½
Durbhanga - - - - -	9	2½

It will be seen that, except in Saran and Muzaffarpur, the estimates of the present year are higher than those of the district officers in 1873, and if the estimates in both years are right, then the people have far better crops now than they had in 1873.

95. Moreover, it is fair to assume, I think, that the people are now in better case than they were at the previous period. The year 1873 was the last of a series of years which were marked by abnormal rainfall, and generally unusual weather. The year

1871 was an unusually wet year, the following year was unusually dry, while in 1873 the rainfall was deficient, almost beyond precedent. In spite of the unusual weather, fair crops were reaped, and it may be assumed that at the beginning of 1873 the condition of the people was not much below its usual standard. The distress of 1873-4, was entirely due to the failure of the rains of 1873, and chiefly to their deficiency during the three latter rainy months. In 1896 the situation is much better. The crops of 1893-4 and 1894-5 were excellent, the Commissioner reporting that the year 1894-5 had been "a decidedly prosperous one for agriculturists north of the Ganges, and a good average one for those in the south, except in Shahabad, where it was below the average." In 1895-6 agricultural affairs were not so prosperous, but on a review of the whole year, it appears that there was a crop estimated at two-thirds of the usual outturn. I infer, therefore, that, so far as we have gone, not only are the people in better condition than they were in 1873-4, but that the two crops, of which we have fairly certain knowledge, are better, except in Muzaffarpur and Saran. In Champaran they are about the same.

96. Before leaving this part of the subject, it is necessary to say a word or two as to the *rabi* crop, though any estimate of its outturn must for the present be purely speculative. We are justified, I think, in the expectation that as the weather of 1896-7 has so far been extremely similar to that of 1873-4, the parallel may be continued, and that for the remaining months of the year 1896-7 we may have the same rainfall that was recorded during the last five months of 1873-4 and similar harvests. If this prove to be so, there is further reason to take courage, for the crops reaped in the spring of 1874 afford the most convincing evidence of the vitality of the *rabi*. It is usually stated, and with perfect truth, that in order to obtain a good *rabi* crop heavy rain is essential in September and October, but the statement takes no account of the efforts to irrigate which are made in a bad year, nor of the extent to which lands usually too wet for *rabi* are sown at such a time. In 1873-4, after a great deficiency of the rains in September, and an entire absence of rain in October and November, the showers which fell in December, January, and February, and even in March, did so much to revive the crop that the recorded outturn in annas was:—

Patna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Gaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Shahabad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Saran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Champaran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Muzaffarpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Darbhangha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8 $\frac{2}{3}$

A similar experience in 1896-7 will go far to rehabilitate the people. I shall return to the subject again below.

97. But though the estimated outturn of the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops is so much better this year than it was in 1873, prices are vastly higher, and it is on this account that pressure is already beginning to make itself felt. This question must be regarded from two points of view. So far as the general agricultural population is concerned, who form the great bulk of the inhabitants of the Patna Division, it is a commonplace to say that high prices do not necessarily imply distress. The fact has often been stated, and in particular I would draw attention to the statistics of the famine in Bijnour at page 247 of Mr. Geddes' "Administrative Experience of former Famines." What really brings general distress is the cessation of employment. The zamindar and the ordinary agriculturist have everywhere their own stores of grain, and, so long as work is available, the daily labourers and landless men are paid in kind sufficient for their daily food, and have little or no concern with the price of grain in the bazar. It should never be forgotten that thousands of these daily labourers are practically permanent servants of a particular master who takes care to feed and assist them. On this subject of employment Mr. Stevenson-Moore has supplied me with a note which I give as Appendix E., after adding a calendar of agricultural operations, Appendix F.

98. On the other hand, there is a considerable class whose income is not paid in grain, and who have to pay with cash for their daily food. This includes all persons with fixed incomes, many of the artisans, the majority of the dwellers in towns, and the great body of widows and other dependants, together with the beggars and the

very poor. It is upon these people that the stress of high prices first falls, and it is a feature of the present scarcity that this class will be inconvenienced at a much earlier period than is usual. At the same time it is to be remembered that their numbers are comparatively small; there must of necessity be many such who dwell in small villages of whom it is impossible to make any estimate, while on the other hand not all the people who live in towns will be immediately affected by the high price of grain. For the sake of convenience, however, I have assumed that the whole urban population of each district will be seriously straitened, and may require relief at an early date. They are estimated in Mr. O'Donnell's Census Report at 2·9 per cent. of the whole in North Bihar, and at 6·5 per cent. of the whole in South Bihar. The figures for each district have been mentioned in the district accounts. The especial attention of district officers will again be called to this matter, which is at the present time one of the first moment.

99. The next step after ascertaining how prices range and what is the estimated outturn of the different crops in each district is to ascertain what those figures represent when reduced to maunds of grain. I have prepared, in Appendices C. and D., two statements to which I would now invite attention. The first shows for each district the normal outturn, in an ordinary year, of each crop, and the ratio which such outturn bears to the total food-crop of the district. It is expressed in thousands of maunds. It is also accompanied by a chart which gives the same information in graphic form. The second statement shows side by side the normal outturn of each district, together with the estimated outturn this year.

100. The first statement in Appendix C. is full of information. It shows in the clearest manner how the different crops are in each district of widely different importance, and, read with the second statement, it shows why at the present moment there is much greater apprehension in some districts than others. In Patna, for instance, where the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops are equivalent to nearly 64 per cent. of the total, the *rabi* is of minor importance. In Gaya almost everything depends on the rice crop, and with its admirable irrigation system the district is nearly always safe. In Shahabad the *bhadoi* is of little consequence, and the *kharif* and *rabi* are of about equal importance. This explains at once why the failure of the rice and the expected failure of the *rabi* make the outlook there so grave. Saran is most fortunately placed, as all its crops are of fairly equal value, and whatever happens it is pretty certain always to have one-third of its food-crop safe. In Champaran the *rabi* crop is of comparatively little value, and it is this consideration which lends additional gravity to the situation: two crops of the year have passed, one with half an average outturn and the other with only a fourth. Darbhanga is in somewhat similar case, but the outlook is worse, because its rice is most important and the *bhadoi* and *kharif* have failed to a greater extent. In Muzaffarpur the proportions are much the same as in Patna, but it has not so much to expect from its *rabi*, and the failure of its *bhadoi* and *kharif* has been much greater.

101. The next statement (D.) enables me to determine to what extent the crops up to date have in each district fallen short of the normal outturn, and to forecast what the total result may be. Taking first the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops, for which we have now a fairly substantial estimate, it will be seen that the outturn of those crops in a normal year and in the present season compare as follows (thousands of maunds being omitted):—

District.	Normal Outturn of Bhadoi and Kharif.	Estimated Outturn of Bhadoi and Kharif in 1896-7.	Deficiency.	Per-centage of Column 3 on Column 2.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Patna	8,181	4,664	3,517	57·	
Gaya	18,429	9,910	8,519	53·77	
Shahabad	15,448	3,335	12,113	21·58	
Saran	11,040	3,191	7,849	28·59	
Champaran	15,215	5,197	10,018	34·57	
Muzaffarpur	13,794	3,182	10,612	23·06	
Darbhanga	20,391	6,824	13,567	33·46	

These figures again confirm what has been said above in regard to the relative position of the different districts. We know from the above statement what the percentage of outturn is for the *bhadoi* and *kharif* crops in each district, and we know what proportion to the whole food-crop of the district is borne by those crops in an ordinary year. From these two factors, it is easy to calculate what percentage of their usual food-crop for the year each district has already secured, and what remains to be filled up by the *rabi* crop or by other means. The figures are—

Patna	-	-	-	-	-	42.86
Gaya	-	-	-	-	-	40.62
Shahabad	-	-	-	-	-	11.19
Saran	-	-	-	-	-	17.94
Champaran	-	-	-	-	-	27.29
Muzaffarpur	-	-	-	-	-	16.08
Darbhanga	-	-	-	-	-	26.41

They must be read with those which show the proportion of the *rabi* to the whole food-crop of the district, which are these: Patna 36.01, Gaya 24.47, Shahabad 48.11, Saran 38.38, Champaran 21.02, Muzaffarpur 30.21, Darbhanga 21.05. It is manifest once more that with an ordinary *rabi* crop Patna and Gaya are both safe. For Shahabad everything depends on its *rabi*. Saran, with a larger *rabi* crop to look forward to, is a good deal better off than Champaran, while Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga are both in an equally perilous position.

102. It will be interesting to carry this calculation a little further and to speculate what will be the result of the year's crop if, as suggested in paragraph 96 above, we take for granted that the *rabi* crop of 1874 will on the whole be repeated in 1897, and I take the *rabi* outturn as follows:—Patna, Gaya, and Shahabad 12 annas each, Saran, Champaran, and Darbhanga 8 annas each, and Muzaffarpur 10 annas. I assume that the normal area will be sown with *rabi*, because I set off against the land in which it has not been sown the empty rice lands in which winter crops will certainly be sown this year. The figures are given in columns 3, 5, &c. of the lower line in the statement shown as Appendix D. The result is as follows:—

District.	Normal Outturn.	Estimated Outturn in 1896-97.	Deficiency.	Per-centage of Column 3 on Column 2.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Patna	12,786	7,868	4,918	61.53	
Gaya	24,401	14,389	10,012	58.96	
Shahabad	29,773	14,078	15,695	47.28	
Saran	17,918	6,630	11,288	37.	
Champaran	19,266	7,222	12,044	37.48	
Muzaffarpur	19,767	6,915	12,852	34.96	
Darbhanga	25,828	9,543	16,285	36.94	
Total	149,739	66,445	83,094	—	

If the estimates suggested above are fulfilled, the outlook in all four northern districts will be gloomy, but at present we need not adopt them, and may await the development of events.

103. Before leaving this part of the subject, I desire to add that everywhere it is reported that *rahar* and sugarcane are doing remarkably well, and it is anticipated that opium will again be a good crop. Little can be expected from indigo, but my information is that in much of the land which is not commanded by irrigation planters will sow maize and other food crops, which will yield an early return, and give them time to prepare the ground for the sowings of 1898. Similar steps were taken in 1866 and 1874.

104. *The Area and Population likely to be affected.*—These have been given in detail in the examination of districts, but the following synopsis will be useful:—

District	Area.	Population		Total.
		Urban.	Agricultural.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Patna	250	115,263	600,000	715,263
Gaya	600	139,291	200,000	339,291
Shahabad	1,301	134,155	344,902	479,057
Saran	523	71,515	430,335	501,850
Champanan	467	53,924	177,506	231,430
Muzaffarpur	507	81,672	462,198	543,870
Darbhangha	674	81,256	507,350	588,606
	4,322	677,076	2,722,291	3,399,367

105. *Communications.*—Full details have been given under this head in treating of the different districts, but it is as well to bring into prominence the entire revolution which has been wrought in all the conditions of famine relief in this division by the immense development of communications since 1873-4. In that year there was only one railway in Bihar, the East Indian Railway, and it ran through two districts only, —Patna and Shahabad, the total length of rail in the division thus amounting to 147 miles only. At the present moment there is at least a line of rail in every district, and the mileage of open line is:—

Patna	115
Gaya	39
Shahabad	58
Saran	84
Champanan	52
Muzaffarpur	75
Darbhangha	166
Total	589

In 1873-4 the Sone Canals had not been opened; now they supply water communication for many miles. In the same year there were, I believe, no steam ferries in the division, and the cost of importing steamers from England was a large item in cost of the famine. Now there is a steam ferry at every railway crossing; many ferry farmers use steam, and the India General Steam Navigation Company has a bi-weekly service running up the Ganges, and steamers ply up and down both branches of the Sone Canals. Lastly in 1873-4 the number of roads were a mere fraction of what they are now, while the miles of road open on the 31st March 1896 were as follow:—Patna, 1,212; Gaya, 1,403; Shahabad, 1,855; Saran, 2,664; Champanan, 1,359; Muzaffarpur, 1,630, Darbhanga, 2,331—total, 12,454. These are changes which must immensely facilitate, and render vastly less expensive, the supply of grain and the execution of all operations connected with the relief of distress.

106. *Grain Stocks.*—On this subject I can speak with little certainty, for it will be seen from a perusal of what has been said above in dealing with the collector's reports that accurate information on the point does not exist, while mere opinions vary widely. I believe personally that there is everywhere at least a three months' supply, and that in many instances this is a low estimate. From all that I can learn the development of communications and the multiplication of railways has not induced the Bihari raiyat to encroach upon his food reserve or sell out his stocks; he is before all things cautious, prudent, and the slave of custom in all agricultural matters, and I am confident that as in 1874, when Sir A. P. Macdonnell wrote his report on food-grains in Bihar, so now his first care is to lay by enough for himself and his dependants, and that it is only the surplus with which he pays his rent, and which he sells to provide himself with homely luxuries. In a subsequent report I hope to be able to give more information and to examine also the consumption of each district in connexion with its imports and exports and its capacity for self-support.

107. *Sources of Food-supply.*—In a division so amply provided with means of communication the markets of the world are open to its demands, provided that communication with them is opened by steam from Calcutta. On this point more information is urgently needed, and any intelligence of a reassuring character, which could be published with the *imprimatur* of Government, would have the most beneficial effect, not only on the minds of the people, but also on the prices of grain.

108. *Proposed Measures of Relief.*—These have been fully described above district by district, and I need only summarise them here for convenience sake. Test relief works have actually been commenced only in Patna, Shahabad, and Darbhanga; but before the next report falls due, others will be started in all the remaining districts. It is the unanimous opinion of all persons that, so far, the population are in good case, and no emaciation or actual distress has yet appeared, and that there is still sufficient field work. Advances are being given freely everywhere except in Darbhanga, and almost all officers have asked for a large addition to their allotments. Considering the urgency of the case, I have taken the responsibility of allowing district officers to spend large additional sums in anticipation of formal sanction. Public meetings have been called in some districts, and it is time that they should be called everywhere in order to organise charitable relief.

109. It is a most providential circumstance that just at this time of stress new railway works should be opened in every district of the division except Patna, and even here the Gaya-Lakhiserai line will run so close to the eastern boundary of the Bihar sub-division that it will certainly attract labourers thence. These works will be of incalculable value in providing profitable employment for thousands of the labouring class for the next eight months.

110. Lastly, I think it would be most desirable if, in the present circumstances, the operations of the Survey Settlement Department could be interrupted for a year. These operations, for reasons which it is unnecessary to enumerate, are a heavy burden on the villagers, and in such a season as the present I should be glad to save them every pice that it is possible. In order to avoid breaking up the survey parties, they might perhaps be allowed to continue in selected localities.

111. *Estimate of Expenditure.*—The District Boards everywhere have been revising their budgets and allotting funds for relief works. The following is a synopsis of their operations:—

District.	Amount available in 1896-7,	Amount available in 1897-8.
1.	2.	3.
	Rs.	Rs.
Patna	25,000	25,000
Gaya	51,850	60,000
Shahabad	40,000	55,000
Saran	78,000	80,000
Champanan	25,000	25,000
Muzaffarpur	Not stated.	Not stated.
Darbhanga	45,000	1,00,000

These sums will suffice for the present, and will enable all district officers to make a beginning with relief. Nothing but experience can show what further sums will be required and what the limits of our operations will be.

112. *Conclusion.*—I have now to bring this long report to a close. After a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, I am convinced that for the present there is no occasion for panic. We are in all respects but two in a better position than we were in 1873-5. The people start with better years behind them, and the material prosperity of the division must have increased during the last quarter of a century; the *bhadai* and *kharif* crops have been better than they were in 1873; our statistical information is much more full than it was in that year; and, lastly, our communications have developed to a marvellous extent. On the other hand, prices are extraordinarily high, and the scarcity extends over a far wider area, so that not only are our usual markets closed to us, but all markets are filled with competitors. Much depends on the result of the *rabai*. If we have a total failure, distress will be very severe; if we have a full crop, it will be moderate; but assuming that we have such

crops as were reaped in 1874, we shall win through, with difficulty certainly, but still, I believe, without loss of life, and at a much less cost, provided that a steady supply of grain is available at rates which are not prohibitive. The note of the day is the opening of test relief works in the areas first to be affected, and the immediate organisation of charitable relief for the non-agricultural population.

NOTES of a CONFERENCE held at the COMMISSIONER'S CAMP, Sonapur, on 20th November 1896.

PRESENT :

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
 The Honourable Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.I., Member of Board of Revenue.
 The Honourable Mr. M. Finucane, Revenue Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
 The Honourable Mr. J. G. H. Glass, C.I.E., Public Works Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
 J. A. Bourdillon, Esq., Commissioner of Patna.
 C. A. Mills, Esq., Inspector of Local Works, Patna.
 A. Izat, Esq., Bengal and North-Western Railway.
 T. Inglis, Esq., Collector, Patna.
 H. Savage, Esq., Collector, Gaya.
 W. Egerton, Esq., Officiating Collector, Shahabad.
 Rai Jai Prakash Lal Bahadur, C.I.E., Manager of Dumraon Raj.
 R. W. Carlyle, Esq., Collector, Darbhanga.
 H. Bell, Esq., Manager of Darbhanga Raj.
 C. R. Hay-Webb, Esq., Manager of Muktapur Factory.
 L. Hare, Esq., Collector, Muzaffarpur.
 C. J. Stevenson-Moore, Esq., Settlement Officer.
 C. L. S. Russell, Esq., Subdivisional Officer, Sitamarhi.
 J. F. Gruning, Esq., Subdivisional Officer, Hajipur.
 E. Macnaghten, Esq., Secretary to the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association.
 D. J. Macpherson, Esq., Collector, Champaran.
 J. H. Kerr, Esq., Assistant Settlement Officer.
 E. T. Sealy, Esq., District Engineer.
 Sir William B. Hudson, K.C.I.E., President of Bihar Indigo Planters' Association.
 J. J. MacLeod, Esq., C.I.E., Lal Sarayah Factory.
 J. R. Lewis, Esq., Manager of Bettiah Raj.
 A. Earle, Esq., Collector, Saran.
 F. F. Lyall, Esq., Subdivisional Officer, Siwaa.
 M. F. Gauntlett, Esq., Assistant Settlement Officer.
 T. R. Filgate, Esq., Barhauli Factory.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor opened the proceedings by stating that his main object in coming to Bihar was to consult with the local officials and non-officials, to gather from them information as to agricultural prospects, the extent and intensity of distress, the measures which should be taken to relieve it, and the funds and agency necessary for carrying them out. He said that no doubt Mr. Bourdillon's very full report had been read by all present. He had not yet seen his second fortnightly report, but copies of this also would be circulated to all the local officials.

The only way to cope with a distress as grave as this was for all classes to co-operate. The great advantage of the situation in Bihar was that there was a large body of European non-officials, whose intimate knowledge of, and daily intercourse with, the people would now, as always, be of the greatest assistance to Government, and he was assured that they would be perfectly ready and willing, as they were able, to co-operate in every way.

There were two dangers they had to avoid, *firstly*, that of over-estimating the distress, thereby leading to extraordinary and extravagant expenditure, as in 1873-74, and, *secondly*, a tendency to over-confidence, generated, to some extent, by the knowledge of the previous over-estimation.

The tract south of the Ganges presented no features of grave anxiety at present. Gaya had always been regarded as a district fairly safe. Nothing like widespread distress need be apprehended there.

In Patna there was no danger of widespread scarcity, and in Shahabad only local distress need be apprehended, which could probably be dealt with by local agency.

The north of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, and Champaran, however, are purely rice tracts. In those parts there appeared to have been a general failure of crops, and considerable distress might be anticipated.

In the rest of the country north of the Ganges he understood that the *rabi* crop was germinating well, and the area under *rabi* larger than usual. In 1873-4, one of the most striking features was that the *rabi* crop, subsequent upon seasonable winter rains, turned out to be much larger than was expected, and if rain fell in December and January, the present *rabi* crop would be fairly safe.

He wanted everybody present to give him fully and freely from their local knowledge information as to existing facts, and advice how to meet the scarcity.

He proposed, therefore, to discuss the condition of the crops in each district, but he thought it would be sufficient if they confined their attention mainly to the districts north of the Ganges. He would begin with Darbhanga.

DARBHANGA.

Mr. Carlyle, the collector, put forward a map in which the tracts likely to suffer severely at different times were separately marked. He anticipated that, of the whole district area, there would be acute distress in an area of 2,055 square miles, that distress would be felt in February and March in 650 square miles, that there would be a scarcity in 217 square miles, and that 414 square miles were practically safe.

He remarked that distress had not yet made itself felt to any extent, but that in some parts it was now imminent.

The worst parts of the district were the Madhubani sub-division and the central parts of the Darbhanga sub-division.

Mr. Bell stated that a large part of this area is a compact block, belonging to the Darbhanga Raj, and that he had received reports from the local officials as to the prospects of the crops in those villages. The preliminary reports, however, were chiefly collected by the *patwaris*, and he had found them to be unreliable, and he considered that, for interested reasons, the *patwaris* took too gloomy a view of the situation.

He was, however, now obtaining more accurate reports, which would be available shortly.

The collector stated that he had ridden about 600 miles in the distressed area.

In the Jhanjharpur Circle things were worse than in the Naraia Circle, and there was a line of bad villages along the north-east frontier.

He stated that he had opened test relief works in Phulparas, but that when the task was raised to that prescribed in the Famine Code, all the people left. He proposed, however, to re-open the works shortly.

Mr. Bell stated that the Rohika Circle round Madhubani might be divided into two parts. The villages along the banks of the Kamla were fairly good, there being a 12 annas *aghani** crop. The portion further west towards Kamtaul was very bad, the *aghani* crop having failed entirely. The area round Darbhanga was similarly bad.

The collector stated that besides the Darbhanga Raj the other large landholders in the distressed areas were Raja Rameswar Singh, the Madhubani Babus, and the Pachhi Mahanth. The first-named would be able to render considerable assistance in relieving his tenantry. The two latter were very impoverished, and nothing could be expected from them. The Madhubani Babu and the Pachhi Mahanth own the area north of Khajauli. Rai Ganga Parsad Bahadur had promised to provide for all his tenantry. The rest of the district belonged to petty maliks,† from whom no assistance could be expected.

The collector said that, as far as he had been able to gather, the *aghani* crop this year would be about the same as it was in 1873-74, but that the *bhadoi* crop had been slightly better. The southern portion of the district was much better.

Mr. Bell stated that, in his opinion, the crops at present in the ground had been under-estimated.

His Honour thought that this was very probable.

The collector estimated that the *aghani* crop throughout the district would be 5 annas.

In the northern distressed area there was very little *rabi*, and what had been sown had not germinated.

* *Aghani* = the winter crop, ripening in December.

† Maliks = landowners.

His Honour inquired whether, in the event of late winter rains, millets could not be sown.

The collector stated that the rain must come soon to be of any avail.

Relief Works.—Mr. Bell stated that the Maharaja was prepared to open small relief works where required, such as tanks, bundhs, and irrigation channels, but that, of course, he could not undertake big relief works.

His Honour remarked that he was greatly in favour of tanks, as labour on them was concentrated and easily supervised, and they were of permanent utility.

Mr. Bell said that later on, when big relief works were opened, all able-bodied men could be drafted on to them, keeping all the women and children for the local relief works.

His Honour inquired whether any schemes for large relief works had been prepared.

The collector stated that there had long been a project to construct a light line of railway from Sakri to Jainagar, on the Nepal frontier.

The Commissioner remarked that the Government of India had lately refused to sanction it pending further report.

His Honour remarked that railway construction was not generally considered to be a good form of relief work, as the cost of the earthwork formed such a small proportion of the total cost. But his own view was that if a line had been provided for in the railway programme for the immediate future, say the next ten years, which could be now utilised for relief work, he would be prepared to urge on the Government of India the desirability of sanctioning the immediate undertaking of the scheme. The earthwork, at least, could be taken in hand at once.

Mr. Glass remarked that this line was included in the extension scheme of the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

Sir William Hudson stated that the syndicate who proposed to build the line had had it surveyed some 10 years ago, and that he was prepared to find the money at once. The line is 28 miles long.

Mr. Glass estimated that the expenditure upon earthwork would be about Rs. 50,000.

Mr. Izat stated that the survey had been done by Mr. Montague, but that it might have to be a little revised, and the direction of the line altered a little. This was probably the reason why the Government of India had not yet sanctioned the scheme. The construction would be perfectly easy, as it ran along the line of the water-shed.

His Honour stated that, as a result of this conference, he would be prepared to make a further strong representation to Government for its immediate sanction.

Mr. Finucane enquired whether the Raj would be prepared to allow non-Raj raiyats to work on Raj relief works.

Mr. Bell stated that he had not yet considered the point. The collector remarked that, in practice, he would find it extremely difficult to prevent them from attending.

The collector stated that he had called a meeting on the 12th instant, and had appealed to all zamindars to render all assistance possible, thinking this preferable at present to procuring subscriptions. The District Board intended to open test relief works at Jainagar and Kamtaul shortly, and also those at Phulparas which had been closed. The District Board, however, is in financial difficulties, and he should have to ask Government to advance him the money. Meanwhile, he proposed to take in hand a lakh of rupees' worth of earthwork from next year's programme in anticipation of receipt of the grant.

His Honour asked what other relief works would be started. If there was as much distress as the collector anticipated, the light line proposed would not be sufficient.

The collector said that he proposed to excavate new tanks and clean out old ones on a large scale.

Mr. Bell remarked that if engineers could be obtained, the Raj would be prepared to start irrigation works from the Bagmati and Kamla rivers. He believed a regular scheme had been drawn up, but he could not find any trace of it.

Mr. Finucane remarked that it had been drawn up before he left Darbhanga, and had been filed in the Raj Office to be put up for orders at any future time of scarcity.

The collector stated that he proposed to put all existing roads in thoroughly good repair, and to raise the cart-likhs, where necessary, but he did not propose to make many new roads, as he was of opinion that there were enough already in the district. He also proposed to clean out old tanks, and, where there was a probability of a scarcity of water, to excavate new ones.

His Honour inquired whether these tanks could be used for irrigation.

The collector stated they could, but that they silted up very quickly. The water-level, too, was much lower than it was in Chapra. There was not much apprehension of scarcity of drinking water, but there might be of water for cattle. He had asked the zamindars to clean out all their wells.

His Honour inquired whether there would be any difficulty in obtaining land for tanks.

The collector replied that he apprehended none, as he thought the zamindars would always be willing to grant land for the purpose. If any raiyat came forward, as a few had already done, for permission to make a tank he would grant it and give him advances for the purpose. Up to the present, however, he had refused to make any advances under the Agriculturists Loans Act, as he thought the time for this would not come until April.

Gratis relief.—His Honour inquired what arrangements had been made for giving gratuitous relief.

The collector replied that there had been no applications for it yet. Actual distress had only just started. He had sent out seven men to verify the police reports as to scarcity, and had supplied them with money to meet cases where gratuitous relief was necessary. He had not yet, however, received their reports.

His Honour remarked that there was a balance of some Rs. 34,000 in the Bengal Relief Fund, and that he hoped to secure this for Bengal alone, in which case he would distribute it among the various districts for gratuitous relief. He pointed out that the distress which gratuitous relief was intended to meet always began in a very insidious manner, as the high-caste women were very loath to come forward to obtain it. The best method of obtaining information as to places where gratuitous relief was required was to make inquiries from local native gentlemen. The police reports on this subject were not to be trusted.

The collector stated that he only relied upon police reports to show where further inquiries should be made by other agency. He had sent out, among others, the Deputy Inspector of School and two Sub-Inspectors to make these further inquiries, and he proposed to send out the kanungoes* shortly.

Stocks.—His Honour inquired whether any estimate had been formed as to stocks.

The collector stated that he was obtaining information from indigo-planters and zamindars as to local stocks.

Mr. Bell stated that he thought it would be very difficult to get any reliable information upon this point. He had not been satisfied with the reports he had already received, and had asked his sub-managers to submit second reports from information obtained from their own personal observation.

The collector's impression was that stocks were very large, but that they were all in the hands of the well-to-do raiyats and zamindars. The poorer raiyats had not sufficient stocks to support them after February or March, and the labouring classes and very small raiyats had none even at present. Mr. Webb, of Muktapur, estimated that there were 200,000 maunds in his *dehat*. This information was probably reliable, as he had made inquiries in the large marts. The collector said that he had formed estimates on the lines laid down in Sir A. P. McDonnell's report, and he believed that an estimate prepared on such lines would be far more accurate than any figures based on local reports, though he would of course utilise these as a check upon the figures he arrived at in that estimate. The chief difficulty would be not in obtaining information as to the stocks in the hands of the banias, but as to those in the hands of the raiyats. Reliable information upon the latter point could only be obtained by house-to-house inquiry.

His Honour inquired whether the local zamindars were laying in stocks of grains.

Mr. Bell replied that he had bought 75,000 maunds locally, and the Maharaja had just telegraphed to him to make large purchases of *dhan*.

His Honour remarked that it was a pity to buy up the local stocks. He was informed there were 80,000 tons of old rice in Rangoon, and forward purchases of the new rice were being made to be delivered in January at about Rs. 3-8 per maund in Rangoon. Paddy would cost still less. It would be a good thing if people requiring grain would at once make arrangements to secure some of this stock through some Calcutta house.

Mr. Bell remarked that a Calcutta firm had already offered him American wheat at Rs. 5 per maund, delivered in Darbhanga.

* Kanungo is a Revenue official whose business is to supervise the village officers of his charge, and on whom devolve specific duties under the Famine Code in some province.

His Honour remarked that this was the finest Californian white wheat, which was extensively purchased in Calcutta for the manufacture of white bread. It was rather too expensive for ordinary use.

Mr. Bell stated that the same firm had also offered to import maize from England to be delivered in Calcutta within six weeks at Rs. 3-8 per maund, which would cost about Rs. 4-2, delivered in Darbhanga.

His Honour stated that it was much better to import rice and and paddy from Burma than to buy up district stocks. This information about Burma rice should be spread as widely as possible, especially among zamindars and mahajans.*

Mr. Bell remarked that he thought rice would go out of the district.

His Honour said that Mr. Izat had informed him that 200 waggons a day were now leaving the district, carrying 400 to 500 tons of grain a day. A fortnight ago, something like 1,000 tons a day were being exported.

The collector stated that both the imports and the exports of the district were very large. During the last fortnight the net excess of exports over imports was only 750 tons.

His Honour stated that the general opinion among the native merchants in Calcutta was that stocks were much lower than had been estimated. The President of the Native Chamber of Commerce had lately informed him that he considered the Government estimate of the present stock (12 lakhs of maunds), to be nearly twice as high as it ought to be. His Honour was surprised to hear this, as the Government estimate had been carefully made, and he had thought, when comparing it with the figures for 1873-4, that it was very low.

Communications.—As to facilities for communication, the collector stated that there was no place in the district more than 30 miles from a railway station, but that the trade from the north and centre of the district was an export one, and that it might take a little time to convert an export into an import trade. The same difficulty would not arise in Samastipur, as grain was always imported there. He did not see why private trade should not be able to supply the whole district with grain. He would appoint a bama at each work. He did not think that there would be any want of grain at any place in the district for the next two or three months.

His Honour asked whether he thought that there was any necessity at present for reducing railway rates as had already been done on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

The collector replied that he did not think that it was advisable at present.

Mr. Bell remarked that he should not like to have the question shelved at present, as he was quite sure that if the rates had been found to be too high on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, it must be necessary to reduce them on the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

His Honour remarked that he only mentioned the matter at present. It would be kept in reserve.

Mr. Izat stated that he had asked the East Indian Railway to give the Bengal and North-Western Railway the same concessions regarding rates as had already been granted to the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway. The rates on the Bengal and North-Western Railway were 50 per cent. lower than those on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, and considerably lower than those on the East Indian Railway. He had no doubt that this concession would be granted, and the merchants had told him that, in that case, there would be large importations of pulse, rice, and peas.

Fodder.—With regard to fodder the collector stated that there was no difficulty at present, as the cattle were grazing upon the paddy which had failed.

General.—His Honour said that he wished that Mr. Bourdillon would extend the system that he had formerly introduced into Saran of obtaining weekly information by means of post-cards from all classes as regards rainfall, prices, stocks and general condition of crops.

Mr. Bell remarked that he had already given Rs. 1,000 to each circle officer to distribute in charity. He was afraid that the old and infirm who had formerly been dependent upon their fellow-castemen for support, would be the first to suffer.

His Honour said that he feared there would be much distress among the lower middle classes which it would be difficult to meet.

The collector stated that, calculating upon the figures of 1873-4, he estimated that there would be an average of 200,000 people upon relief works from February to October.

* Money lenders and grain sellers.

MUZAFFARPUR.

Mr. Hare, the collector, produced a map showing the areas of Muzaffarpur district which are considered liable to famine, and explained that all tracts shown in this map were affected, but not quite in the same relative degrees as shown in the map. The worst tracts are the Sitamarhi subdivision, the Katra thana, and the north part of the Sadar thana. But Paru, Lalgunge, and the north of Mahuwa thanas are also seriously affected. The estimated outturn of the *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops in each thana is given in his last fortnightly report. Subsequent information led him to make a slightly more favourable estimate of the outturn of *aghani* crops in Paru and Katra thanas.

Mr. Russell, who had recently been all over the Sitamarhi subdivision, explained his views of the outturn of the *bhadoi* and *aghani* in connexion with a special map of that subdivision, prepared in the Settlement Office from information received from the Settlement camps. He was of opinion that the bad area, as shown in the map, should be somewhat extended, and held to his former report that six annas *bhadoi* and three annas *aghani* represented the outturn for the subdivision.

His Honour, after hearing Mr. Bell's remarks about the reports of Darbhanga villages at Parihar, about which a European manager had recently reported more favourably than the patwaris generally had previously reported, was of opinion that the *aghani* crop had been in all probability under-estimated.

Works.—The collector put before His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the district board schedule of relief works prepared under the Famine Code. This schedule hardly provided for the probable requirements, especially in the Katra thana. But it indicated a large amount of work which could be undertaken.

Large Works.—With regard to large works, a scheme had been mooted for an irrigation canal to carry the water of the Bagmati all along the north of the district, and to use the smaller streams, which carry very little water in a year like the present, as distributary channels. Most of these streams have numerous *bahars* or cuts for carrying the water from the streams to the fields. This scheme, however, was not ready, and would have to be carefully planned and considered. It might be that the Bagmati did not carry enough water in a dry season to feed so large a system.

There was a smaller irrigation scheme to tap the Bagmati river and to carry some of its water only as far as the Lakhandai river. This would irrigate about 100 square miles. It was impossible to "bund" the Bagmati river, but a cut had already been made to let the water into the canals. This would be of great advantage for the irrigation of the *rabi* crops. This could not, however, be used as a relief work, as it would be necessary to press on with the work as quickly as possible by means of skilled labourers, who would earn full wages, and not according to the relief rate. The larger scheme would, if approved, require a great deal of excavation, and would afford much relief work. If carried out, it would be necessary to have control over the "bunds" made in the distributary rivers.

His Honour stated that the Embankment Act would give all the control necessary. If this work were undertaken, men could be drafted from the smaller relief works on to this larger scheme.

Railway Works.—With regard to the new railway from Hajipur to Begum Serai, Mr. Izat remarked that there was delay in getting the land.

The collector stated that he could give the land over to the railway officials at once, but that the land had been very badly surveyed, and the plans given to him did not agree with the lands marked out. Men could be drafted to the earthworks there, but he did not yet know if it was to be done on contract rates or not. If the former, it was not a relief work.

Mr. Izat stated that he had laid down 145 miles of railway in the Deccan entirely by relief labour, which was sent to him in drafts by the collector of the district. It afforded relief to 50,000 men. It was all done by petty contracts with each gang. He was quite willing to work on that scheme here.

The collector stated that he could do a great deal of relief by the excavation and cleaning out of tanks, especially in the north of the district, where they could be used for irrigation, and the able-bodied persons could be collected on these works and drafted off to the railway works.

Mr. Izat stated that the people on his relief work in the Deccan were allowed to form their own gangs, which they did usually by families. They brought their

women with them. They were paid at the ordinary rates, about Rs. 1-8 per 1,000 cubic feet, but varying according to the height of the bank. This worked out that each family earned from, $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas to 4 annas a day, which was little, if at all, above the famine rates.

The collector stated that he had already opened test relief works, but that so far very few people had stayed on at them, because they were not allowed to work as long as they liked, and so earn as much as they otherwise would be able to do.

Sir William Hudson remarked that his experience was that Nuniyas would earn about $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day, but that high caste men could not earn so much as 1 anna.

Mr. Izat remarked that he had at first met with the same difficulty in the Deccan, but that they quickly got into the work, and that at the end of a fortnight their hands were as hard as those of the ordinary labourers.

Funds.—The collector remarked that there was no immediate difficulty about funds. The District Board had a cash balance of about Rs. 80,000, and about Rs. 60,000 could be appropriated from works shown in the budget of the present year, and Rs. 85,000 could be anticipated, if necessary, from the budget of 1897-8 if the Board were allowed to overdraw.

His Honour said that Mr. Bourdillon should inform him, as soon as possible, how much help each district would want, so that he could make the necessary arrangements.

Trade.—With regard to trade the collector remarked that it was very brisk, and he thought it would meet the requirements. No place in the district is much more than 20 miles from a railway station. The trade, however, in the Sitamarhi distressed tracts was ordinarily in the wrong direction, viz., outwards instead of inwards.

Mr. Izat corroborated the remark about trade activity, and said that rice was going out from Darbhanga and Bajpatti to the extent of 100 waggons a day. This was mostly Nepal rice, however, and as the export of it had been stopped lately, no doubt this traffic would diminish. The collector stated that the prohibition had not stopped the export entirely, as rice was still coming over the frontier in every direction on the heads of coolies, and put into carts in waiting on this side of the frontier.

The collectors of Champaran and Darbhanga confirmed this statement.

Food Stocks.—The collector also stated that he had made an estimate of the food stocks on the lines laid down in Sir A. P. MacDonnell's report, which tended to show that in an ordinary year the exports of food stocks of the district were only slightly larger than the imports, so that this year there would be a heavy deficiency which would have to be met by importation.

Mr. Macnaghten stated that he had consulted almost all the planters, and the general opinion was that the conditions now are about the same as they were in 1873-4. The *rabi* is very fair now, and with winter rain will be as good as, if not better than, the crop in 1873-4. The *bhadoi*, however, had been somewhat worse.

CHAMPARAN.

Mr. Macpherson, the collector, produced a scarcity map prepared on the same lines as in other districts, but explained that the conditions of individual villages varied very much within each tract. The tracts where at present scarcity is most felt were, an area of about 430 square miles in the thanas of Shikarpur, Ramnagar, and Bagaha, and smaller tracts towards Govindganj and east of Madhuban. Test works had already been started in all these tracts, but only one, namely, the excavation of tanks in the Ramnagar outpost, had been opened sufficiently long to enable an opinion to be formed upon it; but so far everything went to show the existence of distress requiring relief. The wage given is based on a grain-equivalent as laid down in section 104 of the Famine Code. The collector thought that in the distressed tracts the poorer cultivators had only sufficient grain to carry them on to the end of the current month, while the labourers were already in need of special employment, and the richer raiyats had no large stocks. His inquiries into stocks, however, were not yet complete. At the commencement of the operations the banias had been supplying grain at 11 seers per rupee, but now the price had contracted to 9 seers.

The collector mentioned that the exports by rail had been very heavy, but that there had been a decided check during the last ten days. This export accounted for the rise in price mentioned above.

In estimating the condition of tracts, the collector had been mainly guided by the character of the current year's *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops, as last year's surplus had been almost all exported. He had considered the condition of the poorer rather than of the

richer classes. In the distressed tracts the outturn of the *bhadoi* crops had been two annas, and that of the *aghani* crops would be nil, except where irrigation had taken place.

Fodder.—There was ample fodder at present, and later on the cattle will be sent into the hills to graze. Sir William Hudson handed in figures showing that 46 per cent. of the population in an area of 35 square miles east of Seeraha in Madhuban thana had no stocks left, although they had had a fair *bhadoi*. This was the result of their having parted with their stocks while the winter rice crop was still promising. Within the tract there were 6,417 cultivators and about 3,500 labourers. The banias had only 20,000 maunds of grain in stock. The labourers had no work except that to be obtained in the factory where 1,300 persons a day were employed.

The collector stated that the district engineer had just opened test relief works in the distressed tracts east of Seeraha.

The collector stated that the district was chiefly owned by large zamindars, the Maharani of Bettiah being the most important. The villages of the Bettiah Raj are all over the district, except in the extreme north of Bettiah, which is owned by the Ramnagar Raj.

Mr. Lewis said that the Raj would be ready to spend much money upon relief works if it were allowed to take a loan from Government for the purpose.

The collector stated that the Ramnagar Raj, which owned the greater portion of the worst area in the north of Bettiah, was completely impoverished, and no help could be expected from it. The Madhuban Babu had expressed his readiness to provide relief. Much could not be expected from the Sheohar Raj, which owns a considerable number of villages in the south-east of the district. The Tikari and Hathwa Raj areas were very small.

Sir William Hudson expressed his belief that landlords would readily come to the assistance of their tenants, if any advances made by them to keep their raiyats alive in the present emergency were by law given a precedence similar to rent over all other encumbrances on their holdings; but otherwise no landlord would venture to give advances, as he could never hope to recover them, nine-tenths of the holdings being already mortgaged to mahajans.

The collector stated that he expected the distress would be worse than it was in 1873-4, because there was no stock to go on with: there was not more than four annas of *rabi* in the ground, and much of this would come to nothing unless rain fell shortly, as little irrigation from wells was carried on in the district.

Sir William Hudson stated that the present outlook in Champaran was much the same as in 1866, and distinctly worse than in 1873-4, and Mr. MacLeod agreed in this opinion. Sir William Hudson stated that the population of the district had more than doubled since 1866.

Mr. Finucane stated that there had been no State relief in 1866, but the collector remarked there had been much more gratuitous relief than would be given now.

The collector stated that, calculating from the population of the distressed tracts, if everything continued to be unfavourable, he would not be surprised, if the number of persons requiring relief amounted to 500,000.

His Honour remarked that Champaran was at present evidently in a much worse position than any of the other districts, and that the rainfall chart showed that the distress there would probably be worse than it had been in 1873-4. There was already a deficiency of 20 inches in the rainfall.

Relief Works.—The collector mentioned that at a meeting of the District Board held on the 16th of November, which was attended by a number of planters who were not members, the planters and the Bettiah Raj agreed to open works at their own expense on the first appearance of distress in the localities in which they were interested, to pay the labourers at a wage that would not exceed what is allowed under the Famine Code, and to communicate to the collector the daily results and information as to the classification of labourers, the wages paid, and the amount of work done.

Sir William Hudson explained that the work would be done on the following system:—A rate would be fixed for earthwork, and payment would be made according to the *haziri* system so long as the total cost did not exceed that rate. If that occurred, the rate would be altered. He had no difficulty in getting grain at present from the local mahajans. The chief works undertaken would be tanks, wells, and irrigation channels. Of ordinary factory work, only a little weeding remained, which would be completed by the 15th of December. After that there would be no work at the factories until April.

The collector stated that the reports which he would receive from the planters regarding the test works started by them would enable him to judge in what localities

regular relief works were required; and while the private works were still going on he would be able to arrange for the staff necessary for the larger operations proposed.

Large Works.—As regards these, the scheme of railway extension from Bairagnia to Bagaha, across the north of the district, for which Sir William Hudson was prepared at once to provide funds through a private company, was considered.

The collector stated that the line was 86 miles long, and that he estimated the earthwork would cost $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 lakhs of rupees, and that the eastern portion of the line from Bairagnia to Baltha would cross the drainage of the country, and the bridging would be very heavy. The other portion, however, would go through the most distressed tract.

Mr. Lewis proposed an alternative scheme for extending the present line from Bettiah to Bagaha via Chainpatia.

Mr. Izat stated that he hoped that eventually both lines would be constructed. The collector said that he had already arranged to send drafts from relief works to the Segauli-Raxaul Railway now under construction.

Mr. Izat said that he could arrange to have the survey of the Bairagnia-Bagaha line taken in hand at once, and that if Government could supply the surveyors, he would find the supervising staff.

His Honour remarked that the services of the students of the Sibpur College, or, as Mr. Bourdillon suggested, of those of the Patna Survey School, might be utilised. He stated that Champaran seemed to be the worst tract, and some large works there was necessary.

Mr. Izat stated that if the Bairagnia-Bagaha line were started, he would be able also to start the line from Gorakhpur to Bagaha, which the Government of the North-Western Provinces had already asked him to undertake as a relief work, but which he could not take in hand until the Tirhut section was continued to Bagaha.

His Honour pointed out that the Segauli-Raxaul extension would, when constructed, link the existing line with the proposed Bairagnia Bagaha line, and therefore he thought this scheme much the more natural, as it dovetailed with the scheme of relief for the North-Western Provinces.

He thought the earthwork on the western portion, which passes through the distressed tract, ought to be taken in hand as early as possible.

The collector stated that tank work would be the most beneficial form of minor relief work.

Mr. Lewis stated that in many of the newly-settled villages in the north of the district there were no tanks at all, and that there was a general want of tanks throughout the area. In other parts there were many tanks which wanted re-excavating.

His Honour remarked that tank work could be extended indefinitely, and the tanks would form useful gathering-grounds for people who could afterwards be drafted to larger works.

The collector stated that the programme already provides work for 120,000 people for 90 days. Another large work was an inundation canal from Tribeni to the Harahar river, near Bagaha. The district engineer had already taken levels for this, but no definite plan has yet been drawn up.

His Honour stated that, if necessary, Colonel McArthur could come up and discuss this project with the local officers. He also suggested that the Bettiah Raj might construct this, as it was solely for the benefit of their property.

The collector stated that, if the Raj were not prepared to meet the whole cost, the canal could be constructed under the Act, and a water-rate levied.

Another scheme is to connect the Gandak river with the Dhanauti. This would be in the main a drainage project.

The District Engineer (Mr. Sealy) stated that, in his opinion, the fall was sufficient, and that it would largely benefit the health of the tract through which the Dhanauti flows, a large portion of which has remained depopulated since 1866, owing to the malarial character of the tract.

His Honour stated that these irrigation schemes were too big to pass an opinion upon off-hand, but that he would press forward the railway projects as much as possible.

Funds.—The Collector stated that the District Board balance was at present very low. The total road-cess was only Rs. 85,000, and the Board would at once have to overdraw in anticipation of the realisation of the January kist.

The Commissioner informed him that orders had already been passed authorising the District Board to overdraw to the extent of Rs. 25,000.

His Honour stated that he would place the sum of Rs. 1,00,000 at the Board's disposal whenever it was required. The Darbhanga District Board had made itself practically insolvent by taking a loan in 1892, which had hampered the work of the Board ever since, while there was now no probability of its being paid off. He would therefore prefer to grant money for relief work rather than that the District Board should take a loan.

Gratuitous Relief.—With regard to gratuitous relief, His Honour stated that he wanted each district to inform him as to the sum that it would require. He observed that this should be administered as much as possible by private agency.

Stocks.—Mr. Finucane suggested that the zamindars might be urged to lay in stocks of grains for themselves.

His Honour thereupon stated that the new crop of rice shortly expected in Rangoon would be 1,400,000 tons, and that there were old stocks there besides.

Mr. Macnaghten said that on behalf of the Behar Indigo Planters' Association, he had already ordered 1,60,000 maunds from Rangoon, which certain planters had ordered, to be used instead of money for their labourers' remuneration.

General.—Sir William Hudson drew attention to the provisions of section 79 of the Famine Code, and asked what course should be adopted in the event of a failure of supply of grain at a relief centre.

His Honour explained that a grain contractor would be arranged for, and that he would be given advances to import grain, and that he hoped that the contingency contemplated would not arise.

The collector thereupon inquired what action he could take under section 80 of the Code in the event of prices being forced up at the relief works.

His Honour replied that as the grain would be supplied by a contractor working under advances, the District Officer would have full authority.

With reference to a remark from Sir William Hudson, His Honour requested Mr. Finucane to arrange for the supply of copies of the Famine Code to planters and other persons to whom they would be useful.

With regard to payments, the collector mentioned that he had already indented for a supply of copper coin, and that the planters at the District Board meeting had agreed that, if all relief works were paid for in Government coinage, they would gladly adopt and continue the same system in paying their own labourers in the hope of driving Lohia pice out of circulation.

His Honour said that, if necessary, token money could be used.

Mr. Izat said he would like to have the question of the acquisition of land for railways discussed, as he anticipated that there would be great delay in receiving it. He did not expect to receive any within the next six months if the ordinary procedure were followed. His department merely sent in plans of the ground they were to acquire, and the Deputy Collector had to mark upon them the various plots of the raiyats. He would suggest that a Settlement Officer should be appointed to carry out this work speedily. Mr. Carlyle agreed, stating that his Land Acquisition Deputy Collector had had no previous experience, and would be quite unable to cope with any large work.

Mr. Hare stated that his Deputy Collector was quite capable of coping with the work, but that the line plans sent in by the railway company, and sanctioned by the Government of India, did not agree with the dog-bells on the ground, in some places showing land which was not in existence. If Mr. Izat would point out any piece of land, he would give it over to him in 15 days. He had pointed out the difficulty above mentioned to the Company, and they had asked him to follow the dog-bells on the ground. His difficulty was that he could not certify that he had made over to the Company the land, the acquisition of which had been sanctioned by the Government of India.

His Honour said that the Deputy Collector and the Engineer ought to work together, and, in consultation on the ground, get any mistakes of this kind rectified. The maps ought to be followed unless substantially incorrect, and no delay should be allowed to occur in giving over the lands.

SARAN.

Mr. Earle, the collector, produced a scarcity map of the district, and pointed out the worst tracts. These were mainly in the Kateya outpost in the north-west corner which was nearly all *chaur*, in part of the land west of the Jharahi river in the Darauli thana,

and a tract through the centre of the Siwan thana. These tracts were mostly paddy lands, and the crop had been about two annas there, while the *bhadoi* had varied from five annas to eight annas. Along the south-west of the district, too, there was a bad tract, where there was a succession of *chours*, and the *dhan* had nearly all failed.

The *rabi* crop throughout the district was germinating well, and there was extensive irrigation going on, which would save a considerable portion of the crop in any event. If rain fell in December, the crop ought to be 12 annas.

He proposed to open one small test relief work shortly in the area west of the Jharahi, but no others until December.

Funds.—The District Board was well off for funds. It had Rs. 70,000 in hand now, and could appropriate Rs. 80,000 from next year's budget.

His Honour stated that he was not at present anxious about Saran. All that would have to be done at present was to meet all distress that might arise with local funds and by local agency, but to watch carefully and report later if distress appeared likely to become acute, and extra help was wanted.

The collector remarked that the planters in the district were strongly of opinion that money spent on new roads and tanks in this district was wasted, as the district was very well off for roads, and the tanks so quickly silted up. Only one new road had been proposed, the others would be put in good repair. It was thought that money might be spent in extending the distributaries of the Saran canals. Water would nearly always be taken from these for the irrigation of rice, and it was thought that the old scheme had chiefly failed because it had not been carried far enough.

His Honour remarked that it was not at all probable that Government would sanction any extension of the Saran canals, which had been a complete failure. He had been searching for some time for some person to take a lease of them without success. It was an immature scheme which had been taken up under the wrong Act.

PATNA.

Mr. Inghs, the collector, stated that he anticipated little or no distress. He had had another inspection made of the tract formerly considered bad, and the rice crop there was now estimated to be from 8 to 10 annas.

In answer to an inquiry by His Honour, he remarked that the scheme started in the city of Patna for buying rice and selling it at cheap rates still continued.

His Honour said that he could not altogether approve of it on economic grounds, and that it must be merely regarded as a charitable work. The only thing which led him to expect any distress was the extremely high prices now prevalent.

GAYA.

With regard to Gaya, His Honour stated that he was quite satisfied, as the collector was, with the state of the district, that the District Board had Rs. 1,20,000 in hand, and could easily deal with any distress that might arise.

SHAHABAD.

With regard to Shahabad he understood that Bhabhua was the only bad tract.

Mr. Egerton, the collector, stated that he had just received a letter from the district engineer who was inspecting the bad area, and that the report was distinctly reassuring. The numbers of men on the relief works had fallen to 296, and all the professional labourers had gone to earthwork on the railway. The District Board had Rs. 54,000 in hand.

His Honour thought that all distress at present could be dealt with locally.

AGENCY CIRCLES.

His Honour then proceeded to discuss the question of agency circles, etc., and Mr. Finucane produced a statement showing the names of the circles in 1873-4, of the persons in charge of them and other particulars.

His Honour remarked that the survey parties would be available for relief works after March, and that they had been transferred from North Darbhanga to South Darbhanga and Saran where distress was not imminent: He did not see any necessity for stopping settlement work at present.

Mr. Macpherson asked if the work ought to continue in the tracts where distress had already shown itself.

Mr. Stevenson-Moore explained that he proposed to exclude all such areas from his operations. No work would be undertaken in one camp in Champaran, and in another work would be stopped about the end of December.

Sir William Hudson was strongly of opinion that attestation work ought not to go on while there was distress, as one could not expect a raiyat to assert his rights under such conditions.

Mr. Stevenson-Moore stated that he hoped to finish all the work that he is now starting in Champaran and Muzaffarpur by the end of January before the distress had made itself severely felt.

Mr. Macpherson said that he quite agreed with Sir William Hudson, and that no work ought at least to be started in the distressed tracts. But apart from that he wanted to utilize the settlement staff at once so as to make use of their intimate knowledge of the country.

Mr. Bell stated that three settlement camps had been opened in the Parihar circle, and he wanted his sub-manager there to devote nearly all his time to famine work, and he could not do both works at once.

Mr. Lewis stated that he had to look after his interests in nine settlement camps.

His Honour stated that these were matters to be settled locally.

Mr. Stevenson-Moore said he would arrange the work locally so as to meet the convenience of Mr. Bell and Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Stevenson-Moore pointed out that, if his work was stopped now, he could no doubt take up the work again at the point at which he left off, but that it would necessitate the work going on in each district for another year which would considerably add to the cost, as the fixed establishment could not be curtailed. He expected most of the work in Champaran would be finished by the 25th of January. He proposed to recover costs only from the factories by zamindars and the Bettiah Raj.

His Honour said that if the worst came to the worst, the work would have to be stopped, and that at present work in all the distressed tracts should be left to the end.

The Commissioner stated that the question of agency would depend very much upon the pay to be given and the class of men available. The chief need at present was for an adequate engineering staff. The division of the circles might start from the thana unit while distress was not acute, and then divide it into sub-circles as the work became heavier with the increase of the distress.

His Honour remarked that the great difficulty with regard to agency was that distress was so prevalent all over India that it would be almost impossible to indent upon other Provinces for officials.

The Commissioner remarked that in the planters they had a great European agency for the supervision of sub-circles.

Mr. Hare thought that the work of a circle officer would be more than a planter would have time to undertake.

Sir William Hudson stated that in his opinion a Government official ought to be placed in charge of each thana or circle.

Mr. Carlyle stated that he thought a man on Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per month ought to be employed for that purpose.

His Honour said that each collector should draw up a scheme of circles on the lines of the scheme of work proposed, and the list of circles in 1873-4.

Sir William Hudson observed that in 1873-4 Government supplied the grain, and much of the time of the circle officer was taken up with supervising its receipt and distribution.

His Honour said that the circles now could be nearly twice as large as they were in 1873-4.

Mr. Finucane observed, however, that no circle ought to be so large that an active circle officer could not reach any part of it from head-quarters within a morning's ride.

His Honour agreed with this, and said that the best unit to work upon at present was the thana, and that the collectors should draw up schemes of circles according to the views now put forward. Of course all existing work of the district board should be stopped that it might be done later on by relief agency.

The Commissioner observed that the subdivisional officers ought to be left very free to move about their subdivisions, and that a 1st grade deputy magistrate ought to be sent to each head-quarters to carry on treasury and criminal work.

HIS HONOUR'S SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF DISCUSSION.

His Honour in summarising the results of the discussion said that, as the Commissioner and the district officers had told him that it was unnecessary and even undesirable for him to visit the distressed tracts at present, he would return to Calcutta, but was leaving behind him Mr. Finucane, who knew the districts thoroughly and had had much experience of former famines. Mr. Finucane would visit the various districts with the Commissioner, Mr. Bourdillon, and they would discuss with the district officers the relief works necessary, the rates of wages, the requirements of the various districts, and the size of the circles, &c. The results would be focussed in a report which would be submitted to him and which he would carefully consider.

In considering the subject it must be remembered that the distress is not confined to Bihar. To his mind the prices in Eastern Bengal at present were a cause for serious anxiety, and it was doubtful whether the stocks now in hand were sufficient. It might be necessary to give relief in places where distress had never been thought of before. Thus Khulna was one of the five districts which had not had to prepare any scheme of relief under the Famine Code, as it was considered absolutely safe. He had just heard from the Commissioner that relief must be started in one subdivision, that the price of rice in the bazars was from six to seven seers per rupee, and that these were merely fancy prices, as the grain was not forthcoming in any quantities even at that price. If the state of things is so bad in Khulna with its abundant waterways and its proximity to Calcutta, it is very probable that the condition of things in more distant places may be equally bad.

The distress, too, was almost all over India, and the Imperial Government had to provide for famine in the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, Central India, a large part of Bombay, and now parts of Madras. There would therefore be some difficulty in obtaining the necessary staff, but it must be remembered that, although they had a smaller stock of officials to draw upon than they had had in 1873-4, yet the work to be done was much smaller. The collectors must send up their minimum requirements, and he would sanction whatever he possibly could.

He was very glad to say that he was able to retain Mr. Bourdillon's services as Commissioner. If necessary, he would be willing to sanction an extra officer to aid Mr. Bourdillon specially with relief work. He already had an additional Commissioner, however, and he hoped he would try and manage without additional assistance at present. Everybody would have to work hard. He was glad to be able to say that the prospects of the division as a whole were not quite so bad as he had anticipated. The three southern districts would be all right unless the winter rains should entirely fail. The condition of Champaran, as explained to-day, was worse than had been anticipated. But, if the railway project were sanctioned by Government, and he would do all in his power to press that forward, with the aid of the district board things ought to go on fairly well. The district boards had, first of all, to exhaust all the funds at their disposal before they applied to the Bengal Government for relief. He, in the same way, had to exhaust all his surplus, which amounted to Rs. 41,00,000, before applying to the Imperial Government. He was ready to sacrifice all other schemes, and to devote this sum entirely to relief work. If it proved to be insufficient, he would have to ask for aid from the Imperial Exchequer; and even though it had many calls upon its funds at present, yet, with flourishing trade and a rising rupee, he had no doubt that it would be able to render assistance, if necessary, and would be willing to do so.

He was glad to say that the state of things in the North-Western Provinces and in the Punjab was, according to the latest reports, not so bad as it had been thought to be.

We do not yet know exactly where we are. Rain now or in December or January would materially improve prospects. If good rain falls in December, the *rabi* crop would help very effectively, much more than was anticipated. Without rain things would be very bad indeed. The collectors should keep themselves fully informed as to the state of things in their districts.

He would wish Mr. Bourdillon to extend the system of obtaining information from all classes, especially from the Settlement Department, by postcards as to rainfall, prices, state of stocks and crops. He was going to put all the facts frankly and unreservedly before the public, so that the trade might know exactly what was required. He had every confidence that the trade would be able to supply all that was wanted.

Even in 1873-74 the 480,000 tons imported by Government were supplemented by 600,000 tons imported by private trade. If private trade could do this against such a

powerful competitor as Government, he had every hope that now, with a fair field and every favour, it could do all that was required. He had no doubt the officials would carry on their duties with the same zeal and energy that they had already displayed.

He wished to thank the non-officials present very specially for coming to this Conference, and would ask them to give the officials, as they had already done, that advice which, from their daily intercourse with the people, they were particularly well fitted to supply. Any proposals which they might have to make would be carefully considered by the collectors and the Commissioner.

CENTRAL INDIA.

No. 3522 I. A., dated Simla, the 18th November 1896.

Endorsed by the Foreign Department.

A copy of the following is forwarded to the Revenue and Agricultural Department for information.

No. 9512 G., dated Indore Residency, the 13th November 1896.

From LIEUT.-COLONEL D. W. K. BARR, C.S.I., AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CENTRAL INDIA, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 8713 G., dated the 21st October 1896, regarding scarcity in the Baghelkhand Agency, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a report by the political agent in Baghelkhand which has been prepared in accordance with instructions given by me during my recent visit to Sutna.

No. 2725, dated Sutna, the 31st October 1896.

From CAPTAIN A. F. PINHEY, POLITICAL AGENT, BAGHELKHAND, to the FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CENTRAL INDIA, INDORE.

With reference to your No. 8384, dated the 12th October 1896, I have the honour to forward herewith notes regarding the scarcity which at present prevails throughout the Agency.

2. These remarks are based chiefly on reports received from each State during the last few weeks, and not, except in a very few instances, on personal observation, as I have not yet been on tour.

3. I have arranged to make a tour with a light camp next month through the minor states of the Agency, after which I trust I shall be in a position to submit detailed reports about each State separately, as requested in paragraph 6 of your letter under reference.

4. As regards Rewah, I consider that the information that I receive from the Durbar from time to time is thoroughly to be relied upon, and it will be unnecessary as well as impossible to inspect the whole district within the very short time that is now left before remedial measures must be undertaken. After visiting the smaller States, however, I intend to see as much of the Rewah districts as possible from December to March.

FAMINE.

Rewah.

1. Condition of Kharif Crop—

- (a.) The small crops of maize and "sama"* which were grown early and ripened were only expected to last two months, and are now almost exhausted.
- (b.) The rice crop has failed nearly everywhere. "Kodo"† is about a 4 or 6 anna crop and has only ripened where sown quite early in the season.

* A small millet eaten by the poor.

† A small grain grown chiefly on hill slopes and eaten by the poor and by forest tribes.

(c.) *Jowar* is a poor crop, 4 or 6 anna at the outside. An unusually large area was sown with this crop, and it was growing well until the rain ceased in August; since then more than half has withered.

(d.) *Cotton* is about an 8-anna crop, and is now being gathered.

2. *Rabi Prospects*.—No grain can be sown for the spring crop unless it rains before the end of November, except in isolated patches where water has been retained by "bunds." Where possible, the land has been ploughed ready for sowing.

3. *Seed Grain*.—Unless rain falls soon, seed grain will not be required. If at least an inch falls before end of November, cultivators will be encouraged in every way to sow over as large an area as possible. It will be difficult to obtain wheat and linseed in large quantities, and pulses and gram will have to be sown instead.

There are now no large stores of grain in the country; but no doubt small quantities can still be obtained from the larger zemindars and "Beopars"* sufficient for sowing two or three biswas per bigha of cultivable land. Any amount can be purchased in the markets at Sutna, Unchehra, Maihar, Majhgawan, and the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

4. *Famine Area*.—Rewah has an area of 13,000 square miles and a population of 1,500,000. The whole of this area is more or less affected by scarcity.

The *Teonthur* Pergana to the north, with a population of 139,697 and an area of 819 square miles, is most affected. There has been no autumn crop here at all, and there is even a scarcity of drinking water in some villages. The Durbar have already given orders to start a relief work and dig wells where required in this district. This is the only district in Rewah where there is any irrigation for crops at all, *i.e.*, 138 acres of opium crop are grown. This irrigation should be extended if possible, and instead of opium wheat and barley should be grown.

In *Madhogarh*—area 977 square miles, population 154,705—there is also great distress. But an 8-anna cotton crop is being now gathered, and I see that some jowar is ripening. In some few localities where bundhs have been constructed on high ground, the jowar crop growing lower down the slope has been irrigated and thus saved by cutting the bundh above. Rice and kodo have withered. Wheat and gram and other spring crops can only be sown in a few isolated spots.

Huzoor Tehsil—area 1,201 square miles, population 328,932—has had a slightly more favourable rainfall than some other parts of Rewah, and the jowar crop looks fairly healthy and strong. There is no rice or "kodo."

Ramnagar and *Sohagpur* taken together have an area of 6,307 square miles and a population of 513,153.

The condition in both these perganas is very similar. Parts of Sohagpur have been less affected than any other part of Rewah. A small quantity of rice has been grown successfully, and a very fair crop of maize. The latter product was even being exported by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway until the Durbar stepped in and offered to buy it up for feeding people in other parts of Rewah.

Bardi—area 2,912 square miles, population 243,203—has been badly affected, and being situated in a very remote and comparatively inaccessible part of Rewah, grain can only be imported at very high prices. The Durbar will be obliged to relieve the people by making special arrangements for carrying grain to this district.

Rewah Finances as affected by Scarcity.—Actual income for 1895-6 - Rs. 16,52,988

	Rs.
Estimated income for 1896-7	14,80,550
Actual receipts, April to September, six months of 1896	5,21,570
Revised estimate for next six months	5,00,000
Total	10,21,570
Actual expenditure for 1895-6	13,47,736
Estimated expenditure for 1896-7, including Rs. 1,22,148 for relief works	14,79,797

* Merchants.

	Rs.	Rs.
Actual expenditure from April to September 1896	6,84,407	
Revised estimate for next six months after making every possible deduction	- - 5,75,622	
Total	- -	12,60,029
Probable balance of ordinary expenditure over income for 1896-7	- -	2,38,459
On 1st April 1896 there was a cash balance in the treasury and Bank of Bengal amounting to	- -	10,00,000
Besides Government Promissory Notes	- -	12,95,700
Total	- -	22,95,700

The following items directly due to the scarcity will have to be met out of these savings, viz. :—

	Rs.
Deficit for 1896-7	- - - - - 2,38,459
Estimate for famine relief during next six months	- - - - - 3,00,000
Compensation to be paid to officials	- - - - - 1,00,000
Advance of seed grain before next rains	- - - - - 2,00,000
Total	- - - - - 8,38,459

Although, therefore, it will be unnecessary for Rewah to borrow any money, the Durbar will incur very serious losses in the diminution of their land revenue and the reduction of their accumulated savings.

6. *Export and Import.*—There is no necessity for prohibiting export, as there is very little grain in the country. The ordinary export duties will prevent merchants from exporting grain after having once imported it in order to get a better price elsewhere.

The Durbar have decided to take off all import duties on grain throughout the State.

7. *Remedial Measures.*—It is impossible to calculate at present how many persons will have to be employed on relief works throughout the State. Reports are being called for from each tehsil on the subject.

Relief works on a small scale are already being started in Teonthur, and they will be taken in hand as required in other tehsils. If no rain falls soon, some large central relief work will be started in January or February.

(a.) *Irrigation Works.*—These would, under favourable circumstances, be the most important and useful. But in Rewah there is practically no irrigation except on a very small scale in Teonthur, and the people are so apathetic on this subject, and the ground in most places so unsuited for the purpose, that the Durbar consider it would be quite useless to construct wells or even tanks for purely irrigation purposes. If the various tehsildars were to take a real interest in this subject, and try to personally persuade cultivators to irrigate small patches of ground to start with, I cannot help thinking that the system might be gradually introduced. But it would be waste of money and labour to take up any extensive scheme of irrigation at the present time. The only method employed approaching irrigation in Rewah is to store up water during the rains behind rough banks of earth called “bundhs,” and to sow the spring crop in the saturated ground after cutting the “bundh” and letting the water out. Many hundreds of “bundhs” were constructed as relief works last year, and more will, no doubt, be constructed again this year, as being the best means of employing labour locally in and around the various villages.

(b.) *Roads.*—Several projects for improving internal communication by means of roads were mentioned in paragraph 12 of this office report No. 1502, dated the 20th June 1896. Labour can be employed on those roads whenever the necessity arises, as the schemes have been carefully prepared and all details worked out on paper.

(c.) *Railway from Sutna to Rewah* (see separate report No. 2695, dated the 30th October 1896).—If this scheme should prove remunerative, it would be by far the best work that could be undertaken as a relief work and would be thoroughly appreciated by all concerned.

(d.) A scheme has been made out for a *large tank* near Sutna with a dam nearly a mile long and 30 feet high. There is nothing, however, to be said in favour of this scheme except that the Maharaja would like to have his name connected with some large ornamental work of the kind, and it would certainly give employment to a very large number of unskilled labourers.

8. *Gratuitous relief* continues to be dispensed at all important centres to the starving and helpless members of the community.

9. No grain riots have occurred at present; any signs of disturbance will be at once reported.

A. F. PINHEY,
Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

FAMINE NOTES.

Minor State.

The condition of the smaller States in this Agency is, as far as my present information goes, very similar in all important respects to that of Rewah.

The separate reports called for in Central India Agency letter No. 8384, dated the 12th October 1896, will be submitted, if required, after I have visited each of these States during the next month and have had some personal experience of their conditions.

In the meanwhile I trust the following special remarks in the case of each State, from which a separate report has been lately received, will suffice:—

- (1.) *Nagode*.—Area, 501 square miles; population, 84,097.
 - (a.) *Kharif*.—A 4 to 6 anna crop. *Rabi* prospects bad, unless rain falls up to middle of November.
 - (b.) *Seed Grain*.—If rain falls in time, the State will have to advance wheat and linseed for sowing. For this purpose Rs. 3,000 worth of wheat has been bought at Sutna and stored up.
 - (c.) *Finances*.—The failure of the *kharif* crops has thrown out all the Dewan's calculations as regards his estimate of revenue for the year. The crops looked so promising at one time that the Dewan, with the sanction of the Political Agent, did not hesitate to come to terms with several creditors and to pay off a large amount of old debts. Under ordinary circumstances a considerable balance credit had been provided for out of the year's revenue after paying off Rs. 35,000 of debt. Owing to the failure of the *kharif* and the possible loss of the *rabi* crop also, the ordinary expenditure which must be incurred will exceed the income, and the State will probably have to borrow up to Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000. The credit of the State is now, however, very good, and I consider it will be unnecessary to apply to Government for a loan on behalf of Nagode.
 - (d.) *Relief Works*.—A report is now being called for on this subject. At present there are no relief works going on. There are 155 persons receiving gratuitous relief at Nagode.
2. *Kothi*.—Area, 168 square miles; population, 22,636.
 - (a.) *Advances*.—A small quantity of gram, barley, and pulse is left over from last year, as the export of these grains was prohibited by the Durbar. Advances of other seed-grains will be made on the security of the Durbar.
 - (b.) *Finances*.—During the last two years only about half the estimated revenue has been collected, and this year there is little hope of collecting any revenue at all. There is, however, no debt, and if Government will allow the Durbar to postpone payment of second instalment of *nazrana** (see report No. 2130, dated the 21st August 1896), no money need be borrowed.
 - (c.) *Small relief works* will be taken in hand as required. No calculation has been made as to the number who will probably require relief in one form or another.
3. *Maihar*.—Area, 406 square miles; population, 77,546.

The prospects are slightly better than in other parts of the Agency, as there was a good rainfall one day in September which saved a fair proportion of the crops.

* Tribute-money.

The Raja, moreover, is a careful man and well-to-do, and a number of his subjects having migrated to work on the Kutni-Saugor line close by, he will be able to keep the remainder at work and alive. He has asked for no assistance in the way of a loan.

4. *Sahawal*.—Area, 212 square miles; population, 43,853.

This State is very badly off for funds and the Raja is in debt. He has not, however, yet applied for a loan.

5. *Jasso*.—Area, 72 square miles; population, 8,830.

Has received a loan of Rs. 2,500 from the Nowgong College Funds in July last. The *kharif* has been a 4-anna crop, and a 4-anna crop is expected from the *rabi* even if it does not rain, as there are a large number of bundhs, and in these wheat and gram have been already sown.

6. *Baraundha or Pathar Kachar*.—Area, 217 square miles; population, 18,596.

About a 3-anna *kharif* crop and only a 1-anna *rabi* crop expected if no rain falls. No loan has been applied for.

7. *Chobi Jagirs*.—Area, 68 square miles; population, 23,300.

Paldeo and Kampta Rajaula have asked for loans, about which I am about to make personal inquiries at these places when on tour.

Bhaisaundha has received a loan from the Nowgong College Fund.

A. F. PINHEY, Captain,
Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

No. 1766/40-8, dated Simla, the 10th October 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

SIR,

I AM desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letters.* Before these letters reached the Government of India, I had already been directed to address you on the subject of the possible utilisation of railway projects as relief works, should further distress declare itself in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, as there seems to be grave reason for apprehending may be the case, unless rain falls almost immediately.

2. In the "special rules for railways," which were appended to Circular Resolution No. 8-52, dated 21st March 1892, in this Department, it was laid down that, save for very exceptional reasons, railway projects should not be included in programmes of relief works; and the reasons for this decision were explained. These reasons still hold good; and the Government of India are of opinion that railway works should not be proposed as famine works except when no other suitable means of affording employment to the distressed population can be devised. In the case of a railway some four-fifths of the total expenditure is not available for purposes of relief; while, in the case of unmetalled roads, canals, and their distributaries, drainage works, and the like, from nine-tenths to the whole of the expenditure is upon work which is eminently suited to those purposes. Such works should therefore be exhausted before work upon railways is proposed. Should they, however, prove anywhere to be insufficient, it may be necessary for the Local Government to suggest the inclusion of railway projects in their programme of relief; and the object of this letter is to assist it in the selection of such projects if that necessity should arise.

3. In the case of the projects noted below, the Government of India are prepared, if necessary, to sanction the immediate carrying out of the earthwork, on the understanding that this does not pledge them to any decision regarding the completion of the line. Other lines have been projected in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, but the Government of India are not disposed to sanction, unless the very strongest case of necessity is made out, the construction of any of them as famine-works; in some cases, because on general grounds, it is not thought desirable to construct them, at any rate for some time to come; in other cases, because such survey as is necessary

* No. 3576 S., dated 30th September 1896, No. 3593 S., dated 2nd October 1896

before the alignment can be finally decided has not been made, and cannot be completed in time for the present emergency.

1. Ghaziabad-Moradabad—
Surveys ready—would give a considerable quantity of employment on earth-works, &c.
2. Shekoabad-Mainpuri-Farruckabad—
Survey ready—would give a fair quantity of work.
3. Agra-Delhi chord (North-Western Provinces section)—
Surveys not ready—would probably give a fair amount of work between Agra and Muttra.
4. Hardwar-Dehra Branch—
Surveys made some years ago, but will have to be gone over again—would afford a considerable amount of earthwork. This line will probably be started in ordinary course about January.
5. Perhaps one or more of the several extensions or branches of the Bengal and North-Western Railway in Oudh, as may be arranged by North-Western Provinces Government with the agent.

4. It will be observed that this list includes the projects numbered 2, 3 and 4 in paragraph 7 of your letter of the 30th September 1896, while No. 7 is already in progress. As regards the remaining projects there enumerated, the Government of India are not prepared at present to sanction any step towards the construction of No. 6, the Fyzabad-Allahabad Railway; while they would require a very strong case to be made out before they approved of any work being undertaken on No. 1, the Bareilly-Soron Railway, No. 5, the branch from Azamgarh to Shahganj, stands in a somewhat different category. The financial responsibility will, of course, rest with the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and no work could be undertaken until the company definitely pledged themselves to purchase the line when constructed. Meanwhile I am to ask his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to consider whether the 211 miles of line already under construction in the Ganges-Gogra Doab will not sufficiently meet the requirements of the case. If not, the Government of India will have no objection to a survey being made, which could be completed in a very short time.

5. In the above list the projects are arranged in the order in which, on general considerations, irrespective of local conditions of distress, the Government of India would wish to see them carried out, the more important preceding the less important. It will be advisable, in the construction of any line that may be selected, to adhere as far as possible to the system of petty contract, and not to change this for the task-work system except in case of absolute necessity. Thus the railway would supplement, rather than form a part of the famine works proper, which it would relieve by affording suitable employment for able-bodied men. Viewed in this aspect, it is not essential that the line should actually run through or close to the distressed tract in the relief of which it is intended to assist. From what distance labour will be attracted by it, it is probably impossible to say beforehand. But in choosing between two lines, one of them may be preferable, on general grounds, to the other, but at a greater distance from the distressed tract. If not so distant but that it may reasonably be expected to attract labour and afford relief, the Government of India would prefer that the former of the two lines should be taken in hand in the first instance, and that work upon the latter should be postponed until experience had shown that the former was unable to afford the relief required. In such a case, however, it seems desirable to complete the survey and plans for the latter line also, in case it should be found necessary to begin work upon it.

6. I am to point out that the preparation of surveys and plans and estimates takes time; that any railway work that may be undertaken will require supervision by officers of the railway establishment; that that establishment is limited; and that it is therefore essential that the Government of India should have the earliest possible notice of the probability that it may be necessary to propose any given railway project as supplementary to, or a part of, the programme of relief works. If such probability should become apparent, the report on the subject should include the information specified in Rule X., clauses (a.) to (f.) of the rules referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter, with such measure of completeness and accuracy as may be possible under the circumstances.

7. Finally, I am to make the following suggestion for the consideration of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The great value, in suitable localities, of light railways or tramways (whether with steam or animal haulage) as feeders to existing railways is universally recognised, not only as bringing traffic to the railway, but also as adding to the general prosperity of the tract which they traverse. It has, however, been decided that, for the present at any rate, the construction of such lines must be left to private, which would in most cases mean local, enterprise. Accordingly, wherever other works, the construction of which at the cost of the public revenues is more legitimate, are available for the relief of distress, these should first be undertaken. But if no such works should be available, it might perhaps be found possible to induce private capital to embark on the construction of a light railway or tramway, on the condition that the Government did the earthwork as a relief work and made it over to the company free of charge. Especially might this be so in the case of lines which involve an amount of cutting or embankment so considerable as to discourage private enterprise from undertaking their construction. Such lines are peculiarly suitable for purposes of relief, since in a line that is mainly a surface line the amount of work included in a unit of length is so small that it is necessary constantly to shift the labour employed from point to point.

I have, &c.
 DENZIL IBBETSON,
 Officiating Secretary to the Government
 of India.

No. 1756/40-7, dated Simla, the 9th October 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB.

SIR,

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the possible utilisation of railway projects as relief works, should further distress declare itself in the Punjab, as there seems to be grave reason for apprehending may be the case, unless rain falls almost immediately.

2. In the "special rules for railways," which were appended to Circular Resolution No. 8-52, dated 21st March 1892, in this Department, it was laid down that, save for very exceptional reasons, railway projects should not be included in programmes of relief works; and the reasons for this decision were explained. These reasons still hold good; and the Government of India are of opinion that railway works should not be proposed as famine works except when no other suitable means of affording employment to the distressed population can be devised. In the case of a railway some four-fifths of the total expenditure is not available for purposes of relief; while in the case of unmetalled roads, canals, and their distributaries, drainage works, and the like, from nine-tenths to the whole of the expenditure is upon work which is eminently suited to those purposes. Such works should therefore be exhausted before work upon railways is proposed. Should they, however, prove anywhere to be insufficient, it may be necessary for the local government to suggest the inclusion of railway projects in their programme of relief; and the object of this letter is to assist them in the selection of such projects if that necessity should arise.

3. In the case of the projects noted below, the Government of India are prepared, if necessary, to sanction the immediate carrying out of the earth work, on the understanding that this does not pledge them to any decision regarding the completion of the line. Other lines have been projected in the Punjab, but the Government of India are not disposed to sanction, unless the very strongest case of necessity is made out, the construction of any of them as famine works; in some cases, because, on general grounds, it is not thought desirable to construct them, at any rate for some time to come; in other cases, because such survey as is necessary before the alignment can be finally decided has not been made, and cannot be completed in time for the present emergency—

1. Lyallpur-Khanewal—
 Surveys ready—very light work.
2. Agra-Delhi chord (Punjab section)—
 Surveys not ready—work probably light at the Delhi end.

3. Jullundur Hoshiarpur—
Surveys ready—a moderate amount of work probably.
4. Ludhiana-Ferozepore—
Surveys ready—a moderate amount of work.

4. In the above list the projects are arranged in the order in which, on general considerations, irrespective of local conditions of distress, the Government of India would wish to see them carried out, the more important preceding the less important. It will be advisable, in the construction of any line that may be selected, to adhere as far as possible to the system of petty contract, and not to change this for the task-work system except in case of absolute necessity. Thus the railway would supplement, rather than form a part of the famine works proper, which it would relieve by affording suitable employment for able-bodied men. Viewed in this aspect, it is not essential that the line should actually run through or close to the distressed tract in the relief of which it is intended to assist. From what distance labour will be attracted by it, it is probably impossible to say beforehand. But in choosing between two lines, one of them may be preferable, on general grounds, to the other, but at a greater distance from the distressed tract. If not so distant that it may reasonably be expected to attract labour and afford relief, the Government of India would prefer that the former of the two lines should be taken in hand in the first instance, and that work upon the latter should be postponed until experience had shown that the former was unable to afford the relief required. In such a case, however, it would be well to complete the survey and plans for the latter line also, in case it should be found necessary to begin work upon it.

5. I am to point out that the preparation of surveys and plans and estimates takes time; that any railway work that may be undertaken will require supervision by officers of the railway establishment; that that establishment is limited; and that it is therefore essential that the Government of India should have the earliest possible notice of the probability that it may be necessary to propose any given railway project as supplementary to, or a part of, the programme of relief works. If such probability should become apparent, the report on the subject should include the information specified in Rule X., clauses (a.) to (f.) of the rules referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter, with such measure of completeness and accuracy as may be possible under the circumstances.

6. Finally, I am to make the following suggestion for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The great value of light railways or tramways (whether with steam or animal haulage) as feeders to existing railways is universally recognised, not only as bringing traffic to the railway, but also as adding to the general prosperity of the tract which they traverse. It has, however, been decided that, for the present at any rate, the construction of such lines must be left to private, which would in most cases mean local, enterprise. Accordingly, wherever other works, the construction of which at the cost of the public revenues is more legitimate, are available for the relief of distress, these should first be undertaken. But if no such works should be available, it might perhaps be found possible to induce private capital to embark on the construction of a light railway or tramway, on the condition that the Government did the earth-work as a relief work and made it over to the company free of charge. Especially might this be so in the case of lines which involve an amount of cutting or embankment so considerable as to discourage private enterprise from undertaking their construction. Such lines are peculiarly suitable for purposes of relief, since in a line that is mainly a surface line, the amount of work included in a unit of length is so small that it is necessary constantly to shift the labour employed from point to point.

I have, &c.
DENZIL IBBETSON,
Officiating Secretary to the Government
of India.

No. 14-C., dated Viceroy's Camp, Alwar, the 9th November 1896.

From THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the AGENT
TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, RAJPUTANA.

SIR,

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the possible utilisation of railway projects as relief works should further distress declare itself in Rajputana, as there seems to be grave reason for apprehending may be the case, unless rain falls almost immediately.

2. In the "special rules for railways," which were appended to the Circular Resolution* of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 8-52, dated 21st March 1892, it was laid down that save for very exceptional reasons, railway projects should not be included in programmes of relief works; and the reasons for this decision were explained. These reasons still hold good; and the Government of India are of opinion that railway works should not be proposed as famine works except when no other suitable means of affording employment to the distressed population can be devised. In the case of a railway some four-fifths of the total expenditure is not available for purposes of relief; while in the case of unmetalled roads, canals, and their distributaries, drainage works, and the like, from nine-tenths to the whole of the expenditure is upon work which is eminently suited to those purposes. Such works should therefore be exhausted before work upon railways is proposed. Should they, however, prove anywhere to be insufficient, it may be necessary to include railway projects in the programme of relief; and the object of this letter is to assist you and the Darbars in the selection of such projects if that necessity should arise.

3. In the case of either Imperial or other railway projects not already sanctioned, but hereafter referred to, I am to inform you that although the Government of India are prepared, if necessary, to sanction the immediate carrying out of the earthwork, they can do so only on the understanding that this does not pledge them to any decision regarding the time at which, or the manner in which the railway will be completed.

In nearly all cases, the railway alignment will have to be located and the necessary plans furnished by suitable railway officers; but it is presumed that the actual execution of the earthwork in accordance with these plans will rest with the several Darbars, each providing the funds and controlling the work within its own territory.

I am, however, to say that where any such earthwork is executed on a line which is afterwards sanctioned as part of the imperial system of railways, and when such work, after being done by the Darbar as a work for the relief of distress, is subsequently utilised by a railway administration, the value of the work so taken over at the normal rates current in the district concerned (that is, the amount which it is estimated would have had to be spent as railway construction if the work had not been already done) will then be assessed and the amount so assessed then refunded to the Darbar which did the work.

4. The Gwalior State is already constructing that portion of the Guona Bara Railway which is in Gwalior territory. Arrangements are already under consideration for completing the line through the Tonk and Kotah States, and the Government of India hope to be able to authorise the commencement of the earthwork on these sections of the line on receiving from you an intimation of these arrangements having been completed.

The projected Ratlam-Bara-Muttra Railway passes through the territories of Jhalrapatan, Kotah, Jaipur, Karauli and Bhartpur. The alignment from Nagda to Bara is definitely settled, and the line can be located and earthwork commenced upon this section as soon as it is considered necessary for famine relief purposes. There is still some doubt as to the best alignment from Bara to the crossing of the Banas river, and no work on this section can at present be started. But the alignment from the east side of the Banas river, through Gangapur, Hindan and Bhartpur to Muttra can be located, and earthwork may be commenced when the necessity arises.

Portions of the Jaipur-Chambal branch line are also ready to be started. The section from Jaipur to Nawai (a point opposite the town of Tonk) can be utilized at once if necessary, but the rest of this line should, it is considered, await the investigation of

* *Vide* Endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3160-I., dated the 12th August 1892.

the best point of junction with the main line of the Rutlam-Bara-Muttra Railway, which may perhaps be changed between Bara and the crossing of the Banas river. The earthwork of the Balotra-Shadipalli line within Jodhpur territory is already in progress, and its prolongation through British territory upon the approved alignment might be located and earthwork commenced so far as your are of opinion that this additional work is necessary in the interests of the Jodhpur Darbar.

In Bikanir, the projected railway from Bikanir to Bhatinda is in progress as far as Khari. The plans and estimates for its extension from Khari to Bhatinda have not yet been submitted to the Government of India for approval, but it is understood that they are under preparation, and that arrangements can, if necessary, be made for their speedy completion.

5. In addressing the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and of the Punjab upon this general question, I have been directed to inform them that it will be advisable, in the construction of any line that may be selected, to adhere as far as possible to the system of petty contract, and not to change this for the task-work system except in case of absolute necessity. Thus the railway would supplement, rather than form a part of the famine works proper, which it would relieve by affording suitable employment for able-bodied men. Viewed in this aspect, it is not essential that the line should actually run through or close to the distressed tract in the relief of which it is intended to assist. From what distance labour will be attracted by it, it is probably impossible to say beforehand. But in choosing between two lines, one of them may be preferable, on general grounds, to the other, but at a greater distance from the distressed tract. If not so distant but that it may reasonably be expected to attract labour and afford relief, the Government of India would prefer that the former of the two lines should be taken in hand in the first instance, and that work upon the latter should be postponed until experience had shown that the former was unable to afford relief required. In such a case, however, it seems desirable to complete the survey and plans for the latter line also, in case it should be found necessary to begin work upon it. I am to commend these instructions to your consideration in dealing with the different conditions in Native territory. I am to explain that the petty contract system is not adapted to the employment of any but able-bodied men, and therefore, as explained in sections 29 and 34 of the Famine Code for Rajputana, is not applied in the case of work undertaken for the relief of a famine-stricken population. If other purely famine works are not available, the earthwork in connexion with the railway alignments enumerated in the preceding paragraph may be undertaken; but in that case it will be necessary to bring them into the scheme of relief work proper, and to substitute for the contract system, the gang and task-work system described in paragraphs 35 and 49 of the Famine Code.

6. Finally, I am to point out that the preparation of surveys, and plans, and estimates, takes time; that any railway work that may be undertaken will require supervision by officers of the railway establishment; that that establishment is limited; and that it is therefore essential that the Government of India should have the earliest possible notice of the probability that it may be necessary to propose any given railway project as supplementary to, or a part of, the programme of relief works. If such probability should become apparent, the report on the subject should include the information specified in Rule X., clauses (a.) to (f.) of the rules referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter, with such measure of completeness and accuracy as may be possible under the circumstances.

I have, &c.,
H. DALY,
For Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 132-C., dated Viceroy's Camp, December 2, 1896.

From THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the AGENT
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN CENTRAL INDIA.

SIR,

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the possible utilisation of railway projects as relief works, should further distress declare itself in Central India, as there seems to be grave reason for apprehending may be the case, unless rain falls almost immediately.

2. In the "special rules for railways," which were appended to the Circular Resolution* of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, No. 8-52, dated 21st March 1892, it was laid down that, save for very exceptional reasons, railway projects should not be included in programmes of relief works; and the reasons for this decision were explained. These reasons still hold good; and the Government of India are of opinion that railway works should not be proposed as famine works except when no other suitable means of affording employment to the distressed population can be devised. In the case of a railway, some four-fifths of the total expenditure is not available for purposes of relief; while in the case of unmetalled roads, canals, and their distributaries, drainage works and the like, from nine-tenths to the whole of the expenditure is upon work which is eminently suited to those purposes. Such works should therefore be exhausted before work upon railways is proposed. Should they, however, prove anywhere to be insufficient, it may be necessary to include railway projects in the programme of relief; and the object of this letter is to assist you and the Darbars in the selection of such projects if that necessity should arise.

3. The Gwalior State is already constructing that portion of the Goona-Bara Railway which is in Gwalior territory, and arrangements are already under consideration for completing the line, and it is hoped that earthwork will be commenced shortly. The projected Rutlam-Bara-Muttra Railway passes through Jaora and the alignment of this section is definitely settled, so that earthwork can be commenced as soon as it is considered to be required as a relief work, and extended northwards into Rajputana. I am to request you to report whether, after consideration of the views expressed in paragraph 2 above, you consider it necessary to start either or both of these railway projects as famine relief works.

4. In addressing the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and of the Punjab upon this general question, the Government of India have informed them that it will be advisable, in the construction of any line that may be selected, to adhere as far as possible to the system of petty contract, and not to change this for the task-work system except in case of absolute necessity. Thus the railway would supplement rather than form a part of the famine works proper, which it would relieve by affording suitable employment for able-bodied men. Viewed in this aspect, it is not essential that the line should actually run through or close to the distressed tract in the relief of which it is intended to assist. From what distance labour will be attracted by it, it is probably impossible to say beforehand. But, in choosing between two lines, one of them may be preferable, on general grounds, to the other, but at a greater distance from the distressed tract. If not so distant but that it may reasonably be expected to attract labour and afford relief, the Government of India would prefer that the former of the two lines should be taken in hand in the first instance, and that work upon the latter should be postponed until experience had shown that the former was unable to afford the relief required. In such a case, however, it seems desirable to complete the survey and plans for the latter line also, in case it should be found necessary to begin work upon it. I am to commend these instructions to your consideration in dealing with the different conditions in Native territory. I am to explain that the petty contract system is not adapted to the employment of any but able-bodied men, and therefore is not applied in the case of work undertaken for the relief of a famine-stricken population. If other purely famine works are not available, the earthwork in connexion with the railway alignments enumerated in the preceding paragraph may be undertaken; but in that case it will be necessary to bring them into the scheme of relief work proper, and to substitute for the contract system, gang and task-work systems under which a limited task is exacted from the labourer, and he is not allowed to do more, while if he does less, he receives less than the full wage prescribed.

I have, &c.

W. J. CUNINGHAM,
Secretary to the Government of India.

* *Vide* Endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3160-I, dated the 12th August 1892.

DESPATCH from SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL, No. 9 (REVENUE), dated 15th January 1897.

MY LORD,

DURING the continuance of distress from the failure of the harvests in India, it is important that I should have the earliest possible information of any considerable rise of the death-rate above normal, and also a periodical report of continued mortality of an unusually high rate in any province. A rough calculation, which can doubtless be prepared from the local registers of deaths, will suffice for my purpose; but it is essential that the information should be prompt, and therefore the death-rate per thousand in each month, recorded in every tract where the mortality is abnormal, should be telegraphed as soon as practicable after the end of the month with a few words of explanation as to the causes.

I have, &c.

GEORGE HAMILTON.

DESPATCH from GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, No. 64, dated Calcutta, the 23rd December 1896.

MY LORD,

WE understand that the Lord Mayor of London, the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce, and others have been in communication with your Lordship on the subject of opening subscription lists in England in connexion with the distress which is now threatening India. We feel assured that the suffering which, in spite of all that the Government may do to relieve it, must necessarily be in store during the next few months for many millions of Her Majesty's subjects, will deeply move the sympathies of the British public; and we are convinced that it needs but an indication on your Lordship's part that money will be gratefully received and can be usefully applied, to ensure a generous response from that liberality of which India has already had experience, and of which she still preserves a grateful recollection. We therefore deem it right to place your Lordship in possession of our views on the subject without further delay.

2. On a former occasion, when Southern India was suffering from famine in 1877, a sum of something like 700,000*l.* sterling was collected in England to be applied in India to the alleviation of distress. The application of this money led to a correspondence between Lord Lytton's Government and the Secretary of State of that time, which terminated with Lord Cranbrook's Despatch No. 46, dated 16th May 1878, and which the Famine Commissioners had before them when they discussed the subject in paragraphs 187 and 188 of their report. In the course of that correspondence it was laid down "that the Government is responsible, as far as may be practicable, for the saving of life by all the available means in its power," and that "it is not proper or expedient that the Government should ask for private subscriptions to supplement its own expenditure on famine, especially as it is clear that such subscriptions can make no appreciable difference" in the amount of an expenditure which must be reckoned by millions. To these principles we steadfastly adhere. To invite subscriptions which are to be spent in the performance of a task for which we have undertaken the responsibility, would be to invite them for the relief of the Indian exchequer—an end towards which we could neither ask nor receive contributions with propriety. For this reason we think that anything that might bear the appearance of an appeal for assistance on the part of the Government of India to the people of England, should be scrupulously avoided as being liable to serious misconception.

3. To ask, however, is one thing, and to receive with gratitude and apply to the best possible advantage money which may be spontaneously offered is another. As Lord Lytton wrote in 1877: "while it is not desirable, in the circumstances above mentioned, for the Government itself to take any part in the collection or distribution of subscriptions, every encouragement should be given to the spontaneous flow of private charity." There is, as we shall presently show, ample scope for the operation of private charity outside the definite task of saving people from starvation which the Government has taken upon its own shoulders. And should the English people at any time think fit to send of their benevolence aid to those who are in distress, not only will it be most welcome, and most useful in the mitigation of very real suffering,

but the fact will be of the greatest political value, as tending to draw together in the bond of sympathy the peoples of the two countries. We would prefer, however, that anything that may be in contemplation in the shape of public organisation for the collection and receipt of subscriptions should be deferred till the situation has more definitely declared itself; and we have already suggested this to your Lordship in our telegram of the 17th December.

If the winter rains wholly fail us, India will be involved in a calamity which will, we believe, equal if not transcend in magnitude any similar calamity that has befallen her during the present century. If, on the other hand, they are timely and plentiful, the area in which serious famine may be anticipated, though still large in itself, will be by comparison small; while a large part of the tracts which are still in danger will probably escape anything worse than that distress, in itself sufficiently serious and widespread, which high prices must occasion among the poorer classes of labourers and artisans, and others with incomes fixed in cash. At the present moment, save in parts of the North-Western and Central Provinces, we have present with us nothing more serious than distress, which is, however, slowly deepening into famine; while whatever relief may come to us in the shape of rain must come within the next few weeks. Thus, we shall shortly know with some certainty whether the calamity is to be of the gravest magnitude, or of limited, if still very serious gravity. In either case contributions will be welcome. But if anything in the shape of an invitation is to be addressed to public charity, it would, we think, be well to postpone it until the case for assistance can be stated more definitely, and (should the worst befall us) more powerfully than is at present possible.

4. In the correspondence to which we have already alluded, it was laid down that before an appeal was made to the charity of an English public "the Governor-General in Council should in the first instance define the objects to which (as distinct from "the obligation devolving on the Government) such charity will be devoted." We enclose a concise statement of those objects as we understand them, which may be of use should any public action be taken in the matter. As we have said, we accept as our own the responsibility of saving life. But life once secured, our responsibility to the afflicted ceases and our responsibility to the tax-paying public begins. In order to ensure that the public revenues are not devoted to any less emergent purpose than the saving of life, we exact from those who apply for relief (with due regard for sex, age, infirmity, and the customs of the country) tests of the reality of their need of such a nature that only those who are genuinely impelled by want will submit to them. And we rigorously limit the assistance given to what is really necessary for the preservation of life. It is evident that there is the widest possible margin of suffering and distress outside these limitations, in the relief of which private charity will find an ample field.

5. It was pointed out in the correspondence of 1877-78, that the Government being responsible for the saving of life by all available means in its power, and an official agency having been organised for this purpose, "it is not desirable that another agency or the same agency under another name should be employed on the same lines in the "distribution of private charity;" and that "the Government and the Government alone should in the last resort have the direction of whatever volunteer agency may be organised, and should exercise some control over the expenditure of such sums "as the liberality of the nation may contribute." The Secretary of State therefore ruled that "to inspire confidence in the public, as well as to secure the efficient "administration of the funds, local committees should conduct their operations under "the control of Government, and with the co-operation of its officers." These principles are, we think, indisputable. The necessary control should, however, be exercised without giving it undue prominence; and we enclose a sketch of the organisation which we propose to recommend for the administration of any funds which we may receive from England. We enclose also, for your Lordship's information, copies of a letter which we have caused to be addressed to Local Governments on the subject of the organisation and control of private charity in India.

6. Meanwhile we will keep your Lordship duly informed of the progress of events. Should private purses open spontaneously, India will gratefully receive the aid thus proffered. But we should prefer that anything like a public call for subscriptions should, if possible, be deferred until we are able to furnish your Lordship with a somewhat more definite estimate of the gravity of the situation. And we are strongly

of opinion that, should such a call be decided upon, it should be made perfectly clear that the appeal is for money to be spent in the alleviation of that distress which cannot properly be relieved at the cost of the State, and is in no sense an appeal by the Government of India for assistance in its struggle with starvation.

We have, &c.

ELGIN.

G. S. WHITE.

J. WESTLAND.

J. WOODBURN.

M. D. CHALMERS.

E. H. H. COLLEN.

A. C. TREVOR.

Enclosure No. 1.

STATEMENT of the OBJECTS to which PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS may legitimately be devoted.

Government fully accepts general responsibility for saving the lives of the people in tracts in which famine prevails; and it is essential that private charity, while working side by side with, should not interfere with or overlap the operations which are organised for this purpose. There is, however, ample scope for its exercise in supplementing these operations, in mitigating suffering, and in relieving distress which falls just short of absolute destitution. Especially, private contributions might usefully be expended on the following objects:—

Firstly: *in supplementing the subsistence ration which alone is provided from public funds, by the addition of small comforts, whether of food or of clothing, for the aged or infirm, for the patients in hospitals, for children, and the like.*

As guardian of the public purse, and in view of the magnitude of the calamity, Government is obliged to limit its assistance to what is absolutely necessary for the preservation of life.

Secondly: *in providing for the maintenance of orphans.*

Every famine leaves behind it a number of waifs who have lost or become separated from those who should be responsible for them, and for whose maintenance it is necessary to provide till they are of an age to support themselves.

Thirdly: *in relieving the numerous poor but respectable persons who will endure almost any privation rather than apply for Government relief, accompanied as it must be by official inquiry into, and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution which is to be relieved.*

The feeling of the sacredness of the "purdah" or domestic privacy is intensely strong in India; and it is most difficult for any official organisation to reach, or even to ascertain with certainty the existence of distress of this nature.

Fourthly: *in restoring to their original position, when acute distress is subsiding, those who have lost their all in the struggle, and in giving them a fresh start in life.*

The peasant cultivator may often thus be saved from losing his holding through sheer inability to cultivate it, and from sinking to the position of a day labourer.

Enclosure No. 2.

Sketch of the organisation which is suggested for the collection and administration private subscriptions:—

- (1.) A Central Committee, to be termed the Indian Committee for the provision and administration of charitable relief, to be established in India. The General Committee to be unlimited in numbers, and nominations of representatives from each province likely to be affected by famine to be invited.

The General Committee to nominate an Executive Committee consisting of not more than _____ members to undertake the actual administration of the business of the Committee.

The head-quarters of the Committee to be at Calcutta. The functions of the Central Committee will be—

- (a.) To receive moneys transmitted from England or other countries, and also moneys that may be subscribed in India for the general purposes of the Committee. The fund so created to be termed the "Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund, 1897."
 - (b.) To apportion these moneys between the different provinces.
 - (c.) To arrange, in concert with the Government, the system upon which charitable relief is to be applied.
- (2.) A Committee to be formed in each province, which will receive the moneys apportioned to that province by the Central Committee, and also any moneys subscribed specially to meet the needs of the province, will distribute these moneys to Local Committees, and will generally direct the action of the Local Committees. The Provincial Committee will act in concert with the Local Government, and will be responsible for seeing that the money allotted by the Central Committee is spent on the declared objects of the Fund and with the approval of the Local Government.
 - (3.) Local Committees to be formed as the Provincial Committees may determine. The detailed administration of the Relief Funds will be in the hands of these Local Committees acting in concert with the local authorities.
 - (4.) The collection of money in England to be in the hands of a Committee or other agency which will be set on foot in such manner as the Secretary of State may deem advisable.

Enclosure No. 3.

Circular No. 1 F./66-2. Dated Calcutta, the 22nd December 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

WITH endorsement No. 1323—1332, dated 28th June 1878, in the Public Works Department (Famine) of the Government of India, was forwarded certain correspondence with the Secretary of State on the subject of the collection and administration of the contributions of private charity for the relief of distress in time of famine. I am now to forward, in continuation of that correspondence, and for the information of _____ a copy of a despatch which is being addressed to the Secretary of State on the same subject.

2. The Governor General in Council is of the opinion that the same general principles should, so far as they are applicable, be applied in the case of the charity of the Indian public as have been laid down in the case of contributions from England. Individual and purely local benevolence will of course follow its own course. The evils which may arise from its faulty administration, if it should assume any considerable magnitude, are discussed in paragraph 187 of Part I. of the Famine Commission's Report. But there will seldom be any difficulty in dealing locally with such cases.

3. When, however, any general public appeal is made for money to be expended throughout the province or throughout India, the same considerations apply in the main as in the case of English charity. Government officials may very properly associate themselves with such an appeal; but it must be made clear that they do so merely as sympathising with and sharing in the feelings of benevolence that have suggested the appeal, and that they are in no sense its author; that it is spontaneous, and not officially prompted or promoted. As regards the question whether the time for such an appeal has arrived in any province, the point must be determined in each case in view of local conditions. Should it at any time be decided to make such an appeal, the objects to which private charity is to be devoted should be clearly defined so as not to trench upon the field of Government operations; and it should be made clear that Government reserves to itself such power of control as may be necessary to ensure the fulfilment of this condition.

I have, &c.

DENZIL IBBETSON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Despatch from SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA
in Council No. 10 (Revenue) dated 15th January 1897.

MY LORD,

ON learning from your Excellency that the probable extent of the famine could now be defined, and that public subscriptions were being invited in India, I informed the Lord Mayor of London that your Government gratefully accept his offer to open a Mansion House Fund for subscriptions in aid of the relief of sufferers from famine in India; and on the receipt of your letter, No. 64 (Famine), dated the 23rd December 1896, I have communicated to his lordship your views regarding the objects to which private charity can best be devoted, and regarding the way in which charitable funds can best be administered. Since the month of October, your weekly telegrams have kept me informed regarding the condition of affairs, while your present Despatch, and your detailed telegram of the 10th January 1897, give the latest information concerning the extent of the calamity and the measures that have been taken for the relief and mitigation of suffering.

2. The famine has been caused by the absence of the usual rainfall during part of the autumn of 1896. Over a great part of India no rain fell from the middle of August to the middle of November, during which period more than one-third of the year's rainfall is usually expected. The failure of the rains stunted or destroyed the growing autumn food crops, such as millets, rice and pulse, the yield of which on irrigated lands is estimated to range from nothing to nearly half an average crop. The irrigated autumn crop lands, about 14 per cent. of the whole, are expected to yield about three-quarters of an ordinary harvest. The drought also prevented or impeded ploughing and sowing for the spring crops such as wheat, barley, gram and pulse. The effect of the failure upon the people was aggravated, especially in the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces, by the circumstance that food-stocks had been reduced and the resisting power of the people had been impaired by previous short harvests.

3. In the month of October all the Local Governments considered the situation and made preparations for meeting the calamity in the several ways prescribed by the Famine Codes. The great extension of railways and the increase in the irrigated area made the country and the people better able to resist famine, while the existence of the Famine Codes and the preparations made under those Codes placed your Government and your officers in a better position for administering timely relief than they had been on any previous occasion. During October the commoner food grains became dearer over a great part of India than had ever been known before at that time of the year and over so great an area. In 74 districts the cheaper kinds of grain were dearer than ten seers per rupee. The detailed reports which have reached me from the several provinces show that in the North-West Provinces, Oudh, and Bengal, timely and complete preparations had been made; while in the Punjab, where pressure was less severe, in Bombay, where the need arose later, and in Madras, where subsequent rainfall removed cause for anxiety, adequate precautions appear to have been taken.

4. At the beginning of November it was apparent that, if the cold weather rainfall should be wanting, there must be serious famine over a large area of India, inhabited perhaps by 80 to 90 millions of people, and that it would be most severely felt in the North-West Provinces, in four districts of which the famine organisation had been fully tried, and had achieved a very satisfactory success during the previous season of 1895-96. But the situation was much relieved by the rainfall of November, which secured a full winter harvest over the greater part of Madras and Mysore; and which spread in an unusual way to the Deccan, the Central Provinces, and Northern India. In December and January also, cold weather showers have fallen over Central and Northern India, over Bengal and over parts of Bombay. The sowings for the spring crops have everywhere been extended, though the breadth of these crops is reported to be still considerably short of the normal area. The spring crops, however, where they have been sown and have germinated, are said to be practically safe; and it is certain that by April next a large addition will have been made to the food-supply of the people over the greater part of the affected area. In some tracts, however, such as North Behar, and some of the districts in the Central Provinces and

Oudh, where the people depend mainly upon the autumn harvests for their food, the relief given by the spring crops will be less considerable.

5. According to your latest information on the 10th January, the position was that famine was felt or expected over districts inhabited by about 37 millions of people, while more or less distress was feared over other tracts containing 44 millions. In British India the expected famine areas and the distressed areas appear to be distributed somewhat thus:—

	Famine.		Distress.	
	Square Miles.	Population	Square Miles.	Population.
Punjab - - - - -	16,800	* 4,139,000	30,160	6,559,000
North-West Provinces - - - - -	26,200	11,273,000	50,600	26,013,000
Bengal - - - - -	6,700	5,281,000	9,900	8,265,000
Burma - - - - -	2,600	212,000	8,600	555,000
Madras - - - - -	8,500	1,206,000	—	—
Bombay - - - - -	43,000	7,009,000	9,300	2,064,000
Central Provinces - - - - -	60,200	7,824,000	13,200	1,019,000
Total - - - - -	164,000	36,944,000	121,700	44,475,000

In the famine areas full relief organisation under the Famine Codes either has been or is being established as need arises; and in the distressed areas relief works have been or are being opened in order to test the extent of the pressure. If hereafter in parts of the distressed area famine should appear, the relief organisation will be at once extended.

6. The number of people in receipt of relief during the first week of January was 1,200,000, of whom about 248,000 were receiving gratuitous relief. It is expected that these numbers will increase until April; during March and April pressure will, it is hoped, abate in tracts where the spring harvests on large areas prove good; but in some parts the numbers on relief may go on increasing until the end of May. And in no case will anxiety be over until favourable rains have fallen in July and August next.

7. Besides organising relief works and the distribution of gratuitous relief, you have sanctioned suspensions of revenue where pressure is greatest; you have made available for irrigation as much water as possible; you have sanctioned large advances or loans to land-holders who are ready to give work on their estates, and to ryots who are ready to dig wells; you have opened the Government forests to grazing in places where fodder is scanty, and you have reduced the railway rates for carriage of food.

8. You believe that the stocks of food are practically sufficient for the needs of the people, Burma and perhaps South India having a large surplus of food. You are relying on private trade to carry food to places where it is wanted, and you have made public your decision to abstain from any Government interference with the operations of the grain trade. But you have given Local Governments authority to arrange through local dealers for sending food to any relief work or relief centre, where the supply of food is apparently running short. I do not gather that supplies of food are yet coming into the distressed districts from Burma, Madras, or Siam; and I question if Indian prices are, as yet, high enough to attract wheat or even maize from the west. I observe that the Famine Codes provide that the relief wage, or the gratuitous dole, shall be fixed at the value of a certain ration of food on the spot; so that if food becomes still dearer, the relief wage will be proportionately increased. I agree in your view, which was that expressed by the Famine Commission, that the trade, as a whole, can supply the food demand better and more effectively than Government could; and, if reliance is placed on the trade, its operations, so long as they are effective, must not be subjected to competition by Government agency. No doubt careful watch will be kept by your Government not only on the food supply generally, but its local distribution. The area in India possessing a surplus of food is unhappily not so extensive this year as it was in 1876-77.

9. I approve the orders you have given regarding the undertaking of canals and railways as relief works. I hope that local capitalists or local bodies will be found ready in many places to construct light railways under the liberal terms which you

have offered in order to meet the present necessity. I understand that, if anywhere sufficient large relief works are not available in particular tracts, recourse will be had to village works, a system which appears to have been prosecuted very successfully in the Bundelcund relief operations of 1895-96. Whether for these petty works, or for other relief duties, a largely increased staff will certainly be required; and I gather that the Local Governments are taking early steps to organise a sufficient temporary staff of relief officers. In the Bundelcund report I observed with satisfaction the excellent service done by Indians, official and non-official, as well as by European relief officers, and I greatly regret that some of these excellent officers should have died or broken down in the struggle.

10. As I intimated by my telegram of the 28th October last, I shall be ready to sanction the expenditure needed to make your relief operations as complete and effective as possible. During a considerable number of years the Government of India has set apart a portion of its revenue to enable it more effectually to deal with such an emergency as has now arisen. You are therefore in a better position to provide the necessary funds for effectual relief without unduly burdening your finances. I am confident that public sentiment in India will support your Government in spending the public money ungrudgingly, though prudently, in the relief of distress. I can assure you of the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government and of your countrymen at home in the task before you.

11. On your Excellency and the officials in India must primarily rest the burden of battling with the grave calamity before us, and constant interference from home in the detailed working of the vast and complicated organisation you are controlling would be useless and mischievous.

12. It is, however, necessary that I should receive prompt periodical information as to the progress, adequacy, and results of these relief works, so that I may be able to judge and advise upon the general conduct and course of your operations.

13. The courage, decision, and promptitude with which the outset of this visitation has been met by your Excellency and your coadjutors inspire me with every confidence and hope in the eventual success of your proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

FAMINE CODE
OF THE
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

[REVISED EDITION 1895.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Subject.	Section.
CHAPTER I.	
<i>Duties of Revenue and Village Officers and others in ordinary Times.</i>	
Definitions - - - - -	1
Duties of the patwári - - - - -	2
" registrar kánungo - - - - -	3
" tahsildár - - - - -	4
" the collector of the district - - - - -	5
Weekly and monthly reports on the state of the crops and weather to be submitted - - - - -	6
Explanations in cases where prices exceed normal rates - - - - -	7
Duties of Director of Land Records and Agriculture - - - - -	8
Periodical inspection - - - - -	9
Compilation of facts and statistics - - - - -	10
Agricultural information - - - - -	11
Duties of the Commissioner in submitting reports received from the collector - - - - -	12
Collector to maintain programme of small works - - - - -	13
Commissioner to decide number of persons for whom relief works should be provided, and the programme of such works - - - - -	14
Necessity for sufficient number of sanctioned works - - - - -	15
Estimate and programme to be revised annually - - - - -	16
Chief engineer to maintain programme of all works - - - - -	17
Special rules for railways - - - - -	18
CHAPTER II.	
<i>Duties of Revenue and Village Officers when Scarcity is imminent</i>	
Duties of patwári - - - - -	19
" registrar kánungo - - - - -	20
" collector - - - - -	21
" the Commissioner - - - - -	22
Impending distress to be met by advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and by suspensions and remissions of revenue - - - - -	23
Opening of test works - - - - -	24
Employment of additional staff - - - - -	25
CHAPTER III.	
<i>Duties of Superior Revenue and Engineer Officers during Famine.</i>	
The first charges on relief works to fall on district boards - - - - -	26
Duties of collector - - - - -	27
Submission of monthly statements - - - - -	28
Duties of Commissioner - - - - -	29
" chief engineer - - - - -	30
Chief engineer to decide what ordinary works shall be converted into relief works, and to arrange for redistribution of funds - - - - -	31
" " to determine what works should be carried out at ordinary rates - - - - -	32
Supplementary programme to be submitted when relief works have been opened - - - - -	33
Character and number of works to be open at one time - - - - -	34
Emergent budget - - - - -	35
Provision of tools, &c. - - - - -	36
Report to collector by officer in charge - - - - -	37
Weekly progress return to form the initial voucher for the expenditure - - - - -	38
Report to be prepared with progress return - - - - -	39
Report and copy of return to be submitted to collector - - - - -	40
Government to control rates for conveyance of grain by railway - - - - -	41
Facilities to be given for the free action of private trade - - - - -	42

Subject.	Section.
CHAPTER IV.	
<i>Circle Organisation and Duties of Circle Officers, &c.</i>	
Division of districts into relief circles	43
Duties of the circle officer	44
Circle officer responsible for other duties	45
" to be supplied with money	46
Appointment of contractors for grain	47, 48
Contractors to be indented on for grain in prescribed forms	49
Payment to the contractor	50
Starving wanderers	51
Treatment of migrants	52
Utilisation of local and district boards	53
CHAPTER V.	
<i>Gratuitous Relief.</i>	
Patwári to prepare a register of poor	54
Duties of circle officer	55
Form in which gratuitous relief is to be given	56
Duties of the collector	57
Returns of expenditure on gratuitous relief	58
CHAPTER VI.	
<i>Famine Relief Works.</i>	
Classification of works	59
Ordinary works	60
Relief works	61
Distinction between "ordinary" and "relief works"	62
Classification of relief works	63
Definition of large works	64
Small works	65
Classification of persons employed on relief works	66
Labourers to be termed relief workers	67
Relief work not to be done by contract	68
Employment of relief workers	69
Definition of "task"	70
Principles on which maximum task should be fixed	71
Formula for calculating the amount of task in earthwork	72
Transfer of relief workers from one class to another	73
Relief workers to be formed into gangs	74
Works which can be opened by the collector	75
Works which should not be opened without Government sanction	76
Responsibilities of the officer in charge	77
Admission of applicants to the works	78
Allowance to applicants before commencing work	79
Persons to be retained on relief works	80
Drafting of relief workers to large works	81
Information about large works	82
Transfer of relief workers	83
Camps for relief workers	84
Huts for relief workers	85
Residence in camp	86
Payment of wages	87
Officer in charge responsible that wage is paid	88
Wages to be paid, as a rule, in cash	89
Days for which payment of wages to be made	90
No work allowed on Sunday	91
Not less than minimum wage to be earned by a relief worker	92
Penalties for short work	93
Supply of food	94
Market arrangements	95
Report to be made when prices current are excessive	96
Hearing of complaints	97
Hospital accommodation	98
Care of infirm dependents of relief workers and children who are unfit to work	99
Relief of children and dependents by allowance to relief workers	100
CHAPTER VII.	
<i>Wages and Rations.</i>	
Full ration	101
Minimum ration	102
Penal ration	103
Payment to be made ordinarily in cash	104
Definition of maximum and minimum wage	105

Subject.	Section.
Definition of grain equivalent	106
Calculation of the wage by a grain equivalent	107
Scale of wages calculated on grain equivalents	108
When alternative method of calculating wages may be used	109
CHAPTER VIII.	
<i>The Poor-house.</i>	
Definition of poor-house	110
Persons to be admitted	111
Retention of inmates	112
Number of poor-houses	113
Supervision of poor-houses	114
Site of poor houses	115
Hospital to be attached to poor-houses	116
Closing of poor-houses	117
Suggestions for administration of poor-houses	118
CHAPTER IX.	
<i>State Kitchens.</i>	
Relief in kitchens	119
Establishment of kitchens	120
Treatment of children abandoned by their parents or guardians	121
Management of kitchens	122
Rations to be given in kitchens	123
CHAPTER X.	
<i>Other Measures of Relief</i>	
Relief to respectable women	124
Arrangements to prevent abuse	125
Relief to respectable men	126
Relief to artisans	127
" to weavers	128
Orphans and deserted children	129
Children to be given for adoption	130
" " made over to orphanage if unclaimed after three months	131
CHAPTER XI.	
<i>Measures for the Protection of Cattle.</i>	
Register of cattle and of pasturage	133
Assignment of reserve pasture grounds	134
Mode of sending cattle to the reserves	135
Collector to report scarcity of fodder	136
People to be encouraged to send cattle to the reserves	137
Utilisation of trees along routes	138
Supply of water	139
Pasture reserves to be under the forest officers	140
Production of fodder in canal-irrigated districts	141
CHAPTER XII.	
<i>Utilisation of Forests.</i>	
Forest produce utilisable as human food	142
CHAPTER XIII.	
<i>Duties of the Police.</i>	
Police to submit special returns	143
" " visit lanes and bye-ways	144
" " take precautions to protect grain	145
" " indent for extra force if required	146
" " receive an advance to supply food in urgent cases	147
" " dispose of dead bodies	148
CHAPTER XIV.	
<i>Duties of Medical Officers.</i>	
Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to require special returns	149
" " " send abstract to local Government	150
" " " regulate diet for famine patients	151
" " " supervise medical arrangements	152
" " " report when staff is deficient	153
" " " submit a general report	154
Duties of medical officers in charge of districts	155

Subject.	Section.
Medical officer to inform district officer of any defective arrangements of famine institutions - - - - -	156
„ to inspect relief workers and hospitals - - - - -	157
„ „ be attached to poor-house and relief work - - - - -	158
„ „ have charge of hospital - - - - -	159
Procedure in cases of dispute between the medical officer and the officer in charge of relief works - - - - -	160
CHAPTER XV.	
<i>Accounts.</i>	
Distribution of allotment - - - - -	161
Communication of the distribution to the account office - - - - -	162
Accountant-General to communicate the allotments to Treasury officers - - - - -	163
Subdivision of district allotments - - - - -	164
Supplementary allotment - - - - -	165
Register of sanctions - - - - -	166
Assignment of funds in anticipation of sanction - - - - -	167
Permanent advances - - - - -	168
Advances, how drawn - - - - -	169
Permanent advances, how accounted for - - - - -	170
Relief in grain, how accounted for - - - - -	171
Civil account head "famine relief" not to be opened without sanction - - - - -	172
Direct and indirect expenditure, how recorded - - - - -	173
Expenditure incurred on relief works in the Public Works Department - - - - -	174
Expenditure on ordinary public works - - - - -	175
Extra establishments - - - - -	176
Accounts of relief works - - - - -	177
Advances and loans - - - - -	178

APPENDICES.

List of appendices - - - - -	—
Appendix A.—Schedule of normal retail rates in the North-Western Provinces and Ouh - - - - -	—
Form of report where prices exceed normal rate by 25 per cent. - - - - -	—
Appendix B.—Suggestions for the construction, management, &c., of poor-houses (Sub-head.)—Superintendent - - - - -	1
Storekeeper - - - - -	2, 3
Orderlies - - - - -	4
Gatekeeper - - - - -	5
Petty establishment - - - - -	6
Warders - - - - -	7
Scavengers - - - - -	8, 9
Mess gumáshta's duties - - - - -	10
Duties of scavengers - - - - -	11
Burials - - - - -	12
Cooks - - - - -	13
Water-carriers - - - - -	14
Sweepers of the poor-house areas - - - - -	15
Rules as to hours of rising, feeding, &c. - - - - -	16
Sick cases, how taken to hospital - - - - -	17
Work on which inmates can be employed - - - - -	18
Cooking vessels - - - - -	19
Eating utensils - - - - -	20
Issue of cooked rations - - - - -	21, 22
Form of ticket and memorandum - - - - -	—
The poor-house and its organisation - - - - -	1, 2
Interior accommodation and reception of applicants for relief - - - - -	3
Food - - - - -	4
Employment during the day - - - - -	5
Establishment - - - - -	6
The superintendent - - - - -	7
The accountant - - - - -	8
The overseer - - - - -	9
Organisation of enclosures - - - - -	10
Menial establishment - - - - -	11
The hospital - - - - -	12
Inspection - - - - -	13, 14
Rest-houses for emigrants - - - - -	15

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH FAMINE CODE.

[REVISED EDITION, 1895.]

CHAPTER I.

Duties of Revenue and Village Officers and others in ordinary Times.

1. *Definitions.*—Throughout this Code the terms collector and tahsildár are respectively equivalent to the terms district authority and sub-divisional officer as used by the Government of India in dealing with famine questions. The circle of a patwári shall be known as a "local area."

2. *Duties of the Patwári.*—Every patwári is required, under the standing orders contained in Part III. of the Extant Circulars of the Board of Revenue, to note in his diary, and to report, the general condition of crops in his circle; the occurrence of any calamities, such as hail, fire, frost, flood, locusts; the prevalence of cattle disease or epidemic; and the emigration or settling of cultivators.

3. *Duties of Registrar Kánungo.*—The registrar kánungo is, under the standing orders contained in Part III. of the Extant Circulars of the Board of Revenue, responsible for transmitting to the collector of the district through the tahsildár the reports received by him from patwáris.

4. *Duties of Tahsildár.*—The tahsildár is, under the orders contained in Circular No. 16-IX., Extant Circulars of the Board of Revenue, required to report to the collector of the district or assistant collector in charge of a subdivision, all calamities of season affecting the crops, and any outbreak of sickness, epidemic, or mortality among either men or cattle; to see that the kánungos and patwáris duly perform the duties required of them in this respect; and to gauge the rain register and report on the prescribed dates to the collector all falls of rain.

5. *Duties of the Collector of the District.*—The collector of the district is bound to keep himself at all times informed of the agricultural condition of every part of his district, and to enforce the observance of all rules laid down by the Government for the collection of agricultural statistics and information.

6. *Weekly and Monthly Reports on the State of the Crops and Weather to be submitted.*—In ordinary times collectors of certain districts are required to submit direct to the local Government weekly telegraphic reports, which should summarise all facts which have an important bearing on the character of the season and the crops, *e.g.*, information should be given of the character of the rainfall, of the progress of agricultural operations, of the standing crops, and of the probable outturn of the harvests; of the condition of the opium and other crops of commercial importance; of any serious damage caused by insects, blight, hail storms, floods, or other natural calamities; and of the condition of agricultural stock, and the supply of water and fodder for them. The use of vernacular terms in these reports should be carefully avoided, except when they are indispensable to convey the meaning. Any marked fluctuations in prices should be duly noted.* Collectors of all districts are required to submit a similar monthly written report during the first week of each month to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, who prepares a provincial monthly summary for publication in the Gazette.

7. *Explanations in Cases where Prices exceed Normal Rates.*—The collector shall submit, through the Commissioner of the Division to the local Government, an explanation in all cases where the prices of any staple food grains show a rise of 25 per cent. above the normal retail rates, a schedule of which is prepared and periodically revised by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture. For the schedule now in force see Appendix A. (The form in which the report is to be submitted is appended to the schedule.)

8. *Duties of Director of Land Records and Agriculture.*—If imperfections appear in the system under which information supplied periodically in normal times regarding prices, rainfall, the state of the crops and agricultural stock, and other circumstances from which the approach of scarcity and agricultural distress can be detected, it is the duty of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture to submit to the local Government suggestions for the improvement of the system.

9. *Periodical Inspection.*—It is his duty and that of his assistants to ascertain by periodical inspection in normal times that the system for the supply of information prescribed in Chapters I. and II. is being efficiently and properly worked in each district, and to report to the collector any defects in its working.

10. *Compilation of Facts and Statistics.*—It shall be the duty of the director to compile and collate periodically in an intelligent form the facts and statistics which are derived from the system established for the provision of the information of the character above described. For this purpose he will have full access, under such rules as may be laid down by the local Government, to any statistical and agricultural returns and reports which are submitted by collectors to the higher revenue authorities.

* NOTE.—For the present telegraphic reports are received from the under-mentioned districts.—Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Almora, Ballia, Banda, Bareilly, Benares, Cawnpore, Farukhabad, Fyzabad, Gorakhpur, Jhānsi, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Partāghaib, Rae Bareilly, Sahāranpur, and Sitapur. In times of scarcity and famine the number will be temporarily increased.

11. *Agricultural Information.*—It shall be his duty to prepare from time to time, after an examination both of settlement reports and other similar sources of information which may be available, as well as of the information periodically collected in his own office, a statement of the agricultural circumstances of each tract of the provinces, and of the measures, if any, which are, in his opinion, required to improve the agricultural efficiency thereof.

12. *Duties of the Commissioner in regard to the above.*—The Commissioner shall transmit to the local Government all reports which he may receive from the collector under the preceding rules.

13. *Collector to maintain Programme of small Works.*—It is the duty of the collector to maintain for his district, under the sanction of the Commissioner, lists of works falling under classes (a) and (b) of section 65. The list of works to be maintained under class (a) of section 65 shall, as far as circumstances admit, consist of agricultural works calculated to increase the outturn of the proximate harvest or harvests; e.g., the construction of wells, the digging and clearing of village tanks, the construction of village reservoirs.* [These works shall, however, as far as possible, be executed by private agency assisted by takāvi advances, in which case they shall cease to be considered relief works.] The collector shall submit to the Commissioner, by 15th March at latest in each year, a copy of the lists, and an estimate of the number of persons for whom such works will provide employment. The estimate and lists will be drawn up as nearly as may be in Forms I. and II.B.

14. *The Commissioner to decide Number of Persons for whom Relief Works should be provided, and the Programme of such Works.*—The Commissioner will decide, after communication with the collectors of the division, the Public Works Department, and the Director of Land Records and Agriculture—

(i) the number of persons for whom it is requisite that relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine;

(ii) the programme of relief works which is to be adopted.

The estimate (i) shall be drawn up in Form I. and the programme (ii) in Forms II.A. and II.B.

15. *Necessity for sufficient Number of sanctioned Works.*—If through paucity of sanctioned works the number of persons entered under the head of "Sanctioned works" in Form I. is small in proportion to the total number for whom provision is made in other columns, measures should be taken to bring more large works under sanction as soon as possible, and information should be given in the column of remarks to show what steps are being taken for the purpose.

16. *Estimate and Programme to be revised Annually.*—The estimate (i) and programme (ii) will be revised annually, due regard being given (1) to the increased protection afforded during the past year by new irrigation works, improved communications, or otherwise; (2) to the exhaustion of relief works since the issue of the last programme.

17. *Chief Engineer to maintain Programme of all Works.*—It is the duty of the chief engineer in charge of the Public Works Department, Buildings, and Roads Branch, in communication with Commissioners and district authorities, to maintain for each division and district, under the sanction of Government, a programme of all relief works and to see that for each work there is a project in such detail as is suitable to the class of the work. For this purpose he will be furnished annually by the Commissioner, by 15th April at latest, with the estimate and programme referred to in section 14 drawn up in Forms I, II.A., and II.B. After such revision as is found necessary, the chief engineer shall furnish one estimate and programme for the Province to the local Government in the Revenue Department on 15th May in each year.

18. *Special Rules for Railways.*—The following rules have been prescribed by the Government of India with regard to including railway projects in the programme of relief works. The rules are applicable also to other works requiring Imperial sanction—

I. A railway project should not, except for grave reasons, be included in a programme of relief works in view—

(1) of the small ratio which the expenditure on unskilled labour bears to the total cost of a railway, about one-third of the whole cost being incurred in England, and of the balance only a small per-centage being spent on unskilled labour;

(2) of the large financial liabilities which the commencement of railway works involves;

(3) of the loss which may be incurred if, after being commenced as a relief work, the project or alignment may be subsequently abandoned or condemned.

II. When for reasons considered sufficient it is desired to include a railway project in the programme of relief works, a report should be submitted to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department showing—

(a) the liability of the districts through which the railway passes to famine;

(b) the advantages of the railway as a permanent protection of the districts affected by it against famine;

* The digging of field- is recommended as a most useful agricultural work in lands which are not injured by disturbance of the sub-soil, and as a class of work which admits of the easy control of gangs moved backwards and forwards over the fields in a compact body, and of the organisation of a system of light labour in the vicinity of each village. It is desirable that if arrangements can be made with the owners of villages or fields, the experiment of employing labourers in this way should be tried. The baling or carrying of water for standing crops is another class of work of the same kind.

- (c) the number of persons for whom it is requisite that relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine;
- (d) the number that can be provided for by works other than the railway;
- (e) the reasons why the railway is required as a relief work in supplement or preference to other works;
- (f) the number of persons for whom work of suitable kind can be provided by the railway;
- (g) the proportion of the cost of such relief work to the whole cost of the line.

III. If the railway or any part of it is accepted by the Government of India as admissible in the programme of relief works on general grounds, the necessary reconnaissances or surveys should be undertaken and the alignment submitted to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, and their approval obtained to the project before it is finally entered in the programme of relief works.

IV. If the alignment is approved, measures should be taken to secure the land required for the railway.

V. If after the inclusion of the project in the programme it should at any time be, in the opinion of the local Government, desirable that the railway should be utilised as a relief work, a report should be submitted to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department setting forth the reasons why the work should be commenced.

VI. In the event of such sanction being accorded, the local Government should transmit punctually and regularly to the Government of India in the Public Works Department the ordinary monthly and quarterly "Narrative Progress Reports," together with a memorandum showing the maximum, minimum, and average number of labourers employed, and the total cash issues during the month; and should also communicate with that Department upon all professional and engineering questions, and submit all the usual estimates, accounts, &c., as in the case of a railway in progress under ordinary circumstances.

CHAPTER II.

Duties of Revenue and Village Officers when Scarcity is imminent.

19 *Duties of Patwári.*—When serious scarcity is imminent, every patwári shall report through the supervisor kánúngo to the tahsildár—

- (a) the condition of the crops and the state of the people of the local area;
- (b) the existence of any scarcity or distress, whenever it may occur;
- (c) any unusual influx of strangers or emigration of residents;
- (d) the condition of the grain stocks;
- (e) any failure in the supply of fodder, the presence of disease, or the occurrence of any unusual mortality among the cattle.

20. *Duties of Supervisor Kánúngo.*—The supervisor kánúngo shall be required to make a special report to the tahsildár, for transmission to the collector, whenever he has reason to believe that serious failure in crops, fodder, or food stocks is imminent.

21. *Duties of Collector.*—The collector shall submit such report, with his own remarks, to the Commissioner of the division.

22. *Duties of the Commissioner.*—When the Commissioner of a division has reason to believe that scarcity prevails or a famine is imminent in any part of his division, he will report the fact to the local Government, stating, as far as possible,—

- (a) the ground of his belief;
- (b) the area and population likely to be affected;
- (c) the character of communications in the affected area;
- (d) the condition of the grain stocks;
- (e) sources from which supplies of food may be obtained;
- (f) proposed measures of relief;
- (g) an estimate of any extra expenditure likely to be incurred, and the local sources from which it can be met;
- (h) any measures for the due strengthening of the normal staff of each district; the subdivision, where necessary, of administrative areas in view to the proper administration of famine relief; the improvement of local communications; the employment of the Divisional Public Works Agency to the best advantage; and any other matters necessary for the due information of the Government.

23. *Impending Distress to be met by Advances under Agriculturists' Loans Act and by Suspension and Remissions of Revenue.*—Impending distress may at the outset be met by the grant of advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act (XII. of 1884) in accordance with the rules contained in Circular 5A and B-IV. of the circulars of the Board of Revenue, or by the suspension and remission of revenue under the rules in Circular 8-III. of the Board's circulars.

24. *Opening of Test Works.*—District officers are required to use their discretion in determining whether there is scarcity or whether famine is imminent. The proper course is, with the first

indications of distress, to open one or more test works, according as the area which seems affected is small or large, regulating them strictly according to the provisions hereinafter contained as to relief works. Ordinary works in progress under the district board or required by it should be opened and should be utilised as test works; wages and the quantity of work to be done being regulated according to the rules for relief works. Employment should be offered to the needy, on the strict condition that the labour is paid for at task work rates, not daily rates, and that the wage given does not exceed the famine wage according to the Code. If such test works attract labourers in large numbers, then it may be considered proved that distress exists.

25. *Employment of additional Staff.*—When in consequence of the apprehension of imminent and serious scarcity application is made by the local officers for the immediate strengthening of the district staff, the local Government is empowered to sanction the employment of such additional staff as may appear to be necessary, provided that all such appointments as ordinarily require the sanction of the Government of India or the Secretary of State are reported at once to the Government of India for confirmation.

CHAPTER III.

Duties of Superior Revenue and Engineer Officers during Famine.

26. *The First Charge on Relief Works to fall on District Boards.*—District boards must be regarded as forming an integral part of the administration, and it becomes their duty, as it is that of other departments of Government in time of serious scarcity, to subordinate the ordinary objects and methods of their expenditure to the special consideration of saving life. District boards are the primary agency for coping with famine, and must be expected in such crisis to direct all their available resources, subject only to the maintenance of absolutely necessary works in non-affected tracts, to affording relief. This primary obligation having been carried out, it remains for Government to supplement the resources of boards, if necessary, so as to enable them not only to combat famine, but also to perform their ordinary functions connected with the upkeep of district communications. Before then an appeal is made by the boards to Government for funds all possible expenditure, beyond that absolutely necessary for bare maintenance and establishment charges, should be diverted from non-affected to affected areas, and on the opening of relief operations the district budgets should be remodelled with this object.

27. *Duties of Collector.*—The district will be the unit of relief administration, and the collector will be the agent of Government for carrying out the measures of relief which may be determined on. He will exercise general supervision over all works and arrangements for giving relief within his district, and will be responsible to Government for their efficiency. His decision should be accepted in all matters relating to the employment and wages of the labourers, the opening or closing of works, and generally in all matters which are not of a merely technical nature. Officers of all departments employed on famine duty within the limits of his district will take their orders from him on all points not strictly professional.

28. *Submission of Monthly Statements.*—When relief measures have been undertaken the collector shall submit to the local Government direct the monthly Statements A. and B. (Forms VIII. and IX.), together with the map described in the footnotes to those statements. Copies of the statements should at the same time be despatched to the Commissioner.

29. *Duties of Commissioner.*—When it is determined to take any action for the relief of famine in the division, the Commissioner shall exercise administrative control over all measures undertaken for such purpose, except so far as may be hereinafter provided in such portion of Chapter VI. as relates to the conduct of large works.

30. *Duties of Chief Engineer.*—The chief engineer is responsible for seeing that provision is made for the necessary funds to meet the cost of carrying out relief works which may be decided on.

31. *To decide what ordinary Works shall be converted into Relief Works, and to arrange for redistribution of Funds.*—When the local Government decides that relief works are to be undertaken, the chief engineer shall, in communication with the Commissioner, determine, with reference to section 60, what ordinary works shall be converted into relief works, and what additional work should, if required be undertaken as a relief work. He shall then arrange for the redistribution of funds and establishments accordingly and such redistribution may in urgent cases be carried into effect in anticipation of the local Government's sanction.

32. *To determine what Works should be carried out at ordinary Rates.*—The chief engineer shall also, with the sanction of the local Government, determine whether any portion of the work selected under the last section is of such a character or requires to be executed with such urgency as to demand the employment of ordinary public works labour at market rates. Such portions shall be separated from the remainder of the work, and shall be carried out under the ordinary rules of the Public Works Department without reference to the provisions of this Code. The remaining portions of the work only shall be treated as a famine relief work.

33. *Supplementary Programme to be submitted when Relief Works have been opened.*—When relief works have been opened in any district, a supplementary programme shall, while such works are

open, be submitted to the local Government by the chief engineer on the 1st August, 1st November, and 1st February, showing—

- (i) to what extent works on the programme are exhausted;
- (ii) what new relief works, if any, are added to the programme.

Supplementary programmes will be submitted to the chief engineer by Commissioners a fortnight previous to the dates prescribed above. These programmes will be drawn up in Forms II.A. and II.B. (cf. section 17).

34. *Character and Number of Works to be opened at one time.*—In deciding upon the character and number of works to be opened at any one time, regard shall be had to their prospective utility, and to the possibility of their completion within or soon after the period of scarcity.

35. *Emergent Budget.*—If the funds assigned in the Public Works Department budget for the current year, or if the existing establishment be insufficient, the chief engineer shall submit an emergent budget with as little delay as possible for the sanction of the local Government.

36. *Provision of Tools, &c.*—The chief engineer shall be responsible for issuing timely and ample instructions to the proper officials for the provision of tools, treasure chests, small coin, and other requisites for the conduct of the selected works.

37. *Report to Collector by Officer in Charge.*—The engineer or other officer in charge of a relief work shall give timely notice to the collector—

- (a) of the date on which such work will be ready for the admission of the labourers;
- (b) of the date on which it will probably close;
- (c) of any sickness or other occurrence which renders it advisable to stop admissions to such work;

and shall keep the collector informed, from time to time, of the condition of the work, the number of labourers on it, and the number which can be admitted to it.

38. *Weekly Progress Return to form the initial Voucher for the Expenditure.*—The engineer or other officer in charge of a relief work shall prepare for each work in Form III. a progress return for each week ending on Saturday night. This progress return will form the initial voucher for the expenditure incurred by him in paying relief workers.

39. *Report to be Prepared with Progress Return.*—With the return he shall prepare a report showing—

- (a) the physical condition of the labourers and of those seeking relief;
- (b) the numbers who have been rejected from the work and the reasons for rejection;
- (c) the cause of any refusal to work and the action taken;
- (d) the sufficiency or insufficiency of the scale of wages or payment for piece-work;
- (e) the condition of the food supplies and the prices at which they are sold;
- (f) the staple grain selected for the purpose of calculating the maximum and minimum wage;
- (g) any other information which it is expedient to communicate to his superiors.

40. *Report and Copy of Return to be submitted to Collector.*—The report and a copy of the return shall be forthwith submitted to the collector.

41. *Government to control Rates for Conveyance of Grain by Railway.*—The Government will, if necessary, exercise the power which they possess of controlling the rates for the conveyance of grain by railway; and they will exert their influence to secure the utmost possible facilities for its distribution to the districts where it is scarce

42.—(a.) *Facilities to be given for the free Action of private Trade.*—Care shall be taken that every possible facility is given for the free action of private trade, and that all obstacles, material or fiscal, are, as far as practicable, removed.

(b.) All interference with the action of private trade in the supply of food in time of famine shall, as far as possible, be avoided.

(c.) Only in very exceptional cases, and in the last resort, will Government take direct action to import grain; and Government will not interfere with private trade as long as that trade is able and willing to place food at reasonable prices within the reach of the distressed people.

(d.) If compelled to interfere because grain is not in, or is withheld from, a local market, Government will do so only until the ordinary course of trade is restored, and will otherwise take action only to assist and stimulate and not to supplant the business of the traders in grain.

(e.) No direct step to take the place of private trade shall be made by a collector without at least the sanction of the Divisional or the Famine Commissioner, as the case may be, and, if possible, of Government.

CHAPTER IV.

Circle Organisation and Duties of Circle Officers, &c.

43. *Division of Districts into Relief Circles.*—Each district will be divided into relief circles each under the charge of a circle officer. The boundaries of one or more relief circles shall be conterminous, as far as possible, with territorial divisions made for purposes of administration (such as tahsils, parganas, kánungos circles, and the like). Ordinarily the circle of each supervisor kánungo will be a relief circle, and the kánungo will be the circle officer.

44. *Duties of the Circle Officer.*—In times of scarcity or famine it shall be the duty of the circle officer—

- (1) to submit weekly, and in case of urgency special reports to the collector. The reports should contain the general result of his observations, remarks on the condition of the people, and their willingness or otherwise to work; the prices of food, the supply of food, the state of communications, and any other matters worthy of notice on which he is required by the collector to report.
- (2) to aid in the management of any state kitchen or poor-house established in the circle or for the relief of residents thereof.

45. *Circle Officer responsible for other Duties.*—The circle officer shall, under the orders of the collector, be responsible for the performance of the following additional duties :—

- (a.) To visit each village in his circle once a week or as often as the collector may direct.
- (b.) To test, as far as possible by personal inspection, and to correct the registers prepared under section 54.
- (c.) To forward weekly abstracts of the same to his immediate superior.
- (d.) To report the occurrence of any unusual sickness in the village.
- (e.) To ascertain that relief has been properly and effectually distributed in the manner laid down.
- (f.) To encourage by all the means in his power the employment of labour on agricultural operations, and to invite applications for advances to make wells, tanks, and other improvements.
- (g.) To make known the places at which relief works are opened, the nature of each work, the wages offered, and the classes of persons to whom such work is open.

46. *Shall be supplied with Money.*—He shall also be supplied by the tahsildár with money sufficient to meet urgent expenditure.

47. *Appointment of Contractors for Grain.*—In times of famine or scarcity one or more contractors for the supply of necessaries may be appointed for each circle by the collector. They should be chosen from among the dealers of the locality. Each contractor should be furnished with a clear description of the tract for the supply of which he is responsible.

48. The name and residence of each contractor shall be made known to the patwáris of the tract for which such contractor is responsible.

49. *Contractors to be indented on for Grain in prescribed Forms.*—When it is necessary to require a contractor to furnish supplies, the tahsildár or other officer authorised thereto by the collector, shall indent on him, stating the amount and kind of grain required for a week's supply, the place and date of delivery, and any other matters that may be necessary for his information. He may at the same time give him an order on the nearest treasury for an advance to cover the cost of the supply indented for, reporting the fact to the collector.

50. *Payment to the Contractor.*—The contractor shall be periodically paid on presentation of vouchers for expenditure, duly signed by any of the officers specified to the section preceding.

51. *Starving Wanderers.*—The patwári in any local area to which a starving wanderer comes shall give such wanderer such food as may be necessary, and shall, if or when he is fit to move, send him to the poor-house, relief work, or police station, whichever is nearest to such village. Sums expended by the patwári under this rule shall be treated as expenditure on gratuitous relief under section 55.

52. *Treatment of Migrants.*—Migrants should not ordinarily be interfered with, except (i) when they are obviously too weak to carry out the journey they purpose; (ii) when it is known that the place to which they propose to go is unable to support them, (iii) when they are wandering aimlessly. On routes where migration is large, rest-houses should be provided. In treating applicants for relief no distinction should be made between those who come from British territory and those who have migrated from Native States.

53. *Utilisation of Local and District Boards.*—The collector may associate with himself the district board or any local board for the purpose of advising and assisting him in all matters connected with the prevention and relief of famine.

CHAPTER V.

Gratuitous Relief.

54. *Patwári shall prepare Register of Poor.*—In times of scarcity or famine the patwári shall prepare and maintain a correct register of persons residing in the local area, who from their circumstances are likely to require gratuitous relief in such times. The following classes of persons would at such times ordinarily receive gratuitous relief, provided that they have no relatives able and by the custom of the country bound to support them :—

- (a.) Idiots and lunatics.
- (b.) Cripples.
- (c.) Blind persons.

- (d.) All who from age or physical weakness are incapable of earning their living.
 (e.) All persons whose attendance on the sick or on infant children in their own homes is absolutely necessary.

55. *Duties of Circle Officer.*—In times of scarcity or famine it shall be the duty of the circle officer—

- (a) when the distress cannot be relieved by private charity, to make an application for funds to the collector and to carry out such instructions as he may receive for arranging for the supply of money or grain required to give the necessary relief;
 (b) to keep strict and accurate accounts of all moneys expended and grain distributed in gratuitous relief, and to submit such accounts to the examination of the tahsildár whenever that officer may call for them.

56. *Form in which Gratuitous Relief is to be given.*—It shall be in the option of the collector to give gratuitous relief in money or in grain; provided that—

- (1.) If given in money, it shall suffice to buy the minimum ration prescribed in Chapter VII.
 (2.) If food is not easily obtained in the local market, relief may be given in grain. The amount of the dole in such circumstances shall be the minimum ration prescribed in Chapter VII.
 (3.) A committee, or a responsible officer to be appointed for that purpose by the collector, shall on the spot superintend the distribution of relief when given in money, and shall exercise supervision over the arrangements under which relief in grain is distributed by grain merchants.

57. *Duties of the Collector.*—The collector shall be responsible for directing the preparation of the register prescribed by section 54 when, in his opinion, the scarcity is, or is likely to be, sufficiently great to require this precaution.

58. *Returns of Expenditure on Gratuitous Relief.*—In addition to expenditure on objects mentioned in this chapter, all expenditure on relief under Chapter X. (except under section 127) should appear in the returns as expenditure on gratuitous relief.

CHAPTER VI.

Famine Relief Works.

59. *Classification of Works.*—Works will be primarily distinguished as “ordinary” and “relief.”

60. *Ordinary Works.*—Ordinary works are those on which labourers are employed in the ordinary manner at the rates prevailing in the labour market and which are not brought under Famine Code rules. Although it may be desirable to expand as a temporary measure the ordinary works in tracts where distress is commencing, the additional works thus undertaken must not be confounded with relief works. When it has been decided that relief works should be opened, the whole or part of an ordinary work may be converted into a relief work and brought under the provisions of the Code.

61. *Relief Works.*—Relief works are those on which wages are given at special rates and which are brought under the Famine Code rules.

62. *Distinction between “Ordinary” and “Relief” Works.*—The main distinction between an ordinary work and a relief work is that on the former unlimited piece-work is permitted at ordinary rates, whereas on the latter only limited tasks at reduced rates are allowed.

63. *Classification of Relief Works.*—Relief works will be divided into two classes—“small” and “large.” It should be borne in mind that while in the latter stage of a famine “large works” will be the backbone of the system of relief, “small works” should be utilised in the early days of a scarcity.

64. *Definition of Large Works.*—Large works are works calculated to provide simultaneous employment for three months to at least 1,000 persons.

All other works are small works.

The supervision exercised in either large or small works will, as far as possible, be professional.

65. *Small Works.*—Small works include—

- (a) works specially intended for the relief of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages;
 (b) works which are not designed for the relief of the agricultural population near their homes, but are primarily part of the administrative programme.

66. *Classification of Persons employed on Relief Works.*—Persons employed on relief works will be classed as—

A.—Able-bodied persons accustomed to labour of the kind required on ordinary works, *i.e.*, professional labourers.

B.—Able-bodied persons accustomed to labour, but not to labour of the kind required on ordinary works, *i.e.*, labourers, but not professional.

C.—Able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour, *i.e.*, able-bodied, but not labourers.

D.—Persons not able-bodied, but fit for light employment on relief work, *i.e.*, weekly.

67. *Labourers to be termed Relief Workers.*—All persons employed on relief works will for the purposes of this Code be known as relief workers.

68. *Relief Work not to be done by Contract.*—No famine relief work shall be done by contract.

69. *Employment of Relief Workers.*—It must be understood that only persons falling under Class A. in section 66 are to be employed on ordinary works, and they will receive wages according to the state of the labour market. On relief works all four classes may be employed, and they will be paid the wages fixed for each class.

70. *Definition of "Task."*—The system of payment by results, or by the "task" allotted to a particular class of relief workers, shall be invariably followed. A task is the maximum amount of work allotted to a particular class of relief workers, and though short work will entail short payment, no relief worker is expected or permitted to perform more than his task.

71. *Principles on which Maximum Task should be fixed.*—The task for relief workers under Class A. will be equal to the amount of work usually performed by able-bodied labourers on ordinary works, and it is left to the local authorities to determine what this is. The task for relief workers under Class B. will be from 10 to 15 per cent., and for those under Class C. about 25 per cent., below the task fixed for Class A. The task for relief workers under Class D. will be determined by the local authorities according to circumstances, but should be such as to give weekly persons a reasonable amount of healthy employment.

72. *Formula for calculating the Amount of Task in Earthwork.*—Suggestions for calculating the tasks to be imposed on relief workers of each class and for fixing the rates to be paid for earthwork are given in Appendix D.

73. *Transfer of Relief Workers from one Class to another.*—A relief worker may at the discretion of the officer in charge of the work be transferred from one class to another.

74. *Relief Workers to be formed into Gangs.*—Relief workers, after being duly classified, should, as a rule, be formed into gangs, under a headman or paymaster appointed by themselves. A task may then be prescribed for each gang, and on the performance of it, in whole or in part, each member of the gang shall be entitled to the wage prescribed for his class, in whole or in part, in proportion to the amount of the task performed by the whole gang; provided that the amount paid to any individual shall not be less than the minimum wage of his class. When gangs are not formed the foregoing instructions apply to individuals. The members of the family or residents of the same vicinity should be allowed to work together as far as possible.

75. *Works which can be opened by the Collector.*—Works described in section 65 which can be carried out by the collector with his ordinary staff may, under the authority of the Commissioner, be opened by the collector as relief works whenever prevailing scarcity or unfavourable seasons cause a serious decline in the demand for labour or severe distress to any portion of the labouring population.

76. *Works which should not be opened without Government Sanction.*—Works described in section 65, which can only be carried out by the collector with special professional assistance, may not be opened as relief works except with the special sanction of the Government, or of some authority duly empowered for the expenditure of funds on famine relief.

77. *Responsibilities of the Officer in Charge.*—The persons placed in charge of a separate work shall be called the "officer in charge" and shall be responsible for the following matters:—

- (1.) The admission of applicants.
- (2.) The classification and treatment of relief workers.
- (3.) The provision of tools and shelter.
- (4.) The adjustment of rates of wages.
- (5.) The payment of wages.
- (6.) The supply of food.
- (7.) Market arrangements.
- (8.) The hearing and investigation of complaints.
- (9.) Hospital inspection.
- (10.) The care of children and infirm persons unfit for work.
- (11.) The submission of accounts and reports.

78. *Admission of Applicants to the Works.*—At every work a place shall be fixed for the submission of applicants. Such place shall be marked by a flag and shall be visited twice a day, morning and evening, by the officer in charge, or one of his subordinates, who shall classify the applicants and draft them, if fit for labour, to the relief work.

79. *Allowance to Applicants before commencing Work.*—All persons, being *bond fide* applicants for labour, or relatives depending on such applicants, who arrive at the relief work in the morning, shall in addition to the full working wage which will be paid in the evening, receive half the minimum wage on admission, and shall be allowed, if they desire, to take a meal before commencing work. Those who arrive in the evening shall receive on admission the full minimum wage. These extra wages shall invariably be paid in food and where practicable in cooked food, according to the scale in Chapter VII.

80. *Persons to be retained on Relief Works.*—All applicants for admission who come under Classes A. to D. of section 66 shall be received and retained on relief works. Applicants who come under Classes A. and B. should, at the discretion of the officer in charge, be drafted from time to time with those dependent on them to large works.

81. *Drafting of Relief Workers to Large Works.*—In selecting the relief workers who are to be drafted to large works regard shall be had to the distance of such works from the relief worker's home, and to the number of women, children, and infirm persons dependent on, or belonging to, the family of such relief worker.

82. *Information about Large Works.*—The collector shall, from time to time, instruct the officer in charge of a small work as to the large works to which able-bodied relief workers with their families and dependants may be drafted, and regarding the maximum number which may be so drafted.

83. *Transfer of Relief Workers.*—In drafting persons to other works the officer in charge shall observe the following rules:—

- (1.) The draft shall ordinarily consist of not less than 20 persons or more than 200.
- (2.) A numerical roll of men, women, and children shall be sent with all drafts, with the reason for sending them.
- (3.) The draft shall be placed in charge of a trustworthy official, to whom shall be given money sufficient to support the members of the draft until they reach the work. If necessary, a police guard may be sent with the draft.
- (4.) On reaching the work such official shall make over the gang, with the roll, to the officer in charge, who shall at once compare the roll with the draft, and satisfy himself by inspection and inquiry that the draft has been properly fed *en route*.
- (5.) If the officer in charge finds everything in order, he shall sign the numerical roll, certify the expenditure, and return it to the official in charge of the gang.
- (6.) If the draft received does not correspond with the roll, he shall note differences, and cause the official aforesaid to explain them, and then transmit the roll and the official's explanation to the officer who despatched the draft.
- (7.) If complaints of ill-treatment or insufficient feeding are made by any persons in the draft, the officer in charge shall inquire into the complaints, and shall note his finding on the roll, and may refuse to certify the whole or any portion of the expenditure.
- (8.) Gangs in transit shall not be paid cash wages, but shall receive food, and, where practicable, cooked food, according to the scale in Chapter VII.

84. *Camps for Relief Workers.*—The relief workers' camp or camps shall be selected with as careful regard as possible to sanitary conditions, with reference to which the sanitary and medical officials of the district or Province should, whenever an opportunity occurs, be consulted.

85. *Huts for Relief Workers.*—If it is considered necessary to make huts for the relief workers, hutting materials should be provided in sufficient quantity. The collector shall satisfy himself that shelter is provided where it is necessary. Proper arrangements must be invariably made for latrines.

86. *Residence in Camp.*—Residence in camp is compulsory for all relief workers whose homes are not within a reasonable distance.

87. *Payment of Wages.*—Relief workers falling under Classes A. and B. of section 66 should, as a rule, be paid at first daily, afterwards twice or thrice a week, for which purpose they may be divided into two or more sets, who shall be paid on different days. In no case shall payment be made less often than once in seven days.

Relief workers in Classes C. and D. of section 66 shall be paid daily.

88. *Officer in Charge responsible that Wage is paid.*—The officer in charge shall be responsible that every relief worker receives the wage to which he is entitled. Payment may be made for task to the head of each gang, but in all other cases must be made individually.

89. *Wages to be paid, as a rule, in Cash.*—All wages, unless it is otherwise provided, must be paid in cash, unless food cannot be procured in the local market, in which case, uncooked rations on the scale prescribed in Chapter VII. may be given in lieu of wages.

90. *Days for which to be made.*—The minimum wage prescribed in section 105 shall be paid to relief workers or *bond fide* applicants for employment—

- (a) for all days occupied in classification, medical inspection, or the like;
- (b) for any days on which work is stopped by order on account of weather or other causes.

91. *No Work allowed on Sundays.*—Relief workers shall not be allowed to work on Sunday; but for Sunday they shall receive the minimum wage which shall be paid to them on Saturday evening, so that the establishment may not be called on either to measure work or to make payments on Sunday.

92. *No less than Minimum Wage to be earned by a Relief Worker.*—A relief worker must never earn less than the minimum wage, except temporarily in cases of contumacy; and contumacious characters will either be fined below the minimum or sent to the poor-house.

93. *Penalties for short Work.*—Fines may be imposed for short work, provided that the daily payment does not fall below the minimum wage except as provided in section 92.

It must be understood that fines are not meant to meet short work due to weakness rather than wilfulness.

94. *Supply of Food.*—When an officer receives orders to undertake any relief work he should make an immediate estimate of the amount of food which will be required for the number of relief workers to be employed, and should notify the same to the collector.

95. *Market Arrangement.*—When it is necessary to have a market for the supply of food at a relief work, the officer in charge shall see—

- (a) that the shopkeepers are provided with suitable and healthy accommodation ;
- (b) that the weights and measures used are fair ;
- (c) that the articles supplied are fit for human food ;
- (d) that the current prices are written up and notified daily in the market

96. *Report to be made when Prices Current are excessive.*—If it shall appear to the officer in charge that the prices current are excessive he shall report the matter to the collector.

97. *Hearing of Complaints.*—The officer in charge shall give daily opportunity to relief workers and others employed or supported at the work to make complaints or bring forward grievances, and shall make due inquiry into every case which appears to require investigation.

98. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Hospital accommodation for the sick shall be provided at every relief work where the number of relief workers is considerable. If there is no medical officer on the work, his duties will be performed, as far as may be, by the officer in charge, who will send all cases of serious illness to the nearest place at which medical treatment is obtainable. The hospital shall be inspected daily. (See Chapter XIV.)

99. *Care of infirm Dependents of Relief Workers and Children who are unfit to work.*—Infirm dependants of relief workers and children who are unfit to work shall either be fed in kitchens, or allowances on their account shall be paid (subject to section 100) to the members of their families who are actually employed on relief works. In the latter case the dependents and children shall be permitted to remain on the relief works so long as the relief workers on whom they are dependent are employed on the work, adult dependents being allowed the minimum wage prescribed in section 105.

100. *Relief of Children and Dependents by Allowance to Relief Workers.*—The officer in charge of the work must, before granting any allowances to relief workers in respect of adult dependents, ascertain beyond reasonable doubt that such dependents are both unable to work and really depend on the worker to whom such allowance is granted. All allowances given on account of non-labouring children and dependents must be shown in the accounts as gratuitous relief. The number of dependants and non-working children must also be shown in the monthly progress returns (Appendix G., Forms IX. and X.), and explanation must be given whenever the number of dependents exceeds 10 per cent. of the number of persons employed on the works. It should then be considered whether a separate system of relief for dependents is necessary.

CHAPTER VII.

Wage and Rations.

101. *Full Ration.*—The full ration prescribed under this Code as sufficient to maintain able-bodied relief workers in strength and health is—

	For a Man.	For a Woman.	For Children
	s. c.	s. c.	
Flour of the common grain used in the country, or cleaned rice	0 12	0 10	} $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ rations, according to age and requirements.
Pulse	0 2	0 2	
Salt	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Ghf or oil	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Condiments and vegetables	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	

102. *Minimum Ration.*—The minimum ration for relief workers under this Code is—

	For a Man.	For a Woman.	For Children not being Infants below 14.
	s. c.	s. c.	
Flour of the common grain used in the country, or cleaned rice	0 8	0 7	} $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$ rations, according to age and requirements.
Pulse	0 1	0 1	
Salt	0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Ghf or oil	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Condiments and vegetables	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	

It is left to the local authorities to determine whether the fourth item of this ration should be gbf or oil; but the cheaper should ordinarily be selected. The local authorities will also determine the proportion of condiments to vegetables in the last item.

103. *Penal Ration.*—The penal ration prescribed for relief workers sent to a poor-house for refusing to work is—

	For a Man.	For a Woman.
Flour or rice - - - -	s. c. 0 7	s. c. 0 6
Pulse - - - - -	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Salt - - - - -	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

NOTE. The ser to be used is the standard ser of 80 tolas.

104. *Payment to be made ordinarily in Cash.*—Ordinarily payment to relief workers should be made in cash. In exceptional cases, as when the items constituting the ration cannot be bought in the local market and the only grain procurable is that imported by Government, it will be advisable to issue the whole or a part of the ration in kind.

105. *Definition of Maximum and Minimum Wage.*—The maximum wage under this Code is the amount of money which at the current prices is sufficient to purchase (a) the full ration or (b) the grain equivalent of the full ration, and the minimum wage is the amount of money sufficient at current rates to purchase (a) the minimum ration or (b) the grain equivalent of the minimum ration. Wages shall ordinarily be calculated on the basis of grain equivalents.

106. *Definition of Grain Equivalent.*—By the term grain equivalent is meant the amount of grain of which the value is in ordinary times equivalent to the total value of the various items of the ration. The grain selected as a basis for calculation must in every case be the staple or staples in ordinary consumption in the affected tracts, and not the more expensive classes of grain which, though occasionally consumed in times of plenty, are abandoned for cheaper grains as soon as pressure sets in. The data upon which the grain equivalent of the ration has been calculated are set forth in Appendix E. (1) to this Code.

107. *Calculation of the Wage by a Grain Equivalent.*—Experience has shown that the cost of the other items in the minimum adult male ration will seldom, if ever, be found to be more than three-quarters of the cost of the grain item. The value of the minimum ration for an adult male will therefore be found to be fully represented by 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of the grain or grains ordinarily consumed, and this estimate allows for a moderate margin above a subsistence ration. The grain equivalent of the ration thus estimated should not be exceeded.

108. *Scale of Wages calculated on Grain Equivalents.*—The following is the prescribed scale of wages calculated on the basis of grain equivalents:—

(I.) Adult males—

Maximum	{	Class A.—The money value of 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs. or 21 chittaks of grain.			
		” B. ” ” 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ” 19 ” ”			
		” C. ” ” 2 ” 16 ” ”			
		” D. ” ” 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” 14 ” ”			
Minimum - All classes		” ” 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ” 14 ” ”			

Adult Females—

Minimum	{	Class A.—The money value of 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs. or 19 chittaks of grain.		
		” B. ” ” 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ” 17 ” ”		
		” C. ” ” 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ ” 15 ” ”		
		” D. ” ” 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ ” 13 ” ”		
Minimum - All classes		” ” 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ ” 13 ” ”		

Children—

Wages or allowances for children will be determined on a consideration of their ages, their powers of work, and their requirements. The wages or allowances should not be less than one quarter or more than three-quarters of the wages allowed for adult males.

(II.) Where, under the provisions of section 71, the task laid down for relief workers of Class B. is equal to the task of Class A., the wage to be paid to workers of Class B. on the performance of the task in full shall be equal to the wages fixed for Class A.

(III.) To facilitate the conversion of the ration into wage at various prices, a ready reckoner is given in Appendix E(2) to this Code.

109. *When alternative Method of calculating Wages may be used.*—If, owing to abnormal variations in the relative prices of the grain item and the other items in the ration, the margin above the subsistence ration referred to in section 107 is materially increased or diminished when wages are calculated on the basis of grain equivalents, wages may be calculated by the alternative method indicated in section 105, i.e., on the basis of the actual cost of the various items of the ration.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Poor-house.

110. *Definition.*—The poor-house is an enclosure within which cooked food is distributed gratuitously to the inmates.

111. *Persons to be admitted.*—No person may be admitted to a poor-house except—
 (1) persons who, being unfit for employment on works, cannot be conveniently sent to their homes;
 (2) persons who, being fit for employment on works, refuse to labour.

112. *Retention of Inmates.*—Inmates once received into a poor-house shall be supported there, if of the first class, until they are fit for work or can be sent to their homes; if of the second, until they consent to work or are otherwise dealt with.

113. *Number of Poor-houses.*—The number of poor-houses to be established in any district shall be determined by the collector with the sanction of the Commissioner. Ordinarily one poor-house will be sufficient for each sub-division of a district. Weekly returns in Forms VI. and VII. should be submitted by the collector to the Commissioner.

114. *Their Supervision.*—For each poor-house the collector shall appoint a visitor or visitors, who shall inspect and supervise its administration. These shall ordinarily be chosen from the members of the local board, or shall be revenue or police officers of the locality, or some other officials of a similar position.

115. *Their Site.*—The site of the poor-house should be chosen with regard to the following circumstances:—

- (1) it should be situated on the outskirts of a village or town;
- (2) the situation should be healthy;
- (3) the drainage should be good;
- (4) an ample supply of water for drinking and bathing purposes should be available.

116. *Hospitals to be attached to them.*—To each poor-house shall be attached a hospital, which shall be placed as near the poor-house as is consistent with health. The hospital shall be in charge of a medical officer.

117. *Closing of Poor-houses.*—When it appears to the collector that a poor-house should be closed, he shall determine a date for the closing of it, and shall direct that after that date no one shall be admitted, and that all inmates who are fit for work shall be dismissed. He shall also arrange for the transmission to their homes, or the support by private charity, of such inmates as are unfit for work and incapable of supporting themselves.

118. *Suggestions for Administration, &c.*—Suggestions for the construction of poor-houses, the establishment to be maintained in them, and the treatment of inmates, are contained in Appendix B. to this Code.

CHAPTER IX.

State Kitchens.

119. *Relief in Kitchens.*—Experience having shown that starving parents cannot in time of severe famine safely be entrusted with the means of relieving their children, it is essential that a daily supply of cooked-food should be issued to them under proper supervision. Adult dependents of relief workers who are unfit to work may also be relieved at kitchens, and supplied with cooked food. (See section 99.)

120. *Establishment of Kitchens.*—Kitchens with sleeping sheds attached should be established at convenient centres whenever it is found that private charity is unable to cope with the emergency.

121. *Treatment of Children abandoned by their Parents or Guardians.*—Children abandoned by their parents or guardians should, if old enough, be sent to a suitable relief work, and if too young to work, should be admitted to the nearest kitchen. A register should be kept of all children admitted to the kitchen (see Form IV.), and in it all the information procurable as to the parentage and village of the children should be entered, in order to facilitate the tracing out of their parents or natural protectors, and the future restoration of the children to them.

122. *Management of Kitchens.*—Proper arrangements must be made for the following matters:—

- (a.) Sanitation.
- (b.) Quality and distribution of food.
- (c.) Care of the inmates.
- (d.) Prohibition of the removal of cooked food.

Some hints for the management of kitchens are given in Appendix F.

123. *Rations to be given in Kitchens.*—Adult dependents of relief workers will be granted the minimum ration prescribed in section 102. The ration for children should be determined on the principles laid down in section 108.

CHAPTER X.

Other Measures of Relief.

124. *Relief to respectable Women.*—Respectable women in need of relief who are debarred by national custom from appearing in public, shall, if entitled to gratuitous relief under section 54, be relieved at their own homes. If not entitled to gratuitous relief they shall receive the minimum wage prescribed in section 105, if possible, in return for some suitable work to be performed in their homes, e.g., spinning cotton.

125. *Arrangements to prevent Abuse.*—Arrangements shall be made by the poorhouse visitors or committee described in section 56 (3), in concert with the patwári in whose circle such women reside, to ensure that relief is not unnecessarily given, and that when given it reaches the persons for whom it is intended.

126. *Relief to respectable Men.*—So far as may be consideration shall be shown to persons of respectable position and family who are reduced to starvation. Such persons shall not be forced to labour on the works, but shall, wherever possible, be employed as overseers of gangs, supervisors, accountants, or clerks on the works. If no suitable work can be found for them they may be admitted, by order of the famine officials named in the section preceding, to gratuitous relief. A weekly list of all such persons so admitted shall be sent to the collector.

127. *Relief to Artisans.*—Artisans who require relief shall be employed, as far as possible, in their own trades on the several relief works, and in localities where the members of any particular trade or calling are numerous. Preference may be given to works which will provide employment for men of such trade or calling.

128. *Relief to Weavers.*—In localities where weavers are numerous, the circle officer, in concert with the patwáris, will arrange for the distribution of thread and the payment for cloth woven, at the market price. If the market price is so low that a weaver cannot support himself, the price given may be raised, with the sanction of the Commissioner, to such extent as may be necessary.

129. *Orphans and Deserted Children.*—A temporary orphanage shall be established at the headquarters of the district, to which shall be sent, on the closing of a poorhouse or children's kitchen, any children who are left without relations or whose relations are unknown, or, if known, cannot be compelled to support them.

130. *Children to be given for Adoption.*—Such orphanage shall be placed under the management of the local committee or board, who will have the power to make over the children to the care of any respectable persons who wish to adopt them. If several persons apply for leave to adopt the same child, preference shall ordinarily be given to the person, if any, who is of the religious persuasion to which such child belongs or is believed to belong.

131. *To be made over to Orphanage if unclaimed after Three Months.*—If after three months from the admission of a child to the temporary orphanage no respectable person has adopted it, such child may be sent, with the collector's approval, to any orphanage or other public institution for the care of destitute children which is willing to receive it; provided that in any case a child may be reclaimed by parents or near relations who have a legal right to its custody.

CHAPTER XI.

Measures for the Protection of Cattle.

132. The following measures for the protection of cattle will be put in force whenever and wherever the Local Government may so direct.

133. *Register of Cattle and of Pasturage.*—In every district to which these directions shall be applied, the collector, and in every division containing such a district or districts the Commissioner, shall prepare and maintain a register (in Form V.) showing for such district and division—

- (a.) The approximate number of cattle depending on pasture;
- (b.) The pasture grounds ordinarily in use.
- (c.) The reserve pasture grounds belonging to the Government to which in times of drought the cattle can be most conveniently driven.

134. *Assignment of Reserve Pasture Grounds.*—A copy of this register (in Form V.) shall be submitted to the Local Government, which shall decide annually, in concert if necessary with the Forest Department, to what reserves the cattle from each district may be driven in case of need.

135. *Mode of sending Cattle to the Reserves.*—On receiving the orders of Government the collector shall inform the people through the tahsildárs, from time to time, what reserves are in case of drought to be opened to them, and shall decide the routes by which the cattle are to travel.

136. *Collector shall report Scarcity of Fodder.*—When it appears to the collector that the pasture of his district or any portion of his district is about to fail, he shall report the matter through the Commissioner to the Local Government, which may open the reserve set apart for such district.

137. *People to be encouraged to send Cattle to the Reserves.*—On receipt of the order opening the reserves, the collector shall inform the tahsildár in the affected tract, and shall cause him to impress upon the people the necessity of sending their cattle to the reserve open to them by the routes determined under section 135.

138. *Utilisation of Trees along Routes.*—The collector shall at the same time arrange, if necessary, and as far as may be, for the sale of fodder along such routes. If no fodder is procurable, and the cattle cannot otherwise be preserved, he may order the trees (if any) fit for fodder, which are on or near the routes, and which belong to Government, to be utilised to the utmost.

139. *Supply of Water.*—If water is deficient along such routes, the collector shall make such arrangements to supply the want as may be practicable.

140. *Pasture Reserves to be under the Forest Officers.*—The management of the pasture reserves and the control of the cattle admitted to them shall be in the hands of the forest officers or other officials who ordinarily have charge of such reserves. The fees ordinarily charged for pasturage may be reduced or remitted as the Local Government may direct.

141. *Production of Fodder in Canal-irrigated Districts.*—In districts irrigated by canals the Commissioner, in consultation with the canal officers, shall take such measures for the growth of fodder and for increasing the growth of grass by flooding the ordinary pasture grounds or otherwise as to him may seem advisable.

CHAPTER XII.

Utilisation of Forests.

142. *Forest produce utilisable as Human Food.*—In localities where forest produce is utilisable as human food, every facility should be afforded by the forest officers to persons seeking such food in forest reserves.

CHAPTER XIII

Duties of the Police.

143. *They shall submit Special Returns*—In seasons of widespread scarcity and distress the magistrate of the district shall require all police officers in charge of stations and outposts to submit special reports from time to time on the following matters :—

- (1.) Increase in crimes which may be attributed to a general rise in prices or scarcity of food ;
- (2.) Wandering of needy, starving persons ,
- (3.) Migration or immigration from or to the area under their charge ;
- (4.) Deaths believed to be due to want of food ,
- (5.) Cases of starvation or severe want ;
- (6.) Decrease in the above symptoms of scarcity ;

144. *Shall visit Lanes and Byeways.*—The police superintendent shall organise a system of patrol to visit the lanes and byeways of towns and villages, rest-houses or sarais, as well as the main roads, in order to conduct starving wanderers to the nearest relief work, poor-house, police station, or outpost; and, if they are unable to go so far without food shall first of all provide them with food.

145. *Shall take Precautions to protect Grain*—He shall take extra precautions for the protection of markets and all places where grain is stored, and shall place special patrols on lines of communication along which grain is carried.

146. *Shall indent for extra Force if required.*—He shall report, from time to time, to the magistrate of the district what increase (if any) in the force under his command is needed. If any increase is made, he shall take the necessary steps for reducing the force when the increase ceases to be required.

147. *Shall receive an Advance to supply food in urgent Cases.*—Every police officer in charge of a station or outpost in a famine stricken area shall be furnished with a sum of money sufficient to enable him in urgent cases to supply food to starving wanderers. The superintendent of police shall obtain from the magistrate of the district the funds necessary for this purpose, and shall render an account of the same.

148. *Disposal of Dead Bodies.*—It shall be the duty of the police to see that persons found dead by the roadside are properly buried or burnt by the village authorities.

CHAPTER XIV.

Duties of Medical Officers.

149. *Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals shall require Special Return.*—The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals shall in times of great scarcity require Medical Officers in civil charge of districts to submit special monthly reports on the following matters :—

- (1) increase of illness and disease believed to be due to want of food ;
- (2) number of cases of death due to want of food or illness induced by want of food which have been brought to his notice ;
- (3) number of in and out patients received in special famine hospitals or treated at famine works, with such details of the cases as may be required for the information of the Local Government ;
- (4) the distribution of the subordinate medical staff, and any increase to it that may be required.

150. *Shall send Abstract to Local Government.*—He shall submit a monthly abstract of these reports to the Local Government.

151. *Shall regulate Diet for Famine Patients.*—He shall issue such special instructions as are necessary for the treatment of famine patients and in regard to their diet.

152. *Shall supervise Medical Arrangements.*—He shall, if necessary, personally inspect and supervise the medical arrangements for famine relief, and shall be responsible that such arrangements are duly made in all districts.

153. *Shall report when Staff is deficient.*—Whenever an increase to medical staff of any locality appears necessary, he shall report the matter to the Government, suggesting the measures necessary, with suggestions as to the means by which it can be increased.

154. *Shall submit a General Report.*—At the end of any period of severe scarcity or famine he will submit a general report on the operations of his Department in connexion with famine relief.

155. *Duties of Medical Officers in Civil Charge of Districts.*—The medical officer in civil charge of a district shall send copies of the monthly reports required under section 149 to the collector, and shall also be responsible for reporting to him all cases of death, starvation, or illness due to starvation, which may come to his knowledge.

156. *Shall inform Collector of any Defective Arrangements of Famine Institutions.*—He shall bring to the immediate notice of the collector any cases in which he has reason to believe that sanitary arrangements connected with special famine institutions are not on a proper footing.

157. *Shall inspect Relief Workers and Hospitals.*—The medical officer in civil charge of a district shall, if required by the collector, inspect the relief workers and visit the hospitals at relief works or poorhouses, and shall aid the civil authorities in making the necessary arrangements for sanitation and for the proper care of the sick.

158. *Medical Officers to be attached to Poorhouse and Relief Work.*—A medical officer or subordinate competent for independent charge should, if possible, be attached to every poorhouse and large relief work.

159. *Medical Officer to have charge of Hospital.*—The medical officer on a work shall have charge of the hospital established under section 98. He shall also constantly visit the relief work, inspecting the relief workers and treating any cases which do not necessitate the patient's removal to hospital. He should also inspect the food, the water-supply, and the sanitary arrangements.

160. *Procedure in case of Dispute between the Medical Officer and the Officer in Charge of Relief Works.*—If any dispute arises between the engineer or civil officer in charge of a relief work and the medical officer attached to it regarding any matter connected with hospital management, sanitation, or the health of the people on the works, the engineer or civil officer may, if he thinks fit, refer the matter in dispute through the collector to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, but pending the reference he shall be bound to act in accordance with the medical officer's opinion.

CHAPTER XV.

Accounts.

161. *Distribution of Allotment.*—When scarcity prevails or famine is imminent, the Commissioner will submit to Government, under section 23, an estimate of any extra expenditure likely to be incurred. An application for funds or for re-appropriation of funds should also be submitted. When orders on the estimate have been received from the Local Government and an allotment has been made, the Commissioner shall distribute at his discretion sums sufficient to meet the requirements of the affected districts on estimates which will be submitted by collectors not later than the 15th of each month for the following month.

162. *Communication of the Distribution to the Account Office.*—The Commissioner shall, after making any alterations that may be necessary, countersign and return the estimate, to show the correct sum assigned to the collector and forward at the same time to the Accountant-General a consolidated statement of the total amount assigned in each month, or on each occasion to each district, registering the same in his own office.

163. *Accountant-General to communicate the Allotments to Treasury Officers.*—The Accountant-General shall advise each Treasury Officer concerned what amount has been assigned to his district, and the Treasury Officer shall make payments within the amount so advised. The unexpended balance of a monthly assignment shall not lapse, but should be added to the next assignment and may be drawn against by the authorised disbursing officer at any time before the close of the official year, or before the close of the relief operations of the district, whichever may be earlier.

164. *Sub-division of District Allotments.*—Collectors are authorised to sub-divide their district assignments amongst responsible disbursing officers (circle officers and others) who may be authorised to draw bills upon the treasury or sub-treasuries direct. The collector shall inform the

- treasury officer of the amount placed at the credit of each disbursing officer, who shall draw money on bills signed by himself against the credit from the treasury or sub-treasury as required. The treasury officer shall see that the amount thus assigned to each disbursing officer is not overdrawn, and that the total of all does not exceed the district assignment.

165. *Supplementary Allotment.*—In case a collector finds his assignment insufficient he should make a supplementary application to the Commissioner, who may sanction the amount out of the balance of his divisional assignment, or, if that be exhausted may sanction the amount in anticipation of the approval of Government, advising the several officers concerned in the manner indicated in sections 165 and 166.

166. *Register of Sanctions.*—The Accountant-General will keep a register of all sanctions for expenditure accorded by Government, and of all charges incurred in anticipation of sanction, and will submit monthly to Government an account showing the charges incurred up to the end of the previous month for each district.

167. *Assignment of Funds in anticipation of Sanction.*—Should any special grant of funds applied for be delayed from any cause by the Government of India, or should immediate further expenditure be essential for the preservation of life, or for the prevention of suffering dangerous to life, the Local Government will make such assignments of funds as may be requisite. All such grants of funds as would ordinarily require the sanction of the Government of India or the Secretary of State must be reported at once for confirmation.

168. *Permanent Advances.*—Permanent advances on a suitable scale to be fixed by Government shall be allowed to the Commissioner, the collector, the circle officer, and any other special officers appointed to administer relief or conduct work requiring immediate payment. The permanent advance is to be employed in paying charges which, from the nature of the case, cannot be held over until a regular bill is cashed at the treasury, and officers who are granted permanent advances are at liberty, on their own responsibility, to allot portions of their permanent advances to subordinates who have to carry out executive details on their behalf.

169. *Advances how drawn.*—Permanent advances should be drawn from the treasury by the officers authorised by Government on receipts stating the purpose and authority therefor, and should be refunded into the treasury at the close of relief operations

170. *Permanent Advances how accounted for.*—Charges met from such permanent advances shall be accounted for in the manner prescribed for contingent charges in Chapter 6 of Volume I. of the Civil Account Code, fifth edition.

171. *Relief in Grain.*—The contractor appointed under section 49 will draw out a bill weekly or more often as prescribed by the collector, for the value of the grain supplied by him, attaching the receipts received by him for the grain so supplied to the bill, and present it to the officer by whose authority the grain was supplied. An abstract of the bill may, after check, be passed for payment at the Treasury to the contractor, or the amount may be drawn from the Treasury for payment to the contractor, or in *exceptional cases* he may be paid from the permanent advance. All charges drawn from the Treasury during the month should be accounted for by a monthly detailed bill to be countersigned by the Commissioner of the division. The detailed bill should be forwarded to the Commissioner as soon after the close of the month as possible, and it should be transmitted by the Commissioner, after countersignature, to the Accountant-General before the 20th of the month following that to which the charges relate.

172. *Civil Account Head "Famine Relief" not to be opened without Sanction.*—No expenditure may be debited to the Civil Department for adjustment against the head "Famine Relief" Imperial without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council; but provincial expenditure may be recorded under the head with the sanction of the Local Government.

173. *Direct and Indirect Expenditure how Recorded.*—When the head "Famine Relief" is opened only expenditure incurred directly and immediately for the relief of distress, as, for instance, upon relief (not public works) camps, may be recorded under that head. Expenditure indirectly due to famine, however plainly it may be traceable to this cause, must be recorded under the appropriate service heads. Examples of such indirect expenditure are compensation to Government servants for dearness of provisions; extra travelling allowances; pay of additional medical officers; extra hospital accommodation, and extra public works undertaken, not directly for the employment of famine stricken people, but which, but for the occurrence of famine, would not have been undertaken.

174. *Expenditure incurred on Relief Works in the Public Works Department.*—When expenditure is incurred in the Public Works Department on a work undertaken directly and immediately for the relief of distress, it will, in the first instance, be recorded under the suspense head "Famine Relief," which will be eventually cleared by the transfer of the value of the work executed, at normal rates, to the Imperial or Provincial grant for public works, the infructuous balance being debited to the Civil Department under the head "Famine Relief" (Form No. VIII., Appendix G). The share charged to public works must never, without the sanction of the Government of India, be less than

the cost of the Public Works establishment recorded against the work, which, if it cannot be precisely distinguished, may be taken at one-fourth of the outlay.

175. *Expenditure on ordinary Public Works.*—As regards ordinary public works, which may be under execution during the occurrence of a famine, but which are not specifically sanctioned as relief works, any expenditure in excess of normal rates incurred in consequence of the employment for relief purposes of unskilled and unprofitable labour, may be debited to the Civil Department.

176. *Extra Establishments.*—The pay of extra establishments only which may be employed in connexion with relief operations shall be a famine charge. Bills for establishments must be always made out in full detail on the usual establishment form, and must cite the authority of Government under which the establishment has been entertained, except when, under emergent circumstances, the previous sanction of Government could not be obtained, in which case the bill shall be paid, but the charge shall not be finally passed until the sanction of Government subsequently obtained is communicated to the account office. These charges are not to be paid from permanent advances.

177. *Accounts of Relief Works.*—The accounts of all relief works placed in charge of officers of the Public Works Department under section 86 will be kept and submitted in accordance with the rules laid down in the Public Works Department Code, fifth edition, Volume II, Chapters I. and II.; those of relief works placed in charge of civil officers will be subject to the orders contained in Volume II, Chapter III, paragraphs 73 to 85 of the same. In both cases Form No. III, Appendix G., is prescribed for the purpose of recording initial accounts.

178. *Advances and Loans.*—Advances and loans for land improvement, &c., shall be regulated under the general rules laid down by Government. The payments shall not be debited to famine, but to the ordinary heads provided for such disbursements. Advances and loans of this nature shall not be made from permanent advances, but direct from the treasuries, on orders signed by the collector or other officer who may be authorised to grant such advances or loans.

APPENDICES.

	Page
APPENDIX A.—Schedule of normal rates in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh	xxiii
„ B.—Suggestions for management of poor houses	xxvii
„ C.—List of reports and returns to be submitted to the Government of India	xxxiii
„ D.—Suggestions for calculating tasks and rates	xxxiv
„ E (1).—Data upon which the grain equivalent prescribed in section 107 of the Code has been calculated	xxxvi
„ E (2).—Ready reckoner for calculating the value of the wage by a grain equivalent	xxxvii
„ F.—Hints for the management of State kitchens	xxxvii
„ G.—List of forms referred to in the Code	xxxix

APPENDIX A.

SCHEDULE OF NORMAL RETAIL RATES IN THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

(Published with Resolution No. 4668/L. 8, dated 21st February 1894.)

[Vide SECTION 7, CHAPTER I.]

District.	Staple.	Normal Rate.	Rate at which Report to Government is necessary.	
Dehra Dún	Eastern and Western Dún	Wheat - - - - -	13.75	11 00
		Gram - - - - -	18 00	14.40
		Tohar dál - - - - -	12.50	10 00
		Rice (common) - - - - -	9.00	7.20
		Maize - - - - -	17 00	13 60
		Barley - - - - -	18.50	14.90
		Mandua - - - - -	17.25	13 80
	Jaunsar Bawar	Wheat - - - - -	12 50	10.00
		Gram - - - - -	17.00	13 60
		Rice (common) - - - - -	9 25	7 40
Maize - - - - -		15 25	12.20	
Mandua - - - - -		15.50	12 40	
Shaháranpur	Wheat - - - - -	16.75	13 40	
	Gram - - - - -	22.50	18.00	
	Rice (common) - - - - -	11.75	9 40	
	Juár - - - - -	21.00	16.80	
	Maize - - - - -	23.50	18.80	
Muzzaffarnagar	Wheat - - - - -	15.00	12 00	
	Gram - - - - -	21.00	16 80	
	Rice (common) - - - - -	11.00	8.80	
	Maize - - - - -	17 50	14 00	
Meerut	Wheat - - - - -	15.00	12.00	
	Gram - - - - -	22.50	18 00	
	Rice (common) - - - - -	12.50	10 00	
	Juár - - - - -	22.50	18 00	
	Maize - - - - -	22.50	18.00	
Bulandshahr	Wheat - - - - -	16.25	13.00	
	Gram - - - - -	20.75	16.60	
	Juár - - - - -	18.75	15.00	
	Maize - - - - -	20.75	16.60	
	Barley - - - - -	19.50	15.60	
	Bajra - - - - -	15.75	12.60	
Aligarh	Wheat - - - - -	16 00	12.80	
	Gram - - - - -	24 00	19.20	
	Arhar dál - - - - -	13 00	10.40	
	Rice (common) - - - - -	10 00	8.00	
	Juár - - - - -	24.00	19.20	
	Maize - - - - -	25.00	20.00	
	Barley - - - - -	25.00	20.00	
	Bajra - - - - -	22.00	17.60	
Úrd - - - - -	20.00	16.00		
Muttra	Wheat - - - - -	15 50	12 40	
	Gram - - - - -	23 25	18.60	
	Arhar - - - - -	25.50	20.40	
	Juár - - - - -	19.75	15 80	
	Maize - - - - -	23.50	18 80	
Agra	Wheat - - - - -	14.00	11.20	
	Gram - - - - -	21 25	17.00	
	Arhar dál - - - - -	15.00	12.40	
	Juár - - - - -	21.25	17.00	
Parukhabad	Wheat - - - - -	13.00	10.40	
	Gram - - - - -	18.00	14.40	
	Arhar dál - - - - -	15.00	12.00	
	Juár - - - - -	18.00	14.40	
	Maize - - - - -	20.00	16.00	
	Barley - - - - -	18.00	14.40	
Mainpuri	Wheat - - - - -	14.00	11.20	
	Gram - - - - -	16 00	12.80	
	Arhar dál - - - - -	18.00	14.40	
	Juár - - - - -	14.00	11.20	
	Maize - - - - -	15.00	12.00	
Etáwah	Wheat - - - - -	15.50	12.40	
	Gram - - - - -	21.00	16.80	
	Arhar dál - - - - -	15.00	12.40	
	Juár - - - - -	20.00	16.00	

* This schedule has been corrected up to 1st October 1895, but is liable to revision from time to time.

SCHEDULE OF RETAIL RATES—continued.

District.	Staple.	Normal Rate.	Rate at which Report to Government is necessary.
Etah	Wheat	15.00	13.00
	Gram	22.00	17.60
	Arhar dál	15.00	12.00
	Juár	21.00	16.80
Bareilly	Wheat	15.25	12.20
	Gram	20.75	16.60
	Arhar dál	16.25	12.20
	Rice (common)	12.50	10.00
	Juár	19.50	15.60
	Maize	22.00	17.60
Bijnor	Wheat	19.00	14.40
	Gram	16.25	13.00
	Rice (common)	21.00	16.80
	Juár	12.75	10.20
Budann	Wheat	55.50	12.40
	Gram	16.00	12.80
	Arhar dál	22.75	18.20
	Rice (common)	16.75	13.40
	Juár	13.00	10.40
	Maize	22.00	17.60
Moradabad	Wheat	23.50	18.00
	Gram	14.50	11.60
	Rice (common)	20.00	16.00
	Báira	11.50	9.20
Sháhjahanpur	Wheat	16.00	12.80
	Gram	21.00	16.80
	Rice (common)	11.75	9.40
	Juár	19.50	15.60
Filibhit	Wheat	15.00	12.00
	Gram	19.00	15.20
	Arhar dál	14.00	11.20
	Rice (common)	15.00	12.00
Cawtipore	Wheat	14.00	11.20
	Gram	22.00	17.60
	Arhar dál	15.00	12.00
	Juár	19.00	15.20
	Barley	20.00	16.00
Fatehpur	Wheat	14.00	11.20
	Gram	18.00	14.40
	Arhar dál	15.75	12.60
	Rice (common)	13.00	10.40
	Juár	22.00	17.60
Bánda	Wheat	15.50	12.40
	Gram	23.00	18.40
	Arhar dál	17.00	13.60
	Rice (common)	12.50	10.00
	Juár	23.00	18.40
Hamírpur	Wheat	16.00	12.80
	Gram	23.00	18.40
	Arhar dál	16.00	12.80
	Juár	22.50	18.00
Allahabad	Wheat	13.50	10.80
	Gram	20.50	16.40
	Arhar dál	18.75	15.00
	Rice (common)	12.75	10.20
	Juár	18.75	15.00
	Maize	18.75	15.00
Jhánsi	Wheat	16.00	12.80
	Gram	20.00	16.00
	Arhar dál	13.22	10.58
	Rice (common)	12.00	9.60
	Juár	21.00	16.80
Jalaun	Wheat	16.00	12.80
	Gram	22.00	17.60
	Arhar dál	17.00	13.60
	Juár	20.00	16.00
Benares	Wheat	13.00	10.40
	Gram	18.00	14.40
	Rice (common)	11.55	9.40
	Juár	17.75	14.20
	Maize	20.50	16.40
	Barley	16.50	13.20

SCHEDULE OF RETAIL RATES—continued.

District.	Staple.	Normal Rate	Rate at which Report to Government is necessary.
Mirzapur	Wheat	13.00	10.40
	Gram	18.00	14.40
	Arhar dāl	12.00	9.60
	Rice (common)	13.00	10.40
	Juár	17.00	13.60
Jaunpur	Maize	20.00	16.00
	Arhar dāl	13.00	10.40
	Rice (common)	12.00	9.60
	Barley	18.00	14.40
	Wheat	14.00	11.20
Ghazipur	Gram	19.00	15.20
	Arhar dāl	14.75	11.80
	Rice (common)	12.00	9.60
	Juár	18.00	14.40
	Maize	19.00	15.20
Ballia	Wheat	14.25	11.40
	Gram	19.50	15.60
	Arhar dāl	13.00	10.40
	Rice (common)	13.50	10.80
	Maize	20.50	16.40
Gorakhpur	Barley	20.00	16.00
	Wheat	13.00	10.40
	Gram	19.00	15.20
	Arhar dāl	16.00	12.80
	Rice (common)	14.00	11.20
Basti	Maize	20.00	16.00
	Wheat	15.75	12.60
	Gram	19.00	15.20
	Arhar dāl	14.37	11.50
	Rice (common)	16.75	13.40
Azamgarh	Maize	18.75	15.00
	Wheat	14.00	11.20
	Gram	18.00	14.40
	Arhar dāl	14.00	11.20
	Rice (common)	13.00	10.40
Almora	Maize	18.00	14.40
	Barley	18.75	15.00
	Wheat	10.00	8.00
	Arhar dāl	8.50	6.80
	Rice (common)	9.00	7.20
Garhwál	Barley	11.75	9.40
	Mandua	12.50	10.00
	Jhangara	15.50	12.40
	Wheat	14.00	11.20
	Rice (common)	11.00	8.80
Hill Parganas	Barley	21.00	16.80
	Mandua	22.00	17.60
	Jhangara	27.00	21.60
	Wheat	10.00	8.00
	Mandua	15.00	12.00
Naini Tal	Barley	18.00	14.40
	Wheat	15.00	12.00
	Rice (common)	13.00	10.40
	Maize	20.00	16.00
	Barley	18.00	14.40
Tarái and Bhábar	Sawan	18.00	14.40
	Ganara	20.00	16.00
	Jhangara	20.00	16.00
	Wheat	16.00	12.80
	Gram	20.00	16.00
Lucknow	Arhar dāl	16.00	12.80
	Rice (common)	12.00	9.60
	Juár	25.00	20.00
	Maize	25.00	20.00
	Barley	25.00	20.00
	Báira	20.00	16.00
	Úrd	18.00	14.40
	Mandua	25.00	20.00
Unao	Wheat	14.20	11.20
	Gram	19.25	15.40
	Arhar dāl	14.75	11.80
	Rice (common)	12.50	10.00
	Juár	19.25	15.40
Maize	20.00	16.00	
	Barley	19.00	15.20

SCHEDULE OF RETAIL RATES—continued.

District.	Staple.	Normal Rate.	Rate at which Report to Government is necessary.
Rae Bareilly	Wheat	16·00	12·80
	Gram	22·00	17·60
	Arhar dāl	15·00	12·00
	Rice (common)	14·00	11·20
	Juár	21·00	16·80
	Barley	20·00	16·00
Sitapur	Wheat	16·00	12·80
	Gram	26·00	20·80
	Arhar dāl	19·00	15·20
	Rice (common)	14·00	11·20
	Úrd	19·00	15·20
Hardoi	Wheat	15·75	12·60
	Gram	21·50	17·20
	Arhar dāl	14·00	11·20
	Rice (common)	11·75	9·40
	Juár	20·50	16·40
	Maize	19·50	15·60
Kheri	Úrd	17·00	13·60
	Wheat	18·00	14·40
	Gram	22·00	17·60
	Rice (common)	15·00	12·00
	Maize	26·00	20·80
Fyzabad	Barley	24·00	19·20
	Wheat	13·50	10·80
	Gram	19·00	15·20
	Arhar dāl	14·00	11·20
	Rice (common)	13·50	10·80
Gonda	Wheat	16·00	12·80
	Rice (common)	14·00	11·20
	Maize	24·00	19·20
Bahrich	Wheat	15·00	12·00
	Rice (common)	12·75	10·20
	Maize	22·00	17·60
Sultánpur	Wheat	16·00	12·80
	Rice (common)	14·50	11·60
Partábgah	Wheat	16·00	12·80
	Gram	23·00	18·40
	Arhar dāl	16·00	12·80
	Rice (common)	15·00	12·00
	Juár	22·25	17·80
Bara Banka	Wheat	15·00	12·00
	Gram	25·50	20·40
	Arhar dāl	14·75	11·80
	Rice (common)	12·00	9·60
	Juár	23·50	18·80
	Maize	24·00	19·20
	Úrd	17·00	13·60

REPORT IN CASES WHERE PRICES EXCEED NORMAL RATE BY 25 PER CENT. FOR WEEK ENDING 189

District.	Staple.	Normal Rate.	Rate at which Selling.	Cause of Increase.

Submitted to Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, through the Commissioner, Division,

Forwarded.

Dated

189

Commissioner.

Collector.

APPENDIX B.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MANAGEMENT, &c. OF POOR-HOUSES.

[Vide Section 118, Chapter VIII.]

Extract from the Draft Famine Code of the Madras Presidency, Appendix A.-II., as modified to suit the North-Western Provinces and Oudh

III. HINTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF POOR-HOUSES.

1. *Superintendent.*—The poor-house will be placed in charge of a superintendent, who will be the immediate subordinate of the sub-divisional officer. He should be acquainted with English and the vernacular. He will be held responsible for the maintenance of discipline and enforcement of sanitary regulations within the poor-house, and will see that all forms and registers are properly kept up to date; his constant attention must be given to the prevention and detection of fraudulent practices or misappropriation of food issued to inmates; and he will be present at the receipt and issue of rations at meal times, and also at the house and lock-up; he will visit the latrines morning and evening after each cleaning, and the sleeping quarters after they have been swept; he will see that the filter chatties are filled, and that the materials for filtration are removed once a week.
2. *Storekeepers.*—One storekeeper should be appointed to the poor-house and one to the hospital. They must be able to read and write and to keep accounts in English, and should be thoroughly acquainted with the vernacular.
3. *Their duty.*—Their duty is to procure supplies on indent furnished to them by the superintendent and medical officer, and to keep an account of receipt and issue.
4. *Orderlies.*—One orderly should be detailed for duty with the superintendent and one with the medical officer.
5. *Gatekeeper.*—One gatekeeper is always to be on duty to receive applicants for admission, or persons brought to the poor-house, and to direct them to the medical officer's quarters.
6. *Petty Establishment.*—The strength of the establishment given below will vary with the number of the paupers.
7. *Warders.*—Six warders will be appointed to the poor-house and six to the hospital, three of whom must be always on duty. They will prevent the committal of nuisances within the sleeping or feeding enclosures, and unlawful egress or ingress; will maintain order and report all cases of sudden sickness to the superintendent or medical officer; they will superintend the sweeping up of their divisions and will ascertain that all inmates turn out of their sleeping quarters at the appointed hour; they will escort the inmates to the latrines, and those on duty during the night will visit the sleeping huts once every hour and report any case of sickness.
8. *Scavengers.*—Two scavengers will be appointed to every hundred inmates.
9. For any fraction of one hundred more than twenty-five and less than fifty, one additional scavenger; and for any fraction over fifty, two scavengers will probably be required.
10. *Mess Gumashta's Duties.*—Inmates of poor-houses should be fed in messes of one hundred members. To each mess must be appointed a gumashta rot an inmate of the poor-house; he must be able to read and write the vernacular; he will keep a nominal roll of his mess, and will be present at the issue of raw rations to his mess cooks; he will muster his mess at the first meal drum in the space assigned to it; will call the roll and give in to the superintendent a report in form; he will also be present during the issue and consumption of the cooked food, and will see that each member receives his proper ration; he will maintain order during meals, and will prevent any food being taken away; messes should be made to sit down in ranks of fifty, facing inwards, with an interval between them of eight feet so as to afford a passage for the food distributors.
11. *Duties of Scavengers.*—At 5 a.m. the scavengers will remove the night chatties and clear out the latrines, and in the evening they will replace the chatties and again cleanse the latrines, and will fill up the latrine waterpots. During the day they will remove the sweepings from the enclosure and will be employed in digging pits for the reception of night-soil.
12. *Burials.*—Two chamars or sweepers should be attached to the poor-house to remove and dispose of corpses, either by interment or cremation, unless the deceased has friends who are willing to perform the funeral rites of his caste. The usual fees for cremation or burial should be paid at the kachhri on voucher furnished by the superintendent.
13. *Cooks.*—One male and three female cooks should be appointed to every mess in the poor-house; they must be strong and willing, for their duties are heavy; they have to cook and distribute the rations twice a day to one hundred persons and to cleanse the cooking and eating utensils, they must be Brahmans; and, as a rule, it will be found advisable not to select them from among the inmates of the poor-house. In addition to their food they should receive a monthly wage at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per diem to males and of one anna to females, and they will be liable to fines for misconduct, or to stoppage of pay for short delivery of rations.
14. *Water-carriers.*—Water-carriers for carrying drinking water should be selected from among the appropriate castes; their duty is to fill up morning and evening the filter posts in the sweeping quarters and feeding enclosures, and to supply the cook-room. *The water supply should be protected from contamination and, if possible, drawn from a tap or other sanitary appliance.*

15. *Sweepers of the Poor-house Areas.*—Sweepers should be selected from the females in the poor-house and convalescent ward of the hospital; every morning, on return from latrines, they will sweep up the whole area of the poor-house under the superintendence of a warder; after meals all rubbish collected should be deposited outside the enclosure in some selected spot, whence it will be removed by the scavengers.

16. *Rules as to Hours of Rising, Feeding, &c.*—At 5 a.m. all inmates in the poor-house should be turned out to the latrines by the warders on duty; then they will be escorted by the warders to the places set apart for ablution; at 8 a.m. they should return, and at 8.45 the first drum is to be beaten; the paupers will then fall in by messes in the feeding enclosure and food will be distributed to them; the sweepers will afterwards sweep up the camp enclosure, and the water-carriers will fill up the filters and supply the cook-room; those whose turn it is to wash clothing will go in charge of a warder to the place set apart for this purpose; all inmates should return at 4 p.m.; at 4.30 p.m. first drum for evening meal will be beaten; after this the enclosure is to be swept up; at 6 p.m. the inmates will fall in by messes for roll-call, and then be turned into the sleeping quarters.

17. *Sick Cases how taken to Hospital.*—A couple of blanket doolies should be ready at the quarters of the superintendent, in ordinary cases of sickness some of the inmates should be made to carry the sick person if unable to walk; but in cases of cholera or small-pox it will be necessary to send for the hospital doolie-bearers or chamars.

18. *Work on which Inmates can be employed.*—Work will be of a light description, such as supplying water, sweeping enclosures, repairing fences or huts.

19. *Cooking Vessels, what material.*—Earthen vessels for cooking are difficult to clean, liable to fracture, and awkward to move. Degchis with handles are preferable; each degchi should hold 38 measures of raw rice and seven gallons of water; two such pots and one containing 6 measures of dal and 12 gallons of water would probably be required for each gang of adults.

20. *Eating Utensils.*—Eating vessels should be supplied to messes on the indent of the gumáshta countersigned by the superintendent. When any member of his mess leaves they should be returned, a receipt for them being taken by the gumáshta; those that are in use will be in the charge of the mess cooks; after the evening meal they should be placed in a shed set apart for their reception and for that of the mess cooking pots; this shed will be locked by the storekeeper and be under police guard at night, the eating vessels of each mess should be kept in strong baskets provided for the purpose; if any vessel is missing at meal time, the mess gumáshta will report to the superintendent and after each meal he will personally see that the mess cooks get back the proper number.

21. *Issue of Cooked Rations.*—A quarter of an hour before meal time a drum is to be beaten. The mess gumáshtas should then go to the spaces assigned to their respective messes in the feeding enclosures and call their rolls; as soon as the members of the mess are assembled the mess gumáshtas will hand in to the superintendent their reports; the mess gumáshtas will then go with some members of their gangs to fetch the eating utensils; as soon as these are distributed the second drum is to be beaten, and the cooks of each mess should then bring out and distribute the rations; they are to be furnished with tin measures holding respectively the rations of rice and condiment soup; the rice is to be carried in a large open basket by one or two of the gang and the male cook is to serve it out.

22. As the rations are given out to the messes by their own cooks, the responsibility is limited to them, and should any deficit exist it is at once to be made good by a minor indent on the storekeeper, and the cost is to be recovered from the pay of the cooks. The mess gumáshtas should supervise the issue of each ration, and it is their duty to report at once any deficiency.

A.

Number of ticket To Master of Poor-house.
Date
Admit the bearer.

No of Ticket Holder	Name of Ticket Holder.	Age.	Sex.	Caste.	Village.	Occupation.	Road Batta Paid.	Cart-hire Paid.	Remarks.
							Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	

Place of issue
Signature of witness to payment of batta or cart hire.

Signature of Officer issuing ticket.
Office.

NOTE.—Inhabitants of different villages and members of different castes must never be included in the same ticket. *

MEMO.

Examined by me.

No. retained in hospital.

N. sent to ordinary poor-house.

Date

To Master, Poor-house.

Medical Officer.

MEMO.

The general register number of No.

is

Date

To Medical Officer

Master,

Poor-house.

MEMO.

The general register number of No.

has been entered in my register.

Date

To Master

Medical Officer,

Poor-house.

MEMO.

No.

have arrived and have been duly entered in my register.

Date

To Division Officer

Master,

Poor-house.

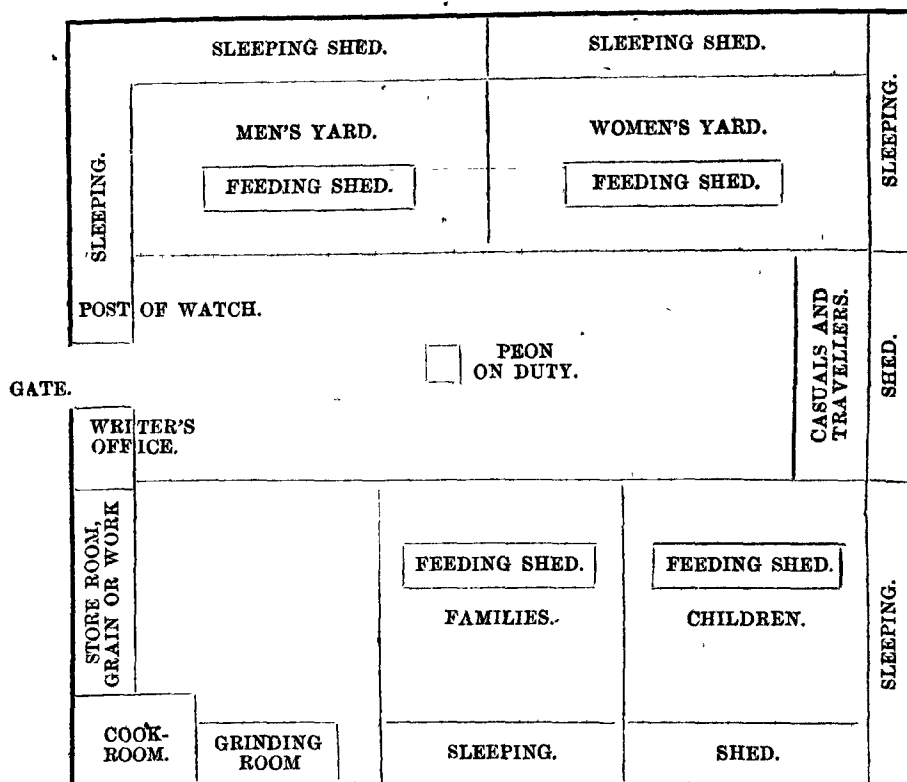
Extract from Mr. Elliot's Draft Code of Famine Relief, Chapter III., Part II., as modified to suit the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

THE POOR-HOUSE.

1. The poor-house is the name given to an institution in which cooked food is distributed gratuitously on the conditions of residence within the enclosure and of conforming to the rules of discipline and order. The people for whom this provision is intended are mainly those who have no homes or have cut themselves adrift from their homes, and who are unfit for employment on works. They are mostly to be found wandering on roads or bypaths, and a special system of patrol should be organised to bring them in and prevent their dying in out-of-the-way corners. There is also the class of professional beggars who cannot be made to work, and of whom the streets of towns should be swept by a daily patrol. Lastly, there will be a few people in villages, regarding whose necessities the circle officer cannot satisfy himself, and to whom he may say that if they are really in want of relief they must go to the relief house and get it there. The people who are thus received into a relief house should be kept there compulsorily until the famine is so far at an end that private charity can again be relied on to feed the beggars; excepting two classes, those who improve in strength with the food given them and who are relegated to the relief work, and those who have homes and who, after proving their necessity by submitting to the conditions of the relief house, may be sent back there and placed on the out-door relief list of their village. The relief camp may also be used as a rest-house for gangs, on their way to a relief work, who come with an order from the relief officer entitling them to food and shelter for the night. There is, further, the case of the emigrants' rest-houses, which will be treated separately.

2. *Organisation of the Poor-house.*—The best site that can be selected for a poor-house would be in a grove of trees on tolerably high land, with open ground between it and the town, with a water supply near at hand, distant about one mile from a town in which a superior official resides, so as not to be near enough to allow of illicit communication with the town, nor so far as to make supervision by the officials difficult. As a rule, there should not be more than one poor-house in a tahsil, and it should be situate at the headquarters of the tahsil. In some cases one poor-house at the headquarters of the district may suffice. It should be surrounded by an enclosure such as not to be easy to surmount, but not so formidable as to make it resemble a jail, since the authorities, for the keeping the residents inside should rely not so much on the wall as on the certainty that the patrol will catch and bring back wanderers and beggars. There should be only one entrance to the poor-house: a peon should always be on duty there to check ingress or egress. There should be to every relief house a superintendent and a writer, with sufficient assistance to enforce discipline and keep the accounts and registers. The menial establishment should consist of cooks, water-carriers, sweepers, &c., the paupers themselves being utilised in this work as in grinding the flour for their food as far as possible.

3. *Interior Accommodation.*—The poor-house should be divided into sleeping sheds, working yards, and offices. The sleeping shed should ordinarily be erected round the sides of the enclosure, the working yards being in front of them, and the offices collected in one corner or along the side nearest the gate. The walls of the sheds should be of earth or of wattle, according as is most suitable to the climate of the locality and the time of year. They should be thatched so as effectually to keep out rain. A free current of air should pass through them, but the sheds allotted to families may have spaces divided off into cubicles or apartments for each family. Superficial space should be allowed to each sleeper, 7 feet by 4, a mat provided to sleep on, and a ticket hung up over the mat corresponding in number to that worn by the pauper. The area of the poor-house should be staked off, so as to provide separate enclosures for men, women, children, and for entire families. Families should not be broken up, but otherwise the sexes and ages should be separated. Each of these enclosures would contain the sleeping sheds and working yard of the class to which it belongs, and where this is found necessary separate enclosures should be provided for those of good caste and those of low caste. The offices will consist of a store-room for the grain required for food, another for the work done by the paupers, a grinding shed, a cook-room, and an office in which the accounts would be written up and the records and registers kept.



The above sketch may serve as a suggestion as to the way in which a poor-house should be laid out and arranged.

Reception of Applicants for Relief.—Either inside or (which is better) outside the enclosure there should be a well used solely for washing purposes. A trough or bath should be attached to it, which should be filled from the well, and to which the paupers should be marched in detachments to bathe as often as is thought good with reference to the climate and time of year.

In front of and near the door of each relief camp an enclosure shall be railed off, in which all fresh applicants for relief shall be received, whether they present themselves voluntarily or are sent in by the police or by relief officers. In this place some superior relief officer shall attend at a fixed hour every day; either the special relief officer of the sub-division, or the village relief officer, or the tahsildár, or, in the absence of all these, the peshkar, to receive the applicants, and either forward them to a relief work or admit them into the relief camp.

If the severity of the famine render it necessary, some official, with a supply of cooked food, should be present at all hours of the day.

4. *Food.*—The food should be distributed twice a day, and should consist of the ordinary minimum ration prescribed in section 102 of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Famine Code, except in the case of persons subjected to the penal ration prescribed in section 103.

If thought necessary a stock of food can be laid in to guard against contingencies, but ordinarily it will be sufficient to contract with a merchant to provide the daily requirements. Care should be taken that every evening enough grain is in store for two days' supply, and enough flour for the food of the next day. The grain should be ground every day for the food of the day after. The flour should be carefully weighed out for cooking, and a definite relation fixed by experiment

between the weight of the raw and the cooked food, and the latter should be tested constantly by weighing by the Superintendent as well as by the visiting official *

They should also see that the food is thoroughly cooked and is served in a state as palatable as possible. The pulse should contain a certain quantity of pepper and of spices, to be fixed in each province according to the local custom. The paupers should be arranged in rows in the feeding sheds in their own enclosures, and the number of rations required for each enclosure should be taken to them; after being counted by an official at the cook-room door, and distributed. A plate or pot should be given to each in which to receive the liquid portion of the meal. They should be supervised while eating it, and not allowed to get up till it is eaten or to give any away, especial watchfulness is required in the case of the children who are liable to have the food snatched from them by other children, or by adults, or who may be induced by fear to save a part of it to give to their parents.

5. *Employment during the Day.*—A certain number of the residents should be selected as water-carriers, sweepers, grinders, &c., and as monitors or orderly peons to enforce discipline. For the rest such employment as they are capable of should be provided; for instance, rope-making, spinning, stone-breaking, basket-making, &c.

6. *Establishment.*—The establishment should consist of paupers as far as possible. The only paid officials should be the superintendent, the accountant, and the hospital assistant, but Re. 1 per month may be paid to the overseers and to the head cook in addition to food. Carpenters and blacksmiths, if required, may be called in and paid in cash. But all other servants in the poor-house should be paid in food, or in raw grain if their caste requires it, and should, as far as possible, be appointed from among the paupers themselves, not from outside.

7. *The Superintendent.*—The duty of the Superintendent is general supervision. He is responsible for examining the supply of grain received from the contractor, testing its quantity and quality, and entering it in the stock register; also for seeing that it is securely kept in a safe chamber under a good lock or sufficient guard. He is bound to be always present at feeding time, to see that the food is well cooked and the amount of it correct, to see that the paupers are properly organised into gangs and parties, are set to work at labour suitable to their capacities and do a sufficient quantity of work, and that all members of the establishment do their duty punctually and thoroughly. He will muster the establishment every day and record their attendance in a register. He will also receive daily from the Sub-divisional officer all new admissions, and see that their names are entered by the overseer on his muster roll.

8. *The Accountant.*—The Accountant must always be a member of the tahsildár's permanent establishment, and must be selected for this work because of his special qualifications, a temporary officiating man filling his place. He has to keep up the returns and registers.

They consist of—

- (1.) The stock register of rice or grain;
- (2.) The daily register of paupers fed in the poor-house,
- (3.) The daily abstract statement of paupers fed in the poor-house;
- (4.) The pay register of establishment,
- (5.) The cash book and register of contingent expenditure.

9. *The Overseer.*—The Overseer will keep the nominal register of the paupers in the poor-house. If there are more than 400 inmates, a second overseer may be appointed. He should ordinarily be a respectable, literate inhabitant of the tahsil, Muhammadan or Bráhma, or of other good caste, who is in distressed circumstances, and is glad to do the work for a payment of one rupee a month, plus half as much again as the daily ration, which may be given raw. He will marshal the people in the morning to the early meal and will take the roll-call while it is being eaten. When it is taken he will write out a slip in the following form and make it over to the Accountant:

Name of Gang-man.	Attendance morning of			Total.	Total Number of lbs. Grain.
	Men.	Women.	Children.		

During the day he will supervise the work of the gangs, either generally or any particular set of gangs as the Superintendent may direct. In the evening he will again marshal the people to the evening meal, and take the roll-call and give a slip to the Accountant in the same form as in the morning.

10. *Organisation of Enclosures.*—There should be a gangman or monitor to each enclosure, a female being appointed to the female enclosure; they should be responsible for the discipline of all the residents in their enclosure at night when at work or when eating. If the numbers in an enclosure are small persons of good caste they can be allowed to sit a little apart in working

* The importance of frequent testing cannot be overrated. Under the most careful superintendence errors will creep in on this head if the cooks are not subject to constant inspection; and it must be remembered that where the daily ration is cut down to a low scale its sufficiency to sustain life cannot be ensured if the pauper can be defrauded of even a small fraction of it.

and eating from the other members of the gang, and can have a portion of the shed walled off for them. The gangman or monitor should, if possible, be chosen from among the more respectable and capable paupers in the poor-house; if none such are available he should ordinarily be a respectable, illiterate resident of the tahsil in distressed circumstances who is glad to accept the post for the wages of a ration half as large again as the ordinary one, *i.e.*, 1½ lbs. of grain, which may be given raw. The discipline of the party should be kept as uniform as possible, so that people may know their work and their place and each other; they should sleep in the same shed, eat meals in the same place, and after meals go together to the same work in the same place as nearly as possible. Proper arrangements should be made as to the water supply, the latrines and urinals, and the burial of those who die in the poor-house or hospital.

11. *Menial Establishment.*—This establishment, which consists of cooks, water-carriers, rice cleaners or grinders, guards, and sweepers, should be kept down to a moderate strength, and should as far as possible, be recruited from the paupers of the kitchen, or from respectable people of the tahsil who are in distressed circumstances. As a rule they should be paid in grain, which may be given raw if desired, at the rate of 1½ lbs. or for the most onerous task 2 lbs. a day; but where the numbers are large the head cook may in addition receive Re. 1 per mensem. The number of each class of servants should be arranged on a sliding scale in proportion to the number of paupers to be attended to. In Southern India it was found that 1 per cent. of the population to be fed was a sufficient number of cooks, but that more were required where rice was cooked than where ragi; and where the resident population is very feeble more persons must be entertained to carry and distribute the cooked food than where there are able-bodied paupers who can be so employed. Great care should be taken that the persons employed in the cooking and handling the food should be of such castes that the prejudices of the inmates should not be offended. The number of water women and of sweepers should be about the same as the cooks. But for the sick in hospital probably one sweeper will be required for 25 patients. The occupation of rice cleaning or grinding is one that can be suitably given to women of respectable castes; two women in good health should easily grind 30 sers of grain a day, or enough for 60 adults; but if they are enfeebled, then two relays of two women each should be allowed for each mill. It is not intended in these rules to tie officers down to a too rigid uniformity; but every superintendent and sub-divisional officer is expected to do all in his power to combine efficiency with economy.

12. *The Hospital.*—There should be a hospital and a medical officer attached to each poor-house. The site of the hospital should be as near to the poor-house as possible subject to sanitary considerations, and it should be selected with great care by a superior medical official. Its arrangements should correspond in all important particulars with those laid down for the hospitals on large relief works. The medical official should be appointed with due consideration of the relation between his rank and experience and the difficulties and the responsibilities of the post, the most experienced men being put in charge of the largest hospitals and poor-houses. He will be responsible for seeing that all the requirements of a hospital are provided, and that the sheds are dry and ventilated. He will send in to the Superintendent a daily return showing the number of sick in hospital, the daily admission, discharges, and deaths, and the number of rations and the quantity of extra food required for his patients. He will also keep up a nominal register of all admissions, their diseases and history; and will prepare from this such return as may be called for by his own department. He will constantly go round and inspect the residents in the poor-house, and give out-door treatment to those in need of it, avoiding as far as possible any compulsion on the paupers to enter the hospital as in-patients. He should notice the condition of all the residents to see if they are improving or the reverse; and he should report at once to the superintendent or the civil relief officer if he believes the food to be insufficient or bad in quality. For those who are specially emaciated he should prescribe special diet, such as milk or ghi or other nutriment. He should also report to the superintendent if he thinks that in any case the work exacted is too severe for any of the paupers.

13. *Inspection.*—The poor-house is under the immediate charge of the civil officer of the tahsil, and the superintendent of the poor-house is directly subordinate to him. But whenever a poor-house is established, a body of respectable native gentlemen shall be associated with the relief officer as a committee of management. They should be consulted on all matters connected with caste and social observances, and their influence should be exerted to spread abroad the knowledge that everything possible is done to prevent any offence being given to the sensitive feelings or prejudices of the inmates. They should be specially consulted as to the appointment of cooks and overseers, in order that no one may be appointed to whose caste any objection can be taken. One of them should be invited to visit the poor-house every day according to a roster, and specially to be present at feeding time; and the whole committee should, if possible, meet the relief officer weekly at the poor-house, where any suggestions may be offered or any objectionable practices brought to light and stopped. The relief officer should then, accompanied by the committee, inspect the residents and inquire into their cases and condition. Those who have improved in strength sufficiently to enable them to work should be sent to a relief work; those who have not, should, if their homes are known and there is any reasonable prospect that they will stop there, be sent back to their homes and put on village relief.

14. The exceptions who must be kept as permanent residents so long as the famine lasts are (1) incurable wanderers who have been sent to their homes more than once, but have not gone or have not stayed there; (2) able-bodied professional beggars who have been sent to work more than once, but have persistently left it; (3) persons from villages in which village relief is not given.

15. *Rest-houses for Emigrants.*—On the roads along which emigrants are known to travel in large numbers it may be necessary to keep up places at which they can be fed. At these places the conditions of residence and work will not be insisted on. Two meals will be cooked a day, morning and evening; those who arrive in the evening will receive a meal and shelter in a shed for the night, and will be sent on next day after receiving a second meal in the morning. The superintendent is responsible for seeing that they eat the meal in his presence and do not carry it away, and that this indulgence is granted only to *bond fide* travellers who are in want. The sub-divisional officer will pay special attention to these rest-houses, will endeavour to dissuade feeble and emaciated persons from emigrating and offer them employment on relief work, and if the number becomes at all considerable he will report the facts to the collector of the district. He will also be careful to visit these rest-houses frequently and at feeding times in order to test the superintendent's returns as to expenditure and the number of emigrants fed. The superintendent will add to his daily abstract register a note showing the number of people going to and returning from the place which is the goal of emigration. * * *

APPENDIX C.

RULES FOR FAMINE REPORTS required by the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Weekly Telegrams.

I. The first indication of failure of harvest or scarcity in a province should be communicated in the weekly telegraphic "weather and crop" reports.

II. When apprehension arises that relief measures may have to be undertaken, the telegraphic reports should be supplemented by monthly written reports.

III. When relief measures have been actually commenced the weekly telegrams should state the aggregate number of persons, without details of age or sex, (1) on relief works, (2) on gratuitous relief on the last day of any week for which district reports have been received.

IV. Although statistics are not required under Rule III. for each district, but only for the province as a whole, it will be convenient that when distress occurs in entirely different parts of a province, affected districts in each part should be grouped together and separate statistics telegraphed for each group.

V. The inclusion of a district for the first time in the affected area, whether of a province or group and similarly the exclusion of a district from the affected area, should be communicated in the weekly telegrams.

Monthly Reports.

VI. The monthly report should ordinarily consist of two tabular statements, in Forms A. and B.*

VII. The statements should be accompanied by a map in which affected tracts should be approximately indicated by a blue colour in two shades—light blue signifying slightly affected, and dark blue seriously affected, tracts.†

VIII. In the page of remarks attached to the monthly Statement A. the wages prescribed on relief works and the data on which they have been determined should be noted; any changes should be recorded and explained in subsequent reports.

IX. The report for each must be despatched to the Government of India, whether complete or incomplete, in the first half of the next month, either by the Government of the province, the Board of Revenue or other revenue authority as the Local Government may determine. Deficient information may be subsequently submitted either in the next monthly report or in a separate letter.

General Report.

X. As soon as the information is available, a general report should be submitted, giving an account of the economic condition of the affected districts or groups of districts in ordinary times, and indicating the crops affected, and the extent to which they have suffered; the contingencies on which the probable duration of distress depends; the position of the affected area as to local trade, food supply, and communications, and any other general information likely to be instructive. A fresh general report is required for all new districts or groups of districts which may become affected subsequent to the submission of the first general report.

* See Forms VIII. and IX. in Appendix G.

† Skeleton maps of uniform size and character will be supplied, on indent, by the Imperial Survey Department for the purpose of this rule. District Officers can obtain them at the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Press.

Special Reports.

XI. The following matters should be separately represented, as occasion may require, in special reports, which should be submitted in sufficient time to enable the Government of India to make any provision of funds or establishments which may be necessary:—

- A.—If there is any reason to believe that the Provincial Funds will prove insufficient to meet the exigencies of famine, the extent to which Imperial aid is likely to be required.
 B.—The extent to which the suspension or remission of land revenue may be considered necessary.
 C.—The extent to which the provincial staff requires to be increased by drafts from Imperial departments or otherwise.

XIA. A special and early report should be submitted if there is occasion to apprehend that emigration on account of scarcity is taking place in British territory to any material or unusual extent. Corresponding information should be furnished whenever emigration from the provinces to neighbouring Native States is believed to be taking place on a large scale. The report should be communicated to Darbárs through political officers, copy being forwarded to the Government of India at the same time for information.

XII. Any reports other than those required by these rules which may be prescribed by the Local Government for their own information need not be submitted to the Government of India otherwise than for exceptional reasons.

Annual and Special Returns.

XIII. A statement shall be submitted to the Government of India not later than the 1st June in each year in Form C.*

XIV. When relief works are open, a statement in Form D.† shall be submitted to the Government of India by 1st September, 1st December, and 1st March of each year.

APPENDIX D.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CALCULATING TASKS AND RATES.

[Vide SECTION 72.]

The following tables are framed to serve as a guide in determining the daily task that should be imposed upon the different classes of relief workers enumerated in section 66 when employed on simple earthwork, ordinarily met with in road and embankment work in the North-Western Provinces.

In accordance with Section 71, it is assumed that the tasks performed by relief workers of Classes B. and C. are 15 per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively below those performed by workers under Class A.

It is also assumed that a woman will do two-thirds and a child one-third the work of a man of the same class.

The lead is shown in feet, and the quantities in cubic feet.

The tables are intended only as a general guide and are not meant to take the place of original calculations of tasks for important works. Such calculations should be made to suit the special conditions of different localities, for earthwork, metal collection, and other classes of work likely to be employed for famine relief.

TABLE A.

EXCAVATION.

Daily Tasks for Workers employed on Digging only.

Character of Soil	Daily Task in Cubic Feet.						Remarks.
	Men.			Women.			
	A.	B.	C.	A.	B.	C.	
Soft earth, such as sandy loam	150	125	110	100	85	—	Women will not, as a rule, be employed on excavation.
	130	110	100	90	75	—	
Earth of medium hardness	120	100	90	80	70	—	
	110	90	80	70	60	—	
Hard earth and clay	100	85	75	65	55	—	

* See Form X. in Appendix G.

† See Form XI. in Appendix G.

TABLE B.
CARRIAGE.

Daily Tasks for Workers employed on Carriage; only.

Lead.	Daily Task in Cubic Feet.								Remarks.
	50.	100.	150.	200.	250.	300.	400.	500.	
Men, Class A.	125	80	60	50	40	30	25	20	Children should be classed on a consideration of their ages and capabilities for work.
" " B.	106	68	51	42	34	25	21	17	
" " C.	94	60	45	37	30	22	19	15	
Women, Class A.	83	53	40	33	27	20	17	13	
" " B.	71	45	34	28	23	17	14	11	
" " C.	63	40	30	25	20	15	13	10	
Children, Class A.	42	27	20	17	13	10	8	7	
" " B.	35	23	17	14	11	8	7	6	
" " C.	31	20	15	12	10	7	6	5	

Table B. allows, in addition to the lead shown, for a lift of up to 5 feet. Every additional lift of 5 feet may be taken as equivalent to an additional lead of 100 feet.

The proportion of carriers to diggers should be such that the total of the carriers' tasks found under the appropriate lead in Table B. may be practically equal to and not less than the diggers' tasks given in Table A.

Thus, if the soil be of medium stiffness, such that an A. classman can excavate 130 cubic feet per diem, and the lead 100 feet, then the number of carriers allotted to each A. class digger should be such that the sum of their carrying tasks found in Table B. under 100 feet lead shall be approximately equal to and not less than 130 cubic feet, e.g.,—

1 woman of A. class carrying 53 cubic feet, and
3 children " " 81 " "

A gang might then consist of 10 men, 10 women, and 30 children, all of class A., whose daily tasks would be 1,300 cubic feet excavated and carried 100 feet with a lift not exceeding 5 feet.

The distribution of work will be facilitated if all the men, women, and children comprising each gang belong, as far as possible, to the same class.

Taking the child as the unit, a woman represents two and a man three units. The gang in the above example will consist of 80 units, 30 of which will be employed on excavation and 50 on carriage, and any gang in which the proportion of carriers to diggers is 5 to 3, will, under the same conditions of soil and lead, be a properly constituted gang.

Extract from a Resolution by the Government of Bengal, dated the 5th October 1892.

The following formula has worked out well as regards all road work and also in tank work where the lead is short. It is, however, a little too liberal where the lead is long, and in such cases has had to be reduced. For all other works it is fair.

$$R = W \left(A + \frac{L + 50}{12.5} \right)$$

in which—

R = the rate per 1,000 cubic feet, lift not exceeding 5 feet.

W = the daily wage (as calculated under Chapter VII. of the Famine Code).

A = a co-efficient varying from 6.66 for soft to 10 for hard soil, which can be dug with a *kodali*.

L = the lead in feet taken in multiples of 50 feet, as 100, 150, 200, &c.

As an example, let it be assumed that in a certain case the daily wage is 5 pice; that the soil is soft, in which case A. = 6.66; and that the lead is 100 feet; then—

$$R = 5 \left(6.66 + \frac{100 + 50}{12.5} \right) = 93.3 \text{ pice} = \text{Re. } 1-7-4 \text{ per 1,000 cubic feet. Here it would suffice to}$$

fix the rate at Re. 1-8-0 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The formula is based on the assumption that—

- (1.) A man can cut 100 cubic feet of hard soil a day; 150 of soft soil;
- (2.) A man can carry 125 cubic feet of soil for 50 feet in a day with a 5-foot lift;
- (3.) He can carry the same quantity for an additional 100 feet in another day.

Allowing for a woman doing a little less carrying than a man, the following rule may be laid down:—

A man and a woman working together can cut and carry 100 cubic feet for a 50-foot lead, and a man and two women can do the same for a 150-foot lead. Therefore the piece-work rate for 100 cubic feet should be the maximum ration wages for a man and woman for a 50-foot lead, and similar wages for a man and two women for a lead exceeding 50 feet or a lift exceeding 5 feet.

In the case of task work, which is only permitted for a person of a slightly inferior physique, it will be necessary to allow a further margin; for instance, it might be said that 100 cubic feet is the daily task for one man and two women (or a man, a woman, and a child), and a similar addition should be made for any increase in the lead. Each labourer should be made to perform a certain amount of task work each day before the wage is paid.

APPENDIX E. (1).

[Vide SECTION 106, CHAPTER VII.]

The following table indicates the data upon which the grain equivalents prescribed in section 107 of the Code have been calculated. The price of grain assumed in the table is that of 12 sers to the rupee:—

Item.	Rate per Rupee assumed.		Minimum Ration for Adult Male.			Maximum Ration for Adult Male.		
	In Sers	In lbs. at 2 lbs. = 1 Ser.	Weight in Ounces allowed by provisional Code.	Price of each Item in Annas	Price in Annas of (1) Grain and (2) other Items.	Weight in Ounces allowed by provisional Code.	Price of each Item in Annas.	Price in Annas of (1) Grain and (2) other Items.
Grain	12	24	16	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$ or '666	24	1	1
OTHER ITEMS	Pulse	12	2	$\frac{1}{18}$	} $\frac{59}{240}$ } or } 246 }	4	$\frac{1}{6}$	} $\frac{11}{15}$ } or } '566 }
	Salt	10	20	$\frac{1}{8}$		$\frac{1}{8}$		
	Ghi	2	4	$\frac{1}{8}$		$\frac{1}{8}$		
	Condiments and vegetables.	4	8	$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{8}$		

2. The above table shows that the proportion between the total price of the other items of the *minimum ration* for adult males and the price of the grain item is when grain is at 12 sers represented by the ratio of '246 or '666 to 369 to 1,000. The proportion assumed in the Code is $\frac{2}{3}$ to 1 or 750 to 1,000, so that ample margin is left for fuel, &c., and for fluctuation in prices. Instead of a grain equivalent of something slightly over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., the Code prescribes one of 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs.

3. Similarly, the proportion between the total price of the other items of the *maximum ration* for adult males and the price of the grain item is when grain is at 12 sers represented by the ratio of '566 to 1 or '566 to 1,000, whereas a proportion of 750 to 1,000, is assumed for purposes of calculation. The table indicates a grain equivalent of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., in place of which the Code has prescribed a grain equivalent of 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs.

4. In the rations, both maximum and minimum, for adult females the "other items" are the same as in those for adult men, the grain item alone differing.

The grain item of the *minimum ration* for adult females is 14oz., which, at 12 sers to the rupee, would cost $\frac{7}{12}$ ths or '583 of an anna. The relation between the price of the other items and that of the grain item may therefore be represented by the ratio of '246 to '583 or 422 to 1,000. This would give a grain equivalent of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. against 1 $\frac{7}{16}$ lbs. allowed by the Code.

The *maximum ration* for adult females is 20oz., which, at 12 sers, would cost $\frac{5}{6}$ or '833 anna. The relation between the price of the other items and that of the grain item may, therefore, be represented by the ratio of '566 to '833 or 679 to 1,000. This would give a grain equivalent of something under 2lbs. against one of 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ lbs. allowed by the Code.

APPENDIX E. (2).

[Vide SECTION 108 (iii), CHAPTER VII]

Ready Reckoner for calculating the Value of the Wage by a Grain equivalent.

Current rates. of Grain per Rupee.		Adult Males.					Adult Females.					Working Children.		Non- work- ing Chil- dren.
		A.	B.	C.	D.	Mini- mum.	A.	B.	C.	D.	Mini- mum.	Maxi- mum.	Mini- mum.	Under 7.
		21.	19.	16.	14	14.	19	17.	15	13	13	15.	10.	5
Sers	Chs.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
*1	0	21 0	19 0	16 0	14 0	14 0	19 0	17 0	15 0	13 0	13 0	15 0	10 0	5 0
15	0	1 5	1 3	1 1	0 11	0 11	1 3	1 2	1 0	0 10	0 10	1 0	0 8	0 4
14	8	1 6	1 3	1 1	1 0	1 0	1 3	1 2	1 0	0 11	0 11	1 0	0 9	0 4
14	0	1 6	1 4	1 2	1 0	1 0	1 4	1 3	1 1	0 11	0 11	1 1	0 9	0 4
13	8	1 7	1 5	1 2	1 0	1 0	1 5	1 3	1 1	1 0	1 0	1 1	0 9	0 4
14	0	1 7	1 6	1 3	1 1	1 1	1 6	1 4	1 2	1 0	1 0	1 2	0 9	0 5
12	8	1 8	1 6	1 3	1 1	1 1	1 6	1 4	1 2	1 0	1 0	1 2	0 9	0 5
12	0	1 9	1 7	1 4	1 2	1 2	1 7	1 5	1 3	1 1	1 1	1 3	0 10	0 5
11	8	1 10	1 8	1 5	1 3	1 3	1 8	1 6	1 3	1 2	1 2	1 3	0 10	0 5
11	0	1 11	1 9	1 5	1 3	1 3	1 9	1 7	1 4	1 2	1 2	1 4	0 11	0 5
10	8	2 0	1 10	1 6	1 4	1 4	1 10	1 7	1 5	1 3	1 3	1 5	0 11	0 6
10	0	2 1	1 11	1 7	1 5	1 5	1 11	1 7	1 6	1 4	1 4	1 6	1 0	0 6
9	8	2 3	2 0	1 8	1 5	1 5	2 0	1 9	1 7	1 4	1 4	1 6	1 0	0 6
9	0	2 4	2 1	1 9	1 6	1 6	2 1	1 11	1 8	1 5	1 5	1 8	1 2	0 7
8	12	2 5	2 2	1 10	1 7	1 7	2 2	1 11	1 9	1 6	1 6	1 9	1 2	0 7
8	8	2 6	2 3	1 10	1 8	1 8	2 3	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 6	1 9	1 2	0 7
8	4	2 7	2 4	1 11	1 8	1 8	2 4	2 1	1 10	1 7	1 7	1 10	1 3	0 7
8	0	2 8	2 5	2 0	1 9	1 9	2 5	2 2	1 11	1 8	1 8	1 11	1 3	0 8
7	12	2 9	2 5	2 1	1 10	1 10	2 5	2 2	1 11	1 8	1 8	1 11	1 3	0 8
7	8	2 10	2 6	2 1	1 10	1 10	2 6	2 3	2 0	1 9	1 9	2 0	1 4	0 8
7	4	2 11	2 7	2 2	1 11	1 11	2 7	2 4	2 1	1 9	1 9	2 1	1 4	0 8
7	2	3 0	2 8	2 3	1 11	1 11	2 8	2 4	2 1	1 10	1 10	2 1	1 4	0 8
7	0	3 0	2 9	2 3	2 0	2 0	2 9	2 5	2 2	1 10	1 10	2 2	1 5	0 9
6	14	3 1	2 9	2 4	2 0	2 0	2 9	2 6	2 2	1 11	1 11	2 2	1 5	0 9
6	12	3 1	2 10	2 4	2 1	2 1	2 9	2 6	2 3	1 11	1 11	2 3	1 6	0 9
6	10	3 2	2 10	2 5	2 1	2 1	2 10	2 7	2 3	2 0	2 0	2 3	1 6	0 9
6	8	3 3	2 11	2 5	2 2	2 2	2 11	2 7	2 4	2 0	2 0	2 4	1 6	0 9
6	6	3 4	3 0	2 6	2 2	2 2	3 0	2 8	2 4	2 0	2 0	2 4	1 7	0 9
6	4	3 4	3 0	2 7	2 3	2 3	3 0	2 8	2 5	2 1	2 1	2 5	1 7	0 10
6	2	3 5	3 1	2 7	2 3	2 3	3 1	2 9	2 5	2 1	2 1	2 5	1 8	0 10
6	0	3 6	3 2	2 8	2 4	2 4	3 2	2 10	2 6	2 2	2 2	2 6	1 8	0 10
5	14	3 7	3 3	2 9	2 5	2 5	3 3	2 11	2 7	2 3	2 3	2 7	1 8	0 10
5	12	3 8	3 4	2 9	2 5	2 5	3 4	3 0	2 7	2 3	2 3	2 7	1 9	0 11
5	10	3 9	3 5	2 10	2 6	2 6	3 5	3 0	2 8	2 4	2 4	2 8	1 9	0 11
5	8	3 10	3 5	2 11	2 7	2 7	3 5	3 1	2 9	2 4	2 4	2 9	1 10	0 11
5	6	3 11	3 7	3 0	2 8	2 8	3 7	3 2	2 9	2 5	2 5	2 9	1 10	0 11
5	4	4 C	3 8	3 1	2 9	2 9	3 8	3 3	2 10	2 6	2 6	2 10	1 11	1 0
5	2	4 1	3 9	3 1	2 9	2 9	3 9	3 4	2 11	2 6	2 6	2 11	1 11	1 0
5	0	4 2	3 10	3 2	2 10	2 10	3 10	3 5	3 0	2 7	2 7	3 0	2 0	1 0
4	14	4 4	3 11	3 3	2 10	2 10	3 11	3 6	3 1	2 8	2 8	3 1	2 1	1 0
4	12	4 5	4 0	3 4	2 11	2 11	4 0	3 7	3 2	2 9	2 9	3 2	2 1	1 1
4	10	4 6	4 1	3 6	3 0	3 0	4 1	3 8	3 3	2 10	2 10	3 3	2 2	1 1
4	8	4 8	4 3	3 7	3 1	3 1	4 3	3 9	3 4	2 10	2 10	3 4	2 3	1 1
4	6	4 10	4 4	3 8	3 2	3 2	4 4	3 10	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 6	2 4	1 2
4	4	5 0	4 6	3 8	3 4	3 4	4 6	4 0	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 6	2 4	1 2
4	2	5 2	4 8	3 10	3 4	3 4	4 8	4 2	3 8	3 2	3 2	3 8	2 6	1 2
4	0	5 4	4 10	4 0	3 6	3 6	4 10	4 4	3 10	3 4	3 4	3 10	2 6	1 4

* The figures in this line divided by 15 will give the wages shown in the next line, i.e., the wages payable when grain is selling at 15 sers the rupee.

APPENDIX F.

HINTS for the Management of KITCHENS.

(Taken from the Bengal Famine Code.)

[Vide SECTION 122, CHAPTER IX.]

1. *Materials to be used in construction of Kitchens, &c.*—The outer and partition walls of kitchens should be built of mud or any suitable form of fencing which may be stiff enough to prevent egress and ingress. A ditch should be dug round the whole enclosure so as to prevent superficial drainage into the enclosure and to carry it off from the interior, for which purposes small open drains can be

made leading into it from the enclosures; the floors of the eating sheds should be raised above the surrounding surface to ensure proper supervision.

2. *Maximum Number of Children in one Kitchen.*—The number of inmates relieved at any one kitchen should not exceed 300.

3. *Children's Tickets.*—Every person on first admission to a kitchen shall be furnished with a tin ticket, on which are to be stamped the number of the kitchen, the number borne by the child in the kitchen register, and the letter M, with the number of its mess.

4. *Loss of Tickets.*—These tickets must be worn suspended from the inmate's neck when it presents itself for admission at meal time. To check careless loss of tickets, an inmate should be punished for loss of its ticket by withholding one issue of condiment, soup, or sugar. Lost tickets must be replaced by the circle inspector, and in case of removal of an inmate from the kitchen register, the ticket should be returned into store and given by the Superintendent to his Circle Inspector, who shall retain it, a ticket should never be re-issued to any but the original holder.

Example.—If No. 5 has been removed, and at the time of admission there are 50 on the register, the next person admitted shall be numbered 51. The object of this rule is to ascertain the total number of the inmates who obtain relief in a kitchen.

5. *Eating Utensils.*—Utensils sufficiently large to contain the ration prescribed for the mess to which an inmate is attached will be furnished to each person on admission to a kitchen; they are not to be removed from the kitchen premises. A stout basket should be provided for each mess, in which its utensils should be kept when not required for use.

6. *Classification of Children into Messes.*—To facilitate the issue of the cooked rations, the inmates of each section may be classified into messes according to their ages. The following plan has been found to work well: divide the inmates into castes; allot to each caste a separate feeding space marked by a suitable flag—white, blue, red, or green, &c. All members of a mess will receive the same ration. There should be four messes for children:—

- M. 1.—Consisting of children from 9 to 12 years of age.
- M. 2.—Consisting of children from 6 to 9 years of age.
- M. 3.—Consisting of children from 3 to 6 years of age.
- M. 4.—Consisting of children under 3 years of age.

NOTE.—Children of the fourth mess are often unable to feed themselves; such children are usually in the charge of some bigger child; the issue of rations to such children should be deferred until the elder child has finished its meal; it will then receive the ration of the little child in its charge and feed it under the special observation of the mess cook. In the very rare cases of such a child having only an adult relation to feed it, the same course can be pursued, with this difference that the admission as well as feeding of the child will be deferred till all the other children have left the enclosure, and it will be fed under the personal supervision of the gumashta.

7. *Admission of Inmates for Meals.*—There should be two meals, morning and afternoon. Half an hour before meal time the Superintendent shall commence to call the attendance register, in the form appended to these rules. As soon as an inmate's name is called, he should enter the enclosure and obtain from his mess cook his eating utensils, and then sit down in his usual place in the eating shed of his mess. Children of the 4th class who are unable to take care of themselves should be admitted along with the child in charge.

8. *Removal of Cooked Food prohibited.*—The removal of cooked food should be strictly forbidden.

9. *Permanent Establishment.*—The establishment shall be as follows for each kitchen containing 300 inmates:—

One superintendent. Two warders. Three water women.		Two cooks. Two scavengers.
---	--	-------------------------------

NOTE.—The number of cooks beyond the fixed minimum shall be increased in the ratio of one for every fifty or fraction of fifty inmates, up to the maximum of six for a kitchen. The members of each section shall, as far as possible, be equally divided amongst the cooks appointed to it, having regard to the retention of integrity of messes. One cook must not prepare food for a portion of a mess in addition to the mess or messes which are specially allotted to him. Otherwise, the rations of different messes are likely to get mixed up, and responsibility is not limited.

10. *Position and Duties of Superintendent.*—The Superintendent shall be under the immediate orders of the Inspector of the Circle in which the kitchen is situated. He shall obtain daily, on indent from an agent appointed for the purpose, the supplies required for his kitchen; one copy of the indent shall be left with the agent to be given upon payment of the articles indicated on it. The Superintendent shall personally weigh and distribute the raw rations for each mess; these issues shall be made twice daily. After the morning issue he shall place the remaining raw supplies under lock in the store room of the section for which they have been procured. After the issue of the raw rations he shall give out to each mess cook the eating utensils in use by his mess or messes, and after each meal he shall inspect the utensils to ascertain that they have been cleansed, and after he has seen them put into their respective baskets he shall lock them up in the store room. Half an hour before meal time he shall commence to call the roll or attendance register, and shall supervise the issue of the rations, and remain till the kitchen is closed. He shall submit weekly to the village Circle Inspector an abstract of his kitchen register, and shall be held responsible for the discipline of his kitchen, the carrying out of regulations, and the condition of the children.

11. *Duties of a Warder.*—Warders shall be appointed to each section of the kitchen; they shall maintain order among the inmates, and shall observe, as far as possible, the issue of the rations, and at once report to the Superintendent if they consider a short ration is issued. At the close of each meal

they shall carefully inspect each inmate as he goes out to see that neither cooked food nor utensils are removed; they shall also ascertain that the servants on leaving the kitchen do not take away any food or utensils belonging to the kitchen. One warder must always be on the premises of the kitchen to prevent unlawful egress or ingress; and the warders shall sleep in their respective sections every night.

12. *Duties of Cooks.*—The cooks shall carry the supplies required for their respective sections: they should be present one hour and a half before each meal to receive the raw rations and eating utensils of their respective messes, and shall cook and distribute the food. After each meal they shall collect and cleanse the eating utensils of their messes and replace them in the store room of their sections. As soon as this is done they shall leave the kitchen premises till again required to be present.

13. *Duty of Water Carriers.*—The water carriers shall thoroughly sweep out their respective sections; the rubbish they collect shall be deposited in a fixed place for their removal by scavengers. They shall also cleanse their sections after each meal; they shall supply the filters for drinking and culinary purposes and all water required in their respective sections during meal times, they shall move among the children ready to supply water to any child asking for it.

14. *Cooks and Water Carriers how to be chosen.*—The cooks and water carriers must be chosen with reference to caste requirements.

15. *Scavengers.*—It will be found necessary to daily cleanse the ground round the kitchen, and also to have the latrine areas cleaned after each meal, and the ordure removed and buried or burnt.

16. *Contingent charges.*—Under the head of "contingent charges" are included cost of firewood, cooking pots, small repairs to sheds, fences, &c. The simplest method of supplying firewood and pots will probably be to allow the Superintendent a fixed sum for each 50 children. The Superintendent shall keep an account of the expenditure under these heads.

17. *General Remarks. Inspection of Kitchens.*—Independently of official inspections, encouragement should be given to a few men of position and reputation and residents in the circle to visit these kitchens and to record their impressions in a book which should be kept by the Superintendent.

18. *Payment of Food Contractors.*—The agent at his option can either be paid locally in cash by the Circle Inspector or at the sadar or Sub-divisional Treasury, on presentation of his copy of indent, countersigned by the Circle Inspector.

Attendance Register of Children in Kitchen No. _____ Circle,
in Village of _____, for week ending _____

Number on Attendance Register..	Number on Kitchen Register.	To which Section admitted.	Number of Mess.	Name of Child	*1	†2	‡3	4	5	6	7	Remarks.

* Present one meal.

† Present two meals.

‡ Absent from both.

NOTE.—The same form of register should be kept up for infirm dependants on relief workers. In the heading of the register "Infirm dependants on relief workers" will be substituted for "Children," and "Name of dependant" for "Name of child" in column 5.

APPENDIX G.

LIST OF FORMS REFERRED TO IN THE CODE.

I.—Estimate of the number of persons for whom it is requisite that relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine.

IIA.—Programme of large relief works.

IIB.—Programme of small relief works.

III.—Progress return of a relief work.

IV.—Register of children relieved in State kitchens.

V.—Register of cattle and pasturage.

VI.—Weekly return showing the number of persons relieved and expenditure incurred in each poor-house.

VII.—Classification of people in poor-houses.

VIII.—Famine Statement A. to be submitted monthly to the Local Government and to the Government of India during famine.

IX.—Famine Statement B. to be submitted monthly to the Local Government and to the Government of India during famine.

X.—Famine Statement C. to be submitted annually to the Government of India.

XI.—Famine Statement D. to be submitted to the Government of India while relief works are open.

FORM I.

(Vide SECTION 14, CHAPTER I.)

Estimate of the Number of Persons for whom it is requisite that Relief Works should be provided in the event of serious Famine in the
for the year 189 .

Division

[To be submitted by Commissioner to the Chief Engineer on 15th April in each year.]

District.	Population.	Maximum Number of Persons for whom Relief may be required Daily in the event of serious Famine.	Number of Persons provided for by Relief Works daily for 90 Days.				Remarks. (A brief description, without details of the general character and utility of works under each head and of the prospects of their completion either within or soon after the period of scarcity should be given in this column.)
			Large Works.		Small Works.		
			Sanctioned.	Not sanctioned.	Works specially intended for the Relief of the Agricultural Population in the vicinity of their Villages.	Works which are not designed for the Relief of the Agricultural Population near their Homes, but are primarily part of the administrative Programme.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.

NOTE.—(a.) Entries in columns 4, 5, 6 and 7 should be based on calculations similar to that given in the following example:—

Example.—If a large work is estimated to provide labour for 12,000 men for nine months at the ordinary rate of progress, the estimate for purposes of column 4 or 5 will be 12,000.

If under pressure it can and is intended to be completed in six months, the estimate will be $\frac{2}{3} \times 12,000 = 18,000$.

If it can and is intended to be completed in three months, the estimate will be $\frac{3}{2} \times 12,000 = 36,000$.

- (b.) As it is desirable that in the event of serious famine those to whom relief is given should be concentrated as far as possible on large works, care should be taken that the entries in columns 4 and 5 are materially larger than those in columns 6 and 7.
- (c.) If through paucity of sanctioned works the number of persons entered in column 4 under the head of "Sanctioned works" is small in proportion to the total number for whom provision is made under other columns, measures should be taken to bring more large works under sanction as soon as possible, and information should be given in the column of Remarks to show what steps are being taken for the purpose.

FORM IIA.

(Vide SECTION 14, CHAPTER I.)

Programme of Large Relief Works in the

Division, for the year 189 .

[To be submitted by the Commissioner to the Chief Engineer on 15th April.]

District.	Serial Number of Work.	Name of Work.	Entries regarding sanctioned Works only will be made in Columns 4-9.			Entries regarding unsanctioned Works only will be made in Columns 7-9.			Remarks. (Here should be noted the progress, if any, made in the execution of sanctioned works.)
			Estimated Cost.		Number of Persons who can be employed daily for 90 Days.	Estimated Cost.		Number of Persons who can be employed daily for 90 Days.	
			Of whole Work.	Of portion available for Relief.		Of whole Work.	Of portion available for Relief.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
			Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		

NOTE.—(a) The totals of the district figures in columns 6 and 9 must agree with those in columns 4 and 5 of Form 1.
 (b.) This form, with Form IIA., should also be used for the supplementary programme mentioned in section 33
 (c) If through paucity of sanctioned works the number of persons entered in column 6 is small in proportion to the total number for whom provision is made under column 9 in this Form and columns 6 and 9 in Form IIA., measures should be taken to bring more works under sanction as soon as possible, and information should be given in column 10 as to the steps which are being taken.
 (d.) Columns 6 and 9 should be totalled for each district and for the division.

293350.

G B

K 11

FORM IIB.

(Vide SECTIONS 13 AND 14, CHAPTER I.)

Programme of Small Relief Works in the _____ Division, for the Year 189 .

[To be submitted by the Commissioner to the Chief Engineer on 15th April.]

District.	Serial Number of Work.	Name of Work.	Entries regarding Works falling under Section 65 (a) of the Famine Code will be made in Columns 4-6.			Entries regarding Works falling under Section 65 (b) of the Famine Code will be made in Columns 7-9.			Remarks.
			Estimated Cost—		Number of Persons who can be employed daily for 90 Days.	Estimated Cost— .		Number of Persons who can be employed daily for 90 Days.	
			Of whole Work.	Of portion available for Relief.		Of whole Work.	Of portion available for Relief.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
			Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		

NOTE.—(a) The totals of the district figures in columns 6 and 9 must agree with those in columns 6 and 7 in Form I.
 (b) This Form should also be used, with Form IIA, for the supplementary programme mentioned in section 33.
 (c) Columns 6 and 9 should be totalled for each district and for the division.

Day of Month.	Day of Week.	Amount disbursed as Wages (including Gratuitous Relief).												Total of other Items of Charge *			Grand Total paid.			
		Men.			Women.			Children.			Total.			29			30.			
23.	24.	25.			26.			27.			28.			29			30.			
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	
	Sunday																			
	Monday																			
	Tuesday																			
	Wednesday																			
	Thursday																			
	Friday																			
	Saturday																			
	Total of week																			

Remarks.—This work is likely to give employment to relief workers for days longer

Signature
Rank

Dated at the of 189
Officer in charge of the work.

NOTE.—For the week in which the month changes two sheets must be prepared, one for each period, the heading being corrected accordingly.
* Where daily expenditure on "other items" shown in column 29 exceeds Rs. 10 on any one day, it must be supported by separate sub-vouchers.

41X

FORM IV.

(Vide SECTION 121, CHAPTER IX).

Register of Children relieved in Kitchen No. _____

Circle, in Village _____

of _____

, since _____

Date and Number of Admission Ticket. 1.	Name and Designation of Officer issuing it. 2.	Date of Admission to Kitchen. 3.	Number in Kitchen Register. 4.	To what Section admitted. 5.	Age. 6.	Sex. 7.	Number of Mess. 8.	Name of Child. 9.	Name of Father or Mother or Relation heretofore supporting it. 10.	Village. 11.	Date of Removal from Register. 12.	Cause of Removal from Register. 13.

330

41X

NOTE.—The same form of register should be kept up for infirm dependants on relief workers. In the heading of the register "Infirm dependants on relief workers" should be substituted for "Children," and "Name of Infirm Dependant" for "Name of Child" in Column 9.

FORM V.

(Vide SECTION 133, CHAPTER XI.)

Register of Cattle and Pasturage in the

Division for 189 .

[To be submitted by Commissioner to the Local Government on 1st April of each year.]

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
District.	Approximate Number of Cattle depending on Pasture.	Particulars of Pasture Grounds ordinarily in use.	Particulars of Reserve Grounds belonging to the Government to which in Times of Drought Cattle can most conveniently be driven.	Remarks.

FORM VI.

(Vide SECTION 113, CHAPTER VIII.)

Statement showing Number of Persons relieved in each Poor-house in the

District, and Expenditure incurred during the Week ending the

189 .

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
Place at which Poor-house is open.	Number of Inmates at end of previous Week.	Admitted during the Week.	Discharged, died, or left during the Week.	Remaining at end of the Week.	Expenditure.			Expenditure in Column 8 how debited.		Amount earned by Inmates.	Remarks, with Detail of Expenditure on other Purposes.
					Food.	Other Purposes.	Total.	Debited to Municipal or Local Funds or Private Subscriptions.	Debited to Government Grant.		
					Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	

654

11412

N.B.—The return should embrace the periods ending 7th, 14th, 21st, and last day of the month.

FORM VII.

(Vide SECTION 113, CHAPTER VIII.)

Classification of People in Poor-houses in the District of

for the Month of

Occupation in life. 1.	Mussalmans.			Hindus.			Ordinary Residence. 8.	Remarks. 9.
	Men. 2.	Women. 3.	Children. 4.	Men. 5.	Women. 6.	Children. 7.		
1. Agriculturists							This district.	
Weavers								
Shoemakers								
Salt miners								
&c., &c.								
2. Agriculturists							Other districts.	
Weavers								
Shoemakers								
Salt miners								
&c., &c.								
Foreigners.							Foreign States.	
3. Agriculturists								
Weavers								
Shoemakers								
Salt miners								
&c., &c.							Gwahor.	

xlviii

Column 1 should show each kind of occupation in life.
 " 8 " " district or foreign state.

FORM VIII.

(Vide SECTION 28 AND RULE VI. OF APPENDIX C.)

[NOTE.—To be submitted to the Local Government direct by the Collector not later than the 7th of the month following that to which the information relates. Copy to be sent to the Commissioner of the Division for record in his office.]

Monthly Famine Statement A. for the weeks ending Saturday evening, the

[To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next month]

District.	Area.	Popula- tion in thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Popula- tion in thousands of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on last Day of Period under Report.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief	Price of one or more principal Food Grains in Sers per Rupee.			Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total		12	13.	14.	For the Period under Report.	For the corres- ponding Period of the previous Year.	
1.	2.	3	4.	5	6.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13.	14.	15.	16.	

NOTE 1.—Any observations that it may be necessary to make respecting the extent to which increase in mortality is due indirectly or directly to famine should be entered on the reverse of this statement.

NOTE 2.—If it is found that particulars under the heads "Monthly Death-rate" and "Deaths due to Starvation" cannot be obtained by the date fixed for the submission of the report, it should not be delayed on that account. The columns should be left blank, and a separate mortality statement should be submitted referring to the month previous to that dealt with in the statement.

NOTE 3.—The statement will relate to the period between the Saturday of the previous month and the last Saturday of the month under report.

NOTE 4.—Children and dependants who do no work should be shown under gratuitous relief in column 11. Those who do any work should be entered under Class D. in column 9.

NOTE 5.—This statement and Statement B should be accompanied by a single map, in which affected tracts should be approximately indicated by a blue colour in two shades—light blue signifying slightly affected, and dark blue seriously affected tracts. District Officers can obtain skeleton maps for this purpose from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Press.

Remarks to accompanying Famine Statement A. for month ending

[On this page should be recorded, very briefly, information as to private relief, village and poor-house relief, general character of relief works, physical condition of people, deaths (if any) from starvation, food stocks, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, and other matters which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following month.]

93830

H

XIX

FORM IX.

(Vide SECTION 28 AND RULE VI. OF APPENDIX C.)

[NOTE.—To be submitted to the Local Government direct by the Collector not later than the 7th of the month following that to which the information relates. Copy to be sent to the Commissioner of the Division for record in his office.]

Monthly Famine Statement B. for the weeks ending Saturday evening, the

[To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next month]

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Numbers for whom Relief was provided in last Programme of Relief Works.			Numbers for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.*		Expenditure since April 1st, 19 .			Advance since April 1st up to end of Month under—		Revenue Suspended.
		Date of Publication of Programme.	On Large Works.	Others.	On Large Works.	Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	Rupees, omitting thousands.		Land Improvement Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Rupees, omitting Thousands.
								On Relief Works. †	On Gratuitous Relief. †	Rupees, omitting Thousands. †	Rupees, omitting Thousands. †	
1	2	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.

* Some relief works will have been more or less exhausted since the last programme was published, and others will have been provided for entry in the programme next to be published. The net result should be shown in columns 6 and 7.

† The submission of the report should not be delayed in order that accounts of expenditure may be made up to date of report.

‡ The expenditure incurred in the previous financial year should be noted below—

(a.) On relief works	Rs.
(b.) On gratuitous relief	
(c.) Advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act	
(d.) " " Agriculturists' Loans Act	

NOTE.—(a.) The statement will relate to the period between the last Saturday of the previous month and the last Saturday of the month under report.

(b.) This statement and statement A. should be accompanied by a single map in which affected tracts should be approximately indicated by a blue colour in two shades—light blue signifying slightly affected and dark blue seriously affected tracts. District officers can obtain skeleton maps for this purpose from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Press.

FORM X.
(Vide RULE XIII. OF APPENDIX C.)

Famine Statement C.

[To be submitted to the Government of India not later than the 1st June of each year]

N.B.—Numbers to be shown in "thousands."

93350

District.	Population.	Maximum Number of Persons for whom Relief may be required daily in the event of serious Famine.	Number of Persons provided for by Relief Works on the Programme daily for Three Months.				Remarks. <small>(A brief description, without details, of the general character and utility of works under each head and of the prospects of their completion either within or soon after the period of scarcity should be given in this column).</small>
			Large Works.		Small Works.		
			Sanctioned.	Not Sanctioned.	For Relief of Agricultural Population in Neighbourhood of Villages.	Others.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.

11

11

- NOTE—(a.)** It is not necessary that the sub-division of "Small works" into columns 6 and 7 should be made, and if it is preferred, only the total under head of "Small works" need be given.
 Entries in columns 4, 5, 6, and 7 should be based on calculations similar to that given in the following example :—
- Example.—(b.)** If a large work is estimated to provide labour for 12,000 men for nine months at the ordinary rate of progress, the estimate for the purposes of column 4 or 5 will be 12,000.
 If under pressure it can and is intended to be completed in six months, the estimate will be $\frac{2}{3} \times 12,000 = 8,000$.
 If it can and is intended to be completed in three months, the estimate will be $\frac{1}{3} \times 12,000 = 4,000$.
- (c.)** As it is desirable that in the event of serious famine those to whom relief is given should be concentrated as far as possible on large works, care should be taken that the entries in columns 4 and 5 are materially larger than those in columns 6 and 7.
- (d.)** If through paucity of sanctioned works, the number of persons entered in column 4 under the head of "Sanctioned works" is small in proportion to the total number for whom provision is made under other columns, measures should be taken to bring more large works under sanction as soon as possible, and information should be given in the column of Remarks to show what steps are being taken for the purpose.

FORM XI.

(Vide RULE XIV. OF APPENDIX C)

Famine Statement D. (Supplementary to C.)

[To be submitted to the Government of India by 1st September, 1st December, 1st March, while relief works are open.]

N.B.—Numbers to be shown in “ thousands ”

District.	Maximum Number of Persons for whom Relief may be required daily in the event of serious Famine.	Number of Persons provided for by Relief Works on the Programme daily for Three Months.				Remarks.
		Large Works.		Small Works.		
		Sanctioned.	Not Sanctioned.	For Relief of Agricultural Population in Neighbourhood of Villages.	Others.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.

Note.—(a.) It is not necessary that the sub-division of “ Small works ” into columns 6 and 7 should be made, and if it is preferred, only the total under head of “ Small works ” need be given.

Entries in columns 4, 5, 6, and 7 should be based on calculations similar to that given in the following example :—

Example.—(b.) If a large work is estimated to provide labour for 12,000 men for nine months at the ordinary rate of progress, the estimate for the purposes of column 4 or 5 will be 12,000.

If under pressure it can and is intended to be completed in six months, the estimate will be $\frac{2}{3} \times 12,000 = 8,000$.

If it can and is intended to be completed in three months, the estimate will be $\frac{1}{3} \times 12,000 = 4,000$.

(c.) As it is desirable that in the event of serious famine those to whom relief is given should be concentrated as far as possible on large works, care should be taken that the entries in columns 4 and 5 are materially larger than those in columns 6 and 7.

(d.) If through paucity of sanctioned works, the number of persons entered in column 4 under the head of “ Sanctioned works ” is small in proportion to the total number for whom provision is made under other columns, measures should be taken to bring more large works under sanction as soon as possible, and information should be given in the column of Remarks to show what steps are being taken for the purpose.

INDEX TO FAMINE CODE.

[REVISED EDITION, 1895.]

Title.	Subject.	Section.
A.		
ACCOUNTS	Direct and indirect expenditure on famine relief, how recorded	173
"	No civil, under head "Famine relief" to be opened without sanction	172
"	Of relief works in charge of Public Works Department	177
"	Rules in regard to	161-78
ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL	To communicate allotments to Treasury Officers	163
"	To keep register of sanctions	166
ADDITIONAL STAFF	Employment of, owing to apprehension of imminent and serious scarcity.	25
ADOPTION	Children to be given for,	180
ADVANCES	Commissioner, Collector, &c., to be allowed permanent	168
"	How permanent, may be drawn	169
"	How permanent, may be accounted for	170
"	How to be regulated	178
"	To police to supply food in urgent cases	147
AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION	Director of Land Records and Agriculture to prepare a statement of the agricultural circumstances of each tract in the Provinces	11
AGRICULTURISTS' LOANS ACT	Impending distress to be met by advances under the	23
ALLOTMENTS	Communication of distribution of, to the Account office	162
"	Distribution of	161
"	Sub-division of district	164
"	Supplementary	165
APPENDICES	Detail of, to Code	—
"	List of forms referred to in the Code	—
APPLICANTS	Admission of, to works	78-80
ARTISANS	Relief to	127
ASSIGNMENT OF FUNDS	In anticipation of sanction	167
B.		
BLIND PERSONS	Entitled to gratuitous relief	54
BUDGET	Emergent, to be submitted by Chief Engineer	35
C.		
CAMPS	For relief workers	84
"	Residence of relief workers in, compulsory	86
CANAL-IRRIGATED DISTRICTS	Production of fodder in	141
CATTLE	Assignment of reserve pasture grounds	134
"	Mode of sending, to the reserves	135
"	People to be encouraged to send, to the reserves	137
"	Register of, and of pasturage to be maintained	133
"	Sale of fodder along routes to pasture grounds	138
"	Supply of water for, along routes to pasture grounds	139
CHIEF ENGINEER	Duties of, during famine	30-33
"	Duties of, in ordinary times	17
CHILDREN	Care of, of relief workers who are unable to work	99
"	Relief to, by allowance to relief workers	100
"	Relief to deserted	129
"	To be given for adoption	130
"	To be made over to an orphanage if unclaimed after three months	131
"	To be sent to nearest kitchen or relief work when abandoned by their parents or guardians.	121
CIRCLE OFFICER	Duties of, defined	44-45
"	Duties of, in regard to gratuitous relief	55
"	Equivalent to the term supervisor kánungo	43
"	To be supplied with money to meet urgent expenditure	46
CIRCLE ORGANISATION	Division of districts into relief circles	48
COLLECTOR	Duties of, during famine	27
"	Duties of, in ordinary times	5
"	Duties of, in regard to gratuitous relief	57
"	Duties of, when scarcity is imminent	21
"	Equivalent to the term district authority	1
COMMISSIONER	Duties of, during famine	29
"	Duties of, in ordinary times	12
"	Duties of, in respect of funds	161
"	Duties of, when scarcity is imminent	22
COMPLAINTS	Hearing of, made by relief workers	97
CONTRACT	Relief works not to be done by	68
CONTRACTOR	Appointment of, for grain	47-48
"	Payment to grain	50
"	To be indented on for grain	49
CORPSES	Disposal of, by police	148
CRIME	Special reports of, during scarcity	143
CRIPPLES	Entitled to gratuitous relief	54
CROP AND WEATHER REPORTS	To be submitted weekly to Government, and monthly to Director of Land Records and Agriculture.	6

Title.	Subject.	Section.
	D.	
DATA -	Upon which grain equivalents prescribed in section 107 have been calculated.	App. E. (1.)
DEAD BODIES -	Disposal of, by police	148
DEATHS -	To be reported by medical officers in civil charge of districts	155
" -	To be reported by police	143
DEFINITION -	Of a local area	1
DEPENDANTS -	Care of infirm	99
" -	Relief to, by allowance to relief workers	100
DIET -	Medical officer to regulate, for famine patients	151
" -	Regulation of rations	101-103
DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE -	Duties of, in ordinary times	8-11
DISPUTES -	Procedure in case of, between medical officer and officer in charge of relief work.	160
DISTRESS -	Existence of, to be ascertained by test works	24
" -	Relief of, by loans	23
DISTRICT AUTHORITY -	Equivalent to Collector	1
DISTRICT BOARDS -	Utilisation of, in prevention and relief of famine	53
" -	The first charge on relief works to fall on	26
	E.	
EARTHWORK -	Formula for calculating the amount of task in	73 & App. D.
EMERGENCY BUDGET -	Chief Engineer to submit	35
ESTABLISHMENTS -	Pay of extra, for relief operations to be a famine charge	176
" -	Strengthening of, owing to apprehension of imminent and serious scarcity.	25
ESTIMATE -	Form I, showing number of persons for whom relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine.	App. G. (1.)
" -	Of extra expenditure	161
" -	Of number of persons for whom employment may be required and can be found on relief works to be maintained by Collector and Commissioner, and to be revised annually.	13-14 & 16
EXPENDITURE -	Direct and indirect, on famine relief, how recorded	173
" -	Estimates of extra	161
" -	Incurred on relief works in Public Works Department	174
" -	On ordinary public works	175
" -	Weekly progress return to form the initial voucher for	38
	F.	
FAMINE RELIEF -	Civil account head, not to be opened without sanction	172
" -	Direct and indirect expenditure on, how recorded	173
FINES -	To be imposed for short work	98
FODDER -	Collector to report scarcity of	136
" -	Production of, in canal irrigated districts	141
" -	Sale of, along routes to pasture grounds	138
FOOD -	Advance to be made to police for supply of, in urgent cases	147
" -	Daily supply of cooked, to children and infirm dependants of relief workers	119
" -	Forest produce utilisable as human	142
" -	Market arrangements for supply of, at a relief work	95
" -	Supply of, for relief workers	94
FOREST PRODUCE -	Utilisable as human food	142
FORMS -	Attendance register of children in kitchens	App. F.
" -	Estimate of the number of persons for whom relief works should be provided in the event of serious famine.	App. G. (1.)
" -	Famine Statement A. to be submitted to Government of India during famine.	App. G. (VIII.)
" -	Famine Statement B. to be submitted to Government of India during famine	App. G. (IX.)
" -	Famine Statement C. to be submitted to the Government of India annually.	App. G. (X.)
" -	Famine Statement D. to be submitted to Government of India during famine.	App. G. (XI.)
" -	In which report where prices exceed the normal rate by 25 per cent. is to be submitted.	App. A.
" -	Programme of large and small relief works	App. G.
" -	Progress return of a relief work	(II. and IIa.)
" -	Ready reckoner for calculating the value of the wage by the grain equivalent	App. G. (III.)
" -	Register of cattle and pasturage	App. E. (2.)
" -	Register of children relieved in kitchens	App. G. (V.)
" -	Statement showing classification of people in poor-houses	App. G. (IV.)
" -	Statement showing number of people relieved in poor-houses	App. G. (VII.)
" -	Table upon which grain equivalents prescribed in section 107 have been calculated.	App. G. (VI.)
" -	Tables for calculating tasks and rates	App. E. (1.)
FORMULA -	For calculating tasks and rates	App. D.
FUNDS -	Assignment of, in anticipation of sanction	167
" -	Chief Engineer to arrange for redistribution of	81
" -	Procedure when, are insufficient	35

Title.	Subject.	Section.
G.		
GANGS	Relief workers to be formed into	74
GRAIN	Import of, when undertaken by Government	42
"	Police to protect all places where, is stored	145
"	Rates for conveyance of, by railways to be controlled by Government.	41
GRAIN CONTRACTORS	Appointment of	47-48
"	How to be paid for grain supplied	171
"	Payment to	50
"	To be indentured on for grain	49
GRAIN EQUIVALENT	Calculation of the wage by a	107
"	Definition of the term	106
"	Ready reckoner for calculating the value of the wage by a	App. E. (2.)
"	Scale of wages calculated on	108
"	Table showing data upon which, prescribed in section 107 have been calculated.	App E (1.)
GRATUITOUS RELIEF	Classes of persons entitled to	54
"	Duties of circle officer in regard to	45 & 55
"	Duties of collector in regard to	57
"	Form in which, to be given	56
"	Provision of funds for	55
"	Register of persons likely to require	54
"	Returns of expenditure on	55
H.		
HOSPITALS	To be attached to each poor-house	116
"	To be in charge of medical officer	159
"	To be inspected by medical officer	175
HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION HUTS	To be provided at every relief work	98
"	For relief workers	85
I.		
IDIOTS	Entitled to gratuitous relief	54
K.		
KITCHENS	Attendance register of children in	App. F.
"	Children abandoned by their parents or guardians, if unfit to work, to be sent to nearest.	121
"	Circle officer to aid in management of	44
"	Establishment of, with sleeping sheds	120
"	Hints for the management of	App. F.
"	Management of	122
"	Rations to be given in, to children and adult dependants of relief workers.	123
"	Register of children relieved in	App. G. (IV.)
"	Relief in, to children and infirm dependants of relief workers	119
L.		
LABOURERS	To be termed relief workers (See also "Relief Workers")	67
LARGE WORKS	Definition of	64
"	Supervision of	ib.
"	When to be opened	63
LOANS	How to be regulated	178
"	Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act	23
LOCAL AREA	Equivalent to the circle of a patwari	1.
LOCAL BOARDS	Unsatiation of, in prevention and relief of famine	53
LUNATICS	Entitled to gratuitous relief	54
M.		
MARKETS	Police to take extra precautions for protection of	145
MARKET ARRANGEMENTS	For supply of food to relief workers	95
MEDICAL OFFICERS	Duties of, in civil charge of districts	149-53
"	Or subordinates to be attached to poor-house or relief works	158
"	Procedure in case of dispute between, and officer in charge of relief works.	160
"	Special monthly reports to be submitted by, to Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals and an abstract to Local Government.	149-50
"	To have charge of hospital	159
"	To inform the collector of any defective arrangements of famine institutions.	156
"	To inspect relief workers and hospitals	157

Title.	Subject.	Section.
MEDICAL OFFICER'S— <i>cont.</i>	To regulate diet for famine patients	151
" "	To report cases of death, starvation, or illness due to starvation	155
" "	To report when staff is deficient	153
" "	To submit a general report on the operations of the Medical Department in connexion with famine relief.	154
" "	To supervise medical arrangement	152
MIGRANTS	Treatment of	52
N.		
NORMAL RATES	Report to be made when prices are in excess of, by 25 per cent. Schedule of	7 & App. A. App. A.
O.		
OFFICER IN CHARGE	Procedure in case of dispute between, of relief works and medical officer.	160
" "	Responsibilities of, of relief works	77 and 88
ORDINARY WORKS	Definition of	60
" "	Distinction between, and relief works	63
" "	Expenditure on	175
" "	What labourers to be employed on	69
ORPHANS	Relief to	129
ORPHANAGES	Children, if unclaimed after three months, to be made over to	131
" "	Establishment and management of temporary	129, 130
P.		
PASTURAGE	Register of cattle and of	133 & App. G. (V.)
PASTURE GROUNDS	Assignment of reserve	134
PASTURE RESERVES	To be under the Forest Officers	140
PATWARI	Circle of, to be known as local area	1
" "	Duties of, in ordinary times	2
" "	Do. when scarcity is imminent	19
PAYMENT	Of contractors	50
" "	Of wages	87
PAYMENT BY RESULTS	Explanation of system of	70
PENALTIES	To be imposed for short work	93
PERMANENT ADVANCES	Commissioner, collector, &c., to be allowed	168
" "	How to be accounted for	170
" "	How to be drawn	169
POLICE	Disposal of dead bodies by	148
" "	Duties of	148-48
" "	Increase of force	146
" "	Supply of money to	147
" "	To indent for extra force if required	146
" "	To receive advance to supply food in urgent cases	147
" "	To submit special returns	143
" "	To take precautions to protect markets and places where grain is stored.	145
" "	To visit lanes and byeways	144
POOR-HOUSES	Circle officer to aid in management of	44
" "	Closing of	117
" "	Definition of poor-house	110
" "	Hospital to be attached to	116
" "	Medical officer or subordinate to be attached to	158
" "	Number of, which may be established, and returns to be submitted	113
" "	Persons to be admitted to	111
" "	Retention of inmates in	113
" "	Site of	115
" "	Statement of number of persons relieved in	App. G. (VI.)
" "	Statement showing classification of people in	App. G. (VII.)
" "	Suggestions for the construction, management, &c. of	App. B.
" "	Supervision of	114
PRICES	Form in which report to be made in cases where, exceed normal rates by 25 per cent.	App. A.
" "	Rise in, when 25 per cent. in excess of normal rates to be reported	7
" "	Report to be made when, are excessive	96
PROGRAMME	Chief engineer to maintain, of all works	17
" "	Forms II.A. and II.B. of large and small works	App. G. (II.A. & II.B.)
" "	Of relief works to be maintained by collector and commissioner, to be revised annually.	13, 14, & 16
" "	Supplementary, to be submitted when relief works have been opened	33
PROGRESS RETURN	To be prepared weekly by officer in charge of relief works	38
" "	Weekly, for a relief work	App. G. (III.)
PROJECTS	Chief engineer to see that for each work there is a project in such detail as is suitable to the class of the work.	17
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	Expenditure incurred on relief works in	174

Title.	Subject.	Section.
R.		
RAILWAYS	Government to control rates for conveyance of grain by	41
	Special rules for projects for	18
RATES	Formula for calculating tasks and	App. D.
	For conveyance of grain to be controlled by Government	41
RATIONS	Full ration	101
	Minimum ration	102
	Not to be given ordinarily to relief workers	104
	Penal ration	103
	To be given in kitchens to children and infirm dependants of relief workers.	123
READY RECKONER REGISTER	For calculating the value of the wage by a grain equivalent	App. E. (2.)
	Of admissions to kitchens	121
	Of cattle and pasturage	139
	Patwari to prepare, of persons requiring gratuitous relief	54
REGISTER OF SANCTIONS REGISTER KANUNGO-RELIEF	To be kept by Accountant-General	167
	Duties of, in ordinary times	3
	Arrangements to prevent abuse	125
	To artisans	127
	To orphans and deserted children	129
	To respectable men	126
	To respectable women	124
	To weavers	128
RELIEF CIRCLES	Division of districts into	48
	Equivalent to the circle of a supervisor kánungo	ib.
RELIEF IN GRAIN RELIEF WORKS	How grain contractors should be paid	171
	Accounts of, in charge of Public Works Department	177
	Admission of applicants to	78
	Allowance to applicants to, before commencing work	79
	Character and number of works to be opened at one time	34
	Chief engineer to determine what ordinary works shall be converted into.	31
	Chief engineer to maintain programme of all	17
	Children abandoned by their parents or guardians to be sent to	121
	Classification of, into large and small	63
	Collector to maintain programme of small works	13
	Collector to submit an estimate of persons for whom small works will provide employment.	ib.
	Commissioner to decide, in communication with collectors, Public Works Department, and Director of Land Records and Agriculture, the number of persons for whom relief works should be provided, and the programme of such works.	14
	Definition of	61
	Definition of large and small works	64-65
	Definition of persons employed on	66
	Distinction between, and "ordinary works"	62
	Expenditure incurred on, in Public Works Department	174
	Inspection of, by medical officers	157 & 159
	Medical officer or subordinate to, be attached to	158
	Necessity for sufficient number of sanctioned works	15
	Not to be done by contract	68
	Persons to be retained on	80
	Procedure in case of dispute between medical officer and officer in charge of.	160
	Progress return of	App. G. (III)
	Responsibilities of officer in charge of	77
	The first charge on, to fall on district boards	26
	Which can be opened by the collector	75
	Which should not be opened without Government sanction	76
	Camps for	84
	Care of infirm dependants of, and children who are unfit to work	99
	Classification of	66
	Drafting of, to large works	81-8
RELIEF WORKERS	Employment of	69
	Hearing of complaints made by	97
	Hospital accommodation for	98
	Huts for	85
	Inspection of, by medical officers	157 & 159
	Labourers to be termed	67
	No work allowed on Sunday	91
	Not to earn less than minimum wage	92
	Payment of wages to	87
	Payment to, to be made ordinarily in cash	104
	Relief of children and dependants by allowance to	100
	Residence of, in camp compulsory	86
	Supply of cooked food to children and infirm dependants of	119
	Supply of food for, and market arrangements	94-95
	To be formed into gangs	74
	To be inspected by medical officers	157
	Transfer of	83
	Transfer of, from one class to another	73
	Wages and rations to	101-3 & 108
REMISSIONS OF REVENUE REPORTS	Impending distress to be met by	23
	By officer in charge of relief works, to be submitted along with progress returns.	39-40
	Monthly, to be submitted by collector during famine	28
	On famine to be submitted to Government of India	App. C.
	On state of weather and crops to be submitted	6
	To collector by officer in charge of a relief work	37

Title.	Subject.	Section.
REST-HOUSES	Provision of, for wanderers	52
RESPECTABLE PAUPERS	Relief of	124-26
RETURNS	Estimate and programme of relief works to be submitted	13, 14, 17, & 33
"	Famine Statements A, B, C, and D. to be submitted to Government of India.	App. G. (VIII, IX, X, XI)
"	Monthly statements to be submitted when relief measures are undertaken.	28
"	Of cattle and pasturage	133
"	Of expenditure on gratuitous relief	58
"	Of poor-houses to be submitted	113
"	Of progress on relief works to form the initial voucher for the expenditure.	38
"	Report where prices exceed 25 per cent. of normal rates	7
"	Supplementary programme to be submitted when relief works have been opened.	33
S.		
SANCTIONS	Register of, to be kept by Accountant-General	166
SCARCITY	Test works to be opened in view of determining if there is scarcity	24
SLEEPING SHEDS	Establishment of, in connexion with kitchens	120
SMALL WORKS	Classification of	65
"	Execution of	13
"	Supervision of	64
"	Use of, in beginning of scarcity	63
"	When to be opened	76-76
STARVATION	Medical officers to report cases of, or illness due to	155
"	Police officers to report cases of	143
STARVING WANDERERS	To be supplied with food and to be sent on to the poor-house, &c.	51
SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER	Equivalent to the term "Tahsildar"	1
SUPERVISOR KANUNGO	Duties of, when scarcity is imminent	20
"	Equivalent to the term "Circle officer"	43
SUPPLIES	When Government will undertake, of grain	42
SUSPENSIONS OF REVENUE	Impending distress to be met by	23
T.		
TAHSILDAR	Duties of, in ordinary times	4
"	Equivalent to the term "Sub-divisional officer"	1
TASK	Definition of, or system of payment by results	70
"	Formula for calculating the amount of, in earth work	App. D.
"	Principles on which maximum, should be fixed	71
TEST WORKS	Opening of, for the purpose of determining if there is scarcity, or whether famine is imminent.	24
TOOLS	Chief engineer responsible for provision of	36
TRADE	Facilities to be given for the free action of private	42
TREES	Utilisation of, along routes cattle are sent to pasture grounds	138
W.		
WAGES	Alternative method of calculating	109
"	Calculation of the wage by a grain equivalent	107
"	Days for which payment of, to be made	90
"	Definition of maximum and minimum wage	105
"	For Sunday minimum wage to be paid	91
"	Officer in charge of relief works responsible that wages are paid	88
"	Payment of, to relief workers	87
"	Ready reckoner for calculating the value of, by the grain equivalents	App. E. (2.)
"	Relief worker not to earn less than the minimum wage	92
"	Scale of, calculated on grain equivalents	108
"	To be paid as a rule in cash	89
WANDERERS	Duties of patwari in regard to	51
"	Police to search for and assist	144
"	Reports regarding	143
"	Rest-houses for	52
"	When, may be interfered with	ib.
WATER	Supply of, along routes cattle are sent to pasture grounds	139
WEAVERS	Relief to	129
WOMEN	Rations for	101-103
"	Relief of respectable	124-125
"	Wages for	108
WORKS	Chief Engineer to determine what ordinary, shall be converted into relief works	31
"	Chief Engineer to determine what, should be carried out at ordinary rates.	32
"	Classification of, into "ordinary" and "relief"	50
"	Definition of large and small works	64-65
"	Distinction between "ordinary" and "relief"	62
"	Drafting of relief workers to large	81
"	Information about large	82
"	No work to be allowed on Sundays	91
"	Which can be opened by the Collector	75
"	Which cannot be opened without Government sanction	76

FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

~~R 1245~~

FURTHER PAPERS

S 972

REGARDING

THE FAMINE AND RELIEF
OPERATIONS

2

IN

I N D I A

DURING THE YEARS 1896-97.

(IN CONTINUATION OF [C. 8302].)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., and
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or
JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, and
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., LIMITED, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1897.

Price 2s. 3d.

Y:4353:67.2.M97

C7.

LIST OF PAPERS.

	Page
Telegrams between the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, from the 11th January 1897 down to 15th March 1897 - - - - -	1
Reports and correspondence from Central Provinces, from 26th October 1896 to 12th February 1897 -	10
Reports and correspondence from North-Western Provinces and Oudh, from 26th October 1896 to 20th January 1897 - - - - -	156
Reports and correspondence from Bengal, from 10th December 1896 to 20th January 1897 - -	181
Report by the Punjab Government, dated 22nd December 1896 - - - - -	213
Reports from Burma, from 11th December 1896 to 15th January 1897 - - - - -	216
Reports from Madras, dated 12th December 1896 and 14th January 1897 - - - - -	232
Report and correspondence from Bombay, from 21st December 1896 to 23rd January 1897 - -	240
Table showing numbers on relief in successive weeks, from 31st October 1896 down to 15th March 1897	273

FAMINE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

FURTHER PAPERS

REGARDING

THE FAMINE AND THE RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA

TELEGRAMS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE VICEROY.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 11, 1897.

Famine. Jubbulpore Division latest vital statistics show very high mortality. Ask Commissioner, Central Provinces, for explanation by telegraph, and ascertain if mortality is on the decrease, and if relief operations in that province are equal to strain upon them.

From VICEROY.

January 15, 1897.

Your telegram of 11th. Famine. Jubbulpore mortality. Chief Commissioner explains abnormally high death rate largely due in spring and summer to epidemic cholera, and in later rains and autumn to generally unhealthy season, short crops, and high prices following previous bad harvests. Figures show mortality decreased in October, and still further in November; figures for December not yet ready. Arrangements for the relief of distress now quite adequate, and being steadily expanded according to necessity. I am examining the facts, and I understand that rest works and poorhouses were kept continuously open and relief arrangements expanded directly numbers indicated necessity, but first approach of severe distress told suddenly and seriously upon population already enfeebled by several bad harvests in succession. It has been ascertained that mortality rates per 1,000 for September, October, November, respectively, for division are 84, 75, and 55. Decrease common to all districts. Now on relief works 94,500, number on gratuitous relief 12,300, ordinary public works 28,000; total 134,000 for division.

From VICEROY.

January 14, 1897.

Crowded and influential public meeting, at which I presided, was held here to-day for the purpose of starting organisation for receipt and distribution of money subscribed by public for famine relief. Speakers included Chief Justice of Bengal, Bishop of Calcutta, Maharaja of Dharbhanga, Sayani, President of Indian National Congress, Playfair, President of Chamber of Commerce, Goethals, Roman Catholic Archbishop, and others. Resolutions unanimously passed adopting objects and organisation suggested by Government, and nominating large General Committee, under chairmanship of Chief Justice, representing all provinces, races, creeds, and interests. General Committee will meet to-morrow to appoint Executive Committee, which will begin work at once. Subscriptions amounting to 1,30,000 rupees promised at the meeting. Contributions may be sent to Bank of Bengal, or to Colonel Ottley, Secretary of Committee.

From VICEROY.

January 16, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week in affected districts:—About one inch from Peshawar to Lahore, where sowings still possible in northern districts; half-inch in Bilaspur, Central Provinces; one-third inch in Bikanir; few light showers elsewhere. Condition of crops prospects fair so far as sown, continues fair to good in Central Provinces.

Punjab, Behar, North-West Provinces and Oudh, except Bundelkand districts, where acute famine is now inevitable. Bombay now reports as very seriously affected, Sholapur, Bijapur; as seriously affected generally, Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Nasik, Khandesh; and as seriously affected in parts only, Belgaum and Dharwar. In North-West Provinces and Oudh famine now recognised in 16 districts, while 20 more receive relief. Necessity for relief will arise shortly in Berar. Prices have fallen very slightly in Madras, Bombay, Punjab, Burma. On relief:—Punjab 61,000, North-West Provinces and Oudh 663,000, Central India, 35,000, Rajputana 40,000, Bengal 162,000, Burma 30,000, Madras 27,000, Bombay 168,000, Central Provinces 146,000; total 1,332,000. Figures for North-West Provinces and Oudh incomplete.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

January 21, 1897.

Famine. Your telegram of 16th January. Please telegraph names of additional seven famine districts in North-West Provinces beyond the nine shown in North-West Provinces famine monthly statement of 28th November.

From VICEROY.

January 22, 1897.

Your telegram 21st January. Additional famine-affected districts in North-West Provinces are Agra, Etawah, Cawnpur, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Unao, Barabanki.

From VICEROY.

January 22, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week in affected tracts from one to three inches in Punjab, except the Delhi Division; few light showers elsewhere. Condition of standing crops fair to good in Central Provinces, Behar, and North-West Provinces, except in Bundelkhand districts; in affected districts of Bombay crops are suffering from want of rain. Prices have fallen slightly in Northern Punjab, stationary elsewhere. On relief:—Punjab 70,000, North-West Provinces 795,000, Central India 42,000, Rajputana 28,000, Bengal 278,000, Burma 30,000, Madras 29,000, Bombay 265,000, Central Provinces 211,000; total 1,750,000. In Bombay apparent increase due in part to omission of non-working children in former reports.

From VICEROY.

January 29, 1897.

Famine. Rain during week and since in affected parts:—General in North-West Provinces and Oudh, one-quarter inch to one inch in Punjab, light showers in Delhi Division, heavier elsewhere; in Central Provinces, Berars, Central India, one-half inch upwards in many places in Bengal, one-quarter inch in Champaran; showers also in North Behar. No rain in Bombay or Madras. Spring crops much improved; in Upper India, on restricted areas sown, crops promise well; also fair to good in Central Provinces, Behar, Rajputana, Bhopal, Hyderabad. Prices slightly lower than at date of last report. On relief:—Punjab 83,000, North-West Provinces 1,024,000, Central India 41,000, Rajputana 20,000, Bengal 318,000, Burma 32,000, Madras 34,000, Bombay 292,000, Central Provinces 242,000; total 2,026,000.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

(Paraphrase.)

February 3, 1897.

Grain supply. What is your latest information? Is it sufficient for any probable emergency, and can it be distributed in time? If you are not satisfied on this point, what do you propose to do?

From VICEROY.

(Paraphrase.)
 Grain supply. Latest information generally satisfactory. Prices are generally firm, and the fall which has already begun in the North-West Provinces and Punjab, together with the fact that visible supplies are sufficient for daily requirements throughout India, are good signs. In the Punjab it is reported that prices are 15 to 20 per cent. cheaper than at beginning of December. If failure of stocks were anticipated prices would rise. In North India and Hindustan spring crops are promising and should make considerable addition to existing supplies. Whether existing stocks are sufficient for any probable emergency cannot be answered quantitatively, but I see no reason to doubt that the policy laid down in your Despatch, No. 10, of 15th June—that food demand is better and more effectively supplied by trade as a whole than by Government—is correct. In these circumstances we do not propose to intervene to encourage imports by sea. As regards internal supplies, we consider trade capable of timely distribution of food stocks in most places, and no difficulty is anticipated by any Local Government, except by Government of Bengal, in regard to isolated areas in North-East Behar. That Government has been permitted, in case of emergency, to take special measures to aid private trade. Such cases will, we anticipate, be rare.

February 6, 1897.

From VICEROY.

Famine. Rain during past week in affected tracts :—About one inch in Bundelkhand districts of North-West Provinces, and showers elsewhere; over one inch in Hessar, and about one-quarter inch in Central Punjab and in parts of Central India Agency; scattered showers in Central Provinces, Madras, Bengal, Bombay. Crops promise well in Punjab, North-West Provinces. Prices show a tendency to fall. Numbers on relief increased in North-West Provinces by the recent rains, reducing demand for labour in the fields for irrigation. On relief :—Madras 42,000, Bombay 327,000, Bengal 339,000, North-West Provinces 1,254,000, Punjab 97,000, Central Provinces 280,000, Burma 33,000, Central India Agency 69,000, Rajputana 25,000; total 2,467,000.

February 5, 1897

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Raipur. Please telegraph latest report as to condition of district and of relief measures; also latest current prices of food, and stock in Central Provinces.

February 8, 1897.

From VICEROY.

Your telegram of to-day. Raipur. Relief works three, relief workers 7,700, poor-houses four, with 700 inmates, persons receiving gratuitous relief, 680. We have not received lately any special information regarding district, but weekly crop report describes spring crops as good. Necessary advances are being given to landlords and tenants for land improvements, and in order to secure seed grain suited to district. Chief Commissioner has not expressed apprehension as to sufficiency of food stocks in Central Provinces. Prices not rising; Mandla $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee; Raipur $9\frac{1}{2}$; most districts, 10 upwards.

February 9, 1897.

From VICEROY.

Please inform Lord Mayor that 16 lakhs, first instalment of Mansion House Fund, received and handed to Central Committee, who desire to express deepest gratitude for prompt and munificent response in Great Britain to appeal on behalf of Indian sufferers.

February 10, 1897.

From VICEROY,

February 13, 1897.

My telegram of 6th February. In view of importance of Burma rice for supplementary Indian stock, have inquired from Chief Commissioner about trade prospects. He reports that not more than half-crop likely to be marketed by end of March. Report continues:—"Demand for placing outside India dull rather than otherwise at present. Causes, enormous crops in the far East, and absence of any abnormal demand from South American or European markets. View is that, after satisfying foreign and Upper Burma demands, about five lakhs of tons available for India. Up to the present time about 80,000 tons shipped for India, and tonnage engaged for 20,000 or 30,000 more. Shipments checked by (1) tight money market, (2) low prices in India, shippers having lost money on some recent shipments. General expectation is that prices will be lower next few weeks, but will be ultimately forced up by Indian demands."

From VICEROY.

February 13, 1897.

Famine. Monthly telegram. During week scattered showers only reported in affected tracts. Relief figures for each province given below. Areas and population approximate only. Character of distress varies from district to district. Madras, in 4 Madras (Central) has 33 relief works, 36,291 workers, 2,915 dependants, also 7,732 weavers employed in weaving; distressed area, 9,800 square miles; population, 1,440,000; one test work in Ganjam, with 1,225 relieved; affected area, 600 square miles; population, 245,000. Bombay, in 8 districts, has 114 works, 244,972 workers, 103,600 dependants, also 13,126 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 42,000 square miles; population, 6,710,000. Bengal has, in 7 districts, 177 works, 270,373 workers, 7,981 dependants, also 6 poor-houses, 628 inmates; gratuitously relieved, 89,658; distressed area, 9,600 square miles; population, 7,623,000; also 24 test works, 7,428 workers and dependants; affected area, 2,900 square miles; population, 1,784,000. Punjab has, in 8 districts, 22 works, 66,857 workers, 21,273 dependants, 3,470 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 9,600 square miles; population, 2,575,000; also, in 5 districts, 8 test works, 4,049 workers, 1 poor-house, 685 inmates; affected area, 1,000 square miles; population, 400,000. North-West Provinces and Oudh have, in 18 districts, 181 works, 827,136 workers, 192,169 dependants, 85 poor-houses, 42,466 inmates, also 193,532 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 38,400 square miles; population, 17,393,000; also, in 19 districts, 102 test works, 95,981 workers, 11,003 dependants, 52 poor-houses, 16,246 inmates, 26,003 gratuitously relieved; affected area, 20,100 square miles; population, 11,031,000. Central Provinces have, in 16 districts, 52 works, 251,796 workers, 17,376 dependants, 31 poor-houses, 16,421 inmates, also 31,020 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 23,300 square miles; population, 2,632,000. Burma has, in 2 districts, 5 works, 26,524 workers, 5,379 dependants, also 533 gratuitously relieved; distressed area, 3,900 square miles; population, 326,000; also three small test works in two other districts; affected area, 200 square miles; population, 31,000. Berar has, in one district, five works, 2,152 workers; distressed area, 1,500 square miles; population, 40,000. Including Native States, numbers on relief are 2,750,000. Situation little changed since January telegram as regards the extent and severity of the distress. Increasing numbers on relief indicate gradual exhaustion of resources, extension and improvement of relief system, increasing acquaintance with and readiness to resort to it. Increase will continue in North-West Provinces and Oudh till March, may temporarily decrease during harvest time, but will rise again in May and June. The same as regards Central Provinces. Much depends on course of prices. Prices show a tendency to fall, as fair crops are expected in portions of North-West Provinces and Oudh and Punjab. In Punjab distress is confined now to three or four districts in Deccan; no improvement possible till monsoon. In Central Provinces character of spring harvest uncertain, but yield must be poor. Throughout Bengal, effect of poor winter rice harvest is widespread, but knowledge of Burma surplus keeps down prices, and distress is not appearing in North Behar rice tracts as rapidly as was anticipated. In all provinces relief arrangements reported adequate and working well. Inquiry being made sufficiency as to Madras famine wage. Health of people and of relief workers generally good to fair in Central Provinces, where relief measures have greatly expanded. Cases of

extreme famine emaciation small in proportion to numbers relieved, and occur chiefly in poor-houses situated in districts where people did not come in time for help. Classes on works are mostly low-caste labourers and petty cultivators. In villages and towns home relief given largely to women and children of better classes. Provincial and local committees of Indian famine fund are now at work specially distributing blankets and clothing in poor-houses and relief camps. Committee for North-West Provinces and Oudh estimates minimum requirements at 20 lakhs, and other provinces proportionally. Relief fund will do great good. Food supplies are generally reported adequate, and no province has experienced serious difficulty. Wheat and barley are being sold for April delivery in Punjab at prices below present rates.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

February 10, 1897.

With reference to questions in Parliament, please telegraph total deaths in Central Provinces for the year 1895 and year 1896 as soon as statistics are ready, giving remarks as to excess in latter year.

From VICEROY.

February 20, 1897.

Your telegram of 10th February. Mortality in Central Provinces. Total deaths 349,137 in 1895, and 468,469 in 1896. Deaths from cholera 37,479 in excess over 1895; deaths from fever 59,342; diarrhoea and dysentery 9,566; from other causes 11,842; small-pox 1,103. Local Sanitary Commissioner reports year exceptionally unhealthy, and high prices, unwholesome food, privations, have weakened general vitality of population. As evidence of unhealthy season, October death-rate at Jhansi and Hamirpur under unchallenged relief was same as in Jubbulpore Division, namely 7·5.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

February 19, 1897.

Telegram from Consul-General, San Francisco. Local Indian Famine Committee offers gifts of grain, to be shipped free to India by United States Government. If you concur, I propose to accept and express your gratitude, also, in reply to question, to say that it will be conveyed on Indian railways at the expense of Government. I presume Central Committee will undertake distribution. Please telegraph as soon as possible.

From VICEROY.

February 22, 1897

Your telegram of 19th February. I concur regarding acceptance gift of grain from United States Government, and your proposed reply. Under the circumstances, Central Committee will doubtless undertake distribution, but they advised me on recent inquiry from Governor General of Canada that they prefer money to grain.

From VICEROY.

February 19, 1897.

Famine. Rain during past week in affected tracts:—In Punjab, fair to good rain in south-east and south; rain beneficial to crops and fodder in Bengal and Behar; good general rainfall in many districts, also beneficial scattered showers in other provinces. On relief:—Madras 55,000, Bombay 358,000, Bengal 435,000, North-West Provinces and Oudh 1,529,000, Punjab 109,000, Central Provinces 307,000, Burma 29,000, Berar 5,000, Central India Native States 95,000, Rajputana 2,000; total 2,948,000. Numbers increasing in Champaran, Darbhanga, and Rewah State, where relief works have been opened on a large scale. No marked movements in prices.

From VICEROY.

February 26, 1897.

Famine. Moderate and useful rain in south-west and eastern Bengal, central and south Madras, and parts of Bombay Deccan. Heavy useful rain in Orissa, Ganjam, Bilaspur. No rain elsewhere in Central Provinces. No rain in Behar, upper or northern India, but high winds and increasing heat not good for crops. Markets sensitive there, and prices slightly higher. Harvest prospects still good in Punjab, North-West Provinces, Behar; fair in Central Provinces. Death-rate low throughout affected tracts, except Central Provinces, and lower there than in November. Bad outbreak of cholera on Rewah relief works. On relief:—Madras, 59,000; Bombay, 412,000; Bengal, 411,000; North-West Provinces, 1,621,000; Punjab, 118,000; Central Provinces, 324,000; Burma, 27,000; Berar, 10,000; Hyderabad, 2,000; Central India, 133,000; Rajputana, 19,000; total, 3,141,000.

From VICEROY.

March 3, 1897.

Your telegrams of 18th and 20th February. It has been ascertained from Local Governments that they could not employ any of the retired officers, civil and military, who have volunteered for famine relief work. We are of opinion that all the assistance required can be given from Services in India.

From VICEROY.

March 5, 1897.

Famine. Virtually no rain in affected tracts during week. Rain is wanted in Punjab for backward crops on unirrigated land. Both there and in North-west Provinces dry winds have done harm and made markets sensitive. Prices of staple grains much the same; range in Madras from 12½ to 14½ seers per rupee. North-west Provinces 9½ to 12, Bombay 9½ to 13½, Bengal and Punjab about 10, Central Provinces mostly 10, but 9 in Saugor and 8 in Balaghat. On relief:—Madras 66,000, Bombay 412,000, Bengal 410,000, North-west Provinces 1,654,000, Punjab 124,000, Central Provinces, 351,000, Burma 26,000, Berar 11,000, Hyderabad 4,000, Central India 137,000, Rajputana 19,000; total 3,216,000.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

March 9, 1897.

Famine. Lord Mayor's Fund. It would be very advantageous if you could telegraph some information as to what has been done with sums already transmitted, and how and to what extent operations could be extended if fund materially increased.

From VICEROY.

March 11, 1897.

Famine Fund. Your telegram of 9th March. Provincial Committees provisionally estimate minimum demands thus:—North-West Provinces and Oudh 40 lakhs, Bengal 28, Central Provinces 27, Punjab 11, Bombay 10, Madras 12, Burma 2; total 130 lakhs. Of this at least 50 lakhs are required for seed and cattle, half in April and half 1st June. See fourth object statement annexed to Despatch of 23rd December. Central Committee has already allotted 21 lakhs to Provincial Committees for urgent demands; makes further large distribution shortly. Provincial Committees are understood to be working on the lines defined by Government, but are being asked to report. Needs of Native States not yet known; enquiries being made, with a view to grants where necessary. With good monsoon, 140 lakhs should, Central Committee considers, meet all requirements.

From VICEROY.

March 15, 1897.

Famine. Monthly telegram. During past week rainfall unimportant. Relief figures for each province given below:—Madras in four districts has 43 relief works, with 56,564 workers and 3,750 dependants, also 8,052 weavers employed in weaving; distressed area 12,100 square miles, population 1,713,000; one test work in Ganjam with 1,770 workers; affected area 1,100 square miles, population 410,000. Bombay in eight districts has 110 works with 279,681 workers and 116,617 dependants, also 20,593 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 42,000 square miles, population 6,710,000; also one test work with 315 workers; affected area 1,600 square miles, population 353,000. Bengal has in 10 districts 307 works with 282,313 workers and 12,512 dependants, 17 poor-houses with 1,154 inmates, on gratuitous relief 150,527; distressed area 16,000 square miles, population 8,343,000; also 61 test works with 8,444 workers, and 4,744 on gratuitous relief in five districts; affected area 1,700 square miles, population 832,000. Punjab has in nine districts 80 works with 79,727 workers and 28,084 dependants, also three poor-houses with 1,031 inmates, on gratuitous relief 7,858; distressed area 12,400 square miles, population 2,963,000; also in three towns four test works with 530 workers. North-West Provinces and Oudh have in 19 districts 348 works with 931,318 workers and 225,168 dependants, 92 poor-houses with 34,556 inmates, besides 243,069 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 40,200 square miles, population 18,127,000; also in 18 districts 285 test works with 58,191 workers and 6,499 dependants, and 53 poor houses with 10,492 inmates, besides 41,929 on gratuitous relief; affected area 17,600 square miles, population 9,854,000. Central Provinces have in 16 districts 104 works, with 244,633 workers and 30,472 dependants, 48 poor-houses with 16,682 inmates, also 44,182 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 49,500 square miles, population 6,036,000. Burma has in three districts one work, with 19,784 workers and 3,316 dependants, also 824 on gratuitous relief; distressed area 4,000 square miles, population 381,000; also in one district one test work; affected area 200 square miles, population 16,000. Berar has in three districts 16 works with 5,692 workers, no poor-houses or gratuitous relief; distressed area, 4,300 square miles, population 617,000; also in further affected area of 4,300 square miles, with 777,000 population, 10 test works with 12,475 workers. Including Native States, numbers on relief are $3\frac{1}{2}$ against $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions last month. During present week, however, numbers on works have decreased in North-West Provinces by 100,000, owing to harvest commencing, and minor decreases reported from same cause in Punjab, Central Provinces and Central India. In Bombay, Madras and Bengal numbers continue to rise. Prices continue high everywhere, the fall which last month seemed impending having been checked by fears about Upper India harvest, where high winds and drought have done damage. Fair to good outturn, however, is still expected. Burma rice is being imported in good quantities by trade; is found in village bazaars in Behar and North-West Provinces and on relief works. Food supplies reported generally adequate, though in remoter parts of Central Provinces possible shortness of stocks and failure of local trade to import are apprehended. Chief Commissioner is devising suitable measures. Our weekly returns of inter-district traffic show free movement of grain throughout the country. Relief arrangements have been extended and improved when necessary, and capable of ready expansion. Additional staff given to Local Governments and Political Officers in Native States. Over 60 Engineer officers and subordinates, and 20 officers on the Staff at the headquarters of the Army, drafted from military employment. Two medical commissioned officers given to Central Provinces, and three to North-West Provinces. Five additional civil officers given to Central Provinces and Bombay by transfer from Punjab, Madras, Burma. In Native States large relief works are now open in Rewah, and in northern districts of Gwalior Maharaja Scindia making special efforts to make relief effective. Smaller relief measures in progress in Bundelkhand States under advice of Political Officers. In Hyderabad serious scarcity is expected in south western districts adjoining Bombay and Madras; relief measures being arranged. Condition of people is reported poor in Berar, though mortality to the end of January normal; in Central Provinces fair to good, excepting parts of Damoh, Balaghat, Raipur, Balaspur, Hoshangabad, where people coming on relief works are feeble, and in poor-houses where some cases of emaciation occur; in North-West Provinces good or fair, excepting isolated parts of Jhansi, Jalaun, Hardoi districts; in Bombay, Madras, Punjab, Bengal, and Burma good, mortality and sickness being normal. The

State payments to workers and in gratuitous relief exceed two lakhs a day. The immediate outlook is not unfavourable, though the strain on the administration is serious. The system of relief adopted is proving equal to the present emergency, and, as far as can be foreseen, will so continue. The attitude of all classes is exemplary; the people are genuinely grateful for the relief given.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

No. 8160. Dated Jubbulpore, October 26, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq, I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION, to the SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that, on the receipt of your letter, No. C—378, dated the 1st October, calling for an early general report on the agricultural prospects of each district of this Division, I asked all the Deputy Commissioners of the Division to send me in such a report, if possible, by the 12th instant.

2. I have only received replies as yet from the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Seoni. Copies of their reports,* as noted below, are submitted herewith. I also submit a copy of my letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore (No. 8123, dated the 24th instant), containing some observations on his report.

3. Considerable distress already exists in the Jubbulpore district, and the autumn harvest is a poor one in the eight circles mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner. These are the eight circles in which suspensions of revenue were granted this year. Four of these are in the Murwara Tahsil and comprise the whole of that tahsil, two are in the Sehora, and two in the Jubbulpore Tahsil. It is expected that a large portion of the rabi area will remain unsown, and I am of opinion that we shall have to deal with severe scarcity over the greater part of this district. The scarcity will last until the next autumn crops are reaped, unless rain falls immediately so as to permit of the rabi area being sown.

4. In Saugor the kodo crop is very poor, but juari and rice are estimated to yield an 8-anna crop all round, so that the people have something to live upon at present. Rabi prospects are exceedingly gloomy, and a large area will remain unsown unless there is an early fall of rain. If there is not, there will be severe scarcity in this district also before long.

5. In Seoni, kodo has failed on high-lying lands, and the rice growing tracts have suffered from the untimely cessation of rain. The rabi crop will be short unless rain falls soon. The Deputy Commissioner apprehends distress in a large portion of the Lakhnadon tahsil and in the rice growing tracts of Ugli and Barghat. The information on which I have to base an opinion is meagre, but I think that there must soon be much distress in the Lakhnadon tahsil, which may deepen into severe scarcity a few months hence.

6. I have just returned from holding sessions at Mandla. Kodo and rice in high-lying lands have failed extensively, and there is now distress in the hilly tracts which will, in my opinion, rapidly develop into scarcity. The scarcity will widen and increase in intensity unless rain falls soon and permits of larger sowings of the rabi area.

(1) No. 8268, dated the 21st October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Jubbulpore, with copy of enclosure.
 (2) No. 2880, dated the 14th October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Saugor, with two lists of possible relief works.
 (3) No. 2825, dated the 13th October 1896, from the Deputy Commissioner, Seoni.

7. As already stated, I have not yet received a report from the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh, but the condition of this district will probably be much the same as that of the affected parts of Jubbulpore, except that there may be an 8-anna crop of juari as in Saugor.

8. On the whole, prospects in the division, generally, are very unfavourable, and I consider that extensive measures of relief will be necessary. I cannot report on these in detail until I have consulted with the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh, and Mandla, and the Executive Engineer. I have asked the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor, Damoh, and Mandla to come into Jubbulpore on the 2nd November to confer on the steps to be taken. I have not called in the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni, as Mr. Maw, who should have taken charge of the district by this time, is a junior officer who has no knowledge of the district, and it seems useless to call him in. I recommend, however, that in order to meet the apprehended distress in the Lakhnadon Tahsil, the Executive Engineer, Plateau Division, should be instructed (1) to complete the road from Lakhnadon to Kahani, the earthwork of which was taken up this year, and (2) to take up the section from Kahani to Ghansore. The work might be done (for the present at least) on ordinary contract terms, and I would recommend that it be put in hand at once; employment being given to all who apply for it.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner.

No. 8268, dated the 21st October 1896.

From A. C. DUFF, Esq., I.C.S., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE,
to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Secretariat letter, No. C. 378, dated the 1st October 1896, forwarded under your endorsement, No. 7525, dated 3rd October, and to report, in reply, as follows:--

2. The evil from which we are suffering being want of moisture in the soil, difficulty and distress will be experienced in the eight* circles in which the bulk of the crop is grown on unembanked lands. In the other five† circles where there is a large preponderance of embanked land the kharif will be a fair one, and there will be little difficulty about rabi sowings.

3. I had before the receipt of these instructions deputed my superintendent of land records to make a rapid tour through these eight circles and to report the state of affairs and the prospects in each of them. After personal inspection on the spot, I beg to annex to this letter a copy of the reports which he has now sent in.

4. It will be seen that it is not anticipated that pressure will be severely felt before the 1st of December. In this opinion all my Tahsildars concur, and I myself accept it as correct. I think we should be prepared to start our relief works by that date.

5. The area most affected will be the Murwara Tahsil. There is very little embanked land here, and the people depend very largely on the kodo and kutki crops of the kharif harvest. These, as you are aware, were very unsatisfactory last year, and the reports show that they will be no better this year.

There is never much rabi cultivation in this tahsil, and when the rains come to a premature termination, as in 1895 and again in 1896, there is hardly any. I visited Murwara the other day and drew up, with the Tahsildar, a list of works for this tahsil. I beg to enclose a copy. Of these, No. 2 and No. 3 should be carried out by the Public Works Department, and the other works should be done under tahsil supervision—on which point I shall have something to say further on.

° Kundum	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Bargi	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Umaria	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Bohriband	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Bilheri	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Barhi	-	-	-	} Murwara Tahsil.
Bijeragogah	-	-	-	} Murwara Tahsil.
Barwara	-	-	-	} Murwara Tahsil.

† Patan	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Panagar	-	-	-	} Jubbulpore Tahsil.
Shahpura	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Majholi	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.
Majhgawan	-	-	-	} Sehora Tahsil.

3. Outside the Murwara Tahsil with its four circles there are four others too, *i.e.*, Umaria and Bobriband in the Sehora Tahsil and Bargi and Kundum in the Jubbulpore Tahsil, where distress will be felt and help will be necessary. I beg to enclose two lists showing the works which I propose to open in these tahsils. Details are not given of proposed expenditure on each work, as I am anxious not to delay further this report, which is already overdue.

7. A question of great importance is how are all these works to be properly supervised so as to ensure the money being used for the relief of starving people. One officer or official of some standing should be placed in charge of the works going on in each tahsil, at all events—I think there ought to be two for the Murwara Tahsil—and each individual work must be supervised by some competent subordinate. The pressure of court work at head-quarters is so great that it is most difficult to set apart the services of even one assistant for the supervision of relief works, and the Tahsildars and Naibs cannot be in all parts of their tahsils at once, and at the same time carry on their current duties. At the same time it is imperatively necessary to ensure that the money expended by Government is not misspent and diverted into channels for which it is not intended. Would it not be possible, at so exceptional a time as this, to suspend the normal duties of the land record staff and to use the Patwaris, wherever works were started in their circles, as supervisors under the control of their revenue inspectors, and to employ both the superintendent and assistant superintendent of land records as superintending officers? If the principle were sanctioned, a scheme could easily be drawn out.

Relief Works proposed for the Jubbulpore Tahsil.

- A. For Kundum.—(1) Improving the Baghraj tank (which will be useful for irrigation purposes also);
 (2) Opening the Khamaria-Baghraji road for earth and muram work;*
 (3) Improving the Padaria tank (much used by people on the Kundum road, and by cattle);
 (4) Also improving the Barela; and
 (5) Padwar tanks.
- B. For Bargi.—(1) Finishing the Bargi-Kutkahi road, earthwork for a part of which was done in May and June last. Muram can also be collected and spread over this;
 (2) Opening Barela-Bargi road (earthwork only);
 (3) Improving the village road from Chargawan *via* Gangai-Bijori to Ghansore.
- Shahpura Circle.—(4) Earthwork from Shahpura to Mirganj.

List of Relief Works proposed for the Sihora Tahsil.

Number.	Name of Village.	Particulars.	Remarks.
1	Dharsani - -	Repairing the road from Darshani to Katangi <i>via</i> Majholi.	To be done by Public Works Department.
2	Khitola - -	Collecting muram on the Khitola-Silondi road, and spreading gitti worth about 1,500 rupees, already collected.	
3	Umaria - -	Repairing Umaria Sleemenabad road.	This tank dries up in hot weather.
4	Ditto - -	Deepening the tank at Umaria - - - - -	
5	Paharwa - -	Deepening the tank at mauza Paharwa, near Kham-tara.	
6	Bakal - -	Deepening the tank close to encamping ground at mauza Bakal.	
7	Dhanwali - -	Deepening the tank at Dhanwahi, which lies between the villages of Majholi and Indrana.	This tank dries up in hot weather.
8	Dhakarwara - -	Deepening the tank at Dhakarwara, which is near mauza Majgawan.	

* This to be done by Public Works Department.

LIST of Relief Works proposed for the Murwara Tahsil.

Number.	Name of Work.	Miles.	Estimated Amount of Expenditure.	Remarks.
1	Katcha road from Bhartala to Bilehri.	15	Rs. 1,500	In this part of the district the crops are very bad. Though railway work is going on, yet the inhabitants of this tahsil derive little benefit, inasmuch as the said department does not employ such men as are weak and old, and therefore it will be necessary to open relief work here.
2	Pakka (Class II.) road from Bilehri to Jhinhri up to the Mirzapur road.	5	1,500	Ditto - - ditto.
3	Pakka (Class II.) road from Piprod on the Mirzapur road to Newar Railway Station.	4	1,200	The traffic will thrive by this road, and the poor maintained.
4	Katcha road from Newar to Deori-Hatai.	9	900	Necessary for the maintenance of the poor of this part of the tahsil.
5	Katcha road from Deori-Hatai to Barmorad.	7	700	Ditto - - ditto.
6	Katcha road from Barwara to Bhursa.	10	1,000	Ditto - - ditto.
7	Katcha road from Bhursa to Wilayat.	8	800	As on No. 6.
8	Katcha road from Bathi to Gair-Talai.	7	700	Ditto.
9	Katcha road from Gair-Talai to Kari-Talai.	12	800	Ditto.
10	Katcha road from Jakohi to Bijeragogarh.	14	1,400	The people of this part mostly live on daily labour. The road for about four miles lies within the Uchhera State, and the arrangement for this portion should therefore be made by that State.
	Total - - -	91	10,500	

A STATEMENT in brief showing the Out-turn of the Kharif Crops and the Condition of the People.

UMARIA CIRCLE.

It consists one-third of Haveli and two-thirds of hilly tracts. The kharif crops over the former are good, and in the latter unsatisfactory.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Rice.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	2	fair	2	6	fair.

Rabi Sowing.—Half of the land will not be sown, especially tagar and dofasli land.

Condition of the People.—Fair. Labouring classes of people will find work for about three months in the adjoining villages, where there is good embanked land. But after this period they will also be in a position to require help from Government; as compared with the other seven hilly circles, this circle is by far the best in respect of the condition of people and crops.

BARGI CIRCLE.

In this circle there are 120 villages in the Haveli and 145 hilly. In the Haveli the prospects are fair, and in the hilly portion very unsatisfactory. The all-round out-turn of the kharif crop can be estimated to be about six annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Rice.	Cotton.	Til.	Juar.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	2	7	10	6	fair.

Rabi Sowing.—About six annas of the land will not be sown with any crop this year.

Condition of the People.—The condition of the middle classes of people is fair. But the labourers and inferior kind of tenants located in the hilly tract are in great trouble, and therefore relief works may be opened after two months. At present the invalid and incapacitated people are in great difficulty and trouble about finding their daily food.

BELEHRI CIRCLE.

This is a kharif-growing tract. It has materially suffered for want of rains in September. The all-round out-turn will be about six annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Rice.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	Nil	fair	Nil	6	8

Rabi Sowing.—A greater portion of this land, especially tagar and dofasli land, will be left unsown.

Condition of the People.—The poor-house at Murwara maintains some people, whilst a railway line gives work to all who stand in need of it. No new relief work is required to be opened in this circle. But the railway authority should be impressed that the people of this portion are properly given work.

BIJERAGOGARH CIRCLE.

This is a hilly tract consisting of inferior kind of soil.

The principal crops are rice, kodo and kutki, which have suffered much for want of rain. The all-round average out-turn is estimated to be six annas.

Kharif.

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.	Cotton.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	6	Nil	16	2	10

Rabi Sowing.—About six annas out of the land reserved for the rabi crop will be sown, the rest will not be sown on account of the hardness of the soil, as in this a greater portion of the land is tagar.

Condition of the People.—The condition of the people, especially of the labourers and of the lower kinds of tenants, is not satisfactory. For about two months they can with difficulty maintain themselves. Relief works after that period need be opened in this circle.

BARHI CIRCLE.

This is also a kharif-growing circle.

It rained slightly throughout the circle in the month of September, with, however, very little advantage to the crops. The all-round out-turn can be estimated to be about six annas.

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	6	Nil	10	3

Rabi Sowing.—About 10 annas of the land will not be sown with the rabi crop this year.

Condition of the People.—The condition of the poor classes of people is not satisfactory. After two months they should be provided with relief work. The people who are in bad health find it very difficult to maintain themselves.

BARWARA CIRCLE.

This circle was sown with kharif crops as usual. But the rains in the month of September did not do any good to the crops, which are drying up for want of rain. The all-round out-turn is six annas.

	Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	Juar.	Til.
Out-turn in annas - - -	6	5	Nil.	12	2

Rabi Sowing.—About half the area will not be sown this year for want of moisture in the tagar land.

Condition of the People.—Harvesting and sowing operations will give food to the labourers and poor tenants for about two months; after that period some kind of relief-work should be opened. It is imperative that the blind and the weak persons should be maintained.

BOHRIBAN CIRCLE.

This is a rice-growing circle. There was no rain in September. The kharif crops suffered much. The average out-turn can be estimated to be about five annas for the whole circle.

	Kodo.	Rice.	Kutki.	Til.	Juar.
Out-turn in annas - - -	5	5	Nil.	fair.	8

Rabi Sowing.—A greater portion of the tagar land and almost all the dofalsi land will become fallow this year. Out of the whole area under the rabi crop only six annas will be sown.

Condition of the People.—The middle class of people will be able to maintain themselves independently of any aid from the Government, but the poorer and the labouring classes will stand in need of such help after six weeks. The worn out people at the present date stand in need of succour.

KUNDUM CIRCLE.

This is the most hilly circle in the district, and last of all in point of produce. The kharif is the principal crop grown there, which has considerably suffered in consequence of there having been no rains late in September. The all-round average out-turn is estimated at 5 annas.

	Kodo.	Kutki.	Til.	Juar.	Re.
Out-turn in annas - - -	5	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	5

Rabi Sowing.—One fourth of the land allotted for this crop will be sown this year. The remaining three-fourths cannot be sown on account of the hardness of the soil.

Condition of the People.—It is very miserable. The people have already commenced eating the roots and fruits of plants in this circle. Some kind of work should be opened after six weeks.

No. 2880. Dated Saugor, October 14, 1896.

From COLONEL T. W. HOGG, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAUGOR, to the
COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

I have the honour to reply to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Second Secretary to Chief Commissioner's letter No. C-378 of 1st instant, received under your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd idem.

Para. 1. *Agricultural Prospects of the District.*—The monsoon began timely, and the rainfall continued favourable till the end of August, except to the til crop, the sowing of which was impeded to some extent. The area under juar has expanded by about 35 per cent. over that of last year. Cotton has also approximately increased by 15 per cent., and the areas under til, kodon and rice have similarly extended by about 5 per cent.

The reason of the continued expansion of the kharif area is to be found in the difficulty for the provision of rabi seed-grain, and in the desire to obtain an early sowing.

The cessation of the rains from the beginning of September has been more less fatal to all these crops. The following table will show the estimated out-turn of each of these crops in each Revenue Inspector's circle in the district:—

Circles.	Juar.	Til.	Kodon.	Rice.	Cotton.	Remarks.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Naraoli - -	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 3 0	0 9 0	0 10 0	Some rain fell in September in the west portion of the circle. Ditto - north portion - ditto.
Karrapur - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	
Surkhi - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	No rain since the 28th August.
Rahutgarh - -	0 8 0	0 10 0	0 4 0	0 9 0	0 12 0	
Garhola - -	0 6 0	0 11 0	0 3 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	
Etawa - -	0 6 0	0 10 0	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 10 0	September rains in a few villages of Kanja pargana No rain since 28th August
Barodia - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	
Deori - -	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 9 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	Rain in about 50 villages around Deori in September
Garhakota - -	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	Rain in a few villages near Garhakota.
Gourjhamar - -	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 11 0	Rain near Gourjhamar.
Binaika - -	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 6 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	Rain in a few villages near Banda in September.
Ruawan - -	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 12 0	Rain in a few villages near Dalpatpur and Shahgarh in September.

The outturn of juari and rice is expected to be eight annas. The til and cotton crops are likely to yield a little more than half, but kodo has fared worst, and its out-turn can only be estimated at five annas at the most on the whole.

Some showers fell in September in about 50 villages around Deori, and in a few villages near Garhakota and Gourjhamar, in the north portion of the Karrapur circle, west of Naraoli; in a few villages in the Etawah circle, and a few near Banda, Dalputpur and Shahgarh in the Banda tahsil. This is the reason of the variation in the outturn estimates. I apprehend that distress is likely to occur in the Khurai tahsil, in the southern part of the Karrapur, and the east of the Naraoli circles, also in the Rahatgarh and Surkhi circles, and in the remaining portions of the Banda and Rehli tahsils. The sowing of grain has been started in some places, but the plants will not be destined to live long if the present drought is prolonged much later. Large areas still remain untilled, though there is still hope that if it rains in the current month, the rabi prospects will revive considerably.

Measures for Relief.—Scarcity is general throughout the district. I append two statements giving a list of relief-works which can be taken in hand at any time it is thought desirable to start such works. The roads have been selected after consultation with the Tahsildars and the Sub-Divisional Officer.

Your demi-official, dated the 6th idem, has also been borne in mind.

The Public Works Department roads are substantial, and will afford labour for a long period.

The tahsil roads are petty works, and will afford relief to a large number for short periods.

These roads are not confined to any one part of a tahsil, but are so distributed as to afford relief to all parts of it.

Para. 2. *Crop Experiments.*—Mr. Moss-King, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Jageshwar Rao, Extra-Assistant Commissioner, have been deputed to conduct a substantial number of crop experiments in rice, juari, kodo and other kharif staples. This will be reported later on.

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS.

Abstract of Proposals.

	Rs.
Saugor-Rahatgarh road - - - - -	* 47,000
Saugor-Jhansi road - - - - -	* 9,119
Saugor-Cawnpore road (metal collection) - -	* 7,000
Rehli road - - - - -	† 17,000
Kimlasa-Malthone road - - - - -	* 27,000
Deepening Teora tank, say - - - - -	3,000
Moondra to Rahatgarh - - - - -	† 14,400
Khurai to Kimlasa - - - - -	5,000
Feeder-roads, Khurai tahsil - - - - -	† 27,600
Saugor-Cawnpore road, Banda tahsil - - -	13,000
Garhakota to Rehli - - - - -	* 7,200
Metalling Garhakota to Patharia (Damoh border)	* 7,000
Gourjhamar to Rehli - - - - -	† 15,600

India Midland Railway.

Saugor-Katni Railway feeders, say to two stations in Saugor district and five miles long, at 1,200 per mile - - - - -	† 12,000
Saugor-Kareli road - - - - -	* 15,000
Total - - - - -	2,26,919

Roads marked * can be begun as soon as orders are received, but all the others will require from a fortnight to two months for preparation of plans and estimates. Those marked † are roads to be surveyed.

LIST OF RELIEF-WORKS PROPOSED IN SAUGOR DISTRICT.

Saugor Tahsil—

- Roads (1) Saugor to Rehli *via* Dhana and Baroda, 24 miles.
- (2) Saugor to Jaisinghnagar and thence to Rahatgarh, 39 miles.
- (3) Saugor to Sihora-Rahatgarh and up to border of Bophal State, 25 miles.
- (4) Saugor to Bilera and thence to Jaisinghnagar, 22 miles.
- (5) From Barodia-Naonagar to Rahatgarh *via* Jhella, 10 miles.

Khurai Tahsil—

- Roads (1) Khurai to Etawah, 15 miles.
- (2) Khurai to Khimlassa, 12 miles.
- (3) Deepening of tank (Teora) on the Khimlassa road.
- (4) Khurai-Jhansi road from Bandri up to Karangarh, 29 miles.
- (5) Khurai to Rahatgarh *via* Barodia Naonagar, 12 miles.

Banda Tahsil—

- Roads (1) From Bandri to Barodia, 15 miles.
- (2) From Banda to Bara, 15 miles.
- (3) Banda to Binaika, 9 miles.

Rehli, Tahsil--

- Roads (1) Garhakota to Rehli, 10 miles.
 (2) Rehli to Deori, 21 miles.
 (3) Rehli *viâ* Baheria to Gourjhamar, 13 miles.
 (4) Rehli to the boundary of Rehli tahsil, 10 miles.

Village tracks--

- (1) Garhakota to Baleh, nine miles.
 (2) Burpani to Baleh, six miles.
 (3) Baleh to Chirari, thence to Mohli *viâ* Burpani, Pipla, Singhpur, Baroda to Mahrajpur.

This will relieve all the people in distress of the hilly tracts on the extreme south of this tahsil.

- (4) From Deori *viâ* Mehka, Sahajpur, Bankori, Tanda, and thence to Nanhi-Deori.
 (5) Naharmow, Kachhni-Jailpur to Gourjhamar.

This will relieve the western boundary people of this tahsil.
 The works on the roads will relieve people in the centre of the tahsil.

No. 2825, dated the 13th October, 1896.

From F. L. J. WILLIAMSON, Esq., I. C. S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SEONI, to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

Your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd current.

In answer to No. C-378, dated the 1st October 1896, from R. H. Craddock, Esq., I. C. S., Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces, I have the honour to state that I have made arrangements for crop experiments being made as soon as the crops are ready.

The kodo sown on high-lying lands has dried up and the seed has not formed, the kodo sown on the black soil will be ready in about three weeks.

The rice and the juari crop requires from three weeks to a month to mature.

The early crops—kutki, soma and makka—yielded good outturns. These had already been reaped before the orders came. These crops form about six per cent. of the kharif of the district.

Unless rain falls, the distress will, I think, be heaviest at Dhooma, Kedarpor, Adeygaon, in the Lakhnadon, and in the rice-growing tracts of Ugli and Burghat in the Seoni tahsil.

If rain does not fall, relief works will be found necessary. The Lakhnadon-Kahni road might be continued to Gunsore. This would give work to the Dhooma-Kedarpor people.

There is still work to be done on the Keolari section of the Mandla road, which would relieve the Ugli and Burghat pargana.

Very little rain has fallen in September; reports have come in of slight rain in the south-west corner by Choori, and in the south-east corner around Aru.

No. 8123. Dated Jubbulpore, October 24, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I. C. S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your No. 8268, dated the 21st instant, reporting on the agricultural prospects, &c., of your district.

2. I shall take an early opportunity of discussing matters with you personally. Meanwhile I would make the following observations :—

- (1.) The report of your Superintendent of Land Records appears to me to indicate that the existing poorhouses are insufficient, and that new centres for gratuitous relief should be opened without delay at Bargi, Barhi, Barwara, Bohriban, and Kundam.
- (2.) I do not think it would do to employ the land record staff in supervising relief works, for it seems clear that they will have to be employed in the duties which devolve on them under the Famine Code. We must, I think, establish before long a system of village inspection, so that the infirms may be looked after. I do not wish to order the preparation of the village register of poor under Article 34 of the Famine Code before it is necessary, but I fear it will become necessary before long. For the present I would open additional centres for gratuitous relief, as suggested in paragraph (1), to which the needy from surrounding villages can be taken.
- (3.) I am disposed to think that the Chief Commissioner should be asked to appoint (a) an additional Assistant Commissioner or selected Extra Assistant Commissioner to the district, who would be in special charge of relief operations under your orders; and (b) an additional tahsildar to each tahsil to supervise the relief operations on the tahsil; some additional naib-tahsildars may also be required to be in immediate charge of relief works, but their number will depend on the distribution of these works between the Public Works Department and the district authorities; and
- (4.) The cost of proposed works in the Murwara tahsil is 10,500 rupees. This will not, I fear, go very far. Prices are high, and with grain at 9 seers the minimum wage for an adult male under the Famine Code is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas. Assuming that the daily wage for 10 relief workers is 1 rupee, and that 3,000 relief labourers are employed in the Murwara tahsil, the daily cost would be 300 rupees, and the monthly cost 9,000 rupees. I do not suppose that 3,000 labourers is an over-estimate of the numbers likely to require employment, say, in January, though it may not be so large at first. I would ask you to consider whether there are any tank projects which might be taken up in this tahsil.

No. 8310. Dated Jubbulpore, October 30, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,
to the SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL
PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 8610, dated the 26th instant, I have now the honour to submit copies of the reports* of the Deputy Commissioners of Mandla and Damoh on the agricultural prospects of their districts.

2. The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Mandla is a full one, and I need not add to the remarks made in regard to this district in paragraph 6 of my previous letter.

3. The Damoh report gives a more favourable account, as regards the Damoh tahsil at any rate, than that hazarded in paragraph 7 of my previous letter. Prospects in the Hatta tahsil appear to be very gloomy.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner.

* No. 2439, dated the 26th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Mandla, with Enclosure No. 2860, dated the 26th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Damoh.

No. 2439. Dated Mandla, 26 October, 1896.

From SYED ALAY MOHAMED, Esq., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, MANDLA, to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd current, on the Second Secretary's No. C. 378, dated the 1st idem, I have the honour to make the following report of this district, and the remedial measures to meet the situation.

2. I may better add, *in limine*, that the report I am going to make depends solely on the general information received by myself and the subordinate district revenue officers, whom I had sent out to make a tour in different portions (*vide* my letter No. 2312, dated the 7th instant), and I cannot support it by statistics. As is known to you, no village papers are prepared in this district since 1888, the land record staff being wholly engaged in survey and ryotwari work. So I am rather handicapped, and am obliged to proceed on "*andazi*," though I assure you no effort has been spared to make that "*andazi*" as accurate as was practicable under the circumstances. So, even where I attempted to give area figures, they are mere approximate ones, and this fact should not be lost sight of in valuing them.

3. With this preface, I beg to state that prospects were very good indeed, and everybody expected a bumper crop till the first week of September, since when the almost complete cessation of rain (* with the exception of very good rains at Mandla Khas and its immediate neighbourhood, on the 21st September and thereabout) has blasted all hopes, the kharif has been irretrievably ruined, and the prospects of rabi are most gloomy. Of course there is a chance yet for the latter, and if rain comes even within the next three weeks the rabi prospects may much improve. But if no rain comes, and we have a dry November, I don't think that at best more than 33 per cent., or in annas five, and pies four, rabi area will be sown. Of course the outturn of this 33 per cent. will depend on the climatic character of December and following months. So, as far as rabi is concerned, I can't say more than I have said in the last sentence. Agriculturists, quite naturally and rightly, are in a very despondent mood, and their only hope lies in what the Government can do to mitigate the vigour of the impending very severe distress.

4. To take kharif, I have thought it advisable to illustrate our entire position, and the degree of the severity of the distress in each locality, by attaching to this report a plan of the district on a scale of 1" = to eight miles, and giving distinctive colour to the tracts similarly circumstanced.

Besides giving different colours, I have parcelled the district in five portions, approximately representing the five proposed revenue inspectors' circles in the district (I say proposed, because, as said already, revenue inspectors' circles have not yet been formally sanctioned, but I propose fixing these tentatively till I hear the result of my reference about strengthening the patwari and revenue instructors' staff), and I mark these portions A, B, C, D, and E.

5. The tracts in which the distress will be felt most, comprising A, C, and E circles, I colour dark blue. Unfortunately this covers in no way less than two-thirds area of the district, and, to make things worse, is the tract to which we look for two-thirds of our kharif; and to go down still lower, about three-fourths of kodo, and kutki, the staple food of the aborigines, of whom Mandla is a stronghold. It consists of three-fourths of the Mandla tahsil (Circles A and C) and one-half of Dindori (Circle E). This is the northern and southern part of the district.

6. The second portion, coloured light blue, is the easternmost tract, which runs like a wedge between Rewah on the north and east, and Bilaspur on the south. Here things, speaking comparatively, would not be so very bad as in the first group, *i.e.* to say, slightly better, as it has a greater proportion of rich soil. It is one-fourth of the total area of the district and wholly in Dindori (Circle D).

7. The third bit, consisting of not more than one-twelfth area of the district, coloured yellow, comprises the richest soil in Mandla. One-third of our total rabi area lies in this small tract, though it does not give us more than one-twelfth of our kharif produce.

* This was practically confined to the immediate neighbourhood of Mandla Khas, to a radius of about five miles round it. It benefited this portion, no doubt.

Here kharif is about five annas as a whole, but, considering the small proportion it bears to the total kharif area, it cannot avail much, not to mention that even in itself it is not good.

8. To show in statement form the extent of the failure of kharif in each of these three differently coloured groups, and the relative value of each of them as a kharif and rabi produce, I attach the following table:—

NAME OF DIVISION.	Proportion of the Total Area Covered.	Proportion of the Kharif Area in the Tract to the Total Kharif Area in the District.	Proportion of the Rabi Land in the Tract to the Total Rabi Area in the District.	Average Estimated Outturn of Principal Kharif Crops.			REMARKS.
				Rice.	Kodo.	Kutki.	
A, C, and E.		Acres.	Acres.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Lakhanpur Cheolia, Narayan Ganj, Mukas, Newas, Shahpur, Shakpura, Anjama, Ghogri Bichia, Chaparata, and Mawae side	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 249,064	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 76,654	0 4 0	0 1 0	—	I am sorry I cannot give the area under each crop in each of these groups
D.							
Bandor, Bajak, Karanjia and Baiga Reserve side.	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 93,399	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 25,551	0 4 0	0 4 0	—	
B.							
Baja, Boria, Subbaria-Pindras, and Niwari side	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ or 31,133	$\frac{2}{3}$ or 51,113	0 6 0	0 5 0	0 3 0	
TOTAL		373,596	153,318				

This shows that kutki has been almost completely annihilated throughout the district. It is sown in the latter part of August, and since then rains have practically ceased altogether. Of the total kharif area, this crop covers about one-eighth, or two annas.

Kodo, the most important kharif crop, the mainstay of the aborigines, yields only one, four, and five annas respectively in the three differently coloured groups, which means it is one anna only in the portion covering two-thirds of the district. Kodo in a normal year occupies almost half the kharif area. Its proportion to the entire kharif area is estimated at seven annas. The portions in which it is estimated four and five annas comprise only one-third of the district.

Rice, which forms about four annas (one-fourth) of the kharif, is expected to yield four, four, and six annas respectively in the three differently coloured groups. The remaining kharif portion is taken up by other unimportant crops.

9. The total population of the district is 339,373, of whom 245,022 are those whose staple foods are kodo and kutki, and so the extent of their distress can well be imagined, more especially when the yields of the past three years have been very unsatisfactory, and they have nothing whatever left to fall back upon.

The prospects are therefore very distressing, and if what we are going to have (of course supposing it does not rain within the next two or three weeks) cannot be called a famine, certainly we are face to face to something quite next door to it in at least two-thirds of the district.

10. This is the state of things as I find it. In this state of affairs I propose to help those who want work by opening road-construction work, as well as trying to arrange for digging as many tanks as I can.

The roads which I propose will be (1) from Tikiara to Shahpura, a length of about 54 miles, which, if made a III.B, will cost about Rs. 1,08,000, calculating at the rate of Rs. 2,000 a mile, the rate given in the road scheme. This will pass through the very heart of the northern portion (A and E) of the seriously distressed tract, and will afford sufficient employment for people of that part. This I propose should be done by the Public Works Department; (2) Bichia *via* Roghut-Bamni to Bajak, a distance of about 60 miles, and costing Rs. 1,20,000 at the above rate. This will traverse right through C, the southern portion of the seriously affected area, and pass on to portion to D (light blue), affording employment to people of these tracts. It is there that the Baiga colony is, and this will be specially useful for them. Thus it will serve portions C and D. Of course I would be glad to have this done, but if it cannot be done, I can manage it

with two naib-tahsildars and a professional overseer to guide them; but the Public Works Department must align the road and help the revenue officials by professional advice every now and then; (3 and 4) besides, I would like the Public Works Department work to go on the Dindori-Parli and Mandla-Seoni road. These are already in hand. Of these four roads only No. 2 is not on the district road scheme.

To illustrate the position of these four roads with reference to the affected tracts, as well as to others already existing, and proposed roads in the district, I attach a copy of the plan of the district attached to the road scheme. The roads on which I want to have work are shown in blue pencil.

Other lines are road scheme lines, and the references given on the map explain the different colours.

With these works in hand, I think sufficient employment will be available for those who want it, and every work-seeker will have work within a distance of at most 25 miles from his home.

11. Over and above this, tanks—about which necessary information is being collected—will afford employment in the different corners of the district.

12. Besides, we will have to establish not more than four poorhouses, say at Mandla, Piparia (midway between Tikaria and Shahpura), somewhere near Chapartala (on No. 2 road), and perhaps a small one at Bajag.

13. Forests will certainly have to be thrown open for all edible forest produce, and probably grazing, too, will have to be made free in most part of the district.

I am writing about these measures in rather general terms, as I think very detailed and absolutely final schemes are not wanted yet, and what is required for this report is a general outline.

14. This is also why I don't say anything about realisation, suspension, or remission of revenue or other Government dues relating to kharif and rabi, though we shall have to confront the question of realisation of kharif revenue about a couple of months hence.

No. 2860. Dated Damoh, October 26, 1896.

From L. A. G. CLARKE, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DAMOH,
to the COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

WITH reference to your endorsement No. 7525, dated the 3rd October 1896, to Chief Commissioner's letter No. C. 378, dated the 1st October 1896, I beg to submit the following report:—

The rainfall of the district up till nearly the end of August was good, and the crops were considered in a prosperous condition. A long break at the end of August and beginning of September did some damage. But rain, which fell between September 14th and 20th in parts of the district, mended matters to a certain extent. This rain fell in about 400 villages, which cover an area of about 1,25,000 acres. Out of the 400 villages, 250 are situated round the Damoh town within a distance of five miles towards north and east, and 12 or 13 miles towards south and west, 40 villages are towards Mala, 50 towards Tendukhera and Taradehi, 30 near Tejgarh, and a few more are here and there in the district. Besides these villages, about 150 villages lying in different localities got a slight rainfall, which was of no benefit to them. About 800 villages, which lie mostly in the Hatta tahsil, had no rain. In the Hatta tahsil there seems to have been hardly any rain.

2. As to the outturns of the crops, juar and rice are expected to be best. Juar and rice are estimated at 9 and 10 annas respectively. Kodo-kutki is estimated at 8 annas. Kodo-kutki, rice, mung, and urad have failed in about 400 villages, where the outturns of each crop is put at 4 annas, or less. Juar is thriving everywhere, except in villages on the Saugor border, where the soil is poor. Inferior crops such as samai, bajra, &c., which were reaped on September 15th, have yielded a full outturn. But, unfortunately, the cultivators have not been allowed to possess them in quietness, as some persons who were in distress have raided the fields at night, and stole grain. On the whole, in spite of the small rainfall of September, prospects for the kharif harvest are much better than they were last year.

I am enquiring as to where the 400 villages are where rice and kodo are said to have failed, and shall try to visit as many of these as I can. I should imagine that most of them will be in the Hatta tahsil.

I am sorry that this report has been so delayed. The reason is that no reports arrived from the revenue inspectors in the Hatta tahsil. I sent two reminders to them, but have heard nothing yet from them. I shall call on them for explanations as to why they have made this delay. I have obtained my information as to the state of the crops, &c., from the revenue inspectors of the Damo tahsil, and the patwaris, who came here a little while ago to make tracings of forest boundaries. The result is that my information about the prospects in the Hatta tahsil is small at present. I shall have reports sent in by the revenue inspectors there as quickly as possible. Next Thursday I am visiting Hatta, and will try to find out all I can there about the crops.

No. 4951 A. Dated Nagpur, December 11, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE JUBBULPORE DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to reply as follows to your letters, in which you review the agricultural prospects of the several districts of your division, and submit preliminary estimates of the amounts which will probably be required for the relief of distress before the 31st March next. Early in November the Chief Commissioner had an opportunity, when at Jubbulpore, of discussing the situation with you and some of the local officers, and he authorised you at that time to take whatever measures you might deem necessary for effectively dealing with the situation, and placed at your disposal, as a preliminary allotment for relief purposes, a sum of two lakhs of rupees. He has also from time to time sanctioned the several detailed proposals you have sent up for each district. The issue of general orders was, however, deferred, to allow of a complete scheme of larger relief works for your division to be prepared and sanctioned. This has now been done.

2. The distress which is anticipated in your division is mainly due to a very poor kharif harvest, following on two years of agricultural failure. In three districts—Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh—the rabi crops of the last three years have been very poor, and the kharif crops of last year were little better. A good deal of suffering resulted from these past failures, and various measures of relief have been found necessary, and carried out in the years 1894, 1895, and 1896. This suffering will be greatly intensified by the comparative failure of the present kharif crop, which is the main support of the poorer classes in all these districts. In Mandla, which is essentially a kharif district, the chief food of the poorer classes being kodi and kutki, the kharif crops of last year (1895-96) were poor, and the kodo crop of the current year has been an entire failure. The yield of rice has also been very scanty, and much of the late-sown rice was left standing, the out-turn not repaying the labour of cutting it.

Similarly, in Seoni, where last year's crops were bad, kodo has been in the present year an utter failure, and juar has yielded little or nothing except in the richer soils. In both these districts, especially in Mandla, the bulk of the population in the affected tracts are, even in ordinary times, very poor, and have no resources to fall back upon. As soon as their scanty autumn harvests are consumed there must be widespread distress among them, and this will continue and extend until the early crops of the next monsoon season are reaped. As regards the prospects of the coming rabi crops, the recent rain has improved prospects in all districts except Saugor, where the area sown has been very greatly restricted, and where the rain was very partial and scanty. In the other four districts, not only were the seedlings benefited, but further sowings were rendered possible, and these are, it is reported, still being carried on in the Mandla district. Even, however, in the event of a good rabi harvest, the situation in the affected tracts will not be materially affected. The population of these areas is, as has been already observed, chiefly dependent on the autumn crops, and the chief benefit to them of a good rabi out-turn will be the resulting cheapening in price of food grains. This is, no doubt, a considerable benefit; but to take advantage even of cheaper prices there must be money to pay for what is wanted, and as the autumn crops have yielded no

surplus, money will not be available. To meet these circumstances relief works on a large scale will be necessary, and the numbers for which work will have to be provided will increase as the season goes on. These works will have to be supplemented by gratuitous relief, and the Chief Commissioner, as at present advised, is of opinion that it is only by the exercise of great care and method in the present earlier stages of distress that you and your officers will be able to deal successfully with the much larger relief operations which will have to be carried out in the spring and summer months of the coming year.

3. I am now to deal with the situation in each district, and to discuss the measures which have been proposed in each case to meet the anticipated distress. In Jubbulpore the parts of the district which are most seriously affected by the present scarcity are the Murwara tahsil in the north, parts of the Sehora tahsil in the east, and the tracts of hill and forest country lying along the Seoni and Mandla borders to the south. Rice here has yielded from four to six annas, and kodo and kutki from three to seven. There is already a good deal of suffering in these areas, and this will increase with each succeeding month.

As regards the provision of labour, a scheme of road work has been drawn up by the chief engineer, in consultation with yourself and the Deputy Commissioner, which will give work in all the tracts likely to be affected. The proposed expenditure on these roads up to the 31st March 1897 is 99,600 rupees, but neither in this nor in the other districts of your division should you consider that you are limited to this expenditure, if the subsequent development of events should show that the numbers in want of work are greater than the scheme provides for. The greater part of these works will consist in the collection of road metal, and efforts should be made to concentrate work, so far as this may be possible, without taking people too far from their homes. This will enable you to make supervision much more effective.

Regarding local works, you have not yet submitted detailed proposals. The Chief Commissioner understands that there is some scope for tank work in the large rice area of this district, although he has been informed by the Deputy Commissioner that most of the irrigable land has already been provided with a water supply. He is prepared to grant takavi loans to any malguzars who are willing to do such work. If they are unwilling to take such loans, the works might be carried out from famine funds. The whole question of local works needs your early and careful consideration, and you should also consider whether forest roads might not be constructed in the wilder parts of the district and utilised as famine works. A beginning in this direction has, as Mr. Lyall is aware, already been made; but more is probably possible.

To provide gratuitous relief you have continued and enlarged the poorhouses at Jubbulpore, Sehora, and Murwara, which have been working with smaller numbers throughout the less acute distress of 1895 and 1896, and have also arranged for the establishment of "relief centres" at 13 places within the affected area. The object of these centres is to relieve starving wanderers by the provision of food, and, by arranging for local labour of a not too arduous kind in the immediate neighbourhood of each centre, to enable such of these as have, owing to hunger and weakness, been rendered temporarily incapable of work, to regain their strength. As soon as they are considered strong enough, they will be sent on to the nearest large relief work under the management of the Public Works Department. You estimate the probable expenditure on poorhouses and children's kitchens at 15,000 rupees, and on relief centres, including a portion of the estimated expenditure under "Miscellaneous," which rightly comes under this head, at, say, 20,000 rupees. I am to observe, as regards relief centres, that great care will be necessary to prevent their being used by the healthy and able-bodied as a means of getting sufficient food without the necessity of hard labour. The circle inspector, the patwari, and the local committee, must be carefully instructed as to the class of persons who are intended to be relieved at these centres, and each centre must be inspected, as frequently as possible, by responsible officers, with a view to securing that all who are capable of regular taskwork are drafted off to regular labour under the Public Works Department. The Chief Commissioner has recently issued detailed instructions on the subject of these centres, and these should have the careful attention of all your officers.

4. In Saugor the three chief kharif grains (rice, kodo-kutki and juar) yielded badly, the out-turn of kodo and kutki having been only two annas. Some 70 per cent. of the normal rabi area is reported still to be unsown, and, owing to the partial and scanty character of the recent rain here, prospects, even on this greatly restricted area, are not good. The

tracts where most distress is anticipated are said to be the areas of poor land, consisting largely of hill and forest, which lie along the northern and western borders of the district. You also anticipate distress in the extreme south. Past years have, however, been so bad in this district, and the resources of all classes have been so drained by repeated calamities of season, that the Chief Commissioner fears that there is scarcely any portion of this district that will escape distress, and it seems probable that relief measures will have to be organised here on a very extensive scale.

As regards works, a list of ten large road works has been drawn up by the chief engineer, in consultation with yourself and the Deputy Commissioner, and the scheme has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. The estimated expenditure on these roads up to 31st March 1897 is 1,05,450 rupees, and the work will consist chiefly in the collection and breaking of road-metal and, to a less extent, in earthwork. You are authorised to order any or all of these works to be started as a relief work as the necessity for each arises.

There appears to be but slight scope for small works in this district, and care must be taken that the large works are sufficiently numerous and accessible to provide labour for all those who need it.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to open relief centres as in Jubbulpore, and to have poorhouses at all tahsil head-quarters (these have already been opened), and you estimate 30,000 rupees as the probable expenditure under these heads. The Chief Commissioner much doubts whether this sum will be sufficient even up to the end of March. He fears, from all he has heard, that the population of this district has been so much reduced by repeated bad seasons that there are large numbers of people who will be found incapable, until they have been fed and looked after for a time, of any but the lightest labour, and he anticipates that you will probably find it necessary, before long, to organise village relief. Your estimate is admittedly a purely provisional one, and you must not hesitate to exceed it if circumstances, which have become distinctly more unfavourable since you wrote your letters of the 26th October and 7th November last, should make this advisable.

5. In Damoh the kharif harvest in the Damoh tahsil was somewhat better than that of last year; but in Hatta it was very poor, being estimated at three annas for rice, five annas for juar, and two annas for kodo and kutki. Last year's kharif and rabi were also bad in this district, and the area put under rabi in the current year has consequently been considerably restricted. But though the recent rain was not sufficient to enable fresh sowings to be put in hand, it was of great benefit to the seedlings, and the present prospects of the standing crops are good. As regards the areas affected by scarcity in this district, it is expected that distress will be most severe in the south-west, north, and north-west of the district, the central portion being, so far, in not very distressed circumstances. As regards relief works, the Public Works Department scheme, which has now been sanctioned, provides for five lengths of road work, the estimated expenditure on which up to the 31st March 1897 is 49,800 rupees. There is, however, little scope for road work in the southern part of the district; the main road to Jubbulpore and the Patna-Tendukhera roads being the only works here on which expenditure is provided for. Moreover, it has been stated by the Deputy Commissioner that a large proportion of the able-bodied labouring population of this district have gone to work on the Saugor-Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway, and that those left at home are, for the most part, weakly or aged persons who are generally incapable of hard or sustained work. He suggests, therefore, that numerous local works, chiefly embankment and tank-making, should be arranged for, and that they should be associated with centres for the distribution of gratuitous relief. The present Deputy Commissioner is, however, new to the district, and the Chief Commissioner is not prepared to decide upon the desirability of an extensive scheme of local works here, until he has visited the district, as he is immediately about to do. As at present advised he doubts, however, whether sufficient local works can be found to give employment to the large numbers who will probably require it. This is especially the case in the Hatta tahsil, where the distress will probably be most severe.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to have three poorhouses at Damoh, Hatta, and Patheria, and to supplement these by relief centres, situated generally at the head-quarters of revenue inspectors' circles, throughout the affected tracts. You estimate the probable expenditure of this nature at 18,000 rupees, but the Chief Commissioner thinks it likely that more than this will be found necessary, if distress is to be effectively dealt with. Looking to the circumstances of the last few years, both here and Saugor, but little can be expected from private charity, and Government must arrange to do what the people are unable to do for each other.

It must, it is true, be remembered that both in Saugor and Damoh some measure of relief has been given to the poorer classes by the opening of the forests for the extraction of edible roots, mohwa, and fruits; but this will be of little or no avail until the coming hot weather. Regarding grazing, no difficulty is at present reported either here or in other districts of your division, though it may be necessary, later on, to open parts of the forests to free grazing for agriculturists.

6. In Seoni the kharif crops were seriously injured by the absence of rain in September and October. Unirrigated rice yielded practically nothing, and kodo, which is the staple crop in the Lakhnadon tahsil, was an utter failure. As regards rabi prospects, a large proportion of the normal area was, in the first instance, left unsown, but the recent rain was fairly general here; sowings were again put in hand, and the prospects of the crops sown are, at present, good. The rabi area is, however, still considerably below that of ordinary years.

It is anticipated that distress will be most severe in the south of the Seoni tahsil, where rice is largely grown, and over about three-fourths of the area of the Lakhnadon tahsil. Here the people depend almost entirely on the kharif crops, chiefly the small millets; past years have been bad, and the cultivators and labourers have no resources to fall back upon.

In the sanctioned Public Works Department scheme of relief works, work on five lengths of road has been provided, the estimated expenditure on these up to 31st March 1897 being 40,000 rupees. The Chief Commissioner understands, however, that there is considerable scope in the south of this district for tank construction in aid of the cultivation of rice, and he is prepared to grant whatever sum may be thought necessary to assist malguzars who may wish to start such work with the aid of land improvement loans. He understands that works of the kind will be most useful, and he desires that the Deputy Commissioner should decide, without delay, where they can be started, and report how and to what extent the necessary funds should be provided.

As regards gratuitous relief, you propose to open poorhouses at the Tahsil headquarters, and here, as elsewhere, to supplement them by relief centres at the chief villages in the affected areas. You estimate the expenditure for these purposes during the current financial year at 3,500 rupees. The Chief Commissioner much doubts whether this sum will be sufficient, and you should apply for a larger grant should you think it necessary.

Here also the forests have been opened for the extraction of roots and fruits, and the concession allowing the extraction of head-loads of wood free of duty in places where there is a local market, has recently been extended for three months.

7. In Mandla kodo and kutki, which are by far the most important crops, have almost entirely failed; while rice, especially that which was sown late, and which occupies three-fourths of the total rice area, was very poor. One-third of the district is normally under rabi, but only one-quarter of this area had, up to the recent rain, been sown. Sowing then began again, and is reported still to be in progress; but the rabi harvest is, in any case, proportionately so small, especially in the area most affected, that it cannot materially change the present situation. The prospects of the rabi seedlings are, however, at present good.

Distress in this district is expected to be general. Last year's crops were poor, and the people are thriftless and without resources of any kind.

The Public Works Department scheme of relief works provides (in addition to two important roads now being constructed by contractors on ordinary terms, which will supply employment for the able-bodied) for four lengths of road, on which the expenditure up to the 31st March 1897 is estimated at 55,650 rupees. You have recently proposed to supplement these by four forest roads, to be carried out as relief works by the Forest Department in the wilder parts of the district. Your proposals on this point have been separately approved. These road works traverse, it is true, most of the affected parts of the district, but the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think, having regard to the difficult and inaccessible character of the country, and the home-keeping disposition of the people, that the distances will in some cases be too great for the workers to travel to them, and he thinks that they should be supplemented, as far as possible, by local tank work, for which the Deputy Commissioner reports that there is considerable scope in Mandla. That officer should complete his inquiries on this subject as soon as possible, and submit detailed proposals showing what work can be done, how funds should be provided, and under what supervision the works are to be carried out.

As regards gratuitous relief, the Deputy Commissioner proposes to have poorhouses at Mandla and Dindori, and to establish relief centres (at present 17 in number)

throughout the distressed tracts. The estimated expenditure on gratuitous relief is, including relief wages paid for light work in connection with relief centres, 18,000 rupees, but the Chief Commissioner fears that here, as elsewhere, this will not be sufficient for this district, and will need to be supplemented later on.

The bulk of the population in this district is so backward, and their villages are so scattered and remote, that the efficient relief of the distressed will be a very arduous problem. The Chief Commissioner trusts, however, to the experience and care of the Deputy Commissioner, with the help of your supervision and advice, to deal with the difficulties of the situation.

8. I am further to observe, generally, that while a scheme of Public Works Department works has been completed for all districts, detailed schemes for local works have not yet been prepared. It is of the utmost importance that these should be completed without delay. The civil officers will immediately be relieved of the charge of the larger relief works by the Public Works Department, and their attention should be given to energetically pushing on the preparation and execution of a scheme of such subsidiary works for each district, a statement being submitted showing exactly what it is proposed to do, how funds are to be provided, whether from famine funds or from land improvement loans, and how supervision is to be arranged for. It seems certain that in a short time we shall have to deal with general, and in some cases, severe, distress in nearly all parts of your division, and unless everything is completely organised beforehand district officers will find themselves, when the time comes, unable to provide the relief that is wanted. You should also once more impress on all district officers the imperative necessity of a personal inspection by them of all affected tracts, with especial regard to the proper organisation of relief centres, and the provision of sufficient local work for those who need it. The Chief Commissioner desires that by the middle of January the organisation for the effective relief of distress in all districts should be so complete, that all that will then remain to be done will be to put it into operation.

9. In conclusion, I am to point out that the kharif revenue instalment falls due in the districts of your division on the 1st February next, and under the rules issued under Section 9 of the Tenancy Act ordinary tenants' rents can be legally demanded by the malguzar one month before that date. It is therefore desirable that any proposals which Deputy Commissioners may think necessary for the suspension of the kharif revenue instalment should be formulated without delay, and, after due consideration by you, submitted for the orders of the Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.
H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

No. 9233. Dated Jubbulpore, December 3, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,
to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE
DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that I recently asked the Deputy Commissioners of this division to submit revised estimates of the kharif outturns of their districts, and also to give me the latest available information regarding rabi prospects. The information was to run up to the 27th ultimo.

2. I have now the honour to submit a summary of the reports received. I also submit copies of the reports* themselves.

I have, &c.
F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner.

* Not printed.

SUMMARY of the District Reports on Agricultural Prospects, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division, up to the 27th November 1896.

1. KHARIF OUTTURNS.

The following is the all-round kharif outturn by tahsils as estimated by Deputy Commissioners:—

DISTRICT.	Tahsil.	Anna Estimate.	REMARKS.
		<i>Annas.</i>	
Jubbulpore	Jubbulpore	6	In three out of five circles in this tahsil rabi is more important than kharif.
	Sehora	5½	In two out of four circles rabi is more important than kharif.
	Murwara	3 to 4	Throughout this tahsil the kharif area is three times larger than the rabi area.
Saugor	Saugor	4	In this tahsil about one-third of the cultivated area is kharif and two-thirds rabi.
	Khurai	4	In this tahsil rather more than one-third is kharif and the rest is rabi.
	Rehli	4	In this tahsil kharif covers rather less and rabi covers rather more than one-half cultivated area.
	Banda	4	Kharif predominates in this tahsil, but there is also a large area under rabi.
Damoh	Damoh	6	} About half is kharif and half rabi.
	Hatta	3	
Seoni	Seoni	4½	Information not given by tahsils.
	Lakhnadon	4	In the district the rabi area is larger than the kharif area.
Mandla	Mandla	2½	In this tahsil about two-thirds is kharif and one-third rabi.
	Dindori	3	Much the same as Mandla tahsil.

- In all districts the kharif suffered severely owing to the want of rain in September.
- Jubbulpore.** In the Jubbulpore tahsil the estimate varies from less than 4 annas in the Kundum circle to nearly 9 annas in the Patan circle. In the Sehora tahsil it varies from about 4½ annas in the Umaria circle to 7 annas in the Majhgawan circle. In the Murwara tahsil the outturn was uniformly poor. The chief kharif crops in this district are rice and kodo-kutki. The estimate for rice varies from 7 to 10 annas in the Haveli lands, and from about 4 to 6 annas in the more hilly tracts. In these tracts the estimate for kodo-kutki varies from 3 to 7 annas.
- Saugor.** In the Saugor district the all-round outturn was poor in all circles, the highest estimate being 5 annas in the Etawa, Garhakota, and Bineka circles. Juari did fairly well in this district, the estimate being 8 annas; but the estimate for til is only 4 annas, and that for kodo-kutki is only 2 annas. These are the three chief kharif crops in this district.
- Damoh.** In the Damoh tahsil the all-round estimate varies from 6 annas in the Tejgarh and Mala circles to 9 annas in the Patharia circle. In neither of the two circles of the Hatta tahsil is the estimate higher than 3 annas. Rice, kodo-kutki, and juari are the three chief kharif crops in this district. In the Damoh tahsil the estimate for rice (in all circles taken together) is 9 annas, for juari 8 annas, and for kodo-kutki 4 annas; the corresponding estimates in the Hatta tahsil being 3 annas, 5 annas, and 2 annas.
- Seoni.** The Seoni district is under settlement, and estimates by revenue inspectors' circles are not available. The Deputy Commissioner writes as follows:—"In 19 villages of the Seoni tahsil, to the south-east of Barghat, the rice was saved by isolated showers in September; the yield for this group on irrigated and unirrigated land together varied from 6 to 12 annas. Irrigated rice gave an outturn varying from 2 to 16 annas, while the unirrigated area produced practically nothing. Very little, if any, rice was sown in Lakhnadon. In both tahsils the juari or barra and sehra soil withered before the forming of the ear; that grown on black soil yielded from 4 to 12 annas. The kodo crop in Lakhnadon was an utter failure."

In this district kodo-kutki is far the most important of the kharif crops, rice taking the second place. The kodo yield was miserably poor throughout the district, the estimate for the whole district being only a little over 2 annas. The estimate for rice is $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The failure of kodo-kutki is very serious in a hill district such as Mandla, where it is the staple food of the large aboriginal population. As regards rice, the Deputy Commissioner writes :—“The crop experiment statistics show that the result of early sown crop-cutting brought out an average yield of 8 or 10 annas in certain tracts, but it should not be forgotten that the proportion of early to late sown rice is one to three in the district and the late sown rice was particularly bad; and it is believed that the yield for more than half the late sown area was so very bad that it was left uncut, it being mere waste of time and labour to cut it.”

2. Rabi area unsown.

Statistics of the area unsown are not yet available, but estimates of that area have been made by Deputy Commissioners.

In the Haveli portion of the Jubbulpore Tahsil most of the rabi area has been sown and the Deputy Commissioner writes that some fresh sowings were begun in embanked fields after the recent fall of rain on the 22nd November. In the hilly parts of the Jubbulpore Tahsil it is estimated that about one-half or three-fourths of the rabi area is unsown. In the Sehora Tahsil it is estimated that from one-fifth to one-third is unsown, and the estimate for the Murwara Tahsil is two-thirds unsown.

Of Saugor Mr. Gajraj Singh, Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of the Settlement Office, Saugor, writing on the 25th November, writes as follows :—“The estimate as regards the area unsown with rabi is a mere guess, and, as owing to the continuous decline of the rabi cultivation the crop equilibrium has been disturbed, it is difficult to know what is meant by the term 16 annas when it is said that only 8 annas has been sown. As far as possible an attempt has been made to secure that the area under rabi last year is taken as the basis of comparison. The result is that about 65 per cent. remains unsown in the Saugor Tahsil, about 75 per cent. in the Khurai and Banda tahsils, and about half in the Rehli Tahsil.” There does not appear to have been sufficient rain in this district to admit of fresh sowings except possibly in the Rehli Tahsil, but Mr. Gajraj Singh writes that where rain has fallen an 8 anna crop may now be expected where a 1 to 4 anna crop only was expected before.

In the Damoh Tahsil it is estimated that one-twelfth of the rabi area has remained unsown, and in the Hatta Tahsil one-ninth. But if the Saugor estimates are anywhere near the mark, it would seem that the unsown area in the Damoh District has been much underestimated. Mr. Blakesley has only just taken charge of the district, and all his information is at present second-hand.

In the Seoni District the proportion of rabi area left unsown is estimated at 6 annas in the Seoni Tahsil, and at 10 annas in the Lakhnadon Tahsil.

In the Mandla District it is supposed that about three-fourths of the Rabi area is unsown.

3. Prospects of Rabi where sown.

In Jubbulpore it is reported that the recent fall of rain has much improved the prospects of Rabi on the area sown, and a satisfactory outturn is now expected.

The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor, Mr. Phillips, who only took charge of the district a few days ago, writes as follows :—“In Saugor only 5 cents were registered, in Khurai only 19 cents, in Banda none at all, and in Rehli 95 cents. The rainfall in the interior of each tahsil appears to have been much the same as the rainfall at its head-quarters. For instance, no rain seems to have fallen in the Banda Tahsil, in the Saugor Tahsil there were only slight showers here and there, in the Khurai Tahsil slightly heavier rain fell than in the Saugor Tahsil, and in some few places there were good showers; while in the Rehli Tahsil there was good rain in most directions. The Assistant Commissioner was in camp in one direction in that tahsil on Sunday last, and the Forest Officer in another, and both of them met with drenching showers. The latter had a tent standing that day at Surkhi, which is near the border of the Saugor Tahsil. Judging by his experience of the previous day further south, he expected to find it soaked when he got there on Monday. But to his surprise it was dry. In fact the storm seems to have swept across the southern portion of the district in a north-easterly direction, and only the scattered fringes of it touched the Khurai and Saugor tahsils.”

- "I fear, then, that the recent rain has not materially altered prospects, and distress is likely to be very severe in most parts of the district before very long."
- Damoh.** In Damoh the prospects of the Rabi already in the ground have taken a favourable turn in consequence of rain which fell on the 21st and 22nd November; but no fresh sowings have been reported from this district.
- Seoni.** The Deputy Commissioner of Seoni writes as follows:—"The rabi prospects have been materially improved by the rain of the 22nd and 23rd November. There is now every reason to hope for a 14 to 15 anna return on the area sown, and it is hoped that even if it is too late to sow wheat, much of the land now fallow may be taken up for gram and possibly linseed. On the 22nd November 56 cents were registered and on the 23rd, 37."
- Mandla.** The Deputy Commissioner of Mandla writes:—"The rain of Sunday and Monday last (22nd and 23rd November) has put new life into the plants which were withering. But for that the prospects of Rabi were only 6 annas or perhaps less. If things continue favourably, the crop on the ground may yield 10 annas or perhaps a little more."
- In a recent telegram the Deputy Commissioner stated that this rain, though very beneficial to standing crops, was not sufficient for fresh sowings.

Prospects of Distress.

- Jubbulpore** 4. In the Jubbulpore District distress already exists in the hilly parts of the Jubbulpore and Sehora tahsils and throughout the Murwara Tahsil. Recent rain has not benefited the labouring classes, and the distress must become more acute before long.
- Saugor;** In the Saugor District the localities where distress is likely to be most severe are:—
- In the Khurai Tahsil—
- (1) The western parganas of Kanjia and Eran.
 - (2) The northern border of the tahsil and the Malthone Dogaha pargana.
- In the Banda Tahsil—
- (1) The Dhamoni pargana.
 - (2) The portion of the Shahgarh pargana below the ghâts.
- In the Saugor Tahsil—
- (1) The country along the southern border of the tahsil, viz., Rahatgarh pargana and the hilly portion bordering on foreign territory.
- In the Rehli Tahsil—
- (1) The eastern border of the tahsil up to a width of say 10 miles, the Naharmow pargana and the hilly tract of country in the west of the Deori pargana.
- Damoh;** Of the Damoh District the Deputy Commissioner writes that the distress will probably be most severe in the south-western portion of the Damoh Tahsil and in the north and north-western portion of the Hatta Tahsil.
- Seoni.** In the Seoni Tahsil it is reported that the pinch of scarcity is being felt in the Ugli, Barghat and Korai country, where people are described as being entirely dependent on the kharif crops. In Lakhnadon the affected area lies around Kahani, Dhooma and Kedarpur on the east and around the Adegaon taluka and along the Chindwara border on the west, comprising about three-fourths of the Lakhnadon Tahsil.
- Mandla.** In the Mandla District the affected area extends to about five-sixths of the Mandla Tahsil, and to half of the Dindori Tahsil.

General.

5. Although the recent rain has done much to improve the Rabi prospects and put the cultivators in good heart, it has not altered the situation as regards the labouring classes, and the measures which are being taken to deal with the expected increase of distress are no less necessary now than before.

No. C. 2. Dated Camp, Saugor, December 17, 1896.

From F. C. ANDERSON, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, JUBBULPORE DIVISION,
to the SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL
PROVINCES.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit a Summary of information for the month of November, 1896, of matters relating to the relief of distress, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division, for the information of the Chief Commissioner.

I have, &c.

F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner.

SUMMARY of information for the month of November 1896, of matters relating to the relief of distress, &c., in the Jubbulpore Division.

In the last summary it was stated in regard to agricultural prospects that, owing to the early cessation of the monsoon rainfall, the outlook at the end of October was very gloomy. In my letter, No. 8160, dated the 26th October 1896, reporting on the state of the crops, &c., I referred to the general failure of the kharif harvest and to the largeness of the unsown rabi area, and said: "On the whole prospects in this Division generally are very unfavourable, and I consider that extensive measures of relief will be necessary."

There were local falls of rain about the 22nd November; the effect of this rain was referred to in my letter No. 9233, dated the 3rd December 1896, reporting again on agricultural prospects on the latest available data. I then wrote: "Although the recent rain has done much to improve the rabi prospects and put the cultivators in good heart, it has not altered the situation as regards the labouring classes, and the measures which are being taken to deal with the expected increase of distress are no less necessary now than before."

A conference of such local officers as could be present was held at Jubbulpore on the 3rd November, when the Chief Commissioner was present, and the situation was discussed. The action which followed (in regard to leading points) may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) The Chief Commissioner intimated that he would place a first instalment of two lakhs of rupees at my disposal for famine relief purposes in the Jubbulpore Division.
- (2) On the 7th November, estimates were submitted to the Chief Commissioner, of the probable expenditure on famine relief in each district up to the 31st March 1897. These aggregated 6,15,000 rupees.
- (3) On the 7th November, instructions* were issued to the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla and Damoh (a) for the establishment, as soon as possible, at selected places in the interior, of relief centres where gratuitous relief would be given to local and wandering paupers unfit for work, and light labour on local works would be provided for those able to work but not fit for regular tasks; and also (b) for the preparation in distressed areas of the village register of poor, prescribed by paragraph 34 of the Central Provinces Famine Code. "The opening of relief centres" it was explained "is intended not to supersede the system of village to village relief prescribed by the Code, but to be a stepping-stone towards its development; while relief is being afforded at the centres to be opened as soon as possible, mukaddams and patwaris will take up the preparation of the village register of poor, so that everything may be in readiness for the extension of the relief system from the centres to be immediately established to the individual village."

* Similar instructions were subsequently sent to Seoni.

As regards the class of work to be done at relief centres it was said :—

“ The deepening or repairing of village tanks would be one of the most suitable kinds of employment, and persons who are only temporarily incapacitated from earning their own living would be put on such work after they had been fed gratuitously for a time at the relief centres and have become fit for light labour. They would then receive a wage on the Class D scale in return for work done. When fit for harder labour they could be drafted to a relief work where stone-breaking or some such severe form of labour is exacted.”

- (4) On the 10th November the Deputy Commissioners of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Damoh and Mandla were informed that under paragraph 137 of the Famine Code, sums of 25,000 rupees, 20,000 rupees, 15,000 rupees, and 15,000 rupees had been allotted to their districts, respectively, for famine expenditure, out of the Divisional grant of two lakhs. A sum of 10,000 rupees was subsequently allotted to the Seoni District.
- (5) A complete list of roads to be taken up as relief works by the Public Works Department, as necessity arises, was prepared for each district. From this list certain roads were subsequently selected, in communication with the Chief Engineer, so as to form a programme of road work to be undertaken in the near future.
- (6) Proposals were entertained and subsequently sanctioned for affording relief to the hill tribes of Mandla (who have been seriously affected by the failure of the kodo harvest) by improving certain forest roads through the agency of the Forest Department.
- (7) The opening of additional poorhouses in the Saugor, Damoh and Mandla Districts was sanctioned.
- (8) Proposals were submitted and subsequently sanctioned for increasing the district and tahsili staffs in Jubbulpore, Mandla and Damoh and more recently in Saugor. Some details will now be given, as usual, regarding individual districts.

Jubbulpore District.

The price of wheat at the close of the month at head-quarters was $8\frac{3}{4}$ seers, and of gram $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers, these prices being slightly higher than those prevailing at the end of October; the price of common rice (9 seers) was unchanged.

The number of labourers employed on various works at the end of each fortnight of the period under report is shown below :—

Fortnight ending	Railway.	Jubbulpore Municipality,	Roads in the Interior.
14 November - - -	2,356	3,005	878
28 November - - -	3,259	2,714	831

Seven relief centres were open towards the end of the month, the number relieved on the 28th November being —

(1) Gratuitously - - - - -	200
(2) On light labour - - - - -	254

The Deputy Commissioner writes (28th November) :—“ The harvesting and threshing of the kharif crops have afforded temporary employment to the agricultural labourers, and petty grain thefts have decreased; 7 centres have been opened during the week for starting relief works and gratuitous relief, and arrangements are being made to start work in other centres where pressure is likely to be felt severely.”

The poorhouse population was as follows :—

Poorhouse.	On 14 November.	On 28 November.
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,349	1,472
Ditto Church Mission - -	198	145
Ditto Radha Bai - - - -	10	9
Sihora - - - - -	341	476
Murwara - - - - -	440	456
Ditto Mission Children - -	100	105
Total - - - - -	2,438	2,663

In the Jubbulpore poorhouse numbers have fallen away during the month of October from a little over 1,100 to a little over 900. During the first fortnight of November there was a large and sudden influx as shown by the above figures. A census of the inmates taken on the 23rd November gave the following distribution :—

From the Jubbulpore District - - - -	514
From other Central Provinces Districts* - -	245
Native States - - - - -	371
North-West Provinces - - - - -	71
Total - - - - -	1,201

The total of 1,201 seems small; probably the sick under treatment in hospital were not included in the enumeration.

Saugor District.

At the end of November the price of wheat at head-quarters was 7½ seers, and of gram 10 seers.

The number of labourers employed at the close of each fortnight is given below :—

	14 November.	28 November.
Railway - - - - -	6,574	6,286
Saugor, Railway Ganj, at head-quarters -	573	603
Roads in the interior - - - - -	267	202

The poorhouse population was as follows :—

	14 November.	28 November.
Saugor - - - - -	1,473	1,066
Khurai - - - - -	215	194

The numbers in the Saugor poorhouse fell off suddenly during the week ending the 21st November, but no special explanation of this has been given in the district report for that week, where it is, however, stated that signs of want or emaciation were visible only among the very poor.

Damoh District.

There has been little change in prices, those ruling at head-quarters at the end of November being—wheat 7½ seers, gram 10½ seers, and common rice 8 seers.

The information relating to the number of labourers engaged in the railway is again very incomplete. In his report for the week ending the 7th November, the Deputy Commissioner stated that “the local people are beginning to come back to the railway to

* Viz. :—Damoh, 129; Narsinghpur, 71; Hoshangabad, 19; Nagpur, 10; Saugor, 9; Mandla, 7;—Total, 246.

work," and in the report for the week ending the 21st November the number employed is estimated at 15,500, of which, however, only about 50 per cent. are believed to belong to the Damoh District.

The number of persons engaged on the Hatta-Damah road on the 28th November was 146.

The poorhouse figures are as follows:—

	Week ending			
	7 November.	14 November.	21 November.	28 November.
Damoh - - - -	525	489	382	394
Hatta - - - -	100	108	133	145

The decrease in the Damoh poorhouse is misleading if taken to indicate a decrease of starving wanderers in that town; for there are a large number of such persons begging about the town who ought to be in the poorhouse, but prefer to pick up insufficient doles by begging. The only effectual method of dealing with this class of people is to sweep the streets from time to time, as has been done at Jubbulpore, and compel them to come into the poorhouse; if left to themselves they become more and more emaciated, and at last succumb. At Hatta numbers are increasing.

A census of the inmates of the Damoh poorhouse taken to-day (15th September) discloses the following particulars:—

Damoh District - - - -	- 220
Other Districts of the Central Provinces	- 22
North-West Provinces	- 14
Native States - - - -	- 51
Total - - - -	<u>307</u>

In his report for the week ending the 7th November the Deputy Commissioner stated that the distress in the district generally was "growing worse."

The northern portion of the district appeared from the reports of the Revenue Inspector to be worse. This is possibly explained by the fact that the north of the district is bordered by Native States, whence many wanderers make their way south. Later information, however, indicates that the condition of the poorest class is as bad in the southern as in the northern portion of the district, and that the further measures of relief now being adopted are very urgently needed. The necessity for a more extensive system of relief has increased very greatly during the month under report. The police reported two deaths from starvation in the first week of November, one in the second week, one in the third, and one in the fourth. A large number of deaths have also been reported as due to sickness combined with privation.

In his report for the week ending the 21st November, the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Blakesley, who has recently taken charge, writes:—"Only one death from actual starvation is reported, and some 20 from starvation and other causes, but I suspect that these figures are not very reliable (*i.e.*, are an under-estimate). There is the usual restless tendency to aimless wandering about, which I take to be a physical symptom produced by want, and which resists attempts at any control or restraint even when this is the only hope of saving life. Distress in a more or less acute form is prevalent everywhere, especially in the hilly tracts, *i.e.*, practically everywhere, except in the valley of the Sonar river. The number of beggars seems on the increase. Many petty malguzars and tenants are reduced to the condition of ordinary labourers. The recent rainfall has probably led to a small amount of grain-sowing, which may last for some 10 days, but will not be large enough to give substantial relief."

Seoni District.

Prices have risen a little, wheat being quoted at the end of November at 9½ seers, and gram and common rice at 9 seers.

The number of persons in the Seoni poorhouse on the 28th of November was 81, and in the Lakhnadon poorhouse 36. The parts of the district chiefly affected by the failure of crops are the greater portion of the Lakhnadon Tahsil and the rice-growing tracts of Ugli and Barghat.

In this report for the week ending the 28th November the Deputy Commissioner writes (under date the 15th December):—

“The only sign of increasing distress during the week was the occurrence of a case of grain-looting in the Ugli Taluka. . . . Relief works will be started during the current week near Lakhnadon and in Ugli and Barghat. There are 455 people employed on ordinary works under the Public Works Department.”

Mandla District.

Price at headquarters on the 28th November were: wheat $9\frac{1}{2}$ seers, gram 10 seers, and common rice 9 seers.

The number of labourers employed on relief works, and the number fed gratuitously on those works is shown below:—

	Labourers.	Gratuitous.
7th November - - - - -	3,473	60
21st " - - - - -	3,998	47
28th " - - - - -	4,276	77

About 100 persons are supported by the Church Mission at Mandla. The opening of Government poorhouses at Mandla and Dindori has been sanctioned.

In his report for the week ending the 28th November the Deputy Commissioner writes:—

“The scanty yield of the last harvest will soon be consumed, and people will then flock to the works. The figures show already an increased tendency. No report has reached me of any death due directly to starvation, though it is believed that some may have been accelerated by it.”

General.

On the 20th November Mr. Blakesley assumed charge of the Damoh District from Mr. Clarke, a junior officer, who has been placed in temporary charge in succession to the late Mr. Burn. On the 25th November, Mr. Phillips took charge of the Saugor District on the retirement of Colonel Hogg. On the 27th November, Mr. Fox-Strangways assumed charge of the Seoni District from Mr. Williamson, who had held temporary charge since the 20th September.

Diary No. 380 F.

No. C.-100. Dated Seoni, January 15, 1897.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statements A. and B. prescribed by Section 16, IV.—VII. of the Central Provinces Famine Code for the districts of the Jubbulpore Division. Maps of each district, coloured to show the tracts most affected, are also submitted, together with a memorandum by the Commissioner of the Division summarising the main facts of the famine situation for each district.

2. I am to express regret that owing to these being the first set of monthly famine returns that have been submitted, the reports from the remaining district of the Province have been delayed. They will, however, be forwarded as soon as they are received, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the orders which have now been issued to Commissioners and Deputy-Commissioners on this subject will secure their punctual and complete submission in future.

3. I am to add that, as soon as Mr. Lyall receives all the district reports, he proposes to prepare, for the information of the Government of India, a full separate report for the whole Province dealing with the general situation as regards famine during the month of December; describing the various measures taken during that period towards the complete organisation of relief in affected tracts, and indicating, as far as is now possible, the probable future development of the famine situation in the Provinces generally.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Period ending Saturday, 26th December 1896,
for the Jubbulpore Division.

District.	Area.	Popula- tion in Thous- ands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.					Number on Gratui- tous Relief.	Price of one or more principal Food Grains in Seers per Rupee.			Monthly Death-rate.	Deaths due to Starvation.
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Wheat.	Gram.	Common Rice.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Jubbulpore -	3,948	748	2,459	368	-	4,037	-	26,149	30,186	5,777	9½	11	10½	-	See appended remarks.
Saugor - -	4,007	591	4,007	591	300	800	970	16,282	18,352	2,850	7	9½	6	-	"
Damoh - -	2,831	325	2,000	200	-	1,322	-	4,240	5,562	1,457	8	11	8	-	"
Seoni - - -	3,198	370	1,766	200	-	-	-	6,107	6,107	480	10½	12	10½	-	"
Mandla - -	5,056	339	5,056	339	-	-	-	9,509	9,509	204	9½	10½	9	-	"

F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT B. for the Weeks ending Saturday, 26th December 1896,
of the Jubbulpore Division.

District.	Maximum Number for whom Relief is estimated to be required in case of serious Famine.	Number for whom Relief was provided for Three Months in last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided by Works remaining on Pro- gramme on date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st April 1896.			Advances since 1st April up to end of Month under		Revenue suspended.
		Date of last Pro- gramme.	On large Works (under Public Works Department).	Other Local Works.	On large Works.	Others.	Date up to which Account in made up.	Rupees omitting 000s.		Land Im- provement Act.	Agricul- tural Loans Act.	
								On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jubbulpore -	70,000	1 Dec. 1896	23,000		23,000	15,000	26 Dec. 1896	22	19	4	74	100
Saugor - -	60,000	"	19,000		19,000	8,000	" "	14	13	1	30	73
Damoh - -	85,000	"	19,000		19,000	5,000	19 Dec. 1896	3	8	-	94	137 (remitted).
Seoni - - -	23,000	"	17,000		17,000	7,000	26 Dec. 1896	3½	1	4½	24	The suspension of a portion of the February list 1897 has been sanc- tioned.
Mandla - -	30,000	"	17,000	No formal programme yet sanc- tioned but numerous works arranged for and in progress.	17,000	4,000	23 Dec. 1896	17	1	-	13	-

F. C. ANDERSON,
Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division.

SUMMARY of the Remarks in the District Reports to accompany Monthly Famine Statement A. (Jubbulpore Division) for December 1896.

The private relief afforded has for the most part been of the usual kind, consisting of the distribution of doles by the charitable in the larger towns. There are some private poorhouses in the Division which are maintained from private funds, and a good deal has been done by the charitable disposed in the way of presenting blankets to the inmates of the public poorhouses. A public meeting at which the Chief Commissioner presided was held at Jubbulpore on the 11th December, to consider the question of organising a system of relief for respectable persons who are ashamed to make known their want or to avail themselves of the forms of public relief provided by Government. A committee of inquiry was appointed whose report had not been submitted before the close of the month.

The following is a statement of the poorhouse population at the end of the months of November and December respectively :—

Poorhouse.	28th November.	26th December.
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,472	1,853
Sehora - - - - -	476	666
Marwara - - - - -	456	524
Katangri - - - - -	—	Not returned.
Private poorhouses - - - - -	259	266
Total Jubbulpore District -	2,663	3,309
Saugor - - - - -	1,066	1,133
Khurai - - - - -	194	342
Banda - - - - -	—	102
Rehli - - - - -	—	321
Total Saugor District -	1,260	1,898
Damoh - - - - -	394	426
Hatta - - - - -	145	163
Patharia - - - - -	—	153
Jabera - - - - -	—	11
Total Damoh District -	539	753
Seoni - - - - -	81	191
Lakhwadon - - - - -	36	73
Total Seoni District -	117	264
Mandla - - - - -	—	122
Dindori - - - - -	—	47
Total Mandla District -	—	169
Total for the Division -	4,579	6,393

The above statement shows that two new poorhouses were opened in Saugor, two in Damoh, two in Mandla, and one in Jubbulpore during the month under report.

Gratuitous relief has also been afforded to the poverty-stricken and sick at various convenient centres where regular poorhouses have not been established. Wanderers are intercepted at these centres before they have gone far from their homes.

Village inspection in order to the preparation of the registers of poor on which the system of relieving the aged, the blind, cripples, &c., in their own homes is based was begun early in November, and this form of relief is being brought into operation throughout the Division with all possible dispatch.

General character of relief works.

Relief works managed by the Public Works Department on which a proper task is exacted will constitute the backbone of the system of public relief works. Stone-breaking on roads is the chief form of labour employed. The numbers employed on works of this class and on various local works on the 26th December in each district were as follows :—

(a) About 10,000 on Public Works Department works and the rest on local works	-	-	-	Jubbulpore	-	30,186(a)
(b) On Public Works Department works only-	-	-	-	Saugor	-	18,352(b)
(c) 1,530 on Public Works Department works	-	-	-	Damoh	-	5,562(c)
(d) 4,667 on Public Works Department works	-	-	-	Seoni	-	6,107(d)
(e) Detail not reported	-	-	-	Mandla	-	9,509(e)

For those who are unfit for immediate employment on hard labour, such as stone-breaking, light labour (chiefly tank digging) has been provided at the relief centres referred to in a preceding paragraph. As they become fit for regular task work, these persons will be drafted on to the Public Works Department relief works. Such persons are included in the totals given above.

Physical condition of the people.

The distress has developed very rapidly in all the affected tracts, and very plain indications of its acuteness amongst the poorest classes are seen among those who receive gratuitous relief in the poor-houses and at the various relief centres. Many of these, especially in the Jubbulpore and Damoh districts, are immigrants from the Native States on the north. Distress, more or less acute, is also widely prevalent among the labouring classes generally, and the demand for work is great. The Deputy Commissioner of Saugor reports, however, that those on relief works though somewhat reduced are still in fairly good condition, and that emaciation is only visible among the inmates of poor-houses and wandering beggars. It seems from the report of the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh that emaciation is more common in the population of his district. This indeed appears to be the district in which distress is greatest. Parts of Mandla appear to have suffered similarly. Mr. Maw, Assistant Commissioner, who has been employed on famine inspection duty in the Jubbulpore district, writes :—

“It is surprising, considering the number of relief workers, that their condition should be so good. As a rule the relief workers do not show any outward signs of unusual poverty, except in the scantiness of their attire.”

Mortality, deaths from starvation, &c.

In Seoni the majority of relief workers appear to be in fair condition. There is less distress in Seoni than elsewhere. The death-rate per mile for the month of November in each district is as follows :—

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	} 5·4 Exclusive of Towns. 8·6 Ditto.
Saugor	-	-	-	-	-	
Damoh	-	-	-	-	-	6·3
Seoni	-	-	-	-	-	7·8
Mandla	-	-	-	-	-	4·2
						3·52

The death-rate figures for December are not yet forthcoming. The reports from the several districts as to the number of deaths in December due to starvation or accelerated by privation differ very widely and are neither satisfactory nor reliable. Village Kotwars are the reporting agency in the rural tracts; we cannot expect accuracy from totally uneducated men of this class, and it is difficult for the police to verify the cause of death long after its occurrence. In Jubbulpore 632 deaths are reported to have been due to starvation or to have been accelerated by privation; this figure includes deaths among the inmates of poor-houses. In Seoni the number of such deaths is reported to have been 97, including those of starving wanderers brought to relief centres whose lives could not be saved. I quote the following passage from a recent diary of the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni :—

“Five or six deaths from starvation have been reported recently from the Kahani outpost. I enquired into one on my way, and found it should not have been so classed. The others were all wandering paradesis (foreigners) found dead in remote parts.”

This affords some evidence of the fulness, if not of the accuracy, of the reporting in this district. The number reported from Damoh is 83, but the Deputy Commissioner thinks this an under-estimate. The number reported from Saugor (from starvation only) is six. The number reported from Mandla is 15. Apart from cases of actual starvation, which,

I believe, occur chiefly among unknown wanderers exhausted by long journeying, there can be little doubt that insufficiency of food, or of proper food for more or less prolonged periods, and exposure to cold, have produced much sickness, and resulting mortality in the months of November and December.

These appear to be generally sufficient for present requirements, and no complaint of difficulty in regard to the supply of grain at the relief works has been reported. Food stocks.

The following statement of retail prices of the chief staples, at the head-quarters of each district at the end of the months of November and December, respectively, shows that they have remained fairly constant :—

DISTRICT.	WHEAT.		GRAM.		COMMON RICE.	
	November.	December.	November.	December.	November.	December.
Jubbulpore - -	8½	9¼	10½	11	9	10½
Saugor - - -	7½	7	10	9¾	6	6
Damoh - - -	7½	8	10½	11	8	8
Seoni - - -	9¼	10½	9	12*	9	10½
Mandla - - -	9½	9½	10	10½	9	9

* Price of Jowar.-

In Jubbulpore the chief import is of rice from Chhattisgarh, and there are some exports from Jubbulpore into Damoh, but there are no reliable statistics regarding the imports into the latter district. The exports of grain from Saugor (chiefly to Hoshangabad, Jhansi, Agra Fort, Dholpur, and Achnera) have exceeded the imports into that district. There is, practically, no importation of grain into Seoni, and the importation into Mandla is not on any extensive scale. Importation of grain.

The general failure of the last kharif harvest following on previous bad years is the cause of the wide-spread distress now prevailing. Unfortunately the normal rabi area has been very greatly curtailed owing to the early cessation of the rains, and the consequent stoppage of sowings. The harvest will be a small one so far as area is concerned, and possible earnings in the shape of harvest wages will be correspondingly small. The prospects of the crop on the ground have been improved by the rain at the end of December. Local hailstorms have done damage in some places. It is anticipated that numbers on relief works will go on increasing until the rabi harvesting begins, when there will be a temporary reduction, to be followed later on by a large increase of applicants for work. General condition and prospects of affected areas.

Relief wages are based, for the most part, on a rate of 10 seers of grain per rupee, and there are no changes to record. Changes in the rates of wages.

Work on the Saugor-Kutni Railway extension was giving employment at the close of December to 6,470 persons in Jubbulpore, 7,487 in Damoh, and 6,771 in Saugor. General.

F. C. ANDERSON, Commissioner.

No. 34-C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Nerbudda Division, to the REVENUE SECRETARY to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letters No. C-379, dated the 1st instant, and C-449, dated the 22nd instant. I have the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects of the Hoshangabad District, and the measures for relief which it will be advisable to take.

2. In the Harda Tahsil, with the exception of the Charwa Pargana, and in the Seoni Tahsil, the prospects of the rabi crops are at present fair. The ground still contains a certain amount of moisture. Of the kharif crops, kodo and kutki are an absolute failure, and it is doubtful whether juari will yield more than from 4 annas to 6 annas. The

early tilli will do very well, but the late sown tilli is not progressing favourably. The present prospects of all the crops in this portion of the district are not at present wholly unpromising, but as three-fourths of the cultivated area, approximately, will be under rabi crop, it is too early to give a very definite opinion.

In the Sohagpur Tahsil and the Hoshangabad Tahsil the prospects are more unfavourable. The proportionate area under kharif crops is larger than in the western half of the district. Kodo and kutki, late sown rice and late sown tilli, are all failures. The wheat that has been sown has germinated, but has withered in many places, and the prospects of the gram crop are doubtful.

3. There will, therefore, I fear, be a serious failure of crops in all that portion of the district which lies east of the Hoshangabad-Betul Road; and as the people, who occupy this tract, have already been much impoverished by three very bad harvests, it will be necessary to provide them with assistance in the form of relief works. As, moreover, the exports of grain to other parts of India have been heavy and are continuing, it is possible that high prices may to some extent cause distress among the labouring classes of the Harda and Seoni tahsils also.

4. Effect is being given to the orders, contained in paragraph 2 of your letter No. C-379, dated the 1st instant, with regard to the making of crop experiments, but the results have not yet been communicated to me. The above report has been based on the best general information procurable.

5. The measures of relief which I propose are the following :—

- (1) The completion of the road schemes of the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils (with a few omissions) as shown in Schedule A appended to this letter.
- (2) The raising to Class I of the Harda-Handia Road (*vide* Schedule A).
- (3) The stacking of supplies of metal for road repairs on the Pipariya-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul roads (*vide* Schedule A).
- (4) Procuring, through the orders of the Government of India, work on that portion of the Indian Midland Railway which lies between Hoshangabad Station and the Nerbudda. The line here follows a dangerous curve which is* to be straightened by erecting a new bank $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and 25 feet high, a work which would provide employment for about 1,000 men for three months.
- (5) Digging of fields in Court of Wards estates for the eradication of kans grass.
- (6) The opening of poorhouses at Hoshangabad and Sohagpur.

The embanking of fields is considered by all the cultivating classes of this district as useless, and I am inclined to accept their opinion. In most portions of the district kutchia wells are also impracticable, owing to the depth to which they would have to be carried. Tanks could only be constructed in a very few places.

6. The only minor works under district agency which I propose to undertake are test works. One of these has already been opened in the Sohagpur Tahsil. I am of opinion that the construction of Class III. roads is not a public work of lasting utility, and I believe that I have the support of the chief engineer in adopting this view. Moreover Class III. roads do not afford sufficient scope for the employment of large numbers of unskilled labourers being unembanked (or only partially embanked) and unmetalled. I propose to undertake no road work which does not involve the construction of a Class II. or Class I. road, or the raising of a road of lower class to either of these classes. Each work undertaken will thus employ more labourers and will employ them for a longer time, as after the embanking comes the metalling. It may be argued that roads of Classes I. and II. involve a considerable expenditure on causeways and culverts; but the answer to this is that, owing to the rise of prices, skilled labourers, such as masons, will be in straitened circumstances, and will be willing to work at low wages in order to secure employment.

7. I do not propose any outlay at present on children's kitchens. For gratuitous relief outside poorhouses, it will suffice for the present to provide a sum of Rs. 1,000. For "miscellaneous" a sum of Rs. 1,000 may also be allotted.

* Under proposals recently submitted to Government by the Railway Company.

8. I turn now to the important question of the number of persons for whom employment may have to be found upon relief works, and the estimated cost of their maintenance. Famine Statement C shows that the maximum number of persons likely to require relief in a serious famine in the Hoshangabad District is 25,000. If we take half of this or, say, 13,000 as representing the population needing relief in the Hoshangabad and Sohagpur tahsils (i.e., the area where distress is apprehended) and add 4,000 for the, comparatively, small section of the population of the other two tahsils who may require assistance, we have a total of 17,000. In addition to this total, however, there will probably be a certain number of outsiders—wanderers from Narsinghpur, Jubbulpore, Saugor and Bhopal. I would therefore take 20,000 as the maximum number likely to require relief.

Assuming the price of grain to be 9 seers for the rupee, and taking 2 annas as the rate of wage on the average,* we get an expenditure of 2,500 of rupees a day, exclusive of charges for establishment, or 75,000 rupees per mensem.

I do not, however, suppose that this total will be worked up to at an early date. The maximum will probably not be reached till April or May. I consider that it is reasonable to assume that the total number of persons employed on relief works will not rise in a more rapidly ascending scale than that shown below:—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	5,000
January - - - - -	6,000
February - - - - -	12,000†
March - - - - -	15,000‡
April - - - - -	20,000

I do not anticipate that the need for relief works will cease till the end of August, when the makka crop and early kutki will be reaped. We have, therefore, to provide funds for four months at an average of 35,550 rupees a month (= 1,42,200 rupees) and for five months at 75,000 rupees a month (= 3,75,000 rupees), or a total of 5,17,200 rupees—of this sum 1,42,000 rupees will be required in the current financial year.

In the scheme of works appended to this letter (Appendix A) provision has been made for a possible expenditure of 5¼ lakhs in the course of 9 months, beginning in December next. It is well, I think, to provide for works in excess of the estimated outlay against the contingency of that estimate being below the work.

9. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that poor-house relief will be required during the remainder of the current financial year for 200 persons at Hoshangabad and 500 at Sohagpur.§ The approximate cost of feeding a pauper in the poor-house is 0-1-6 rupee per day. The total cost for food per diem will thus be 65-10-0 rupees, or say, 65 rupees. The cost per month will be 1,950 rupees, or 8,775 rupees for the four-and-a-half months, commencing on the 15th proximo. To this must be added cost of establishment, as shown in Appendix B to this letter, amounting to 137 rupees per mensem. For four-and-a-half months the cost will be 616-8-0 rupees. Adding 300 rupees for buildings and contingencies, the expenditure on poor-house relief up to the end of the financial year may be taken at 9,700 rupees in round numbers.

I may remark that it is not possible at this stage to estimate what number of persons the poor-houses will have to accommodate after the close of the current financial year. We shall be in a better position to give an opinion on this point in March next.

10. To sum up, the total amount that may be expected to be required for famine relief during the current year is as under.

	Rupees.
1. Relief works - - - - -	1,42,000
2. Poor-houses - - - - -	9,700
3. Gratuitous relief outside poor-houses - - - - -	1,000
4. Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,000
	1,53,700

* Experience shows that in these provinces more women come to relief works than men.

† Large increase owing to kharif crops becoming exhausted.

‡ Slight increase owing to harvesting of rabi crops in Harda and Seoni.

§ His estimate is based on a rough census made by the police.

11. A careful examination of the District Council budget has shown that after providing for establishment charges, Schools, Pounds, and only such urgent works as have already been given out on contract, there will be a sum of 22,000 rupees available to meet a portion of the above expenditure. From subscriptions by private persons towards poor-houses the Deputy Commissioner hopes to obtain 6,000 rupees. It is possible that some of the Court of Wards' estates which have balances in hand, and are not crippled by the difficulty of collecting rents this year, may be able to subscribe to the same object: and I, therefore, put subscription down at 10,000 rupees. Deducting 32,000 rupees from the total given in paragraph 10 above, the balance to be provided by Government for famine expenditure in the Hoshangabad District during the current year is 1,21,700 rupees, or say, 1½ lakhs in round figures.

I have, &c.
L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.—(To Letter, No. 34-C., dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces.)

SCHEME OF RELIEF-WORKS—DISTRICT HOSHANGABAD.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in miles.	Details of Work	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each road.	Equivalent Number of Coolies at 2 annas per day.	Number of People for Nine Months.	Amount required in 1896-97.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Piparia-Sandia Road, 2nd Section	10	Construction - -	Rs. 1,350	Rs. 13,500	—	—	—	—	As III-B.
	Piparia-Sandia Road, 1st and 2nd Section	15	Murramming - -	1,500	22,500	36,000	2,88,000	1,066	—	Raising to II.
1 (a)	Piparia-Sobhapur Road, 1st mile.	1	Making up and murramming.	1,650	—	1,650	13,200	49	—	
2	Semri-Barkatch - -	9	Repairing flood damage	—	2,000	—	—	—	—	
			Raising III-A to II	3,100	27,900	29,900	2,39,200	886	—	Class III-A to II.
3	Sobhapur Batgaon - -	5	- Ditto - -	3,100	15,500	15,500	1,24,000	459	—	- Ditto.
4	Old Bombay Road Nar-singhpur border to Seoni	100	Filling up hollows - -	—	2,000	—	—	—	—	Repairing.
			Raising 2-ft. bank - -	800	80,000	—	—	—	—	Raising to III-B.
			Metalling - -	2,000	2,00,000	282,000	22,56,000	8,355	—	Class I
5	Babar-Bagra - - -	5	Raising III-A to II	3,100	15,500	15,500	1,24,000	459	—	Class III-A to II.
6	Harda-Handia Road - -	13½	Metalling 6 inches - -	3,000	39,750	39,750	3,18,000	1,178	—	Class II to I.
7	Tigaria-Dolaria - -	7	Raising III-A to I - -	4,000	28,000	—	—	—	—	Class III-A to I.
	(Doolaria-Semri already made as Class 1.)									
8	Semri-Uman - - -	5	Constructing as Class II	3,900	19,500	47,500	3,80,000	1,407	—	Class II.
	Seoni-Lokartala - -	7	- Ditto III-B	2,428	17,000	—	—	—	—	As Class III-B.
			Murramming - -	1,000	7,000	—	—	—	—	Raising to II.
9	Lokartala-Dekhwa - -	8	Constructing as Class II	3,500	28,000	52,000	4,16,000	1,541	—	Class III-A to II.
	Sohagpur via Khurpapur to the Denwa.	14	- Ditto III-B	1,800	25,200	—	—	—	—	As III-B.
10	Collecting metal on the Piparia-Pachmarhi - Itarsi-Dhar Roads - }	—	Murramming - -	1,000	14,100	39,200	3,13,600	1,162	—	III-B to II.
			Estimates not yet ready	—	—	—	—	—	—	NOTE.—As this total of persons is not to be provided for during the whole period of nine months, a smaller number can be employed at first, and a proportionately larger number later on.
			Total - -	—	—	5,59,000	—	16,562	—	

The estimate is that at first the number of persons requiring employment will not exceed one-quarter of the maximum (Rs. 20,000). During December and January the following works should be undertaken:—

- (1) Collection of muram for 1st and 2nd Sections of Piparia-Sandia Road.
- (2) Piparia-Sobhapur Road (making and metalling).
- (3) Collection of metal for Tigaria-Dolaria Road.
- (4) Ditto Harda-Handia Road.

Allotments to be made on the basis that Rs 1,42,000 is available for expenditure up to 31st March, more work to be undertaken, if required, within this limit of allotment.

No. 35 C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq, I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the
SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34 C. of to-day's date, on the subject of the agricultural prospects of, and the measures of relief to be adopted in, the Hoshangabad district, I have now the honour to submit a similar report on the Betul district.

2. The following estimate of the Kharif crops of the Betul district has been furnished by the Assistant Settlement Officer:—

Crop.	Harvest.		Proportion of Area early sown to Total Area sown.
	Early sown.	Late sown.	
	Annas.	Annas.	
Kodo - - - - -	8	3	Five-eighths.
Rice - - - - -	10	6	One-eighth.
Juari - - - - -	8	6	Five-eighths.
Jogni - - - - -	4	2	Three-eighths.
Kutki - - - - -	16	2	One-eighth.
Tilli - - - - -	8	6	One-half.
Sugar-cane - - - - -	12	-	All sown at one time.
Urad and mung - - - - -	12	-	
Inferior crops, viz., Sawa, Madji, Rola and Kangni - - - - -	12	-	

This estimate, the Deputy Commissioner reports, is more favourable than that obtained from other sources, though it is borne out to a certain extent by crop experiments conducted up to the date. I forward herewith, in original, a statement* submitted by the Deputy Commissioner, which gives the result of crop experiments so far as they have gone. As juari is not yet ripe, experiments have still to be made in respect to its yield. The Deputy Commissioner's opinion is that juari on highlying and stony land is already dead, while that on low and comparatively moist land will produce an outturn of from 4 to 8 annas. This being so, the only crops that can be considered to have practically failed are the late-sown kodo, kutki, and jagni. In the case of kutki and jagni alone does the late-sown area form a considerable proportion of the total area sown. The estimate of the rabi area sown (as compared with the area usually devoted to rabi) is given as 11 annas by the Assistant Settlement Officer. The Deputy Commissioner prefers to take 10 annas. It is considered that if there be no more rain, the rabi crop on this area will be 7 or 8 annas. The rabi forms the chief harvest of the level portions of the district while in the hilly tracts kharif crops are almost exclusively raised.

3. The conclusion I arrived at is that such distress as may ensue in the Betul district will be practically confined to the upland tracts. This district has hitherto been free from scarcity, and the distress will not be such as if it followed on consecutive years of bad harvests. "If a line be taken from Bordai through Amla, Badnur and Bhainsdehi," writes the Deputy Commissioner, "then the country lying to the north side of this, with the exception of the flat portion round Chicholi, may be taken as the area of greatest distress. To this may be added that part which would be cut off to the south by another line taken from Bhainsdehi to Dabka." The population of this area is nearly 70,000, or about one-fifth of the total population of the district. The inhabitants are chiefly aboriginals, such as Gonds and Korkus, who are constitutionally averse to regular labour. If the Government forests are thrown open, and there is a good mohwa crop, the majority of them will be able to eke out a subsistence on mohwa and other jungle products.

* Appendix B.

4. Famine Statement C shows that in the event of serious famine in the district at large it would be necessary to provide work for 19,000 people. Under the circumstances now existing, it seems improbable that work will have to be provided within the current year for more than 4,000 persons. The Deputy Commissioner reports that it is the opinion of the officers and intelligent malguzars whom he has consulted that between 4,000 and 5,000 is the maximum number to be provided for. Seeing that the makka and bhadeli kütki crops were quite successful (though the area sown with them is not large) it is improbable then any want of food will be felt before the 1st of December. We have therefore to provide work for 4,000 persons for nine months. I took the price of grain at 9 seers the rupee for the Hoshangabad district. In the Betul district prices will probably rule lower and 11 seers may be taken.* At this rate the average wage may be stated at 1 anna 9 pies per head. The cost of maintaining 4,000 labourers for four months (from 1st December to 31st March) will therefore be about 52,000 rupees in round figures. But it is unlikely that so many as 4,000 persons will come upon the works at the beginning of December. The scale will probably be somewhat as under :—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	1,000
January - - - - -	2,000
February - - - - -	4,000
March - - - - -	4,000

So that not more than 40,000 rupees will, on this estimate, be required for relief-works during the current year.

Assuming that the number on relief-works from the beginning of April to the end of August 1897 is 5,000, then an expenditure of 82,000 rupees will be incurred, in addition to the above, forming a total for nine months of 1,22,000 rupees. In Appendix A to this letter are given the major works on which labour can be profitably employed. The Badnur-Ellichpur Road is the one most required for the needs of the district, and it has been surveyed. Next in importance to it is the Badnur-Harda Road. This also has been surveyed, and it goes through the centre of the affected portion. These two roads would provide ample work for persons estimated to need relief; but to complete them would involve an expenditure largely in excess of that proposed above. It will be necessary therefore to confine work to certain sections of these roads. I recommend, for the reasons given in my letter on the Hoshangabad district, that the selected sections be constructed as Class II. roads or Class I. roads (according as metal or only muram is procurable).

5. As to minor works, my proposal is that, as in the Hoshangabad instance, these should take the form of test works, to be carried out by the District Council. The District Council after re-casting its budget can only provide 5,000 rupees for expenditure on relief works. I intend that 3,700 rupees of this sum shall be applied to test works marginally noted, † which have been selected by the District Council, and that after deducting 100 rupees for tools and plant, the balance of 1,200 rupees may be applied to poor-house expenditure.

6. As to poor-houses, it should suffice to open one at Badnur. It seems unlikely that more than 200 persons will be accommodated in it during the current year. The cost of their maintenance for three months (January to March) would be approximately 1,700 rupees. To this must be added cost of establishment on the Hoshangabad scale ‡ and about 300 rupees for cost of construction: total, 500 rupees in round figures.

7. I do not propose any children's kitchens, or gratuitous out-door relief at present. Miscellaneous charges may be set down at 200 rupees.

* At present jauari sells at 14 seers to the rupee

† Road Work.—Badnur-Ranipur, 9 miles, Rs. 900; Shahpur-Ranipur, 24 miles, Rs. 1,200; Chicholi to Nimpani, 15 miles, Rs. 750, Multai to Bordai, 17 miles, Rs. 850—Total, Rs. 3,700.

‡ Rs. 68. 8. a month=Rs. 205. 8. for three months.

8. Thus the total expenditure during the current financial year may be estimated as under:—

	Rs.
Relief works - - - - -	40,000
Poor-house - - - - -	2,200
Miscellaneous - - - - -	300
Total - - -	Rs. 42,500

Towards this amount, the Deputy Commissioner estimates that he can raise about 3,000 rupees from private charity and contributions from Court of Wards' estates (to be devoted to poor-house relief). The balance to be provided by Government is therefore 40,000 rupees only.

I have, &c.
L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

RELIEF WORKS.—DISTRICT BETUL.

Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Work to be done	Rate per Mile	Total Cost.	Portion to be undertaken in current Year.
1. Badnur to Harda <i>via</i> Chicholi.	48	Raising from village track to Class II. and murrumming as Class II.	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 1,44,000	
2. Badnur-Ellichpur	48	Do. do.	3,000	1,44,000	A section of 10 or 12 miles.
3. Collecting a full year's supply of metal for the Betul-Dhar Road.		Estimates forthcoming shortly		- -	Up to value of Rs. 10,000.

The Executive Engineer estimates that each of works Nos. 1 and 2 will employ 4,800 coolies for eight months, at a wage of 2 annas a day. I have proposed a lower wage, so that more than this total could be employed for the sum estimated as the total cost. It will not be possible to complete both (or either) of these roads with the labour and funds estimated for (4,000 labourers and 1,22,000 rupees) but sections of both could be completed.

In accordance with Public Works Department, Circular No. 270-6673, dated the 24th instant, I propose starting with: (a) collection of metal on the Betul-Dhar Road, as a test on the demand for relief in the northern distressed area, commencing at Dhar; and (b) collection of muram and embanking of a section of ten or twelve miles, starting from Betul, of the Badnur-Ellichpur Road. Expenditure during the remainder of financial year to be calculated on the basis of 40,000 rupees being available for the two works.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner

No. 36. C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34-C. of this day's date, I have the honour to report as follows on the agricultural prospects, &c., of the Chhindwara district.

2. In this district there is a great difference between the state of affairs in the Sausar tahsil and that which prevails in the Chhindwara tahsil. In the Sausar tahsil a few showers fell in September which improved prospects there greatly. The proportion of the kharif to the rabi cropped area in the Sausar tahsil is roughly 4 to 1, and three-quarters of the cropped area is under *juari*, *tur* and cotton. The Deputy Commissioner estimates the *juari* crop in the Sausar tahsil at 10 annas. *Tur* is reported to be better than *juari*. The cotton crop will be a fair one. Add to this the fact that the tahsil has been fortunate in its crops for some years past, and it will be seen that there is no reason for considering the general outlook in the Sausar tahsil to be unfavourable. Some scarcity will be felt in the jungly tracts of Ambasa and Khamarpani, where kodo and kutki are the crops that are sown: but these tracts are scantily populated. The cutting and watching of *juari* and *tur* and the picking of cotton will provide employment. In the spring the Government forest can, if necessary, be thrown open for the collection of mohwa and chirongi. A sum of Rs. 3,000 will be spent during the hot weather and rains on the repair of the Nagpur-Betul road which passes through the lower corner of the tahsil. No special measure of relief beyond the opening of the forest will, so far as at present appears, be required, therefore, for the people of the Sausar tahsil.

3. The cropped area of the Chhindwara tahsil is sown in ordinary years with kharif and rabi in the proportion of 2 to 3: but this year, owing to the small out-turn of the last wheat crop, and the consequent dearness of seed-grain, *juari* has been sown very largely, and the kharif and rabi areas are very nearly equal. The proportion in which the various kharif crops have been sown and the estimated out-turn for each are given below:—

Crop.	Proportion to the Total Khariff Area.	Estimated Out-turn.
	Per Cent.	
Juari - - -	25	6 annas.
Jagni - - -	25	2 "
Kodo - - -	16	Nil.
Bhadeli kutki - - -	8	8 to 10 annas.
Katiki - - -	6	Nil.
Makka - - -	5	6 annas.
Rice - - -	3	2 to 4 annas.
Tilli - - -	3	6 annas.
Other crops - -	9	{ <i>Urad</i> and <i>mung</i> 2 annas. { <i>Sama</i> 8 annas (but little was sown).

In the Chowrai and Linga Revenue Circles, in half the Umreth and one-third of the Amarwara Revenue Circles, the proportion of the normal rabi area that has been sown is from one-half to three-quarters. The seed has germinated, but some of the young plants have already withered.

In the remaining two-thirds of the Amarwara Circle and half the Umreth Circle, the proportion sown is from one-quarter to one-half. Only half the seed sown appears to have germinated.

The above particulars indicate that while, owing to the early kutki crop having been a fair one, and to makka and sama having yielded an appreciable out-turn there should be no widespread distress at present; there is a probability that there will shortly be

considerable distress in the Chhindwara tahsil on account of the shortness of the kharif crop, and of the small area sown, or successfully sown, with rabi. The harvesting of juari and tilli will furnish some employment this cold weather, but the labouring classes are already beginning to feel the pinch of hard times, and will feel it still more acutely in the spring. Except in a restricted area, the crops in the Chhindwara district have of late years been favourable, and there is no reason to suppose that the cultivators will, as a body, be in want of food. The distress in this tahsil will not be due so much to the scarcity of food-grain as to the fact that the wage-earning classes, and some of the poorer or less provident cultivators, will be without the means to purchase it.

4. Information received from the Eastern Jaghirs, viz., Harrai, Gorpani, Sonpur and Bhattiagarh, indicate that the crops have failed here in a worse degree than in the Chhindwara tahsil. The crops most widely sown were kodo, late kutki and jangi, and these have entirely failed. The other Jaghirs, viz., Pagara, Pachmarhi, Gorakghat, Almod and Bhardagarh, are better off. Jagni has done well in places, and, till lately, dew has fallen. There is distress, however, in the part of the Pagara Jaghir below the ghâts which borders on the Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur districts.

5. The area in which distress will shortly have to be dealt with is, therefore, roughly speaking, the Chhindwara tahsil and the Jaghirs to the north of it. According to Famine Statement C. the number of persons for whom employment on relief works is to be found in the event of serious famine in the district, generally, is 18,000. The population of the Sausar tahsil is less than one-third of the total population of the district, and the Deputy Commissioner considers that the total number of persons for whom work will have to be found is 10,000. I think that this estimate is a fair one, especially when it is considered that some of the population of the Jaghirs will find subsistence in the forests, and that the district, as a whole, has not suffered much from bad crops of late years. In framing the following estimate of the numbers that may be expected to come on the works in each month of the current year, I take account of the fact that, owing to the failure of the kodo and late kutki crops, distress is more immediately imminent in the affected area than in the Narsinghpur district (where the total number to be relieved has been set down at the same figure).

	Number of Labourers.	Cost.
		<i>Rs.</i>
December - - - - -	4,000	13,140
January - - - - -	6,000	19,710
February - - - - -	8,000	26,280
March - - - - -	10,000	32,850
		<u>Total Cost - Rs. 91,980</u>

Prices in this district being lower than in the Narsinghpur, I have adopted Rs. 0. 1. 9. as the average wage. If work is started in the middle of next month the total cost up to the end of March may be taken at Rs. 95,000. If relief is prolonged to the end of August, there will be a further outlay of Rs. 1,65,000 (in round numbers), so that a total expenditure of nearly 2½ lakhs must be provided for in the scheme of works.

6. In the Appendix to this letter will be found the scheme of works proposed. The Chhindwara-Narsinghpur-road, the construction of which is much called for in the general interests of the district, passes right through the affected tract in one direction; and the Chhindwara-Multai-road traverses it in the other. The plans and estimates of the latter and those for the first 31 miles of the former are ready, and both roads should, in my opinion, be constructed as Class II. or Class I. throughout.

7. Work should be started on the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara-road at once. As a second test work, the construction by the Court of Wards of the tank (already sanctioned) at Pagara should be conducted on relief principles. If people are found to come in to these works in any numbers, the metalling of the Singanama-Belgaon-road should be commenced.

8. The minor works which the Deputy Commissioner suggests consist of (a) field embankments in the Amarwara Revenue Circle, where the suitability of such embankments has been acknowledged by the people, and (b) a tank at Ranikhera, half way on the road between Matkuli and Delakhari. For 20 miles there is no water on this length and considerable inconvenience is caused to traffic. The work of field embankment will be most suitably undertaken in the hot weather. The Ranikhera tank is estimated to cost Rs. 5,000, and will employ about 250 persons.

9. Poor-houses may be established at Chhindwara and Amarwara. One of the missionaries at Amarwara is a physician, and already gives help to starving people. The Deputy Commissioner has given no estimate of the number of inmates. He states that for the time being beggars are finding support in private charity. I, therefore, take the same figures as I have adopted for the Betul district, and set down the number of persons to be provided for in poor-houses up to the end of March as Rs. 200, at a cost of Rs. 2,200.

10. There appears to be no need for children's kitchens; and I do not consider that gratuitous out-door relief will be required during the current year. For "Miscellaneous" expenditure I provide Rs. 300.

11. The total expenditure to be incurred during the current year, therefore, stands as under:—

	Rs.
Relief works - - - - -	95,000
Poor-houses - - - - -	2,200
Miscellaneous - - - - -	300
Total - - - - -	<u>97,500</u>

Towards this sum the District Council have appropriated Rs. 9,000. The sum obtainable from private subscriptions to poor houses may be set down at Rs. 1,000, and the Pagara Court of Wards will contribute Rs. 7,000 as the cost of the Pagara tank. The sum to be provided by Government may be set down at Rs. 90,000 therefore.

I have, &c.,

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

(To letter No. 36-C, dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department.)

Scheme of Relief Works—District Chhindwara.

Order.	Name of Road or Work.	Length in Miles	Detail of Work	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total each Road	Number of People per day for Eight Months	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1	Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road from (Section A) Border to Khodari.	0	Construction and murruming.	4,000	24,000	—	—	
—	(Section B) Khodari to Harrai	12	Construction and murruming.	4,000	48,000	—	—	As Class II. Road.
—	(Section C) Harrai to Khapa	16	Construction and murruming	3,500	56,000	1,28,000	4,266	
2	Narsinghpur Chhindwara Road Border to Khapa.	34	Metalling, average 8-ins.	2,000	68,000	68,000	2,266	Raising to Class I.
3	Siganama-Belgaon Road	46	Metalling - -	2,000	92,000	92,000	3,066	Raising to Class I.
	Total - - -	—	—	—	—	2,88,000	9,598	

Work to be started on collection of metal for the Siginama-Belgaon Road and on construction of Section C. of Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road (Harrai to Khapa).

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

No. 37 C. Dated Camp, October 31, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the
SECOND SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL
PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34 C, of this day's date, I have the honour to report on the agricultural prospects, &c., of the Narsinghpur district.

2. The following is the estimate of the outturn of the kharif crops in this district. It is subject to revision on receipt of the detailed statement of the results of crop experiments ordered.

	Annas.
Rice - - - - -	6
Juari - - - - -	6
Kodo - - - - -	6
Cotton - - - - -	10
Til (early) - - - - -	9
Til (late) - - - - -	4
Kutki - - - - -	Nil.

It is estimated that the area sown with rabi crops will not exceed 45 per cent. of the normal area.

3. The shortness of the kharif crops has affected all parts of the district more or less, but it has most seriously affected the hilly tracts along the southern and northern borders of the district. The inhabitants of these tracts are never far removed from poverty, and depend almost entirely on the kharif harvest for their subsistence. Generally it may be said that the rich embanked land, in which rabi crops have been chiefly sown, are to be found only in a belt of country about 12 miles broad, running right through the centre of the district from east to west, with the railway line intersecting it. If the rabi crop is a fairly good one, the distress within this belt of well-cultivated country will be nominal only. For the purpose of the present letter, which is concerned with the probable expenditure on relief-works during the current financial year, it may be taken that the distress to be dealt with is confined to the hilly tracts on the northern and southern borders.

4. Famine Statement C shows that in the event of serious famine in the district at large it would be necessary to provide work for about 30,000 persons. The population of the area in which there is likely to be distress during the current year is about one-third of the total population of the district. It is probable, therefore, that work will, by the close of the year, have to be found for about 10,000 persons. It is unlikely that this total will be reached otherwise than gradually; and though it is impossible to make a precise forecast, I think it probable that the maximum will be arrived at by a gradation such as that shown below:—

	Persons.
December - - - - -	2,000
January - - - - -	4,000
February - - - - -	8,000
March - - - - -	10,000

Many of the inhabitants of the affected area are Gonds, who do not readily betake themselves to work on roads. They will find what subsistence they can in the jungles, and will only come to labour in the last resort. There is not much in the way of food to be found in the jungles at present, but there are jungle products (such as grass, leaves, dry-wood and harra) to be collected and brought for sale. I am of opinion that it will

not be till January and February that the stress of want will drive these people to our relief-works. Taking the same average rate of wage as I adopted for Hoshangabad—2 annas a day—the cost will be—

	Rs.
December - - - - -	7,500
January - - - - -	15,000
February - - - - -	30,000
March - - - - -	37,500
Total - - - - -	<u>90,000</u>

In order to provide for outsiders—wanderers from Bhopal, Saugor and elsewhere—I would put the figure at one lakh. This is the cost up to the end of the financial year. If it is found necessary to continue to maintain 10,000 persons on relief-works for the five months following (*i.e.* up to the end of August) an additional sum of Rs. 1,87,500, or nearly three lakhs in all, will be required.

5. In Appendix A to this letter are set out the relief-works which it is proposed to undertake. They are all road works, no other large works being feasible in the affected areas. The roads selected all pass through the hilly country to the north and south, and are useful lines of communication, having been taken from the District Road Scheme. As in other districts, I propose to make roads of the two higher classes only, for the reasons given in my letter on the Hoshangabad district.

6. I have no minor works to propose. The District Council is now carrying out ordinary repairs to roads as test works. The Deputy Commissioner is making inquiries on the subject of field embankments; but it is unlikely that this form of employment will be largely available in this district, as opinions are not unanimous as to the utility of such works. With regard to poor-houses, the District Council has already established one at Narsinghpur, and a second one will be opened at Gadarwara, where an old serai is available for the purpose. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that each will have not less than 500 inmates. I am inclined to think that the numbers will not reach 500 till March, and that 350 may be taken as the average number of occupants of each poor-house from December to March. The cost of food at 1 anna 6 pies a day may be taken at Rs. 1,950 a month, in round numbers, for both institutions, or Rs. 8,775 for the four and a-half months commencing on the 15th proximo. To this must be added cost of establishment, on the Hoshangabad scale, Rs. 616 *plus* Rs. 300 for repairs and contingencies. The total cost of the two poor-houses for four and a-half months may be set down as Rs. 97,000. For gratuitous relief outside poor-houses, and for miscellaneous expenditure, I make the same provision as in the case of Hoshangabad.

7. To sum up, the total amount that may be expected to be required for famine relief in the Narsinghpur district during the current year is as under :—

	Rs.
(1) Relief-works - - - - -	1,00,000
(2) Poor-houses - - - - -	9,700
(3) Gratuitous relief outside poor-houses - - - - -	1,000
(4) Miscellaneous - - - - -	1,000
Total - - - - -	<u>1,11,700</u>

8. I have not yet received the Deputy Commissioner's official reply to my letter calling for information on the basis indicated in Mr. Craddock's letter No. C. 449, dated the 22nd instant, but I learn from a demi-official letter from Mr. Phillips, that the District Council are unable to contribute anything towards the above total, and that not much can be expected from subscriptions. I am of opinion that Rs. 5,000 should be obtainable by subscription to poor-houses from private persons and court of wards estate. The balance to be provided by Government for famine expenditure in the Narsinghpur district during the current year is, therefore, a little over one lakh (Rs. 1,06,000).

I have, &c.
L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

To letter No. 37C., dated October 31, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,
Revenue Department, Central Provinces.

Scheme of Relief-Works—District Narsinghpur.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Details of Work.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each Road.	Equivalent Number of Coolies of 2 annas per them as are Number of People per Month for Nine Months.	Amount required for 1896-97	Remarks.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10.	11.
1	Old Bombay Road, Narsinghpur to Kareh.	8	Raising 1' above surface of country and repairs to crossings. Metalling 9" - -	1,350 3,600	10,800 28,800	- 39,600	- 3,16,800	- 1,173	-	III-A raised to Class I.
2	Old Bombay Road, Kareh to Gadawara.	35	Raising above surface of country 1' and repairs to crossings, &c. Metalling 9" - -	1,350 3,600	47,250 1,26,000	- 1,73,250	- 13,86,000	- 5,133	-	III-A raised to Class I
3	Narsinghpur to Sankal.	15	Construction - - Metalling 9" - -	1,750 3,600	26,250 54,000	- 80,250	- 6,42,000	- 2,304	-	To Class I
4	Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road, Singhpur to Border.	7	Construction - - Kankaring - - Raising to Class I, 9" metal.	1,800 4,000 3,000	10,800 4,000 21,000	- - 35,800	- - 2,86,400	- - 1,061	-	As a Class II Class II to I.
5	Raising road from Chota - Chhindwara to Sringar, from III-A to II.	7	Raising and muramming.	3,100	21,700	-	-	-	-	From III-A to II.
	Road from Sringar to Border of Seoni.	5	Constructing and muramming.	3,500	17,500	39,200	3,13,000	1,162	-	New road, Class II
6	Gadawara to Salichowka towards Pagara.	17	Constructing and muramming	3,500	59,500	59,500	4,76,000	1,763	-	Class II, new road.
7	Gadawara to Sankhera.	13	Constructing - - Muramming - -	- 900	Actual estimates. 11,700	- 42,368	- 3,38,144	- 1,253	-	Raising from III-A to II.
8	Barman - Tendukhera Road.	15	Metalling 9" - - Completing - -	3,000 -	45,000 8,000	- 53,000	- 3,04,000	- 1,570	-	Completing as III-B and raising to Class I.
9	Narsinghpur-Lakhnadon Road	26	Metalling 9" - -	3,000	78,000	78,000	6,24,000	2,230	-	Raising III-B to I.
10	Metalling the following Class II Roads:—									
	Narsinghpur-Singhpur	4½	Metalling	2,000	9,000	9,000	72,000	266	-	Raising to Class I.
	Kareh - Amgaon.	3½		2,000	7,500	7,500	60,000	222	-	
	Kulri-Bohani	4½		2,000	9,000	9,000	72,000	266	-	
	TOTAL					6,26,968		18,403	Coolies for nine months.	

Work to be started on item 8, metalling the Barman-Tendukhera Road.

Work to be started on item 9, metalling the Narsinghpur-Lakhnadon Road.

Work to be started on item 6, muramming Gadawara-Sankhera Road.

No. 41-C. Dated Camp, November 1, 1896.

From L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NERBUDDA DIVISION, to the
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 34-C of yesterday's date, I have the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects of the Nimar district.

2. Until the present season, the Khandwa and Burhanpur tahsils of this district have been fairly well off as regards harvests. The Deputy Commissioner's report on the probable out-turn of the kharif crops is deficient in detail, and there is not time to procure further information before the date prescribed for the submission of this letter. His statement is that: "The present kharif harvest (much the more important one), though injured by the early stoppage of the rains, cannot, I think, turn out less than an eight-anna one, as a general average."

In the Harsud tahsil, which was constituted at the commencement of last month, and includes an area transferred from the Harda tahsil of the Hoshangabad district, seasons have not been so good as in Khandwa and Burhanpur, and the present kharif prospects are perhaps only about six annas in the rupee. The Deputy Commissioner's report gives no information as to the rabi sowings.

The rainfall returns show that the Burhanpur tahsil received some good showers of rain in September, but that in the rest of the district rain ceased with the end of August. Cotton, which is an important crop in this district, suffers less than other crops from an early cessation of the rains; but much cannot be expected of the rabi crops under the circumstances. The conclusion at which I arrive is that the Nimar district is, both on account of its previous history and its present prospects, better off than the other districts of this division. Such distress as there may be will be mainly caused by high prices, though the cultivators in the ryotwari tract in the Harsud tahsil will probably be in straitened circumstances on account of the shortness of the crops and the poor prospects of the rabi.

3. According to Famine Statement C, the number of persons to be employed on relief works, in the event of the whole district being overtaken by serious famine, is 12,000. No such catastrophe is at present in view. On the information before me, I do not think that we need contemplate having to provide employment for more than 3,000 persons at the most. This maximum would probably not be arrived at by more rapid stages than those indicated below:—

		Monthly cost of wages at 2 annas a day.	
		Rs.	
December, 500 persons	- - -	1,875	
January, 1,000 persons	- - -	3,750	
February, 2,000 persons	- - -	7,500	
March, 3,000 persons	- - -	11,250	
Total for four months		- - -	<u>24,375</u>

The total cost of providing work at 2 annas per day (the rate adopted in the case of the adjoining district of Hoshangabad) for this number of coolies, from December to the end of March, will be Rs. 24,375.

In Appendix A to this letter will be found a scheme of work which provides employment for between 3,000 and 4,000 persons for eight months. If test works show that the above estimates are likely to be realised, I propose to commence work on: (a) a section of the Harsud-Kaliam road, and (b) the Ajanti Canal in January.

4. The Deputy Commissioner is of opinion that private charity will supply the funds required for a poor-house, should one become necessary, before the end of the current year.

5. The District Council are able, by re-appropriation, to provide a sum of Rs. 5,000 for relief works. They will thus be able to bear the cost of the test works to be carried out in the current month and in December. The sum which Government is asked to provide, should the test works in question show that the estimate given above of the number of persons to be provided with employment is correct, is Rs. 20,000 in round figures.

I have, &c.

L. K. LAURIE, Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

[To Letter No. 41C., dated November 1, 1896, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Revenue Department, Central Provinces.]

Scheme of Relief Works—District Nimar.

Order.	Name of Road.	Length in Miles.	Details.	Rate per Mile.	Total.	Total of each Road.	Number of People for Eight Months.	Remarks.
1.	2	3	4	5.	6.	7.	8	9.
1	Raising Khandwa-Mohghat Road to Class I.	3½	Muram soling and metalling.	Rs -	Rs. 6,122	Rs. 6,122	204	Estimate in Stage III.
2	Extending Ajant Canal of Khandwa Waterworks Embankment and waste weir earth-work.	-	As per Stage III. Estimate.	-	7,500	7,500	250	
3	Harsud-Kalam-Bamgarh - Khandwa Road:							
	Harsud to Kalam.	6	Estimate in Stage III.	-	28,000	-	-	New road.
	Kalam to old border.	4	Surveyed - -	7,000	1,750	-	-	
	Old border to Bamgarh.	11	Under survey - -	19,250	1,750	-	-	
	Bamgarh to Khandwa.	9	Surveyed - -	12,150	1,350	-	-	
	Raising road from Class III. B. to II.	40	Muramming - -	900	36,000	1,02,900	3,410	Class III. A. to III B. All to Class II.
			Total - - -	-	-	1,15,922	3,860	

Work to be started on the Harsud Kalam Road, and on No. 2 in January, if test works opened in November and December show that relief works are necessary.

No. 4729.—Dated Nagpur, November 28, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE NERBUDDA DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 34-C to 37-C, dated October 31, and No. 41-C, dated November 1, reporting on the agricultural prospects of the districts of the Nerbudda Division, and the measures of relief which it is proposed to take. The Chief Commissioner has also had under consideration your subsequent letter No. 67-C, dated November 14, forwarding the reports of the Deputy Commissioners on which your conclusions and proposals were based, your letter No. 66-C of the same date, forwarding a programme of relief-works which you have arranged, in consultation with the Chief Engineer, to undertake during the remaining portion of the current financial year, and your letter No. 72-C, dated November 19, showing the distribution of the sum of one lakh of rupees allotted for immediate requirements to your Division. Before proceeding further I am to explain that this sum was not intended by the Chief Commissioner to be the limit of expenditure on famine relief in the Nerbudda Division up to April 1 next. That limit will be fixed by the necessities of the case as they may be found to exist, and the amount provisionally allotted will be supplemented by whatever sum is necessary to secure the paramount object of saving life. Your last letter divides the lakh between the four districts of Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur, Betul and Chhindwara (Nimar being left to provide its relief expenditure from district funds), and conveys sanction to an expenditure of Rs. 24,000 in these four districts for the month of December. But it should be understood that neither you nor the Deputy Commissioners are tied down to this limit, and that the Chief Commissioner is ready (with the approval

of the Government of India) to provide whatever sum is required for the effectual relief of distress.

2. Taking the districts of your Division from west to east, the Chief Commissioner finds that in Nimar the Deputy Commissioner estimates the outturn of the kharif crops (which cover five-sixths of the cropped area of the district), at 8 annas all round. This estimate was put forward on October 31, and is subject to correction on further information, which you have doubtless called on Mr. Walker to supply when the harvest is reaped, and the outturn has been better ascertained. In the Harsud tahsil, which comprises the Charwa ryotwari tract lately transferred to the district from Hoshangabad, the outturn is not expected to exceed 6 annas. With the exception of this tract, the district (which has had good harvests of recent years) is considered unlikely to suffer severely from scarcity, although distress will doubtless be caused by high prices. You anticipate that employment may have to be found for some 3,000 persons by March next, but this total will be gradually reached, and at 2 annas a day (a high rate of wages for famine relief when women and children are included) you estimate that Rs. 24,375 is the sum which may have to be provided for affording work for them; of this the District Council can give Rs. 5,000 by re-appropriation, and Rs. 20,000 (in round figures) will thus have to be found from Government Funds. For poor relief you anticipate that private charity will provide.

For relief work you submit a scheme containing three projects, viz: (1) raising the Khandwa-Mohgat Road to Class I, costing Rs. 6,122; (2) extending the Ajanti canal of the Khandwa Waterworks, Rs. 7,500, and (3) the Harsud-Kalam-Bhamgarh-Khandwa Road, estimated to cost Rs. 1,02,300. These works would employ 3,860 people for eight months. The scheme forwarded with your letter No. 66-C, dated November 14, however, provides only for No. (2) of the above, costing Rs. 7,500, and the first section, 16 miles, of the Harsud-Kalam Road, costing Rs. 28,000, and of the Rs. 35,500 thus furnished only Rs. 5,000 (the whole of which the District Council can provide) is estimated to be required in the financial year 1896-97. If your anticipations are correct it will not be necessary to make any special grant of Government Funds to this district for the current year. The Chief Commissioner has not heard what has been the result of the test works which you have directed to be opened, but assumes that you will report at once if any acute distress, calling for expenditure beyond the amount thus allotted, should declare itself. Meantime Mr. Lyall sanctions administratively the three projects mentioned as works suitable for famine relief, and authorises work being started upon them should the necessity declare itself. He observes that they are all in the northern portion of the district, and that no work is provided for the Burhanpur tahsil. He assumes that you have satisfied yourself that none is required there.

The recent rainfall in this district is understood to have been very light, and in any case, the rabi area being unimportant and the kharif crops harvested or ripe, it could not be expected to make much difference in prospects.

3. *Hoshangabad*.—In this district the prospects of the western portion, including the Harda and Seoni tahsils (with the exception of the Charwa parganna in the former), are reported to be fair. The rabi has been largely sown, and so far has survived, and has doubtless benefited by the late rain. The kharif, represented by jowari and tilli, occupies about a fourth of the cultivated area, and Mr. Lyall understands that jowari has done better than was expected, and that at least an eight-anna crop of this grain and of tilli may be anticipated. The two eastern tahsils, Hoshangabad and Sohagpur, are, however, in a much worse condition, and the Chief Commissioner learns with regret from a recent report from the Deputy Commissioner that in the latter the people have already been reduced to a severe degree of distress. The kharif area is here much larger than to the west, and the crops, except jowari, which is now expected to yield from 6 to 8 annas, have been a failure. A large proportion of the rabi area is unsown, and although the wheat sown has germinated, it is reported to be withering in many places from want of moisture. The tract has already suffered in recent years from failure of harvests, which has contributed to cause much despondency among the cultivating classes. The labourers, Mr. Crump reports, are already in a state verging on starvation, and beggars (many of whom come from Bhopal) are very numerous. The late rainfall was here very light, and not much benefit to the rabi is anticipated.

You propose, in your letter No. 34-C of October 31, the following measures of relief:—

- (1.) The completion of the road schemes of the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils;

- (2.) The raising to Class I. of the Harda-Handia Road ;
- (3.) The stacking of supplies of metal on the Piparia-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul Roads ;
- (4.) Procuring, through the orders of the Government of India, work on the portion of the Indian Midland Railway which lies between the Hoshangabad Railway Station and the Nerbudda, where a new alignment has been proposed ; this, it is said, would employ 1,000 men for three months ;
- (5.) Digging of fields in Court of Wards estates for the eradication of káns grass ;
- (6.) The opening of poor-houses at Hoshangabad and Sohagpur.

You have already sanctioned the last step by telegraph ; and you propose for the two poor-houses an establishment costing Rs. 137 a month. This the Chief Commissioner sanctions. You expect to spend on the poor-houses Rs. 9,700 before the close of the present year. Whatever expenditure is necessary will be provided, and you are authorised to incur it.

The digging of káns grass, referred to above under head (5), will, the Chief Commissioner understands, be provided for from the funds of estates under the Court of Wards.

Enquiry will be made through the Public Works Department regarding the work referred to under head (4).

As regards the other works proposed, you calculate that about 5½ lakhs may be required for expenditure in the coming nine months, but for the remainder of the current financial year you estimate that Rs. 1,42,000 only will be required. Your estimate provides for the employment of numbers rising from 5,000 in December to 20,000 in April. Much depends on the out-turn of the rabi harvest, but the Chief Commissioner is not inclined to question your estimate of the numbers needing relief, and rather fears that it may be found under the mark in the earlier months of the distress.

In your letter No. 66-C., dated the 14th November, you have revised your estimate of works to be at once taken in hand. The works above enumerated under head (3), *i.e.*, the collection of metal for the Piparia-Pachmarhi and Itarsi-Betul Road (as far as Dhar), are retained, but of the Hoshangabad-Sohagpur Road programme only the Piparia-Sandia, the Piparia-Sobhapur, and the Tigaria-Dularia roads are included, and the Harda-Handia Road is also provided for in the Harda tahsil. The total estimated cost of these works is put down at Rs. 1,69,900, of which Rs. 51,650 is expected to be incurred during the remaining months of the current year. The Chief Commissioner understands that these estimates (which he has approved in the Public Works Department) do not include provision for hutting, conservancy, and medical arrangements, and that some addition will be necessary on this account. And he fears, looking to the accounts since received of the prevalence of distress in the Sohagpur and Hoshangabad tahsils, that they may not sufficiently provide the employment which is required. If this proves to be the case, no time should be lost in drawing up a supplementary programme for sanction as soon as indications are observed that the distress is increasing. Of the funds required, you estimated that the District Council Budget could provide Rs. 22,000, while from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000 might be expected from private charity. According to your letter of the 31st October, this left Government to provide about Rs. 1,25,000 for the current year. The reduced programme of works subsequently forwarded (which however, as above indicated, requires some expansion) would make the account stand thus :—

	Rs.
1. Relief works	51,650
2. Poor-houses	9,700
3. Gratuitous relief	1,000
4. Miscellaneous	1,000
Total	63,350
Deduct—	
	Rs.
District Fund monies	22,000
Private charity	10,000
	32,000
Balance	31,350

The Chief Commissioner fears that this is somewhat below the amount which may be expected to be required in the Hoshangabad District, and will be ready to grant any further sum which may be necessary.

4. *Narsinghpur*.—In this district the parts where distress is present are the hilly portions along the northern and southern borders, which are peopled by the poorest classes, chiefly of aboriginal race, who depend mainly upon the kharif harvest, which has generally failed. The centre of the district, a tract about 12 miles broad, through the middle of which the railway runs, contains the richest land, and if the rabi harvest, aided by good rain, yields a fair out-turn, it is expected that there will not be much distress in this area. The Chief Commissioner hopes that this estimate of the situation is a sound one; but he fears from what he has heard that the power of the people of the Narsinghpur district to resist distress has been considerably reduced, owing to the prevalence of unfavourable seasons during a series of past years, and that it may be necessary to make a larger provision for relief expenditure in it than is contemplated.

The proposals in your letter No. 37-C., dated the 31st October, provide for the employment of 10,000 persons in March, rising from 2,000 in December. At the rate of two annas a day (a rather large estimate, as already pointed out), the cost of relief in work or poor-houses would be Rs. 90,000, or, to provide for outside wanderers, about one lakh. You have already authorised the opening of two poor-houses, at Narsinghpur and Gadawara, and provide Rs. 9,700 for them, and for other relief purposes you set down Rs. 2,000, making a total for the district of Rs. 1,11,700, of which only Rs. 5,000 is expected to be met from private sources, nothing being available from District Funds.

The revised programme of works for this district, submitted with your letter of the 14th November, gives works costing to complete Rs. 1,57,518, and provides only Rs. 40,000 for expenditure during the current year. The Chief Commissioner has sanctioned this programme in the Public Works Department, but fears that it will probably have to be increased in view of the prospect of distress becoming more acute. The charge of the district has just changed hands. Mr. Lyall trusts that you will impress on the new incumbent the necessity of watching the progress of the distress with the utmost care, and of having ready a programme of additional work which can be put in hand immediately experience shows it to be required. The late Deputy Commissioner, it is understood, thought that in the east of the Narsinghpur district there was some scope for tank-making and the embankment of land; he also mentioned to the Chief Commissioner the eradication of káns grass by systematic digging as a useful agricultural work. The Chief Commissioner hopes that you will ascertain whether loans under the Land Improvement Act could be utilised in these directions, and work thus provided for the people in their villages.

5. *Betul*.—The report from this district contained in your letter of the 31st October indicates a good deal of uncertainty as to the situation. The district, like Nimar, has enjoyed a series of good seasons, and it was believed by the late Officiating Deputy Commissioner that there was a considerable quantity of grain in stock, probably enough to last for a year, in the level and more fertile portions. Much of the area is, however, mountainous and broken, inhabited by Korkus and Gonds, and wholly dependent on the kharif. Among these it is to be feared that distress is very probable, and special provision requires to be made for them. In the south a considerable portion of the labouring classes is accustomed to emigrate to Berar during the cold weather for work in harvesting, and this year they must have been disappointed of this resource. The Betul-Itarsi Road (and its continuation into Berar) is also a thoroughfare, like that from Jubbulpore to Nagpur, along which many wanderers are found to travel, and special attention will have to be paid to it to guard against deaths from starvation. Until the situation further develops, and the out-turns of the kharif and the prospects of the rabi are more clearly known, our attitude as regards this district must be one mainly of expectation, but we should be prepared for eventualities should they arise.

You propose, in your letter of the 31st October, to provide work for 1,000 persons in December, increasing to 4,000 in February and March, and reaching 5,000 from April to August. Assuming lower prices in Betul than elsewhere, you put the wage per head at 1 anna 9 pie per diem, and you calculate that for nine months a total of Rs. 1,22,000 will be required, not more than Rs. 40,000 of which will fall in the current year. The District Council can contribute only Rs. 5,000, of which Rs. 3,700 will be spent on test works and the balance on tools and poor-house expenditure. One poor-house at Badnur is proposed, costing about Rs. 2,200 for three months. With Rs. 300

for miscellaneous, the total comes to Rs. 42,500 for the current year, of which about Rs. 3,000 may be met from charity.

The works proposed are (1) the road from Badnur to Harda *viâ* Chicholi, which will afford labour in the northern mountainous tract; (2) the Badnur-Ellichpur Road, which will give work in the south; and (3) collection of a year's supply of metal for the Betul-Itarsi (Dhar) Road.

Your subsequent revised programme for Betul includes only the second and third of the above works, and contemplates the preparation of estimates for work amounting to Rs. 80,630, of which only Rs. 15,000 will be spent before the 31st March 1896. This has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, but he is inclined to doubt whether, if distress declares itself in an acute form in the northern mountainous tract among the Korkus and Gonds, it will not be necessary to take in hand the Badnur-Harda road *viâ* Chicholi.

6. *Chhindwara*.—In this district it was expected in October that the Sausar or southern tahsil would escape severe pressure, with the exception of the jungly tracts of Ambassa and Kamarpani, and that, except the opening of the forests, no special relief will be required by the people of this portion of the district. In the Chhindwara tahsil things were much worse. The outturn of the kharif had been very poor, the rabi area had been contracted owing to larger kharif sowings than usual, and of the normal rabi area about one-half only had been sown, while germination had been defective, and some of the wheat had withered after germination. The Chief Commissioner, however, understands that the recent rain has been heavy in Chhindwara, and it is probable that some of the area hitherto unsown, or which has failed after sowing, may still be occupied by a crop. This part of the district has hitherto had good crops, and distress is likely to be restricted to the wage-earning classes.

North of the Chhindwara tahsil lies the belt of mountainous and barren country forming the Jagirs. Here the population is almost wholly aboriginal, and depends upon the autumn crops of kodo, kutki and jagni, all of which have entirely failed in the eastern Jagirs, while those to the west have done a little better. Distress in this tract is certain, and it will be general. Relief has therefore to be provided for the labouring poor in the Chhindwara tahsil and for the Gond population in the Jagirs. You estimate that beginning with 4,000 persons in December, the number of applicants for employment may reach 10,000 in March, and that at 1 anna 9 pies a day, Rs. 91,980 may be required by the end of March, or if work is started earlier Rs. 95,000. You provide for two poor houses, at Chhindwara and Amarwara, the latter to serve the eastern Jagirs and to be in charge of the Missionaries there, at a cost of Rs. 2,200. You consider that no gratuitous out-door relief will be immediately required, and your total estimate reaches Rs. 97,500. Of this the District Fund will contribute Rs. 9,000, private subscriptions Rs. 1,000, and the Pagara Court of Wards Rs. 7,000, leaving about Rs. 90,000 for Government to provide.

The Public Works proposed are (1) the Narsinghpur-Chhindwara Road, three sections, (2) the Singanama-Belgaon Road, and (3) a tank at Pagara.

Your revised estimate of the 14th November includes these same works, but estimates only Rs. 75,000 for work upon them, excluding the Pagara tank, and provides only Rs. 20,000 for the current year. This has been sanctioned in the Public Works Department, but the Chief Commissioner doubts whether, unless the late rain has greatly changed the prospects of the district, the revised estimate will suffice. He relies upon you to watch carefully the progress of the relief works when started, and to extend the programme if required.

He observes that some works of land improvement are contemplated in this district in field embankments in the Amarwara circle, while a drinking water tank is to be made at Ranikhera. I am to say that if the former works are feasible and likely to be profitable, the Chief Commissioner thinks they had better be taken in hand at once, as village works are more suitable for ill-clad people in the winter (which is severe in the uplands) than large works under the Public Works Department, inasmuch as they can obtain shelter in their villages, while on the latter they are likely, unless expensively huddled, to suffer from exposure. There will be money available for advances under the Land Improvement Act if required by malguzars willing to carry out such improvements, and Mr. Lyall would wish the Deputy Commissioner to ascertain as soon as possible whether they can be undertaken and to what extent.

7. The Chief Commissioner believes that the above remarks and orders deal fully with all the points contained in your letter; if you require his decision in regard to any other questions, they should be submitted as soon as possible. I am to ask that before

the end of December a report may be submitted for each district, giving a fuller account of the situation, the out-turn and prospects of the harvests, the numbers for which relief will be necessary, and the estimated expenditure on providing it. The report should include an account of the measures of relief and the expenditure upon them undertaken up to the date of its submission.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST, Chief Secretary.

No. 8676.—Dated Nagpur, November 7, 1896.

From A. H. L. FRASER, Esq., I.C.S., COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

IN accordance with the request contained in your letter, No. C-447, dated the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to forward separate Notes on the prospects of each district in this Division, along with copies of the Deputy Commissioners' reports alluded to in the Notes.

2. I also forward an abstract of the expenditure anticipated, showing the sources from which funds are expected. I may say that in all districts there has been a prompt and generous response to the calls made on public benevolence for assistance. I think, however, that the sums actually promised for Bhandara and Balaghat are for eight months. If, however, more than what has been promised is required, I have the assurance of Rao Bahadur Yado Rao that he will help me further in Bhandara. The estimates may, therefore, be accepted.

3. In regard to the estimated expenditure, I would note that the estimates made may be regarded as the worst that we expect up to April 1 next. I have not, however, felt justified in cutting down the Deputy Commissioners' figures further than I have done. I understand that we are to relieve distress with a distinct determination that not a single death from starvation which we can prevent shall take place. It would, in this view, be a very serious thing to have less money than we require.

4. At the same time I think it quite probable that in Chanda the only Government works required this year may be half the Warora-Patalla Road and two-thirds of my estimate for the Chanda-Katori Road. That would give (Rs. 5,400 + 5,600) Rs. 11,000 for this district in column 2 of my abstract. I have said in my Note that probably Rs. 6,750, in round numbers Rs. 7,000, may suffice under this head for Wardha. But the Kondhali people may need more help towards the end of the year. In Nagpur I think that there is little doubt that the Khapa-Patansaongi Road, the length of metalling on the Umrer Road and half my estimate for the Kalmeshwar-Katol Road will probably suffice. This would give (Rs. 9,216 + 10,000 + 6,784) Rs. 26,000 for Nagpur. In Bhandara I think we might safely cut Rs. 8,000 off the Tumsar-Rampalli Road and Rs. 3,300 off the Phulchur-Arjuni Road. This would reduce the figure for that district from Rs. 66,300 to Rs. 55,000. I should not like to cut down the figure for Balaghat to less than Rs. 90,000. This would give Rs. 1,89,000 for the total of column 2. I think it possible also that the Government expenditure on gratuitous relief might be reduced without risk, say by Rs. 18,000, if the works are started promptly; this would give a total demand of Rs. 2,29,000 from Government in the Division.

5. From this has to be deducted the following sums which can be paid by District Councils :—

	Rs.
Chanda	3,370
Wardha	1,000
Nagpur	9,500
Bhandara	7,600
Balaghat	—
Total	21,470

This leaves a net demand for Government assistance of about two lakhs for the current year.

6. It will be noted that my Notes show the following totals for advances under the Land Improvement Act :—

												Rs.
Chanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Wardha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	—
Nagpur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Bhandara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Balaghat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,05,000

or, say, in round numbers, one lakh.

I have, &c.

A. H. L. FRASER, Commissioner.

ABSTRACT.

Name of District.	WORKS.				GRATUITOUS RELIEF.				TOTAL EXPENDITURE.				Remarks.
	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	Government.	Private.	Total.	Men.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	
Chanda	19,800	10,000	29,800	2,400	3,300	1,500	4,800	800	23,100	11,500	34,600	3,200	Rs. 5,000 for tanks now in use.
Wardha	12,000	—	12,000	1,450	—	6,000	6,000	600	12,000	6,000	18,000	2,050	—
Nagpur	33,516	75,000	1,08,516	10,000	10,000	25,000	35,000	4,000	43,516	1,00,000	1,43,516	14,000	He has Rs. 5,000 takavi.
Bhandara	66,300	52,000	1,18,300	11,000	15,000	10,000	25,000	3,000	81,300	62,000	1,43,300	14,000	He has Rs. 7,500 takavi.
Balaghat	98,000	60,000	1,58,000	12,000	30,000	6,000	36,000	4,000	1,28,000	66,000	1,94,000	16,000	Rs. 5,000 on ryotwari tanks and Rs. 8750 on takavi now being used.
Total	2,29,616	1,97,000	4,26,616	36,850	58,300	48,500	1,06,800	12,400	2,87,916	2,45,500	5,33,416	49,250	

WARDHA PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Deputy Commissioner's Report is contained in his letters No. 6624, dated the 12th ultimo, and No. 6985, dated the 30th ultimo. His view is briefly this:—" Cotton will probably be fair to poor, juari, in good land, the same. Wheat and linseed will be practically failures, giving only a 4-anna crop. The affected area north of the line will be the Konchali and part of the Keljhar parganas, *i.e.*, the hilly part of the district where the soil is poor."

The prospects for the rabi area south of the line are bad., "The very general opinion is that little relief will be required in this district before February."

There will be great difficulty in realising revenue, but not much real distress.

2. There is some acute distress among a few people at Wardha now, but these are for the most part strangers from other provinces, or from other districts of this province. They are mainly from Rewah, Bhandara, and Balaghat. These have come for work in Berar, and have been turned back. They will require gratuitous relief for the weak, and work for the able-bodied. There will also, I think, be some distress among the people of Kheljar and Kondhali. This can be relieved later on in the season, to a certain extent, by forest produce. But some work seems to me to be necessary at once.

3. I would propose at once to start the collection of metal for the Warda-Paunar road. This is five miles long. The work is necessary in view of the waterworks. It is conveniently situated for relieving such distress as seems to exist. The collection of metal would employ 750 men for three months, and would cost about Rs. 6,750.

4. This would probably suffice for the current year. If not, there is in reserve the last eight miles of the Pulgaon-Arvi road, which has to be metalled. The collection of metal would keep employed 1,200 men for three months. It would cost about Rs. 11,000. If the two works be required, a round sum of Rs. 18,000 may be taken as necessary. But Rs. 12,000 is quite a safe estimate.

5. Besides this a sum of about Rs. 6,000 will be required for the gratuitous relief of people unable to work. This will be wholly met by private charity.

A. H. L. FRASER,

Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

Dated November 7, 1896.

No. 6624. Dated Wardha, October 12, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WARDHA, to the COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Report called for in Secretariat letter No. C-377, dated October 1, 1896, a copy of which was forwarded under your endorsement No. 7748, dated October 3, 1896.

2. The main line of the railway almost exactly marks the division of the areas of the kharif and rabi crops. North of the line in the higher and poorer soils of the Arvi tahsil is grown the juari and cotton, while the richer plain of the southern half grows the wheat and linseed. There is, however, a rich strip of black cotton soil all along the banks of the Wardha River on which juari is grown.

The rain practically ceased at the end of August. Since then it has been very hot, and the ground has become baked. The kharif crop of juari, however, on the moisture-retaining black soil will pull through, but the juari in the Kondhali pargana, where the land is generally khardi and bardi, will probably turn out a 4-anna crop at the most.

A little rain now would save it, and, what is more, would give another bumper cotton crop. If no rain falls, the affected area north of the line will be the Kondhali, and part of the Keljhar parganas; that is, the hilly part of the district where the soil is poor.

The same may be said of a small area round Pohna in the south, where juari is largely grown.

The outlook, however, for the tract south of the line is not pleasant. The crop is almost entirely a rabi one of wheat and linseed. The linseed has already been sown and the plants have germinated, but they will not be able to stand the heat much longer. Wheat will be very poor.

Last year the rain ceased early, but there were showers at the time of the Dasera which saved all the crops; at present the ground is too hard and dry even for sowing. The only other crop is tilli, which is largely sown in the south-east corner of the district. This should turn out fairly well. To sum up, cotton will probably be fair to poor, juari in good land the same; wheat and linseed will be, practically, failures, giving only a 4-anna crop. The staple food of the poorer classes is juari, and there will be sufficient of that crop, I hope, to require no importation, although prices are nearly certain to rule higher than usual.

3. As regards relief works, I can fall back on road construction, if necessary. Roads are required in each tahsil; as to funds, I can throw over the sanitary works provided for by the district council. This will give me Rs. 5,225. This body also propose to spend Rs. 10,000 in raising the Wardha-Waigaon road in class, so I shall have at least Rs. 15,225 at my disposal. I do not, however, at present anticipate any general scarcity of food. There will be great difficulty in realising rents and revenue again in the Hinganghat tahsil, but I believe that will be all.

4. Your orders regarding crop experiments will be carefully followed.

No. 6985. Dated Wardha, October 30, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WARDHA, to the COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your endorsements No. 8296, dated October 24, 1896, and No. 8329, dated October 24, 1896, regarding famine relief works.

2. I have for some weeks been making careful inquiries, and I find it is the very general opinion that little relief will be required in this district before February. No test works have yet been started. The condition of things at present is as follows:—

3. Food is being distributed gratis by three or four gentlemen in Wardha itself. The total number of people in receipt of these doles is about 400, of whom 100 are beggars who are always in receipt of relief, and perhaps 50 are Mahars of Wardha and the surrounding villages, who are out of work.

The balance consists of strangers wandering through the district from Balaghat and Bhandara. It will not be until the rabi harvest that relief work will be required.

4. Now, supposing that we have 300 people in the poorhouse, I calculate the cost of providing for them to be Rs. 900 to Rs. 950 a month.

Out of this Rs. 400 will be supplied by private charity. I have already over Rs. 300 a month guaranteed for eight months. But many of these people are able and willing to work, and for them I propose that the Public Works Department should start metal collection for the Pownar road as a test relief work. The cost, however, of this will be estimated by the Public Works Department.

The district council have already asked for a grant of Rs. 10,000 to raise this road, and you have approved of it.

5. The minor works under district agency for the current year have already been taken in hand. Most are completed, and only a few hundred rupees will be available.

6. Poorhouses and children's kitchens and gratuitous relief. I do not think that poorhouses and children's kitchens will be needed this year.

If the metal collection is started as suggested, the charitable relief should be sufficient for those who are unable to work.

7. Miscellaneous expenses will be very small; Rs. 200 should suffice.

8. As I have stated above, very little remodelling of the district council budget is possible. The large road works were started directly the rain stopped, and I then gave orders that the roads should be finished by November.

9. Charitable donations I expect to bring in Rs. 400 a month.

10. Works of improvement by private persons. Under this head I can hold out no hopes at present. Irrigation practically is non-existent in this district, and is not appreciated. The few tanks there serve no useful purpose.

11. I have just visited Arvi, and have made inquiries at Hinganghat, and from both places I have ascertained that there will be very little local distress until after the harvest. I therefore propose that, for the present, we should content ourselves with starting stone-breaking as a test work. It is very unlucky that all the gitti to be employed next year by the Municipal Committee of Wardha has already been prepared. This would have given a certain amount of work.

NAGPUR PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Deputy Commissioner's views are set forth in his letter No. 7440-327, dated the 3rd instant. Briefly they are these: "I think that no serious distress need be anticipated in the Katol or Nagpur tahsils, except near Kondhali and along the Wardha border. * * * * So also in Ramtek no serious distress is anticipated, except in Dongartal and part of Bhedgarh, and also in the neighbourhood of Tarsa. In all, except the last-mentioned quarter, the throwing open of Government jungle will go far to mitigate the distress. In Umrer the case is more serious owing to failure during the

preceding years. * * * * One great cause for anxiety is the condition of the weaving classes."

2. I have discussed this report with the Deputy Commissioner. The provisions of Section 105 of the Famine Code are receiving attention. Inquiry is being made as to how far special relief can be given to the Koshtis in accordance with that section.

3. The Deputy Commissioner estimates that about 4,000 people will require gratuitous relief. This may be an over-estimate. But in view of what has already occurred in respect to the influx of destitute and helpless people into Nagpur, I am not prepared to cut it down, for there are also a number of Koshtis and poor labourers belonging to the district who will require relief ere long. The Deputy Commissioner estimates the cost of gratuitous relief at Rs. 35,000, and believes that the well-to-do among the citizens (who have come forward well) will meet Rs. 25,000 of this demand, leaving Rs. 10,000 to Government.

4. There are some important improvements which may be made by the Bhonsla and Sausthanik Estates, and by Ahiloji Rao's and Krishan Rao's Estates. In the case of the last two the debt instalments would have to be postponed. Nearly Rs. 40,000 are available under this head. The Deputy Commissioner also anticipates that about Rs. 10,000 will be spent from their own funds by landowners, and about Rs. 25,000 of takavi utilised in land improvements. This makes a total of about Rs. 75,000 from Court of Wards, private funds, and takavi.

5. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner considers it necessary to estimate for the following works :—

- (I.) The Khapa-Patansaongi road, six miles long, which is most urgently required for the labouring class (including Koshtis) of the region round about Khapa, where there are many large villages. It is estimated that the work of earthwork, excavating muram and collecting metal, will keep 768 men employed for six months. For the four months of the current year the cost would be Rs. 9,216. This road has to be aligned, and that should be done at once.
- (II.) Metalling two lengths of the Nagpur-Chanda road, through the Umrer tahsil, viz., (1) a length of eight miles a little west of Umrer, which has not yet been metalled; and (2) the length from Umrer eastward to Bhiwapur (15 miles), which would link on to the Bhiwapur-Pauni road in the Bhandara district. Collecting metal for these works would support 1,725 men for six months. The first length would occupy 600 men for six months. This might be taken at 1,200 men for three months, the second length being left out of account for the current year. This would cost Rs. 10,800. This work can be started as soon as possible to be a test relief work.
- (III.) The metalling of the Kalmeshwar-Katol road should be kept ready to start when required to relieve the Kondhali tracts and also Jalalkhera. It is 24 miles long, and would employ 1,800 men for six months collecting metal. At most two and a half months might be required this year, costing Rs. 13,500.

November 7, 1896.

A. H. L. FRASER,
Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 7440-327. Dated Nagpur, November 3, 1896.

From E. R. K. BLENKINSOP, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit a brief report on the condition of the Nagpur district, as directed by Secretariat letter No. C. 447, dated the 22nd October 1896, and received in this office on the 24th idem. The more general information called for in Secretariat letter No. C. 377, dated the 1st October 1896, and received in this office on the 5th idem, is supplied as a necessary preliminary to the financial question. The report is drawn up under Section 14 of the Famine Code.

A.—SCARCITY ANTICIPATED, WITH REASONS.

2. The complete cessation of the rains during the greater part of September and the whole of October, coupled with the high rates prevailing in other districts and provinces, and consequent exports, caused a rapid rise in the prices of all kinds of food-grains. Juari, the cheapest food staple, is and has for some time been selling at 11 seers and 14 chittacks to the rupee at head-quarters, and at slightly better rates in the district. At one time, owing to the rioting, and, afterwards, to the grasping nature of the retail sellers, prices were still worse. The prices of food staples are 50 per cent. above the normal. I do not anticipate a further rise in prices, but the failure of the kharif crops in light soil, and the effect of the drought on the rabi sowings, preclude all possibility of any permanent amelioration. It has been impossible, in the time at my disposal, to obtain exact information as to the area that has fallen out of cultivation, but the following estimates of out-turns are based on reports from tahsildars and revenue inspectors, and after careful consultation with my Superintendent of Land Records. The tahsildar, Nagpur, has not yet submitted a report, probably on account of press* of work, but I have seen the Nagpur Revenue Inspectors.

Estimates of Tahsildars are for the whole tahsil, without distinction of soil, and so in most cases of revenue inspectors.

Ramtek—Revenue Inspector's Circle Tarsa—

Irrigated rice	-	-	-	-	-	8 annas.
Unirrigated	-	-	-	-	-	2 "
Juari	-	-	-	-	-	8 "
Cotton	-	-	-	-	-	8 "
Wheat, grain and linseed	-	-	-	-	-	4 " if no rain.

Proportion of Crops in this Circle—

Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	8 annas.
Linseed and juari	-	-	-	-	-	2 " each.
Rice	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Others	-	-	-	-	-	3 "

There is practically no cotton.

CIRCLE RAMTEK.

Irrigated rice	-	-	-	-	-	8 annas.
Unirrigated	-	-	-	-	-	2 "
Juari	-	-	-	-	-	8 "
Makkai	-	-	-	-	-	14 "
Kodo and kutki	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Tur	-	-	-	-	-	8 "
Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	Nil, if no rain.
Linseed	-	-	-	-	-	No anna estimate, but apparently 4 annas, if no rain.

CIRCLE KHAPA.

Juari	-	-	-	-	-	8 annas, and if it rains, 16 annas in good soil; light soil crops ruined.
Tur	-	-	-	-	-	12 annas.
Cotton	-	-	-	-	-	12 "
Til	-	-	-	-	-	12 " or more.
Wheat	-	-	-	-	-	4 " or less, if no rain.
Linseed	-	-	-	-	-	4 "
Gram	-	-	-	-	-	8 " if no rain."

Kharif crops most important, and no fear of famine.

ESTIMATES OF TAHSILDAR.

Ramtek—

Irrigated rice	-	-	-	-	-	6 annas.
Unirrigated	-	-	-	-	-	1 "
Juari	-	-	-	-	-	8 " if no rain, 4 annas.
Tur	-	-	-	-	-	8 " " 2 "
Cotton	-	-	-	-	-	6 " " 2 "
Til	-	-	-	-	-	8 "

Rabi—Total failure unless there is rain.

It should be remembered that these estimates cover the light soils, where the ruin is already complete.

* He has been in camp arranging supplies for the battery.

CIRCLE BELA.

Umrer.—The Inspector gives his estimates according to soils, but expects failure of all crops, and gives a circle estimate for all important crops of 4 annas.

CIRCLE UMRER.

Out-turns 8 to 6 annas, except in 44 villages, where the failure will be complete, if there is no rain.

CIRCLE KUHI.

Inspector anticipates that tenants will be unable to pay the first kist even; one-quarter soil under rabi crops uncultivated.

Rice 4 annas.

Juari 8 annas in good soil; in poor soil complete failure.

Tahsildar estimates as follows:—

678 villages—

26 have Government forests.

62 fair.

291 fair if rain, if not 4 annas.

41 poor if rain, if not 3 annas.

258—2 annas even if rain.

Katol.—The Katol estimates are not worth quoting; I think they take a much too despondent view of the situation.

Nagpur.—Detailed reports not received.

Whole District.—The opinion of the Superintendent of Land Records is that juari, cotton, and linseed, will give a good out-turn in good soils. Til very good. Irrigated rice 6 to 8 annas; unirrigated lost Tur 8 to 12 annas. Gram 4 to 6 annas and wheat 6 to 8 annas if dew falls. I think myself that no serious distress need be anticipated in the Katol or Nagpur tahsils, except near Kondhali and along the Wardha border. Possibly also near Mohpa

So also in Ramtek no serious distress is anticipated, except in Dongartal and part of Bheugarh, and also in the neighbourhood of Tarsa. In all, except the last-mentioned quarter, the throwing open of Government jungle will go far to mitigate the distress. In Umrer, the case is more serious, owing to failure during the preceding years. I think the Kuhi Inspector is too despondent, but the Bela Circle is badly hit; the malguzars will probably be unable to meet the revenue demand, but on that point it is impossible to speak with any certainty at present. One great cause for anxiety is the condition of the weaving classes. I am credibly informed that the price they get for their cloth barely covers the outlay. The Empress Mills, having a large stock of cloth, of which they cannot dispose, contemplate closing the mills, or at any rate turning off a large number of hands. This is the period of singast, during which no marriages are celebrated, and the demand for cloth diminishes immensely. The condition of the poorer weavers is very bad and has been so for some time. At Nagpur itself, there are nearly 20,000 Koshtis and 1,500 Momins. The weaving class forms an important element at Umrer and Khapa.

3 (b). I have already dealt with this point, but will tabulate.

AREA LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

Katol.—The hilly country especially on the Wardha border and north of the Kalmeshwar-Katol Road.

Nagpur.—The hilly country towards Bori and Bazargaon.

Ramtek.—Dongartal and part of Bheugarh. The neighbourhood of Tharsa, Khas Khapa.

Umrer.—Baila Circle very bad; test works also necessary in distressed parts of the other two circles.—Khas Umrer. The weaving classes of Nagpur, Umrer, and Khapa.

4 (c). This is fully set forth in the District Scheme of Roads and Famine; I cannot abstract this in so short a report, but will deal with the subject further under head "f."

5 (d). Accurate information under this head is being obtained through patwaris; I can at present only supply the areas under each crop last year, with the estimated outturn. It is, however, universally believed that malguzars have large stocks of grain. The malguzar of Naikund, near Ramtek, admitted 300 khandis of grain of sorts. Juari was selling at Katol at 18 to 20 seers to the rupee till a fortnight ago; but the rate rose with a bound to 13 or 14 seers to the rupee. This was probably due to visits from Nagpur agents, with a view to purchasing large quantities.

Figures for 1895-96, with increase or decrease on previous year :—

Kharif.

Rice Transplanted.		Rice Broadcasted.		Juari.	Juari-Tur.	Tur.	Cotton.	Cotton-Tur.	Til
Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Irrigated.	Unirrigated.						
13,000	16,000	100	6,700	1,38,500	2,22,000	43,000	34,600	86,600	13,700
Same	Same	Same.	+ 1,700	+ 20,000	+ 20,000	- 1,200	- 500	- 20,000	+ 4,000

Rabi.

Wheat pissl.	Wheat, other kinds.	Gram.	Linseed.	Til.	Lakh.
1,14,000	2,21,000	24,000	1,19,500	24,300	39,500
- 14,000	- 2,000	- 17,500	- 24,500	+ 15,000	- 15,500

The anna outturns were as follows :—

Rice	8 annas.
Juari	16 "
Cotton	16 "
Tur	12 "
Wheat	10 "
Gram	10 "
Linseed	12 "
Til	16 "

6 (e). From the figures given on reverse under head "d," the supply in the district should be ample.

7 (f). From the figures given under head "d," it would appear that there should not be any serious distress, but this is not the case; the anna estimates cover averages of 20 annas in good parts and 4 annas in poorer parts, and though a great many malguzars and tenants must be very well off, the malguzars and tenants of the poorer parts are not, and in those parts those who live from hand to mouth will feel the pinch severely. Every year, when crops fail locally, tenants leave their fields and go to Berar to labour. This year Berar has to look after itself, and immigrants are being turned back.

8. I think, therefore, that it will be absolutely necessary to open test works in all the localities listed under "b." The work, however, should be distasteful and severe, at any rate at first, in order to gauge accurately the extent of the need; it has been pointed out that collection and breaking of road metal is the most suitable work for this purpose; but this implies metal roads.

Works that would gauge the necessity in affected parts are :—

	Rs.
1. Raising the class of the Khapa-Patansaongi Road	8,100
2. Ramtek-Salwa (new road, Schedule C., No. 10)	22,750
3. Veltur to Dongargaon (Schedule C., No. 15)	22,000
4. Nand to Bela and Bela to Bori (Schedule C., Nos. 7 and 8)	41,625
5. Kanholi to Bori (Schedule C., No. 20)	17,500
Total	1,11,975

9. The Secretary, District Council, has supplied me with a list of roads. Nos. 3, 5, 6 in his list are the same as 1, 2 and 3 above, and perhaps No. 1 in his list should take precedence of all other proposals; he thinks the District Council may be able to contribute from Rs. 16,000 to Rs. 20,000. I attach his letter to this report; the proposals as to roads and funds, therefore, may be definitely settled on the advice of the executive engineer. With regard to other projects, the Tahsildar, Umrer, reports that a large tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 4,000, at Dburkheda, near Umrer. This would, he says, irrigate 10 or 20 surrounding villages, and give a good income from singara. This work would have to be undertaken by Government, as no one will undertake it.

10. Between Sawarkhanda and Salwa another tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 5,000. He says that it would irrigate all rice-producing villages within five miles. Gajafar Hussain may undertake this.

The Tahsildar, Ramtek, proposes to improve the tank at Deolapar. It lies in Government forest. He gives no details as to cost or benefit to be derived.

Mr. Nedham noted in his camp diary, dated January 12th, 1896, Sukli, that a well-to-do tenant, Tanba Kalar, had offered to make a large tank if the land to be submerged, belonging to the Bhonsla Estate, were made over to him. It is estimated that a large tank might be constructed, at a cost of Rs. 10,000. The Bhonsla Estate only propose to allot Rs. 4,000* to relief works in this district, and Rs. 9,000 in other districts; but I think this scheme deserves further consideration.

11. In addition to these projects, or, rather, in preference to them, I have instructed Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, the Superintendent Land Records and his assistant to encourage private enterprise to the utmost, and to direct all who have not funds for improvements to apply for loans. The works I have suggested are tanks, embankments, stone walls to keep out cattle, and clearing of land. In the course of a fortnight I hope to have a good deal of detailed information on this point. I am issuing a printed letter to malguzars and well-to-do tenants, urging them to undertake such works, as labour will be cheap, and promising sanads of exemption at the next settlement. I propose also to see malguzars, resident at Nagpur, personally. So long as the ryots are not forced to leave their villages, the distress will not be so poignant.

12. In Nagpur Khas, as you are aware, the first work to be undertaken is the filling up of part of the Jumma Talao. The Bhonsla Estate will improve large tanks in the neighbourhood, and the Saasthanik Estate has also in view improvements at Paldi, and a garden near Nagpur. At the same time that these works commence a poorhouse will be opened, supported by private charity.

13 (g). On the question of ways and means, it is extremely difficult to form even the vaguest estimate. The municipality calculate on Rs. 3,000 coming to the poorhouse on the very day it is opened; this will include the immigrants from other districts at present supported by private charity at Sitabuldi. They number already 1,500 or more; and as the distress increases, and the information spreads, this number may be enormously increased. Nagpur is, of course, a wealthy city, and should do its best to lighten the burden in less wealthy parts; but I cannot pretend to estimate the extent of the burden which it is undertaking in receiving wanderers from every part. I have already said that I think the distress is less felt, so long as people remain at their villages, and if relief works and charitable relief are started in all affected districts there will be no hardship in returning these wanderers to their homes. If this is approved I would allot a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the purpose of providing each traveller with five days' subsistence on the road. Allowing jari at 11 seers to the rupee, this sum would provide for the return of some 10,000 persons; and I do not think that this figure would be exceeded, as the news would be quickly spread. Leaving aside these travellers, I estimate, after consulting some of the leading natives, that in Nagpur itself we shall have to provide ultimately for some 4,000 on works and 1,000 gratuitous. If, however, the relief is made sufficiently distasteful, this figure may not be arrived at for some months; relief will have to be provided for at least 10 months, viz., till the end of August next—roughly, 300 days. The estimate may be reduced to 3,000 per diem (work and gratuitous), and at 10 to the rupee (which leaves a small margin for management); this gives Rs. 300 per diem, or a total charge of Rs. 90,000. Total for Nagpur, Rs. 95,000. At least Rs. 45,000 of this should be provided from private charity, and the balance must be supplied by a loan raised by the municipality. I should add that the first week of relief works may produce

* Already allotted—Sonegaon, Sakardarra, Indura.

results which will considerably alter my estimate. At present I have practically nothing to judge by.

14. *Kamptee*.—The Cantonment Magistrate, Kamptee, reports that no special measures of relief are necessary.

District.—On information received from Revenue inspectors, the Superintendent of Land Records estimates that the following numbers will come on relief in the different tahsils:—

	No.
Ramtek - - - - -	8,700
Umrer - - - - -	5,000
Nagpur - - - - -	5,000
Katol (no estimate) I should estimate -	2,000
Total - - -	20,700

I think these are high estimates, and especially so the Ramtek figure. If Government jungle is thrown open, I would reduce as follows:—

	No.
Ramtek - - - - -	3,000 (to include Khapa).
Umrer - - - - -	5,000 (to include Umrer).
Nagpur - - - - -	1,000
Katol - - - - -	1,000
Total - - -	10,000

15. These must be provided for, for some eight months, or 240 days; but I should not expect the whole number to come on relief at once, if the work is sufficiently distasteful. I would reduce the daily average to 7,500; that is allowing for 4,000 or 5,000 to start, and reaching the maximum 10,000 about the end of February.

This gives a total demand of $7,500 \times 24 = 180,000$. I must again say that there is very little to go on, and that the opening of relief works may cause a considerable alteration in the estimate.

16. I have as yet no information to enable me to estimate for poor-houses and children's kitchens, but I hope that owing to the favourable character of last season, no relief measures will be necessary, beyond providing labour and wages, in the affected parts.

17. The sums available to meet this demand are at present trifling, viz. :—

Rs.

District Council.—16,000 (or Rs. 20,000) as per Mr. Bapu Rao's letter attached.

Court of Wards.—33,000. This will necessitate in three estates non-payment of debt, and extension of the period. I propose to take three-fourths of debt instalment for relief, and one-fourth for failure of rent.

Bhonsla Estate.—4,000. I hope that this figure may be increased, as this estate has only estimated Rs. 13,000 altogether for relief.

Total - - -	53,000
Balance - - -	1,27,000

Of this balance, Rs. 43,500 might be provided through the Public Works Department for raising the Eastern or Bhandara-road to Class I. So also the road from Khapa to Patansaongi might be raised to Class I. or Class II., at a cost of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 11,000.

Total through Public Works Department, say Rs. 54,000. The remaining sum of Rs. 73,000 or, say, Rs. 75,000, must be provided for by a loan raised by the District Council. I estimate roughly that possibly Rs. 10,000 may be spent through private enterprise; and Rs. 50,000 if takavi loans can be made to that extent. These sums, however, will be spent in dribbles—village by village—and will merely suffice to keep people from resorting to relief works, and will not diminish the numbers already estimated for. This sum of Rs. 60,000, if provided, will give employment to people in their villages at the lowest minimum rates, and should maintain, allowing for men, women, and

children, 16 persons to the rupee.* The same standard of work could neither be expected nor enforced by the malguzars.

Number thus provided for, for say six months, allowing for delay in making the loans = $\frac{2,000 \times 8}{3} = 5,333$ I would suggest that the Municipality, Nagpur, the District Council, and the Court of Wards, should first open relief works to test the value of these estimates. If they are not excessive, the following sums would have to be provided by Government:—

	Rs.
	54,000 through Public Works Department.
	50,000 for takavi loans.
Total - - -	1,04,000

If the loans to the Municipality and District Council were provided by Government this figure would be further increased, viz. :—

	Rs.
	50,000 Municipality.
	75,000 District Council.
	1,25,000
Add	1,04,000
Total - - -	2,29,000

This figure, however, provides in Nagpur for ten months' expenditure, and in the district for eight months' expenditure, and I think that for the five months, from November till March 31, the end of the financial year, Rs. 1,00,000 will afford sufficient relief.

18. In conclusion, I would suggest that the allotment of takavi loans will be greatly facilitated if the Deputy Commissioner is given final authority to enter in the wajib-ul-arz such terms as he deems just and fair regarding the use of water in any tanks repaired or constructed. If this power is not granted, the work may be greatly hindered and delayed.

A case in point :—

A tank in Mauzah (A) is used only for watering A's cattle; if repaired it would irrigate fields in Mauzah (B). The malguzar of (B) might be ready to spend money on it if he could get the water, but (A) might not agree to this.

19. I have stated that Kamptee requires no special measures, but that was from my remembrance of the closing portion of a letter from the Cantonment Magistrate. He says, however, that more than 1,000 are already being provided for by private charity, and I think it would be as well to add at least this number to the estimate of relief, say 600 on relief, 100 gratuitous, and 300 for the poor-house. They might be brought over to Nagpur and employed on the Eastern-road. Detailed information has been asked for.

No. 528-120. Dated October 29, 1896.

FROM THE SECRETARY, DISTRICT COUNCIL, NAGPUR, TO THE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR.

WITH reference to your letter No. 7236-364, dated the 27th instant, inquiring as to what alterations the Council have decided to make or have in contemplation to make in their budget for the current year in view of the present scarcity in the district, I have the honour to inform you that the meeting of the Council will take place on November 1, next, when the question above referred to will be settled, and the final result communicated to you without delay.

* No charge for supervision or shelter.

2. If the Council would approve, the following works provided for in the current year's budget might, in my opinion, be stopped in order to have funds available for relief works, as directed in Section 18 of Chapter III. of Central Provinces Famine Code.

Name of Work.	Amount available.
	Rs.
1.—Reconstruction of School Building at Mandhala, Umrer tahsil - -	1,168
2.—Koradi Road, Nagpur tahsil - - - - -	1,000
3.—Repairs to Dumri Road, Ramtek tahsil - - - - -	1,500
4.—Khapa-Patansaongi Road, Ramtek tahsil - - - - -	1,000
5.—Construction of Serai at Chandpa, Umrer tahsil - - - - -	1,500
6.—Construction of Serai at Gumgaon - - - - -	500
7.—Construction of wells according to sanitation scheme - - - - -	1,280
8.—Fairs - - - - -	900
9.—Miscellaneous works - - - - -	652
Total - - - Rs.	9,500

3. I find that Rs. 11,775 have been provided for maintenance and repairs to District Council roads in charge of the Public Works Department. This department had advised expenditure of only Rs. 2,145 up to end of June last, leaving a balance of Rs. 9,630 to be spent. It is not known how much out of this balance has been spent since, and this may therefore be ascertained from that department; whatever balance may remain unspent on this account, can, I think, be also utilised on relief works.

4. The estimated opening balance on April 1 next, as entered in the next year's budget, is Rs. 11,450. Under the standing orders, the minimum of working balance at the end of each financial year is fixed at Rs. 5,000. Deducting this amount from the estimated opening balance, there would remain a balance of Rs. 6,450 available for relief works. This will, of course, necessitate the stoppage of certain new works proposed to be taken in hand in the year 1897-98. In this calculation it will be seen that it has been assumed that there will be no falling off in the estimated receipts under the several heads for the current year.

If the Council agree, I think about Rs. 16,000 may be made available for relief works. Looking to the financial condition of the Council, it cannot in my opinion be expected to make a larger contribution.

5. The distress in the interior of the district, especially in the rice-growing parts, is so acute and widespread that the expenditure of Rs. 16,000, or even Rs. 20,000, on relief works will afford very inadequate relief to the poor people. Unless this amount is largely supplemented by Government contribution, and relief works are started at various centres in the district, the distress will not be alleviated to any appreciable extent.

6. In view of their order of urgency, as set forth in the road scheme, their importance as routes of traffic and their proximity to the affected areas, I would suggest that the following roads be taken in hand as relief works:—

1.—*Great Eastern Road*.—This will give work to people from portions of the Nagpur, Ramtek and Umrer tahsils. This road stands first in the order of urgency in the class of roads to be raised.

2.—*Katol to Jallalkheda*.—This will provide work for the north-western portion of the Katol tahsil. It is next in order of urgency.

3.—*Khapa-Patansaongi*.—This will give work to people from portions of the Ramtek and Katol tahsils. This is third in the order of urgency in the existing roads to be raised in class.

4.—*Chimur via Nand to Umrer*.—This road passes through rice-producing tracts of the Umrer tahsils and will afford relief to the southern and western portions of the tahsil. It is fourth in order of urgency in the class of roads to be raised.

5.—*Salwa to Ramtek*.—This road stands first in the order of urgency in the class of new lines of roads proposed. It will give relief to portions of Nagpur and Ramtek. It will connect Ramtek to the railway station.

6.—*Veltur to Dongargaon on Nagpur-Umrer Road via Kuhl.*—This will give relief to the northern and eastern portions of the Umrer tahsil. It is second in the order of urgency in the new lines of roads proposed.

7.—*Katol via Kondhali to Border.*—This is third in the order of urgency in the new lines proposed. It will render relief to the south-eastern portion of the Katol tahsil.

The work to be done in connection with these roads will consist of (1) earth-work where necessary for formation and foundation of the roads, and (2) collection of muram and gitti. It is no use taking in hand works requiring professional skill and artizanship, and the works should only be confined to ordinary road-making, &c.—such as collection of muram, metalling and such other simple processes, where the majority of the people affected will be able to work.

CHANDA PROSPECTS, 1896.

The Deputy Commissioner's report is contained in his letters, No. 5715, dated the 20th ultimo, and No. 6053, dated the 31st ultimo. I have since discussed the matter with him. The early cessation of rain has caused bitter disappointment, and will lead to short harvests, especially in regard to the rabi crops. The demand for grain from other parts of India will also cause high prices to prevail. There will be some trouble, no doubt, in realizing revenue. But it is not anticipated that there will be widely prevailing scarcity. At present there is no urgent need, except, perhaps, in the zamindaris to the north-east of the district. Later on there probably will be trouble, which can be only partially relieved by the forests.

2. It is probable that the zamindars as a whole will be able to look after their own people. But the Deputy Commissioner will take up at once the Rajnandgaon-Panabaras road in the extreme north-east of the district for the length which passes through the Ambagarh-Chauki Zamindari. This length is 14 miles, and it would keep 1,820 men employed for six months. It would cost, as a relief work, 21,600 rupees up to the end of the current year (four months). It is very urgent, and should be aligned at once. The zamindari is well able to afford it; and would be much benefited by it if the Feudatory Chief of Rajnandgaon would do his part. The road might be placed under the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatories.

3. There is little, if any, distress expected in Sironcha, which has fair harvests, and is far remote from the other tracts in India from which the great demand comes. I am inclined to think, then, that it will not be necessary to take up the Sironcha tanks at present. But tank work should be taken up in the ryotwari tracts of the Chanda and Warora tahsils. The Deputy Commissioner mentions the tanks Janona and Janala; but I understand that what is required for the latter is mainly masonry work. This will not do much as a relief work, for so much of it must be skilled labour. The Janona tank and the tanks of Ghorpeth and its neighbourhood would, however, be most useful relief works. There are a number of old tanks which have become silted up, and which might be repaired, deepened, or enlarged. The Deputy Commissioner will take this up at once. He has five thousand rupees on hand to go on with.

4. Besides these, the Deputy Commissioner has in view the following relief works, in case necessity should arise:—

- (I) Warora-Patalla road, eight miles to be metalled. This road is in Public Works Department charge (Class II.), and could be begun at once. The collection of metal would keep 1,200 men employed for three months, which would cost 10,800 rupees.
- (II) Constructing a Class II. road from Chanda by Kotari to Markunda. The earthwork and muram excavation would employ 2,381 men for six months. The section Chanda to Kotari would employ 1,000 men. This would probably suffice for the worst view of the current year, costing for the three months about 9,000 rupees.
- (III) The Deputy Commissioner has also the collection of metal for the Mul-Garhchiroli road. This would employ 1,500 men for six months, costing, for the next three months, 13,500 rupees. I do not think that this will be needed during the current year.

5. Besides this the Deputy Commissioner expects landowners to spend about 5,000 rupees of their own money, and to utilise 5,000 rupees more advanced under the Land Improvement Act in the construction and repair of tanks.

6. Finally, he expects that the gratuitous relief of the helpless will cost about 4,800 rupees during the current year; and of this he expects to realise about 1,500 rupees from private contributions.

Dated November 7, 1896.

A. H. L. FRASER,
Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 5715. Dated October 20, 1896.

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHANDA, TO THE COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR DIVISION.

WITH reference to your letter No. 7748, dated the 3rd instant, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

Collecting information for this district when the Tahsildars have to be consulted is a tedious business for want of communications, and this must be my excuse for not complying with your telegram of the 17th until now. As it is, I have received no information from Brahmपुरi.

The prospects of this district depend entirely upon whether we get rain within the next three weeks. If we do, then the district is safe. If we do not, relief works will be necessary.

The light rice which is sown on high land has been seriously damaged, and if we get a 2-anna to 4-anna out-turn it is all we can expect. The irrigated rice, which is estimated to be 67 per cent. of the whole, is still safe, and, with rain, should result in a 10-anna out-turn; without rain, nothing higher than a 4-anna to 6-anna yield can be expected.

As regards *juari*, which is the second in importance of the food crops of the district, the same remarks apply. With rain even up to the middle of November, the harvest should be a fair one; but without, I fear there will be little grain left to garner. From the Assistant Settlement Officer's report on the subject, I gather that half of the area usually given over to *rabi* crops has already been sown, and that one-fourth more has been ploughed and ready in case rain falls. For the remaining portion nothing can now be done without rain.

Til and cotton have up to date both fared well, and whereas rain would benefit the former, the latter, *i.e.*, the "bani" cotton would suffer. This, however, would be immaterial, as it forms but a small proportion of the cultivated area of the district.

Speaking generally, therefore, and with the information I have at present to hand, I should say that there is no immediate cause for anxiety.

Prices have gone up considerably, and the Banias are exporting grain freely, which will, of course, tighten prices still further; and I am now engaged in collecting statistics on this subject, in order to find out, if possible, what amount of food-grain we have in the district.

In the event of relief works becoming necessary, the following parganas will be the first to require attention:—(1) Sironcha, (2) Ghote, (3) Ghatkul, (4) Wairagarh, including the zamindaris. For the first three the Chanda-Sironcha road, and the ryotwari and *malguzari* tanks will, I think, afford sufficient work to ensure the safety of the people. For Wairagarh, owing to the Tahsildar's report not being to hand, I am unable to make any proposals beyond the repairs of tanks. As to the zamindaris, I have written to all the zamindars separately, and the road scheme sanctioned for these Estates under the Court of Wards will provide work for a large number of hands.

In Chanda we will have the ryotwari tanks of Junona and Janala to fall back upon, the Chanda-Sironcha road and the metalling of the Mul-Garchiroli road, should it become necessary to relieve distress in this portion of the tahsil.

In Warora I would recommend as relief works: the Warora-Chimur road, work upon which has already been commenced by the District Council, and the making of a road between Madheri and Warora. This, with tank repairs, would, I think, be sufficient.

In conclusion, I may say that this report is drawn up hurriedly, on hurriedly-obtained information, and although the Tahsildars themselves take a much more gloomy view of the prospects of the district, I am inclined to think that for the present; at any rate, their reports are not borne out by facts.

No. 6053. Dated Chanda, October 31, 1896.

FROM THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, CHANDA, TO THE COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR DIVISION.

FROM the Secretariat letter forwarded under your endorsement No. 8296, dated the 24th instant, I gather that what is required is an estimate of what it may be necessary to undertake in the way of relief works should the crops fail entirely, and distress become general throughout the district.

As I have said before in previous letters on the subject, I do not anticipate this state of affairs; but it is possible, and it is therefore expedient to be prepared for the worst.

With this object in view, I have now the honour to place before you a scheme of relief works which will, I think, embrace all parts of the district in which distress may be expected.

On receipt of your endorsement last Sunday, I convened a special meeting of the District Council for Tuesday, and discussed the proposals set before us. By a re-allotment of District Council funds (*vide A.* in the statement) we can get a balance of 3,370 rupees exclusive of the allotments already made to Tahsildars for the ordinary cold weather repairs to roads.

This I have decided not to touch, as it will afford a means of testing as to where the scarcity prevails.

B.—Contributions which may be expected from private charity amount, roughly, to a sum of 10,000 rupees as shown in the statement. This is purely approximate and can be nothing else. It is based on what is expected to be collected in Chanda khas.

C.—The same remarks apply here, concerning the subscriptions which may be realised from malguzars and other men of means.

The total estimated balance available under all heads will then be 58,070 rupees. This may seem a very small sum, and it no doubt will be, when compared with other districts, but it must be remembered that for the last four years we have been subjected to a succession of bad harvests, and that as a matter of fact we possess no wealthy men of any sort or description. I have not included the zamindars in this calculation, but I have addressed them all on the subject of the coming scarcity, and if they will only look after their own tenants we shall not require money from them. The matter is, however, receiving my attention. Turning now to the expenditure, the first heading is works to be placed under the control of the Public Works Department.

In drawing up this plan of operations I have considered two things, (1) the Revised Road Scheme of the district, and (2) the locality in which distress may prevail. The two new roads I would propose are:—

- (1) Sindewahi-Nandgaon-Chimur.
- (2) Markanda-Sironcha.

Both of the above are included in the Revised Road Scheme, and are in every way important.

To be raised in Class—

The Mul-Gunjwahi-Mendki-Brahmapuri road will afford work to a very populous tract.

Between Chanda and Markanda distress is likely to be felt at a very early date! Warora-Shegaon-Chimur, Warora-Patala, and Warora-Madheri, are the road works I propose to relieve the distress in the Warora tahsil. Garchiroli-Injiwari-Armori and Brahmapuri, and Armori-Wairagarh-Injiwari, I would only take in hand if it becomes necessary to find employment for the people living in the Zamindari area.

I attach a tracing showing the various roads for facility of reference.

Minor Works under District Agency.

The Sironcha-Gogubaku road runs for a distance of 130 miles through the lower taluks, a sparsely populated area, and to raise this in class would mean an expenditure of 1,02,000 rupees. I therefore propose to ask only for 5,000 rupees for necessary repairs; and I think as the juari crop last year was a bumper one, and there is little facility for export, this amount will meet local requirements. The metalling of the Mul-Garchiroli road is an important work, and taps a populous tract.

Next on the list comes work on ryotwari tanks. As you are aware, I have already submitted an estimate for this work, but I have increased it now to 10,000, to cover the tanks in all villages whether the repairs are *absolutely* necessary or not.

Roads under the Public Works Department will, of course, be supervised by that Department, but for other works there is, at present, only one Sub-Overseer and three maistries. It will be necessary then to have at least two more overseers attached to the district, one to assist in the supervision of the general work under this head, including repairs to malguzari tanks, and the other for the special charge of ryotwari tanks.

Poor-houses and Kitchens.

I must confess that I am at a loss to estimate for expenditure under this head. I have tried several means, as for instance taking a percentage of the population of the district, and allowing the minimum rate per head, according to the Famine Code, but the figures are so appalling that I hesitate to put them down, until I receive further instructions on the point. I have had no experience in famine work, but I cannot think that any large expenditure on these very desirable institutions, where famine actually exists, will be necessary in this district.

For the present I have issued orders to arrange to open one in the head-quarters of each tahsil, should it become expedient to do so. It will, however, be on a small scale for the next few months, and will only expand in the event of the total failure of the rabi crops.

G.—Gratuitous relief outside workhouses.

Here again I am quite in the dark, and have put down roughly 10,000 rupees as my requirements.

H.—I have also put down 10,000 rupees under the head "Miscellaneous."

The total expenditure will therefore amount to 2,07,824 rupees, Receipts, 58,070 rupees: Balance, 1,49,754 rupees.

Secretariat Letter No. C-447. Dated, October 22, 1896.

Commissioner's endorsement No 8296. Dated, October 24, 1896.

ESTIMATED FAMINE RELIEF, RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

ITEMS.		Receipts.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
RECEIPTS.			
A.			
Amount available by re-allotment from District Fund budget - -	8,140		
Deduct allotments made to Tahsildars for roads and sanitation - -	4,776	3,370	
B.			
Expected to be collected by public charity:—			
From Warora	2,282		
" Chanda Tahsil, including Chanda Khas	3,000		
" Brahmapuri	2,000		
" Sironcha	2,000		
Balance available at Warora by subscription for tank repairs - -	718	10,000	
Carried forward - - - -		13,370	

ITEMS.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
RECEIPTS—continued.		
	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward - - - -	13,370	
C.		
Expected to be contributed by private persons from private sources for works of improvement:—	Rs.	
From Chanda Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Chanda Khas - - - - -	1,000	
" Warora Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Brahmapuri Tahsil - - - - -	2,000	
" Superior proprietor, Sironcha - - - - -	2,000	
" Lower Taluks - - - - -	1,000	
" District Fund, Sironcha - - - - -	1,000	
Court of Wards Estates:—		
Ambagarh Chowki - - - - -	8,000	
Panabaras - - - - -	2,300	
Gewardha - - - - -	2,200	
Available under Takavi:—		
Land Improvement - - - - -	6,000	
Agriculturists - - - - -	15,200	
	44,700	
Total - - - -	58,070	
EXPENDITURE.		
D.		
WORKS UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.		
<i>To make New Roads III-A.</i>		
Sindewai-Nawagaon-Chimur, 24 miles, at 100 rupees per mile - -	2,400	
Markunda-Sironcha, 89 miles, at 100 rupees per mile - - -	8,900	
<i>To raise in Class.</i>		
Mul-Gunjewahi-Mendki-Brahmapuri, III-A to III-B, 42 miles, at 786 rupees per mile - - - - -	33,012	
Chanda to Markunda, III-A to III-B, 41 miles, at 786 rupees per mile	32,226	
Brahmapuri-Armori-Wairagarh-Garchiroli, III-A to III-B, 36 miles, at 786 rupees per mile	28,296	
Armori-Wairagarh Injiwara, III-A to III-B, 15 miles, at 786 rupees per mile - - - - -	11,790	
Warora Shegaon-Chimur, III-A to III-B, 33 miles, at 150 rupees per mile - - - - -	24,800	
Warora to Patola, II to I, 7½ miles, at 800 rupees per mile - -	6,000	
Warora to Madheri, III-A to III-B, 12 miles, at 786 rupees per mile	9,400	
	Total - - - -	1,56,824
<i>Minor Works under District Agency.</i>		
E.		
Improvement of the Sironcha-Gogubaka road - - - - -	5,000	
Metalling Mul-Garchiroli road, 20 miles, at 800 rupees per mile -	16,000	
Ryotwari Tanks - - - - -	10,000	
	Total - - - -	31,000
F.		
Poor-houses and Children's Kitchens - - - - -		
G.		
Gratuitous Relief outside Poor-houses - - - - -		10,000
H.		
Miscellaneous - - - - -		10,000
	Total - - - -	58,070
	58,070	2,07,824
Additional grant to be provided for <i>plus</i> the sum to be estimated for Poor-houses and Children's Kitchens - - - - -		1,49,764

BHANDARA PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The Report of the Deputy Commissioner will be found in his letters, No. 3455, dated the 14th ultimo, and No. 3642, dated the 4th instant. I have discussed the question fully with the Deputy Commissioner.

2. The situation may be briefly stated thus: "The worst portions of the Tirora tahsil are said to be the Amgaon and Bijili parganas and the unirrigated portion of the Kamtha parganas (both towards Balaghat in the north), and towards Dawa in the Sakoli tahsil in the south; also the southern portion of the Tirora pargana towards the Gaikhuri range. In the Bhandara tahsil, the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas and the Pawni haveli tract, south and south-west of the Wainganga, are likely to suffer most. The worst parts of the Sakoli tahsil are the Partabgarh pargana in the south and the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana (the country between the eastern road and Dawa) in the north. It is in these tracts that some measures of relief are necessary."

3. In the first place, the forests should as far as possible be thrown open for the consumption of fruits and edible roots by the poor. This may necessitate a modification of the contract for mohwa collecting; and orders should therefore be passed soon. The forests should also be thrown open for grazing free to all except Banjaras, Gaolis, and owners of large herds. The forest officer says this would cause a loss of revenue not exceeding 1,000 rupees, that plenty of grazing is available, and that the relief would be very great. The loss of revenue is small, because the ordinary grazing dues have been nearly all collected already. In the second place, zamindars should be constrained to do all they can for their own people. The zamindar of Kamtha is most willing to open his forests, and do all he can. The zamindar of Amgaon is not. Great pressure should be brought to bear upon recalcitrants.

4. In regard to gratuitous relief to the helpless, the Deputy Commissioner estimates that about 4,000 persons will require to be supported at a cost of about 36,000 rupees. Of this sum, he expects to realise about 11,000 rupees from charity. I think that his estimate is a little above the mark for the current year. Probably 25,000 rupees will be required this year, of which 10,000 rupees may be raised by charity, leaving 15,000 rupees for the Government to pay.

5. In regard to private works, it is expected that the Court of Wards will spend about 12,000 rupees in works of great utility in parts requiring relief, that landowners will similarly spend 15,000 rupees of private funds, and utilise about 25,000 rupees of takavi on land improvements. I have found a good number of malguzars willing to spend their money. They realise that this is a year when labour will be cheap, and that this expenditure will benefit them as well as the people. This gives a total of 52,000 rupees for private works.

6. Besides this, the Deputy Commissioner estimates for the following works:—

- (I.) Tumsar-Rampalli road to be raised to Class I. It is 27 miles long, and a very important line, connecting also with the Balaghat district where there is trouble. The work, if begun at both ends, would relieve the whole north-west of the Bhandara district, and also part of the south-west of Balaghat. It would employ 2,000 men for eight months; and would cost for four months of this year 24,000 rupees.
- (II.) The Phulchur-Gorgaon-Dawa-Arjuni road. This would be a most useful road connecting the Great Eastern road and the south of the district with the line of rail. It would, if begun at both ends, relieve the Kamtha pargana and the Sakoli tracts. It is 26 miles long, the earthwork, muram excavation, and collection of metal would employ 3,380 men for six months. For three months the cost would be 30,420 rupees. It has to be aligned, and should be ready for 1st January. It can wait till then if takavi is promptly given, and the zamindars help us. I think 20,000 rupees would probably suffice for the current year.
- (III.) Amgaon to Kulpa, two miles, in the Bhandhara district. This is a very important road to a very good bazar, and connecting with the Kulpa-Lanji road in Balaghat. The work would support 520 men for three months, and would cost in the present year 4,680 rupees.

(IV.) Pauni-Bhiwapur road, 8 miles. It would connect with the Nagpur-Chanda road at Bhiwapur and open out the Pauni *haveli*. It will probably be required in January. It would employ 800 men for six months, costing 7,200 rupees in the current year. It has to be aligned; and this should be done as soon as possible.

A. H. L. FRASER,
Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

Dated November 7, 1896.

No. 3454. Dated October 14, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA, to the COMMISSIONER,
NAGPUR DIVISION.

WITH reference to secretariat letter, No. C. 377, dated the 1st instant, received under your endorsement No. 7748 of the 3rd idem, I have the honour to report as follows on the agricultural prospects of this district.

2. The peculiar character of the current year's rainfall has had a detrimental effect on the prospects of both kharif and rabi crops in more than one way. On the one hand the exceedingly heavy fall during July and the early part of August caused some damage to juar; from many places, too, reports have been received of tank embankments having burst through stress of water, and thus much water, which would have been of inestimable value later on, was wasted. On the other hand, the almost total cessation of rain since the close of August has caused the common rice sown on bardhi land, and that growing on high ground to dry up almost entirely; similarly ploughing and sowing operations for the rabi crops have been much retarded; what has been sown and germinated is now drying up for want of moisture.

3. Rice is by far the most important crop in this district. Common rice, sown on bardhi soil and on high ground, which has not had the benefit of tank irrigation, is practically a total failure; the same remark applies to a small portion of the better sort of rice, which though sown in the vicinity of a tank, has not been thoroughly irrigated, owing to the scarcity of water. Any rain that may fall now cannot save the common rice, though it may improve the other. The outturn of common rice is estimated at from *nil* in the Bhandara tahsil to about two annas in the rupee in the Tirora and Sakoli tahsils. The outturn of the better sort of rice, which has been insufficiently irrigated, is estimated at about 4 annas in all three tahsils; a good shower now would probably raise the outturn to six or eight annas. On the other hand, the best sort of rice which has been well irrigated and which is still receiving tank water, will yield a good outturn; it is estimated, according to the amount of irrigation received, at from eight to 12 annas in the Sakoli tahsil and from 12 to 14 annas in the Tirora tahsil; the latter estimate may also be accepted for Bhandara.

4. Juar is not very largely sown in this district; it is practically confined to the Waingana valley and to some parts of the Sakoli tahsil. This crop was damaged by excessive rain in August, and is now drying up for want of moisture. The outturn is estimated at about eight annas. The remaining kharif crops are of little importance.

5. Turning now to the prospects of the rabi crops, much depends upon whether rain falls within the next three or four weeks or not. Large areas usually sown with rabi crops are now lying fallow, and there is no hope of their being cultivated unless rain falls. Even then, some of the rabi crops, such as popat, kultha, and urud will not be able to be sown as the time for sowing has passed. Wheat, gram, and linseed may be sown, but the out-turn of crops sown so late will not be large. On the other hand the early sown rabi crops, which are now springing up, are drying up for want of moisture, and will be a comparative failure if rain does not fall very soon. If timely rain falls, the out-turn is estimated at from 8 to 12 annas in Tirora, and about 8 annas in the Sakoli tahsil, otherwise the out-turn is not expected to exceed 2 annas. The same remark applies to the Bhandara tahsil, where, however, the area under rabi crops is small.

6. It is now necessary to see what parts of the district will be most affected by the probable failure of kharif and rabi crops respectively. Tracts where the crops were

comparatively good last year will naturally suffer less than those where the crops have been poor for the last three years. In the Tirora tahsil the Mundhri (Kardi) pargana, lying to the east of the Wainganga, between the river and the Gaikhuri range, in Bhandara tahsil the Chauras or Wainganga valley portion of the Pauni pargana, and in Sakoli the well-irrigated parts of the Sangarhi pargana, all had fairly good crops last year. However complete the failure of the current year's crop may be, these tracts are not likely to suffer so much as others. Moreover, since last year's rainfall was almost identical in character with the current year's fall, the same causes which led to the crops being fairly good in these tracts last year operate this year also; the prospects of the crops are better here than elsewhere, though in the Chauras much depends on rain within a short time. In the Tirora tahsil the prospects of the Rampaili pargana north of the Wainganga are also reported to be fairly good.

7. The rest of the district suffered a good deal last year, owing to the deficient out-turn of the rice crop. As regards present prospects, the worst portions of the Tirora tahsil are said to be the Amgaon and Bijli parganas on the east, and the unirrigated portion of the Kamtha pargana, both towards Balaghat in the north and towards Dawa in the Sakoli tahsil in the south; also the southern portion of the Tirora pargana towards the Gaikhuri range. In Bhandara tahsil the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas, and the Pauni *haveli* tract, south and south-west of the Wainganga, are likely to suffer most. The worst parts of the Sakoli tahsil are the Partabgarh pargana in the south, and the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana (the country between the eastern road and Dawa) in the north.

8. It is in these tracts that some measures for relief will most probably be necessary if rain holds off much longer; in the unirrigated portions of these tracts rain will make no difference, and relief measures will be necessary in any case. If no rain falls at all, relief may be necessary in the Chauras also.

9. As regards the form of relief to be adopted, I would invite attention to the prescribed Famine Statement C, submitted with this office letters Nos. 1541 and 1649, dated the 30th April and 7th May 1896 respectively, which gives the number of persons who could be provided for on roads and other works, sanctioned and unsanctioned. I would, however, remark that the Tumsar tank referred to therein has already been practically completed, and that the metalling of the Bhandara circuit road has had to be indefinitely postponed for want of funds. Many of the roads entered in Famine Appendices IV. B, IV. C, and IV. D will serve as relief works. In the Bhandara tahsil, work on the Tumsar-Katangi road would relieve distress in the Ambagarh and Chandpur parganas; the Pauni-Bhuyar road could serve as a relief work for the Pauni *haveli*; if measures for relief are required in the Chauras the Kardha-Adyar-Pauni road is available. In the Tirora tahsil, work on the Amgaon-Baila (in Balaghat) road, and on the Amgaon-Satgaon road, with an extension to Deori-Kishori on the Great Eastern road, would relieve the Amgaon and Bijli parganas; the latter road, though useful, would, however, only pass through a small portion of the distressed tract. A better line would be from Phulchur to Dawa and Dawa to Sakoli; this would relieve the southern portion of the Kamtha pargana and the most distressed portion of the Sakoli tahsil; in the alternative, work on the existing Phulchur-Sakoli road, which, however, does not actually pass through the middle of the worst tract, would, no doubt, attract many labourers. For the northern portion of the Kamtha pargana a road from Rajegaon (on the Gondia-Balaghat road) to Beni on the banks of the Wainganga would afford relief. The residents in the southern portion of the Tirora pargana would find relief on a road from Tirora to Chorkhamara. The Tumsar-Rampaili road passes through country which is not reported to be specially distressed, but work on this road would, no doubt, attract labour from Ambagarh, Chandpur, and Tirora parganas. For the relief of the Partabgarh tract a road from Kasari, an important bazaar in the Chichgarh zamindari, to Sakoli, *via* Nawegaon, is suggested. Many of these roads have already been proposed to be constructed or raised in class, the reasons for which have been fully detailed in previous correspondence.

10. But before embarking on any scheme of relief works, it seems necessary to ascertain to what extent distress actually exists in the district. For this purpose a test relief work, with wages fixed at rates slightly below the ordinary market price of labour, is required. At the present price of grain, 10 seers per rupee, the wages for relief workers of Class C (able-bodied persons not accustomed to labour) would be R. 0. 1. 7. for males, and R. 0. 1. 6. for females. The latter rate appears high. R. 0. 1. 6. for males,

and R. 0. 1. 3. for females, would, I think, be a reasonable rate to fix for a test relief work. The present market rates of labour are about R. 0. 2. 0. and R. 0. 1. 6. respectively. For the purpose of starting a test relief work the deepening of the Tumsar tank and the Gondia tank appears to afford sufficient employment. The President, Minor Municipalities, informs me that the Committee are prepared to spend Rs. 500 on the work at Tumsar; the work at Gondia has been estimated to cost Rs. 2,000, of which Rs. 1,000 has been contributed by the Zamindar of Kamtha. These works would not afford employment to a very large number of people, but people from the adjacent villages would, no doubt, flock to the work. Taking the number, character, and status, &c., of these people into consideration, and comparing the prospects of the tracts from which they come with those of the other tracts mentioned above, it ought to be possible to form some idea as to the necessity of relief works elsewhere. I therefore propose to have these works started as soon as possible under professional supervision.

11. However useful roads may be as a means for providing employment for a large number of people, they do not, except to a limited degree, tend to prevent scarcity in the future. In this district at least the means of communication are nowhere so deficient as to isolate any tract especially liable to scarcity from the more fertile parts. Failure of crops is directly due to deficient irrigation; any work that tends to increase the irrigated area is far more useful as a preventive of famine than any road can be. If zamindars and malguzars can be induced to construct tanks in villages which have suffered for the last two years from scarcity of water, they will at once give employment to many distressed labourers, and at the same time afford their tenants the means of preventing the recurrence of such a calamity. A few zamindars and malguzars will, no doubt, be prepared to construct such works at their own expense; such are the Zamindar of Kamtha and the Malguzar of Limba in the Tirora tahsil; in Bhandara, Asaram, Patel of Bamni, Khusali, Patel of Dongri, Rama, Patel of Mahakepar and Raoji, Patel of Bhuyar. Others might be willing to take a loan from Government for this purpose. If this suggestion is approved of, further enquiries will be made, and lists drawn up of persons willing to take takavi for this purpose. The present balance in hand is only Rs. 1,033 under the Agriculturists Loans Act, and Rs. 950 under the Land Improvement Loans Act; a special allotment would, therefore, have to be made to the district for this purpose.

12. I have also the honour to forward copy of a letter, No. 537, dated the 30th September, from the Secretary, District Council, to my address, in which he proposes that, in view of the distress prevailing among the labouring classes, the Local Government be moved (a) to throw open the Government forests for the removal of dead firewood and grass by head-loads, (b) to allow mohwa, gulli, and other edible fruits to be gathered free, and (c) that certain works be taken in hand at once. To take the third point first, it is necessary to remark that the only funds available are 7,000 rupees sanctioned for the Pauni-Kardha road; if, as seems probable, there is no necessity for constructing this road at present, it will be for the District Council to consider how best to spend this money. The Bhandara waterworks have also been sanctioned, and are to be commenced shortly; the other works mentioned in the letter have already been referred to above.

13. The other suggestions of the District Council have been discussed with the tahsildars, the divisional forest officer, and the zamindars of Kamtha and Amgaon. The annual receipts from the sale of dead firewood are said to be about 2,000 rupees. It is suggested that people should now be allowed to pick up this wood free and sell it in the nearest bazaar. It is doubtful whether this would benefit people in the interior of the district, where there could not be any large demand for firewood; the only people who would gain would be those living in the vicinity of towns, but even here the demand for firewood would be reduced, owing to hard times, while at the same time the supply would be largely increased; the value of a head-load would thus be trifling, and would not repay the labour of collecting and bringing it for sale. The same arguments apply to the proposal to allow grass to be removed free by head-loads. It would, moreover, be very difficult to exercise sufficient check over the people collecting grass and firewood to ensure that the privilege was not abused by persons who were not intended to be included in it. I do not, therefore, recommend that this suggestion be complied with.

14. The proposal to allow mohwa and other edible roots and fruits to be removed free is more practical, and would, no doubt, afford relief to the poorer classes. It would involve a loss to Government of about 3,600 rupees, which is the sum for which the

contract for the collection of minor forest produce has been leased out for the current year. I propose that this proposal be approved of and the sanction of the Local Government applied for. It has been suggested that if this concession is granted by Government, zamindars and mulguzars should give the same permission to their tenants. Rao Bahadur Indraraj Bhan, zamindar of Kamtha, has willingly agreed to this, but the zamindar of Amgaon has expressed his inability to forego any part of his income from mohwa (which he estimates at 2,000 rupees) unless a corresponding concession is granted to him regarding takoli. This is, of course, out of the question. It is, however probable that many zamindars and mulguzars will agree to allow their tenants free mohwa, if the Government forests are also opened for this purpose; the high price of mohwa—seven or eight rupees a khandi instead of two rupees as usual—will, however, no doubt afford an inducement to some to sell all they can.

15. It has also been proposed by the Secretary, District Council, that bamboos should be allowed to be removed free of charge, and that free grazing should be permitted. With regard to the first suggestion, it is only necessary to say that the arguments adduced against the proposal to allow firewood and grass to be removed free apply equally here, and that it would mean the useless sacrifice of a considerable item of revenue without corresponding advantage to the persons for whose benefit the concession was to be made. Free grazing, on the other hand, might be allowed in the open forest; it would not be allowed in grass birs which have been sold nor in the closed areas. The open areas can afford sufficient grazing for all cattle that are likely to resort to them.

Banjaras, Gowlis, and other owners of large herds would not be allowed free grazing, nor would the concession apply to people of other districts; it would be confined to the cattle of *bond fide* agriculturists. It is estimated that the grant of this concession would involve a loss of about 1,000 rupees to Government.

No. 537. Dated Bhandara, September, 30 1896.

From the SECRETARY, DISTRICT COUNCIL, BHANDARA, to the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA.

OWING to the failure of rain at the close of the season, the paddy crops growing on the fields which have no tanks for irrigation purposes are drying up. Consequently the price of rice in the district has risen; therefore considerable distress prevails amongst the labouring classes in the district. I therefore beg that you will kindly recommend to the Local Government to have the Government forest in the district thrown open for removing and picking up of dead firewood and grass, so that the poor people may, by selling these, earn their livelihood.

2. As there is now no chance of rain, most probably the rabi also will suffer and the distress will be more keenly felt. I would therefore suggest for your consideration, that the Government forest may be thrown open for picking mohwa, gulli and other edible fruits, so that the people may not die from starvation.

3. To enable the labouring classes to earn their livelihood, I would suggest that the following works might be taken on hand immediately:—

- (1) Kardha to Pauni-road, for which 7,000 rupees have been sanctioned.
- (2) Bhandara water works.
- (3) Deepening of Tumsar tank.
- (4) Construction of Gondia tank or well.
- (5) The general repairs of roads under the District Council.

No. 3642. Dated Bhandara, November 4th, 1896.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, BHANDARA, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the probable expenditure in this district on famine relief from 15th November 1896 to 31st March 1897, as requested

in Secretariat letter No. C. 447, dated the 22nd October 1896, received under your endorsement, No. 8,296 of the 24th idem.

2. Before going into actual figures, I desire to state that I offer these statistics with considerable hesitation and great doubt as to their accuracy. The whole question of famine relief in the district depends, to a large extent, on the amount of rainfall, if any, within the next month or two; even if it is assumed that no rain will fall, still the actual number for whom relief will be required must necessarily be a matter of guess work; so long as this fundamental factor remains undetermined, it is impossible to estimate, with any pretence to accuracy, the expenditure likely to be incurred. I would, however, add, that even if the future proves as disastrous as it now threatens to be, I believe the necessary expenditure will not be found to have been underestimated in the following figures.

3. Famine Statement C,* which must, I presume be taken as the fundamental basis in this inquiry, shows 30,000 as the maximum number of persons for whom relief may be required daily in the event of serious famine; columns 4 to 7 of this statement and the covering letter give details of the works on which 29,000 persons could be employed for a period of three months. This figure (30,000) has been arrived at in accordance with instructions contained in Revenue Department circular letter No. 4,670, dated the 9th November 1895, by taking 25 per cent. of the totals of side-heads 37 (field labourers) and 388 to 396 (road and general labourers) of Table XVII-B of the Census Report, Part II. The total number of persons included in these side-heads is 118,909, viz., 33,617 males and 85,292 females; classifying them by age according to the proportion obtaining in the district as a whole, I find that only 46,888 (viz., 12,768 males and 34,120 females) are between the ages of 20 and 50; and there are 18,843 children between the ages of 10 and 20; the rest are either under 10 or over 50 years of age and cannot, therefore, be taken into consideration as labourers.

4. From the fact that the totals of columns 4 to 7 of Statement C. are supposed, as far as possible, to equal the figure in column 3, I presume that the 30,000 persons referred to are all able-bodied labourers fit for work. Columns 4 to 7 show how 29,000 of them can be employed. With reference to column 4, it is necessary to remark that the Tumsar tank is now practically complete, and as no new work has since been sanctioned, the figure in that column must be nil. This then leaves work for 28,000 adult male labourers. In famine relief work the number of women and children is, I believe, invariably greatly in excess of that of men; this is in itself not surprising, considering that the labouring population are apportioned as follows, viz., 20 per cent. adult males, 55 per cent. adult females, and 25 per cent. children of both sexes over 10 years of age. Assuming a woman to do two-thirds of a man's work, and a child to do one third, I find that the works entered in columns 5 to 7 of the statement would provide employment for three months for about 43,000 persons in the proportion of 8,600 adult males, 10,750 children, and 23,650 adult females.

$\left\{ 28,000 \times \frac{100}{10 + 55 \times \frac{2}{3} + 25 + \frac{1}{3}} \right\}$ The period we are at present considering, however, is one of $4\frac{1}{2}$ months; the number of persons who could be supported for this longer period could be only two-thirds of the above or, say, 28,700 (5,700 males, 15,800 females, and 7,200 children) out of a total of 65,731 of the labouring classes between 10 and 50 years of age. Considering that distress is not likely to spread with equal severity over the whole district, and that the maximum number is not likely to require relief until towards the close of the period under consideration, I am inclined to consider the above estimate too high. As a daily average for the next four and-a-half months, I would not recommend the adoption of a higher figure than 20,000; this would represent 4,000 adult males, 11,000 adult females, and 5,000 children between 10 and 20; they would perform work which, under ordinary conditions, would be done by about 12,000 able-bodied male labourers.

5. The next point for consideration is the cost of maintaining these 20,000 persons for $4\frac{1}{2}$ months. This, of course, depends largely on the price of grain. For the present I assume an average rate of nine seers per rupee. Taking a fair proportion of labourers of A., B., C. and D. Class (A., 10 per cent.; B., 30 per cent.; C., 40 per cent.; and D. 20 per cent.); and assuming they are paid wages at the rates laid down on page 54 of the Famine Code, I find that 1,000 male labourers would cost about 116 rupees per day, and 1,000 female labourers would cost 108 rupees; for children I assume an all-round rate of nine pies each, this brings the cost of supporting 1,000 children to 46 Rs. 14a. Op. per

* Submitted with this office letter, No. 1649, dated 7th May 1896.

day. Thus the daily wages of these 20,000 people would amount to 464 rupees (for 4,000 males) plus 1,188 rupees (for 11,000 females) plus 234 rupees (for 5,000 children), total 1,886 rupees, or say, 1,900 rupees. This would come to 57,000 rupees per month, or 2,56,500 rupees for the period from 15th November to 31st March.

6. These figures leave out of consideration the case of children under 10 years of age, and aged persons over 50. According to the district average of 31 per cent. and 13 per cent. respectively, these should be 37,712 children and 15,457 persons over 50 years of age among the labouring classes. It is difficult to say how many of these will require relief. No doubt a large proportion of the children will be supported by their parents on the works, although, as a matter of fact, the famine wage is not supposed to support more than the person actually receiving it. But we must be prepared to relieve a large number of children whose parents will not be able to support them even if they do not actually abandon them. Indigent persons are even now in many cases getting rid of their children by selling them to more prosperous persons; as distress increases the number of such purchasers will naturally diminish. In the case of old and infirm labourers probably a large proportion will have to be supported by charity; they are the first to be abandoned by their relatives when the pinch of want is felt. Assuming that only 15 per cent. of the aged, and less than 10 per cent. of the children, will have to be supported by charity, this gives over 2,300 aged, and 3,400 children. The monthly cost of supporting an aged pauper can certainly not be less than two rupees, for children I assume a rate of one rupee. The monthly cost of supporting these aged persons and children will then amount to about 8,000 rupees, or 36,000 rupees for a period of 4½ months.

7. Gratuitous relief to persons in their own houses is, I presume, to be discouraged, and is not likely to be necessary except in extreme cases. I estimate the amount of expenditure under this head at 1,000 rupees for the whole period.

8. Miscellaneous expenditure (such as allotments to the police for forwarding wanderers to poor-houses) is not likely to be large; a sum of 1,000 rupees should, I think, be sufficient.

9. The total estimate of expenditure is thus as follows :

	Rs.
(a) For relief of men, women and children on works - -	2,56,500
(b) For gratuitous relief of children and aged in poor-houses and children's kitchens - - - -	36,000
(c) For gratuitous relief to persons in their own houses - -	1,000
(d) Miscellaneous purposes - - - - -	1,000
Total - -	<u>2,94,500</u>

10. It now remains to be seen from what sources this expenditure is to be met. Beginning with Head (a), I will first take the case of private persons starting works of improvement (such as tanks, &c.) either from their own funds or from Government loans. The number of persons who would spend their own money is not large; the Settlement Officer estimates the amount such persons would spend at about 13,000 rupees. Complete lists are not yet available for the whole district, but in the Tirora tahsil people are said to be able to spend 10,000 rupees on these works. On the whole I do not think it would be safe to estimate expenditure under this head at more than 15,000 rupees for the whole district. Applications for loans, on the other hand, are likely to be numerous, and a large sum may be expended in this way, more especially if the rate of interest is reduced or altogether remitted. The Settlement Officer informs me that he could distribute 20,000 rupees in a week, and "the people would be crying for more." On the whole, I think an estimate of 35,000 rupees would not be excessive under this head. If, however, the rate of interest is not to be reduced, I would not estimate more than 25,000 rupees. This, with the 15,000 rupees to be provided from private funds, would raise the expenditure to 40,000 rupees. According to the figures given in Paragraph 5, this sum should suffice to support about 16 per cent. of the persons requiring relief for a period of 4½ months.

11. Turning now to other works, I find that in Famine Statement C., the construction of the Bhandara waterworks is said to be able to afford employment for 4,000 labourers for three months. This seems to me to be a high estimate. I understand that

the amount provided in the estimate for expenditure on unskilled labour is only 25,000 rupees. According to the figures above given, this should be sufficient to support about 10 per cent. of the persons requiring relief, *i.e.*, 2,000 (400 men, 1,100 women, and 500 children) for a period of 4½ months. But the work is not a suitable one to be undertaken as a famine relief work, nor are any measures for relief likely to be necessary in the immediate vicinity of Bhandara. It will be better therefore to leave this work out of consideration.

12. Sixteen thousand eight hundred persons still remain to be provided for at a cost of 2,16,500 rupees. Of this amount, I estimate that the District Council will be able to contribute not more than 8,000 rupees towards the cost of such works as the Gandia tank, the metalling of the Bhandara Circuit road, and the construction or improvement of some of the roads entered in Famine Appendices IV.-B. and IV.-D. The only heads from which money can be re-appropriated is from the provision of 7,000 rupees for the construction of the Paunikardha road, and 1,075 rupees from village sanitation. This leaves a sum of 2,08,500 rupees to be provided by Government.

13. With regard to the sum of 36,000 rupees which has been estimated to be required for the relief in poor-houses and kitchens of the aged and of children, it is difficult to say what proportion of this sum can be met by public charity. For the last month or two poor-houses, supported entirely by private subscriptions, have been in existence at Tumsar, Tirora, and Gondia, in this district, and 200 or 300 persons have been supported at each place. At Tumsar and Gondia, however, these poor-houses have been closed during the last few days for want of funds; that at Tirora is also said to be likely to be closed soon. During the next few days I hope to visit all these places, and draw up subscription lists, in which people will bind themselves to contribute a certain sum monthly for the next four or five months. Similar action will also be taken in Bhandara. In the absence of any information as to the amount people are likely to subscribe, it is somewhat difficult to frame an estimate under this head. I do not, however, think it would be safe to count on subscriptions amounting to more than 2,500 rupees per month; for the period under report this would represent an expenditure of 11,000 rupees, leaving a sum of 25,000 rupees to be contributed by Government.

14. The expenditure under heads (c) and (d) (paragraph 9) will be defrayed by Government; the money will be distributed through the police.

15. The above figures may be exhibited in the following tabular statement:

STATEMENT showing probable Cost and how to be Met.

C O S T.									H O W T O B E M E T.							
On Works.		On Gratuitous Relief.				Miscel- laneous.		Total.	On Works.			On Gratuitous Relief.		Miscel- laneous.	TOTAL.	
No.	Cost	In poor-houses and kitchens		Otherwise.		No.	Cost.		Private Persons.	Bhandara District Council.	By Govern- ment.	By Private Persons	By Govern- ment.	By Govern- ment.	By Govern- ment.	Other- wise.
	Rs.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	No.	Cost.	Rs.								
20,000	2,56,500	5,700	36,000	?	1,000	?	1,000	2,94,500	40,000	8,000	2,08,500	11,000	26,000	1,000	2,35,500	59,000

* Includes allotment under Land Improvement Loans Act of 25,000 rupees.

16. With reference to paragraph 2 of the letter under reply, it is only necessary to add that of the total expenditure shown under head (a) in paragraph 9, 2,16,500 rupees will be spent on works to be carried out on estimates prepared by the Public Works Department. As far as I know there are no Public Works Department works to be carried out, but the works already referred to (*viz.*, Bhandara waterworks, metalling of Circuit-road, construction and repairs of roads in famine Appendices IV. and IV. D.) will all be carried on on Public Works Estimates. The balance, 40,000 rupees, will be spent on minor works, such as embankments, tanks, wells, &c., under district supervision. There are no minor works under the district council of sufficient importance to be considered in this connection.

17. The works on which I would recommend a start being made are (1) the Tumsar-Rampali road, to be raised to Class I.; (2) the construction of a Class I. road

from Amgaon towards Kulpa in the Balaghat district, of which about two miles would be in this district; (3) the raising of the Sakoli-Phulchar road to Class I., or, in the alternative, the construction of a new Class I. road from Phulchar *via* Goregaon and Dawa, to the Great Eastern road near Arjuni; and (4) the construction of a Class I. road from Pauni to Bhiwapur. According to Famine Appendices IV. and IV.-D., these works would give employment to 3,620, 350, 4,680, and 1,450 labourers respectively for four and a-half months, giving a total of 10,100. Considering the large proportion of women and children included in the figure of 16,800 given in paragraph 12, I believe the above works will be found to give employment to all those who will seek relief up to the close of the current official year.

BALAGHAT PROSPECTS, 1896-97.

The views of the Deputy Commissioner and Settlement Officer on this subject are set forth in the Deputy Commissioner's letter, No. 3,403, dated the 28th ultimo, and its annexure. This district will suffer more than any part of the division. The opening of the forests for the collection of edible roots and fruits, and (if possible) for free grazing for agricultural cattle, will be a great boon, especially in the Behir tahsil and in the south-west of the district. The latter also will be much helped by the liberal grant of takavi, for there are a number of landowners willing to spend money in the south-west. Acute distress has, however, already begun in the Behir tahsil and in the Lanji tracts on the south-east of the district.

2. I have discussed the matter, since receiving the report, with the Officiating Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Hallifax), and the Settlement Officer (Mr. Mayne), and also with the late Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Chitnavis). It is estimated that about 4,000 people may require gratuitous relief, at a cost of about 36,000 rupees for the current year. Of this, about 6,000 rupees may be expected to be met by charity, leaving 30,000 rupees to be met by Government. I believe that this estimate will be found to be excessive if relief works are promptly started. But I do not cut it down.

3. It is anticipated that landowners will spend about 10,000 rupees of their own money in tank construction and repairs, and that about 50,000 rupees can be utilised as takavi; total, 60,000 rupees.

4. Besides this, the following works are estimated for :—

- (1.) The Burha-Behir direct road to be made and have muram collected. It is estimated in the famine schedule at 5,377 men for six months; call it 4,600 men for seven months. This would cost under ordinary conditions about 55,000 rupees, but must be set down for Behir at 65,000 rupees for the four months of the current year. It would meet the wants of the Behir people of all parts; for they are easily moveable. The project is, I understand, ready, and ought to be begun at both ends without delay.
- (2.) Lanji to Kulpa (and one mile more towards Amgaon Station, *i.e.*, to the boundary) 16 miles. This is a very distressed tract, and a most important line of communication. The Road Scheme Famine Schedule (Appendix IV. c.) shows this as employing 2,176 men for six months. Labour is ready to hand; and the alignment should be taken in hand at once. The work is urgently required on both sides of the border, but especially on the Balaghat side. Taking 2,200 men for three and a-half months in the current year gives 23,100 rupees, say 23,000 rupees.
- (3.) The Lalbarra-Waraseoni-Rampaili road has been aligned and could be begun when required. It continues the Tumsar Rampaili road. The Deputy Commissioner believes that it is required this year, and should be started as soon as possible. It is 20 miles long (including five miles in the Bhandara district). It is estimated to employ 2,600 men for six months. If the Waraseoni to Rampaili section were at once taken in hand, it would employ about 800 men for four months, at a cost of 9,600 rupees, say 10,000 rupees. That (with the forest relief and private tank construction above referred to) would probably suffice for the current year.

(4.) The Deputy Commissioner is also of opinion that the survey of the Balaghat-Lanji road should be taken in hand in case of need.

5. The Deputy Commissioner is at present utilising the allotment for tank construction in the ryotwari tracts.

A. H. L. FRASER,

Dated November 7, 1896.

Commissioner, Nagpur Division.

No. 3403. Dated Balaghat, October 28, 1896.

From H. F. HALLIFAX, Esq., I.C.S., OFFICIATING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
BALAGHAT, to the COMMISSIONER, NAGPUR DIVISION.

IN compliance with the instructions contained in paragraph 1 of Secretariat letter, No. C. 377, dated the 1st instant, forwarded under your endorsement No. 7,748 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a report, drawn up by the Settlement Officer and myself in consultation, on the agricultural prospects of the district, and the measures for relief which it appears to us advisable to take. The report follows the lines laid down in Section 14 of the Famine Code, 1896.

2. An extensive series of crop experiments is being conducted by the District and Settlement staff. The results will be communicated as soon as the rice harvest is completed.

REPORT on the Agricultural Prospects of the Balaghat District for the year 1896-97,
and the Measures for Relief which it appears advisable to take.

A.—The rainfall this year has so far been very similar to that of last year, with the exception of there having been no rain in October; and, as was the case last year, the early cessation of the monsoon has caused immense damage to the rice, by far the most important crop in the district. Last year's drought led cultivators to take greater care in the matter of repairing their tanks and securing an adequate supply of water; but the irrigated area forms so small a portion of the total area under rice, and of the area recorded as irrigated so small a portion has received anything like an adequate supply of water owing to the smallness of the tanks, that over a considerable area the outturn will be very low indeed, lower considerably than last year's, when the crops received a couple of inches of rain in October. Further, urd lakhadi and linseed in the black and brown soil tracts, comprising half of the lowlands of the district, form, by far, the most important second crop. These are sown "utera," that is broadcast among the standing rice, at the close of the monsoon, and require, for successful germination, moderate rain in September. Last year the area double-cropped, which is practically coincident with the area under these three crops, declined by 71 per cent. in the portion of the district which has come under attestation, and this year there appears to be a similar decline below normal in the "utera" area. Very slightly over one-quarter of the amount sown in a normal year has germinated, and the plants that have come up are stunted for want of moisture. Last year's October rain enabled nearly the normal amount of wheat and gram to be sown. This year the sowings have decreased to a large extent, and over considerable areas where these crops have been sown they have failed to germinate. The tur crop is so far good, and even if no rain comes will give a fair outturn, but the area under tur is very small. Makkha has given a bumper crop in the Baihar tahsil, and has for the time materially relieved the distress of the aboriginal inhabitants, who subsist largely on it. The harra (myrobalan), which last year gave a bumper crop, is a failure this year, and a large number of Gonds and others of the less civilised tribes who find employment for a couple of months every year in collecting harra, are this year without their usual employment. Kodon-kutki, which are of fair importance in the uplands of the district, have been somewhat damaged by the drought.

The following is an estimate of the outturn of the rice crop:

Balaghat Tahsil.—Irrigated land (one quarter, or a little more, of the total area), 10 annas. Good and fair unirrigated land (one-half of the total area), six annas. Poor

irrigated land (one quarter, or a little less, of the total area), one to four annas, say three annas. Average for the Balaghat tahsil, six to seven annas.

Behir Tahsil.—Irrigated and fairly good unirrigated land (one quarter of the total area), nine annas. High-lying unirrigated land (three-quarters of the total area), three annas.

Average for the Baihar tahsil, four to five annas. The damage done, especially in the Balaghat tahsil, varies widely, often from field to field. Alongside a field bearing a fair crop are not rarely to be found fields in which the crop is so absolute a failure that the cultivator cuts a portion merely as fodder, and allows his cattle to graze over the remainder. As a rule the malguzars and well-to-do tenants hold practically all the good land, and though none of them can find the year a profitable one, some few may escape with only slight loss. But the case of the poorer tenantry is very different. With most of them the irrigated or low-lying area, if they have any, bears a very small proportion to the total of their holdings, and the malguzars having taken the lion's share of the water for irrigation. Many of their nominally irrigated fields have received only a single allotment of a few inches of water. Their harvest will therefore be quite inadequate to carry them on for the next year.

Even if the rabi crop were to turn out to be as good as last year's (which is extremely unlikely), the condition of the people would be such as to cause grave anxiety. Few of the malguzars are men of substance, and although they live comfortably enough in ordinary years, they have no large reserves. The partial failure of last year's harvest coming on the top of several years in which the crops have been below the normal, has nearly exhausted the resources of all but a small handful of well-to-do men. The absence of large money-lending firms, and the consequent tightness of capital, renders it difficult for the landlords of the district to obtain money save on ruinous terms, even if they mortgage their villages, where they have not done so already. Although the rents of the districts, which are comparatively light, were mostly collected last year, the interest due to malguzars by their tenants was not nearly so fully paid up, and the repayment of the principal of loans was rather the exception than the rule. Hence, complaints were numerous last year that the malguzars were refusing to make the customary advances to their tenants, and this year the same evil will appear in a greatly aggravated form. Unless, therefore, large takavi advances are made to malguzars, they will, as a body, cease to perform their essential duty of agricultural capitalist, and many of them, being pressed by their creditors, will become hopelessly embarrassed.

The tenants of the Balaghat tahsil were hard hit last year, but with the exception of the aboriginal tribes they were able to retain their holdings, though with considerable difficulty. The Gond tenantry of the Balaghat tahsil absconded in large number, and mainly on their account the occupied area in the tahsil shows a decrease of 1½ per cent. This figure is below the mark, as many fields have been left in the names of tenants who will probably not return. In the Baihar tahsil the bulk of the tenantry is little above the level of the labouring classes, and with them the distress is more acute. The Baihar tenants, however, almost all live in or near large stretches of jungle, and can provide for themselves in time of scarcity better than the Gonds and other servants in the lowland villages. Still, the tenant area has decreased in Baihar by 9 per cent., a figure which does not include all the actual cases of abandonment of holdings. Many of these labouring classes in the Balaghat tahsil, finding that the malguzar or other person employing them was reducing his staff, absconded to the Berar or elsewhere in search of work, or emigrated to the Assam tea gardens. A certain number drifted into the most important villages in the district, and died there of starvation or disease due to want of food.

B.—Area and Population likely to be affected.—Few villages are without a tank of some sort, but in few of them does the irrigated area extend to half the village, and in none has every tenant got irrigated or low-lying land. The distress is then universal throughout the district, but varies from village to village. For the inhabitants of a few villages, where the outturn is well above the average of the district, or the malguzar is well off and does his duty by his tenants, no measure of relief will be necessary. Villages of this kind are, however, few and scattered, and it may therefore be said that relief works are necessary over the whole district, that is, they should be accessible to the distressed tenants and labourers of every village. The uplands are worse off than the lowlands both in the outturn of the crop and in the possession of capitalists, but they are thinly populated, whereas in the lowland tracts the population is as dense as in any part of the Central Provinces. The poorest portion of the district is the eastern half of the Baihar tahsil, comprising the Raigarh and Bhimlat parganas. Tanks are fewer and the

cultivators less intelligent. The harvest has been a greater failure there than in any other part of the district, and special efforts will have to be made to prevent the whole tract relapsing into waste, as the tenants are of migratory habits. The following statement shows the area of each tahsil of the district, the population and the density to the square mile:—

	Population at last Census.	Area recorded in Village Papers.	Population per Square Mile.
	No.	No.	No.
Balaghat khalsa	209,860	652	321
Ditto zamindari	87,179	666	131
Total	296,539	1,318	225
Baihar tahsil	86,792	909	95
BALAGHAT DISTRICT	383,331	2,227	172

C.—Character of Communications.—The communications are good in the lowlands and bad in the uplands. In the west of the district, Katangi, the chief town of the pargana of that name, is connected by a fairly good road with Tumsar on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The centre of the Balaghat tahsil is within easy reach of the metalled road from Gondia (Bengal-Nagpur Railway) to the district head-quarters. The south-east of the Balaghat tahsil runs to within four miles of Amgaon Railway Station and the north-west is connected by a good road with Balaghat, an important trade centre in the Seoni district. Fair cart-tracks connect all the villages in the lowlands with the principal lines of road during the open season. In the uplands of the Balaghat tahsil, which consist mainly of jungle, there are hardly any roads, nor is there any need for them. In the main plateau of the Baihar tahsil communications from village to village are mostly good, but there are no metal or muram roads, and the tract as a whole is shut off from the outside world. The approaches to it are difficult ghats, with the exception of one good road with an excellent ghat at Bhondwa, but this is a circuitous route for reaching the Balaghat tahsil or the railway, and is mainly of use to the western portion of the uplands only. The upper plateau (Raigarh) is still worse off in the matter of communications. The Bhesan ghat by which one ascends from the lower plateau is a difficult one, and Raigarh is more accessible from Manla by the Motinala road than from any part of the Balaghat district.

D.—The condition of the Grain Stocks.—Trustworthy information as to the extent of the grain stocks in the district is not forthcoming. There was a considerable scarcity of seed-grain last June. The net cropped area of 1895-96 is 12 per cent. below that of the previous year, and it is probable that this year's figures will show a still larger decrease. Few of the tenants had any appreciable stocks of grain left for food purposes last hot weather, and jhari was steadily imported from Gondia. As soon as the roads were practicable after the monsoon closed, the imports again commenced, but high prices at Gondia and elsewhere have temporarily checked them. Last year the high prices obtainable for rice caused a good deal of it to be exported, but this year there is no probability of any considerable export as prices show no sign of falling, though a large portion of the rice has been harvested.

E.—Sources from which supplies of Food may be obtained.—It is hoped that food will be obtainable in sufficient quantities from the stations on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway through which the exports from this district ordinarily go—Tumsar, Gondia, and Amgaon. Unless the failure of harvests is as great there as in Balaghat, the Seoni and Mandla districts will supply grain for the north-west of the Balaghat tahsil and the north of the Baihar tahsil. The east of the Baihar tahsil ordinarily gets its supply of grain in time of need from Kaloti in Raipur.

F.—Proposed measures of Relief.—The following are the roads on which work might be started. They are arranged in order of urgency, regarded as measures of relief:—

- (i.) Baihar to Balaghat.

- (ii.) Baihar to Motinala. This passes through the worst tract and will provide work for the north of the Bhimlat and the whole of the Raigarh pargana. Work for the south of Bhimlat will be found in the construction of ryotwari tanks.
- (iii.) Baihar to Mandla (*vid* Boda).
- (iv.) Lanji to Kulpa. This would require to be completed in the Bhandara district to Amgaon. It would be of great service both as a relief work and as a means of communication to the Lanji pargana and the Bhadra zamindari, and might well be metalled.
- (v.) Balaghat to Bhondwa. This has been surveyed.
- (vi.) Lalbarra to Rampaili (*vid* Waraseoni).
- (vii.) Balaghat to Lanji. This road will be of considerable use for traffic through the lowlands, and no other relief work can be found that will so effectively provide employment for the large area through the heart of which it passes. It has not been surveyed.

Nos. (i) and (vi) are believed to have been surveyed. The papers are with the Executive Engineer, Plateau Division. Nos. (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vii) are III-A. roads, and might all well be raised in class to Class II. if the survey can possibly be pushed through in time.

The Lanji-Kulpa road would be of immense service to Lanji and Bhadra, and would be a feeder-road for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. In the Baihar-Motinala road the Bhesan ghat may cause some difficulty, and a survey of it would be advisable, if the survey of the whole road cannot be completed in time. It is impossible for the district authorities to estimate with anything like correctness the amount of money required to carry out these works. This is the business of the Public Works Department. No estimates of the probable cost are given in the Famine Appendices. For tanks there is a sum of 5,000 rupees already sanctioned for ryotwari villages, and work is to begin at once at Bansuli, Basimkhar and Parsatola in the Baihar tahsil. A proposal for the construction at Baihar of a tank for a small sum has already been submitted to the Commissioner. A very few malguzars may be induced to start embanking tanks in their villages. Last year the Settlement Officer managed with considerable difficulty to get about 4,000 rupees spent by malguzars and well-to-do tenants in providing work in this manner. If tanks be constructed and repaired on a much larger scale, a number of persons will be supplied with work at their own doors, and a considerable amount of relief afforded, but the malguzars will require substantial assistance from Government. They are not willing to take loans, foreseeing the difficulty they will have in repaying them. Loans on very easy terms might, however, be accepted. They would have to bear little or no interest, repayment of the first instalment would have to be postponed for a year or two, and, in some cases, repayment of some part of the principal might be remitted. From 20,000 rupees to 50,000 rupees could without much difficulty be spent in this way, provided that the terms of repayment are easy. Besides these tanks to be built by the malguzars, there are several places in which tanks could be constructed or in some cases repaired, so as to irrigate several villages each. There is no hope of any malguzar undertaking the work even with the assistance of a Government loan, and it might well be undertaken by Government. If the other measures fail to provide adequate employment, further reports and estimates on this point will be submitted. In Baihar the present three ryotwari tanks will not suffice. Projects for more tank construction will be drawn up and submitted later.

The question of advances for seed-grain is not so urgent as that of advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act, as no rabi sowings can be effected now, but substantial provision will be required under this head next year, very far exceeding any amount that has ever yet been required in this district. It will be absolutely necessary to suspend all repayments of takavi due this year. A poor-house has been started at Balaghat, at which some 150 or 200 persons are fed daily by private subscriptions. So far the subscriptions only just exceeded 100 rupees per mensem. As this was miserably inadequate, subscriptions are now promised to the extent of about 500 rupees per mensem for eight months from 1st November. At Lalbarra and Waraseoni two poor-houses were started, in each of which about 60 persons received two small meals daily. Both these houses have been closed for want of funds. Efforts will now be made to re-open them, and also to systematise gratuitous relief at other places. Further report on this subject will be submitted later.

No. 4415. Dated Nagpur, November 16, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE NAGPUR DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 8676, dated the 7th November, in which you report on the prospects of distress in the districts forming your Division, and submit proposals for dealing with it where it is expected to occur. The Chief Commissioner, since his return to Nagpur, has had the advantage of being able personally to discuss the matter with you, and I am now to convey the following remarks and orders on your report.

2. The time has not yet arrived for forming a definite estimate of the out-turn of the kharif harvest as a whole, still less of the probable results of the rabi. In parts of the Division where juari is an important crop it is still uncut, and a good deal of the rice still remains to be reaped: tur (or arhar) is only now coming into flower, and on the whole does not promise badly. It is only when the whole kharif harvest has been cleared off the ground, and extensive crop experiments have been carried out for the purpose of controlling the general estimates of out-turn, that a satisfactory approximation to the actual results of the harvest can be arrived at. As regards the rabi, the land placed under wheat, Mr. Lyall understands, is not much less than the normal area, and germination has not so far been unsatisfactory. Rain in November or December would greatly affect the prospects of this important crop, and there is at present no reason to fear that we shall not have the ordinary cold weather rains. The linseed is reported to have already succumbed to drought, but the gram (though this is not a very important crop here) may be expected to fare like the wheat if rain falls at the usual time.

3. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, however, on the issue of which the future will mainly depend, the situation already presents features which are likely to be permanent. It is certain that the rice harvest, especially in Balaghat and Bhandara, will be very poor over wide areas, and that the people of the tracts where it is the main staple will be much straitened for food. The great rise of prices, due rather to the demands for export than to apprehensions arising from local failure, has everywhere produced much distress among the poorer classes, which can only be met by affording them employment at wages which will enable them to live. Of the five districts of your Division, you anticipate with some confidence that there will be no severe distress in Wardha and Chanda. In Nagpur there are parts of the district, especially Umrer in the south, along the Wardha border in the north-west, and the hilly parts of the Ramtek tahsil in the north-east, where pressure is expected; but the main part of the district, the Katol tahsil and the country about the capital, does not appear likely to cause anxiety. In Balaghat and a large portion of Bhandara, on the other hand, you expect acute distress, especially in the former district, where the need of immediate relief is most urgent.

4. Your estimates of relief expenditure likely to be required up to the 1st April next, taking an outside figure, amount to 5,33,416 rupees, of which you expect that Government will have to meet 2,87,916 rupees, the balance, 2,45,500 rupees, coming from private sources (48,500 rupees for gratuitous relief and 1,97,000 rupees for works of improvement in private estates). You think, however, that the demand for assistance from Government might without risk be cut down to 2,29,000 rupees, of which 21,470 rupees can be met from local funds, leaving 2,07,530 rupees to be provided from Provincial resources.

The Chief Commissioner, after discussing the matter with you, thinks that your estimate may be accepted as a sufficient working basis on which to proceed, and has much pleasure in acknowledging the care and foresight with which you have prepared it. He also desires to acknowledge the liberality with which, especially in the districts of Nagpur and Bhandara, private charity has come forward to meet the emergency.

5. Turning now to particular districts, he finds that in Wardha the metalling of the Wardha-Paunar road, five miles long, has already been started as a test relief work. The work is estimated to cost about 6,750 rupees, and will employ 750 men for three months. This work is approved. The only other work proposed in this district is the metalling of the last eight miles of the Pulgaon-Arvi road, which will cost about 11,000 rupees, and afford employment for 1,200 persons for three months. This work will not be taken in

hand unless experience shows that it is required. You are accordingly authorised to do so when you consider it necessary to do so. In this district nearly all the distress that at present exists is among immigrants, chiefly from Balaghat and Bhandara, who have as usual gone to Berar for the annual harvest work, and have been turned back in consequence of there being no employment available there. These will be relieved by private charity.

6. In Nagpur such distress as exists is at present due partly to the same cause as in Wardha—the return of disappointed immigrants to Berar, who only require to be fed and enabled to reach their homes, and partly to the throwing out of work of the weaver population (Koshtis and Momins) on account of the competition of the weaving mills and the low price of cloth. The cost of relief to these classes, so far as it is gratuitous, will be largely met by public charity, and the Chief Commissioner approves of your appropriating 10,000 rupees to this object.

In this district many useful works of agricultural improvement, which will afford much employment, are expected to be taken in hand, partly from the funds of estates under the Court of Wards, partly from the private resources of land-owners, and partly from advances under the Land Improvement Act. For the last-mentioned purpose you ask for a grant of 25,000 rupees, which the Chief Commissioner hereby sanctions.

To meet the distress in the Umrer tahsil you propose to take in hand the metalling of two lengths of the Nagpur-Chanda road, one of eight miles from Umrer westwards, and the other of 15 miles from Umrer to Bhiwapur. The first length you suggest should be started at once as a test relief work. These proposals are approved. In the north of the district you propose the construction of a metalled road, six miles long, from Patansaongi on the Nagpur-Chhindwara road to Khapa, an important mart where there are many distressed Koshtis. This road has to be aligned before work can be commenced, and the Secretary in the Public Works Department will be asked to have this done as soon as possible.

In the north-west, the metalling of the Kalmeshwar-Katol road, which has already been constructed, will be kept in reserve, as a work to afford relief in case of its being required in this direction. It will also serve the northern portion of the Arvi tahsil of Wardha, should relief be needed there.

7. In the Chanda district it is not expected that pressure will become severe anywhere before January next. In the Khalsa portion of the district some work on ryotwari and other tanks (for which the Deputy Commissioner already has an allotment of funds), and the collection of metal on the Warora-Patalla road, will provide all the employment which seems likely to be necessary; but you ask that the survey and alignment of the Chanda-Kotari-Markanda road (the first section of the southern road towards Sironcha) may be put in hand at once to provide for possible eventualities. The Chief Engineer will be requested to have this taken in hand as soon as possible. For gratuitous relief, it is thought that 3,500 rupees will suffice for the remainder of the current year.

In the zamindaris the population, except in the north-eastern corner in the Ambargarh Chauki zamindari, is exceedingly sparse, and it is probable that the zamindars will be able to meet the requirements of their estates. You desire, however, that the Rajnandgaon-Panabaras road, of which 14 miles pass through the Ambargarh-Chauki zamindari, should be aligned at once, in order that its construction may be proceeded with as soon as possible at the cost of the zamindari; and you suggest that it should be put in charge of the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, and that the Feudatory Chief of Rajnandgaon should be addressed with reference to the construction of that part of it which passes through his State. This matter has been separately referred by you, and the Chief Commissioner has accepted your proposals, and referred them to the Public Works Department for examination and further orders.

8. The Bhandara district is one of the two in which most distress is anticipated, chiefly in the north-east, (the Tirora tahsil), the east (Sakoli tahsil), and the south (Pauni-haveli). Test relief works will immediately be opened at Gondia and Tumsar in the first-mentioned tract. The Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, will be requested to open the forests for the collection of fruits, mohwa and edible roots by the poor, and for free grazing to all except Banjaras, Gaolis, and professional cattle breeders who own large herds. The Chief Commissioner understands that it will be possible to make arrangements by which the privilege of gathering mohwa free for home consumption will not interfere with its collection for commercial purposes, which will still be leased as usual. Mr. Lyall has heard with gratification that the Zamindar of Kamtha has liberally opened his zamindari forests in the same manner as the Government forests will

be opened; and he trusts that upon the matter being properly represented to him the Zamindar of Amgaon will also do the like.

For gratuitous and poor-house relief you estimate that 25,000 rupees may be required, of which 10,000 rupees will be raised by private charity, leaving 15,000 rupees to be defrayed by Government.

This is a district in which much useful expenditure on tank construction and repair is possible, and you ask that, in addition to the amounts which will be contributed from private funds and Court of Wards Estates, 25,000 rupees may be put at your disposal for land improvement loans. The Chief Commissioner sanctions this allotment.

As regards works for the relief of those seeking employment, you consider that the road from Phulchar on the line of Railway *via* Gorgaon and Dawa to Arjuni on the Great Eastern road should be aligned at once, so as to be ready by the 1st January. The Chief Engineer will be asked to make arrangements for this being done.

Next to this in importance as a relief work you place the metalling of the Tumsar-Rampaili road, already constructed. This you intend to employ as a test work at Tumsar. Your proposal is sanctioned.

Another road which you desire to have surveyed as soon as possible, both for the relief of the north-east corner of Bhandara and the south-east portion of Balaghat, is the Angaon-Kulpa-Lanji road. And in the south, you propose that the road from Pauni to Bhiwapur should be aligned, so as to be ready (in connection with the work on the Umrer-Bhiwapur line in the Nagpur district) early in January. The Chief Engineer will be asked to arrange accordingly.

9. Balaghat is the district in your Division which gives cause for most anxiety; acute distress has, it is stated, already set in in the Behir tract above the ghâts, and in the Lanji tract to the south-east. The people consist largely of aboriginal races of poor physique, who have no reserve resources, and readily succumb to distress; and the district has, in 1895 and the early part of the current year, already passed through a time of severe pressure. The failure of the rice crop has been general, the district being protected to a much less degree than Bhandara by tank irrigation.

You recommend the opening of the forests for the collection of edible fruits and roots, and for free grazing for agricultural cattle. This proposal is sanctioned. You consider that 30,000 rupees may be required from Government for gratuitous relief for the helpless poor, 6,000 rupees being met from private charity.

For works of agricultural improvement you have already made some provision from the allotment made on this account to your Division, and you ask for a further grant of 35,000 rupees, which the Chief Commissioner hereby sanctions.

For employment for the able-bodied poor, you propose that the Burha-Behir direct road, the project for which is, you understand, ready, be started at once at both ends. To this the Chief Commissioner agrees. He understands that you have already opened work on this road as a test relief work.

Next, to meet the demand for labour in the south-east, you place the Lanji-Kulpa road, already referred to, against Bhandara. This should be aligned at once, and the Chief Engineer will be asked to arrange for this being done.

Thirdly, the Lalbarra-Waraseoni-Rampaili road project is ready, and a portion of it has, you understand, already been started as a test relief work. You think that this road might stand over for the present, till it is seen how far the land improvement work, to be carried out from loans, provides employment in this locality for the people. To this the Chief Commissioner agrees.

Mr. Lyall understands that you do not at present press for the survey of the Balaghat-Lanji road, the fourth in the list given in your memorandum.

10. The Chief Commissioner has already, in my letter No. 4302, dated the 11th instant, placed at your disposal a grant of a lakh of rupees for famine relief purposes in your Division. The orders now given will enable you to distribute this sum, under the provisions of Article 137 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, among the districts of your Division.

This letter further places at your disposal a grant for Land Improvement Loans of 85,000 rupees as follows:—

	<i>Rs.</i>
Nagpur District - - - - -	25,000
Bhandara District - - - - -	25,000
Balaghat District - - - - -	35,000

When relief operations have been started and the situation is further developed, you should report again in good time should the necessity of a further allotment of funds become apparent.

I have, &c.
H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

No. 8739, Dated Nagpur, November 25, 1896.

From COLONEL J. A. TEMPLE, Esq., COMMISSIONER, CHHATTISGARH DIVISION, to
CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

SIR,

WITH reference to Secretariat letters Nos. C-380 and C-350, dated respectively the 1st and 22nd October, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter No. 6445, dated the 18th instant, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, on the agricultural prospects of his district.

2. It will be seen that he anticipates little or no scarcity in the Khalsa portion, and that pressure, caused by the high prices of grain in other centres, may be expected to be relieved by the construction of tanks by Gaontias themselves.

3. The situation in the zamindaris of Phuljhar and Borasambar is not so satisfactory. But these estates are under the Court of Wards and have funds available. A further report is promised regarding them when the Deputy Commissioner has visited them himself.

4. The worst part of the district is the so-called zamindari of Chandarpur-Padampur. This estate is, however, not really a zamindari at all. The villages are all settled with the Gaontias as in other parts of the district, the difference being that they pay their revenue to the zamindar or talukdar instead of to Government. Consequently the tract may, I think, be treated as part of the khalsa area. I asked the Deputy Commissioner to give me more precise information as to what relief would be required there, and now forward copy of his reply with a sketch map.

5. He recommends that the road between Dabra and Kursia Railway Station (13 miles) be constructed, if necessary, as a famine work, the total cost being, at 2,000 rupees a mile, 26,000 rupees. Three other roads are also suggested, but I do not think that they would be equally useful, nor indeed that they will be necessary. But steps have been taken to have the survey of these roads carried out by the Public Works Department Sub-Divisional Officer.

6. The estimate for the district will be as follows:—

	<i>Rs.</i>
Works under Public Works Department - - - - -	26,000
Minor works under District Agency—approximately - - - - -	1,000
Poorhouses and children's kitchens (very doubtful) - - - - -	3,000
Gratuitous relief (very doubtful) - - - - -	500
Miscellaneous - - - - -	500
Total - - - - -	31,000
<i>Deduct—</i>	
Re-appropriations by District Council - - - - -	3,400
Private charity - - - - -	3,900
Total - - - - -	7,300
Balance required for Provincial Funds - - - - -	23,700

A further sum of from 12,000 rupees to 15,000 rupees may be expected to be required as takavi, but as this will be all recoverable, it is not entered as chargeable to Provincial Funds.

I have, &c.
J. A. TEMPLE, Colonel,
Commissioner.

No. 6445. Dated November 18, 1896.

From R. A. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., I.C.S., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SAMBALPUR, to the COMMISSIONER, CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

WITH reference to your letter No. 8089, dated the 30th October 1896, forwarding certain letters from the Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, calling for a detailed report as to the agricultural prospects of the district, I have the honour to reply as follows.

The district is a very long and straggling one, and I have only just completed a rapid tour of nearly 200 miles through all the typical portions.

I forward herewith a map of the district, which will show at a glance the area affected by the scarcity.

2. The rainfall this year was very excessive. The average rainfall in the Sambalpur District is between 50 and 60 inches. This year it was considerably over 80 inches. The rain entirely ceased early in September.

The staple crop of the district is, of course, rice. The rice on the high lands called *at* is reaped at the end of August and early in September. Consequently the *at* crops were generally not affected by the early cessation of the rain. *At* lands are generally held by the poorer classes of tenants, so that though the outturn from *at* lands is always meagre, in this particular, at all events, the poorer tenants have not been at the mercy of the unfavourable season.

Of the other three classes of soil—*bahal*, *berna* and *mal-bahal*—lands are always irrigated; *mal* and *berna* lands may or may not be irrigated.

The Sambalpur District is famous for its tanks. The rich portion of the district is that where the natural formation is a succession of undulating hills and valleys which lend themselves readily to the making of tanks.

The people are adepts at placing their embankments in such a way as just to catch the gentle drainage of a sloping piece of land without endangering their strength by subjecting them to the danger of being carried away by heavy floods. It is just where this undulating character of the soil exists, and has been taken advantage of for the building of tanks that the crops have escaped the evil effects of the drought. But for the tanks the drainage would have been universal. As it is, the regions which have suffered have been, first, the level portions of the district, which do not offer the same natural advantages for the making of tanks; secondly, land lying under the hills on which both crops and embankments have been washed away by heavy floods; thirdly, jungly tracts, where however suitable the soil may have been for the building of tanks, the people have been too poor to do so; and fourthly, tracts bordering on the large rivers (especially the Mahanadi) where crops have been washed away wholesale by the floods. In such tracts as usual the people resorted to the transplanting of rice over the area devastated by flood, but owing to the cessation of the rain the transplanted crop died before coming into ear. There has been one cause of damage which seems to have been nearly universal throughout the district—a small winged insect called *bamha*, which fattens on the milk of the growing ear. Fortunately the insect is very local in its ravages; one field only out of a large number will often be found to have been attacked. The damage, however, from this insect has been infinitesimal as compared with that caused by the floods and drought.

The accompanying map will show at a glance that the area affected is after all a limited one.

Crop experiments show that irrigated rice has not suffered at all. In fact many of the irrigated crops I saw could not have been finer. Crop experiments are, I think, somewhat a fallacious method of gauging the outturn of a village as far as rice is concerned. Deprived of water, unirrigated crops at a certain stage die off very rapidly, and it is just a question whether the crop will ripen before this stage is reached. As a consequence it is not infrequent to find half the unirrigated crops in a village flourishing and half absolutely withered.

Before proceeding to deal in detail with the various portions of the district, I will deal with the minor crops of the district. These, I regret to say, have failed to a considerable extent owing to the drought. Fortunately these crops hold a very subordinate place in comparison with rice, and though the loss of these crops will interfere undoubtedly with the comfort of the people, it does not seriously affect the question of famine.

Nowhere have I seen til yielding more than a six anna crop. Urad and kulthi have failed to a still greater extent. Mung, which depends less on rain than on dew, will give from 8 to 10 anna crop. None of these crops are ripe yet, so I have been unable to carry out any crop experiments upon them.

The following table shows the proportion which the area under these crops bears to that under rice throughout the khalsa portion of the district:—

	Acres.
Rice - - - - -	489,412
Urad and Mung - - - - -	39,433
Kulthi - - - - -	11,801

3. I will now take the various portions of the district in detail.

I think it may safely be said that none of the tracts to the east of the Mahanadi give any cause for anxiety. I saw a good deal of this part of the country in October when a portion of the crops had been cut, and from personal observation and from reports I have received, I should put down the crops throughout this portion of the district at 12 to 13 annas. The whole tract is well supplied with tanks and is, in my opinion, the most consistently prosperous part of the district. Crossing the river the crops at Attabira, Bargarh, Remanda, Bheran and Sohella are certainly not worse than 12 annas, in many places better.

At Attabira coarse rice was selling at 18 seers to the rupee. A crop experiment on irrigated and manured mal land gave a return of 2,500 lbs. of unhusked rice to the acre, the standard laid down for such soil in the Revenue Book Circular being 900 lbs.

At Remanda rice was selling at 16 seers to the rupee, at Bheran at 17 to 18 seers.

Two crop experiments at Bheran gave the following results:—

	Lbs.
Mal, unirrigated and unmanured - - -	500
Berna ditto - ditto - - -	1,800

the standard being 700 lbs. and 1,200 lbs. respectively.

The Zamindar of Barpali admitted a 14 anna crop of rice all over his zamindari. A crop experiment on unirrigated and unmanured mal gave a return of 580 lbs. to the acre, and rice is selling at 18 seers to the rupee.

At Bargarh rice is selling at 17 seers to the rupee. A crop experiment at Bargarh on unirrigated, but manured, mal gave a return of 980 lbs.

The crops in Bijepur are reported to be much the same as those of Barpali.

4. We have now dealt with the whole of the part of the district unaffected by drought, and it would be well here to say what I know about the grain stocks in this portion. This is the second bad year in succession which the district has suffered, but, speaking generally, the same portions of the district escaped the scarcity last year as have escaped it this year. A large export in grain is undoubtedly going on. In October of this year 34,000 maunds of rice were sent away by train as against only 2,000 in the same period in the previous year, but it must be remembered that this grain comes from a very large area. Sonpur, Patna and Kalahandi are all sending grain to the railway. If the grain was only being exported from the Sambalpur District, prices

would already have been much more affected than they have been. Gaontias are, I believe, in general, fully aware of the importance of keeping sufficient grain in the district for the year's consumption and also for seed-grain next year. Sambalpur is bordered for a considerable distance by States hitherto untapped by the railway, and grain being exported now from these tracts would be arrested in Sambalpur if there was any real scarcity.

From inquiries I have made, however, I am confident that there are and will remain ample grain stocks in the district for the needs of the year.

Taking at random the statements of five Patwaris of the Bargarh Circle, I find that there are grain stocks in the following proportion of their villages:—

Bargarh Circle.—Out of 5 villages, stocks in 3 amounting in all to 1,100 purugs or about 5,500 maunds (old rice).

Sarsara Circle.—Out of 4 villages, stocks in 2 amounting to 450 purugs or 2,250 maunds (old rice).

Patarla Circle.—Out of 5 villages, rice in 4 villages amounting to 750 purugs or 3,750 maunds (old rice).

Khutpali Circle.—Out of 5 villages, rice in 3 villages amounting to 370 purugs or 1,850 maunds (old rice).

Deogaon Circle.—Out of 8 villages, rice in 8 villages amounting to 950 purugs or 4,750 maunds (old rice).

These figures leave out of consideration the stores of rice kept by tenants for their own consumption, and only refer to stocks to be used in grain lending. They are irrespective of the new rice.

These Patwaris and the Revenue Inspectors of the Circle are unanimous in saying that these stocks are for the present being kept intact until at all events the returns of the present harvest have been ascertained. This circle may be taken as a specimen of the rest of the prosperous parts of the district. There is, I think, no fear of a general depletion of stocks here.

5. The first signs of bad crops were to be seen in the villages to the south of the Barapahars, and within three or four miles of the hills. The soil here is bad, the villages are jungly, and the crops have been subject to severe floods. The map will show the whole of this tract as giving a 4 to 6 anna outturn.

The following villages in this tract are the worst off:—

Bengitora	-	-	4	annas	
Raotpara	-	-	6	„	
Kajuria	-	-	4	„	
Tala	-	-	4	„	} In the Kharsel Zamindari.
Banjipali	-	-	4	„	

A crop experiment in Raotpara on unirrigated, but manured, mal land gave a return of 1,350 lbs. A large proportion of the rice in Raotpara had withered altogether.

I do not think it will become necessary to open any special relief-works in this tract. It borders on villages which have escaped the scarcity. Gaontias of prosperous villages are fully aware of the advantages of the cheap labour which the scarcity will bring, and with a very little encouragement, which I shall not fail to give them, will provide labour for destitute villages by digging tanks in their own. I am addressing a general letter to all Gaontias bordering on distressed tracts to this effect. The Gaontia of Raotpara has consented to take a takavi loan and repair a tank in his village, and the Gaontia of Bengitora to build a tank at his own expense. I have ordered the Tahsildar to camp through this portion, and see if he can make arrangements for the digging of more tanks.

There is one splendid relief-work which might be undertaken if the scarcity really becomes acute here, which I do not apprehend,—a road up the Kajuria ghât into the Barapahar forests. This can be kept in reserve.

6. Proceeding into the Barapahar Range I found that crops had suffered severely throughout the Lakhampur valley. In Lohara-Behera hardly any crop had been reaped at all owing to floods. It is proposed to make this a forest village, and to draft into it villagers turned out of a number of villages to be afforested this year. There is an old tank out of repair in the village which, if put in order, will bring a large tract into cultivation, and supply land to a large number of ousted villagers. I propose that this

tank should be repaired by the Forest Department at the cost of 500 rupees. This will afford work to several villages where crops have failed. I have addressed the Conservator on the subject.

The villages here are poor and there are large grain stocks at Butli and Lakhanpur. The population of the Lakhanpur valley is only some 7,000.

There is not, and never has been, any export from this valley, and rice is selling at 20 seers to the rupee.

The Gaontias of 12 villages agreed to make tanks—

Lakhanpur	-	-	-	} Without takavi.
Katikhoj	-	-	-	
Babibira	-	-	-	
Gourpali	-	-	-	
Chal	-	-	-	
Tilaimal	-	-	-	
Chakramal	-	-	-	} With takavi.
Khola	-	-	-	
Uttam	-	-	-	
Banjipali	-	-	-	
Lethar	-	-	-	
Lelar	-	-	-	

A crop experiment at Lakhanpur gave the following results :—

Mal unirrigated and unmanured - - - 124 lbs.

I think there will be no necessity for relief-works in the Lakhanpur valley if the Gaontias act up to their promises.

7. The population of the Ambabona Circle is about 15,000. The outturn here is generally from 6 to 10 annas. Grain is selling at Ambabona at 16 seers to the rupee. Considerable export is going on. There are grain stocks in about one-third of the villages. Many of the villages are poor and jungly.

The Gaontias of the following villages have agreed to build tanks at their own expense :—

Malipali, Ruchida, Narangpur, Sambalpuri, Jharpuli, Kaunpalla, Beherapali, Dwari, Tarakona, and Dolapali ;

and the following Gaontias if takavi is given to them :—

Gountiapali, Barangkot, and Machmulda.

The most important of these works is the tank at Dwari. The village belongs to Bairagi Dora, a rich money-lender, and he has consented to repair a bund which will put a large stretch of land under water and give irrigation to seven or eight villages.

The Ambabona district will be carefully watched, but at present I am of opinion that no relief-works will be necessary.

8. We now come to that portion of the district where the crops have been the worst, the Padampur-Chandarpur Zamindari. This is a splendid property owned absolutely by Babu Harihar Singh, Zamindar.

He ought, of course, to be in a position to assist his own people; but unfortunately he is heavily in debt. He has, however, the power to sell or mortgage outright any of his villages, and has told me that he is quite willing to do so if necessary. It is a question how far Government, with severe demands upon its resources in other directions, can meet the needs of a zamindari which should have the best resources at its command in the whole Province.

The population of Padampur is 19,000, of Chandarpur 61,000, and of Malkhorda, a small zamindari to the west of Chandarpur which has also suffered severely, 7,500.

In Padampur the villages along the river bank have all suffered severely from floods. The Revenue Inspector is now engaged in drawing up estimates of grain stocks and outturn in Padampur.

From what I saw I think it will probably be necessary to open relief-works on a small scale here in March. The road from Padampur to Jamgaon Railway Station would be the best relief-work. It was reserved as a road at the recent settlement, and the Patwaris can easily peg it out in accordance to their maps. Grain is selling at Padampur at 20 seers to the rupee in spite of a large export.

The condition of the Chandarpur zamindari is the most serious of all. Out of 177 villages, crops in 77 villages are under four annas, and only in 15 of these villages are there grain stocks. There are considerable grain stocks in about 30 of the other villages of Chandarpur. Chandarpur is so near the railway that supposing its grain stocks were depleted, grain could be very easily imported. The villages all round the border of Chandarpur have especially suffered.

In Malkhorda out of 20 villages 11 have suffered seriously. In the rest there have been good crops. There are good stores of rice in some five or six of the Malkhorda villages. The zamindar of Malkhorda himself has some 1,500 maunds.

The main road from Bilaspur to Sambalpur passes through Malkhorda and Chandarpur. Already the head constable of Dabra thana, which is situated on the road, tells me that some 50 or 60 persons pass along the road daily emigrating from Bilaspur into Sambalpur on the look-out for work. I myself passed strings of Bilaspur carts coming into Sambalpur to seek work in the sleeper trade.

All this is undoubtedly a sign of severe distress in Bilaspur. If relief works are opened in Chandarpur many persons will undoubtedly come to them from Bilaspur. I shall take steps to relieve needy immigrants at Sambalpur if such appear. There can be no doubt, I think, as to what works should be taken up as relief in Chandarpur and Malkhorda. The system of roads mapped out by Mr Nethersole and reserved as roads at the settlement should be given effect to. At present the road system in Chandarpur is very defective. The proposed roads run from Chandarpur-Dabra and Malkhorda to Khursia Station. If more relief works are required tanks can always be dug.

The zamindars of Chandarpur and Malkhorda are calling in all their Gaontias and ascertaining which will dig tanks in their villages.

The Revenue Inspector has already furnished me with a list of such Gaontias in Chandarpur, but it is at present a somewhat meagre list, and a little pressure from the zamindar will soon improve it, I have little doubt.

It is very difficult to form an estimate of how many persons will demand relief. It is possible that in Padampur 500 persons may require relief from March onwards, and in Chandarpur 2,000 or 3,000 from a month earlier. It is quite possible, however, that the destitute may find employment in the timber trade, which has developed enormously of late.

9. As regards means, the Chandarpur zamindar has promised 300 puris of dhan, value about 1,200 rupees, and I have no doubt the Malkhorda zamindar will also assist.

The District Council is unfortunately in a state of bankruptcy, and I do not see how it can provide more than 2,500 rupees, and that only by curtailing ordinary road repair.

What is wanted is a liberal supply of land improvement loans. As far as I can see, I can easily lend 10,000 rupees or 12,000 rupees for the digging of tanks in the two tahsils.

A liberal supply of loans for seed grain will also be required to provide the people with grain for the next harvest, say, 4,000 rupees in each tahsil.

The road relief work in Chandarpur and Padampur should be considered as work under the Public Works Department. It will be sufficient if poorhouses and children's kitchens are established at Dabra and at Padampur, possibly, also at Ambabhona and Lakhanpur later on, though I do not think this will be necessary. Centres for gratuitous relief may also be established at the same places as necessity arises. It may become necessary to open such institutions later on at Sambalpur town for the relief of immigrants.

I roughly estimate the sum which may be spent—

- (1) On the Chandarpur-Padampur Road, as 6,000 rupees ;
- (2) On minor works under District Agency, (It may be necessary to open some tank works at Sambalpur, to relieve immigrants, though I do not apprehend distress in the actual vicinity of Sambalpur.) I put down 1,000 rupees for this purpose ;
- (3) On poorhouses and children's kitchens, 3,000 rupees ;
- (4) Gratuitous relief outside poorhouses, 500 rupees ;
- (5) Miscellaneous, 500 rupees.

I do not see how the District Council can provide more than 2,500 rupees, unless it should close some of its schools. If this is done it could provide, say, 4,000 rupees.

I estimate the amount to be collected by private charity as 1,500 rupees, excluding what the zamindars of Chandarpur and Malkhorda will give. I think it would be much better to direct the stream of private charity into the digging of tanks rather than to ask wholesale for cash subscriptions.

The major portion of the relief I look to in the digging of tanks by Gaontias and well-to-do persons in their villages. It is impossible to say how much will be done in this way, but from the readiness with which such persons have come forward with offers to dig tanks I am sure the sum will be no small one.

I estimate the requirements of the district under head "Land Improvement Loans" at 12,000 rupees, and under head "Agriculturists' Loans" at 8,000 rupees.

I have said nothing so far about the zamindaris of Phuljhar and Borasambar, where there is considerable scarcity. These are both Court of Wards Estates, and have ample balances in hand. Road works on a large scale are being carried on in both these zamindaris, and I propose that these should be converted, when necessity arises, into relief works. I am now about to visit these zamindaris, and when I have seen the state of things will be in a better position to judge of what steps are necessary for relief.

The influx of immigrants from Bilaspur along the Bilaspur-Sambalpur road will be carefully watched. It is for these persons, I believe, that relief will first have to be afforded. Test-works will be opened as soon as they are found necessary.

As I am in camp I have asked the Secretary, District Council, to add a note showing in what way the budget of the District Council can be altered to provide for famine relief.

NOTE on Road Proposals in the Chandarpur-Padampur Parganas.

This is in ordinary years a very rich portion of the Sambalpur District, but suffers very badly for want of communications.

The accompanying map shows the roads which I propose should be this year opened out as famine relief works.

The most useful road, and the one which should be first undertaken, is that between Dabra and Kursia Railway Station. About 13 miles of this falls within Chandarpur and two or three miles in Raigarh. The road could easily be built as a second-class road for 2,000 rupees a mile. I estimate the cost of this road for the portion passing through Chandarpur at 26,000 rupees.

I propose that this road should be surveyed at once, and have asked the Executive Engineer to depute the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sambalpur, for the purpose.

Test relief works will first be opened on this road. I will write to the Political Agent asking that the small portion of this road falling in Raigarh may be undertaken in connection with the work on one side of the border.

The next important road is that from Padampur to Jamgaon. About six miles of this falls in the Sambalpur District, and the rest, some four or five miles, in Hemgir Zamindari, in the Chota Nagpur Division. The portion of the road falling in the Sambalpur District would be about six miles. At 2,000 rupees a mile, this would cost 12,000 rupees.

The next road of importance would be that from Chapora to Kursia, of which about 13 miles would fall in the Sambalpur District—cost 26,000 rupees. Some three or four miles would fall in the Raigarh District.

A minor piece of road would be that between Lapos and Sugda, nine miles—cost 18,000 rupees.

The total length of the whole system of roads would be—

	Miles.	Cost at 2,000 rupees per mile.
Dabra-Kursia - - - -	13	26,000
Padampur-Jamgaon - - - -	6	12,000
Chopara-Kursia * * * -	13	26,000
Lapos-Sudga * - - - -	9	18,000
Total - - -		82,000

I certainly do not for a moment think we shall be called on to provide relief-works to anything like this extent.

I should propose commencing with the Dabra-Kursia and Padampur-Jamgaon roads, which will afford relief to the parts where scarcity exists.

SAMBALPUR,
The 23rd November 1896.

R. A. B. CHAPMAN,
Deputy Commissioner.

No. 4775. Dated Nagpur, November 30, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8739, dated the 25th instant, forwarding a copy of letter No. 6445, dated the 18th idem, from the Deputy Commissioner, Sambalpur, in which he reports on the agricultural situation in his district, and submits proposals for the relief of the distress in places where it exists, by opening the Dabra-Kursia Road as a test-work in the first instance.

2. This proposal has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. As regards gratuitous relief, I am to say that Mr. Lyall considers that it should, as far as possible, be provided by private charity.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

No. 4988. Dated Nagpur, December 16, 1896.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to invite the attention of the Government of India to this Administration's letter No. 2161, dated June 13, 1896, dealing with the agricultural situation in these Provinces up to that time. Owing to the peculiar character of the monsoon rainfall of the current year, the situation has, instead of improving, become very much more serious, and even on the most favourable view of the outturn of the spring crops, it is certain that there will be severe distress, especially in the northern and central parts of the Province, and that large expenditure will be necessary in connection with famine relief.

2. I proceed to show the circumstances which have resulted in the present situation, to state what has been done to meet such distress as exists, and to forecast, as far as is now possible, the prospects of each district and the measures which will be necessary for the effective relief of the agricultural and labouring classes.

The main features of the rainfall of 1895 were described in paragraph 5 of the letter already referred to, and until quite recently the course of the rains this year very closely resembled that of 1895. In June and July there was plentiful rain in all districts of the Province, while in August the fall was unusually heavy—heavier, indeed, than it had been in the previous year. There had been nearly everywhere sufficient breaks to allow of sowing and weeding being carried on, and, though the heavy rain of August had damaged the rice in some parts, there seemed every hope of an unusually plentiful autumn crop. With the end of August, however, the rain abruptly ceased, and September was practically rainless in nearly all districts of the Province. It was only in Raipur (5.18 inches distributed over four weeks) and Sambalpur (5.67 similarly distributed) that there was good rain throughout that month, while in Nagpur, Chanda and Damoh there was fair rain in parts of each district. Elsewhere there was practically none, the scanty local showers which fell in places being of no benefit to the standing crops. October was entirely rainless throughout the Province, and when the first half of November had passed without further showers, prospects were exceedingly gloomy. Not only had the early and high-lying rice, as well as the lesser millets which form the main food of the poorer classes, been ruined by the early cessation of rain, but there seemed every likelihood that the further course of the seasons would resemble that of the previous year;

that there would be no cold weather rains, and that, except in embanked and irrigated lands, the spring crops would fail even more entirely than the autumn crop had done. But the very heavy rain in the earlier monsoon months had left the soil charged with moisture. In spite of two months' drought the spring crops germinated with a fair degree of success wherever they had been sown, and week after week passed without their showing (except in a few places) serious signs of withering. At last, on the 22nd November and the two following days rain came, and fell in all parts of the Province. In the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, as well as in Damoh, Mandli and Seoni in the Jubbulpore Division, and in the Chhindwara District of the Nerbudda Division, the fall was general and fairly plentiful. The prospects of the crops which had already germinated were greatly improved, and the land was sufficiently moistened to allow of further sowings, which were taken in hand in all these districts; even in the other districts, with the sole exception of Saugor, Hoshiangabad, Betul, and Nimar, where the fall was very slight and scattered, the rain was sufficient to improve very materially the previous situation; standing crops were benefited, and though the fall did not, in many places, suffice to allow of further sowings, it diminished the fears of a failure in the fodder supply. It must also be noted that this most timely fall removed the fear that this year's season would resemble that of 1895-96 in having no winter rain. There is now (it may reasonably be hoped) every prospect of further rain at the usual time during the cold weather, and in most districts the outturn of the spring crop, on the restricted area sown, ought, so far as any forecast is possible at this early stage, to be at least an average one.

3. Turning now to the actual outturn of the autumn crops and the prospects of those of the coming spring, it will be well, in the first place, to review briefly the harvest results of the previous year: the power of the poorer classes to resist failure being obviously much less when the failure extends over more than one year. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the letter of last June the outturn of the crops of 1895-96 was dealt with in detail, and in paragraph 7 these results were summarised. It will be seen that only in five districts were the harvests of that year fair or good (Nimar, Chhindwara, Wardha, Nagpur, and Chanda, those in the last three districts following on poor harvests in previous years), while in the remaining 13 they were poor or bad. In 10 of these the crops of previous years had been much below the average, while in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh, the previous two years' crops had not merely been below the average, but had been so bad as to cause widespread agricultural distress. In the annexed table the districts are again shown in the same order, columns being added to show the percentage outturn of the crops of 1895-96, the ratio of the rabi to the kharif area in each district, the probable outturn of the present kharif, the proportion of the rabi area sown, the proportion which has germinated, and the prospects of the spring harvests—

DISTRICTS.	Average Outturn of past Three Years (100 = full crop).	Average Outturn of worst Two successive Years in the past Three.	Average Outturn of 1895-96 (full crop = 100).	Average anna Outturn of current Kharif.	Proportion of Kharif to Rabi Area.		Proportion of Normal Rabi Area sown.	Proportion Germinated.	Present prospect of Spring Crop.
					Kharif.	Rabi.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.		7.	8.	9.
A. DISTRICTS.									
Nimar - - - -	72	71	70	7 to 8	87	13	56	25	Poor.
Chhindwara - - -	77	76	-	5	58	42	87	69	Good.
B. DISTRICTS.									
Wardha - - - -	58	53	70	8	60	40	87	95	Good.
Nagpur - - - -	61	57	75	8	50	50	87	75	"
Chanda - - - -	49	48	60	6	66	34	75	75	"
C. DISTRICTS.									
Rajpur - - - -	79	77	54	4	69	31	25	75	Good.
Bilaspur - - - -			39	5	64	36	31	81	"
Sambalpur - - - -			70	10	98	2	20	50	"
Betul - - - -			48	4	61	39	75	85	Poor.
Mandla - - - -	71	69	43	3	67	33	95	87	Good.
D. DISTRICTS.									
I.—Poor.									
Seoni - - - -	62	61	59	4	48	52	60	90	Good.
Naranghpur - - -	60	54	67	6	37	63	50	50	Fair.
Hoshiangabad - -	58	40	59	5 to 6	27	73	75	96	Poor to fair.
Bhandara - - - -	53	50	40	6 to 7	63	37	85	90	Good.
Balaghat - - - -	57	52	48	3	75	25	25	75	"
II.—Bad.									
Jubbulpore - - -	55	48	45	5	48	52	66	87	Good.
Damoh - - - -	47	43	41	6	46	54	60	100	Fair.
Saugor - - - -	47	35	47	5 to 6	38	62	31	100	Bad.

4. The situation of the several districts may now be considered in detail, the succession given in preceding table being followed as most convenient for the purpose of comparison. In Nimar and South Chhindwara, the kharif crops were fair, juar, which is largely grown in both districts (one-third of the total cropped area in Nimar, and a little less than one-fourth in Chhindwara), yielding 8 annas. In the Chhindwara Tahsil of the latter district, however, and in the Jagirs to the north of it, where the people depend largely on the lesser millets, the kharif outturn was very scanty, and the total average kharif outturn of the district is estimated at only 5 annas. In Nimar the spring crops are quite unimportant, but in Chhindwara, where 42 per cent. of the cropped area is under rabi, prospects have been much improved by the recent rain, and sowings have been resumed. Neither of these districts, as a whole, gives cause for serious anxiety, though the poorer classes in the Chhindwara Tahsil, in the Jagirs to the north of it, and in the new Harsud Tahsil of the Nimar district, will certainly need Government assistance. The 1,600 square miles of country, which form the Chhindwara Jagirs, are a mass of hills and forest inhabited by Gonds and Korkus, who mix very little with the population of the plains, and the scattered nature of whose villages makes it specially difficult to ascertain their necessities or to organise relief. Special care will be needed in dealing with these people and the similar population in Mandla and parts of Betul.

5. As regards the B. Districts—Wardha, Nagpur, and Chanda—where last year's crops were good, but those of the two previous years poor, juari, which occupies between a third and a quarter of the total cropped area in all three districts, has yielded well in good soils, and the outturn of the kharif is estimated generally at from 8 to 10 annas. In all three districts the rabi area is also important, being 34 per cent. of the total in Chanda, 40 in Wardha, and 50 in Nagpur. The recent rain has enabled sowings to be resumed, and though, owing to drought in September and October, less than the normal area has been taken up, the prospects of the growing crops are hopeful. No general distress is anticipated, but relief will be necessary in the Umra Tahsil and some portions in the north of Nagpur, where a poor kharif crop has followed past poor harvests, and in the north-east zamindaris of Chanda.

6. In the C. Districts—Raipur, Bilaspur, and Sambalpur (forming the Chhattisgarh Division), Betul and Mandla, where last year's harvest (except in Sambalpur) was poor, but those of the two preceding years good, there is no cause for anxiety (except in one isolated tract in the north-west) in Sambalpur. The main rice crop has yielded 10 to 12 annas in good soils, and the outturn of the early reaped rice was also good. Rabi is quite unimportant here, being only 2 per cent. of the total.

Both in Bilaspur and Raipur the kharif has been a very poor one, averaging about 4 annas, except in the Dhamtai Tahsil of the last district. In both these districts, especially in Bilaspur, the rice crop of the previous year (1895-96) was also unfavourable, and there will be considerable distress in the southern part of Bilaspur and the northern half of Raipur. In both districts, however, over 30 per cent. of the total cropped area is under rabi, and the prospects of this crop have been greatly improved by the recent rain. In Betul the rabi is the chief harvest of the level portions of the district, while the hilly tracts depend almost entirely on the kharif. The early sown kharif (some three-eighths of the whole) has yielded tolerably well, 8 to 10 annas, while the outturn of the late sown varies from 2 to 6 annas. Only some 60 per cent. of the usual rabi area was, however, originally sown, and the recent rainfall has been too scanty and scattered to materially improve prospects. It is not, however, anticipated that there will be severe general distress, but there will, no doubt, be considerable suffering all through the upland tracts and among the poor who have no stocks to fall back on, and who have this year been deprived of their usual harvest earnings.

In Mandla the situation is serious; kodon, the most important kharif crop (covering about half of the total area under these crops) and the chief food of the aboriginal population, has yielded from 1 to 4 annas. Kutki, which covers one-eighth of the kharif area, has been an entire failure, while rice, which occupies about one-fourth of the kharif area, has only yielded from 4 to 6 annas. More than two-thirds of the population of this district depend upon kodon and kutki; the harvests of the past year were poor, and the people, who are mainly aborigines, are unaccustomed to lay up any store against possible accidents of season. The prospects of the rabi have, it is true, been improved by the recent rain, but this harvest is not an important factor in the agricultural situation here. Prospects in this district are certainly bad.

7. The D. Districts (Seoni, Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, Bhandara, Balaghat, Jabulpore, Damoh, and Saugor), where up to the current year harvests had, for some years, been

poor or bad, have next to be dealt with. It is here (and in Mandla) that the situation is most serious.

In Seoni the kharif crops have been very seriously injured by drought. Even irrigated rice yielded only four annas, while on the unirrigated area the yield was practically nothing. The kodon crop failed, and juar only gave a fair crop on the richer black soils. More than half the cropped area of this district (52 per cent.) is normally under rabi, but even allowing for further sowings after the recent rain, only 60 per cent. of this area has been sown, and though the seedlings are doing well, there will be nothing like a full crop. Past years' crops have been poor in this district, and severe distress is anticipated, especially in the Lakhnadon Tahsil, where kodon, which is the staple crop, was an utter failure.

In Hoshangabad three-quarters of the western half of the district, except in the Charwa Pargana, are under rabi, but in the east and north there is a considerable kharif area. The people in the latter tract have been much impoverished by three bad years, and except juari which has yielded eight annas, the present year's kharif has been a failure. Heavy exports have caused high prices all along the railway line, and in those parts of the district in which the kharif is important it is feared that there will be much distress. The recent rain did not reach this district except in scattered showers, and has not materially benefited the rabi. Even in the richer areas of the district the outlook is therefore not altogether favourable, while in the eastern tahsils and in the Charwar tract there will probably be general distress.

In Narsinghpur the rabi area consists of a belt of land about 12 miles broad running from east to west through the centre of the district. Of this area 50 per cent. has been sown, and half of this is said to have germinated. The recent rain has not, so far, been sufficient to allow of further sowings, though it has somewhat improved the prospects of the standing crops. Of the kharif crops, rice has yielded six annas, kutki four, and kodon six. The kharif out-turn, as a whole, is estimated at six annas. In the hilly tracts to the north and south of the district the people depend chiefly on the lesser millets, and are mostly poor. The scanty crops of this year, combined with past bad years and the high prices of all food-grains, will cause considerable suffering among these classes, and work will have to be provided for them. Even in the richer rabi area the outlook is gloomy. The failures of past years have exhausted resources; only half the normal area has been sown, and germination has been defective. Distress may, therefore, be expected over the greater part of the district.

In Bhandara, rice is by far the most important crop. High-lying rice has, owing to the early cessation of rain, been a failure, while on the better situated soils the out-turn has been from five to six annas. On irrigated land, on the other hand, which in this district is nearly half of the total rice area, the out-turn is estimated at from 8 to 14 annas. As regards the rabi, 37 per cent. of the total cropped area, large tracts were, owing to the early cessation of rain, left unsown. But sowings have been resumed now that general rain has fallen; 85 per cent. of the normal area is said to have been put under crop, and a fair out-turn may be expected. The situation in the greater part of this district cannot therefore be considered as serious, but it is anticipated that there will be distress among the poorer classes in the thinly populated forest tracts in the south-east and in the northern portion of the district. Here the chief food crop is rice, grown on poor unirrigated soil. This crop has yielded little or nothing either in the present or last year, and there are no stocks for the people to fall back upon.

In Balaghat, again, rice is by far the most important crop, occupying two-thirds of the total cropped area, only 31 per cent. of this being irrigated. On the irrigated land the out-turn is estimated at 9 to 10 annas, but on the unirrigated (69 per cent. of the whole) it will not be more than four to six annas in the Balaghat Tahsil, and two to three annas in Baihir, the large upland area forming the northern portion of the district. Over the whole district it is estimated at not more than three annas. There have been several successive bad years in this district, and the bulk of the population is very poor, and has no reserves of any kind. Considerable distress already prevails, and it is certain that this will become more acute with each succeeding month, especially in the Baihir Tahsil. Recent rain has improved rabi prospects, and may enable cultivators to sow more land with gram and pulses; but, in view of the fact that the ordinary rabi area is only 25 per cent. of the total, this cannot materially alter the general situation.

8. The three remaining districts—Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh—have suffered severely from bad harvests for the last two years, and large measures of relief in the way of revenue remission and famine works have been found necessary. All

three are to a preponderating extent rabi districts, though less markedly so than Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur. This harvest was poor last year in Saugor and in those parts of Jubbulpore which lie outside of the rich plain known as the *haveli*. It was also very poor in Damoh. The kharif crop was very scanty in all three districts.

In Jubbulpore the kharif crop, chiefly rice, kodo, and kutki, has again failed in the parts of the district where distress was previously most serious, the out-turn being estimated at from three to six annas. Rabi sowings have also been much restricted, only two-thirds of the normal area having been sown. In the rest of the district the *haveli*, where there is much embanked land, the kharif has not been so bad, and, with the aid of the recent rain, a good rabi out-turn is expected. Owing, however, to the successive failures of the past three years, there will be much distress, especially in the Murwara or northern tahsil, where the people chiefly depend on the kharif harvests.

In Saugor the kodo crop was very poor, and the kharif out-turn, as a whole, is estimated at five to six annas.

A very large proportion of the rabi area, estimated at 70 per cent, has, partly in consequence of want of seed, and partly owing to failure of rain, remained unsown, and, as the recent rain was not at all general in this district, the prospects are most unfavourable. Much distress already exists here, and severe pressure must be anticipated in all tahsils. Indeed, there is no district in the province where the outlook is so gloomy, or where such acute and general distress is probable.

In Damoh there was some useful rain in September, and the kharif crop has been generally better than it was last year, except in parts of the Hatta Tahsil, where it was poor. The rabi sowings were restricted to a much smaller area than in the previous year (60 per cent. of the normal), but the recent rain, though not heavy, has been fairly general, and what has been sown is doing well. Distress here will not, it is anticipated, be general, but there will be considerable need for relief in the south-west of the Damoh Tahsil and in the north of Hatta.

9. Summarising these details, it may be said that there will be some measure of distress among the labouring poor and the smaller cultivators in all districts except Sambalpur, and that there will be acute distress in the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla, and Balaghat, and among the poorer classes in the Nerbudda Valley districts (with the possible exception of Nimar), in Damoh, Seoni, Chhindwara, Betul, Bhandara, Raipur, and Bilaspur. The extent and intensity of this distress greatly depends, except in Balaghat and Mandla, on the out-turn of the rabi crops. But in Saugor, although it is essentially a rabi district, sowings have been so greatly restricted that the rabi out-turn must in any case fall very far short of the normal, and cannot materially alter the present situation. Elsewhere the recent general rain has much benefited these crops, except in Hoshangabad, where there has been a very slight and scattered fall; but the area sown is still, in most districts, owing to the drought in September, considerably less than the normal, and some degree of damage had been done to the growing crops by the premature cessation of the monsoon. Hence anything like a full rabi crop cannot be hoped for even under the most favourable weather conditions. It has been already noticed that the power of resistance possessed by the poorer classes in face of harvest failure greatly depends on whether the bad crop comes on the top of previous good harvests or is one of a succession of bad ones. The unfortunate feature of the present situation is that in two of the worst districts, Saugor and Balaghat, the present unfavourable season has been preceded by others scarcely more favourable. In both these districts stocks have been exhausted and the resources of the people overtaxed in meeting the calamities of previous years, and it is on this account that the situation in them is so grave. The same considerations apply to the distressed areas in Jubbulpore and Damoh. In Mandla, harvests were fairly good up to 1895-96, but in that year the yield of the chief crops was poor, and there has been a good deal of distress throughout the summer and autumn. Moreover, the bulk of the people are poor and thriftless, and have no stocks of any kind. The same is the case with the greater part of the cultivators on the poorer soils of the other districts, and any considerable failure even of one year's crop is sufficient to reduce them to great distress.

I am further to observe that the distress which has resulted from the widespread failure of the autumn crops will, in most of the affected tracts, be only very partially alleviated by the reaping of the rabi harvests. The great majority of the classes who in these provinces will suffer most are almost entirely dependent on the autumn crops—rice, juar, and the lesser millets. Nearly all their land is cropped with these grains,

and when these fail, as they have this year almost everywhere failed, the most plentiful out-turn of wheat and gram is, apart from its effect in lowering the general price of food-stuffs, of little or no benefit to the people. Harvest labour will, no doubt, be a resource for a few, but in most cases distress must continue and grow more severe until the progress of the monsoon rains allows of their special food-crops being again sown and reaped. The Chief Commissioner therefore thinks that we must be prepared to face continued and general distress until well on in July or August. With favourable rains and a really good autumn harvest, the distress would probably diminish towards the close of the rains, when the early crops ripen and field work becomes available for the labouring poor. It may then gradually disappear with the beginning of next cold weather. But in some parts, notably Saugor, Jubbulpore, Balaghat, and parts of Damoh, past years have been so bad, and the people are so depressed and impoverished by the calamities of successive seasons, that it will, in Mr. Lyall's opinion, take at least a year of renewed agricultural prosperity to make the poorer classes independent of Government relief. This, he thinks, is the utmost that can be said. We know too little of the resources of the people in times of need, and of the extent of the stocks they may have to fall back upon, to enable us to make even an approximate estimate of the numbers that will have to be relieved. All that Government can do is to have provision ready for a maximum number. But the Chief Commissioner thinks that it is quite useless to attempt in this letter any exact statistical forecast regarding the probable numbers to be relieved, when sufficient data for such statistics are admittedly not available.

10. Apart from the actual out-turn of the crops, the most important factor in determining the intensity of such agricultural distress as has to be dealt with in these provinces is the price of ordinary food-grains, and it seems desirable to forecast, as far as this may be possible, what the course of prices is likely to be during the next few months. On this point, however, it is, the Chief Commissioner thinks, unsafe to base conclusions as to the probable course of prices this year exclusively on a study of the prices which ruled in the later cold weather and hot weather months of 1895-96. Last year there was practically no rain after October, and there are strong reasons for thinking that, until the November rains of the current year, dealers were fixing prices on the assumption that the cold weather months of 1896 would resemble the same period in 1895; that there would be no winter showers; and that the coming rabi crop would, in most part, be a total failure. Prices were still further hardened by large exports to the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, due to similar anticipations in those provinces. These anticipations have, however, not been fulfilled. There has been general rain in the present month, and it seems not improbable that there will be further rain before the standing crops ripen. So far, then, as can now be foreseen, the rabi out-turn on such land as has been sown will be nearly, if not quite, up to the average. In these circumstances it seems not improbable that the present very high prices will not be maintained, that they will gradually get lower as the rabi prospects improve, and that they will eventually be not higher than they were last year.

The statement which accompanies this letter shows for the last three years the prices of wheat and rice in each district on the 15th November, and also shows for the two years 1894 and 1895 the prices of the same grains on the 15th of each month up to April. It will be seen that the prices of these grains at present are at least 50 per cent. higher than they were on the same date last year, and a scrutiny of the figures for previous months shows that they have been steadily rising since September, the rise between the 31st October and 15th November, between which dates the hoped-for Diwali rains did not fall, having been considerable in nearly all cases. If these exceedingly high prices are maintained, they will materially aggravate the severity of the situation, but, as has been pointed out, they will probably fall now that there has been general rain, and will get gradually lower as the prospects of the spring crops become more certain.

It must also be remembered that with the enormous extension of railroads which has taken place in recent years, and the remarkable cheapening in ocean freights, the prices of all universal necessaries, such as food-grains, have ceased to be dependent, except in a few isolated districts, on local circumstances. In these provinces they depend on general harvest prospects and on general demand quite as much as on local harvests and on local demand. The rain which fell here extended over the greater part of India, and has, over large areas, improved prospects to an even greater extent than they have been improved here. This should largely diminish the demand for export from these provinces, and the knowledge that in a few months grain will, in some parts, be plentiful, should have a strong effect in lowering prices here. It must also be recollected that even a

slight rise in price is sufficient to check export abroad, and the fact that such export demand cannot be calculated on will also tend to cheapen all food-grains.

All these anticipations are of course conditional on sufficient winter rains; but provided these do not fail the Chief Commissioner sees no reason to think that prices will, in the hot weather months, be much above the level of the last season.

11. Such being the general situation in these provinces, it remains to state the measures which the Chief Commissioner has so far taken to cope with the anticipated distress, and what further measures will, so far as can be judged, be necessary to meet the probable future development of events.

As has already been indicated, agricultural prospects up to the first week in September were very bright, and it was only when this month passed without rain, and when the weather signs were such as to indicate that the monsoon had prematurely ceased, that anxiety regarding the agricultural outlook began to be felt. But by the end of September there seemed cause for serious anxiety. The early-sown rice then ripening was rapidly being ruined, the remaining kharif crops were suffering from want of moisture, and rabi sowings could not, owing to the hardness of the soil, be taken in hand. Consequently on the first of the following month a letter (copy of which I am to forward) was sent to all commissioners asking them to submit without delay a report on the agricultural prospects of their division, stating where distress was likely to occur, and what measures of relief it would be advisable to take. They were further instructed to arrange for numerous crop experiments both on early-sown and late-sown soils, and to report the results when complete.

As the weeks passed without rain it became more and more certain that, in view of the poor harvests of the previous year, grave and general distress would have to be dealt with; and on the 22nd October the Chief Commissioner again addressed all commissioners of divisions (*vide* letter No. C. 447-450, dated the 22nd October 1896, copy attached) asking them to submit concise estimates of probable famine relief expenditure up to the end of the present financial year. This estimate was to show probable requirements for—

- (1) Works under the Public Works Department, or to be carried out on estimates prepared by that Department.
- (2) Minor works under district agency.
- (3) Poorhouses and children's kitchens.
- (4) Gratuitous relief outside poorhouses.
- (5) Miscellaneous.

They were also asked to state what part of this total could be provided from local funds or from private charity.

The Chief Commissioner also addressed the Government of India (letter No. C. 451, dated the 23rd October 1896) stating how matters stood, and asking for a provisional special grant of five lakhs of rupees for expenditure on famine relief. This grant was sanctioned by the Government of India in Mr. Sly's letter, No. 1979-27-13, dated the 31st October 1896, and has been distributed as follows in the different divisions :

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Two lakhs.
Nagpur	}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Each one lakh.
Nerbudda									
Chhattisgarh									

The interval before the receipt of the reports called for from Commissioners was occupied in the issue of circular orders to the several heads of departments, directing them to arrange for the instruction of their subordinates in the duties imposed on them in time of scarcity by the provisions of the Famine Code. The Chief Commissioner also arranged conferences with the Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of the Nerbudda and Jubbulpore divisions. These took place on the 15th October and 3rd November respectively, and the opportunity was taken of ascertaining the general situation in each district and indicating the lines to be followed in dealing with distress.

Early in November Mr. Lyall proceeded to Nagpur and discussed the situation there with the Commissioner and local officers. In Chhattisgarh the area to be dealt with was so large, and detailed local experience seemed so essential, that the Chief Commissioner thought it advisable to depute the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Mr. Carey, who had been in charge of the settlement operations in the Raipur district, to make a rapid tour through the most distressed parts of that district, and to assist the Deputy Commissioner with his great local experience. Mr. Carey's conclusions were embodied

in a memorandum (copy of which I am to forward) which proved of very great assistance in organising a scheme of relief for this district. On the 20th November, Mr. Lyall visited Raipur, and fully discussed the situation with the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners of the division. The conclusions arrived at at this conference were embodied in a Memorandum which is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

12. The first reports of the Commissioners of Division on the districts under their control (with the exception of those from Chhattisgarh) were received by the beginning of November, and are submitted with this letter. In the Nagpur Division the situation was sufficiently clear to allow of orders being passed at once (*vide* Secretariat letter No. 4415, dated the 16th November 1896, copy enclosed), and work in the districts of that division is now proceeding on these lines. In the Nerbudda division some further information had to be awaited, but orders have now been passed (*vide* letter No. 4729, dated the 28th November 1896, copy enclosed). In Jubbulpore, sanction was given at the conference held on the 3rd November to all necessary preliminary measures being taken, but the Chief Commissioner had to await the preparation of a complete list of the larger relief works proposed before passing final orders on the Commissioner's reports. A copy of these orders is now submitted (*vide* Secretariat letter No. 4951 A., dated the 11th instant). As regards the Chhattisgarh division, Mr. Carey's memorandum, already referred to, was made the basis of the orders issued for the Raipur district. These orders will be found in paragraphs 1 to 10 of the notes on the Raipur conference, appended to this letter. Similar orders with regard to Bilaspur will be found in paragraphs 11 to 17 of the same document.

In Sambalpur a very full and complete report has been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (*vide* his No. 6,445, dated the 18th November 1896, copy appended), and orders (copy also submitted) have been passed on this. It will be seen that preliminary arrangements have now been made throughout the Province; that in the Nagpur, Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions, detailed instructions have been issued, and that it is only in Raipur and Bilaspur that the particular methods to be followed in the organisation of relief have not been completely worked out. A programme of relief works under the Public Works Department has, however, been drawn out for those districts, and work has been started in all cases where the local officers considered this necessary. But in Raipur and Bilaspur, as indicated in paragraph 8 of Mr. Carey's Memorandum, our main reliance will, at least in the earlier months of the scarcity, be placed on local works carried out from Land Improvement Loans; and although a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been placed at the Commissioner's disposal to commence with, it is hoped that much larger sums will be applied for and met from the grant of 10 lakhs for such loans for which, in my letter No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, the Chief Commissioner has asked the sanction of the Government of India. The importance of completing all arrangements as early as possible has been impressed on the Commissioner of the Division, and it is hoped that the arrangements in this division will very shortly be as complete as the care and thoroughness with which local officers have dealt with the question have enabled the Chief Commissioner to make them elsewhere.

I am to enclose copies of the programmes framed for each division in the Public Works Department for large relief works, which will, in accordance with the system so successfully adopted in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, be administered in that Department; it will be seen that in each case the programme includes a list (Statement A.) of works calculated to meet any possible development of distress, and a selection (Statement B.) out of the larger list of works which, it is thought, will suffice for present requirements, and which it has been arranged to put in hand at once.

The appended statement gives the estimates submitted by Commissioners showing their probable requirements up to the end of the current financial year, and also their estimates of the contributions which may be expected from local funds and private charity. It will be seen that the total sum which will be needed from Government is put at, approximately, 14½ lakhs of rupees. From the nature of the case, however, Mr. Lyall does not think that these figures can be taken as more than a rough preliminary estimate of what will be required. It has often been remarked that famine relief operations are "fruitful in surprises." The estimate may fall short in one district, and be found in excess of necessities in another. Immigration from one part of the Province to another, or from native states into British territory, may swell the numbers in any particular district above what is anticipated. For these reasons the Chief Commissioner deprecates too strict criticism of the figures. He has already, in the Nerbudda Commissionership and in Raipur, raised the figures of Column 3 (works under the Public Works Department) above the totals included in the programmes of works in the light of information received since these were framed.

13. It will, the Chief Commissioner thinks, be unnecessary to trouble the Government of India with a detailed account of the schemes of relief which have been approved for each district, but it seems advisable to state generally the lines on which it is proposed to organise relief measures both as regards the provision of work for those able to labour; for the relief of those whom hunger or weakness may render temporarily incapable of work, and, finally, for the helpless members of the community who are unable to move from their homes, and to whom aid must be given in their villages. As regards relief-works, those to be first taken in hand are, wherever this may be possible, village works, such as the deepening of existing tanks, excavation of new tanks, making field embankments, or eradicating kans grass. In the Chhattisgarh Division, especially in Raipur and Bilaspur, it is reported that there are but few villages in which there is not scope for further tank construction or field embankment. Rice is the staple crop here, and the widespread and extensive failure of this crop in the current and preceding years, owing to the absence of artificial irrigation, has made the people especially alive to the importance of the storage of water. A good deal of this work will, it is expected, be carried out by the well-to-do out of their own funds, but there are many others who, though willing and anxious to secure their villages against future failure of rain, have not the money available to do this. In these cases takavi advances will be most useful, and to meet these and other similar demands, Mr. Lyall has asked the Government of India, in my letter No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, to sanction an additional grant of 10 lakhs of rupees under the Land Improvement Loans Act. The greater portion of this sum will, it is anticipated, be spent in the Chhattisgarh Division, but there is also scope for similar work in Nagpur, Bhandara, and Balaghat in the Nagpur Division, and to a limited extent in Jubbulpore, and in Chhindwara and Seoni on the Satpura Plateau. Even in the wheat districts of Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur it is now reported that there is some scope for further field embankment, and the Chief Commissioner is confident, as he has already stated, that the sum asked for can be usefully allotted before the end of March.

There are, in Mr. Lyall's opinion, strong and practical reasons for an extensive scheme of village works in the present circumstances of these Provinces. Failure of rain has not hitherto been a usual feature in the local agricultural economy; even now it is hoped that the distress is purely temporary, and that with the advent of the next monsoon the people will once more be able to take up their ordinary occupations. Under these conditions the main thing to be done is to keep the people on their land, and to provide sufficient work and food for them near their homes to prevent their throwing up their holdings before better times come round again. If in securing this end we can at the same time help in ensuring the land from the consequences of future drought, the work becomes doubly valuable, and the Chief Commissioner is desirous that wherever such works are practicable they should be set in hand without delay. It may be added that they are an invaluable complement to centres of gratuitous relief. The main object of these centres is to provide food for those whom weakness and hunger may have temporarily rendered unable to labour, and to permit of their recovering their strength for regular work. In such cases suitable local labour must be provided, and the proposed village works will precisely meet this want. The opening of village works in all localities where scope for such works exist will therefore be the first stage in the organisation of a system of relief.

It has, however, been already pointed out that there are considerable areas of the provinces, especially in the northern districts, where distress will be severe, but where there is little or no scope for village works. It is also impossible to start such works in the hilly uplands of the plateau districts or in the poor and sparsely-peopled parts of Balaghat, Hoshangabad, or Narsinghpur. Moreover, as distress deepens and the number to be relieved grows, such works will be quite insufficient to meet the demand for remunerative labour. To meet these circumstances a detailed programme of large road works has, as already stated, been drawn up in the Public Works Department, after careful consultation with district and divisional officers, and has been approved by the Chief Commissioner. Where local works are insufficient, the more important of these works will be started at once, and further works will be taken up as the need for them is pointed out by local officers.

It may be observed that no unmetalled roads are included in this scheme, labour on such roads being found to be generally, in this province, money thrown away. The more useful existing roads are to be raised in class, new feeder roads constructed, and metal collected for existing roads. Metal can usefully be prepared and stacked in large quantities, and work of this nature can be easily supervised and measured. The Chief Commissioner therefore anticipates that it will have to be very largely relied on, especially in the rains, when earth-work becomes impossible.

All large works will be under the Public Works Department, and the Chief Commissioner has ordered that payments are, as far as possible, to be in the hands of a responsible official not below the rank of a Naib-Tashildar. In this he has followed the course adopted in the North-Western Provinces by the Government of Sir A. MacDonnell, whose recent Resolution on the Bundelkhand scarcity of 1896 has proved and will prove of great value to himself and his officers in the present juncture. He has also arranged for the issue of instructions for the guidance of officers in charge of such works on the lines of those issued in the North-Western Provinces in the printed rules of the 1st December 1896, and the Chief Engineer has been requested to communicate direct with the Public Works Department in the North-Western Provinces with a view to settle any doubtful points as to the adaptation of those rules to our circumstances here.

13. As an aid to small and large works, and to afford some immediate relief to the poorer classes and aborigines, who are accustomed in times of scarcity to resort to the forests for food, Mr. Lyall has ordered the opening of the forests for the extraction of edible roots, mohwa and fruits, in all cases where local officers may declare this to be desirable. He has also allowed free grazing to agriculturalists where want of fodder was otherwise anticipated.

For the provision of gratuitous relief, a beginning has been made by establishing poor-houses at all centres where any general distress is anticipated, and their number will be increased as necessity arises. These will be supplemented, where more extensive distress makes this advisable, by more numerous relief centres brought nearer the homes of the people, and with local relief works attached to them wherever this may be possible. As distress spreads and becomes really acute, it will eventually be necessary to organise village relief on the basis of lists drawn up by Mukaddams and Patwaris; but as yet this has been taken in hand only in a few of the districts where the situation is most serious.

With respect to advancement for Land Improvement Loans it may be remarked that in addition to the usual allotment, a further sum of 1,80,000 rupees was made available by reappropriation from local loans. This has now been distributed, and as there are large further demands from the districts of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions, the Chief Commissioner has, as has already been pointed out, recently asked for a further allotment of 10 lakhs of rupees for this purpose.

14. As regards the sum which will be required for the general purpose of famine relief, it is yet difficult to form a satisfactory estimate. The forecasts of expenditure prepared by Commissioners were based on the assumption of a poor or bad rabi harvest. On the other hand the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that in some cases, especially in parts of the Nerbudda Division and in the Raipur and Bilaspur Districts of the Chhattisgarh Division, the probable extent of the distress was, in the first instance, considerably underestimated. The total estimate up to the 31st March next is roughly 14½ lakhs of rupees, and the Chief Commissioner thinks that 10 lakhs of rupees, in addition to the five lakhs already granted (*vide* Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department letter No. 1979—27—13, dated the 31st October last), is the least that he should ask for in present circumstances for relief purposes up to the close of the present financial year. The Government of India may be confident that whatever sum is granted will be spent with the utmost regard to economy and efficiency, and that no expenditure will be sanctioned that is not actually needed for the relief of distress. Where the object in view is the saving of life and the maintenance of the cultivating classes or their land, no reasonable expenditure can be said to be wasted. Moreover, the scarcity which has to be dealt with is, as has been already indicated, a quite abnormal event in the history of these Provinces. It is not, so far as previous experience enables any conclusion to be arrived at, likely soon to recur, and if relief is organised in a sufficiently liberal and comprehensive manner to keep cultivators on their holdings and the labouring classes in their villages, it may be confidently anticipated that with a cycle of favourable seasons the Provinces will rapidly recover their former prosperity. The Chief Commissioner trusts, therefore, that the Government of India will sanction the grant now asked for.

15. There still remains for discussion the important question of the extent to which Revenue suspension and remission may become necessary, but the Chief Commissioner thinks that it will be best to defer any detailed treatment of this subject until the out-turn of the kharif crops is more fully known in detail and the prospects of the rabi are more certain. Collections for 1895—96 were in general punctually made, in spite of the trying circumstances of that year, and, except in the Jubbulpore Division, where the measures

of suspension and remission detailed in this Administration's letter, No. 2283, dated the 27th June 1896, were found necessary, but little difficulty was experienced in realisation. There were, however, short collections in the Hoshangabad and Chhindwara Districts, but in the remaining districts of the Nerbudda Division and in the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions the demand has been collected in full.

Provided that rabi prospects continue good, the mere fact that the kharif out-turn has been bad would not in itself justify general suspension, though it is certain that considerable measures of suspension will be necessary in numerous cases in areas where the kharif harvest greatly preponderates over the rabi.

The dates of the kharif instalments of land revenue in these Provinces vary from the 1st February in the Jubbulpore and Nerbudda Divisions to the 10th February in the Nagpur Division and the 1st March in Chhattisgarh. The rents of privileged tenants are payable 15 days, and those of ordinary tenants one month, before the dates of the revenue instalments. There is thus some time to elapse before orders as to suspension or remission of revenue (which will in all cases be coupled with conditions as to a corresponding suspension or remission of rents) need be passed. Mr. Lyall is on the point of starting for a detailed visitation of all the distressed districts of the Province, and he will on arrival in each carefully consider the question of what orders are necessary in communication with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and arrange for the submission of proposals upon a systematic basis.

As at present advised, the Chief Commissioner thinks it likely that considerable suspensions and some remission will be necessary in Saugor and Damoh and in parts of Jubbulpore. Some degree of suspension will also probably be needed in Mandla, Balaghat, and the Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad districts, as well as in the worse-off parts of Betul, Seoni, Chhindwara, Raipur and Bilaspur. But it is impossible to make any reliable forecast on this point at present, and its detailed treatment will be taken up separately later on, when the situation is more accurately known.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

STATEMENT A.—Showing the Prices of Wheat and Rice in each District on the 15th November for the last Three Years, and for the Two Years 1894-95 on the 15th of each Month up to April.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Prices of Food-Grain on 15th November.		PRICES OF FOOD-GRAIN, 1895-96.							
	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	15 January.		15 February.		15 March.		15 April.	
			Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.	Wheat.	Rice, Common.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION :										
Saugor - - -	{ 1894 11 23 1895 11 76 1896 7 49	{ 9 41 11 05 7 60	{ 19 01 11 23 -	{ 11 06 9 41 -	{ 14 54 11 76 -	{ 11 06 11 05 -	{ 14 54 11 76 -	{ 11 06 11 05 -	{ 11 11 11 76 -	{ 11 06 11 05 -
Damoh - - -	{ 1894 10 30 1895 11 25 1896 8 00	{ 13 00 11 25 8 25	{ 20 0 11 75 -	{ 14 19 10 80 -	{ 16 10 12 50 -	{ 12 0 12 50 -	{ 12 76 12 50 -	{ 10 0 12 50 -	{ 12 75 12 50 -	{ 10 0 12 50 -
Jubbulpore - - -	{ 1894 12 00 1895 12 25 1896 8 75	{ 14 00 13 25 8 5	{ 18 0 14 0 -	{ 15 0 16 25 -	{ 16 50 13 0 -	{ 14 50 14 25 -	{ 14 75 13 50 -	{ 14 0 14 50 -	{ 15 75 15 0 -	{ 14 0 15 50 -
Mandla - - -	{ 1894 15 00 1895 15 00 1896 9 00	{ 15 00 13 00 10 00	{ 20 0 15 0 -	{ 15 0 17 0 -	{ - 16 0 -	{ - - -	{ 18 50 15 0 -	{ 17 0 14 0 -	{ 18 0 16 0 -	{ 13 0 12 0 -
Seoni - - -	{ 1894 16 50 1895 14 45 1896 8 96	{ 13 36 11 48 8 00	{ 25 0 16 59 -	{ 13 57 - -	{ 24 88 16 0 -	{ 13 57 12 80 -	{ 24 88 16 0 -	{ 13 57 12 80 -	{ 20 36 16 59 -	{ 13 57 12 80 -
NERBUDDA DIVISION :										
Narsinghpur - - -	{ 1894 13 00 1895 13 08 1896 8 00	{ 9 13 9 13 8 00	{ 19 20 13 0 -	{ 11 23 9 13 -	{ 18 0 13 0 -	{ 9 13 9 13 -	{ 16 0 13 0 -	{ 9 13 9 13 -	{ 14 0 13 0 -	{ 9 13 9 13 -
Hoshangabad - - -	{ 1894 14 23 1895 13 80 1896 8 00	{ 10 25 11 87 7 52	{ 19 7 14 72 -	{ 11 86 11 28 -	{ 17 66 14 72 -	{ 11 86 11 28 -	{ 16 35 14 72 -	{ 11 86 11 28 -	{ 16 35 13 27 -	{ 11 86 11 25 -
Nimar - - -	{ 1894 14 22 1895 14 22 1896 8 53	{ 13 06 12 47 8 07	{ 17 07 15 06 -	{ 12 47 13 06 -	{ 16 0 14 22 -	{ 12 47 13 06 -	{ 17 07 15 06 -	{ 12 47 13 06 -	{ 18 28 16 0 -	{ 12 47 13 06 -
Betul - - -	{ 1894 16 00 1895 14 04 1896 9 00	{ 9 82 10 28 7 2	{ 20 57 14 40 -	{ 10 80 9 82 -	{ 20 57 14 40 -	{ 10 80 9 82 -	{ 20 57 15 43 -	{ 10 80 9 82 -	{ 18 0 15 43 -	{ 10 80 9 39 -
Chhindwara - - -	{ 1894 12 67 1895 11 70 1896 9 50	{ 10 91 10 00 6 66	{ 16 80 12 67 -	{ 11 43 11 43 -	{ 15 20 13 82 -	{ 11 43 11 43 -	{ 15 20 15 20 -	{ 11 43 10 0 -	{ 16 80 13 82 -	{ 10 0 10 0 -
NAGPUR DIVISION :										
Wardha - - -	{ 1894 14 55 1895 14 54 1896 8 42	{ 10 00 10 00 8 00	{ 16 0 14 55 -	{ 10 0 10 0 -	{ 16 0 14 55 -	{ 10 0 10 0 -	{ 17 77 14 55 -	{ 10 0 10 0 -	{ 16 0 16 0 -	{ 10 0 10 0 -
Nagpur - - -	{ 1894 15 62 1895 14 37 1896 8 12	{ 11 25 10 50 8 12	{ 18 75 15 0 -	{ 12 50 12 50 -	{ 18 75 14 37 -	{ 12 50 11 87 -	{ 18 12 14 37 -	{ 12 50 11 87 -	{ 18 87 16 25 -	{ 13 50 12 50 -
Chanda - - -	{ 1894 13 50 1895 14 77 1896 9 62	{ 12 50 12 80 8 4	{ 16 50 - -	{ 14 66 - -	{ 17 60 13 50 -	{ 14 66 15 0 -	{ 16 0 13 50 -	{ 12 80 15 0 -	{ 16 0 14 80 -	{ 12 57 15 0 -
Bhandara - - -	{ 1894 15 00 1895 15 00 1896 8 75	{ 12 50 12 50 8 75	{ 17 50 15 0 -	{ 13 25 12 50 -	{ 18 75 13 25 -	{ 13 25 12 50 -	{ 17 50 16 0 -	{ 12 50 12 50 -	{ 17 50 17 50 -	{ 12 50 12 50 -
Balaghat - - -	{ 1894 11 00 1895 11 00 1896 -	{ 16 00 11 00 -	{ 16 0 11 0 -	{ 16 0 16 0 -	{ 17 50 11 0 -	{ 17 50 16 0 -	{ 17 80 12 50 -	{ 15 0 16 0 -	{ 16 0 12 50 -	{ 16 0 12 50 -
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :										
Raipur - - -	{ 1894 18 56 1895 15 00 1896 9 50	{ 17 05 15 00 9	{ 26 55 - -	{ 18 26 - -	{ 26 55 17 0 -	{ 17 50 15 75 -	{ 26 55 18 56 -	{ 18 25 17 05 -	{ 25 56 20 56 -	{ 18 25 19 37 -
Bilaspur - - -	{ 1894 17 75 1895 15 49 1896 -	{ 18 00 14 64 -	{ 28 40 18 93 -	{ 20 90 14 64 -	{ 24 62 17 75 -	{ 18 0 18 0 -	{ 26 62 17 75 -	{ 20 09 18 0 -	{ 22 43 18 93 -	{ 18 0 18 0 -
Sambalpur - - -	{ 1894 14 00 1895 13 00 1896 8	{ 17 50 16 00 11	{ 21 0 14 75 -	{ 16 69 19 69 -	{ 21 0 15 31 -	{ 16 69 18 37 -	{ 20 13 13 50 -	{ 17 50 18 37 -	{ 20 13 16 62 -	{ 17 50 19 26 -

STATEMENT B.—Showing Estimate of probable Famine Relief Expenditure in the Central Provinces up to the 31st March 1897.

DISTRICT.	Works under the Public Works Department.	Civil Works under Local Officers.	Works carried out by Private Agency.	Poor-Houses, Children's Kitchens, and Gratuitous Relief.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	DEDUCT—				Net Expenditure to be met by Government.
							Contributions from Local Funds.	Contributions from Private Persons.		Total.	
								For Works.	For Charitable Relief.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
JUBBULPORE DIVISION											
Saugor - - -	Rs. 1,05,400	Rs. 10,000	Rs. 4,000	Rs. 30,000	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 1,51,400	-	Rs. 4,000	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 1,45,400
Damoh - - -	49,800	7,000	1,000	17,000	3,000	77,800	-	1,000	500	1,500	76,300
Jubbulpore - - -	1,05,600	60,000	3,000	30,000	4,000	2,02,600	6,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	1,90,600
Mandla - - -	61,700	38,000	2,000	15,000	4,000	1,20,700	-	2,000	1,500	3,500	1,17,200
Seoni - - -	49,300	5,000	2,000	3,500	1,000	60,800	-	2,000	2,500	4,500	56,300
Total - - -	3,71,800	1,20,000	12,000	95,500	14,000	6,13,300	6,000	12,000	9,500	27,500	5,85,800
NERBUDDA DIVISION											
Narsinghpur - - -	65,000	25,000	-	10,700	1,000	1,01,700	-	-	5,000	5,000	96,700
Hoshangabad - - -	70,700	35,000	-	15,000	1,000	1,21,700	22,000	-	10,000	32,000	89,700
Nizar - - -	15,000	5,000	-	5,000	300	25,300	5,000	-	-	5,000	20,300
Betul - - -	40,000	10,000	-	4,000	300	54,300	-	-	3,000	3,000	51,300
Chhindwara - - -	30,000	15,000	7,000	4,000	300	56,300	9,000	7,000	1,000	17,000	39,300
Total - - -	2,20,700	90,000	7,000	38,700	2,900	3,59,300	36,000	7,000	19,000	62,000	2,97,300
NAGPUR DIVISION :											
Wardha - - -	12,300	5,000	-	6,000	200	23,500	1,000	-	6,000	7,000	16,500
Nagpur - - -	49,500	5,000	75,000	32,000	400	1,61,900	9,500	75,000	25,000	1,09,500	52,400
Chanda - - -	17,700	4,000	10,000	3,800	200	35,700	3,400	10,000	1,500	14,900	20,800
Bhandara - - -	66,000	8,000	52,000	20,000	1,000	1,47,000	7,600	52,000	10,000	69,600	77,400
Balaghat - - -	79,500	12,000	60,000	27,000	2,000	1,80,500	-	60,000	6,000	66,000	1,14,500
Total - - -	2,25,000	34,000	1,97,000	88,800	3,800	5,48,600	21,500	1,07,000	48,500	2,67,000	2,81,600
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION :											
Raipur - - -	1,43,400	18,000	5,000	6,000	1,000	1,73,400	2,000	5,000	10,000	17,000	1,56,400
Bilaspur - - -	85,400	18,000	5,000	8,000	500	1,16,900	12,000	5,000	7,500	24,500	92,400
Sambalpur - - -	30,800	1,000	-	3,500	500	35,800	3,400	-	3,900	7,300	28,500
Total - - -	2,59,600	37,000	10,000	17,500	2,000	3,26,100	17,400	10,000	21,400	48,800	2,77,300
GRAND TOTAL - - -	10,77,100	2,81,000	2,26,000	2,40,500	22,700	18,47,300	80,900	2,26,000	98,400	4,05,300	14,42,000

No. 111—27—23 F. Dated Calcutta, January 4, 1897.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Priest's letters No. 4697, dated the 26th November 1896, and No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896, containing reports upon the agricultural situation in the Central Provinces; and in continuation of my telegram of the 25th instant to communicate the following remarks.

2. After a careful examination of the subject, your conclusions are that there will be some measure of distress among the labouring poor and the smaller cultivators in all districts except Sambalpur, and that there will be acute distress in the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, Mandla and Balaghat, and among the poorer classes in the Narbuda Valley districts (with the possible exception of Nimar), in Damoh, Seoni, Chindwara, Betul, Bhandara, Raipur and Bilaspur. These conclusions are fully accepted by the Government of India, and the latest returns of the numbers on relief works show that there is a considerable demand for labour at famine wages, and that these works have been started no earlier than the circumstances demanded.

3. The Government of India notice that you do not consider that the distress is as yet sufficiently acute to necessitate the organisation of relief circles and village-to-village inspection. The situation will doubtless be carefully watched, and the provisions of Chapter IV. of the Famine Code put into force as soon as it is necessary. One feature that unfortunately distinguishes the present scarcity from those that have preceded it, is the extraordinary rise in the price of food from the very first threatenings of failure; and this fact (more especially when, as you point out is the case in many of your districts, the resources of the people have been exhausted by previous bad seasons) renders village and house-to-house relief necessary at an earlier stage than in previous famines.

4. You consider that the information available is not sufficiently precise to enable you to form even an approximate estimate of the numbers that will have to be relieved. I am to invite your attention to paragraph 75 of the Famine Commission Report, in which you will find some indications that may be of assistance to you. In other Provinces, a rough approximation to the maximum numbers likely to require relief, based upon percentages of the population which vary with the varying conditions of the districts, has been found useful as affording a general basis for the scheme of relief works to be provided.

5. It is estimated that a sum of ten lakhs will be required for direct expenditure on the general purposes of famine relief, in addition to the expenditure of five lakhs already authorised in my letter No. 1979, dated the 31st October last, and the Government of India accept this estimate.

6. You also ask for a grant of ten lakhs of rupees for advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act. It is proposed to make these loans principally in the Chattisgarh Division as supplementing the expenditure to be incurred directly by Government upon the larger famine relief works. The principles upon which such loans are admissible at the present juncture have already been discussed in connection with similar proposals from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and Bengal; and I am to forward, for your information, a copy of the correspondence noted below.* These papers explain the principles upon which the Government are prepared to make advances to landlords and others for village relief works, and upon which alone they can sanction such advances in the Central Provinces. It is at present impossible for the Government of India to provide funds for ordinary Land Improvement Loans as distinct from the relief of distress. It is noticed that your present estimate for direct expenditure upon famine relief in Chattisgarh is three lakhs only, and as far as can be judged from the information given in your letters, it seems possible that the full ten lakhs of rupees for

* Letter from Government of Bengal, No. 5,183, dated 12th December 1896.
 Letter to Government of Bengal, No. 8 F, dated 22nd December 1896.
 Letter from North Western Provinces and Oudh Government, No. 432, dated 16th December 1896, with Enclosures.
 Letter to North Western Provinces and Oudh Government, No. 46 F, dated 24th December 1896.

which you apply cannot be usefully applied for the relief of distress under the limitations now laid down.

7. The Government of India accordingly sanction the expenditure of five lakhs of rupees in advances, subject to the conditions :—

- (1) That none of the money is spent in advances when relief works are not required ;
- (2) that the money is spent only in affording relief to those for whom it would otherwise be necessary to provide relief in other ways ;
- (3) that it is all brought to account as famine relief expenditure in the first instance ; and
- (4) that only so much is recovered as represents roughly the value of the work done.

If, after this explanation of the principles upon which such advances should be made, you still find that the whole of the ten lakhs of rupees is required, the Government of India will consider any further application which you may wish to make.

8. The effect of these orders will thus be to raise from five lakhs to twenty lakhs of rupees, the limit of expenditure upon famine relief operations which was fixed in Mr. Sly's letter No. 1979 of 31st October 1896.

Extract from "Times of India," Weekly Summary, January 30, 1897.

THE SCARCITY IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Mr. H. H. Priest, I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, writes:—In your correspondent's letter on the scarcity in the Central Provinces, which appears in your issue of the 19th January, there are several, I am sure quite unintentional, misstatements, which, I trust, you will allow me this opportunity of correcting. I give the statements I refer to and the corrections in parallel columns :—

Quotation.

(1) "As in other parts of the Central Provinces relief was not officially undertaken in earnest till the beginning of December. It was on the 5th of last month that the local poorhouse was put on Provincial Funds."

(2) Your correspondent gives statistics of numerous deaths, and adds "Government ought to be aware of what is going on."

(3) "With these perfectly awful facts before us, and knowing that twenty or fifty little places as bad as Kutni can be found, may the question not be asked: Is this state of things to be accepted as inevitable?"

Reply.

The local poorhouse has been supported by Provincial Funds since May last, and has been open to all who chose to resort to it since that time.

Government, as your correspondent himself points out, is well aware of what is going on, but is quite unable to prevent the death of starving wanderers who are brought to the poorhouse in the last stage of emaciation. In most cases these are immigrants from the Native States of the Baghelkhand Agency, the border of which is only eight or ten miles from Murwara. Out of 583 inmates of the poorhouse at the end of December only 154 belonged to the Jubbulpore District, the remaining 429 all coming from Native States or the North Western Provinces.

Kutni (or Murwara) is a municipal town of over 9,000 inhabitants, and is on the Great Southern Road from Upper India. It is also a railway junction and a trade centre, however it is close to the border of Native

And are we to look forward calmly to months of it to come as there have been months of it in the past? The only local authorities are the Tahsildar and the Hospital Assistant, and they seem particularly kind to the perishing paupers. But they have little experience and less authority to spend money, which, since the 5th December, is Government money, and to initiate radical reforms. The district officers are the men to lay down peremptory orders and then see for themselves how they do. I know the district officers are worked off their feet. But so are the Tahsildar, and Extra Assistant Commissioners, and Deputy Collectors throughout the famine tract. It is a time of hard work. I am working harder than I have worked for some years. Besides, there are officers specially set apart to do famine duties. One of them might leave his statistics, tables, returns, registers, and reports, and keep the people from perishing."

(4) "First the people ought to be fed twice a day, as they used to be when the poorhouse was first opened, though the allowance of food was not as large then as it is now under Government. When the Deputy Commissioner was here two days ago, he expressed a wish that the people might be fed twice a day, but some difficulty was raised, and the committee are to meet to-morrow to consider whether it is practicable to act on the Deputy Commissioner's suggestion. Meanwhile a dozen more, perhaps, will die and another dozen become ready to die."

(5) With respect to the remarks of your correspondent as to the poorhouse inmates being allowed to wander about, strict orders were issued some time ago to prevent this in all poorhouses. The completion of the necessary walls and enclosures sufficient for the rapidly increasing population of these institutions must, however, take some time.

States. It is thus a main resort of starving wanderers, and there are certainly not twenty or fifty places like it in the Central Provinces. Indeed, apart from the large towns, and Bina in the Saugor District, there are none.

Beyond having poorhouses open to all, relief centres in the surrounding country, large and small works for those able to labour, orders to the Police to conduct starving wanderers to the poorhouses, and house-to-house relief in villages; all of which measures are fully organised in the Murwara Tahsil, it does not seem that anything more can be done.

I may add that as regards the competency of the local authorities, the Tahsildar is an experienced official, and has full authority to spend whatever money is needed for relieving distress.

As regards "radical reforms," your correspondent says that the paupers are well and kindly cared for, and indicates no reform except as to meals and the stricter confinement of inmates, which I shall refer to immediately. I may add that the poorhouse is regularly visited by the Civil Surgeon of Jubbulpore, an officer of great experience. There are no famine officers employed "in preparing returns." All famine officers are employed in districts in organising and supervising measures of relief.

This matter is, as the attached circular will show, in the hands of the poorhouse Committee. In this respect the rule in the North Western Provinces has been followed, and the same latitude left to local usage. I may add that emaciated persons are treated as invalids, and specially dieted with easily digestible food.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, in the Revenue Department, No. 574, dated Nagpur, February 1, 1897.

RESOLUTION.

For some time past the harvests in several districts of these provinces have been deficient, but the most severe failure of recent years occurred in 1894 in the districts of Saugor and Damoh, where the wheat and linseed crops were almost totally destroyed by a visitation of rust, which also caused heavy losses in the district of Jubbulpore and in the eastern portion of the Nerbuda Valley, as well as considerable damage in other parts of the provinces.

Relief measures were found necessary in the two districts most affected, and these took the shape of the opening of the forests, large revenue suspensions, road works and liberal takavi advances, so that by the end of 1894, in spite of the fact that the autumn crops were poor, signs of distress had very materially abated.

A resolution was issued by Mr. Woodburn on the 26th January 1895, and published in the "Central Provinces Gazette" of the same date, containing an account of the measures taken to combat distress in these two districts.

The Chief Commissioner now desires to put on record an account of the seasons which followed the failure of 1894, and of the measures taken to alleviate the consequent distress in the districts most affected by bad harvests.

THE YEAR 1895.

2. At the time when Mr. Woodburn's resolution of January 1895 issued it was known that the autumn crops of 1894-95 had, owing to the excessive rain of October and November 1894, been much below the average. The spring crops then in the ground were, however, most promising, and had these crops fulfilled the expectations formed, distress would quickly have become a thing of the past. The Settlement Officer of Saugor and the Deputy Commissioner of Damoh were, however, directed to report fully on the condition of their districts, and the results of the previous year's failure. While this information was being collected, and as the season wore on, rust again made its appearance with the most disastrous results. Saugor partially escaped, but the damage caused in the open portion of Damoh and the rich embanked lands of Jubbulpore was very serious.

The Commissioner of Settlements made a tour of inspection in Saugor and Damoh, and reported favourably on the situation in the former district, but considered that the outlook in Damoh gave some cause for anxiety.

The precaution was then taken of again opening the forests in both these districts, so as to assist the people until the spring harvest should be reaped. Crop experiments were ordered to be conducted, and the Commissioner of Settlements and the Commissioner of Jubbulpore were asked to submit a joint report on the outturns of the crops in both districts, with a view to determining the measures which might be necessary in the shape of suspensions and remissions of the land revenue.

At the same time a small test work on minimum wages was started in the neighbourhood of Damoh, in order that it might be judged how far distress, which the Deputy Commissioner reported to have again abated with the reaping of the grain crop, still existed.

3. Meanwhile, the reports of the Settlement Officer, Saugor, and the Deputy Commissioner, Damoh, regarding the effect of the previous year's failure on these districts were received. The information which they had collected showed that the large land revenue suspensions and the liberal takavi granted in the previous year had been of the utmost benefit to the agricultural classes.

In Damoh the decrease in the cultivated area was under 3,000 acres, or only 0.54 per cent. on the area cultivated in the preceding year; while in Saugor the comparison showed that the area under cultivation had actually increased by 2½ per cent. Wheat, it is true, had largely given way to gram and juar, but this substitution of food crops for a crop chiefly grown for export was not a serious feature, and was of itself calculated rather to increase than diminish the local food supply.

The annual reported rate of mortality had risen in 1894 from 30 to 42 per mille in Saugor, and from 31 to 42 per mille in Damoh, as compared with that of 1893, but it was not larger than had often been recorded in unhealthy years. Stamps and registration returns showed that there had been a substantial increase in mortgages of agricultural property, and some increase in crime. While all the above statistics indicated that there had been some stress, they were none of them, of an alarming character, and the maintenance of cultivation proved indisputably that up to that time the people had not lost heart, and that with normal harvests they would quickly recover. The future depended upon the seasons, and, unfortunately, the crops of 1894-95 were very far from good.

4. In May 1895 the Commissioner of the Division, Mr. Anderson, and the Commissioner of Settlements, Mr. Carey, submitted their joint report on the crops of the Saugor and Damoh districts. As regards Saugor, their report was to some extent reassuring. The kharif crops had not failed totally: kodon yielded seven annas, rice eight annas, and juari four annas; while of the spring crops wheat was six annas (against one anna in 1894), and gram and masur, covering in the aggregate 22 per cent. of the cropped area, gave yields of 10 and 12 annas respectively. The average outturn of all crops taken together was about 40 per cent. of the full, equivalent to half a normal outturn. The money value of the year's yield was estimated to be 69½ lakhs of rupees, against 39 lakhs in the preceding year. On the whole the season had not been out of the common in view of the normal vicissitudes of an Indian district, and, but for the failure of the previous year, would not have occasioned any anxiety. At it was, however, it was decided to collect the demand according to the old settlement, to remit the one-third of the suspended instalment of 1894 due for collection in 1895, and, as a measure of relief to the poorer classes, to keep the forests open during the year for the free collection of edible products, dry wood and grass, and to allow the free grazing of all cattle belonging to agriculturists.

The rainfall during June, July, and August was extremely favourable, and it was only in September that the early cessation of the monsoon once more raised apprehensions of distress. The account of affairs subsequent to September belongs to the year 1896, but at the close of the revenue year, in October 1895, the Deputy Commissioner of Saugor was able to write that the condition of the cultivating classes had given no cause for anxiety. They had been obliged to subsist on the cheaper food grains, but they had not been pinched for food. Of the labouring classes he could not speak quite so well, but he recorded that their condition had much improved with the harvesting of the spring crops, and that large numbers had obtained employment by selling head-loads of wood and grass in the towns. The times were hard, but no necessity for special relief works was considered to exist, though private charity was employed in the towns for relieving such poverty-stricken persons as congregated there, mainly from the neighbouring Native States.

5. In Damoh the joint report showed that the losses had been largely concentrated in the rabi-growing tracts; on the other hand, in the hilly parts of the district, inhabited by the poorest population, where kharif crops predominate, the crops had been decidedly better than in Saugor. Rice had yielded 12 annas, kodon nine annas, and juari seven annas. The spring crops were, however, very poor indeed throughout the district; wheat and its mixtures, covering 30 per cent. of the cropped area, had given an outturn of only four annas, and though gram and masur yielded 10 annas and six annas respectively, these two crops together occupied only 12 per cent. of the cropped area.

The autumn crops were, it was reported, sufficient to feed the population during the earlier months of the year, but there was a serious diminution of harvest earnings from the spring crops, and something more in the way of relief for the poorer classes seemed necessary than was thought sufficient for Saugor.

Accordingly, on the recommendation of these officers, relief was given to the cultivating classes in the affected or rabi-growing tracts by remitting the whole of the suspended arrears of the previous year, and by a further suspension of half the current instalment. The forests were continued open as in Saugor up till the 15th October, free grazing for agriculturists' cattle being included in the privilege. At the same time, as has already been stated, a test work on the minimum wage was opened in the neighbourhood of Damoh, in order to gauge the extent of distress among the labouring classes. This work was opened on the 16th April and was closed on the 18th of May. The numbers had reached 1,130 on one day, but they fell directly some ordinary road work on contract terms was started by the Public Works Department. On one day, indeed, a local holiday, the numbers dropped from 700 to 132. The condition of the

labourers on this work, which was inspected by the commissioner of the division, was found to be good. Under all these circumstances the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Woodburn, considered that ordinary road works would meet the necessities of the case. The numbers on this road work rose to 1,500 and subsequently to 2,000; but showed no tendency to further increase.

Metal collection for the road from Damoh to Hatta was provided, throughout the rains, for the employment of those who could not obtain work in their villages; but from the periodical reports received from the local officers it appeared that those of the labouring classes who could not get regular work preferred to supplement such earnings as they obtained from temporary employment by begging, and declined to go to the road work provided for them.

At the same time poor-houses were maintained by private charity from April to October in Damoh and Hatta, and for two months at Patharia. The average daily number of paupers supported in these poor-houses was 465, and the amount expended on their support was just under Rs. 3,600.

So far as the year ending 30th September 1895 was concerned, the monsoon had been, until the last part of September, favourable, and the lower classes had not been so pinched as to induce them to leave their villages in search of employment.

In October the deputy commissioner wrote: "I have received no authentic reports of death from starvation. Though such cases have abounded in police reports, they have been invariably found on inquiry to be due to causes other than hunger." At the same time it is certain that many persons of the labouring classes, who preferred to beg rather than to work, led a precarious existence and suffered much privation.

6. In the Jubbulpore District, the tracts in which the autumn and spring crops respectively predominate are well defined. In the rich "haveli" or level tract rabi crops occupy 72 per cent. and kharif 28. In the remainder of the district autumn crops occupy 61 per cent. of the cropped area. The autumn crops of the year were very fair. Rice and kodon, together covering 34 per cent. of the cropped area of the district, yielded 11 and 13 annas respectively, and til gave an eight-anna outturn. This practically secured the kharif circles of the district, and gave material assistance to the rabi tract. With the spring crops, however, it was far otherwise; wheat and its mixtures, covering 30 per cent. of the cropped area of the district, yielded only three annas, and gram covering 11 per cent. only six annas. Masur and linseed failed. The brunt of these losses, however, fell upon the richest tracts of the district, and it was felt that if relief was given to the cultivating classes in the shape of suspension of revenue and rents, the time of stress would be tided over. Accordingly, the deputy commissioner was given discretion to suspend two-thirds of the rabi instalment in the affected villages, and the sum actually suspended by him amounted to three lakhs of rupees. For the employment of labourers whose harvest earnings had been curtailed some road work was started, and several malguzars took the opportunity of carrying out small works in their villages to keep their labourers together.

The amount expended on road construction and repairs from District Funds during the year 1895-96 was Rs. 64,000, apart from the ordinary expenditure met from the Public Works Department Budget on account of maintenance of roads directly managed in that department.

This, combined with agricultural operations, for which the monsoon rains were favourable, gave employment to the labouring classes, though it appears certain, as was remarked by the deputy commissioner in his annual revenue report, that these classes had to endure much privation.

7. The only other districts in which there had been apprehensions of scarcity were Narsinghpur and Hoshangabad. Here also the forests were thrown open, and private charity provided relief in the chief towns. The deputy commissioners took measures that road work should furnish employment. The amounts spent from District Funds on road repairs and construction during the year 1895-96 in these two districts were Rs. 33,000 and Rs. 42,000 respectively. The settlement officer of Hoshangabad and the deputy commissioner of Narsinghpur carefully examined into the necessity of any measure of revenue suspension, but their reports showed that no formal measure of suspension was justified by the character of the harvests.

In these districts, also, the poorest classes underwent privation, but there was no acute distress and no crowding to road works. The poor-houses, supported by private charity, were largely filled by wanderers from across the border of the Bhopal State.

In other districts of the provinces the spring crops were deficient, but the rice crop was generally plentiful, and there was no cause for apprehension of any scarcity of food, or real distress among the poorer classes.

8. As regards the year ending the 30th September 1895, it may be said, therefore, that cause for anxiety has been concentrated in the three districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh, but that there had been no abandonment of land, cultivation had been well maintained, and prices had been kept down by large imports of food grain from Chhattisgarh and elsewhere; while the crops on the ground gave good promise, and agricultural operations during the rains had been in full swing. Wherever road works had been started to afford employment to the labouring classes, there had been no such influx of workers as to indicate any widespread distress, although those who preferred begging to work had, no doubt, undergone serious privation. The death-rate had risen in the affected districts, but not to an extent which justified alarm.

The approaching autumn harvest held out promise of an ample food supply and employment to all, and strong hopes were entertained that distress would soon disappear.

THE YEAR 1896.

9. But the anticipations formed were once again disappointed. The rainfall in the latter part of September 1895 had been partial and scanty, especially in the districts which had suffered so much in the past, and when October went by without rain, it became evident that the autumn crops must be far below the average, and that the rabi sowings would be curtailed for want of moisture. At the end of October, it is true, rain fell over the south of the province; but the northern districts received nothing. General instructions were accordingly issued pointing out the necessity of numerous crop experiments and requesting early information as to the extent of the rabi sowings. The reports from time to time received showed that over the greater part of the provinces, such crops as juar, tur, cotton, and til had given good outturns, rice in the southern districts had been to a large extent protected by irrigation, while in Chhattisgarh, where the damage to the rice crop had been serious, the people had been enjoying excellent crops for several seasons past, and were in a position to support the losses of a single year. The area in which distress was again concentrated was the Jubbulpore Division, and especially the districts of Jubbulpore, Saugor, and Damoh.

In these districts the autumn crops, though very poor, were calculated to supply the labouring classes with food for a few months; and the construction of the Saugor-Katni Railway was expected to meet the needs of these classes until the spring crops were ready to be cut.

Such was the state of affairs at the time when Mr. Lyall took over charge of the Administration in December 1895, from Mr. Woodburn. It was known that much depended on the character of the spring harvest, but that danger was ahead, and not immediately present. On the 28th December the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore reported that he had been over all the tracts where the autumn crops had failed, and he thought that the yield was five annas all round. He had seen numbers of the people of the poorest classes, but there was no evidence of any actual distress or starvation anywhere. In the Murwara tahsil, work on the railway was to commence from the 1st January, and road work would be again taken up in the other tahsils.

The reports and diaries received about this time from Saugor and Damoh were to a similar effect. They spoke of no present distress, but anticipated a time of difficulty when the rabi crops had been cut. Much difficulty was expected in the matter of rent and revenue collection. The Commissioner marched through Mandla and Seoni, but at that time he found that distress had not declared itself in these districts, where the harvests of the preceding years had been much better than in the other districts of the Division.

The proposal received in January to suspend two-thirds of the February instalment of revenue and rent in the kharif-growing circles of Jubbulpore was at once sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, and received the approval of the Government of India. The revenue thus suspended amounted to about a lakh of rupees. About this time a period of bright cold weather with heavy dews caused a very material improvement in the condition of the spring crops in the northern districts of the Provinces. In February cases of severe want and some deaths from starvation were reported to have occurred along the Damoh-Jubbulpore road among the persons travelling down the road in search of employment, and the Commissioner placed funds at the disposal of the police to enable them to feed starving wanderers and pass them on to places where work was available or gratuitous relief was being distributed.

The Chief Commissioner arrived at Jubbulpore at the end of February, after visiting all the head-quarter stations of the Nagpur and Chhattisgarh Divisions.

The only district in these two Divisions where cause for anxiety existed, was Balaghat, and particularly the Behir tahsil of that district. Later on, at the instance of the Commissioner, a sum of Rs. 5,000 was allotted for tank work in ryotwari villages in that tahsil, but only 46 people were, with difficulty, collected, and this tank work was abandoned. The forests were, however, opened in the Behir tahsil to the free collection of edible produce, as an aid to the aboriginal castes, by whom these uplands are mainly inhabited, and who subsist largely on mohwa for a considerable portion of the year.

10. With the Chief Commissioner's arrival in Jubbulpore complete arrangements were made for the full examination of the situation so far as it had then developed. The Commissioner of Settlements accompanied the Commissioner of the Division to Katni or Murwara* (where a large influx had taken place of persons from Native States attracted by the news of railway construction), in order to ascertain what measures were necessary in that tahsil which had suffered most, and the Deputy Commissioners of Saugor and Damoh were summoned in to a conference. On the information obtained from local officers, it was decided to regularly constitute the poor-houses in Jubbulpore and Murwara, hitherto maintained by private charity, aiding them with Government funds as soon as the subscriptions collected had been expended. Tank work was to be started in Murwara in connection with the poor-house there, the arrangement being that persons too weak for work should be fed up in the poor-house, and should then be transferred to light work in the town until they were strong enough to go on to the railway works at that time in progress at a distance of 12 miles from Katni. It was calculated that their harvest earnings would keep the labourers for about a month, and these were supplemented by opening the forests to the free collection of mohwa, edible fruits and roots, a measure which was ordered forthwith in all three districts. A scheme of road work was to be at once taken in hand to meet the pressure which was certain to follow the exhaustion of the harvest earnings and the mohwa food supply; and private enterprise in the shape of tank improvement and construction was to be encouraged.

Both in Damoh and Saugor the Deputy Commissioners considered that the railway would afford sufficient employment to all as soon as the harvesting was over, but they were directed to arrange for the opening of poor-houses immediately the need arose, as well as for the commencement of road work in the parts of their districts furthest removed from the railway.

The returns of the poor-house supported by private charity in Jubbulpore confirmed the impressions of the Deputy Commissioner that the period of pressure had not yet come. It had been opened in the previous September, and the numbers had since dwindled, as the following figures show:—

	Number of Inmates.
September 1895	673
October "	641
November "	526
December "	198
January 1896	191
February "	166
March "	102

The numbers of people who came wandering in from the bordering Native States aggravated the situation, especially in Murwara. A census was taken of these persons in Murwara. Of the inmates of the poor-house, then 150 in number, only 64 belonged to the Central Provinces, and of 518 beggars in the town 289 only belonged to the Central Provinces. This is merely an illustration of the extent to which wanderers from outside have throughout migrated into the Provinces in search of labour. The influx of these persons was a contributory cause of the increased mortality in the Murwara tahsil throughout the year.

11. The line of action having been thus determined on at Jubbulpore for the three districts most affected, the Deputy Commissioners were instructed to compile as soon as possible complete returns of the harvest out-turns in their districts, so as to enable a decision to be arrived at as to the proportion of the land revenue to be suspended or remitted in them.

* Murwara is the name of the northernmost, or Vindhyan, tahsil of the Jubbulpore District, and also of its head-quarters town, containing a population of 9,463; Katni is the name of a river which flows by the town of Murwara, and has been adopted by the East India Railway Company as the name of their station at that place.

In the meantime the forests were thrown open in the Lakhnadon tahsil of Seoni and in the Mandla district, and the same precaution was adopted in the districts of Narsinghpur, Hoshangabad, and Betul, where, although the crops had been far superior to those of the Jubbulpore Division, it was thought advisable to help the labouring classes and the dwellers among the hills and jungles, whose crops on the high-lying lands had been poor. In the remaining districts, where crops had been short, the local officers were warned to keep a vigilant watch for any signs of distress, to encourage land improvement by landholders, and to give employment in Court of Wards estates. The action taken in the Behir tahsil of Balaghat has already been referred to. The subsequent history of the distress in the year ending September 30th, 1896, is mainly confined to the districts of the Jubbulpore Division.

12. In describing the progress of events in the Jubbulpore Division up to the close of September, it will be convenient to state generally that the opening of the monsoon of 1896 was favourable, the very heavy rain in Jubbulpore in August being the only special feature. The areas sown with autumn crops were abnormally large, the people being anxious to obtain an early food supply. The maize and early millets which ripened at the close of August and the beginning of September yielded full crops, and up to the middle of September the prospects were all that could be desired. In the three districts of Jubbulpore, Damoh, and Saugor, especially in Damoh, the work on the Saugor-Katni Railway was the most important aid in meeting the demand for labour. But the details of the crop out-turns for the season 1895-96 and of the measures of revenue suspension and relief require to be described district by district.

JUBBULPORE.

13. To commence with Jubbulpore. During April, about 3,000 persons were employed on the railway; the mohwa crop and other forest produce was of the greatest assistance to the poor; but tank work was started in Murwara, and road work in the Sehora and Murwara tahsils, giving employment to about 2,000 people. The numbers in the Jubbulpore poor-house rose from 96 to 162, and in Murwara continued at about 150.

The District Council allotted about Rs. 30,000 for road works, and Government grants were subsequently given for the two poor-houses.

The final reports on the crops of the district were received in May. It was found that in the rich Jubbulpore *haveli*, where moisture had been well retained, the rabi out-turn averaged 12 annas, and in the remainder of the district six to eight annas on a largely diminished area.

It was accordingly decided to recover the year's demand in the *haveli*, deferring any attempt to collect the arrears of the previous year. In the rest of the district, where the out-turns were only about a third of the normal, two-thirds of the June instalment was suspended in addition to the suspension of a similar proportion of the February instalment sanctioned in January. The total sum suspended amounted to over two lakhs, or two-thirds of the revenue, in the tracts most affected. It seemed clear that the people of the *haveli* would not need relief, but that efforts to supply employment should be concentrated in the eight circles where the crops all round had only been a third of the normal.

The following table will show at a glance how the numbers employed on the railway and road and tank works, and those supported in poor-houses, fluctuated up to the end of September:—

Fortnight ending	Average Numbers employed.			Numbers supported in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads and Tanks.	Total.	
9 May - - -	5,000	3,377	8,377	334
23 " - - -	4,800	5,154	9,954	473
6 June - - -	4,894	4,582	9,476	464
20 " - - -	3,183	4,311	7,494	575
4 July - - -	2,527	3,102	5,629	1,004
18 " - - -	2,951	3,430	6,381	1,433
1 August - - -	2,578	3,875	6,453	2,088
15 " - - -	1,976	3,715	5,691	2,222
29 " - - -	1,900	4,048	5,948	1,894
12 September - - -	2,295	4,609	6,904	2,048
26 " - - -	2,000	3,691	5,691	1,776

With the advent of the monsoon, agricultural labourers returned to their villages in many cases, while, on the other hand, the persons who had been begging in the district and who preferred this to work, crowded into the towns and filled the poor-houses. The Municipal Committee of Jubbulpore started works for the employment of these people, but at the same time, though particular roads were temporarily closed in the interior, others were opened, and if the people had only chosen to come to the works, employment would have been provided for them. At one time works of one kind or another were available in 20 different places in the district. Even in August, the month of the heaviest rainfall, work was in progress in 11 places. Moreover, as a special measure of relief to the poorer classes, persons bringing head-loads of wood from the Government forests for sale in Jubbulpore were exempted during the rains, and subsequently from the payment of tolls at the ferries over the Nerbudda and Gour rivers.

The numbers contained in the above statement refer to those employed or relieved at organised works or poor-houses. A great deal of indiscriminate charity was administered by private individuals, but owing to the resulting distribution of uncooked food to debilitated persons who were incapable of assimilating it, this probably rather increased than diminished the mortality consequent on the prevailing distress.

DAMOH.

14. The statistics collected in this district showed that there had been a large falling-off in the area cropped, and the crops of both seasons gave all-round outturns of about five to seven annas only. The failure of the millets in some of the poor portions of the district was the most serious feature, but, leaving these aside, the crops, though very deficient, were in some respects slightly better than in the preceding year in the rabi-growing portions of the district. The value of the normal produce on a normal area is computed at 62 lakhs of rupees. The value of the year's produce at normal rates was estimated as 23½ lakhs. It was therefore resolved to remit all the suspended revenue of the previous year, as well as half of the revenue demand of the year.

The prompt remission of revenue sanctioned was a liberal concession designed to put heart into the people, and the Deputy Commissioner had instructions not to press unduly the collection even of the unremitted half.

The opening of the forests was a further help to the people, and the railway supplied this work to as many as sought it. Road work was opened as a test of the demand for employment in the north and south of the district, but the people would not come to the work in any numbers. Advances were given to the police to bring in indigent wanderers, but the paupers frequently deserted from the poor-house when sent there. They much preferred, as they had done in the preceding year, to wander about begging rather than to subject themselves to the restraints of the poor-house, or the labour of road works. It was frequently reported that indigent persons in the neighbourhood of the railway declined to go there when directed. Often as many as 33 per cent. of the labourers at work on the railway were persons from outside the Province.

The advent of the monsoon drove a certain number into the poor-houses for shelter, and lowered the numbers at work on the roads and railway. Many sought agricultural labour in the villages, and reports received showed that a fair amount of agricultural work was obtained, as well as employment, such as monsoon repairs to houses. But competition no doubt made wages low.

The extent to which the people spontaneously sought work will be seen from the following statement:—

Fortnight ending	Numbers Employed.		Total.	Numbers in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads.		
9 May - - -	10,000	186	10,186	118
23 " - - -	16,000	616	16,616	246
6 June - - -	18,401	600	19,001	338
20 " - - -	14,713	428	15,141	360
4 July - - -	12,522	252	12,774	497
18 " - - -	11,805	206	12,011	650
1 August - - -	10,865	193	11,058	746
15 " - - -	7,092	112	7,204	842
29 " - - -	9,439	118	9,557	828
1 September - - -	10,047	42	10,089	767
26 " - - -	8,930	41	8,971	685
10 October - - -	8,298	12	8,310	758

Apart from the works just named, there were some ordinary Public Works Department roads, and some Municipal tank work at Damoh, for which numbers are not returned. But these figures most clearly indicate that the railway met the demand for work. The test-works opened in the parts of the district further from the railway attracted absurdly small numbers. On the other hand, wanderers from Native States, or from Saugor, and persons who preferred begging to working, found their way or were sent by the police into the poor-houses.

At the close of August a second poor-house was opened at Hatta, and paupers who came from the Hatta Tahsil were drafted into it.

SAUGOR.

15. In Saugor the examination of crop areas and outturns showed that the area cropped had fallen 16 per cent. below the area cropped in the previous year, the Khurai Tahsil having been most seriously affected. On the other hand, the autumn crops had been much better than in the previous year, and had given an all-round yield of six to eight annas, juar being a 10-anna crop. Of the spring crops, wheat and gram were fair in Saugor and Rehli, poor in the Banda Tahsil, and miserable in the Khurai Tahsil. In this tahsil the outturns were only about 28 per cent. of the full; in the others they exceeded half the full.

In the Khurai Tahsil large concessions were obviously necessary, and two-thirds of the June instalment were remitted at once, as well as all old suspended arrears. In the rest of the district remission of all arrears was granted, and where the new settlement was in force 20 per cent. of the demand was remitted. The Deputy Commissioner was further given discretion to extend indulgence in all cases where it seemed called for.

The above concessions were framed on a consideration both of the current and past harvests, and of the actual rent collections which the malguzars had made from their ryots. It was believed that the railway would afford sufficient work in the Saugor and Rehli tahsils, but the Deputy Commissioner had instructions to provide help in the shape of road work for the Khurai Tahsil, and in Banda if required. He was also to establish poor-houses directly the need arose.

On the 9th of May the Deputy Commissioner reported that the food supplies available from the forests would soon be exhausted, and that the labouring population would need help. He was starting road work in Khurai, and would start work in Banda also shortly. He added that 6,267 persons had been employed on the railway.

The statement below shows the extent to which the labouring population of the district availed themselves of the employment provided for them:—

Fortnight ending	Numbers Employed on—			Supported in Poor-houses.
	Railway.	Roads, &c.	Total.	
9 May - - -	6,267	—	6,267	—
23 " - - -	9,240	1,395	10,635	—
6 June - - -	7,087	1,564	8,651	—
20 " - - -	6,403	1,994	8,397	—
4 July - - -	4,272	1,545	5,817	829
18 " - - -	4,770	1,195	5,965	1,017
1 August - - -	4,545	1,206	5,751	843
15 " - - -	4,166	991	5,157	1,106
29 " - - -	5,150	876	6,026	1,057
12 September - - -	6,004	880	6,884	1,119
26 " - - -	6,650	934	7,584	1,338
10 October - - -	6,707	784	7,491	1,448

Road work was in progress on four different roads, but as soon as the rains began the numbers on these dwindled, and the same thing occurred in the case of the railway, except that when the rains ceased the numbers employed began slowly to increase again.

In June, when the Deputy Commissioner reported that beggars had begun to congregate in large numbers in the towns, a poor-house was started at Saugor, a local work, the levelling of the Railway Ganj, being opened in connection with it, so that the able-bodied beggars and persons who were discharged as strong from the poor-house could be drafted on to it. A fortnight later a poor-house was opened at Khurai, and paupers who had collected at Bina were on two occasions conveyed by rail to the Khurai poor-house, or provided with municipal work in that town. Here also, though to a less degree than

in Damoh, the people went off to their villages in the monsoon and preferred to beg and pick up what they could by occasional labour than to come on the railway or Government work. Many of the poor picked up a living by collecting head-loads of wood and grass in the jungles and selling them in the towns. It would no doubt have been better had the Deputy Commissioner opened the poor-houses some time earlier, but, before these were regularly organised, charitable relief was given to the distressed persons collected in the sarais.

MANDLA.

16. In this district the preceding year's crops had been good or fair, and serious distress was not anticipated in the early part of the year.

The sparse population of the district, and the fact that the people largely consist of aboriginal classes who even in normal years depend largely on the forests for their support, made it unlikely that they would suffer as much distress as the people of the neighbouring districts. But in March the Deputy Commissioner reported that the kharif crops had been only about half the normal, and that the millets which form the chief food of the aboriginal castes had yielded only six annas and in some places less. The rabi crops had been only six annas on an average, on a very restricted area, and he recommended that the forests should be thrown open for the free extraction of mohwa and edible products. This was sanctioned, and his further proposal to prepare for the opening of road works, if required, was also approved.

The first fortnightly report dealing with the condition of the people up to the 9th of May was encouraging. Though cholera had caused high mortality, no acute distress was reported, and the opening of the forests had been much appreciated by the people. In some localities of the district the condition of the labouring classes was normal. In the next fortnight there were signs that distress was increasing, and road work was undertaken, but cholera prevented a real start being made till the 2nd of June. Three special roads were started in addition to some ordinary Public Works Department work, and tank work was also begun in two places.

The following figures indicate the progress of the demand for employment. At first Gonds would not come on road work at all, and for a long time no one came from any distance, but gradually the numbers increased. No regular poor-houses were opened in the district, but charitable relief was given in Mandla and some of the large villages, and the police were directed to bring persons in an emaciated condition to centres on the road work, where they could be fed up till they were strong enough to work :—

Period.	Number Employed on Roads.	Gratuitously relieved from Public Funds.
Fortnight ending 20 June - - - -	338	—
” ” 4 July - - - -	1,410	—
” ” 18 ” - - - -	2,092	16
” ” 1 August - - - -	2,284	28
” ” 15 ” - - - -	2,997	78
” ” 29 ” - - - -	3,340	141
” ” 12 September - - - -	4,216	159
” ” 20 ” - - - -	2,963	206
” ” 10 October - - - -	2,072	171

The Deputy Commissioner had it widely proclaimed throughout the district what works were open for those in want of employment.

The numbers on road works steadily rose as the season advanced; but towards the end of September many returned to their villages. There was far less wandering about of beggars in this district than in other parts of the Division; the police and mukaddams were, however, given orders to forward all such to places of relief attached to the works. A poor-house was started by private subscription in Mandla in August, and the Church

Missionary Society fed a number of persons in Mandla, but it was difficult to induce people to come to places of relief.

Deaths from starvation began to be reported in August and September, some of which were investigated, and in many of the cases the reports proved incorrect, but there was no doubt that many persons who had subsisted on indigestible food in the jungles and would not come on the works had fallen victims to bowel complaints. Prices rose, and at one time there was a fear that private trade could not import food grains. The Deputy Commissioner was authorised to encourage importation by advances, but eventually food was imported without resort to Government aid.

SEONI.

17. In this district the crops were not nearly as bad as in the rest of the Division; the rains of 1895 did not cease till September 16th, and rice and the millets gave very fair yields. It was not anticipated that there would be much distress, but in April it was reported that the people in the northern half of the Lakhnadon Tahsil, a part of the country which, in character and population, resembles Mandla, were beginning to be pinched for food. The rabi crop had been a poor one, and the aboriginal population, who depend at this time on their harvest earnings, had suffered in consequence. A number of organised grain raids had taken place, and though most of the persons engaged in these raids were not in any distress, still they afforded some evidence of want in the neighbourhood. The forests were thrown open for the free collection of edible produce, and arrangements were made for opening road work in the tract of country immediately affected. Some malguzars were induced to undertake tank work either from private capital or with the aid of takavi advances.

Work was opened in May, and on the 3rd June 743 persons were employed, but the numbers were most capricious, and during June they fluctuated within two or three days from 908 to 340.

In July special arrangements were made for giving small seed advances through the patwaris to enable the aboriginal cultivators to sow their millets. By this time the numbers on the road had declined, the daily average being about 400 only. About 100 paupers and orphans were maintained at poor-houses supported by private charity at Seoni and Lakhnadon. By the end of August the numbers had again fallen to about 350, the number of those receiving gratuitous relief being about the same as before. A similar number were employed on private tanks, and the Municipal Committee of Seoni found work for about 160 people. By the end of September numbers on the road had fluctuated between 399 and 65. The average number on the road at the end of the first week in October was 126 only.

Gratuitous relief was given to a few people at Seoni, Lakhnadon, and Barghat. The mortality in Seoni was very high during May and the monsoon months, a result mainly due to a severe epidemic of cholera which prevailed at that time.

If judgment be formed from the extraordinary fluctuations in the numbers of labourers on the road work, their condition, as testified to by the Commissioner of the Division, and the appearance of the prisoners in the jail as well as of those concerned in the grain raids, and if regard be paid to the character of the previous harvests, the only conclusion is that the distress in this district was far less severe than in any other part of the Division.

Prices of Food-grains.

18. The course of prices during the period under review in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division has been an important factor in the situation. The best way of showing these is to take, first, the average prices of the five years which preceded the serious failure of 1894, and thereafter to take the prices prevailing on the following dates:—

- 15 August - Mid rains. Prospects of kharif uncertain.
- 15 November - Beginning of cold weather. Prospects of kharif harvest and of rabi sowings known.
- 15 February - Close of cold weather. Kharif only brought to market and prospects of rabi known.
- 15 May - Middle of hot weather. Rabi crops brought to market.

The following statement deals with the prices of wheat, rice, and gram. Details are added in the case of the year 1896 for the prices prevailing on the 31st August, and the 15th and 30th September, as it was about that time that a general rise took place in consequence of the unfavourable reports from all parts of India:—

Retail Prices in Seers per Rupee.

PERIOD.	SAUGOR.			DAMOH.			JUBBULPORE.		
	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.
Average prices of five agricultural years, 1889-90 to 1893-94.	13½	9½	16½	16½	12½	20½	14½	13½	19
Highest prices during the above period.	11½	9½	12½	14	10	16	12½	9½	17
Date of the above -	(Nov. 1891.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(Feb. 1892.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(May 1891.)	(Nov. 1891.)	(Nov. 1891.)	(Aug. 1889.)	(Aug. Nov. 1889.)
Lowest price during that period.	16½	11½	24½	18½	13½	26	17	15½	23½
Date of the above -	(Nov. 1889 Feb. 1890.)	(Nov. 1890.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(Aug. 1891.)	(Nov. 1893.)	(May 1890.)	(Feb. 1891.)	(May 1894.)
15 August 1894	11½	9½	19	10½	9½	15	14½	13½	19
15 November "	11½	9½	19	10½	13	15	12	14	17½
15 February 1895	11½	11	17½	12½	12½	15½	13	14½	16½
15 May "	11½	11	18½	12½	12½	18½	14½	16	19½
15 August "	11½	11	17½	11½	11½	15	12	14	17
15 November "	11½	11	19	11½	11½	15	12½	13½	14½
15 February 1896	11½	11	16½	10½	12½	15	12½	15½	16½
15 May "	11½	8½	16½	10½	10	15	14	13½	17½
15 August "	11½	8½	13½	10½	8½	11	12½	12	13
31 August "	11½	8½	13½	9	8½	11	12	11½	13
15 September "	8½	8½	10½	8½	8	11½	11	11	12½
30 September "	8½	8½	9	8½	8½	10	9	9½	11

The above figures show that until the last week of August 1896, or first week of September, in Saugor or Jubbulpore, there was no such rise in prices as to indicate severe hardship on this account among labourers for cash wages.

In Damoh, which was dependent for its surplus supplies on imports by road, the heavy rains of July and August took effect somewhat earlier.

Towards the end of August the unfavourable reports of the crop prospects in the neighbouring Provinces began to have their effect on local prices even before any local failure was anticipated. The drought of September, which extended to these Provinces, and especially to the Jubbulpore Division (where the area protected by irrigation is quite trifling), and the general threatenings of harvest failure, brought matters to a climax, and prices bounded up, not only in this Division, but over the whole Province. It was from this period that the gravity of the situation developed itself.

Up to August, then, prices, though ranging high, could hardly be said to have reached scarcity rates.

In Saugor wheat remained almost throughout only 13 per cent. dearer than the normal price of the five years preceding the period of failure; gram was as cheap as or cheaper than the average for most of that time.

Rice, which is always imported in Saugor, ruled lower than the normal until the hot weather of 1896, and then only rose to about 12 per cent. above it.

Similarly in Jubbulpore, before September 1896, wheat never rose higher than 12 seers per rupee, and generally fluctuated between $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 14 seers as against a normal price of $14\frac{1}{2}$.

Rice until August 1896 was consistently cheaper than the average; while the price of gram, though higher than the normal except for short periods, never rose to any serious degree until the same date.

In Damoh, on the other hand, want of railway communication gave fuller effect to the shortness of the local food supply. Wheat, after rising to $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers, or 37 per cent. above the normal in 1894, cheapened slightly with the harvest of 1895, but with the failure of 1896 it again reached the pitch of 1894, and finally in August 1896 it rose to 9, and by September to $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers. Gram in this district was 25 per cent. dearer than the average, and continuing at that figure till the middle of the hot weather of 1896, it underwent a still further rise, reaching 40 per cent. in August and finally 50 per cent. in September above the normal price. In this district the ordinary food of the people, except the aborigines, who depend, as elsewhere, on the small millets, is a mixture of wheat and gram called *birra*; the average price of these two grains therefore indicates the prevailing rate of the food supply.

Rice, however, which is of considerable importance in Damoh, approximated closely to the normal price till the middle of the hot weather of 1896, when it also rose 25 per cent. above the average, fluctuating in September at a rate from 37 to 50 per cent. higher than the normal. Yet even in this District it was not till the opening of the monsoon reduced importation of grain that prices rose to an extent which indicated serious scarcity.

The failure of wheat brought about a considerable extension of juari cultivation in Saugor and Damoh. Price quotations regarding this millet are irregular, but up to the end of August 1896 it was available in Saugor at prices varying from $17\frac{1}{4}$ to 15 seers per rupee. In September the price varied from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12. In Damoh 13 to 15 seers were to be had during the first half of 1896, and in the rains the price varied between 11 and 12 the highest rate reached for a short time being $10\frac{2}{3}$ seers.

In Mandla and Seoni no such detailed examination of prices is needed. Up to the middle of 1895 prices were quite normal in these two districts. After that date there was some rise, but, until the rains of 1896 broke, 14 to 15 seers of wheat, 12 to 13 seers of rice, and 15 to 17 seers of gram were obtainable for the rupee.

During the rains in Mandla wheat rose to $12\frac{1}{2}$, 11, 10, and finally in September to $8\frac{1}{2}$; rice to 11, 10, and 8, and gram to 13, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2}$, and 10 seers respectively.

In Seoni, however, the rise was only marked in September, when wheat advanced from 13 to 12, and then to $10\frac{1}{4}$; and gram from 13 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 11. Rice became dear at the opening of the rains ($10\frac{2}{3}$), but cheapened in August to $11\frac{1}{2}$, reverting to $10\frac{2}{3}$ in September. Prices in this district never rose to the high pitch reached in other districts of the Division.

Mortality Statistics.

19. The mortality which has taken place during the past seasons in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division has been the subject of comment in the public press, and has been affirmed by some to be due to the want of adequate measures for the relief of the people. That the mortality has been high cannot be gainsaid, but abnormal seasons are generally abnormally unhealthy, and, during part of the year cholera claimed many victims. The best way of gauging the significance of the vital statistics is to eliminate from the returns all deaths due to cholera and small-pox, and the following tables show the mortality in each of the districts of this Division when this elimination has been effected. (Murwara, though only a subdivision of Jubbulpore, is shown separately because it lies in a separate physical area, the Vindhya, and is separately treated in the vital statistic returns published monthly in the Gazette.)

The year in each case is taken from one kharif harvest to the next, and the ratios are deaths per mille per annum, obtained by multiplying the monthly rates per mille by twelve :—

Month.	Saugor.			Damoh.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	35.69	62.81	68.45	30.27	54.99	62.59
November - - - - -	34.23	70.09	50.84	38.33	60.96	56.77
December - - - - -	31.25	55.85	49.59	34.94	51.34	49.53
January - - - - -	31.64	53.27	52.93	30.59	36.45	48.75
February - - - - -	30.50	50.17	53.19	26.35	31.99	54.28
March - - - - -	39.79	42.32	36.87	32.69	33.87	53.83
April - - - - -	39.49	41.33	44.92	36.08	32.91	56.92
May - - - - -	30.87	41.53	49.87	47.39	38.44	50.34
June - - - - -	28.00	31.88	49.98	31.25	31.33	57.34
July - - - - -	30.37	37.07	66.17	28.37	42.71	78.20
August - - - - -	44.82	59.57	92.70	38.81	49.98	128.14
September - - - - -	48.53	67.45	98.17	44.15	51.70	138.05
Total - - -	36.16	51.13	59.47	35.43	48.05	68.93
All causes including cholera and small-pox - - - - -	38.62	53.34	67.29	36.26	43.86	79.92

Month.	Jubbulpore.			Murwara.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	38.29	52.36	56.11	34.48	50.13	41.82
November - - - - -	37.91	54.01	43.92	35.31	46.39	40.43
December - - - - -	32.50	42.39	37.14	30.24	35.10	42.17
January - - - - -	24.90	31.92	36.95	28.94	30.19	49.30
February - - - - -	20.94	28.14	34.97	27.54	26.24	74.44
March - - - - -	34.55	34.66	29.10	29.43	29.22	21.95
April - - - - -	48.34	42.32	48.42	38.49	36.43	53.72
May - - - - -	45.22	47.18	40.22	51.66	43.00	37.14
June - - - - -	31.80	30.77	32.98	34.07	31.85	46.47
July - - - - -	27.11	32.22	49.59	28.87	28.12	58.31
August - - - - -	35.80	37.64	35.92	42.44	30.19	98.53
September - - - - -	41.42	51.66	97.19	43.00	36.89	103.24
Total - - -	34.90	40.44	49.37	35.43	35.31	56.04
Total including deaths from cholera and small-pox - - - - -	35.62	41.28	56.11	36.74	36.21	58.40

Month.	Mandla.			Seoni.			Whole Central Provinces.		
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.
October - - - - -	38.29	45.19	46.35	38.52	35.05	56.93	35.00	46.26	48.67
November - - - - -	37.33	38.47	42.15	33.95	37.80	47.80	34.68	42.16	40.59
December - - - - -	33.17	30.37	35.04	30.32	34.15	43.01	35.00	34.62	39.34
January - - - - -	27.43	23.33	33.88	24.21	25.02	38.96	29.09	27.14	38.75
February - - - - -	25.53	20.33	30.88	23.08	22.53	32.79	25.90	26.13	39.76
March - - - - -	30.66	24.72	40.37	28.24	24.01	40.78	39.29	27.77	38.50
April - - - - -	32.63	21.73	33.35	41.37	26.51	35.25	46.22	28.29	36.10
May - - - - -	38.75	24.93	39.64	44.44	26.67	49.59	39.58	31.27	37.57
June - - - - -	31.54	25.50	57.28	26.41	25.69	39.07	28.21	27.45	29.71
July - - - - -	26.50	23.99	67.60	20.62	28.31	49.36	26.11	28.72	35.75
August - - - - -	33.94	33.33	125.06	25.38	43.89	80.59	37.51	41.13	56.49
September - - - - -	37.62	39.00	102.92	35.31	52.72	69.27	43.36	47.40	57.13
TOTAL - - -	32.89	29.26	55.08	30.99	31.86	48.62	34.90	34.03	41.53
All causes including cholera and small-pox - - - - -	33.84	29.67	70.84	31.11	33.05	59.45	35.62	36.63	47.99

20. These statistics show very clearly how in all years there is a marked increase of deaths in the months of August, September, and October, a feature which is common to the whole of the Provinces and to all seasons, normal or abnormal. This rise occasionally extends to November, after which the death rate remains low until July or August.

An examination of the details will at once show that in Jubbulpore, Mandla, and Seoni, no extraordinary death rate is observable until July 1896 in the case of Mandla, and until August 1896 in the case of the other two districts.

The same may be said of Murwara if February 1896 (death rate 74.44) be excluded. In Saugor and Damoh, where the failure of 1894 was so severe, the death rates were high in the unhealthy months of 1894 and 1895, but invariably fell with the cold weather and through the hot weather, if not to normal figures, at least to an extent which precluded any idea of famine. In them also the serious and rapid increase of mortality began in July 1896.

The only instances in which special comment is necessary are the mortality of February 1896 in Murwara and the death rates in all districts from July or August 1896.

In the case of Murwara there was a large influx of destitute persons from neighbouring native states who came in search of employment, in addition to local beggars from other parts of the district. A widespread rumour had prevailed that work would be begun on the railway in October, and in November the numbers who collected were large. The railway work was not actually started till the beginning of January, and this period of enforced idleness probably accounts for the weak state of health to which many of them were reduced before employment was available. Many of the beggars even then preferred to hang about the town of Murwara and the neighbouring villages, picking up what they could until the rabi harvest was ripe, to going on a distance of 12 miles to the railway works. Others were not strong enough to work on the railway, and many fell easy victims to fever and bowel diseases. A good many also died on the railway works at that time, the contractors having supplied inferior grain. The railway authorities intervened, and some contracts were cancelled. The opening of work in several places in the tahsil, following the harvest earnings and the mohwa crop, at once lowered the death rate to more normal figures.

The heavy mortality in the division during the months of August and September is much to be deplored, but it arose from causes difficult to control. With the advent of the monsoon, the labourers on the roads and railway began leaving for their villages to seek employment on agricultural operations; while wandering beggars who were unwilling or unable to work crowded into the towns for shelter. Competition for labour reduced the earnings of those who obtained agricultural employment, and high prices threw them into further distress. These continued on in their villages in the hope of better times when the kharif crops should ripen. Exposure and insufficient food during the abnormally wet month of August induced fevers and dysentery. Then followed an unusually unhealthy September, when doubtless, as the drought began to declare itself, the cultivators who would ordinarily have given food or employment tightened their hands and pockets, and the distress then assumed a more aggravated form. With the open weather of September some returned to the works, others too weak for work struggled into the towns, but many continued on. But the progress of the distress was necessarily a gradual one, and its effect could not be immediately apparent.

Vital statistics cannot be collected and compiled from day to day, nor do deaths of this kind make themselves so soon known as deaths from epidemics. They are gradual, distributed over the whole area, not sudden and concentrated in particular localities. The death rates computed at a rate of so many per mille per annum look most formidable in a statistical statement, but the highest rate of all (138 in Damoh in September) means during the month 11 or 12 deaths only per 1,000, or two or three deaths in a village of 250 souls; that is to say, one or two deaths only above the normal in a village of that size. All this time work was available in the interior of the district, and gratuitous relief was being given in poor-houses, but the people did not come to such relief in any considerable numbers. It may be said without fear of contradiction that the people themselves were as much deceived as the officers of the Government by the prospects of a good kharif; they preferred to struggle on till the time of plenty came, and it was not till late in September that the prospects of a good crop were definitely dissipated.

The reluctance to come on work was nowhere more marked than among the aboriginal castes of Mandla, Seoni, and Damoh. Residing as they do in hilly and forest country, where it is almost impossible to find any local village works, of improvement which can be undertaken, there is no resource but to offer them road-work in their neighbourhood. This was done in Damoh, but they would not come; the same in Seoni; and in Man la

the numbers were very small. The experience now gained seems to show that a test work is of little use where aboriginals are concerned. Distress must have reached an acute stage before they will leave their forests to work on the roads.

But in addition to these causes mortality was undoubtedly swelled by the wandering spirit which took possession of the labouring poor. Discharged from a poor-house they would often not go to work, but would resume their begging habits, consume uncooked food, and before long many died or found their way back again to the poor house in a condition worse than when they originally entered it.

With the continued drought in October, bringing with it one more harvest failure, scarcity and distress entered into an acute stage, and it became necessary to extend relief measures and bring into full operation the provisions of the Famine Code both in this Division and in many other parts of the Provinces. The present review, however, deals with the period ending the 30th September last, and the history of the current period of acute and widespread distress, and of the measures taken to relieve it, can only be satisfactorily dealt with when the time of stress has passed and the full effects of the successive failures of crops are known.

21. The policy of the Administration has throughout been to keep the cultivators on their lands by liberal suspensions and remissions of land revenue, accompanied by a corresponding suspension or remission of rents, and to give freely takavi advances for seed and cattle, as well as free grazing in the districts where losses were most continuous. This is the surest means of supporting the agricultural labourers, to whom the ryot, having saved his rent and received an advance, is better able to give employment. For the labouring classes themselves the opening of the forests afforded a supply of food to supplement agricultural earnings during the intervals which elapse between the principal agricultural operations, and further aid was provided in the shape of extra employment on road works.

It was not the desire of the Administration to pauperise the population or discourage self-help, and gratuitous relief was, during 1895, left to private charity, but from March and April 1896, as distress increased, poor-houses supported from public funds were organized, and additional road and tank works were arranged to supplement the extensive scope for employment which the construction of the Saugor-Katni Railway afforded.

In the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, during the period 25th April to the 10th October, the aggregate of the maximum numbers who availed themselves of these special means of employment amounted to 45,000, while the maximum supported at the various poor-houses amounted to 5,000 persons. The number of individuals who at some time during this period received employment or support was, of course, very much larger.

22. It is not easy to distinguish the cost to Government of the various measures of relief. Until the Famine Code was formally brought into operation, the sums expended under the direct head of "Famine Relief" had been trifling, and it is difficult to separate the ordinary from the extraordinary expenditure involved in the various public works carried out by the Public Works Department and from District Funds. But the following statement shows the amount of land revenue foregone by the State, the expenditure on district roads during the period under review, the loss of revenue entailed by the opening of the forests, and the amount of takavi advanced in the Jubbulpore Division, as well as the direct grants made for famine relief:—

YEAR.	Suspension of Land Revenue.	Remission of Land Revenue.	Expenditure on Construction and Repairs of District Roads.	Direct Grants for Famine Relief.	Loss of Revenue in the Forest Department.	Total of Columns 3 to 6, plus Revenue Suspended but not yet Remitted (Column 2).	Takavi Advances.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
	Revenue Year.		Financial Year.		Forest Year.		Financial Year.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894-95 - - -	4,30,339	3,04,456	46,849	73,417	40,000	4,64,722	6,54,815
1895-96 - - -	2,04,887	6,19,303	98,837	1,055	68,000		1,43,114
April to September 1896			32,825	40,293	* 22,000		
TOTAL - - - Rs.	6,35,226	9,23,759	1,78,511	1,14,765	1,30,000	16,44,035	9,34,908
Of which not yet remitted.	2,97,000	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Approximate figures.

If one lakh of rupees out of the expenditure entered in column 4 be counted as ordinary expenditure, which would have been incurred whether or not scarcity existed, it appears that during the past two years the Administration has contributed in one shape or another about 15½ lakhs to the relief of distress, while making itself responsible to the Imperial Government for advances, with interest on them, to the extent of 9½ lakhs. The remissions and suspensions of revenue, which carried with them proportionate relief in the case of rents, meant that the cultivating classes were excused from a payment of over 20 lakhs of rupees, and counting in the takavi advances, these classes have benefited to the extent of 30 lakhs, while over four lakhs have been expended in giving further employment or food to the labouring population.

23. This review would be incomplete did it not make mention of the officers who were charged with the administration of the districts of the Jubbulpore Division during this long period of difficulty and anxiety. The charge of the Division was held by Mr. F. C. Anderson from April 1894 to April 1895, by Mr. L. K. Laurie from April to November 1895, and again by Mr. Anderson from the last date to the present time. The chief anxieties of the period were concentrated during the second incumbency of Mr. Anderson, and the Chief Commissioner desires here again to express (as he has already done in the Revenue Review for the year 1894-95) his grateful sense of the unremitting labour and watchfulness which that officer has devoted to meeting the difficulties as they arose. The task was the more severe as deaths, departures owing to ill-health, and the depleted state of the ranks of the Commission in consequence of retirements, compelled the Administration to put in charge of important districts officers, sometimes very junior, who were ill-acquainted with them, and needed much direction in the conduct of operations for meeting the distress. The Division has been peculiarly unfortunate during the year 1896 in the number of its casualties.

In Jubbulpore the late Mr. A. C. Duff was in charge throughout the period, except from March to September 1896, when he was compelled to take leave in consequence of a severe attack of influenza. His successor, Mr. O. G. Arthur, a very promising officer, had hardly taken charge when he fell a victim to an attack of cholera while enquiring into the distress and visiting the railway works in the north of Jubbulpore, and the Chief Commissioner was compelled to cancel furlough which had already been promised and call Mr. B. Robertson from Nimar to hold charge till Mr. Duff should return. Mr. Lyall has already publicly expressed his sense of the great loss which the Government has sustained by the untimely death, on the 5th January 1897, of Mr. Duff, whose knowledge of, and sympathy with, the people in his charge were invaluable to the Administration.

In Damoh, the late Mr. Burn was in charge of the district throughout the period until the middle of August last, when failing health compelled him to take short leave; he visited Kashmir, and there fell a victim, on 26th September 1896, to enteric fever. During his absence, until the return of officers from furlough in November placed a senior man at his disposal, the Chief Commissioner was compelled to entrust the charge of the district to a junior civilian of only three years' service.

In Saugor, Colonel T. W. Hogg was in charge for the whole period, except for one month's privilege leave which he took, in consequence of ill-health, in July. He retired in November last, and his health for some weeks prior to retirement was very indifferent.

In Mandla, Mr. Aley Muhammad has administered a difficult charge with much activity and efficiency throughout 1896.

In Seoni, the transfer of Mr. Robertson from Nimar to Jubbulpore made it necessary to move Mr. Walker to the former district in March, and to entrust Seoni to Mr. Jowers, an officer of five years' service. Mr. Jowers' health broke down in September, and he too had to be replaced by a still more junior officer until the return of a senior man from furlough.

(True Extract.)

R. H. CRADDOCK,
Third Secretary.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, that copies be forwarded to the Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture and to the Commissioner, Jubbulpore Division, and Deputy Commissioners of the Jubbulpore Division.

R. H. CRADDOCK,
Third Secretary.

No. 849. Dated Nagpur, February 12, 1897.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CENTRAL PROVINCES, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed, with reference to my No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896, to submit the following further report regarding the prevailing scarcity in these Provinces.

2. The Chief Commissioner has now satisfied himself, by personal inspection, of the condition of the districts where distress is most serious. He has also arranged, in greater detail than was possible when he last wrote, the scheme of relief operations to be adopted in each district. Moreover, the further information which has reached him, combined with his own observation in the affected areas, has led him to modify on one or two points the view of the situation in the several districts of the Province which was given in paragraphs 4 to 9 of my former letter, No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896. For these reasons he deems it desirable to report on the situation in each district as it now presents itself to him; to specify the areas affected and their general circumstances; to indicate the scheme of relief which is in operation; to show the number and classes of people who have been and are in receipt of relief; to forecast, as far as the data now available permit, the probable future duration and extent of the distress, and to estimate the aggregate numbers who will be in need of relief.

The following statement shows, for the districts where distress exists, the numbers in receipt of relief on the 23rd January last, their classification, and the nature and number of relief works provided:—

1. Serial Number.	District.			Affected Area.		Numbers in Receipt of Government Relief.		9. Total.	10. Percentage of Persons Relieved to Total Population of Affected Areas.	11. Number of Relief Works opened.	12. Number of Relief Centres.	13. Number of Government Poorhouses.
	2. Name.	3. Total Area in Square Miles.	4. Population.	5. Area.	6. Population.	7. On Relief Works.	8. Gratuitously Relieved.					
1	Jubbulpore - - -	3,909	748,146	3,909	748,000	70,178	13,373	83,551	11.6	11	16	4
2	Saugor - - - - -	4,007	592,000	4,007	592,000	24,945	7,327	31,672	5.3	4	10	5
3	Damoh - - - - -	2,831	326,000	2,831	326,000	17,894	2,466	20,360	6.2	12	7	4
4	Seoni - - - - -	3,206	370,767	1,766	200,000	5,566	553	6,119	3.	13	6	2
5	Mandla - - - - -	5,056	339,373	5,056	339,000	12,621	257	12,878	3.8	6	17	2
	Total - - - - -	19,009	2,376,286	17,569	2,205,000	150,604	23,976	154,580	7.0	46	56	17
6	Nagpur - - - - -	3,832	757,862	524	95,500	1,662	877	2,539	2.6	6	-	2
7	Bhandara - - - -	3,968	742,850	1,750	390,000	6,760	1,162	7,922	2.	4	-	4
8	Balaghat - - - -	3,139	383,331	3,139	383,000	4,093	1,330	5,423	1.4	6	-	3
	Total - - - - -	10,939	1,884,043	5,413	868,500	12,515	3,369	15,884	1.8	16	-	9
9	Hoshangabad - -	4,749	529,945	3,794	375,000	27,140	5,735	32,875	8.7	8	-	2
10	Narsinghpur - -	1,916	367,000	1,916	367,000	14,451	1,891	16,342	4.4	5	-	3
11	Nimar - - - - -	3,358	253,486	-	-	452	273	725	-	2	-	1
12	Chhindwara - - -	4,630	407,494	2,000	135,000	3,436	1,337	4,773	3.5	2	15	3
13	Betul - - - - -	3,323	323,196	2,389	128,000	6,910	751	7,561	8.9	3	-	1
	Total - - - - -	18,481	1,881,121	10,099	1,005,000	52,289	9,987	62,276	6.2	20	15	10
14	Raipur - - - - -	11,724	1,584,427	4,000	710,000	6,319	1,034	7,353	1.	3	-	5
15	Bilaspur - - - -	8,341	1,164,000	8,341	1,164,000	4,483	1,326	5,809	4.	3	-	4
	Total - - - - -	20,065	2,748,427	12,341	1,874,000	10,802	2,360	13,162	0.7	6	-	9
	GRAND TOTAL -	51,394	8,890,035	45,422	5,952,500	206,210	29,692	245,902	4.1	88	71	45

In view of the great importance as regards the present distress of the outturn of the coming spring crops, a statement is also given, showing for each district the area under

rabi crops for the last three years; the average area of these years; the area now under these crops according to the latest available data, and the anticipated outturn in each case.

It should be observed that these figures must not be accepted as final, as the patwaris' papers showing the areas in detail are not filed until the 1st April. They may, however, be regarded as the best provisional estimate now obtainable:—

DISTRICT.	Area under Rabi Crops during			Average of Columns 2, 3, and 4.	Area under Rabi during 1896-97.	Percentage by which Column 6 Exceeds (+) or is Less than (—) Area in Column 5.	Estimated Outturn of Rabi Crop, 1896-97, in Annas
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	* Acres.		
Saugor - - - -	680,542	641,262	527,551	616,452	164,860	-73	† 4
Damoh - - - -	350,181	317,939	237,206	301,775	113,166	-62	8
Jubbulpore - - - -	712,816	629,892	455,994	599,567	399,711	-33	11
Mandla - - - -	210,367	199,396	126,120	178,628	44,657	-75	12
Seoni - - - -	428,685	374,875	280,241	361,267	240,000	-33	12
Wardha - - - -	381,378	357,308	323,641	354,276	309,991	-13	8
Nagpur - - - -	614,319	615,316	539,102	589,579	515,881	-13	8
Chanda - - - -	378,069	232,566	337,890	316,175	237,131	-25	8
Bhandara - - - -	488,102	397,407	300,980	395,498	355,946	-10	11
Belaghat - - - -	162,323	145,447	126,651	144,807	37,000	-74	6
Narsinghpur - - - -	408,103	406,700	353,149	388,984	202,858	-48	8
Hoshangabad - - - -	802,946	771,070	750,204	374,740	595,081	-23	6
Nimar - - - -	74,639	68,561	59,236	67,479	50,609	-25	4
Betul - - - -	272,802	268,222	244,107	261,710	196,282	-25	8
Chindwara - - - -	286,051	299,265	260,922	282,079	211,999	-25	10
Raipur - - - -	1,036,948	975,258	568,245	860,150	430,075	-50	6
Bilaspur - - - -	721,930	646,313	337,223	568,675	106,627	-81	12
Sambalpur - - - -	12,844	10,490	10,360	11,231	- (Rabi crop unimportant.)		
Total - - - -	8,023,105	7,357,287	5,838,822	7,073,070	4,211,874	-41	8

* Estimates only.

† Estimate for wheat.

The appended Table A. also shows the way in which the numbers in receipt of relief have changed from week to week since the beginning of December.

3. I proceed to report in detail on the circumstances of each district, beginning with those of the Jubbulpore Division, where the distress is most serious. In the Jubbulpore District the parts most severely affected are the whole of the Murwara or northern tahsil, and parts of the Sehora or central tahsil, in the north and east, and the southern half of the Jubbulpore or southern tahsil in the west and south. The area of this tract is 2,459 square miles, and the population 368,000, or half the total population of the district. Even, however, in the remaining part of the district, including the rich plain of 1,111 miles (population 244,270) known as the Haveli, the bad rabi crops of the two years 1894 and 1895 have much reduced the circumstances of the people, and here, as elsewhere, general high prices must cause distress among the poor. The total affected area is thus identical with the whole area of the district, and covers 3,909 square miles, with a population of 748,000.

Turning next to the scheme of relief which has been adopted for this district, it may be observed that the failure of the kharif crop in the parts of the district where distress had previously been most severe, made it necessary to anticipate the opening of large works by some more summary methods of relief, and, at the conference held at Jubbulpore in the beginning of November last, the Commissioner was authorised to open relief-centres at the more important villages throughout the affected tracts. The object of these centres, as explained in Revenue Department Letter, No. 4950, dated the 11th December 1896, was to relieve starving wanderers by the provision of food, and, by arranging for local labour of a not too arduous kind in the immediate neighbourhood of each centre, to enable such of them as had, owing to hunger and weakness, been rendered temporarily incapable of sustained work to regain their strength. As soon as they were considered strong enough they were to be passed on to large works under the stricter supervision of the Public Works Department. In the special circumstances of the Jubbulpore Division, where, as has just been noted, the failure of the autumn crops fell with especial severity on a population previously reduced by two years of scanty harvests, this method of relief proved most useful. The simple mechanism of the relief-centres allowed of their being opened promptly; while the starting of large relief works and the organization of village relief would necessarily have taken some

time. They were started during November; were at once largely resorted to, and are now in operation at 16 places throughout the affected tracts (*viz.*, at six places in the Jubbulpore Tahsil, five in Sehora, and five in Murwara).

The Chief Commissioner took an early opportunity of pointing out that these relief-centres were essentially of a provisional nature, and that when once village relief had been effectively organised and sufficient works opened, the necessity for them would largely disappear. In a recent circular letter dealing generally with gratuitous relief (*vide* paragraph 3 of Circular Letter, No. 214, dated the 15th January 1897, copy enclosed*), he has again laid stress on this point, which he regards as one of much importance. In addition to the 16 relief-centres, there are poor-houses at the three tahsil head-quarters, and at Katangi, on the northern road to Damoh, where the Chief Commissioner, on a recent visit, found a large number of people from the Native States of Bundelkhand, and from the North-West Provinces, many of them in a very emaciated condition.

For those able to work, seven large works under the Public Works Department, all road works, have been started, and it was believed until recently that these would suffice to provide work for all who needed it, at a not too great distance from their homes. The numbers on works, owing largely to extensive immigration from the Native States of the Baghelkhand Agency, have, however, during the last few weeks, risen very rapidly, especially in the northern or Murwara tahsil. The district has now been divided into two sub-divisional charges; it is intended shortly to form a third, and a number of large works will be increased to keep pace with the constant flow of applicants for labour which has to be dealt with. The Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway also provides work for large numbers of the able-bodied. A scheme of subsidiary local works, to be partly carried out from Government funds, and partly with the aid of the special famine loans recently sanctioned by the Government of India, is now being elaborated, and numerous works of this kind, at convenient centres, will be started as soon as possible. Three tanks have already been begun. For the hill and forest tract in the south-west corner of the district arrangements have been made to construct three tanks and a forest road through the agency of the Forest Department.

The bulk of the people on the works are agricultural and other labourers, and some of the smaller cultivators. On the large works recently opened some of the better class of cultivators are to be found, but the Chief Commissioner considers that, unless a really adequate task is exacted, and a bare subsistence wage given, there will, even in the absence of any acute distress, be numbers of agriculturists willing and ready, at a season when there is no field work, to add to their scanty means by coming on Government works. As the exaction of task work grows more systematic, and when field work again begins, the numbers of workers drawn from these classes will in all probability rapidly fall off. Cases of emaciation are rare on the works, the main signs of poverty being inadequate and ragged clothing, but in the poor-houses, and at relief-centres, there are numerous very bad cases. Most of these are, however, beggars or pilgrims who only come on relief as the last resource when alms or food are no longer procurable.

For the relief of the agricultural classes the whole of the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the most severely affected area. In the rest of the district from half to two-thirds of that instalment has been suspended.

It may be added that for the effective supervision of famine relief work in this district, a European officer has been placed in charge of each tahsil: a covenanted Assistant in each of two tahsils, and an Assistant District Superintendent of police in the third. A special medical officer has also, with the sanction of the Government of India, been appointed to superintend the medical and sanitary arrangements on all famine works and in poor-houses. Arrangements have now been made for the deputation of three more European supervising officers to cope with the rapidly increasing work, especially in the northern tahsil.

Village house-to-house relief has also been organised, as well as similar relief in towns, which will be arranged for by the municipal committees with the help of Government officers. For the relief of the respectable poor in the town of Jubbulpore itself, who are averse from coming forward to ask for Government aid, a special committee has been formed, which is carrying on operations with the aid of private funds.

A special difficulty in arranging for famine relief in this district has arisen from the large number of frequently emaciated immigrants from Native States, who swell the ranks of relief workers, and crowd into poor-houses and relief-centres. At the end of December no less than 83 per cent. of the inmates of the Murwara poor-house consisted of such immigrants, and there are similarly large numbers wherever measures of relief have been started. The Political Agent, Baghelkhand, has recently assured the Commissioner of

* Not reprinted.

the Division that adequate measures of relief have now been adopted in the Agency itself, and the Chief Commissioner trusts that the immigration may diminish. Of this, however, there is at present no symptom. Most of these wanderers arrive at the poor-houses and relief-centres in a very reduced state, and the frequent deaths among them have largely contributed to the high rates of mortality which have been such a serious feature of this district during the past months.

The reality and extent of the distress in Jubbulpore can best be gauged by a consideration of the aggregate numbers in receipt of relief since the beginning of December last. In the beginning of that month the total numbers were 12,829; by the middle of the month they had exceeded 20,000; and on the 26th stood at 42,000. Since then they have steadily and largely increased, the total numbers now in receipt of relief being over 90,000, or more than 12 per cent. of the total population of the district (= 748,000). The stoppage of immigration from Native States, and the harvest work which will be available in February and March in getting in the rabi harvest, should, however, diminish these numbers; while from April to June the free opening of the Government Forests will, if the mohwa crop is abundant, cause a still further fall. The bulk of the people who are in receipt of Government relief much prefer resorting to the jungle and living on mohwa and other edible forest produce, to the sustained labour of a famine-work, and the Chief Commissioner anticipates that here, as indeed in all districts where mohwa is plentiful, this will result in a marked falling off in the numbers in receipt of relief during the hot weather months. Indeed, if the crop is a full one, many will lay up stocks to last them through the early monsoon months, and will probably return to their homes until the autumn harvest can be reaped. In view of these considerations, Mr Lyall thinks that the numbers in receipt of relief will probably reach their maximum by the end of this month, and, including those in receipt of village house-to-house relief, he would estimate 70,000 as the average number who will need relief from the 1st February until the end of September, or say 17 million units.

With respect to rabi prospects, the outlook in the restricted area sown (now stated as two-thirds of the normal) was reported as good in my letter of December last. The further rain at the end of December, and during the current month, has still farther improved matters, and an out-turn of 11 annas is at present anticipated.

As regards prices, those of wheat and gram, the staple food-grains of the district, are slowly but steadily cheapening. At the beginning of December wheat stood at 8 and gram at 10. For the last three weeks wheat has stood at 9 and gram at 11. As the present prospects of the rabi become more assured, a further fall is probable; but here as elsewhere in the Central Provinces, the governing factor in prices is the prospect of the rabi harvest in Upper India, to which export of food grains is still going on from Jubbulpore. There is no cause for anxiety as to deficiency of food stocks in any part of this district.

4. In Saugor, the most seriously affected tracts lie along the south-western and south-eastern borders of the district, in the north-west corner, and in the Shahgarh pargana in the extreme north-east.

The early cessation of the monsoon confined rabi sowings to a third of the area of the previous year, while the kharif outturn has nowhere exceeded four annas: past years have been very bad, and the Chief Commissioner considers that there is no part of the district in which distress will not be felt. The whole area of the district, 4,007 square miles, with a population of 592,000, should therefore be treated as affected for the purposes of famine relief. The general circumstances of this district are similar to those of Jubbulpore, though there is less immigration from Native States. Here also relief-centres have been established at 10 places in the tracts most seriously affected; while, to meet the demand for work, four large road-works have been opened, one in each tahsil. Here, as also in Jubbulpore and Damoh, the extension of the Indian Midland Railway to Katni supplies labour for the able-bodied. As regards local works, it may be remarked that in this district there is but little scope for these, but the construction of three large tanks is proposed; while for the Khurai Tahsil, where acute and general distress exists, special famine loans are to be granted for the embankment and submersion of fields for the purpose of eradicating *kāns* grass. Poor-houses have been established at each of the four tahsil head quarters, and at Shahgarh, in the extreme north-east of the district. Village house-to-house relief has also been arranged for in all tahsils, and is now regularly distributed. The condition of the people on the works is reported to be fair, there being but few cases of emaciation. Relief workers are chiefly drawn from the labouring classes, but there are some tenants and a few petty landowners, co-sharers in small villages, on some of the works.

At the beginning of December there were 2,000 persons on relief works, and over 1,000 in receipt of gratuitous relief. By the end of that month the number of workers had reached 15,000, those in receipt of gratuitous relief having increased but slightly. Early in January there was a marked increase under both heads, and according to the latest returns there are nearly 27,000 on relief works, and nearly 13,000 in receipt of gratuitous relief. Two additional covenanted Assistants, and one Assistant Superintendent of police, have been appointed to supervise the famine charges into which the district is divided, and a special medical officer has, with the sanction of the Government of India, been placed in charge of all sanitary and medical arrangements connected with famine.

The forests in this district will not attract such large numbers as in Jubbulpore, nor will harvesting on the greatly restricted rabi area afford much labour. Moreover, immigrants are not numerous. The Chief Commissioner considers that no perceptible decrease in distress can be hoped for until the early autumn crops are reaped, and that we may expect to have from 25 to 30,000 people needing relief until the end of September. This would give, say, six million units for that period.

The rain in December and January has somewhat improved rabi prospects; but, as has been stated, the out-turn on the greatly restricted area must be so small that it cannot materially alter the situation.

The prices of the staples, wheat and gram, hardened in the latter part of December. They have now again fallen slightly, and are slightly cheaper than at the beginning of November, wheat being at $8\frac{1}{2}$ and gram at 10 seers per rupee.

There is still considerable export of grain to Upper India from this district, which points to stocks still being available, but if there is a good rabi harvest in the North-Western Provinces, and in the remaining wheat districts of these Provinces, this will, no doubt, later on give place to extensive import. No insufficiency of food supplies is anticipated by the local officers.

5. The Chief Commissioner's personal observation in the Damoh District, and the further and fuller reports which have reached him since my letter of December 16th was written, have convinced him that the account of the situation in that district, at the end of paragraph 8 of that letter, gave an unduly favourable impression of the present condition and prospects of this part of the Province. The rabi crop of 1894 was an utter failure; that of 1895 was little better, while the early cessation of the autumn rains of 1895 gave an equally scanty harvest in the spring of 1896. The kharif crop of 1895 was scarcely better than the rabi; and while this crop in the present year was, in the southern tahsil, somewhat better than that of 1895, it was almost an utter failure in the north, where the people are very poor; and are almost entirely dependent for food on rice, juari, and the lesser millets. The proportion of the rabi area sown was also considerably over-estimated by the local officers in their report of December, and it is now certain that the sowings do not cover more than half of last year's area. The successive calamities of past year's have exhausted the resources both of tenants and malguzars, and the district will need very careful treatment if it is to recover the prosperity which it formerly enjoyed.

For the period from the middle of August to the beginning of November, owing to casualties among officers in the Jubbulpore Division, the district was unavoidably placed in charge of a young and inexperienced officer, who could not be expected fully to read and understand the signs of distress. It is true that such distress as existed has certainly grown rapidly worse since the failure of the autumn crops declared itself, but even before that time it must have been considerable. The condition of this district previous to the failure of September has been set forth in paragraphs 14, 18, and 19 of the Chief Commissioner's Resolution, No. 574, dated the 1st instant, dealing with the proceedings of 1895 and 1896 in regard to famine in the Jubbulpore Division, to which I am to refer the Government of India. The Deputy Commissioner now in charge of Damoh has had previous experience of the district as Settlement Officer, and the Chief Commissioner is confident that everything that is necessary is now being done.

It was formerly reported that the distressed area was confined to the south and south-west of the district, and to the north of the Hatta Tahsil. No doubt these are the areas where the scarcity is most severe; but, for the purpose of famine relief, the Chief Commissioner considers that the whole district, which extends over 2,831 square miles, with a population of 326,000 persons, should be regarded as distressed. Here also relief centres have been opened at seven places in the most distressed tracts; three large road works have been started, two in the north and the third in the south, and nine local works are in progress. There are poor-houses at the two tahsil head-quarters, and at two other places on main roads from the west and south, which are much frequented by

wanderers. A scheme of local works, to be undertaken partly from Government funds and partly with the aid of special famine loans, is being worked out for those tracts where no scope for large works exists, and house-to-house relief in villages has been organised. It may be added that, for the able-bodied, abundant work is provided in the construction of the Saugor-Katni extension of the Indian Midland Railway. The general condition of the people on the works is reported as low, many of the able-bodied having gone to work on the railway. The bulk of those in receipt of relief are labourers, but there are a few petty landholders, co-sharers in small villages, and a sprinkling of tenants. Relief has been given to the agricultural classes by the entire remission of the kharif instalment of land revenue throughout the district.

The numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, which stood at under 6,000 in the middle of December, rose to over 12,000 by the end of that month and now considerably exceeds 20,000. In considering these numbers it must be remembered that the population of this district is only half that of Jubbulpore, and that a large number of persons find employment on the railway. Even, however, after allowing for this, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that the maximum number has yet been reached, and thinks that, after making the necessary deductions for withdrawals, owing to the possibilities of getting food in the forests, and to harvest and other field labour becoming available, provision should be made for about 20,000 people from February to the end of September, or (say) $4\frac{1}{2}$ million units in all. The prospects of the rabi on the area sown are at present fair to good, and an average crop is expected in most parts of the district.

The prices of the staple food grains, wheat and gram, are much the same as in Saugor, and have shown only slight fluctuations since the beginning of November. They then stood at eight and ten seers per rupee respectively. Their present price is $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 10. Owing to there being no railway to Damoh import is difficult during the rains, and prices tend to rise towards and during the monsoon months. But with good rabi harvests in Upper India, general prices should fall considerably during March and April, and a considerable import may be expected. Scarcity of food grains is not anticipated, but here, as also in Saugor, and probably in Jubbulpore, large advances will be necessary for the purchase of seed-grain.

6. In Seoni there is no such general distress as in the three districts which have just been dealt with. The crops of 1893-94 yielded 71 per cent. of a full crop; those of 1894-95, 63 per cent.; while it was only in 1895-96 that both kharif and rabi were poor. In 1896 some 40 per cent. of the normal rabi area remained in the first instance unsown; but after the rains of November further sowings became possible, and the area now under spring crops is not, it is estimated, much short of the area sown in the previous year.

It is thus only in the Lakhnadon or northern tahsil, and a comparatively small tract in the south-east of the Seoni or southern tahsil, where the people are almost entirely dependent on the out-turn of the autumn crops, that any acute distress is anticipated. The affected area extends to 1,766 square miles, with a population of 200,000, or 54 per cent. of the total population of the district.

For purposes of relief there are three large road works, under the supervision of the Public Works Department; two in the Lakhnadon or northern tahsil, the other traversing the distressed tract of the southern tahsil. There are also six relief centres, four in the northern and two in the southern tahsil. Smaller local works have also been started at ten places, and there are two poor-houses at the two tahsil head-quarters. The question of house-to-house relief in villages has been considered, but it was decided that no such measure is yet needed. Three forest roads are being constructed as relief works; one in the southern tahsil, and two in the north-east and north-west respectively of the northern tahsil.

Throughout the affected area the forests have been opened to the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, fruits and head-loads of grass and fuel.

One of the large works was recently inspected by the Chief Commissioner, and he did not observe a single case of emaciation. Most of the workers were labourers and petty cultivators, not, as yet, in actual distress, but very glad, in this period of high prices and absence of demand for labour, to earn a regular daily wage. Even in the poor-houses cases of emaciation were not frequent, and with good harvests in the current year the Chief Commissioner does not think that this district will give cause for serious anxiety. It may be added that the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the affected area.

The numbers in receipt of relief rose from 2,000 in the beginning of December to nearly 4,000 at the close of that month. In the beginning of January they reached 6,500, then decreased to something over 4,000, and have now again risen to over 7,000. Looking at the present excellent prospects of the rabi crop in the greater part of the southern or Seoni Tahsil, the Chief Commissioner does not think that a monthly average of more than 5,000 need be provided for, and he would fix the figure for this district for the period 1st February to 30th September at, say, one million units.

Rabi prospects are at present good. As already indicated, the greater part of the normal rabi area has been sown, and both the early and late sown crops are doing well. In his recent journey from Seoni to Chhindwara the Chief Commissioner passed through village after village of splendid wheat land where the cultivators freely admitted that they looked forward to a full crop. Unfortunately, after he left the district, on the 21st January, a destructive hail-storm visited a portion of this tract and did some, though local, damage to the nearly ripe wheat. The estimated rabi out-turn for the whole district is not less than 12 annas.

The prices of food-grain reflect the state of the crops. Rice, of which the harvest was very poor, remained nearly steady since the beginning of November at 10 seers the rupee and has only recently fallen to nine seers, while wheat has gone down from just over eight to 10 seers per rupee. As the prospects of the rabi become more assured the price of wheat will probably show a still further fall, and no anxiety need be felt as to the sufficiency of food stocks in this district.

7. As regards Mandla, it was pointed out in paragraph 6 of my previous letter that the situation here was serious. The autumn crops of 1896 were practically an utter failure, and both the kharif and rabi of the previous year were poor. More than half of the population are aborigines who are altogether without resources, and the number of mohwa trees is not sufficiently large in Mandla to warrant our anticipating from that source so much relief as in the three northern districts of the division. Moreover, it is generally believed that the aboriginal population are especially averse to leaving their homes for Government works.

The whole district may be considered as distressed in a greater or less degree, and, except in a small tract in the north and west, in and around Mandla itself, the distress is acute. The distressed area thus extends to 5,056 square miles, with a population of 339,000 persons. To meet the peculiar circumstances of the district, and with regard to the large extent of the distressed area, it has been thought advisable to have more numerous relief centres than were found necessary elsewhere, and the number at present open is 17. There are also four large road works under the Public Works Department and two local works under civil officers, as well as three forest roads in those tracts where other modes of relief are not possible. There are poor-houses at both the tahsil headquarters, and house-to-house relief in villages is now being rapidly organized.

It is further expected that a large number of local works of improvement will be carried out with the aid of special famine loans, and the construction of 10 tanks as local famine works from Government funds has already been sanctioned.

The whole district has now been divided into four famine charges, two for each tahsil, a responsible officer of the rank of tahsildar being placed in charge of each. A European Assistant Superintendent of police has also been posted to Mandla to assist in the supervision of famine works.

The Chief Commissioner inspected one of the large Public Works Department works, and also visited a relief centre and the Mandla poor-house. The average condition of the aboriginal population of Mandla is at no time good, their food being scanty and frequently unwholesome. The recent bad times have made matters worse, and the condition of the people generally is poor. Starving wanderers are not, however, often met with, nor are cases of actual emaciation at all frequent, except in poor-houses. Meanwhile all is being done that can be done, and the adequacy of the arrangements made was gratefully acknowledged by the people during the Chief Commissioner's recent visit to Mandla.

The numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, which were just over 5,000 at the beginning of December, had reached nearly 8,000 by the end of that month. Numbers are still steadily rising, and have now reached 15,000. Harvest labour may give employment to some, but the rabi area in the affected tracts is so small that this will not perceptibly diminish numbers. On the other hand, the local officers believe that many more will flock on to the works as soon as they become fully known, and they consider that numbers will go on rising, with possibly some slight fluctuations at harvest time, until the early monsoon crops are reaped. The Chief Commissioner thinks,

therefore, that 30,000 should be taken as the daily average from 1st February to 30th September, giving a total for that period of 7½ million units.

The present prospects of the rabi crops are excellent, and have been much improved by the showers of December and January. But, as already remarked, the out-turn of these crops cannot materially affect the general situation.

Prices here are rising. At the beginning of November the prices of the staple grains (wheat and rice) were 10 and 11 seers per rupee respectively. They now stand at nine and eight seers, and food stocks are reported to be very scanty. The attention of the Commissioner has been already drawn to the correspondence regarding the import of grain into Bengal which was forwarded with your letter No. 4-F., dated the 6th January 1897, and he has been asked to consider whether any special arrangements may be needed later on for the supply of food-grains in Mandla. The inaccessible character of a great part of this district, the absence of local traders, the poverty of the people, and the fact that there are no local food stocks, make it not improbable that Government help in some shape will be needed to secure a due supply of food-grains during the rains. At present there is no reason to fear failure of supply so long as the people are put in funds by the opening of a sufficient number of relief works. The measures necessary for supply during the monsoon months will, no doubt, need anxious and careful consideration, but for this there is ample time.

8. Summarizing the situation in the Jubbulpore Division, it may be said that the whole division, with the exception of the southern half of Seoni, is affected by distress, and that the affected area extends over 17,569 square miles, with a population of 2,205,000. On the 23rd January 154,580 persons, or seven per cent. of this population, were in receipt of Government relief, and up to the 30th September, up to which date a continuance of Government relief measures will be necessary in all parts of the affected area, it may be estimated that 31 million units will need relief.

9. In the Nagpur Division it is only in three districts that distress now exists otherwise than quite locally, and in only one of these, Balaghat, is the distress general or acute. From Chanda no distress is reported except in the remote zamindari of Ambagarh Chauki, in the north-west of the district, and bordering on the Nandgaon Feudatory State. In Wardha, where a poor-house was opened and a test work started, it was found that only a few immigrants from other districts came to the poor-house, and that the demand for work at the famine wage was very small. The poor-house has accordingly been closed, and the work will be continued as an ordinary work. In view of the good out-turn of juari, which in this district covers nearly half the kharif area, and with a favourable rabi, of which there now seems every hope, there will probably be but little need for further direct famine relief here.

In Nagpur the greater part of the district gives no cause for anxiety, but there is a demand for labour and some degree of scarcity among the poorer classes in two small tracts in the north-west, two similar small tracts in the south-east, and a somewhat larger area in the north-east corner of the district. There is, further, some distress, owing to high prices and absence of demand for labour, among the poorer classes of the town population of Nagpur and Kamptee, especially among the labourers and weavers. The affected area, as so defined, may be estimated at 524 square miles, with a population, taking only 10 per cent. of the population of Nagpur City as affected, of 95,500 people.

As regards measures of relief, there are poor-houses at Nagpur and Kamptee, with an average population, during December, of nearly 1,800 persons, more than three-fourths of whom were women and children. Works (stone-breaking and earthwork), one under municipal supervision and the rest under Public Works Department supervision, were started during December at six places, five in the Nagpur Tahsil and one near Umrer in the south-east. At first sufficient strictness in the exaction of a task was not shown, and numbers rapidly rose to over 5,000. Under more systematic management numbers have steadily gone down, and there are at present only a little over 2,000 on the works. Rupees 25,000 were granted last December for land improvement loans. A certain amount of labour is thus provided. Neither relief centres nor village house-to-house relief have been found necessary, and a recent careful report by the Deputy Commissioner, based on personal observation of the distressed tracts in the north-west and north-east, shows that there is, as yet, no wandering and no cases of emaciation. All that he considers to be needed is sufficient work for those who are fit for labour, and, in the more remote parts, the opening of the forests to the extraction of edible products. Rabi prospects in this district are at present good; the price of the staple food (juar), which in the beginning of November stood at 11 seers per rupee, went down in the first half of January to 15 seers, and it is now selling at 13½ seers per rupee. After allowing for

harvest labour and relief in the wilder tracts by the opening of the forests, the Chief Commissioner doubts whether, after February, there will be any necessity for relief works, except on a limited scale, and in those parts of the district where the people are mainly dependent on the out-turn of the autumn crops. Even, however, if a high estimate be taken, he does not think that provision need be made for more than an average of 2,000 a day or, say, half a million units between February 1st and the end of September.

10. The situation in Bhandara, though even there distress is by no means general, is more serious than that of Nagpur. The whole of the northern half of the district, with an area of 1,750 square miles and a population of 390,000, may be regarded as more or less affected by scarcity, though acute distress is confined to a track of about 500 square miles in the extreme north-east, bordering on Balaghat and north of the railway line. This particular part of the district is, however, it should be observed, more thickly peopled than any other, and has a population of 165,000 persons.

Besides poor-houses at the tahsil head-quarters of Bhandara and Sakoli, at Tumsar, a municipal town, and at Gondia, on the northern road to Balaghat, there are four large road works under the Public Works Department distributed throughout the affected area. After careful discussion it has been decided that neither relief centres nor village relief are, as yet, necessary; though the police and village mukaddams have had special orders issued to them with regard to the dieting and forwarding to poor-houses or relief works of starving wanderers.

A number of local works are being undertaken by malguzars either with their own funds or with the aid of takavi loans, and the Deputy Commissioner estimates that at the close of December these were giving employment to 2,000 persons.

In December last a grant of Rs. 25,000 was made for land improvement loans, and this is now being supplemented in the more distressed tracts by an allotment from the grant for famine loans. This will supply useful village labour, for which in this district ample scope exists in the construction of irrigation tanks. The Deputy Commissioner inspected all the works and the greater part of the distressed area during December and again in January. He found the condition of the people to be but little below normal, the few cases of emaciation being those of residents of Balaghat, who had gone to Berar for harvest labour and were returning thence without having obtained it. The forests of this district have already been opened to the free extraction of fruits, mohwa, and edible roots. Free grazing has also been sanctioned to all except Banjaras, Gaolis and professional cattle dealers. The numbers in receipt of relief in this district have fluctuated considerably—a result largely due to the fact that before work was fully organised strict tasks were not exacted. Even after the introduction of systematic tasks, however, the numbers now exceed 10,000, as compared with 4,600 at the beginning of December.

The rabi area is 37 per cent. of the total cropped area, and nearly all of it has been sown. Harvest labour will thus give employment to considerable numbers, while the opening of the jungles will give relief during the hot weather months. Still, looking at the fact that the affected area is chiefly a rice tract, and that the crops of the past three years have been bad, there will probably be considerable distress until the end of September. Estimating the average monthly number at 6,000 per diem, the Chief Commissioner thinks that provision should be made for the relief of 1½ million units up to the end of September.

The staple food in this district is common rice, and it grew steadily, though slowly, cheaper from the end of November until the middle of January; since when it has again risen. In the middle of November it was selling at 8½ seers per rupee; it is now being sold at 10 seers. No scarcity of food stocks need be anticipated in any part of this district.

11. It is in the Balaghat district that the distress is most general and severe in the Nagpur division. The rice crop, which is the main food-grain of the district, was a complete failure; the lesser millets also yielded badly, and the rabi area, always unimportant in this district, was still further diminished this year owing to the early failure of the monsoon rains. The general situation of the district and the area and intensity of distress are well described by the Deputy Commissioner as follows:—

“The distress is universal throughout the district, but varies from village to village. For the inhabitants of a few villages where the rice out-turn is well above the average of the district, or the malguzar is well off and does his duty by his tenants, no measures of relief will be necessary. Villages of this kind are, however, very few and scattered, and it may therefore be said that relief-works are

necessary over the whole district, that is, they should be accessible to the distressed tenants and labourers of every village.

“The uplands (*i.e.*, the Northern or Behir Tahsil) are worse off than the lowlands, both in the out-turn of the crop and as respects the number of resident capitalists, but they are thinly populated, whereas in the lowland tracts the population is as dense as in any part of the Central Provinces. The poorest part of the district is the eastern half of the Behir or northern tahsil. Tanks are fewer and the cultivators less intelligent. The harvest has been a greater failure there than in any part of the district, and special efforts will have to be made to prevent the whole tract relapsing into waste, the tenants being of migratory habits.”

The whole district, covering an area of 3,139 square miles with a population of 383,000, must thus be regarded as affected by scarcity; the northern tahsil, where distress is most severe, having an area of 909 miles with a population of 87,000, chiefly aborigines. To provide relief for this district four large road works have been started under the supervision of the Public Works Department; two in the northern, with three relief camps on one of them, and two in the southern tahsil, while two tanks have been excavated in the northern tahsil under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner. Some 6,000 people are now being employed on these works. There are also poor-houses at Balaghat and Behir.

Early in December a special grant of Rs. 35,000 was made for land improvement loans in this district, and a further considerable allotment will be made from the grant of five lakhs recently sanctioned by the Government of India for famine loans. There is ample scope in this district for tank work, only 31 per cent. of the rice area being protected by irrigation, and local works will be particularly useful here, especially in the northern tahsil, as tending to keep a naturally migratory population in their villages.

In the northern tahsil the opening of the jungles to the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, and fruits will afford much relief during the hot weather months, and will probably considerably diminish the pressure on the famine works until the monsoon breaks.

The physical condition of the largely aboriginal population of the Behir or northern tahsil where distress is most severe is never very satisfactory, and is especially low in times of scarcity, such as have to be dealt with at present. Cases of emaciation are frequently met with both in the poor-houses and on the works, and it is probable that house-to-house relief in villages will have to be organised almost immediately.

The situation here, indeed, is very similar to that of Mandla, and similar precautions and similar sustained and careful supervision will be needed in both cases.

The numbers in receipt of relief have so far shown no marked fluctuations. Early in December they reached 5,000, and it is only recently that they have exceeded 6,000. The decrease during the last few weeks is nominal only, as it is due to a transfer of Balaghat workers to work within the Bhandara border.

In this as in other tracts where the distress results from a failure of the autumn crops, and where the rabi area is inconsiderable, distress must, however, grow more severe with each succeeding week, and, even allowing for the opening of the forests in the hot weather months, the Chief Commissioner does not consider that it would be safe to estimate for less than a daily average of at least 10,000 persons, or, say, 2½ million units from 1st February up to the end of September.

The price of common rice, which is the staple food here, remained steady from the beginning of November to the middle of January at 9 seers per rupee. During the last two weeks it has again risen, but with a good rabi harvest throughout Upper India, and allowing for large imports of rice from Burma, there may be a slight fall later on, and, in any case, no further rise is probable until the rains. In the monsoon months, however, transport, especially to the remote uplands of Behir, will become difficult; prices will certainly rise, and it may here, as in Mandla, be necessary that Government should step in to secure a supply of food grains where private agency fails. There is still, however, ample time to consider this question, and private trade will not be interfered with unless such a course be found absolutely necessary to provide food for the people.

12. Summing up the situation in the Nagpur Division, it may be said that the area affected by scarcity is 5,413 square miles, with a population of 868,000 persons. The numbers in receipt of Government relief on the 23rd January amounted to 15,884 persons, or nearly 2 per cent. of the population of the distressed area. It is only, however, in Balaghat, and, though certainly to a less degree, in the north-east of Bhandara, an area of 3,639 square miles, with a population of 548,000 persons, that

distress is severe. The numbers for whom relief will have to be provided up to the end of September may be estimated at $4\frac{1}{2}$ million units.

13. In the Nerbudda Division it may be said, generally, that there is a keen demand for labour, but no severe local distress, except among the aboriginal tribes of Hoshangabad (Gonds and Korkus), in the Chhindwara Jagirs, a tract of 1,600 square miles to the north of the district of that name, and in the west and north of Betul. There is also, as must be expected, considerable distress everywhere among the infirm and aged poor whom the hard times deprive of their usual alms.

In Hoshangabad the affected area consists practically of the whole of the two eastern tahsils, Hoshangabad and Sahagpur, the southern and northern borders of the two western tahsils and the Charwa pargana in the extreme east. In all these areas, kharif predominates over rabi, and this crop was, in the current year, generally very poor. Acute local distress is not yet reported, except in the hill and forest areas in the south and south-west, but there is a keen demand for labour at the famine wage, and cases of emaciated wanderers are to be found among the inmates of poor-houses, and among the aboriginal Gonds and Korkus who only come on Government works when forced by absolute destitution to do so. The affected area, as described above, extends over 3,794 square miles, with a population of 375,000, amounting to 70 per cent. of the total population of the district.

The shape of the district is long and narrow, and the demand for labour has been met by opening work under the supervision of the Public Works Department on five lengths of road, running, roughly speaking, north and south, four being in the two eastern tahsils, and one in the north of the western tahsil. The only part not yet provided for is the south-west corner, but this is a tract of hill and forest sparsely inhabited by Gonds and Korkus. A proposal is however under consideration for opening a forest road through this tract, and also for opening work under the supervision of the Public Works Department on the road joining the head quarters of the Betul District, with the western tahsil of Hoshangabad.

Here, and indeed throughout the distressed areas of the province, the police have received stringent orders to direct and forward distressed wanderers to the nearest poor-house or relief work, and similar instructions have been issued under Section 33 of the Central Provinces Famine Code to village mukaddams. Special concessions with regard to the rate on bamboos and articles made from bamboos have been made to relieve the forest tribes, and free grazing has been allowed to agriculturists. The realization of the kharif instalment of land revenue has been suspended throughout the two eastern tahsils, discretion being given to the Deputy Commissioner to suspend elsewhere in cases where he thinks this necessary. Poor-houses have been opened at Hoshangabad and Sahagpur. On the occasion of its inspection by the Chief Commissioner in December, nearly half the inmates of the Hoshangabad poor-house were found to be immigrants from Bhopal, and the condition of the remainder did not strike him as indicating any widespread or acute distress in the district. The general condition of the labourers on one of the large works, also inspected by Mr. Lyall in December, was distinctly good, and the same observation has been made by local officers who have inspected other works. The observation in the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, Circular No. 3-F, dated the 24th January 1896, that "at any time when work is slack, thousands of labourers will be attracted by a Government work on which remunerative employment is offered," appears to the Chief Commissioner to be applicable to a great part of Hoshangabad. Many of the labourers come for a few days, earn a rupee or two, and then return to their homes, and it is probable that a considerable number of those who come on to the works are not actually in need of famine relief, and would not suffer perceptibly if the relief were to be withdrawn. In other cases, more especially where work is provided near the homes of the aborigines, who even when pressed by hunger are most reluctant to leave their villages, the urgent need of relief is very clearly apparent from the low condition of the workers, and any contraction of work would at once result in a great increase of suffering, and probable mortality. The question of relief centres and village relief has been carefully considered for this district, but it has been decided that neither of these measures is as yet necessary. Here as elsewhere, however, village relief will be started in all localities where the circumstances of the bulk of the people are so reduced as to make it impossible for them to support the helpless resident poor.

The prospects of the rabi crop, which covers three-fourths of the whole cropped area, have been improved by the rain of December, but are still far from good. In the rich wheat tract of the western (Harda) tahsil, the out-turn is not estimated by the Deputy Commissioner, who has recently inspected the crops, at more than six annas, and the

prospects elsewhere, except in the central portion of one tahsil (Seoni), are similar. It is noticed, indeed generally, that the rain of December and January has done most good to the later sown crops, while those which were sown early in the hardened soil of October have been much less benefited.

The numbers in receipt of relief, which, at the beginning of December were under 8,000, had exceeded 23,000 by the end of that month, and have now reached 36,000. These numbers will doubtless be reduced when the rabi comes to be reaped, and when the mohwa crop gives food to the aboriginal population. A stricter insistence on the performance of an adequate task ought also, in the special circumstances of parts of the district, to tend materially to diminish numbers on some of the works. On the other hand, the Deputy Commissioner anticipates that there will be the usual immigration of labourers from the Satpura districts for the rabi harvest, and that in consequence of the restricted sowings and scanty crops of this year they will find but little employment, and will consequently swell the numbers on Government works. In view of all these considerations, it will be advisable, Mr. Lyall thinks, to make provision for a daily average of, say 25,000 people for the period ending 30th September, giving an aggregate of, say 6,000,000 units for these eight months.

The prices of juar and wheat, which are the staple food grains of this district, have shown frequent though slight fluctuations, but both grains are now a seer per rupee cheaper than they were in the first half of December. The good crop of jua in the Nagpur Division, if it is later on combined with a good rabi harvest in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, should, moreover, materially cheapen both these food grains, and with the facilities of communication which this district possesses there is no reason to fear either insufficiency of food stocks or unduly high prices.

14. The situation and circumstances of the Narsinghpur district are in the main similar to those of Hoshangabad. Here also a scanty autumn crop has followed on three previous poor years, and the poorer classes, who depend largely on the kharif, and who for the last three years have been deprived to a considerable extent of their usual harvest earnings in the spring, are in want of food and work.

The affected area consists of a belt of hill and jungle skirting the northern and southern borders of the district, with a narrow strip on the western border running from north to south. The inhabitants of the villages on the banks of the Nerbudda towards the centre of the district are also said to be feeling the effects of a series of bad years. Even, however, in the richer central plain, there is some degree of distress among the labourers and poorer cultivators, and a keen demand for work. The Deputy Commissioner now considers that the whole district should be regarded as more or less affected by scarcity. The extent of the affected area is thus 1,916 square miles, with a population of 367,000 persons.

A careful and interesting report on the situation and prospects of this district has recently been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Younghusband), and I am to submit it, together with the forwarding letter of the Commissioner of the Division, for the information of the Government of India.

The scheme of relief here is similar to that adopted in Hoshangabad, and consists of five road works under the supervision of the Public Works Department, chiefly feeder lines running north and south to the railway. Two of these are in the western and three in the eastern tahsil. Neither in this district nor in Hoshangabad is there any scope for local works. There are three poor-houses, two at the tahsil head quarters, and the other at Chhota-Chhindwara (or Ghotigaon) on the railway line to the east of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reports that he is now organising village house-to-house relief, but he has not yet submitted his detailed proposals. It seems unlikely that relief of this kind will be needed except in isolated localities where the circumstances of the inhabitants have been especially reduced. So far, the dieting of starving wanderers by the police and village mukaddams has been found sufficient. The forest concessions made in Hoshangabad with regard to bamboos, articles manufactured from bamboos, and free grazing, have been extended to this district also. The condition of the people on the works and in the affected area generally is reported to be normal. Wandering has not begun, and cases of emaciation are, except among the inmates of the poorhouses, rare. From the notes of inspecting officers which have reached him, the Chief Commissioner is inclined to think that the remarks which he has made with regard to a certain proportion of the classes in receipt of relief in Hoshangabad apply here also. Of the large numbers who come on to the works a good many are not yet in actual distress,

and a careful localisation of works in areas actually distressed, and a steady insistence on an adequate task, are no less necessary here than in that district.

The Chief Commissioner has recently visited the Narsinghpur district. His experience is that there is considerably less distress here than in Hoshangabad. He inspected two large works, but did not observe, except in a few cases, any symptoms of previous privation. There are, however, numerous small cultivators on the works both here and in Hoshangabad who, if labour were not provided, would speedily sink into utter destitution. The same remark applies with even greater force to the large bodies of agricultural and other labourers who throng to the works.

The rabi prospects on the restricted area sown, which is now estimated at about half of the normal, have been somewhat improved by the rain of December and January, and are now reported to be fairly good, though recent hailstorms have caused considerable damage locally.

The numbers in receipt of relief have, in this district, risen very rapidly. At the beginning of December the total just reached 1,000; by the end of that month it exceeded 8,000; and the latest returns show over 20,000 in receipt of Government relief.

The Chief Commissioner does not consider that these numbers will be very materially exceeded. Harvest labour may lessen them for a time, and the lower range of prices which a good rabi crop in the North-Western Provinces and Punjab may be expected to bring with it will also tend to relieve distress. There must, however, be a good deal of suffering among the poorer classes, who live in tracts mainly cropped with kharif, until the kodo, kutki and makka are once more reaped in August and September, while even on the rabi area the poor harvests of past years, combined with restricted sowings and a scanty crop in the current year, must continue to cause considerable distress. The Chief Commissioner would therefore be inclined to estimate for a daily average of about 20,000 persons until the end of September, and thinks that provision should be made for say five million units for that period.

Prices here have been steadier than in Hoshangabad: juar now sells at 11 seers per rupee against 9 seers in the beginning of November, while wheat and gram have remained steady at 9 and 10 seers per rupee for the last six weeks.

15. In the Nimar district there has so far been even less distress than was anticipated. A number of the weavers in the town of Burhanpur have been thrown out of work by the absence of demand for cloth, but this is probably as much due to the fact that the current year is a "*singhas*" year, when no marriages are celebrated, as to any effect of scarcity. Juar, it is true, which is the staple crop of the district, yielded only half of a full outturn, but the crops of the three previous years were above the average, and no distress is reported among the agricultural classes in either the central (Khandwa) or western (Burhanpur) tahsil. In the Harsud or eastern tahsil (till October last a portion of Hoshangabad), where the crops of previous years had been bad, distress was anticipated among the aboriginal tribes, of whom the population largely consists, but a test work which has now been open for some time has failed to attract more than a small number of workers.

It will probably suffice for the present to provide a local relief work at Burhanpur, and to relieve out-of-work weavers (if they can be induced to accept such relief) under Section 105 of the Central Provinces Famine Code: to have a poor-house at Khandwa, and to keep open the test work in the Harsud or eastern tahsil. The police have also been provided with funds for the relief of starving wanderers. The Chief Commissioner visited the Khandwa poor-house on the 1st instant. The persons contained in it, some 60 in number, were almost without exception foreigners from Bhopal, Indore, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and a few from other districts of the Central Provinces; many of them had come as pilgrims to Nasik and Onkar Mandhata, and had spent their funds on the way. He has also seen Burhanpur, where the poor-house was practically empty. So far, no part of this district can be regarded as affected by scarcity, and it will merely be treated as under observation.

16. It was stated in paragraph 4 of my previous letter of December that the Chhindwara district as a whole gave but little cause for serious anxiety, though special measures of relief would be needed for the 1,600 square miles of rugged country on the north known as the Jagirs. Since then prospects in the southern or Sausar tahsil, as well as in all the level portion of the northern tahsil, have been still further improved by the rain of December and January, and the present prospects of the spring crops are said by the people—and Mr. Lyall's personal observation confirms this view—to be excellent. After considering the full and careful reports of the officiating Deputy Commissioner

(Mr. Ryves), a copy of which, with the Chief Commissioner's remarks and orders thereon, is submitted for the information of the Government of India, and after a visit to the district, the Chief Commissioner thinks that the only tracts where Government relief will be necessary are the Jagirs to the north, the Amarwara Pargana immediately bordering on the Jagirs to the east, and a tract of hilly country, also bordering on the Jagirs, to the west. The extent of the affected area, as thus defined, is some 2,000 miles, with a population of 135,000, or one-third of the total population of the district.

The measures of relief proposed for this district fell under two heads (*a*) relief works proper and (*b*) the special measures of relief which have been found necessary to meet the peculiar circumstances of the Jagirs. The main relief works for the Jagirs are two roads, running north-west and north-east from Chhindwara respectively, and two large tanks, one paid for from estate funds and carried out as an ordinary work for able-bodied people, and a second which is to be carried out as a famine work on the principles adopted for works executed with the aid of famine loans. All these works are now in progress. Other similar tanks are being arranged for by the Jagirdars themselves. For the tracts south of the Jagirs, local works with the aid of famine loans are to be at once arranged for in the east, while to the west an existing road to Betul is to be improved from district council funds, the work being carried out on famine-code principles.

The partial failure of the mohwa crop of 1896, coupled with the scanty outturn of kodo and kujki last autumn, has already reduced numbers of the resourceless aborigines who inhabit the Jagirs to so great an extent as to make them incapable of work until they have, for a time, been fed and looked after. To provide for such cases the Jagirs have been divided into four relief circles, with 15 relief centres in charge of patwaris and other local officials, where gratuitous relief in kind will be given to those who are unfit for work. The necessity for these arrangements will diminish as those who have been incapacitated by hunger regain their strength, and will probably altogether cease with the ripening of the mohwa crop in March and April, provided, that is, that this crop is a good one. Apart from these special measures for the Jagirs, poor-houses have been established at the head-quarters of the district, and at the chief village of the Amarwara tract to the east and immediately under the Jagirs where distress has declared itself. The Chhindwara poor-house was inspected by Mr. Lyall. Cases of great emaciation were few, and neither the number nor the appearance of the inmates gave reasons for thinking that distress was either acute or widespread. The Government forests in this district had not previously been opened for the extraction of mohwa, edible roots and fruits, but this has now been arranged for. The Jagirs, however, which are mainly forest tracts in the private possession of the Jagirdars, have long been free to the aboriginal races which inhabit them. The relief which the forests afford is chiefly confined, it may be observed, to the hot weather months.

The numbers in receipt of relief in this district have until recently, when relief measures on the Jagirs have been fully organised, risen steadily, but not very rapidly. In the middle of December the total stood at about 1,000; by the 9th of January it was nearly 4,500, while recent returns show a total of more than 11,000. If, however, the mohwa crop yields well, and if the rabi harvests are as good as they now promise to be, they will give food, labour, and considerably cheaper prices. In these circumstances the Chief Commissioner doubts whether provision need be made for more than an average of say 5,000 a day for the next eight months; this, indeed, is an outside estimate, and is equivalent to about one and a quarter million units until the end of September.

The price of juar, the staple food of this district, shows curious fluctuations. Early in November it was selling at 12 seers for the rupee; after the rain of November it sank to 16½ seers, and since then it has been slowly rising, owing chiefly to exportations to the Nerbudda Valley. At present it is selling at 13 seers per rupee. With the fairly good juar crop of the Nagpur Division and Berar, and with cheaper wheat, it is unlikely that prices will go much higher than this. Indeed a somewhat lower price may be fairly anticipated from March or April. In the Southern Tahsil, and in that part of the Northern Tahsil which lies below the hills, there is thus no cause for anxiety as to insufficiency of food supply. In the Jagirs, however, import is well-nigh impracticable during the rains, and if the mohwa crop even partially fails, it may be necessary to adopt special measures for the import of food into these tracts to meet the demand in the monsoon months. The attention of the Commissioner of the division has already been drawn to this matter, and he has been asked to consider it with special reference to the recent instructions of the Government of India on this subject.

17. The circumstances of the Betul district generally resemble those of Chhindwara. In the level country in the east, centre, and part of the north of the district, where rabi

crops predominate; there is no perceptible distress, nor with the present good prospects of the spring crops is any scarcity anticipated. In the wide belt of hill and forest country which surrounds the district on all sides except the east, where the population is largely aboriginal and where the people are mainly dependent on kharif crops, which proved in 1896 an almost entire failure, there is already considerable distress. This tract covers an area of 2,389 square miles, with a population of 128,000, or 40 per cent. of the total population of the district. Here, as in Chhindwara, a good mohwa crop will no doubt do much in the way of relief, and good spring crops will give a certain amount of labour both here and in the Nerbudda Valley Districts and in Berar, where numbers of people from Betul are in the habit of going at harvest time. Even allowing for this, however, considerable measures of relief are needed, and here, as in the Jagirs of Chhindwara, a special organisation will be required to provide for those members of the aboriginal population of the hill and jungle country on the northern, western, and southern borders of the district, whom a bad mohwa crop and a deficient autumn harvest in 1896 have made incapable even of the lightest labour. The relief measures so far adopted are three large roads, each under the supervision of the Public Works Department, and radiating from the head-quarters town to the north-west, north-east, and south respectively. These roads pass through the heart of the affected tracts in each direction, and will, it is believed, furnish work for all who need it. An officer with previous famine experience has recently been deputed to arrange the special measures of gratuitous relief which are required for remote tracts. His report is now under consideration, and no time will be lost in organising relief centres on similar lines to those which are being followed in the Chhindwara Jagirs. In some specially circumstanced tracts of the distressed area it will further be advisable to organise village house-to-house relief. There is but slight scope in this district for local works affording suitable employment for famine labour, but it is hoped that an allotment from the amount sanctioned for famine loans may be usefully applied here in the construction of tanks, and perhaps for kacha wells also.

Except in the more remote hill and forest villages, where, as in Chhindwara, the failure of the kharif accentuated the distress resulting from a previous scanty yield of mohwa, the condition of the people is at present fairly normal. Some 4,000 workers were recently examined by the civil surgeon, and he reported them, with only two exceptions, to be well nourished. No wandering has yet been reported among residents of the district, and cases of emaciation are rare. In the more remote tracts, however, the general condition is low, and it is necessary that relief centres and village relief should be organised without delay. The Deputy Commissioner is now doing his utmost to effect this. The numbers in receipt of relief increased very slowly during December, when it is probable that the poorer classes were still subsisting on the produce of their scanty autumn crops, and even at the end of that month were still below 2,000. Since that time, however, the total has been going up more rapidly, and at present exceeds 12,000. With a good mohwa crop and with harvest labour in the district itself, the Nerbudda Valley Districts, and in Berar, there should be some decrease in numbers; but, on the other hand, distress among those who are without resources and who have no food supplies, must grow and add to the numbers in need of relief until another autumn crop can be reaped. Provision should therefore be made, the Chief Commissioner thinks, for an average of about 7,000 people, or say for $1\frac{1}{2}$ million units, up to the end of September.

The price of jwar, the staple food grain, has slowly but steadily risen since the end of November, and now stands at 10 seers per rupee. The jwar crop of the past autumn was, in this district, poor, varying from six to eight annas. Moreover, importation has not yet begun. The Deputy Commissioner anticipates, however, that a good rabi crop will affect the price of this grain also, and that it is not probable that it will rise much higher.

18. Summarising the situation in the Nerbudda Division, it may be said that it is only in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur that distress is at all general, and even in these districts the chief form in which it shows itself is in a keen demand for remunerative labour. In Chhindwara there is some acute distress in the Jagirs to the north, and the tracts immediately bordering on them, while in Betul some two-fifths of the population of the large hill and forest area are affected by scarcity, which, however, except in the more remote forest villages, is certainly not acute. In Nimar there is at present no distress, except among a few score of weavers in the town of Burhanpur, and among the aboriginal population of the eastern tahsil. The total affected area covers 10,100 square miles, with a population of 1,005,000. On the 23rd January there were 62,276 persons in receipt of Government relief, or 6 per cent. of the population of the

distressed area. It is estimated, that for the period from 1st February to end of September, provision should be made for the relief of 13½ million units.

19. In the Chhattisgarh Division distress is confined, as was shown in my previous letter, to the Raipur and Bilaspur districts. No distress is at present reported from Sambalpur, and it is not probable that any special measures of famine relief will be found necessary there, except perhaps in a small tract in the north-west corner of the district bordering on Bilaspur.

In the Raipur district, such distress as exists has resulted from a failure, except in the Dhamtari or southern tahsil, of the rice crop, which occupies more than two-thirds of the total cropped area of the district, following on a similar failure in the previous year. Prior to 1895-96, the harvests in the districts had, however, been for a series of years uniformly good, so that with a good harvest in the present year the distress should disappear.

The affected area comprises the whole of the Khalsa portion of the district north of the great eastern road, a small tract to the west of the district and south of that road in the southern tahsil, and the nine Zamindaris forming the western boundary of the district from north to south. In no part of this area was the out-turn of the recent rice crop more than four annas, while in many parts it did not exceed two annas. The parts where distress is said to be acute are the north-east corner of the district and a small tract of country to the west of the district in the north of the drug or eastern tahsil. The affected area, as thus stated, covers an area of 4,000 miles, with a population of 710,000, nearly half the total population of the district.

As regards relief measures, the arrangements are still not so complete as the Chief Commissioner would desire to see them, and he has reason to fear that neither the Deputy Commissioner nor the Commissioner has yet acquired that grasp of the situation which is essential to the organisation of a complete and practical scheme of relief. This is the more disappointing, as the Chief Commissioner had, at the conference of November, laid down all the necessary points for their guidance, leaving it to them to work out the arrangements in detail. Some allowance must, no doubt, be made for the large areas and population involved, the difficulty of communications, and the fact that any scarcity on a large scale is a novel feature in the economic history of the district. It must also be remembered that a series of previous good years have left behind them large surplus stocks, and that though the rice crop of 1896 was scanty, it, in most cases, yielded a sufficient out-turn to supply the people with food for two or three months at least. In these circumstances, the question of relief has not the same urgency here as it has in the northern part of the province or in Balaghat, where bad harvests fell on a people already suffering from a succession of unfavourable seasons. Mr. Lyall has, however, now furnished the Deputy Commissioner, in a letter copy of which I am to forward, with detailed instructions as to what he is to do, and it is hoped that arrangements will shortly be completed there on the same precise and practical footing as in other parts of the province.

Meanwhile, the tracts of greatest distress in the north-east and north-west have been provided for by three roads under the supervision of the Public Works Department, and a fourth road is being started for the distressed tract in the southern tahsil. The Deputy Commissioner has also arranged in personal consultation with the Zamindars for relief measures in those areas on the western border. Moreover, extensive arrangements have been made for the grant of land improvement and famine loans, 80,000 rupees having been recently sanctioned for this purpose, in addition to 20,000 rupees previously allotted for ordinary land improvement loans. Finally, registers for those entitled under Section 34 to the Code to gratuitous relief in their homes have been prepared throughout the most distressed area, and five poor-houses have been opened, two at tahsil headquarters in the two northern tahsils, and the three others at large villages in the heart of the most severely distressed tracts.

It is clear, however, that this is not enough. It is probable that relief centres are needed in localities where the conditions have been specially unfavourable, while house-to-house relief in villages which is now being organised will have to be put into operation in all cases where the circumstances of the villages have been so much reduced that they are unable to support their local poor.

The forests in the north-eastern and eastern portions of the district have been opened for the free extraction of mohwa, edible roots, and fruits, and rates on grass, firewood and building wood have been materially lowered for the poorer classes. Similar concessions will be made elsewhere as soon as they are reported to be necessary.

The Deputy Commissioner has also been given discretion to suspend the kharif instalment of land revenue up to a limit of two lakhs of rupees within the affected area.

So far, the numbers that have resorted to the relief works show no indication of widespread distress, nor do they even show that there is a keen demand for labour at a famine wage. During December they did not exceed 3,000, and, according to the latest returns, the total number falls short of 11,000. The scanty crops of last autumn are now, however, being rapidly consumed, and in the greater part of the district there are no forests to give relief, nor is harvest labour available except to a very moderate extent. On the other hand, however, until a year ago harvests have been unusually good; the settlement is a very light one, falling at about six annas per acre, and the profits of rice cultivation must, in past years, have been very considerable. There are numbers of malguzars, and even of tenants, who will be ready and willing to use the cheap labour now available in carrying out works of improvement, especially irrigation tanks, and there are numbers more who will gladly carry out such works with the aid of famine loans. The Chief Commissioner has, on several previous occasions, pointed out that this is the most useful form that famine relief-work can take in Chhattisgarh, and it is on these works that he wishes the Deputy Commissioner chiefly to rely. This fact, however, and the absence of detailed or reliable information as to stocks in distressed areas, make it peculiarly difficult to form an estimate of the numbers who are likely to stand in need of direct Government relief during the next eight months in Raipur, and any such estimate must be almost entirely largely conjectural. From such information as is before him, the Chief Commissioner considers a daily average of 20,000 to be a probably not unduly low estimate. This would necessitate provision being made for, say, 4½ million units up to the end of September.

So far, the classes who frequent the works are labourers and petty agriculturists. Throughout Chhattisgarh, where the smaller cultivators depend entirely on rice, it is their regular custom to leave their villages in search of work as soon as their rice crop has been reaped, and to return again to their homes in June. The presence of men of this class on the works is therefore no symptom of special distress. The general condition of the people is reported to be fairly normal, and cases of wandering owing to want have not yet been reported.

The course of prices also gives no apparent ground for anxiety. The price of wheat and rice has remained almost steadily at 10 seers per rupee since the beginning of November, and a good rabi harvest will no doubt tend to cheapen both grains. Stocks, with certain local exceptions, are believed to be sufficient, and communications throughout the affected area are good. There is thus no reason to fear any insufficiency of food supply.

As regards the prospects of the rabi, it is stated that not more than one-fourth to one-third of the normal rabi area has been sown, the loss being chiefly in "utera" or spring crops sown broadcast in rice fields after the rice has been cut. What was sown has germinated well, and prospects are at present favourable. The outturn of the rabi cannot however, except by contributing to lower prices, perceptibly affect the general situation, and distress must continue until a good autumn crop brings general relief.

20. In Bilaspur more than four-fifths of the total kharif area and about half the total cropped area of the district is under rice. The outturn of this crop has been tested by a large number of crop experiments made in all parts of the districts. These give an average of about four annas for the whole district, the western or Mungeli Tahsil showing the most unfavourable results, with an average of little more than three annas. In the central or Bilaspur Tahsil the outturn averaged over four annas, while in the eastern or Janjgir Tahsil it was above five annas. It may be mentioned that the rice crop varied in the same way in 1895-96, it being worst in the western tahsil, and best in the eastern, the Bilaspur Tahsil holding a place midway between the two. Previous to 1895-96 harvests throughout the district had for some years, as has been noticed in Raipur also, been exceptionally good. The part now chiefly affected by scarcity is, as might be expected from the above facts, the western or Mungeli Tahsil, especially in its northern and western half. In the Zamindaris bordering on it the situation is similar. There is also distress in the north-west of the Bilaspur or central tahsil, and in the part of that tahsil south of the Sheonath river and bordering on the Raipur District. The eastern tahsil is not, as a whole, severely affected, though there are villages in it where some distress is reported. The Deputy Commissioner accordingly thinks that the whole district, with an area of 8,341 square miles, and a population of 1,164,000 persons, should be regarded as affected by scarcity.

In the full and interesting report on the situation which the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Cooke) has submitted, and a copy of which, with the Chief Commissioner's orders on it, is forwarded for the information of the Government of India, he points out that rice cultivation, in good years, is particularly profitable; that large stocks have been laid up in previous prosperous times, and that the people have, so far, by no means exhausted their resources. In his recent tour through the affected tracts he observed no cases of wandering as a consequence of distress, nor did he come across any cases of emaciation in villages. Here, as in Raipur, migration in search of work in the spring and summer months is a regular custom of the smaller cultivators. The Deputy Commissioner met many such groups of migrants, but in no case did they wish to go on relief-works, or show the slightest sign of distress. Test works opened in November failed to attract labourers. It is only in the present month that two large road works under the Public Works Department have been opened in the distressed tahsils, and that poor-houses, supported by Government funds, have been found necessary.

For the relief of the cultivating classes, the Deputy Commissioner has been authorised to suspend up to one-third of the current kharif instalment of land revenue throughout the affected area.

In the large zamindari estate of Pandaria in the north-west, which is under Government management, relief-works were started in November, but the numbers who have hitherto availed themselves of them have been small, though they are now growing larger. It is probable that when the scanty rice crop has been consumed and now that field labour in rice harvesting is no longer available, distress in this district may increase, but there is no reason to suppose that it will at any time be acute, except in detached localities where the agricultural conditions have been specially unfavourable. It is to ascertaining and arranging for such localities that the chief attention of the Deputy Commissioner, and the Covenanted Assistant, who has, since the beginning of December, been placed on special duty in this district in connection with the scarcity, must be directed, and the Chief Commissioner believes that the local officers fully understand what is needed in this matter.

As was pointed out in my former letter, our main reliance in Bilaspur, as in Raipur, must be placed on small works, chiefly irrigation tanks, carried out by malguzars and the better class of tenants, either with their own funds or, in the more distressed tracts, with the aid of famine loans. The Deputy Commissioner reports that numerous such works are now in progress, and that both he and the Assistant Commissioner on special duty are arranging for many more. He adds that the cultivating classes have taken to heart the lesson which the premature cessation of the monsoon rains in the past two years might have been expected to teach them, and that they are now eager to carry out these irrigation works, the value of which has been so fully proved by recent experience. There can, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, be no more useful form of famine labour than such works afford, and if they can be made sufficiently numerous to provide labour for all who need it, they would be much preferable to road works. These latter can be much more cheaply and effectively done in ordinary times; they take the people away from their homes and do not effect that insurance against future scarcity which the construction of irrigation tanks secures. The local officers will therefore be instructed, as has, indeed, already been done, to do all they can to encourage malguzars and tenants to execute such works. A grant of 70,000 rupees from famine loans, in addition to 20,000 rupees for land improvement loans granted in November last, has recently been made in Bilaspur, and it is believed that this can be usefully distributed before the end of the year.

As regards the numbers who will need Government relief, it is hoped, in view of the circumstances which have just been stated, that the need for large works will not be great. For an estimate of numbers to be made with any approach to accuracy more experience is necessary than is yet available in Bilaspur, but the Chief Commissioner considers that, to take a high limit, more than a daily average of 10,000 will not need Government relief, and that if provision be made for two million units up to the end of September it will be sufficient. Such an estimate, however, is obviously almost entirely conjectural, and the actual number on large works must chiefly depend on the number of local works which can be arranged for.

The price of rice, the staple food in this district, which stood at nine seers for the rupee in the beginning of November, fell to 11 seers at the end of December, and remained at that price until the middle of January. These prices led to considerable exports, which have recently had the effect of hardening prices, the most recent returns again showing only nine seers for the rupee. Exports will thus be checked, and the Deputy Commissioner

does not anticipate any further rise. Indeed it is not improbable that a good wheat-crop in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab may cause a slight fall.

21. The situation in the Division may be summarised by saying that there is some measure of distress in the northern half of Raipur and in the western zamindaris of that district; also in the greater portion of Bilaspur, especially in the west and north and in a small tract to the south. The affected area covers 12,341 square miles, and has a population of 1,874,000, of which $6\frac{1}{2}$ million units may be estimated as likely to need Government relief to the end of September. On the 23rd January there were 13,162 persons in receipt of Government relief, or only 7 per cent. of the population of the affected area.

In consequence of previous good years and large food stocks, there is as yet, so far as is known, no very acute distress in these two districts, and it is hoped that by giving timely work in sufficiently numerous places, the occurrence of any such distress may be entirely avoided. In both these districts our chief reliance must, as has already been stated, be placed on local works, chiefly irrigation tanks.

22. Reviewing the situation in the province as a whole, it may be stated that the affected area covers 45,000 square miles with a population of six million persons. There were on the 23rd January in this area 246,000 persons, or 4 per cent. of the population of the affected tracts, in receipt of Government relief, and it is estimated that from the beginning of the current month until the end of September relief will be required for 61 million units.

There is acute and general distress in the districts of the Jubbulpore Division, with the exception of the southern half of Seoni, and also in Balaghat in the Nagpur Division. Here distress must continue until well on in the autumn. In the wild forest and hill country of Hoshangabad, Chhindwara, and Betul there is also severe distress among the aboriginal tribes. This will, however, diminish with a good mohwa crop and will certainly not become more severe. Next to these, as regards the degree of general distress, may be placed the level portions of the Nerbudda valley districts of Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur and the northern half of Bhandara in the Nagpur Division. Throughout this area scarcity is certainly being felt, but, so far, this chiefly shows itself in a keen demand for labour, and in some suffering among the infirm and the aged who cannot, as in ordinary times, depend upon the charity of those who are better off. Here large relief-works combined with poor-houses and some measure of village relief will, however, it is hoped, do all that is needed until October to prevent further suffering and to relieve such as now exists.

Further, in Raipur and Bilaspur—and circumstances are similar in a small part of Nagpur—there is a certain degree of scarcity, but, so far, the people have been chiefly living on their autumn crops or on the wages of local labour, and Government relief has scarcely been called for. The necessity for some measure of Government relief has now, however, begun, but it is hoped that the large number of local works of improvement which are to be carried out either from private funds or with the aid of famine loans will in nearly all parts meet such distress as exists, and prevent it from increasing.

The province may thus be divided into :—

- (a) Tracts where distress is general and severe (Jubbulpore Division, except the Seoni Tahsil in the district of the same name, Balaghat, and parts of Hoshangabad, Chhindwara and Betul). Area 25,891 square miles with a population of, say, 2,951,000.
- (b) Tracts considerably affected by scarcity with a general demand for labour at a famine wage, but where there is little or no distress except among the aged or infirm who are at all times unable to work (the greater part of Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur and the north of Bhandara). Area 7,621 square miles with a population of 1,187,000.
- (c) Tracts where the staple crop has failed, and where, now that present stocks are exhausted, scarcity is beginning to be felt (Raipur and Bilaspur, a small detached area on the east of Chanda, and part of Nagpur). Area 20,797 square miles with a population of 2,876,000.
- (d) Tracts at present unaffected by scarcity (Wardha, the east of Chanda, the south of Bhandara, the greater part of Nagpur, the south of Chhindwara and Seoni, part of Betul, Nimar and Sambalpur). Area, 32,297 square miles with a population of 3,770,000.

23. As regards the duration of the distress in these provinces, the Chief Commissioner is unable to add anything to what was said in paragraph 9 of my letter No. 4988, dated the 16th December 1896. The most important immediate factor in determining the future development and extent of distress is the outturn of the spring crops, not only in the Central Provinces, but throughout India. As regards these provinces, it will be observed that the tabular statement embodied in paragraph 2 of this letter gives the rabi area of the current year as 40 per cent. below the normal, while in some of the richest rabi districts, notably in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur, the prospects of the crop are far from good. There has, the Chief Commissioner understands, been a similar, though, owing to irrigation, a less marked curtailment of the rabi area in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, and however good the crops on the areas sown may be, they cannot, looking at the great depletion of stocks which has been caused by a series of bad years, and by the recent scanty autumn harvest, suffice to lower prices to the normal level, or to give even that ordinary measure of relief to the poorer classes which is afforded by harvest labour, and by the savings which are possible from liberal harvest wages. There will doubtless, as has already been indicated in detail, be some decrease at harvest time in the numbers of relief workers, while the mohwa crop, provided it is a good one, will attract large numbers to the forests until the monsoon breaks. But such diminished harvest wages as are earned will soon be exhausted, while the advent of the rains will drive the people back from the jungles into poor-houses or on to works. While, therefore, some measure of decrease in numbers may be estimated from March to the end of May, Mr. Lyall anticipates that in the beginning of June, numbers will again rise at least to their present figure, if not above it, and that these numbers will, even after making all due allowance for the demand for agricultural labour during the monsoon months, remain at about that figure until the early autumn crops can be reaped in late August and September. He is therefore arranging to provide relief for at least a daily average of 200,000 persons up to the end of September. The development of events after September depends on the character of the monsoon rains, and it would be useless to attempt any prediction on this point, until the character of the rains is known.

24. In paragraph 13 of my letter of the 16th December, the Chief Commissioner indicated the general lines on which he proposed to organise famine relief in the affected tracts. In my present letter the actual arrangements which have so far been made in each district have been shown in some detail. The experience which has now been gained tends to show that the organisation of famine relief, must, if it is to be effective, be made with strict reference to local conditions, and to the previous agricultural history of each distressed tract. Where distress is acute, and where previous bad years have exhausted resources, numerous large works under the Public Works Department, combined with poor-houses and rural relief centres for wanderers, and those temporarily unfit for labour, and with village house-to-house relief for those who are chronically helpless, have proved necessary. In less distressed tracts, the provision of work for all who need it, combined with orders to the police and mukaddams to forward wanderers to the nearest work or poor-house, has been found sufficient, while in remote parts of the province, consisting of inaccessible hill and forest, and largely inhabited by aborigines, whom only absolute want will induce to leave their homes, it has been found advisable to provide gratuitous relief and light labour at convenient and fairly numerous centres close to their homes. Finally, in tracts like Chhattisgarh, where distress is more or less localised to villages or groups of villages, a system of local works with a few larger works, combined with village relief in the more distressed areas, is found to be most suitable.

In paragraph 3 of your letter No. 111—F., dated the 4th January 1897, it was observed that the Chief Commissioner did not consider that the distress, when he wrote on the 16th December, was as yet sufficiently acute to necessitate the organisation of relief circles and village-to-village inspection; and it was pointed out that the great rise in price of food-grains, combined with the exhaustion of resources in several districts owing to a succession of bad seasons, might make this form of relief necessary at an earlier stage than would otherwise have been the case. In this connection, the Chief Commissioner desires, however, to point out that the question of arranging for village relief had by no means been overlooked by him, and that in Revenue Department circular letter No. 4526—4528, dated the 20th November 1896, a set of detailed rules directing the preparation of village registers under Section 34 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, and ordering the opening of relief centres wherever such method of relief might seem to be necessary, was circulated to all Deputy Commissioners. Under Section 35 of the Central Provinces Famine Code, however, it rests with Commissioners of

Divisions to decide when it may be needful to start village relief, and the Chief Commissioner did not think it advisable at that early stage to interfere with this discretion. The question was, however, fully considered during November and December for all districts, and registers under Section 34 were prepared during these months for all distressed parts of the province. It is only, however, in the Jubbulpore Division, where distress is far more acute and general than elsewhere, that it has been found necessary to organise this form of relief throughout the affected areas.

The largely increasing numbers of famine-stricken people in poor-houses, and the consideration of the difficulty there must be in returning them to their homes when the famine is over, have, however, recently led the Chief Commissioner to give special attention to the proper place of village and poor-house relief respectively in a comprehensive famine scheme. His views on the subject coincide to a large extent with those expressed by Sir A. MacDonnell in a circular which was forwarded to the Chief Commissioner with your letter No. 7—32-2, dated the 18th January 1897. Mr. Lyall thinks, however, that some provision for dependents on all famine works is essential to effective relief, and that it is neither humane nor economical to take such people away from relatives or friends on the works and return them to their villages. He further thinks that those who have no real homes to go to, such as the beggars who infest bazaars and railway centres, can best be provided for in the poor-house, which is also the only place where emaciated wanderers from Native States or from distant parts of India can find a home until they are strong enough for work. For these reasons he is unable to accept, in its entirety, Sir A. MacDonnell's conclusion that famine relief can be reduced to two branches—relief works and village relief. Mr. Lyall's views on the subject are given in the following extract from my letter, No. C-229, dated the 2nd February 1897, to the address of the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh :—

The high death-rates in some parts of the district which are given in paragraph 12 of Deputy Commissioner's letter appear to indicate with some certainty that, though the general condition of the people may be fairly normal, there are in some parts numerous cases of real distress and destitution which call for special measures of relief. The form of relief which best meets these conditions is village relief, as prescribed by Section 34 of the Famine Code. Timely help, if given to the classes of people referred to in that section, in their homes, prevents wandering and consequent death; assures the recipients of such comfort as their homes afford; and, above all, brings home to the residents, in a way that no other methods of relief can, the responsibility of each village for the maintenance of its own poor. If such people are allowed to wander off to poor-houses it will be extremely difficult, when distress ceases and good times return, to send them back to their villages and to enforce on the residents the duty of supporting them. On the other hand, if they are, from the commencement, retained and relieved in their villages, the better off residents will, when Government relief is withdrawn, be in nearly every case ready and willing to support these poor people as they had done previous to distress setting in. The duty of supporting their poorer neighbours so long as they have the means is one which is fully admitted by all natives of India, and it is the greatest mistake for Government to do anything, except under the compulsion of circumstances, to weaken this idea. It will not, however, probably be necessary to organize village relief throughout the whole of the Bilaspur District. Judging from the Deputy Commissioner's account of the present circumstances of his district, there must be many parts where the duty of relieving the village poor can be safely left, as it has hitherto been, in the hands of the residents. But in all localities where the death-rate during the last few months has been high, or where local officers report any cases of wandering from village to village, or of emaciation observable in villages, house-to-house relief under Section 34 of the Code should at once be organised. The aim of a complete system of famine relief is to provide, for all able to labour, sufficient work, at a wage large enough to keep them in health. On these works provision is also made for such helpless people as are dependent on the workers, and cannot be properly looked after except by members of the family to which they belong. As regards all other people whom age or illness has rendered permanently helpless, arrangements are to be made for relieving them in their homes. "Poor-houses should be reserved for starving immigrants and wanderers. Even these should, unless age, or blindness, or physical infirmity, has made them permanently incapable of work, be sent to relief-works as soon as a proper and adequate diet has given them sufficient strength. The permanent population of a poor-house should be limited to chronically helpless people who have no home to go to."

25. The question of the funds required for expenditure on famine relief up to the end of March, which was referred to in paragraph 14 of my letter of December, is being separately dealt with, but the Chief Commissioner desires to take this occasion of pointing out the great difficulty—a difficulty which was referred to at the close of paragraphs 10 and 12 of the letter just referred to—of making any estimates of probable expenditure until relief measures have been organised in all distressed areas, and until they have been in actual operation for some time. As an illustration of this difficulty, I am to instance the case of the Jubbulpore Division, where there had been some previous experience of local scarcity, and where the Commissioner (Mr. Anderson), a particularly careful officer, had been for some years in charge of the division, and was intimately acquainted with all its circumstances and local history. I am to give below his estimate, submitted last November, of the numbers of persons which he and his Deputy Commissioners, three of whom were also experienced officers with a detailed knowledge of their districts, thought would be likely to be in need of relief during the four months succeeding the submission of their reports:—

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	17,300
Saugor	-	-	-	-	-	12,500
Damoh	-	-	-	-	-	7,200
Seoni	-	-	-	-	-	3,750
Mandla	-	-	-	-	-	10,250
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>51,000</u>

The actual numbers in receipt of relief considerably exceeded this even by the beginning of January, and on the 30th January, the latest date for which complete figures are available, these numbers were as follows:—

Jubbulpore	-	-	-	-	-	99,956
Saugor	-	-	-	-	-	42,173
Damoh	-	-	-	-	-	25,840
Seoni	-	-	-	-	-	7,244
Mandla	-	-	-	-	-	17,394
Total	-	-	-	-	-	<u>192,607</u>

That is, by the end of last month, numbers had risen to nearly four times the figures estimated for in November, and it is certain that they must remain very much above the estimated figure for some time to come.

It is true that the numbers in receipt of Government relief in the three northern districts of this division, and especially in Jubbulpore, have been very largely swelled by the influx of immigrants from Native States; but a consideration of the figures for the Nerbudda Division, where this cause has operated to a much less extent, will further prove how useless prediction is, unless based on actual experience. Here also careful estimates based on local figures were submitted at the end of October. The average numbers which it was supposed would need relief were given as follows. The numbers actually in receipt of relief on 30th January are added for comparison:—

	Estimated.	Actual.
Hoshangabad	12,800	35,781
Narsinghpur	9,300	22,801
Nimar	2,500	953
Chhindwara	8,000	9,094
Betul	3,500	12,627
Total	<u>36,100</u>	<u>81,256</u>

It was thus only in Nimar that numbers were under-estimated, while in Hoshangabad the actual numbers are three times the estimate, and in Betul nearly four times.

The Chief Commissioner does not ascribe these very large discrepancies between facts and forecasts to any want of care or local knowledge on the part of the officers who made the estimates. The result is, indeed, only what must be anticipated in a province where there had been no previous experience of a widespread famine or of an extensive system of famine relief. It was for this reason that Mr. Lyall refrained in his report of December from making any estimate of the numbers likely to need relief until he had some reliable data to go upon. The actual statistics of relief which are now submitted each week from the distressed districts have given some data for such an estimate, and in my Circular Letter, No. 5123, dated the 30th December 1896, copy of which I am to submit for the information of the Government of India, further data were called for, which will, the Chief Commissioner trusts, enable him to forecast his probable requirements for that year with some approach to trustworthiness.

But in view of the figures which have been given above, the Government of India will understand that the estimate given in the letter of December, of 15 lakhs of rupees as sufficient to provide relief up to the end of March has proved altogether inadequate, and an application for a further grant of 13½ lakhs is now being made.

26. With reference to paragraphs 6 and 7 of your letter, No. 111-F., dated the 4th January 1897, in which a grant of five lakhs of rupees was made for the purpose of famine loans in these Provinces, I am to append copy of a letter No. C-109—112, dated the 17th January 1897, which was addressed to all Commissioners of Divisions on receipt on the 16th January, of the final orders of the Government of India regarding these loans. The form of agreement appended to that letter has been legalised by a Notification under Section 10 of the Land Improvement Loans Act, and allotments to divisions have been made as follows :—

	Rs.
Nagpur - - - - -	1,50,000
Jubbulpore - - - - -	1,45,000
Nerbudda - - - - -	20,000
Chhattisgarh - - - - -	1,50,000
Total - - - - -	<u>4,65,000</u>

The remaining 35,000 rupees will, it is anticipated, be needed in Chhattisgarh. In a recent letter to the Government of India, No. C-138, dated the 20th January 1897, the Chief Commissioner has pointed out the necessity, in addition to these special famine loans, of granting land improvement loans on ordinary terms in tracts which are under observation, but where there is as yet no general or severe distress. The grant of such loans on a fairly liberal scale is, Mr. Lyall thinks, essential if a large additional expenditure on direct famine relief is to be avoided. In the same letter stress was also laid on the necessity of similar advances for seed grain under the Agriculturists Loans Act, and more recently the Chief Commissioner has been obliged to ask (and has received) telegraphic sanction to a special grant of three lakhs during the current year for seed advances in Balaghat and Chhattisgarh. Mr. Lyall is confident that even if there should hereafter be short recoveries on such loans, or failure in particular cases to pay interest, such losses will be more than made up by the more rapid recovery of normal prosperity which the grant of the loans will secure.

27. Regarding the suspension of land revenue referred to in paragraph 15 of my letter of December last, a separate and full report will shortly be submitted as soon as the applications from all districts have been dealt with. Meanwhile, the appended Table B. shows the amounts suspended or remitted in the several Districts of the Province up to the date of this letter.

I have, &c.
H. H. PRIEST,
Chief Secretary.

TABLE A.

	NAGPUR DIVISION.									JUBBULPORE DIVISION.														
	NAGPUR.			BHANDARA.			BALAGHAT.			JUBBULPORE.			SAUGOR.			DAMOH.			SEONI.			MANDLA.		
	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 5th	4,909	585	5,494	4,323	293	4,616	4,752	588	5,340	9,146	3,683	12,829	845	1,252	2,097	237	1,383	1,620	722	137	859	5,373	180	5,553
" 12th	4,709	585	5,294	5,054	59	5,113	4,754	559	5,313	11,203	4,004	15,207	2,157	1,028	3,185	411	530	941	1,893	176	2,069	7,133	150	7,283
" 19th	3,319	2,300	5,619	7,109	524	7,633	5,190	426	5,616	23,230	4,921	28,151	11,740	1,389	13,129	5,087	837	5,924	1,893	176	2,069	8,000	180	8,180
" 26th	4,017	1,164	5,181	6,262	710	6,972	4,758	559	5,317	36,800	5,777	42,577	15,130	1,236	16,366	7,500	850	8,350	3,497	307	3,804	7,782	169	7,951
January 2nd	3,288	920	4,208	7,109	524	7,633	4,909	823	5,732	51,521	7,129	58,650	24,509	3,110	27,619	11,057	1,315	12,372	6,107	480	6,587	7,609	207	7,816
" 9th	2,102	810	2,912	9,744	1,173	10,917	4,005	653	4,658	53,051	11,959	65,010	22,512	3,995	26,507	14,632	1,681	16,313	5,898	511	6,409	13,074	374	13,448
" 16th	2,255	1,068	3,323	7,129	1,211	8,340	5,130	949	6,079	64,764	13,324	78,088	21,930	5,905	27,235	13,195	1,665	14,860	3,871	474	4,345	14,396	369	14,765
" 23rd	1,662	677	2,339	6,760	1,162	7,922	4,003	1,330	5,423	70,176	13,373	83,551	24,345	7,327	31,672	17,894	2,466	20,360	5,566	553	6,119	12,621	257	12,878
" 30th	1,312	880	2,192	9,118	1,448	10,566	3,535	1,662	5,197	84,703	7,627	92,330	26,969	9,616	36,585	18,923	2,505	21,518	6,364	546	6,910	14,260	772	15,032

U A

TABLE A.—continued.

	NERBUDDA DIVISION.															CHHATTISGARH DIVISION.						WHOLE PROVINCE.		
	HOSHANGARAD.			NARSINGHPUR.			NIMAR.			CHHINDWARA			BETUL.			RAIPUR.			BILASPUR.					
	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Relief Work.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 5th -	7,069	717	7,786	550	494	1,044	439	-	439	1,086	90	1,176	1,713	66	1,779	2,090	75	2,165	-	175	175	43,254	9,718	52,972
12th -	630	230	860	650	512	1,162	310	152	462	517	90	607	1,719	-	1,713	2,179	161	2,340	-	191	191	43,313	8,427	51,740
" 19th -	13,039	1,404	14,443	1,148	619	1,767	547	209	756	928	175	1,103	1,079	-	1,073	3,240	639	3,879	-	232	232	85,543	14,031	99,574
" 26th -	21,256	2,028	23,344	3,577	789	4,366	352	123	475	2,561	290	2,851	1,837	-	1,837	5,102	1,109	6,211	-	392	392	120,431	15,563	135,994
January 2nd -	20,278	2,350	22,628	7,333	1,997	6,790	558	303	861	2,292	513	2,805	2,935	-	2,935	8,564	2,082	10,646	360	331	741	158,429	21,534	179,963
" 9th -	22,845	3,183	25,528	9,615	1,526	11,141	438	229	667	3,765	648	4,413	4,601	112	4,719	6,483	858	7,341	2,563	824	3,407	174,848	23,536	203,384
" 16th -	24,363	5,238	29,601	12,487	1,816	14,303	680	268	948	4,387	1,098	5,485	6,118	548	6,666	6,084	821	6,905	2,972	1,090	4,062	189,161	35,844	225,005
" 23rd -	27,140	5,735	32,875	14,451	1,891	16,342	452	273	725	3,436	1,337	4,773	6,810	751	7,561	6,319	1,034	7,353	4,463	1,326	5,809	206,210	30,602	245,902

TABLE B.

SUSPENSIONS of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment sanctioned up to
February 10th, 1897.

No.	DISTRICT.	Demand on account of Kharif Land Revenue Instalment.	AMOUNT.			Balance.
			Suspended.	Remitted.		
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Balaghat - - -	98,112 12 7	98,112 12 7	—	—	
2	Jubbulpore - - -	3,31,650 - -	2,63,391 - -	- - -	68,259 - -	
3	Saugor - - -	1,77,177 - -	1,12,736 - -	- - -	64,441 - -	
4	Damoh - - -	1,47,812 - -	- - -	1,47,812 - -	—	
5	Seoni - - -	56,491 - -	41,558 2 -	- - -	14,932 14 -	
6	Mandla - - -	52,785 - -	33,261 - -	- - -	19,524 - -	
7	Hoshangabad - - -	1,00,008 - -	66,869 - -	- - -	33,139 - -	
8	Raipur - - -	4,22,712 11 2	2,00,000 - -	- - -	2,22,712 11 2	
9	Bilaspur - - -	2,87,185 3 5	80,000 - -	- - -	2,07,185 3 5	
	TOTAL - - -	16,73,933 11 2	8,95,927 14 7	1,47,812 - -	6,30,193 12 7	

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, No. 4000 S., dated October 26, 1896.

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the Resolution * of this Government, No. 3945 S.—1-58, dated 20th October 1896, and in doing so to call special attention to paragraph 19 of that Resolution. In connection with the remarks therein having reference to the Sunday wage, I am to ask whether the Government of India will give the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner discretion to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

No. 2187—5-42, dated Calcutta, November 24, 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., c.s., c.s.i., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 4000 S., dated 26th October 1896, with which you forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a Resolution, dated the 20th idem, on the recent famine operations in the North-Western Provinces, and ask that discretion may be given to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to withhold the Sunday wage when circumstances seem to him to render such a step advisable.

2. The Governor General in Council has perused with the greatest interest the valuable and instructive Resolution which accompanied your letter. He fully recognises the admirable work that has been done; he desires to express his obligations to Sir Antony MacDonnell and to all who have worked under him for the efficiency combined with economy with which the operations have been conducted; and he cordially endorses all that the Lieutenant-Governor has said in praise of those officers who bore the brunt of the burden. He proposes, however, to defer any discussion of the results which have been arrived at until famine operations have been finally closed in the North-Western Provinces.

3. On two points only do the orders of the Government of India appear to be required at present. In paragraph 2 of the memorandum which accompanied my letter No. 1146—24-1 of 5th August 1895, the North-Western Provinces Government was requested to substitute for the rule contained in paragraph 78 of its draft Famine Code, which neglected, in the adjustment of the relief wage, variations in the price of grain not amounting to 10 per cent., a ready-reckoner based upon that attached to the Punjab Code, which showed the actual variations which should be taken into account, and the changes in wages which would result from them. His Honour now proposes to revert to the old rule that no change in wages should be made when prices vary by less than 10 per cent., and to add to it a new rule that no such change should ordinarily be made save with the previous sanction of the Commissioner. The Government of India approve of these proposals.

4. The second point is the Sunday wage, which the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to discontinue on the ground that its payment leads to abuses, and that the labourers earn

* Vide C 6302, p. 47

during the week ample subsistence for the seventh day. It must not be overlooked that the change, of which approval has been conveyed in the preceding paragraph, permits of a possible reduction of 9 per cent. in the effective value of the daily wage; and the Government of India view with some apprehension a further reduction of one-seventh in its amount. The scale of relief has designedly been reduced to what was believed to be the lowest safe point, and has indeed been attacked in more than one Province as already insufficient; and they are not satisfied that it will be wise to render possible its diminution by nearly one-quarter of its total amount. They fully appreciate the practical inconvenience of the present rule, and agree with His Honour that it would be well to alter it. But they are inclined to think that the abolition of the Sunday wage should be accompanied by a corresponding increase in the dietary scale upon which the week-day wage is calculated, so as to leave the total for the week unaltered. I am therefore to request that the matter may receive further consideration.

No. 2412.—5-51, dated Calcutta, December 10, 1896.

From DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S., C.S.I., OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE, to the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, SCARCITY DEPARTMENT, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

I AM directed to convey the acknowledgments of the Governor General in Council for the admirable survey of famine prospects in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, which is contained in your letter,* No. 196—S-73, of the 23rd November 1896. The letter calls for no orders; but I am to address you upon a point connected with the remarks in its 20th paragraph regarding the utilisation of village relief works in famine operations, about which the Government of India feel some uncertainty.

2. I am to ask that they may be favoured with an explanation as to whether, and if so, in what manner, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has applied, in the case of village relief works, the famine tests of task and wage which are prescribed by the Famine Code. They understand that work done in this manner costs less than any other form of relief; but this does not necessarily involve that more people are relieved by a given expenditure; and they are uncertain how, in the absence of a strict labour test, which it must apparently be almost impossible to enforce, it is possible to ensure that the money is spent in extending relief only to those who are really in need of it.

3. I am to explain that the Governor General in Council is aware how fully Sir Antony MacDonnell is alive to the importance of this point. He realises, moreover, that work which is paid for in part by the landlords may well be a less expensive form of relief than work which is done wholly at Government expense, even if the former is carried out under somewhat less strict conditions than the latter. But His Excellency in Council is desirous of commending to the attention of other Local Governments and of Native States the experience of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as to the advantages of village works over larger relief projects. In these cases it will be often impossible to recover any portion of the cost from the people; and it is for this reason that the Government of India are anxious, before moving in the matter, to obtain further details regarding the system of village relief works adopted in the North-Western Provinces.

* *Vide* C. 8302, p. 47.

No. 484 of 1896. Dated Allahabad, December 19, 1896.

From the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH,
to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE AND
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the monthly Famine Statements A. and B. for these provinces, which give an account of relief operations up to November 28, 1896, in districts formerly recognised as distressed. Since the submission of the last report, the districts of Allahabad, Jaunpur, and Sitapur have been added to the list. For these districts the prescribed maps are submitted. Although distress is most severe in the coloured portions the uncoloured portions are also suffering, though at present not severely. Other districts are in an unsatisfactory state and under close observation, and it will probably be necessary before long to convert the test works in operation there into relief works under the Code in some at least of them, and to add such districts to the present lists. In future months an additional and extra-Code Statement (C.) will be submitted, showing the extent and character of relief operations in districts under observation.

I have &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Secy. to Govt., N.-W.P. and Oudh.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statement A. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

District.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Numbers on Relief Works on the last Day of the Period under Report.					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or more Principal Food Grains in sérs per Rupee.						Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.	
					Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	Total.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Millets.		Pulses.		For the Period under Report.		For the corresponding period of the previous year.
														Juar.	Other.	Gram.	Other.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.
Allahabad:																				
Banda - - - -	3,061	705	3,061	705	4,744	12,152	1,088	13,183	31,166	17,138	-	-	-	-	-	9½ to 8¼	10¼ to 9	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).		
Hamirpur - - - -	2,289	513	2,289	513	-	2,741	-	1,407	4,148	6,029	7½	10¼	8½	11½	-	9¼	7¾	6.13		2.81
Allahabad - - - -	2,852	1,549	2,852	1,549	3,311	2,762	1,798	1,498	{ 9,364 *951 }	3,506	7¼	10¼	9½	10¾	12	9¾	7¾	1.90		1.94
Jhansi - - - -	3,587	683	3,587	683	1,825	2,109	-	3,130	7,064	1,624	7½	-	-	10½	-	9	-	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).		
Benares:																				
Jalaun - - - -	1,479	396	1,479	396	4,844	3,283	1,492	662	10,281	3,480	-	10	8	11	10¼	9½	7	3.01		2.57
Jaunpur - - - -	1,550	1,205	270	214	5,056	2,219	395	468	8,138	2,448	7½	11¼	9¼	-	-	9	9	1.84		2.09
Lucknow:																				
Rae Bareli - - - -	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	1,830	6,409	-	3,432	11,671	2,961	-	11	-	9½	-	-	11	Not available (see separate mortality statement for October).		
Sitapur - - - -	2,255	1,075	675	304	1,734	1,655	430	267	4,086	121	8½	-	9	10½	15	9	9	ditto.		
Hardoi - - - -	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	3,173	1,740	585	1,962	7,460	1,781	8½	10½	9¼	10	-	9¼	9	ditto.		
TOTAL - - - -	21,150	8,336	18,290	8,514	26,517	35,070	5,788	26,008	94,329	39,082	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			

* Employed on village works.

REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY FAMINE STATEMENT A. FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING
NOVEMBER 28TH, 1896.

Private Relief, Village and Poorhouse Relief.

Bānda.—There is little private relief afforded in the district. The total numbers of persons relieved under Chapters V., X. and III. of the Code were 9,672, 4,579, and 847, respectively, against 4,910, 5,054, and 1,012 in the preceding month. The numbers have increased in consequence of the general prevalence of distress. Seven poorhouses were open during the period under report. The total number of inmates on the last day of the period was 3,159 against 1,847 on the last day of the previous month.

Hamirpur.—A few well-to-do persons in places distribute doles to numbers of beggars. A resident of Rath has arranged to employ *parda nashin* women in cotton ginning. There were five poorhouses open on 28th November, which, with the famine hospitals attached to them, provided relief for 2,533 people; 1,493 persons were in receipt of outdoor relief in villages, exclusive of 107 destitute *parda nashin* women; 583 persons were relieved by employment in spinning and weaving.

Allahabad.—There are three poorhouses open under official management, and three more will shortly be opened. The numbers on relief in the poorhouses are rising. Alms in the form of grain are distributed by the wealthier inhabitants of Allahabad, and a fund of over 22,000 rupees has been raised by local subscription for the more systematic relief of distress in the city. An influential committee has been formed to administer the fund, which will be supplemented by a monthly grant-in-aid from the Government. In the interior of the district some small poorhouses have been opened by zamindārs.

Jhānsi.—A Committee has been formed for arranging private relief in the city. A poorhouse, the fourth in the district, was opened at Mau.

Jalaun.—Very little is being done in the way of private relief. There are four poorhouses open in the district. Village relief has been organised in two tahsils, and will be commenced from the 1st December. In the other tahsils similar arrangements will shortly be completed.

Jaunpur.—The Mahārāja of Benares and other large landowners have made considerable advances to their tenants for wells and seed grain. The Rāja of Jaunpur is spending 500 rupees in clearing and deepening a tank. Thākurain Sunao Kunwar, of Singramau, has applied to Government for an advance to be spent similarly. One poorhouse has been opened, towards which private persons have subscribed 200 rupees. The attendance at this poorhouse on 28th November was 149. Lists of *parda nashin* women in need of relief are under preparation.

Rae Bareli.—There are two poorhouses in the district, the inmates of which numbered 158 on 28th November. The cost is being defrayed from Government funds, supplemented by private subscriptions.

Sitapur.—Two committees have been formed for arranging private relief—one at Sitapur and one at Khairabad. Lists of respectable women in need of relief are being drawn up in Sitapur; in Khairabad they number 120. Subscriptions amounting to 845 rupees have been realised. Two poorhouses have been opened, the inmates of which number 250.

Hardoi.—No general relief from private funds has been organised, but clothing is supplied to inmates of poorhouses from private charity. There are four poorhouses in the district, and action has been taken under Chapters IV., V., and X. (Articles 124 and 125) of the Famine Code.

General Character of Relief Works.

Owing to there being ample occupation for the people in sowing the *rabi*, they did not come on relief works during the month in large numbers. The relief works in progress practically consist of specially repairing and raising existing roads, and constructing new roads. These works are managed by the Public Works Department partly in the spirit of, and partly under the strict letter of, the regulations of the Famine Code. Some large tanks in the Allahabad Division are also being improved, the work being managed as a relief work. Lists of small village works under Article 65 (b) of the Code for the

relief of the agricultural population in the vicinity of their villages have been prepared. The management of these works will be entrusted to the landowners of the villages which will benefit thereby, on a system by which the landlord and the Government jointly contribute to the cost.

Physical Condition of the People.

Bánda.—There was no improvement in the circumstances of the labouring classes, and the physical condition of many when they come to the poorhouses or on relief works shows that they have suffered from extreme privation. There is probably some exaggeration in this, but the physical condition of the labourers on relief works is fair. In parts of the district the *juár* crop has proved unexpectedly good, and this accession of food supplies has slightly improved the condition of the cultivating class.

Hamírpur.—The death rate shows a decrease, but is still high. Malarial fever has been prevalent. The extent to which the coarse grains of the *kharif* harvest were eaten without the usual admixture of good grain, and the exceptional heat of September and October, are said to have led to an unusual amount of illness. The physical condition of the people is described as indifferent. The Lieutenant-Governor, who is now going to Hamírpur, will cause a special inquiry to be made into the causes of the high mortality of the month.

Allahabad.—The condition of the poorer classes in the three trans-Jumna tahsils is daily becoming worse, recent arrivals on the relief works being in an extremely reduced state. Village relief has been begun. In the other tahsils (especially north of the Ganges) matters are at present less serious, but it has been found necessary to prepare for starting a relief work north of the Jumna.

Jhánsi.—The physical condition of the people is reported as generally good. The high mortality is probably due to cholera, which was prevalent in this district. Inquiry will be made.

Jalaun.—The condition of the people continued to be fair. The new *kharif* grain coming into the market with the harvesting of the *kharif* crops tends to lighten distress a little.

Jaunpur.—Except in one pargana, the condition of the people is fair.

Rae Bareli.—The physical condition of the people is reported not to be satisfactory, owing to high prices of food grains.

Sitapur.—Judging by the comparatively small number of enfeebled persons on the relief works, the condition of the people is fairly good.

Hardoi.—The condition of the people is not satisfactory.

DEATHS FROM STARVATION.

No deaths directly due to starvation are reported except from Rae Bareli, where 25 are said to have occurred. The Rae Bareli cases, however, have not been verified, and inquiry has been ordered. If verified, they will be included in subsequent returns. It is very improbable that the deaths were directly due to starvation in this district.

FOOD STOCKS AND IMPORTATION OF GRAIN.

Bánda.—Supplies are sufficient and importations continue. There is no fear of food stocks running short of present requirements.

Hamírpur.—The *juár* coming into market has made food stocks sufficient, and imports are checked. *Juár* is even being exported, and so will not have the effect of lowering prices, as it would have had had it all remained in the district.

Jhánsi.—Food stocks sufficient, *juár* from the new crop being plentiful. Importation continues.

Jalaun.—Food stocks continue to be sufficient. Importations were less than during October.

Jaunpur.—Food stocks sufficient. Prices are high, but show no tendency to rise.

Rae Bareli.—Food stocks, which are sufficient for local consumption, are supplemented by imports.

Sitapur.—The markets seem fairly well supplied. Grain is being exported, but no importations are being made. Prices have not changed materially.

Hardoi.—It is believed that supplies are sufficient in the towns and large villages, and imports of peas and maize are reported. In the small villages the grain stocks are said to be rapidly running short. The poorest classes are utilising seeds of wild grasses as food, as is customary when prices are exceptionally high.

GENERAL CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE AFFECTED AREA.

Banda.—The prospects of the district are altered only in the fact that the rain which has fallen in other districts will tend to lower prices in this district also. The germinated crops have in a few moist tracts been placed out of immediate danger of drought. The rainfall was too slight in the district as a whole to materially improve the situation.

Hamirpur.—The recent rain has been heavy and of great value in the north-east and west of the district, and it is hoped that nearly all the rabi area will be sown there. This means more demand for labour as well as a better prospect of food hereafter. In the east and south of the district the rain was insufficient for sowings. The kharif harvest will shortly be over, and the numbers on relief must rise rapidly.

Allahabad.—Prospects are bad in the portion of the district south of the Jumna, where the rabi sowings are small and where the kharif was very poor; and they are not much better in the tract between the Jumna and the Ganges. No rain fell in the district in November.

Jhansi.—The rabi has germinated very well, and much more has been sown than was anticipated.

Jalawn.—A slight shower of rain fell in the district on the 21st, but was of practically no benefit, not soaking the ground to a depth of more than an inch, which is said to be insufficient for sowing purposes. The outlook as regards the rabi crop, therefore, continues gloomy in the extreme.

Jamnpur.—The specially affected area, which, however, is only the northern fringe of the district, is so largely dependent on the rice crop that in it little change for the better can be expected till the next rains.

Rae Bareli.—The condition and prospects of the affected area are not satisfactory. The rabi, so far as it has been sown, has, however, germinated satisfactorily and promises well. Irrigation, ploughing, and sowing of fields are in active progress.

Sitapur.—The rain in November has done good, and put some confidence in the people. A very considerable area has been sown, and germination is good.

Hardoi.—General condition of the people is said to be unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the recent rain, by providing labour on agricultural work, would temporarily retard the increase of distress; but the numbers on relief works are daily increasing. Rabi sowings, however, are still in progress, and the prospects of the crop are reported to be distinctly favourable.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

In all districts the wages paid on relief works and in gratuitous relief have been fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code, having regard to the prices current of staple food grains. The classification of labourers, however, is imperfect, a very unnecessarily large proportion being classed under A. The truth seems to be that there are very few labourers of that class on the works. This imperfection is in process of rectification.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statement B. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday evening, the 28th November 1896.

08196

District.	Maximum Number (Daily Average for Three Months) for whom Relief is Estimated to be required in Case of Serious Famine.	Number of Persons (Daily Average for Three Months) for whom Relief was provided in the last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided on Works remaining on Programme on Date of Report.		Expenditure since 1st November 1896.			Advances since 1st November 1896 up to end of month under		Revenue Suspended since 1st November 1896.
		Date of Publication of Programme	On Large Works.	On Others.	On Large Works.	On Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Rupees in Thousands.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Allahabad :												
Banda	100,000	1st November 1896.	240,000	8,000	227,000	8,000	28th November 1896.	Rs. 48,764	Rs. 16,370	Rs. 1,158	Rs. 2,375	—
Hamirpur	75,000		147,000	6,000	137,000	6,000		Rs. 6,446	Rs. 11,909	Rs. 4,943	Rs. 5,749	—
Allahabad	150,000		(a)84,000	50,000	82,600	50,000		Rs. 10,462	Rs. 4,852	Rs. 4,026	Rs. 32,568	6,76,
Jhansi	80,000		104,000	8,142	100,000	8,142		Rs. 7,602	Rs. 656	—	Rs. 4,087	—
Jalaun	60,000		115,000	20,914	100,000	17,115		Rs. 14,740	Rs. 4,887	Rs. 80	Rs. 2,437	—
Total, Allahabad Division	465,000		690,000	93,056	646,600	89,257		Rs. 88,014	Rs. 38,674	Rs. 10,207	Rs. 47,216	6,76,
Benares :												
Jaunpur	60,000	1st November 1896.	55,000	—	54,000	—	28th November 1896.	Rs. 12,033	Rs. 1,461	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 7,000	—
Total, Benares Division	60,000		55,000	—	54,000	—		Rs. 12,033	Rs. 1,461	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 7,000	—
Lucknow :												
Rae Bareli	100,000	1st November 1896.	(a)67,000	4,000	62,100	4,000	28th November 1896.	Rs. 19,554	Rs. 1,719	Rs. 55,000	Rs. 6,000	—
Sitapur	100,000		108,000	67,586	106,790	67,586		Rs. 4,591	Rs. 386	Rs. 3,400	Rs. 5,023	—
Hardoi	110,000		(a)37,000	11,000	35,352	8,600		Rs. 10,268	Rs. 4,455	Rs. 35,569	Rs. 45,850	1,25,
Total, Lucknow Division	310,000		212,000	82,586	204,242	80,186		Rs. 34,413	Rs. 6,560	Rs. 93,969	Rs. 56,873	1,25,
Total, North-Western Provinces and Oudh	835,000	—	957,000	175,642	904,842	169,443	—	Rs. 134,460	Rs. 46,695	Rs. 106,176	Rs. 111,089	8,01,

(a) Column 4.—In Allahabad, Rae Bareli, and Hardoi more works have been arranged for, and a sufficient programme will be published in December. Columns 11 and 12.—The following advances were also made in connection with the present scarcity during October —

	Banda.	Hamirpur.	Allahabad	Jhansi.	Jalaun	Jaunpur	Rae Bareli.	Sitapur.	Hardoi.
Under the Land Improvement Loans Act	Rs. —	Rs. 7,896	Rs. 3,037	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 7,835	Rs. 7,500	Rs. 58,730	Rs. 46,785	Rs. 59,930
Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act	Rs. 34,000	Rs. 2,247	Rs. 24,807	Rs. 145	Rs. 36,000	Rs. 500	Rs. 53,185	Rs. 20,180	Rs. 33,210

Column 13.—Permission has been given to Commissioners of divisions to suspend land revenue, as they find it necessary, to a much larger amount than is shown in this return. The return takes account of land revenue actually suspended during November.

SEPARATE MORTALITY STATEMENT.

DISTRICT.	Monthly Death Rate.	
	For October 1896.	For the corresponding Period of the previous Year.
Bánda - - - - -	3.98	3.45
Jhánsi - - - - -	7.38*	3.63
Rae Bareli - - - - -	1.96	2.01
Sitapur - - - - -	2.90	2.72
Hardoi - - - - -	4.43	3.66

* The cause of this high death-rate is under inquiry; cholera prevailed in Jhánsi recently.

No. 551 of 1896. Dated Allahabad, December 30, 1896.

RESOLUTION.—SCARCITY DEPARTMENT.

THE Lieutenant-Governor, having now completed a tour of inspection through the Bundelkhand districts (during which he visited some large relief works and inspected several poorhouses and orphanages), and having conferred in each district with the divisional and district officers, and the superintending, executive, and district engineers as to the relief methods in operation, and as to the extent of relief which is likely to be required from now until the setting in of the next monsoon, and as to the adequacy of the preparations made for affording this relief, desires to record the following observations.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to find that the circumstances of the four districts of Bánda, Hamírpur, Jhánsi, and Jalaun have not, excluding a few isolated tracts favoured by physical peculiarities or by exceptional falls of rain, been materially improved by the rain of November. The facts as to the rabi sowings up to date have been ascertained, and the sowings are now practically completed. The percentage of the area sown for rabi this year to the normal rabi area of past years in each district is—

	Per Cent.
In Bánda - - - - -	25
„ Jalaun - - - - -	30
„ Hamírpur - - - - -	47
„ Jhánsi - - - - -	50

and while in much of the area actually sown the seed has germinated well, and the young crops, though backward, are healthy and vigorous, a not inconsiderable portion is urgently in want of rain and will yield little, unless rain falls at an early date. In any case it is obvious that the prospects are extremely gloomy in Bánda and Jalaun, and gloomy in the other two districts.

3. The order in which the districts are placed above indicates the relative degree to which each is distressed. The worst district of the four is Bánda, and the best off is Jhánsi. In Bánda it may be said there is no part of the district in which distress is not severe and general. In Jhánsi acute distress is localised in certain tahsils and portions of tahsils.

4. The effect of a succession of bad years comes with accumulated force on these districts, which, as compared with the rest of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, are naturally poor and unproductive. The capital and the credit of zamindárs and the cultivators are at the lowest ebb, and the exceptionally helpless and large labouring population would be without employment and without food but for the Government relief works. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore not surprised to find that the pressure on these works has begun at least two months earlier than last year, and that

there are at the present time on the relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief nearly twice as many persons as in April last. In the Banda district 12 per cent. of the entire population are already in receipt of relief, and the Lieutenant-Governor is quite satisfied that no expenditure is being incurred which is not absolutely necessary. Indeed, as will subsequently appear, he thinks that more might have been done in the way of village relief without running any risk of unnecessary expenditure. Everything indicates that during the next six or seven months the State will be called upon to relieve more than double the number of people who were relieved in these districts this year in the course of the scarcity operations which were nominally closed in September last. In those operations the total number relieved (reduced to units relieved for one day) was 18½ millions. It will not be safe, having regard to the growing pressure, to count on less than 40 millions of units (for one day) as likely to require relief in Bundelkhand during the present scarcity, and the number may even exceed that figure. This is equivalent to 25 per cent. of the population for three months. In the Banda district alone his Honour would not be surprised if one-third, or even more, of the population came on relief. It is the worst famine of the century in Banda.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor's attention has accordingly been directed to ascertaining that the establishments and the relief programme of each district are sufficient for the probable calls upon them. The first question with which he has had to deal is as to the organisation of relief circles and the appointment of a proper number of circle inspecting and relieving officers. The most convenient circle unit is the revenue circle of the supervisor kánúngo, and no necessity for sub-dividing this unit in any district presented itself to the Lieutenant-Governor. It was the unit adopted last year; and the officers and people are accustomed to it. But although the supervisor kánúngo (helped of course by the patwaris) has been able up till now to carry on his regular duties and discharge the functions of a relief circle officer, he cannot be expected to do so in the circumstances of great pressure now to be anticipated. Authority has accordingly been given to each Collector to appoint to each circle an additional or assistant kánúngo on pay of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month. The pay of these temporary officials will be charged to famine relief, but it will be discretionary with the Collector to employ them as famine relief circle officers, or to transfer to them the regular duties of the supervisor kánúngos, and thus set the latter free for famine work. The additional kánúngos should be preferentially appointed from among the patwaris of the district. The Lieutenant-Governor understands that there will be no difficulty in selecting men, and that they will be appointed within a week. The fact of their actual appointment should be reported.

6. In tahsils in which distress is general and severe (and all the tahsils of the Banda district answer to this description) the tahsildár will require an additional naib tahsildár to aid in circle inspection and other famine relief duties. Authority is accordingly given to the Commissioners of the division to make such temporary appointments as he finds it necessary. The additional naib tahsildár's pay will be fixed by the Commissioner at Rs. 40 or Rs. 50, and will be charged to famine relief. To such officers, if not previously in Government service as naibs or kánúngos, the orders contained in G. O. No. 5746, dated 21st December 1896, Financial Department, granting a consolidated local allowance of 20 per cent. on pay, would not apply. The appointments should preferentially be made from the kánúngo staff of the district, the place of the promoted kánúngo being filled from the patwári staff as in the previous case. But discretion is allowed Commissioners to appoint other suitable men when this course seems to them to be clearly the better plan. These naib tahsildárs will be quite distinct from the persons of a similar standing who are being deputed by the Board of Revenue under the orders of the Government in the Public Works Department to act as paymasters on the large relief works. The Board of Revenue will continue to be charged with these last-mentioned arrangements. The tahsildár will continue to control the inferior officers in regard to famine relief: and the tahsils will continue to be grouped into sub-divisional or relief charges under the general control of the gazetted officers who now administer them, and whose numbers have been materially strengthened.

The above orders as to the temporary appointment of naib tahsildárs supersede to some extent the orders conveyed by G. O. No. 416, S.—58, dated 13th December 1896, to the Commissioner of the Allahabad Division, where it was said that, having regard to the requirements of the Public Works Department for naib tahsildárs, it was impossible to give any district for poorhouse and circle relief purposes more than a very limited number of additional naib tahsildárs. This was the case as regards the supply of such officials through the Board of Revenue. The procedure enjoined in this letter of temporary local appointments made by the Collector from his district staff provides a way

out of this difficulty without trenching on the reserve maintained by the Board of Revenue for the requirements of the Public Works Department.

7. The circle inspection staff thus strengthened should be able to inspect every village in the relief circle once every ten days, and the Lieutenant-Governor regards this as a fundamental necessity. The agency for the actual distribution of village relief to persons on the lists prepared under Chapters V. and X. of the Code may vary from district to district at the discretion of the Collector; in some places it may be respectable zamindárs or village panchayets; in others where such agency is not available it may be patwáris, but it is essential that the lists should be examined, supplemented and corrected at frequent intervals in each village by the circle officer. The circle officers should be required to keep a diary for the information of the tahsildár, the sub-divisional officer, and the Collector under such heads as the Collector may prescribe.

8. His Honour has already requested the Inspector General of Civil Hospitals to place at the Commissioner's disposal a medical officer of the status of Civil Surgeon for the sanitary inspection of relief works, relief hospitals, and poorhouses in the Allahabad Division.

9. In all four Bundelkhand districts the Lieutenant-Governor found that village relief had been started, but as much progress had not everywhere been made as his Honour had expected. It is imperatively necessary that special attention should be paid to this subject. With regard to the numbers who may eventually be brought on the lists, the Lieutenant-Governor noticed some hesitation on the part of local officers, and some uncertainties as to how far they might go. A good deal would in each case depend on the extent to which the indigent and beggar class had drifted to the poorhouses. But if the poorhouses are kept within the limits prescribed by Article 111 of the Famine Code, the Lieutenant-Governor, without wishing to prescribe a standard, may say that in a really distressed tract, especially if there are towns in it with respectable classes of reduced means, 3 per cent. of the total population would probably be found to be not an excessive limit. Of course his Honour does not prescribe this or any other figure as a limit to be worked up to. The numbers to be relieved under Chapters V. and X. must depend on the actual facts.

10. Poorhouse relief has in all districts been properly organised, and the only direction on this point which is needed is that the population of the poorhouses should be kept down by systematically drafting off to relief works all persons capable of work, and to their villages as recipients of village relief all those who have homes and are unable to work.

11. The programme of large famine relief works in each district is adequate, and the organisation of the Public Works Department is sufficient for present actual requirements. But it will probably soon cease to be so. More overseers and work agents are required. On this point action will at once be taken in the Public Works Department.

12. The relief works which the Lieutenant-Governor visited were well conducted. The recent orders* for the management and control of works under the Public Works Department had not been fully carried out owing to an unnecessary delay, for which the Public Works Department was not responsible; but no harm was done. The rules are now in force.

13. In the Banda district the Public Works Department are elaborating plans for a number of large irrigation reservoir, or tank works, which will supply an excellent series of relief works suitable for the hot weather, while materially benefiting the district, which, above all things, stands in need of irrigation. His Honour was able to see such a work in progress in Hamírpur, and to satisfy himself as to its utility as a relief work as well as to its subsequent usefulness.

14. Another matter to which the Lieutenant-Governor's attention was much directed during the conferences was as to the place which "village works" under Article 65 (a) of the Code, of the nature of tanks and embankments, should occupy in the programme of famine relief. The general feeling of the local officers was in favour of the policy of keeping works of this class to the later stages of the famine, when at the height of the hot weather and on the near approach of the rains it is desirable to bring the people back to their villages. It was thought that "village works," whether managed by the Public Works Department or entrusted to zamindárs, would in this respect prove very useful. But there was also a very clear pronouncement of opinion that a strong backbone of

* Government Resolution No. 18 P. W., dated 5th December 1896.

large public works must be maintained throughout. With these conclusions the Lieutenant-Governor concurs. His Honour has now received Minutes of the Conferences between Mr. Palmer, Superintending Engineer on special duty, and the Divisional and District Officers of the Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions on the subject of rules for the control and management of these village works, and the principles and procedure which have been reached at these conferences are substantially those which have independently occurred to the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Palmer is now engaged in preparing a set of rules, and when they have been revised by his Honour and issued, it will be well that two or three small village works should be started in each district at an early date with the object of ascertaining whether the rules are practical and meet all the requirements of the case, and whether the method of relief they are intended to systematize fulfils the hopes entertained in regard to it, both as regards economy in expenditure and effectiveness as regards the relief of distress. Our future action, so far as village works are concerned, will be a good deal influenced by the results of these experiments.

15. The Lieutenant-Governor's orders regarding the Cawnpore district, which he found in much better condition than Bundelkhand, are embodied in the Minutes of his Conference with the local officers, which have been separately recorded.

16. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to express his strong appreciation of the energy and discretion with which officers of every grade are facing the difficulties which beset them. To the Collectors of the Bundelkhand districts his Honour's thanks are due in a more especial degree.

ORDER.—Ordered that copies of this Resolution be forwarded—

- (1) to the Commissioner, Allahabad Division, for communication to the Collectors of the Bundelkhand districts and the issue of necessary subsidiary orders ;
- (2) to all Commissioners of divisions, North Western Provinces and Oudh (except Meerut and Kumaun), for information and guidance on the points applicable to their divisions, and to all Collectors of districts in those divisions ;
- (3) to the Secretary to this Government, in the Public Works Department, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information and issue of necessary orders in regard to paragraph II ;
- (4) to the Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, for the information of the Government of India ;
- (5) to the Secretary to this Government, in the Financial Department, for issue of necessary orders to the Accountant General ;
- (6) to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for information.

By order, &c.
T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

No. 75—S. of 1897. Dated Allahabad, January 9, 1897.

From the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH-WEST PROVINCES AND OUDH,
to all COMMISSIONERS AND DISTRICT OFFICERS, NORTH-WEST
PROVINCES AND OUDH (EXCEPTING MEERUT AND KUMAUN).

SIR,

I AM directed to enclose, for your guidance and for the guidance of District Officers in your division, a copy of rules which the Lieutenant-Governor has found it advisable to issue regarding the organization of the village relief system under Article 54 and Chapter X. of the Family Code. The object of these rules is to ensure that in districts declared to be distressed every village should be treated with the view of accounting for every individual resident therein, and that no case which ought to be relieved in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the Code escapes notice. The rules apply to those districts only which have been officially recognised as distressed. In districts which are still under observation the systematic and careful inquiry which the rules require is presumed to be unnecessary. But in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Code, even

in these districts indigent people may have been brought on the *patwáris'* lists, and some of these lists, from the number of entries on them, may suggest to the District Officer the necessity of following the procedure laid down by the rules in exceptional cases. Should such cases present themselves, he should not hesitate to deal with them in the spirit of the rules. As stated above, these rules require that the case of every individual resident of the village must be separately considered in the framing and revising of these lists. This procedure is possible for rural villages with the organization now established in the distressed districts, as the inhabitants are usually of the labouring and cultivating class who make no objection to meet the relief officers on these terms. But it is not possible for the district relief agency to pass in review the entire population of cities or towns. This must be done, where serious distress prevails in a city or town, in a less obtrusive way by the municipal or town authorities working in conjunction with unofficial committees. The number of such towns and cities is not great. For practical purposes they are enumerated in Table V., Part II. of the Census Report. This is the procedure successfully adopted in Lucknow, Allahabad, and other large cities, and there seems to be no necessity for disturbing their arrangements.

2. The enforcement of the village relief system in accordance with these rules will have an important bearing on the population of the poor-houses, and possibly on the numbers of dependants attending relief works. During his tours the Lieutenant-Governor has observed that many persons have been received into poor-houses and were relieved as dependants on works who, under the full working of the village system as now explained, ought, so long as they are unable to work, to be relieved at their own homes. It will, therefore, be the business of every Collector of a distressed district to sort out the inmates of his poor-houses and the dependants on relief works and, subject to proper provision for protection and food during the transit, to send them to their homes and bring their names on the village lists for relief. In treating dependants in this way care must be taken that children are not separated from their parents, and that families are not broken up.

3. In this way it is to be expected that the population of poor-houses and the number of people who seek relief as dependants on roads will diminish, and that the relief system will consist of two great forms,—first, relief on works for all in need of relief who are able to labour, and, second, relief at their homes for all unable to labour, but in need of relief.

I have, &c.

T. W. HOLDERNESS,
Secretary to Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHING VILLAGE RELIEF UNDER CHAPTERS V. AND X. OF THE FAMINE CODE.

Preliminary.

It is presumed that in all districts in which the existence of distress is formally recognised the village lists mentioned in Article 54 have been prepared by the *patwáris*, and that relief is being given by circle officers on the basis of those lists. But inquiry has shown that the lists have not always been prepared in a satisfactory manner. The following instructions are accordingly issued with a view of securing the amplification and verification of the lists, and of determining the mode of payment and the amount of the relief:—

Rules.

1. The circle officer, before visiting a village, shall intimate to the landlord, or his local agent, his intention of visiting the village on a certain date, and request him either to be present in person or to depute his *kárinda*. He should also request that people living in outlying hamlets may be assembled in the main village on the day fixed.

2. On arriving at the village, the circle officer will assemble the *patwári*, the village headman, the landlord's local agent, the *chaukidár*, and the respectable inhabitants, and will call for the *patwári's* list prepared under Article 54 of the Code. These lists will form the basis of the subsequent procedure.

3. The circle officer will then proceed to ascertain the population of the village, with details of the numbers present and absent, with such information as he can get as to the causes of absence of individuals.

4. The portion of the population present may be divided into two classes:—

- (a.) *parda nashins*;
- (b.) all other persons.

5. The circle officer will carefully consult the persons mentioned in Rule 2 as to whether any *parda nashins* are in need of relief, and should be brought upon the list under Chapter X. He will also bring upon that list any old or infirm men of the higher castes who are unable to work and are in want.

6. The circle officer will then muster and examine all the persons of the village who are not *parda nashins*. They will fall into three classes:—

- (a.) well-to-do people not needing relief;
- (b.) people needing relief, but able to work;
- (c.) people needing relief and unable to work, either from physical weakness or having young children or sick people to look after.

Class (c) will be mostly women and children.

7. The circle officer will direct persons of class (b) in the preceding rule to the nearest relief work. He will bring class (c) persons on his list.

Persons who, in the circle officer's opinion, are temporarily incapacitated for labour by sickness or privation will be granted relief for such time only as the incapacity exists. Such cases must be inquired into whenever the village is visited by the circle officer.

8. The lists so framed under Chapters V. and X. will be made over to the *patwari* of the village, who shall be bound to produce them for the inspection of any circle officer subsequently visiting the village.

9. The relief distributed will be in money. The distributing agency will be, as determined by the Collector, either—

- (a.) the landlord;
- (b.) the headman or other respectable resident of the village or of an adjoining village;
- (c.) the *patwari*.

10. A sufficient sum to afford the prescribed relief for 20 days shall be made over to the distributor by the circle officer. The distributor is authorised to give relief to all persons on the list prepared by the circle officer, and, in urgent cases in which starvation is imminent, to persons not on the list pending the next visit of the circle officer.

11. The circle officer's list shall be tested and revised as often as may be possible by the *naib tahsildar*, the *tahsildar*, and the sub-divisional officer.

12. Each village should be visited, as far as possible, once in 10 days by the circle officer or other superior relief officer, whose duty it will be to scrutinise the lists, muster the recipients (not being *parda nashins*), remove from the lists persons who have become fit for work, and bring on the lists the names of other persons eligible under the preceding rules.

13. A dated ticket, bearing a serial number corresponding to that in the nominal list, should be given to each person entered on the list, showing the relief to which he or she is entitled, and the name of the person from whom such relief is to be received.

14. The relief to be distributed will be that prescribed for "dependants" by the ready reckoner appended to the rules for Public Works Department works circulated with Public Works Resolution, No. 18, dated December 5, 1896, with the following additions:—

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) for children between 12 and 16, (2) for children between 7 and 12, | } | <p>The rate shown for labouring children of these ages in the ready reckoner according to the price of grain prevailing at the time.</p> |
|---|---|--|

15. While no limit is prescribed for the exclusion of necessitous cases, it is only in a very distressed tract, and for a limited period, that the numbers on these relief lists should exceed 3 per cent. of the population. In tracts which are not very distressed 3 per cent. of the population may be ordinarily regarded as a maximum limit.

WEEKLY CROP REPORT: TABULATION SHEET FOR SATURDAY,
JANUARY 2, 1897.

STATEMENT showing Number of Persons in receipt of Relief in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh on January 2, 1897.

I.—DISTRESSED DISTRICTS.

Serial Number.	DISTRICT.	Numbers on Relief Works.		Numbers in Poor-houses.	Numbers Relieved otherwise.	Total.	Number of Relief Works Open.	Number of Poor-houses.
		Workers.	Dependents.					
1	Bánda - - -	67,140	18,192	5,299	7,481	98,112	9	7
2	Cawnpore - - -	11,915	2,910	1,576	2,031	18,462	12	4
3	Hamirpur - - -	15,056	3,592	3,547	2,693	24,888	4	5
4	Allahabad - - -	59,184	23,601	6,707	5,422	94,914	8	6
5	Jhánsi - - -	11,329	2,075	2,047	1,069	16,520	3	4
6	Jalaun - - -	17,704	4,863	1,013	3,351	26,731	5	4
7	Jaunpur - - -	14,825	3,919	485	104	19,333	7	3
8	Lucknow - - -	14,251	1,658	2,079	8,442	26,430	5	3
9	Unao - - -	8,028	961	1,031	347	10,367	4	4
10	Rae Bareli - - -	21,351	8,930	1,567	1	29,849	5	2
11	Sitapur - - -	18,190	2,617	347	160	21,314	6	2
12	Hardoi - - -	20,425	6,527	3,529	8,443	38,924	6	4
	TOTAL - - -	279,428	77,645	29,227	39,544	425,844	64	47

II.—DISTRICTS UNDER OBSERVATION.

Serial Number.	DISTRICT.	Numbers on Test Works.	Numbers in Poor-houses.	Numbers Relieved otherwise.	Total.	Number of Test Works Open.	Number of Poor-houses and Kitchens Open.
1	Muttra - - -	3,399	156	-	3,555	1	1
2	Agra - - -	4,897	247	-	5,144	6	3
3	Farukhabad - - -	1,174	807	-	1,981	4	3
4	Mainpuri - - -	77	77	90	244	1	1
5	Etáwah - - -	4,846	61	718	5,625	1	1
6	Etah - - -	1,000	116	480	1,596	9	2
7	Bareilly - - -	518	110	-	628	1	1
8	Bijnor - - -	251	453	-	704	1	4
9	Budaun - - -	668	106	-	774	3	1
10	Moradabad - - -	107	134	-	241	3	2
11	Sháhjahánpur - - -	753	658	693	2,309	4	3
12	Pilibhít - - -	-	396	-	396	1	3
13	Fatehpur - - -	109	803	135	1,137	3	1
14	Benares - - -	318	604	-	922	3	3
15	Mirzapur - - -	1,400	795	-	2,195	4	1
16	Gorakhpur - - -	2,024	3,117	-	5,141	9	5
17	Basti - - -	515	670	-	1,185	5	4
18	Azamgarh - - -	9,627	1,075	8	10,710	7	4
19	Kheri - - -	230	19	-	249	1	2
20	Fyzabad - - -	1,943	1,096	84	3,123	4	3
21	Gonda - - -	2,163	1,480	-	3,643	4	3
22	Sultánpur - - -	2,661	702	536	3,899	7	4
23	Partágarh - - -	3,632	428	-	4,060	6	3
24	Bara Banki - - -	10,763	811	-	11,574	9	7
	Total - - -	53,165	15,121	2,749	71,035	95	65

No. 222 of 1897, dated Allahabad, January 20, 1897.

FROM THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES AND
 OUDH, TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, REVENUE
 AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward the monthly Famine Statements A. and B., for these provinces, which give an account of relief operations up to 26th December 1896 in districts formally recognised as distressed. Since the submission of the last report, the districts of Cawnpore, Lucknow, and Unao have been added to the list, and the prescribed maps for these districts are accordingly submitted. Distress has also been declared in parts of the districts of Agra, Etawah, Gorakhpur, and Bara Banki since the close of the period under report. These districts will be included in Statements A. and B. for the current month. The additional extra-Code Statement C., referred to in the last report, is attached. It contains particulars in regard to the relief operations in 25 districts which were under observation during the period under report, though not officially recognised as distressed.

2. The Inspector General of Civil Hospitals in his recent tours has paid special attention to the condition of the inmates of poorhouses, the labourers on relief works, and the prisoners in the jails of the districts he visited. He has recorded the result of his observations in the form of a note, a copy of which is submitted for the information of the Government of India.

I have, &c.

T. STOKER,

Secretary to Government, North Western Provinces and Oudh.

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

MONTHLY FAMINE STATEMENT A. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.

Division.	D I S T R I C T.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population, in Thousands, of Column 4.	Number on Relief Works on the Last Day of the Period under Report					Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.	Price of One or More Principal Food Grains in Sérs per Rupee.						Monthly Death Rate.		Deaths due to Starvation.	
						Class A.	Class B.	Class C.	Class D.	TOTAL.		Wheat.	Maize.	Barley.	Millets.		Pulses.		For the Period under Report.		For the corresponding Period of the Previous Year.
															Juár.	Other.	Gram.	Other.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	
Allahabad	Cawnpore - - - -	2,363	1,210	1,219	462	-	3,521	-	3,855	7,376	5,125	7 81	10 87	9 15	10 31	8 62	9 62	10 62	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		2
	Bánda - - - -	3,061	705	3,061	705	6,285	29,780	594	22,851	59,510	27,295	-	-	-	-	-	9 21	9 78	ditto		-
	Hamirpur - - - -	2,289	513	2,289	513	7,318	-	-	8,257	15,575	9,804	7 37	9 87	8 43	9 87	8 63	9 25	7 12	ditto		-
	Allahabad - - - -	2,852	1,549	2,852	1,549	14,387	5,378	2,988	1,803	24,559	14,889	7 81	10 25	9 12	10 06	11 50	9 75	7 87	3 36	1 85	-
	Jhánsi - - - -	3,587	683	3,587	683	204	4,711	-	8,771	13,686	2,986	7 87	-	-	10 87	-	9 68	7 93	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-
	Jalaun - - - -	1,477	396	1,477	396	3,585	6,550	1,381	2,196	13,712	8,402	7 34	9 71	8 25	9 37	-	8 87	7 08	3 29	2 54	2
TOTAL, Allahabad Division -		15,629	5,056	14,485	4,908	24,461	57,258	4,963	47,736	135,441	68,501	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Benares	Jaunpur - - - -	1,550	1,265	271	214	176	9 482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	7 56	10 50	9 12	-	-	9 87	9 12	2 11	1 93	2
	TOTAL, Benares Division -	1,550	1,265	271	214	176	9 482	-	1,148	10,806	4,617	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lucknow	Lucknow - - - -	967	774	967	774	-	3,661	550	6,178	10,389	9,277	8 25	11 25	9 25	11 50	8 75	9 75	10 50	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-
	Unao - - - -	1,736	953	1,327	798	-	5,172	-	400	5,572	1,511	8	-	8 68	-	-	9	-	2 6	1 8	-
	Rae Bareli - - - -	1,752	1,037	1,752	1,037	381	9,091	-	7,428	16,900	7,009	-	10 75	-	9	-	-	10 75	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-
	Sitapur - - - -	2,255	1,075	989	449	-	7,032	-	446	7,478	1,551	8	11 50	11	11	10	9	8	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		-
	Hardoi - - - -	2,325	1,113	2,325	1,113	304	9,686	941	5,185	16,116	10,915	8 50	10 50	9	10	9 25	9 25	9 50	Not available (see separate Mortality Statement for November).		1
TOTAL, Lucknow Division -		9,035	4,952	7,354	4,171	685	34,642	1,491	19,637	56,455	30,263	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH (26,214	11,273	32,110	8,693	25,322	101,382	6,454	68,521	202,702	103,381	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7

* Employed on village works.

REMARKS TO ACCOMPANY FAMINE STATEMENT A. FOR THE FOUR WEEKS
ENDING 26TH DECEMBER 1896.

Private Relief, Village and Poorhouse Relief.

Cawnpore.—There are four poorhouses open in the district. The total number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was 3,059. Village relief was commenced during the month, but only on a small scale; it is being developed during the current month.

Bánda.—Private relief is confined to indiscriminate doles to beggars by a few well-to-do persons in Bánda city. The total numbers (reduced to units of one day) of persons relieved under Chapters V., X., and XIII. of the Code during the period under report, were respectively 132,016, 34,409, and 862. Several poorhouses were open, in which the total number of persons on the last day of the period under report was 5,024, against 3,159 on the last day of the preceding four weeks.

Hamirpur.—A few persons still distribute private relief in the shape of doles; others have provided clothing for recipients of relief. A charitable relief fund has been started, to which Rs. 870 has been subscribed. There have been five poorhouses open during the period under report, the number of inmates on 26th December being 2,397, exclusive of 723 persons in famine hospitals. One thousand one hundred and seventy-eight persons were in receipt of outdoor relief, including 122 *parda nashin* women. Steps have been taken to further extend the system of village relief.

Allahabad.—Detailed village-to-village inquiries resulted in the listing of 4,722 persons who merited relief at their homes, and relief was actually given to about 1,000 of them. This is apart from the work of the Allahabad Special Charity Committee, referred to in the last report, whose funds from private subscriptions have now reached Rs. 26,000. House-to-house inquiries have been in progress through the city, with the result that about 2,400 people were granted relief a few days after the close of the month. About 2,000 people were indebted to private charity for a small daily dole of grain. At the end of the period under report the four poorhouses which have been established contained 6,522 inmates, notwithstanding that nearly 4,000 persons were drafted from them on to relief works. Six more poorhouses are in course of construction.

Jhánsi.—Relief has been given in the city to such persons as cannot go to the poorhouses and relief works. The monthly expenditure on this branch of relief is estimated at about Rs. 800. Four poorhouses are open. The number of inmates in that at Jhánsi is increasing, though those who become fit for work are being regularly drafted on to the relief works.

Jalaun.—There are four poorhouses open in the district. Village relief has been organised in all four tahsils of the district. The number of people receiving outdoor relief is being added to as occasion demands.

Jainpur.—The tank project referred to in last month's report as being contemplated by Thákurain Sunao Kunwar of Singramau is now in hand, and 580 persons are employed on it. Two more poorhouses have been opened. Relief is being given to *parda nashin* women at their homes.

Lucknow.—In the city of Lucknow a committee has been formed, and funds collected from private sources to the extent of Rs. 31,000. From this fund, which has been further supplemented by a grant of Rs. 10,000 from Government, about 6,500 people are relieved. Three poorhouses are open; the number of inmates on the last day of the period under report was about 1,800. Village lists have been prepared, and arrangements have been made to give effect to this branch of relief on an adequate scale from 1st January 1897.

Unao.—Private organisations in two towns relieve about 1,000 people daily. There are four poorhouses in the district. About 75 per cent. of the inmates are supplied with blankets from private subscriptions.

Rae Bareilly.—There are two poorhouses in the district, and the number of inmates is increasing. Relief under Chapter V. is being given in one tahsil, and under Chapter X. in two tahsils. Advances have been given to police officers for relief under Chapter XIII.

Sitapur.—Private relief at Khairabad has been exhausted, but at Sitapur the committee referred to in last month's report continues its work. Two poorhouses were open, the number of inmates on 26th December being 300.

Hardoi.—As reported last month, private subscriptions are utilised in supplying the inmates of poorhouses with clothing. Lists of persons requiring relief under Chapters V. and X. have been prepared, and relief is administered through *kánungos*, zamindars, and members of municipal boards. Village relief has been considerably extended since the period covered by this report. There are four poorhouses, one at the headquarters of each tahsil.

General Character of Relief Works.

In all districts all large relief works in operation are under the management of the Public Works Department, and are conducted in strict accordance with the provisions of the Famine Code. The task and gang system is in force, and the wage is regulated in accordance with the price of the ordinary food grains of the people, being also graduated, as regards maxima rates, by the extent to which the prescribed tasks are performed by the workers. Children and adults who are unable to work, but who form part of the family of a worker, receive gratuitous relief in the form of a subsistence wage as "dependants." As a general rule, relief works consist of road work, but the deepening and improving of tanks within a reasonable distance of a road project is always carried on *pari passu* as part of the project. In some districts employment is being given through the agency of landholders by means of village works executed by means of advances from Government, which will be partly recoverable, and which are made on conditions that secure that work is given at fair wages to those classes of persons who are most in need of employment.

Physical Condition of the People.

Cawnpore.—The people employed on the relief works are reported to be in a better condition than might be expected.

Bánda.—The physical condition of the labourers on relief works and of the inmates of the poorhouses is fair, but there are undoubted signs of want and privation.

Hamírpur.—The health of the district has been fair, but the labouring classes are generally in a weak condition, and there have been a number of deaths from exposure, due to exceptional cold. Steps have been taken to hut the labourers on works. The population of the poorhouses is exceptionally unhealthy and emaciated.

Allahabad.—The people who come on to the relief works are generally in very poor condition. The works during the month were practically confined to the southern portion of the district bordering on Bundelkhand; the crop failure here has been general and severe, and there is much privation.

Jhánsi.—The physical condition of the people appears, on the whole, to be fairly good, but the mortality continues high. This, though ascribed to the unusual prevalence of malarial fevers, possibly indicates a reduced vitality and lower standard of living.

Jaloun.—The people admitted to poorhouses are generally in an emaciated condition. Those who have been some time on the relief works, however, exhibit a marked improvement on their appearance when the works were first started.

Jaunpur.—In the seriously affected portion of the district the general condition of the people is poor, but elsewhere it is fair, except in the case of the lowest classes, many of whom are in bad condition.

Lucknow.—The condition of the people is fair, as timely measures were taken to meet the distress.

Unao.—The condition of the people on the relief works is good. A favourable indication is that the number of women on the works does not largely exceed that of the men.

Rae Bareli.—The condition of the low caste people is not satisfactory.

Sitapur.—The condition of the labouring classes shows signs of some privation; but that of the cultivating class is fairly good. The people who come on the works are, on the whole, neither emaciated nor unhealthy. Many belong to the decent class of agriculturists, who, having sown their fields and temporarily exhausted their resources, come on the works while yet in good condition.

Hardoi.—There is much emaciation throughout the district among the labouring classes, but the death rate for November was below that of the same month in 1895. The average physique of the people on the works is very distinctly below that of persons on the relief works of the adjoining district of Sitapur. This district is severely distressed, and relief measures have been very largely extended.

Deaths from Starvation.

Two deaths are reported in Cawnpore, two in Jalaun, two in Jaunpur, and one in Hardoi. In Cawnpore one was of a child which died from want of nourishment owing to the illness of its mother, and the other was that of a person supposed to have come from Bundelkhand, who was not known in the place where his body was found. In Jalaun one person died shortly after admission to the poorhouse, though every effort was made by the hospital assistant to save him: no particulars regarding him could be discovered. The second, a wanderer from a native state, was found lying dead on the road near a bordering village of the district. The two deaths in Jaunpur were of wanderers whose names and residence were unknown. They appeared to have been coming to the relief works and to have died on the way. The death at Hardoi was of an old man of 70, who refused to go to the poorhouse. From enquiry it has been ascertained that of the 25 deaths reported last month from Rae Bareli, three or four were possibly due to starvation, though even of these there is no certainty.

Food Stocks and Importation of Grain.

Cawnpore.—Food stocks are sufficient for ordinary purchasers. Grain is being imported.

Banda.—The larger markets are well supplied and importations continue. There is no fear of food stocks running short at present.

Hamirpur.—Food stocks and fodder are sufficient.

Allahabad.—The district is importing by rail sufficient grain to feed daily at least one-third of its population. Local stocks, outside the city and the large marts, are said to be low, especially in the south, where the only means of transport is by pack bullock. But, except in the extreme south, where the population is sparse, the district is well served by the railways, and trade is active.

Jhānsi.—Food stocks are ample.

Jalaun.—Food stocks, which are dependent on importation, continue to be sufficient.

Jaunpur.—Food stocks are sufficient, but prices, though stationary, are very high.

Lucknow.—Food stocks are sufficient. Importations are dull at present, but it is expected that quantities of rice will shortly be imported from Burma.

Unao.—Food stocks are sufficient, and grain is also being largely imported.

Rae Bareli.—Food stocks, supplemented by import, are sufficient for local consumption.

Sitapur.—Large bazárs and large villages are reported to be well supplied; smaller ones not so. Grain is being exported.

Hardoi.—Grain is being imported. The stocks are said to be deficient in the smaller villages, but this requires verification.

General Condition and Prospects of the Affected Area.

Cawnpore.—Agricultural prospects were improved by the rain which fell at the end of November, and have since been further improved by rain at the end of December. In the canal tract and outside it, on irrigated lands, the rabi crops are good. But the area (77 per cent.) sown in the district is considerably less than the average area, and the late sowings on unirrigated lands are backward.

Banda.—The prospects of the district remain practically unaltered, except that the Christmas rains in other districts may tend to lower prices. The slight rain which fell in the district in December was beneficial to the germinated rabi crops, but did not admit of any extension of the very short area sown. The area sown is only one-fourth of the normal, and the district is in a prostrated state. Relief measures in Banda are extensive.

Hamirpur.—Rain fell on December 24, and also, after the close of the period under report, on the 29th and 30th. The rain has benefited the crops already sown, but has not operated to extend the area under cultivation. A good crop may be expected in the area sown, which is 46 per cent. of the normal area.

Allahabad.—This district has received no rain, either in November or December, in any appreciable quantity. The rabi area sown is only 38 per cent of the normal for the whole district, and in the extreme south there is virtually no crop at all. The southern portion of the district must continue to be a cause of great anxiety, and a very large proportion of its population will require relief during the next six months.

Jhansi.—The standing crop is in good condition, and gives promise of a good out turn. But it represents only 37 per cent. of the average rabi area of the district.

Jalaun.—The rain of the 28th and 29th was beneficial to the standing crops, though the hail which accompanied it did damage in a few villages. Some more land is being sown where the rainfall was good, but this will not add appreciably to the cropped area, which is only 27 per cent of the normal. The district is nearly as badly off as Banda.

Juunpur.—The recent rain hardly touched this district, and only in the extreme south did any appreciable quantity fall. It is, however, well irrigated, and has sown 78 per cent. of the normal rabi area. The crops that have not yet been irrigated are showing signs of failing, and the arhar and peas in some places have been badly injured by frost. The distressed area is confined to a rice-growing tract where the rice crop failed.

Lucknow.—The recent rain has greatly improved the prospects of the district.

Unao.—The rabi crop, which is 59 per cent of the normal, promises well.

Rae Bareli.—There has been no great change in the affected area, but the rabi promises well. It is 63 per cent. of the normal area.

Sitapur.—In the last week of the month there was general rain, which benefited the crops and gave heart to the cultivators. Irrigation work is suspended in some parts of the district, and the cultivating class, as well as the labouring class, are coming out to the relief works. This may be expected to continue until the rabi is ripe. Nearly 70 per cent. of the normal area has been sown.

Hardoi.—The people, especially labourers and small agriculturists, are very badly off. Until the rabi harvest there is certain to be a large and continued increase in the distress. The prospects of the rabi have been improved by the recent rain, but the area is reported only 52 per cent of the normal. Extensive relief measures have been established.

Changes in Rates of Wages.

The wages are fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Code, having regard to the prices current of staple food grains. The classification of the labourers is, however, still imperfect in some districts, an unnecessarily large number being classed under A. This is being rectified.

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly Famine Statement B. for the Four Weeks ending Saturday Evening, December 26, 1896.

Division.	DISTRICT.	Maximum Number (daily average for three months) for whom Relief is Estimated to be Required in Case of Serious Famine.	Number of Persons (daily average for three months) for whom Relief was Provided in the last Programme of Relief Works.			Number for whom Relief can be provided or Works Remaining on Programmes on Date of Report.		Expenditure since November 1, 1896.			Advances since November 1, 1896, under—		Revenue suspended since November 1, 1896.
			Date of Publication of Programme.	On large Works.	On others.	On large Works.	On Others.	Date up to which Account is made up.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Land Improvement Loans Act.	Agriculturists' Loans Act.	Rupees in Thousands.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
Allahabad	Cawnpore	70,000	November 1, 1896.	95,000	8,558	93,914	8,558	December 26, 1896.	Rs. 7,198	Rs. 818	Rs. 4,091	Rs. 15,000	Rs. 2,000
	Banda	100,000		240,000	8,000	200,000	8,000		1,36,763	39,622	2,598	3,225	2,890
	Hamirpur	75,000		147,000	6,000	120,000	6,000		29,330	23,259	5,521	10,580	1,870
	Allahabad	150,000		84,000	50,000	*119,800	50,000		36,157	3,312	4,026	32,568	6,760
	Jhansi	80,000		104,000	8,142	90,000	8,142		29,190	2,509	—	6,401	—
	Jalaun	60,000		115,000	20,914	*120,000	17,115		35,778	1,997	510	5,767	—
	Total, Allahabad Division	535,000		785,000	101,814	743,714	97,815		2,74,416	70,917	16,746	73,631	13,520
Benares	Janupur	60,000	55,000	—	*69,000	—	20,393	3,951	2,150	7,000	—		
	Total, Benares Division	60,000	55,000	—	69,000	—	20,393	3,951	2,150	7,000	—		
Lucknow	Lucknow	60,000	60,000	—	57,800	—	7,682	12,407	19,354	78,182	—		
	Unao	51,000	51,000	8,979	51,000	8,979	3,843	804	26,000	38,000	3,500		
	Rae Bareli	100,000	67,000	4,000	54,700	4,000	50,545	7,958	63,000	7,000	—		
	Sitapur	100,000	108,000	67,588	100,700	67,588	21,375	1,145	3,400	5,023	—		
	Hardoi	110,000	37,000	11,000	*46,500	*11,400	37,574	14,202	36,046	46,211	1,250		
	Total, Lucknow Division	421,000	323,000	91,565	310,700	91,965	1,21,019	36,516	1,47,800	1,74,416	4,750		
Total, North-West Provinces and Oudh		1,016,000	1,163,000	193,179	†1,123,414	189,780	4,15,828	1,11,384	1,66,696	2,55,047	18,270		

* Including new projects sanctioned since the issue of last programme. † Column 6—Since December 26 this supply of works has been increased by additions to the district programme. Columns 11 and 12.—The following advances were made in connection with the present scarcity in October.

	Cawnpore.	Banda.	Hamirpur.	Allahabad.	Jhansi.	Jalaun	Janupur.	Lucknow.	Unao.	Rae Bareli.	Sitapur.	Hardoi.
Under the Lands Improvement Loans Act	Rs. 1,749	Rs. Nil.	Rs. 7,896	Rs. 3,037	Rs. 6,000	Rs. 7,835	Rs. 7,500	Rs. 19,354	Rs. 2,349	Rs. 58,730	Rs. 46,785	Rs. 59,930
Under the Agriculturists' Loans Act	14,408	34,000	2,247	24,807	145	36,000	500	78,182	2,130	53,185	20,180	33,210

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Monthly (Extra-Code) Famine Statement C. for the four weeks ending Saturday evening, December 26, 1896.

DISTRIC T.	Test Relief Works under Civil Officers				Test Relief Works under Public Works Department.				Poor-house Relief.				Other Gratuitous Relief.			Remarks.
	Number open during Period under Report	Number of Labourers on last day of Period under Report.	Expenditure during Period.	Expenditure from out-set to date.	Number open during Period under Report.	Number of Labourers on last day of Period under Report.	Expenditure during Period.	Expenditure from out-set to Date.	Number of Poor-houses open during Period under Report	Number of Inmates on last day of Period under Report.	Expenditure during Period.	Expenditure from out-set to Date.	Number in receipt of Gratuitous Relief on last day of Period under Report.	Expenditure during Period.	Expenditure from out-set to Date.	
1.	2.	3	4.	5.	6	7	8.	9.	10	11.	12	13.	14	15.	16	17.
Dehra Dún	2	291	Rs. 902	Rs. 3,634	-	-	Rs. -	Rs. -	-	-	Rs. -	Rs. -	-	-	-	-
TOTAL, Meerut Division	2	291	902	3,634	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Muttra	-	-	-	2,123	1	3,948	3,082	3,682	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agra	17	573	1,393	6,477	3	3,938	863	926	2	226	650	1,527	2,870	4,226	4,274	* Two test works closed on 11th and 18th December respectively.
Farukhabad	2	918	368	1,140	-	-	-	-	2	701	1,000	2,719	-	-	-	
Mainpuri	-	-	-	-	1	103	84	84	1	100	491	911	-	-	-	
Etawah	-	-	-	-	3	3,502	3,516	3,676	1	61	154	344	1,624	938	938	
Etah	*3	134	275	1,185	-	-	-	-	1	88	196	417	708	441	441	
TOTAL, Agra Division	22	1,625	2,036	10,925	8	11,491	8,145	8,368	7	1,176	2,431	5,918	5,202	5,605	5,653	
Bareilly	-	-	-	-	1	542	976	1,906	1	122	528	2,477	166	250	250	
Bijnor	-	-	-	-	1	214	62	62	4	445	644	1,428	-	-	-	
Budaun	3	662	1,226	4,315	-	-	-	-	1	85	160	341	-	-	-	

661830	Moradabad - - - - -	1	120	210	290	-	-	-	-	2	97	179	573	4	†	†
	Sháhjahánpur - - - - -	4	987	1,325	5,812	-	-	-	-	3	721	1,598	9,025	793	399	309
	Pilibhít - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	395	1,081	2,801	245	14	14
	TOTAL, Rohilkhand Division - -	8	1,749	2,761	10,357	2	756	1,088	1,968	14	1,865	4,130	16,647	1,208	663½	663½
	Fatehpur - - - - -	8	107	166	956	-	-	-	-	1	723	1,569	1,858	93	27	27
	TOTAL, Allahabad Division - -	8	107	166	956	-	-	-	-	1	723	1,569	1,858	93	27	27
	Benares - - - - -	-	-	-	-	4	73	12	260	3	490	1,823	1,823	145	164	164
	Mirzapur - - - - -	4	†109	†39	†39	-	-	-	-	†1	776	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL, Benares Division - - -	4	109	39	39	4	73	12	260	4	1,206	1,823	1,823	145	164	164
V V	Gorakhpur - - - - -	2	1,610	1,344	1,344	-	-	-	-	5	2,720	5,439	6,289	-	-	-
	Basti - - - - -	4	225	544	620	-	-	-	-	4	700	2,490	4,376	-	-	-
	Azamgarh - - - - -	4	781	834	1,166	1	201	439	439	4	972	2,980	4,770	9	3	3
	TOTAL, Gorakhpur Division - -	10	2,616	2,722	3,130	1	201	439	439	13	4,392	10,909	15,435	9	3	3
	Kheri - - - - -	2	231	154	154	-	-	-	-	‡2	19	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL, Lucknow Division - - -	2	231	154	154	-	-	-	-	2	19	-	-	-	-	-
	Fyzabad - - - - -	1	1,042	581	753	3	404	1,200	1,200	3	834	929	929	605	499	499
	Gonda - - - - -	-	-	-	-	2	1,073	1,278	1,278	3	1,280	2,336	4,460	-	-	-
	Sultánpur - - - - -	2	909	895	3,016	2	205	48	48	4	623	1,133	2,303	388	494	494
	Partábgarh - - - - -	2	1,565	2,094	2,321	3	478	280	500	3	220	382	1,288	-	-	-
	Bara Banki - - - - -	15	8,289	10,881	14,196	2	609	130	130	5	508	943	1,430	-	605	605
	TOTAL, Fyzabad Division - - -	20	11,805	14,451	20,286	12	2,769	2,936	3,156	18	3,465	5,723	10,410	993	1,598	1,598
	TOTAL, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES } AND OUDH - - - - - }	76	18,533	23,231	49,481	27	15,290	12,570	14,191	69	12,846	26,585	52,091	7,650	8,060½	8,108½

† Maintained from private subscriptions.

‡ Both maintained from private subscriptions.

† The figures in columns 3, 4, and 5 against Mirzapur relate to only one of the four test works shown in column 2. Figures for the remaining three works have not been submitted.

SEPARATE MORTALITY STATEMENT.

District.	Monthly Death Rate.	
	For November 1896.	For the corresponding period of the previous Year.
Cawnpore - - - - -	2.37	2.31
Bánda - - - - -	4.12	4.31
Hamírpur - - - - -	6.13	2.81
Jhánsi - - - - -	5.86	3.47
Lucknow - - - - -	2.26	2.44
Rae Bareli - - - - -	2.37	2.29
Sitapur - - - - -	2.64	3.74
Hardoi - - - - -	2.76	3.22

Note on the Condition of Prisoners, Inmates of Poorhouses, and people employed on Relief Works in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SINCE November 30, 1896, I have visited 16 districts and have inspected 17 jails and 21 poorhouses and relief works.

2. In my inspection of jails I have paid especial attention to the condition of recently admitted prisoners, and, with comparatively few exceptions, they were in a healthy state. They had evidently not allowed themselves to suffer much before applying for jail relief.

3. In the poorhouses the inmates were largely of the beggar class and suffering more from disease than from want of food. The arrangements for the shelter and feeding of these people, as a rule, left nothing to be desired.

4. On relief works I saw very few people in at all a reduced condition. At Orai, in the Jalaun district, I noted that, although those at work "could not be considered high class labourers, they were with few exceptions fairly well nourished and capable of a fair day's work," while the food supplies with one exception were of good quality. At the Ikdil-Kálpí Road relief work, in the Etáwah district, employing 5,100 people, they appeared to be generally in good condition and capable of a fair day's work. I saw no one who appeared to have suffered from want of food. At the Karchana Road relief work, in the Allahabad district, which I visited four days ago, the people, though somewhat underfed in appearance, were, as a rule, healthy and capable of a fair day's work. The daily wage was, in my opinion, sufficient.

5. What impressed me especially when visiting the various relief works was that in no case had the starting of these works been deferred too long, so that when the people came to them they were quite capable of doing good work. The food arrangements were excellent, and the only difficulty at first appeared to be the providing of sufficient shelter for such large bodies of people; but this difficulty was being surmounted.

W. P. WARBURTON, M.D., Surgeon Colonel,
Inspector General of Civil Hospitals,
North-West Provinces and Oudh.