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EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

PAPERS REGARDING THE FAMINE

AND THE

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN INDIA DURING 1899-1900.

2
VOL. II.—NATIVE STATES.

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



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD, 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

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1900.

[Cd. 206.] Price 4s. 6d.

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Y:4353:67.2.M9

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Acno— 245053

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CIRCULAR OF 28TH AUGUST AND REPLIES.

No. 1.

Telegram from The Foreign Secretary, Simla, to The Resident in Mysore, Bangalore; The Resident at Hyderabad (Deccan); The Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore; The Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu. The Resident at Baroda; The Secretary, Political Department, Bombay; The Secretary, Political Department, Madras; The Chief Secretary, Government of Bengal, Calcutta; The Chief Secretary, Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Naini Tal; The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, Nagpur; The Resident in Kashmir, Srinagar, No. 2497 I.-A., dated the 28th August 1899.

Please furnish written report on situation as regards possible scarcity or famine in Mysore, Hyderabad, Central India, Rajputana, Baroda, Native States in Bombay, Native States in Madras, Native States in Bengal, Native States in North-Western Provinces, Native States in Central Provinces, Kashmir, up to 15th September. Reports should reach Simla not later than 25th September.

No. 2.

Letter from J. B. Wood, Esq., Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to The Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, No. 2499 I.-A., dated Simla, the 28th August 1899.

I AM directed to request that you will furnish the Government of India with a written report on the situation as regards a possible famine or scarcity in the Native States under the political control of the Punjab Government.

The report should contain information up to the 15th September proximo, and should reach the Government of India not later than the 25th of that month.

No. 3.

Letter from J. A. Crawford, Esq., Officiating Resident in Mysore, to The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4129, dated Bangalore, the 17th September 1899.

As requested in your telegram of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the enclosed report.*

* Letter No. 9 D., dated 16th September 1899, with enclosures.

just received from the Dewan of Mysore, on the prospects of famine or scarcity in the State.

2. I agree in the Dewan's conclusion that, under present circumstances, there is no cause to apprehend famine or scarcity in Mysore territory. The price of ragi, the staple food of the country, is low, and it is hoped that the full area available will still be sown. Much, no doubt, depends upon the north-east monsoon, but there is no reason to anticipate its failure, and it will be observed that the food stocks are reported to be ample.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Letter from Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, K.C.S.I., Dewan of Mysore, to The Officiating Resident in Mysore, No. 9 D., dated Bangalore, the 16th September 1899.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your office letter, No. 3304, dated 29th August, 1899, and, in reply, I am happy to be able to state that, in the present condition of the season, there is no cause to apprehend any scarcity or famine in this province.

No. 4.

Letter from The Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. F. 99, dated Nagpur, the 21st September 1899.

WITH reference to Government of India Foreign Department telegram, No. 497 I.-A., dated the 28th ultimo, I am directed to forward herewith a report by the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, No. 9167, dated the 17th instant, together with a copy of the Commissioner's forwarding letter, No. 7671, dated the 18th September, 1899, upon the agricultural prospects of the States of that Agency with special reference to the possibility of scarcity or famine during this year.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

Letter from A. D. Younghusband, Esq., Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to The Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 7671, dated the 18th September 1899.

WITH reference to the Under-Secretary's letter, No. 3750, dated the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter, No. 9167, dated 17th September, 1899, from the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, furnishing the information therein called for.

2. The situation has been most carefully watched by Mr. Sly throughout the season, and his present report is very complete. I fully accept all his statements and forecasts, and have nothing to add to them.

Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

Letter from F. G. Sly, Esq., Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, to The Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No. 9167, dated the 17th September 1899.

WITH reference to your endorsement, No. 7286, dated the 2nd instant, forwarding a copy of a letter, No. 3730, dated the 31st August, from the Under-Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, I have the honour to submit the following report upon the agricultural prospects of the States of this Agency with special reference to the possibility of scarcity or famine during this year.

2. There are in all fourteen Feudatory States in this Agency, which for the purpose of this report may conveniently be divided into three groups. The first group, consisting of the States of Bamra, Rairakhol, Sonepur, Patna, and Kalahandi, are situated to the east and south of the Sambalpur district. Their conditions approximate much more closely than the rest of the province to those prevailing in Bengal and Orissa. The rainfall in them always largely dependent on the Bengal monsoon current, and this year has been fairly favourable. Rice is the all important crop, and a full average outturn at present is anticipated. There is no present apprehension whatever of scarcity, and although a cessation of rain would now considerably damage the favourable prospects, there is no reason to suppose that even this would cause any scarcity which would require relief. These States may then be described as practically secure against famine this year under any circumstances whatever.

3. The second group consists of three States, Raigarh, Sarangarh, and Sakti, situated roughly to the north of the Sambalpur district, and near the Bilaspur district. These States also receive a considerable proportion of their rainfall from the Bengal current, and the early monsoon rains were favourable. A protracted break from the middle of July to the 10th August caused some anxiety, but this was relieved by the good falls in August, and the rainfall has since been sufficient to maintain prospects. The cropping in these States is almost wholly kharif, and about 80 per cent. is rice alone. With fair rain in the future, it is anticipated that the rice crop will give an outturn varying from 10 to 12 annas, whilst other kharif crops, such as kodo, til, urad, mung, &c., are expected to give a bumper outturn. If the rain totally fails, henceforward the rice crop will suffer serious damage, and the outturn will be reduced at least by half. This would probably necessitate some measure of relief, but it is improbable that in any case there will be severe scarcity.

4. The States which have given the most cause for anxiety during the present monsoon are the third group of six States, Bastar, Kanker, Nandgaon, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, and Kawardha, situated to the south and west of the Raipur district. These States do not as a rule receive much rain from the Bengal current, and the scanty rainfall during June and July caused apprehension of a failure of the kharif crop. Subsequent rain has entirely removed this apprehension in respect of the southernmost States of Bastar and Kanker, and prospects in these States are now favourable. Their condition is similar to that of the States mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

5. The States of Nandgaon, Khairagarh, and Chhuikhadan may be classed together, as the circumstances are practically similar. The rainfall has been much below the average, and the long breaks, which have frequently occurred, have damaged the rice crop, and have given rise to apprehension of a complete failure. Showers have, however, always been received just in time to prevent disaster. Nandgaon and Chhuikhadan are under direct management, so that more detailed information is available concerning these States than Khairagarh. The cropped area in each contains about 72 per cent. kharif and 28 per cent. rabi, but this is not uniform over the whole area, the eastern portions containing a larger proportion of rabi and the western portions along the hills a larger proportion of kharif. In Chhuik-

hadan, the kharif crop consists of kodo 66 per cent., rice 30 per cent. and other crops 4 per cent., whilst in Nandgaon the proportion is, rice 66 per cent., kodo 31 per cent., and other crops 3 per cent. The rice crop, owing to its much greater value, is of more importance than these figures tend to show. The rainfall since the 1st June has been as follows:—

	Nandgaon.	Chhuikhadan.
Week ending 3rd June	Nil	Nil
" 10th "	Nil	·09
" 17th "	·55	2·44
" 24th "	1·10	2·12
" 1st July	·40	·06
" 8th "	·80	·61
" 15th "	Nil	Nil
" 22nd "	·25	·49
" 29th "	1·05	·56
" 5th August	1·80	2·57
" 12th "	3·02	·63
" 19th "	·96	1·25
" 26th "	7·86	1·79
" 2nd September	·98	1·26
" 9th "	1·00	1·12
" 17th "	·14	favourable.

The light rain at the commencement of the monsoon permitted sowings to be made over a full area larger than that in the preceding year. The failure of rain in July damaged the young plants, the light showers being only just sufficient to keep them alive. The crop was saved from complete failure by the falls in August. This rain allowed biasi or thinning operations of a considerable proportion of the rice crop, and the subsequent rain has been sufficient to maintain these favourable conditions. As a matter of fact, the present condition of the rice crop is better in fields where thinning was not done than in fields where thinning was done, the light rain being often insufficient to permit the plants to take firm root again. With favourable rain in future it is anticipated that the rice crop will give an outturn of 8 to 10 annas, whilst kodo and other minor crops will give a fairly full harvest. If the rain should wholly cease, the outturn of rice would probably be reduced to four annas, whilst kodo and other crops would still give an outturn of 8 to 10 annas. Under these circumstances there would be somewhat severe scarcity, which would commence about the middle of October. But this would not develop into famine unless a failure of the rabi sowings also occurs. Rain in the latter half of October, which would be too late to save the kharif crops, would be sufficient for rabi sowings, and if the rabi prospects are then favourable, there should be but small distress. The rabi staples, although they do not cover a large area, are very valuable, and are largely relied upon for giving substantial profits. Whilst then in these two States, there is only small cause for anxiety at present, failure of rain up to the middle of October would cause distress requiring some measure of relief, whilst if this failure continued into November this distress would deepen into famine.

6. The circumstances of the Kawardha State (which has been under direct management for some years) are much more deplorable. This State

covers an area of 798 square miles, and at the last census there was a population of 91,813. The present population is undoubtedly much smaller, for the State has suffered over a succession of years from bad harvests and famine. Not only has death reduced the population, but considerable numbers have also emigrated to more favoured parts. There has already been serious agricultural deterioration apart from the special circumstances of this season. The famine, 1897, was severe; it was preceded by poor harvests for the previous three years, and has been followed by very poor harvests in succeeding years, both the kharif and rabi crops of last year giving an outturn considerably under half an average over a contracted area. The resources of the people have thus been exhausted, and their power to withstand another failure is very small indeed.

7. The State is situated in an unfavourable position for a good rainfall. It is practically outside the area regularly affected by the Bengal current, and the range of hills bordering it on the west stop the Bombay current, unless it is strong. The rainfall during the present season has been most unfavourable, the amount being as follows:—

Week ending	3rd June	...	...	...	Nil
"	10th "	...	...	...	Nil
"	17th "	...	...	...	1·01
"	24th "	...	...	...	1·53
"	1st July	...	...	...	3·12
"	8th "	...	...	...	·83
"	15th "	...	...	...	·20
"	22nd "	...	...	...	·63
"	29th "	...	...	...	·52
"	5th August	...	...	...	1·81
"	12th "	...	...	...	·68
"	19th "	...	...	...	·38
"	26th "	...	...	...	2·59
"	2nd September	...	...	...	3·29
"	9th "	...	...	...	Nil
"	16th "	...	...	...	3·06

The cropping in this State is 72 per cent. kharif and 28 per cent. rabi. The principal kharif crops are rice and kodo. Other kharif crops, such as til, arhar, cotton, &c., are usually grown as mixtures with kodo. The kharif crops are given in the following proportions:—

Rice	...	...	...	...	Per cent. 26
Kodo and its mixtures	...	...	...	...	67
Other crops	...	...	...	...	7

Rice, owing to its greater value, is of more importance than these proportions tend to show. The area sown with kharif crops is somewhat larger than last year, although not as large as the normal area preceding the famine of 1897. But unfortunately about half of this area was sown after the heavy rain at the end of June, and in consequence of the break which followed, the seed germinated badly, and the young plants commenced to wither. The subsequent showers were only sufficient to keep the rice crop alive in the more favourably situated fields and in the fields sown early at the commencement of August, the complete failure of the crop seemed imminent, but the showers then received staved off the disaster. The rice crop again suffered from the break in August, but the comparatively heavy rain at the end of that month again saved the situation. Another break again caused the gravest anxiety, but fortunately good rain was received from the 11th to the 14th instant, and this has considerably improved prospects. Biasi has only been

possible in a small proportion of the low-lying fields, and did more harm than good, for the crop began to wither still more quickly. Even with favourable rain in future, the outturn of the rice crop will not be more than six annas, and if rain does not continue, this outturn will be reduced to one or two annas at the most. The prospects of the other kharif crops are fortunately much more favourable. The kodo crop is at present in good condition, and with a good shower at the end of October will give an outturn of 12 annas. The outturn in fields where the crop is still alive will be a full one, but the outturn for the whole State will not be more than 12 annas, owing to a portion of the plants in high-lying fields having withered altogether. Even with no more rain, it will give an outturn of 8 annas. The minor kharif crops, til, arhar, cotton, &c, which are sown as mixtures with kodo, are also in good condition. If the kharif crop is followed by a good rabi crop, I am sanguine that there will not be a regular famine. But in any case I regret to say that there will be distress, which will require relief up to the end of October, when the kodo crop is reaped. The prospects are worst in the northern and western portions of the State, where the country is hilly with much forest and the soil is light.

8. There has been slight rise in prices in most States, but nowhere has this been very marked. This rise has been due not alone to the apprehensions of local failure, but to a brisk export trade to Bombay and the Berars. The course of prices in seers per rupee in the Kawardha State has been as follows:—

—				Rice.	Wheat	Kodo.
Week ending	3rd June	...	...	20	23½	25
"	10th "	...	..	19	23½	25
"	17th "	...	...	17½	23½	25
"	24th "	...	...	17½	23½	23½
"	1st July	...	..	17½	23½	22½
"	8th "	...	...	17½	22½	22½
"	15th "	...	..	17½	22	22½
"	22nd "	...	...	17½	22½	22½
"	29th "	...	...	16	21½	20
"	5th August	...	..	16½	21½	20
"	12th "	...	..	16½	20	17½
"	19th "	...	..	13½	18½	17½
"	26th "	...	..	15	18½	18½
"	2nd September	..	..	16½	18½	20
"	9th "	..	..	15½	17½	17½

9. The situation has been most carefully watched in all States in which there has been cause for anxiety, special inspections from village to village have been made by responsible officers. The Land Record staff has been employed in field inspections of the crops, and in making weekly reports of the condition of the crops and of the population. Special reports have been made weekly by the police to show whether there is any sign of distress apparent amongst the poorer classes, whether there is any scarcity of work, whether there is any wandering of needy people, and whether there is any increase of crime attributable to scarcity of food. The vital statistics and course of prices have been carefully watched. Preliminary arrangements have also been made, so that preparations are well advanced should famine declare itself. Programmes of relief works have been prepared in consultation with

the Executive Engineer, Chhattisgarh States, Roads Division, and plans and estimates have been pushed on. These programmes contain in some States large works in the construction of roads, but for the most part it has been found necessary to rely largely upon village works, consisting mostly of the construction and repair of village tanks, field embankments, and such like. Preliminary lists for the distribution of village relief have also been prepared in all tracts where distress is apprehended. The State forests have been thrown open to free-grazing and the free extraction of edible roots and fruits, and of head loads of fuel, grass, and other products for sale. This has given material relief to the aboriginal tribes of jungle villages, and has enabled them to tide over their difficulties.

10. In Kawardha, however, it has been found necessary to already start some regular relief. The break in August threw the agricultural labourers out of employment, and the money-lenders refused to make any further advances for food. Their difficulties were increased by the failure of the early millets, and maize, which are largely relied upon to give food for this period. A test work was opened as early as the 9th August, but after two days it failed to attract any labourers, although the conditions were made somewhat easier than the rigid tests of the Famine Code. Later on further village works numbering four in all were opened, but the number of people employed has always been small, and at present only two works are open, employing 24 persons. This has also been supplemented by the opening of four kitchens and the grant of village relief in the worst villages. The average number of persons at present fed at kitchens is 101, and 222 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief. The measures taken in Kawardha have thus always been well in advance of the distress, and at present there is no rush for relief. The people are holding out until the fate of the kharif crop is settled, which will not be for another fortnight. If this fails, there will be a considerable rush for relief, but otherwise the State should pull through with a small measure of gratuitous relief, with some small works in the jungle portions.

11. It is most difficult to maintain in Native States the same measure of efficiency in famine relief as is reached in British India, but every effort will be made to make it as efficient as possible. The preliminary arrangements have been framed upon the model of the instructions issued by the Chief Commissioner for British districts, with such modifications as are necessary to adapt them to the local circumstances. The main lines adopted may be summarised as—

- (1) Relief works, consisting principally of village works for the distressed able-bodied;
- (2) Kitchens for the supply of cooked food to children and such infirm adults as can be induced to resort to them;
- (3) Village relief, consisting of the distribution of doles, for other infirm people not fed in kitchens;
- (4) The throwing open of the State forests.

This will be supplemented by poorhouses, if it is found absolutely necessary to open them for the relief of starving wanderers, but a sustained effort will be made to relieve the infirm in their villages.

Special endeavours will be made to provide suitable relief for the aboriginal tribes when they are numerous, and it is hoped that they will, if necessity arises, be largely employed on grass-cutting and other congenial work in the forests. These measures have all received the approval of higher authority.

12. If famine fully declares itself, the expenditure on relief will be a serious strain on the financial resources of the States, for none of them have large accumulated balances. This difficulty will be most acute in Kawardha, where the state of the finances is already very unfavourable. Rigid economy has been enforced during the past few months, so as to reserve funds for possible famine relief, but it will be necessary to raise loans for famine expenditure, should it unfortunately become heavy.

No. 5.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Offg. Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 16,468, dated Baroda, the 21st September 1899.

WITH reference to your telegram, No. 2497 I.-A., dated the 28th ultimo, asking for a report on the situation as regards possible scarcity or famine in Baroda territory up to the 15th instant, I have the honour to state as follows.

2. The territory of His Highness the Gaekwar is divided into the four following divisions for administrative and revenue purposes. The total area is 8,226 square miles:—

- (1) Baroda Division.
- (2) Kadi Division.
- (3) Amreli Division, including the outlying district o. Okhamandal.
- (4) Naosari Division.

3. The rainfall registered in each of the above divisions up to the 15th instant is as follows:—

Baroda Division, about 4 inches.

Kadi Division, ditto.

Amreli Division, about 7 inches, but in Okhamandal 2 inches 7 cents.

Naosari Division, 25 inches, except in two districts.

4. The fall of rain registered in the first three divisions is about one-sixth of the average yearly fall. This small quantity of rain was not even reasonable, as most of it fell in the month of June. Soon after the fall of the first rain, the cultivators commenced their operations. No rain having fallen since then, except an inch in the beginning of this month, the crops which were sown have now totally perished, and there is also great scarcity of fodder. The prices of bajri and jowar, the staple food of the people, have risen by nearly 50 per cent. in the city of Baroda and in the three divisions

5. The condition of the people in the outlying district of Okhamandal is very distressful, as this is the second consecutive year of scarcity. Their cattle have died in great numbers owing to scarcity of fodder, and those which have been left are getting weaker and weaker. The old stock of food grains has run short.

6. In the Naosari Division the fall of rain registered is from a half to one-third of that of an average yearly fall, except in two districts where it is even less than this. It appears that the rice crop, which is the principal produce of this division, has already failed for want of sufficient rain, but other crops are reported to be in a fair condition; the outturn, however, will not be more than 8 annas in the rupee.

7. I think that famine is imminent in the Baroda, Kadi, and Amreli Divisions, and in a portion of the Naosari Division.

8. To alleviate the sufferings of the people in these districts, and for the preservation of cattle, the Darbar have adopted the following measures:

- (a) A Special Department under the Sar Subha (Revenue Commissioner) has been opened with the necessary establishment.
- (b) Large schemes of relief works are being prepared by the Public Works Department, and as soon as necessity arises they will be started.
- (c) Minor works have been opened in accordance with the provisions of the Darbar Famine Code.
- (d) Roads and tanks to the extent of Rs. 1,65,000 have been sanctioned.

- (e) The State Public Works Budget, which amounts to about Rs. 29 lakhs and in which, besides structures, roads, tanks, and drainage channels have been provided, will soon be undertaken.
- (f) Rs 10 lakhs have been set apart for railways, and earthworks on the following three lines will be undertaken as soon as they are marked out by the officials of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company—
- (1) The Baroda-Godhra Railway
 - (2) The Petlad-Cambay extension.
 - (3) The Kalol-Vijapur Railway

9. In addition to the above relief works, the Darbar have made the following relaxations in their revenue rules and also granted special concessions:—

- (a) Certain restrictions in regard to seeds under the State Tuccavi Rules (rules for making payments in advance) have been removed.
- (b) Remission of water cess for the preservation of kharif crops.
- (c) Extension of Tuccavi Rules to Narwa villages, *i.e.*, undivided villages held in coparcenary and managed by a few of the chief sharers.
- (d) Payment of advances to cultivators to the extent of Rs. 1,63,000, in addition to three lakhs previously sanctioned.
- (e) Permission to lop trees from State forests.
- (f) Reduction in the rates of forest produce by 25 per cent.
- (g) Advance of money has been given to the Subas of the districts to start petty urgent relief works.
- (h) Advance of money to local officials for the import of food grains in case of necessity arising.
- (i) Free pasturage in State forests
- (j) Free use of waste land for the village cattle.
- (k) Payment of Rs. 2 as reward per bigha for all assessment paying land in which grass may be grown.
- (l) A grant of Rs. 3,000 for the purchase of seeds of lucerne and guinea grass to be given away gratis to the most needy.

10. The above measures, if judiciously carried out by the Darbar officials, will, it is hoped, afford suitable relief during the period of famine and distress.

No. 6.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6393, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 21st September 1899.

I AM desired to acknowledge your telegram, No. 2407 L.A., dated 28th ultimo, calling for reports as regards the prospects of possible scarcity or famine in the Native States of this Presidency so far as they could be estimated on September 15th.

2. In reply I am desired to append copies of the reports received and of supplementary telegrams bringing the reports actually up to the date named. As regards all States lying south of the Rewa Kantha Agency there is no cause for apprehension, nor is there any as regards the Khairpur State in Sind.

3. The area really threatened consists of Cutch, Kathiawar, Palanpur,

- I.—Cutch—
 (1) Letter, No 486, dated 11th September, 1899.
 (2) Telegram, dated 15th do.
 (3) Do. dated 16th do.

- II.—Kathiawar—
 (1) Weekly report, dated 21st August, 1899
 (2) Do. dated 28th do.
 (3) Do. dated 5th September, 1899.
 (4) Do. dated 13th do.
 (5) Special report, dated 5th do.
 (6) Telegram, dated 15th do.

- III.—Palanpur—
 Letter, No. 377, do ed 19th August 1899
 Do. No 378, dated 1st September, 1899.
 Special report, dated 13th do.
 Telegram, dated 16th do.

- IV.—Mahi Kantha—
 Letter, No. 3900, dated 2nd September, 1899.
 Do No. 3985, dated 9th do.
 Telegram, dated 15th do

- V.—Rewa Kantha—
 Letter, No. 1512, dated 7th September, 1899.
 Telegram, dated 15th do

- VI.—Cambay—
 Letter, No. 3709 dated 7th September, 1899.
 Telegram, dated 15th do.

Mahi Kantha and Rewa Kantha Agencies. The reports show that there must be undoubted scarcity in all this area, and that should the October and November rains fail there must be famine. Cutch is a full-power State with sufficient means, and can, with advice and loan of officers, if required arrange for the relief of its subjects. There are also plenty of resources in Kathiawar; the Province is in the hands of an experienced and capable Administrator; and there is no ground for apprehension that the means at his disposal will not be used to the best possible advantage and economically.

4. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Political Agent Kathiawar's letter, No. 794, dated 5th September,

1899, I am to mention that it will be seen from his letter, No. 815, dated 13th instant, that His Highness the Thakor Saheb of Morvi has declined all the offers made in connection with the conversion of the line between Dolia, Vankaner, and Rajkot. The line from Rajkot to Wadhwan via Chotila is considered by the Political Agent to be a necessity for famine relief this year if further rain does not fall, and the whole question will be submitted to the Government of India at the earliest possible date.

5. The relaxation asked for in paragraph 13 of the above-mentioned letter has been provisionally given with the instruction that it is to be used as sparingly as possible and that Government would prefer in the first instance to utilise balances of managed estates for loans to smaller Talukdars, as they have more hold over the lenders than they would have if the loans were given by private individuals.

6. All that is necessary to do in Kathiawar until the character of the season has finally declared itself, is to give the Political Agent as free a hand as possible to take up, in consultation with the representatives of the States, the works which are best suited for famine relief. The Province will, so far as can be at present foreseen, require no material assistance from the British Government.

7. The case is otherwise with the Palanpur, Mahi Kantha, and Rewa Kantha Agencies. The estates in the areas under our direct administration, called Thana circles, are very poor and quite unable to do much in the direction of self-help. Whatever decision may be come to as to the final adjustment of such expenditure, it will certainly be necessary to deal with these areas in the first instance in much the same way as British territory and provide the money necessary to supply relief.

8. It will be seen that in the Palanpur and Mahi Kantha Agencies there had been no rain of any consequence up to the 15th September, and the prospects are as gloomy as they can be at this season. In the Rewa Kantha it is possible that there has been some relief, as the telegram of the 15th September shows that there has been some rain in the Agency except in the Sunth State, but for present purposes it must be assumed that there has been no real alleviation of the situation. In all these areas, however, good rain in October and November will go far to save the situation.

9. Steps have been taken to enable earthwork in the Radhanpur-Sami Section of the proposed Radhanpur-Sami { Patan-
Virangam Railway to be undertaken. It is suggested that if the Government of India decide on making the connection with Sind, whether by way of Virginia, Radhanpur, Suigon, or by way of Cutch, earthworks on the line should be put in hand at

once Whichever route be selected, the earthwork would be a most valuable relief work either for Ahmedabad District and Palanpur Superintendency or for the north of Kathiawar and Cutch. I am also to suggest that it would be of great benefit to the Rewa Kantha if earthwork on the Baroda Chord line could be made available at an early date. The Resident has been asked to press on the Darbar the desirability, if possible, of providing works to which persons from the Pandu Mewas and Sankheda Mewas could resort and to consider if they can co-operate as to the Patan-Radhanpur Railway earthwork.

10. I am also to draw the attention of the Government of India to the immigration into the districts of this Presidency from Marwar and to suggest that the States of Rajputana should, if possible, arrange to provide relief for their own subjects in their own territory.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

Letter from Major G. E. Hyde-Cates, Political Agent, Cutch, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay. No. 486, dated Cutch Political Agency, Bhuj, 11th September 1899.

WITH reference to Government resolution, No. 5882, dated 31st March, 1899, I have the honour to forward a report received this day from the Divan of Cutch regarding the gloomy prospects of the season and the certainty of famine in this Province, for even a good rainfall within a few days would only slightly improve matters, but though it has been cloudy during the last two days, there is not much promise of rain. For some time now cattle have been dying off, and there is a very great scarcity of fodder. His Highness has been speaking to me about getting fodder from Burmah and other places where it may be available, and I have already telegraphed to Rangoon to find out whether fodder is available and in what quantities.

2. The measures proposed by the Darbar seem sufficient, for a large number of people have already gone off to other parts, as Scinde and Rajputana, in search of employment and maintenance. In addition to a food famine there is grave danger of a water famine. I have for some time heard of wells failing, and though they may not altogether fail, many of them will be useless for irrigation. In the Wagad District the villages depend almost entirely on tanks, and these have now been dry for a long time, as the rainfall last year, especially in the Wagad District, was not good, and many tanks which the year before (1897) were brimful when I visited the districts in December, were only about half, or less, full in December last, owing to there having been no late rain as is frequently the case in Cutch. The Wagad District, I am told, has been almost deserted owing to the want of water. Cutch is frequently visited by heavy storms in October or November from the north-east, accompanied by three or four inches of rain, and if this comes off the situation will be greatly improved as regards water, but what is wanted is a good rainfall within the next few days to start the jowari crop and send it up to a condition in which it can do without water, as this crop in Cutch depends greatly on the heavy dews which fall at night, generally from the middle of October, often accompanied by heavy mists in November.

3. The scheme for a railway through Cutch has been put before His Highness the Rao, and a reply has been promised shortly. If a decision could quickly be arrived at, and the earthworks started, relief would at once be afforded to a very large number of people. The pinch of famine will really be felt three or four months hence

4. For the Adhoi Mahal of His Highness the Thakor of Morvi, which is under Government management, I have already sanctioned a sum of Rs 1,200 for such relief works as can be carried out; but in a small outlying Mahal in another Native State not much can be done in the shape of relief works. His Highness the Thakor of Morvi has intimated that work will be found at Morvi for any people coming from his Adhoi Mahal, and a notice to this effect has been sent to the villages of the Mahal. I have sent for the Manager of Adhoi to consult with me in the matter. Arrangements have also been made for sinking wells, and every encouragement is to be given to cultivators in the sinking of wells. The rainfall in the Adhoi Mahal has been only 15 cents up to date.

P.S.—During the whole of the hot season the weather was unusually cool. During the last ten days it has been very hot, with a hot wind, and the weather is now more like what it should be in the hot season.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

Letter from the Divan of Cutch to Major G. E. Hyde-Cates, Political Agent, Cutch, No. 913, dated Divan's Office, Bhuj, 10th September, 1899.

REFERRING to your No. 1315, of the 2nd instant, on copy of Government resolution, No. 5882, of the 31st ultimo, and your No. 1292, of the 29th ultimo, on message from Government, dated 28th idem, I have the honour to state the following facts concerning the prospects of the season in Cutch and the measures taken or contemplated to deal with the situation.

2. The rainfall in Cutch from 1st to 30th June, 1899, was as under:—

Taluka.	Cents.
Bhuj - - - -	62
Mandvi - - - -	12
Anjar - - - -	25
Bhachau - - - -	48
Khayda - - - -	16
Nakhtrana - - - -	50
Khadir - - - -	62

Since 1st July there was no rain anywhere in Cutch up to within the last few days, when it rained as follows in some places of the following talukas:

	Inch.	Cents.
Bhuj	0	41
Mandvi	0	70
Anjar	1	83
Mundra	0	40

In other talukas, namely, Rapar, Abdasa, and Lakhput, there has been no rain at all up to this time.

3. In consequence of this scarcity of absence of rain it has not been possible to make any attempt to raise the monsoon crops as yet, except that in those places in the Anjar Taluka, where it has recently rained about 2 inches, people have sown jowari, but unless they get another fall of rain the crops are not likely to flourish.

4. The rates of grain and some other articles of food which were within reasonable limits up to about the beginning of last month have now gone up nearly 40 or 50 per cent., and the rates of fodder have doubled and trebled or even quadrupled in some cases. Kurbi is not now available.

5. There is an apprehension of scarcity of water also in some places.
6. Numbers of cattle have suffered from want of grass, and it is feared that many more will perish if the drought continues.
7. To supply the want of men and cattle and to relieve distress, the Cutch Darbar have taken the following measures:—
 - (1) To provide labour, digging of tanks in all the talukas of the State has been ordered. More than 10,000 Koris have been already spent at Bhuj, and 24,000 in the districts.
 - (2) Takavi and other advances are liberally made for the purpose of making new wells and also for raising crops and fodder by irrigation; 23,196 acres of land for producing grain, and 5,073 acres for fodder have been already brought under cultivation by irrigation. Takavi and other advances have been given to the extent of ₹8,412½ Koris up to this time.
 - (3) Import duties on grain have been remitted for two months for the present, and the import duty on everything used for feeding cattle has been remitted for the whole current year (Samvat 1956). The loss to the State from these remissions is estimated to be 150,000 Koris.
 - (4) Shops have been opened at Bhuj, Anjar, and some other places for selling grain cheaply to the poor.
 - (5) Talot or internal duties are remitted, on application, on grain, &c., brought or sent for helping the poor or for the use of cattle. This will probably cause a loss to the State of about 50,000 Koris.
 - (6) Donations have been given to the Mahajans of Bhuj and Anjar to assist them in the steps they take for the protection of cattle. The Darbar share of produce of "wadis" given to Mahajans of Anjar to raise fodder for Panjrapole cattle is ordered to be remitted.
8. The Darbar propose to start relief works in the districts according to the necessities of the talukas. Works of the nature mentioned below are to be opened:—
 - Construction of new roads.
 - Making new tanks and bunding nalas.
 - Deepening and general improvement of existing tanks.
 - Construction of buildings.
 - Sinking of new wells.
 - Bandar improvements.
9. If necessary, arrangements will be made for selling grain at low rates to the poor people at different centres in the Province, in addition to similar arrangements which have already been made.

Enclosure 3 in No. 6.

Letter from Major G. E. Hyde-Cates, Political Agent, Cutch, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, No. 487, dated 12th September, 1899.

In continuation of my No. 486, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of prices of food grains in Bhuj, as they stood on 1st June and 10th September, 1899.—I have. &c

Enclosure 4 in No. 6.

Statement showing the Prices of Food-grains as they stood on 1st June 1899, and 10th instant.

Num-ber.	Description of Grain.	Quantity sold per Rupee on 1st June 1899.	Quantity sold per Rupee on 10th September 1899	Remarks.
1	Bajri	Lbs. 23	Lbs. 14½	
2	Wheat	24½	16	
3	Jowar	29½	18	
4	Rice (Sindhi)	23½	15½	
5	Mung	20½	14½	
6	Karad (Muth)	26½	17	

Enclosure 5 in No. 6.

Telegram from the Political Agent, Buhj, to the Political Department, Poona, Bombay, dated 15th September 1899.

No rain since report 12th; clouds up night and early morning, but cloudless from 10 a.m. Seen works here; about 7,000 employed. Proposed making a road ten miles long, continuation of existing road works. At headquarters of district people employed chiefly of agricultural class and villagers from surrounding villages. Quantity of grain at Mandvi bandar, but no carts to remove it owing to death and weak condition bullocks; Darbar arranging for camels.

Enclosure 6 in No. 6.

Telegram from the Political Agent, Buhj, to the Political Department, Poona, Bombay, dated 16th September 1899.

My telegram yesterday. No change for better. Prices grain risen since report dated 12th.

Enclosure 7 in No. 6.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 744, dated the 21st August 1899.

As promised in my letter, No 719, dated the 15th instant, I have the honour to submit the following report upon the crop and stock prospects in Kathiawar for the week ending the 19th August.

2. The rainfall during the week has amounted to a few cents only, so that the crops, where existing, are worse by a week's withering.

3. The labouring classes, whose labour in ordinary years, viz., working in the fields for cultivators and digging and selling grass, is stopped, are beginning to clamour for work. To meet this, I have issued instructions to the District Officers as per accompanying memorandum. These officers are making periodical rapid sallies into their districts to judge of the condition of the people and cattle, and supervise local relief measures.

4. The present price of food grains at Rajkot is as follows:—

Wheat,	Rs. 1-15-0 to Rs. 2	per maund of 40 sers—	20 lbs.	per rupee.
Bajri,	Rs. 2 to 2-1-0		do.	do.
Juar,	Rs. 1-13-0.		do.	21 lbs. do.
Grass,	Rs. 30	per 1,000 lbs.		

The ser is the kucha ser of about 1 lb. Prices are considerably lower in the districts, and there is reason to suspect the grain dealers of Rajkot have formed a "corner." Arrangements are being made to detach some of the merchants from this ring and obtain cheap grain through them. The Junagadh Darbar is obtaining grain from Karachi by sea through one of the local merchants at Veraval.

5. I have asked the Commissioner in Sind to wire to me the daily rate of food grains which will be published in the bazaar, so that the grain dealers may know whether it will pay them to import from there by sea.

6. The most urgent question at present is the preservation of the cattle. I am enquiring in Central India, where the rainfall has been above the average, whether surplus grass is available, and have asked the railways to quote special rates for its transport. The failure of rain in the whole of Gujarat makes this a very difficult question and causes me much anxiety for the Agency Mounted Police, whose grass stock will be exhausted in November.

7. Arrangements are being made to put as much of the land under the Lalpuri Lake as possible under quick-growing fodder for the local plough cattle.

8. I do not think the time has yet arrived for an appeal to the public for subscriptions. Before the distress is real and obvious there would probably be no adequate response.

Enclosure 8 in No. 6.

Circular memorandum from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 10 of 1899, dated 19th August 1899.

The Political Agent has been applied to for sanction to expend the balance of the Thana Fund on providing work for the labouring classes in the Thana Talukas.

2. The Political Agent considers it necessary to warn District Officers against prematurely starting general relief works.

3. The cost of food has not yet risen to famine prices, and it is probable that, with the efficient railway service which the Province possesses, it will not rise to that point, because, as soon as prices rise above those obtaining in other parts of India, sufficient to leave a small margin of profit to the dealer, the grain will flow in from more favoured localities.

4. The pinch felt by the labouring classes at present is not caused by the dearness of grain, but the want of money to purchase it, which, in ordinary seasons, the labouring classes earn by working in the fields, digging grass for sale, &c. What is needed now is to provide these people with some work to take the place of the ordinary avocations now closed to them by the failure of the rain. This it is the duty of each Talukdar to provide for the residents of his own estate, where wells cannot be dug owing to the subsoil water being brackish, the village tank should be cleared out. There is hardly a village where such work is not obtainable. In others old wells should be deepened and new wells dug. As these works will result in permanent improvement to the estate, it is legitimate to oblige Talukdars to carry them out and to pay for them, and, if necessary, to borrow money for the purpose.

6. The duty of helping the people from whom they levy taxes lies as heavily on the petty Talukdars as on the more important Chiefs. They

must be held to their responsibilities. To give assistance prematurely is to demoralise both landlord and ryot. All must be taught that while scarcity only prevails, and famine merely threatens, they must depend upon themselves and not look to the Agency.

7 Where the Thana Talukdars have not sufficient funds to pay for the local relief works in their villages, they should be required to borrow the money on the security of their estates, the terms being subject to the approval of the Prant Officer, who will subscribe under each deed that the loan will not be subject to any reduction under the Encumbered Estates Rules, and will be treated as a preferential claim against the estate. This should be made known in each village by beat of drum and by written proclamation on the village chora.

8 Thanadars should be directed to proceed at once to each taluka to organise the above measures. In large Thanas the circle may be divided between him and his senior karkun, and, if necessary, special officers may be employed for the purpose.

The Prant Officer should move about his charge supervising the arrangements and explaining the above principles to the Talukdars.

9. A weekly report of arrangements made in pursuance of these instructions should be made to this office.

10. The above works should be carried out on the taskwork system, a full day's work being exacted and paid for, so as to enable the labourers to purchase a day's food.

Enclosure 9 in No. 6.

Letter from the Political Agent in Kathiawar to the Secretary to Government, No. 766, dated the 28th August 1899.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects in this Province for the week ending 26th instant.

2. *Rainfall.*—There has been no rain, I regret to say, during the week.

3. *Price of Food Grains.*—The price of wheat only has risen very slightly, as shown below:—

Wheat from	Rs. 1-15-0	to	Rs. 2	per maund of 40 lbs.
Bajri, stationary, at	Rs. 2		do.	do.
Juari do.	„	1-14-0	do.	do.
Grass do.	„	30	per 1,000 lbs.	

4. *Number of Persons on Local Relief Works.*—The accompanying statement gives the number of people to whom employment is being given by the several States from whom returns have been received. These belong principally to the non-cultivating classes, and they are employed in digging out the village tanks, cleaning out old wells and digging new ones. In the large States they find work in repairing roads also.

5. *Assistance to Cultivators.*—The cultivators are assisted with Tagavi advances, seed, and apparatus for irrigation to raise fodder crops to keep their cattle alive; where this cannot be done, the cattle are being driven into the Gir, where the Junagadh Darbar has reduced the grazing fee to one-third of the ordinary rates.

6. *Charitable Assistance.*—In many places merchants have combined to open charitable shops, where grain is sold to the poor at a cheaper rate than the market price.

7. *Grain Supplies and Flow of Ade.*—Grain in large quantities is being imported from Bombay and Karachi, both by rail and sea, so that there is no immediate prospect of a rise in the prices of food grains.

8. *Condition of the Cattle.*—The weakly miscellaneous cattle are beginning to die off, but the plough bullocks are still in fair condition, and as long as the water in the wells holds out so as to allow green fodder to be raised there is no cause for anxiety. As a fall of rain may be expected in September, efforts are being made to induce the cultivators of those villages where there are wells to sell fodder to those who have none, on account of the subsoil water being brackish.

9. *Crime.*—There is not, I am glad to be able to report, any marked increase in crime; but the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Souter, and his Assistant, Mr. Vincent, are moving about the districts, watching for any indication of abnormal lawlessness.

10. *Mianas of Malia.*—1,600 Mianas are being employed at Malia in digging out the village tanks and wells and other miscellaneous labour. Captain Wodehouse, the Assistant Political Agent in charge, and Mr. Mawson, the Agency Engineer, have just returned from prospecting for some large central work on which to employ them when these small works are exhausted.

11. *General Relief Works.*—These officers have now proceeded to examine and report on a proposed irrigation tank in the Rajkot State. Plans for others in different parts of the Province will be prepared ready to start work when the need arises. The detailed survey of the new railway from the Wadhwan Civil Station to Dolia is progressing. This railway, it is estimated, will supply 3,000 people for two months.

Statement showing the number of Persons employed on Relief Works.

Name of States.	Number of Persons.	Remarks.
<i>Jhalavad Prant.</i>		
Limbdi	4,000	
Lakhtar	300	
Sayla	65	
Chuda	800	
Muli	450	
Bajana	1,500	
<i>Sorath Prant.</i>		
Porbandar	3,500	
Manavadar	392	
Sardargadh	230	
Belleha Najawala	400	
Thana Devli Mulawala	200 to 250	
<i>Halar Prant.</i>		
Morvi	5,906	
Gondal	2,000 to 2,500	
Vaukaner	470	
Rajkot	615	
Malia	1,260	
Kotda Sangani	200	
<i>Gohelvad Prant.</i>		
Bhavnagar	3,000	
Palitana	528	

Enclosure 10 in No. 6.

Letter from—Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Káthiáwár, to Secretary to Government, Bombay. No. 793, dated Káthiáwár Political Agency, Rájkot, 5th September 1899.

Subject.—Weekly Scarcity Report.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects in this Province for the week ending 2nd instant.

2. *Rainfall.*—Rain has fallen in many places in the Sorath, Halar, and Gohilvad Prants, varying from a few cents to 3 inches, but in Jhalavad only a few cents of rain are reported to have fallen at Chuda and Limbdi.

The rainfall at the four British stations was as under:—

	Inches.	Cents.
Rájkot	0	76
Wadhwan	0	0
Jetálsar	2	1
Songád	0	63

The result of the above rain is that in some parts where the crops were fairly good, small grain crop may be expected; in others the grain will not be formed, but fodder for cattle will be obtained. Where the fall has been heavy jowari is being resown. There will be a small crop of grass later, which will help to keep the cattle alive. Should more rain fall, a crop of gram, wheat, and "tal" (sesamum) will be obtained in many parts. The conditions have been further improved by this rain, inasmuch as the grass which was being held up in the more favoured parts for local wants will now be sold to feed the cattle in other parts. Hearing that grass was abundant in Konkan, I wired to the Commissioner, S.D., for information. He put me in communication with the Mamlatdar of Mahim whence grass is being imported into Jhalavad. It is also proposed to import it by sea to Bhavnagar, where a depot will be formed.

3. *Price of Food Grains.*—The prices of food grains, which had risen since last report, have fallen materially, owing to this rain and the import of grain from other parts. Present prices vary in different places. In Rájkot grain is selling as under:—

Bájni	17—18 seers (lbs.) per rupee.
Jowár	20—21 " " "
Wheat	19 " " "

4. *Number of Persons on Local Relief Works.*—Employment is being given to some 40,000 people in various parts of the Province by the States and the Agency Officers in digging out village tanks, deepening old wells, and digging new ones, and repairing roads. These people belong principally to the non-cultivating classes, but cultivators are now beginning to seek for labour.

5. *Assistance to Cultivators.*—The cultivators are assisted in the same way as reported in the last weekly report, and they are being encouraged to grow by irrigation from the wells that hold out an inferior kind of millet for their support.

6. *Charitable Assistance.*—The same arrangement as reported in last week's report continues at several places.

7. *Grain Supplies.*—Grain in large quantities is being imported from Bombay and Karachi by rail and sea.

8. *Condition of Cattle.*—The cattle are generally reported to have fallen off in condition considerably, a good many of the weakly miscellaneous cattle have died and a few plough bullocks. Every endeavour, however, is being made to raise quick-growing fodder, and there is no cause for anxiety as long as there is water in the wells.

9. *Crime.*—There are indications of the people being driven to robbery by want of food, and in some of the mahals of the Bhavnagar State, where the conditions are the worst, the Darbar has, at my advice, posted one or two armed police in each village and sent small detachments of the Imperial Service Lancers into the districts.

10. *Loans to Talukdars.*—I have notified with the sanction of Government that loans which may be contracted by talukdars bona fide for the assistance of their cultivators or for providing relief works or for otherwise meeting the demands of the present scarcity will be exempted from the operation of the encumbered estate rules and receive the Agency guarantee provided the deeds are produced before the Prant Officers, the terms approved of by the Political Agent, and guarantee given that the money will be spent for the above purposes only.

11. *Alignment of Wadhwan-Dhulia Section of Railway.*—The alignment of the Wadhwan Civil Station Dohia Section of the railway connection between Rajkot and Wadhwan was fixed on the 3rd instant in consultation with the Chiefs through whose territories the line will pass after considering several alternative lines proposed by the engineers, and the survey is now proceeding. It is expected to be completed about the 15th instant, when about 3,000 people will be employed in the earthwork.

Enclosure 11 in No. 6.

Letter from—Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kāthiawār, to Secretary to Government, Bombay. No. 815, dated Kāthiawār Political Agency, Rājkot, 13th September 1899.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the agricultural prospects in this Province for the week ending the 9th instant.

2. *Rainfall.*—Rain has fallen in local showers varying considerably in amount. Four places in Sorath received rain varying from 7 to 39 cents. In Jhalavad it has fallen at many places, varying from 35 cents to 2.86 inches. In Halar and Gohlvad many places received showers varying from 21 cents to 2.25 inches. This rainfall will keep alive the crops which still survive, and will enable cultivators, where it has been heavy enough, to re-sow, but it will require several more heavy showers, which the weather indications do not lead one to expect, to bring the present sowings to maturity.

3. The irregular and partial character of the rainfall during this season has resulted in causing the conditions to vary considerably throughout the Province from an entire loss of crops in some districts to an 8 anna or even 10 anna crop in others. The accompanying map illustrates the agricultural conditions. The line of railway from Bhavnagar to Porbandar divides roughly the districts on the north, in which the early crops failed, from those in the south, where a crop may still be realised. In some places in the latter the crops are quite safe, while in others rain is still wanted to obtain a crop. The parts which have suffered most are Porbandar, Jamnagar, and Jhalavad and Than. In Chotila, the graziers have lost all their cattle and were glad to get to work at 1½ anna per day.

The rainfall at the four Agency Stations was as under:—

	Inches.	Cents
Rájkot	0	88
Wadhván	0	15
Jetálsar... ..	0	39
Songadh	0	39

4. *Crops.*—Colonel Fenton reports that the agtar (early) crops of bajri, jowar, and cotton in the districts of Jhalavad which he visited during the week are practically gone, the fields, except in a few damp localities, being as bare and brown as in the middle of the hot weather. Chasatia (a kind of fodder) and banti (an inferior grain) are being cultivated where possible by means of both old and new wells in that Prant.

5. *Fodder.*—Fodder is very scarce in the northern part of the Province, but supplies are being imported from the neighbourhood of Broach and the States have been advised to grow a quick-growing grass named kuri. The price of food grains is practically the same as during the previous week.

6. *Number of Persons employed.*—The number of persons employed on relief works in various parts of the Province by the States and the Agency Officers has risen from 40,000 to 70,000. They are employed digging out village tanks, deepening old wells and digging new ones, and repairing roads. The majority of these people belong to the non-cultivating classes, but poor cultivators also are now seeking relief.

7. *Assistance to Cultivators.*—The cultivators are being assisted in the same way as reported in the last weekly report. They are receiving periodical advances of grain for themselves and their families, but the great difficulty is to keep their cattle alive until the irrigated fodder crop is ready, for there is no fodder to be bought locally. Some States have thrown all their grazing lands open to cultivators' cattle, others are importing grass, and those near the Null are feeding their cattle on the "bid," a bulb that grows in great quantities there and affords sustenance to both man and beast.

8. *Loans to Talukdars.*—In the Jhalavad Prant it has been found necessary to make loans from cash balances of managed estates to petty Talukdars under the Agency Thanas in order to afford relief to their cultivators and other subjects during the present scarcity, for which a separate fund has been started. A separate account will be kept of all the various loans made to the different Talukdars.

9. It is evident that present conditions will lead to a great change in the relations now existing between these petty Talukdars and their Mulgrasias, and between both these and their cultivators, and that it will be necessary for the Agency to interfere much more directly in the collection of the land revenue than has hitherto been the case. The small Talukdars have no money to advance to either their Mulgrasias or cultivators, as they are mostly in debt, and money-lenders refuse to lend in consequence of the agricultural prospects being so bad. As these Talukdars cannot be trusted to pay the money that might be advanced to them to their Mulgrasias and cultivators, the Agency must deal directly with the latter and recover a share of the crop, until the advances are repaid; this will entail the organisation of a small Revenue Department later on. In regard to the more important Chiefs separate loans under regular contract agreements with the lending State will be effected through the mediation of the Agency on the conditions set forth in my letter to the address of my Assistant in Jhalavad Prant, No. 4228, dated 10th instant (copy appended).

10. *Grain Supplies.*—Grain in large quantities is being imported, both by sea and rail, so that there is no immediate prospect of a rise in the price of food grains.

11. *Condition of Cattle.*—The condition of the cattle in the affected districts is reported to be very weak. The graziers, such as Rabaris, Bhawars, and Gaolies, have lost almost all their milch cattle, and many of the poorer cultivators have lost their plough bullocks. Every endeavour is being made to raise quick-growing fodder to prevent further mortality among plough bullocks and other cattle as far as practicable, but the superstition and apathy of the people paralyse one's efforts. In spite of my note of warning on the 29th July to grow fodder, the cultivators relied on rain falling on certain festivals and would not bestir themselves until these were passed, by which time many bullocks had become too weak to work.

12. *Tour to Chotila.*—I have just returned from a ride through the Chotila District, the condition of which is as bad as it can be, as there is not now any crop left, and large numbers of cattle have died after exhausting the leaves of the ficus trees that line the road. As it is a grazing country, many have been rendered destitute by the loss of their cattle. I found 800 people employed on a relief work glad to accept a daily wage of 1½ anna for men, and 1 anna for women. As the grain-purchasing power of this is much below the minimum famine wage, there was no doubt as to the need for relief works. I therefore proceeded to inspect an old tank which I found could be converted into a remunerative irrigation reservoir. The Talukdar in whose estate it is situated having died leaving Rs. 12,000 to the credit of the estate, all the people were at once concentrated on this work and the wages raised to Famine Code rates.

13. As the country from Chotila to Wadhwan is in much the same condition, I ordered the earthwork of the line from Wadhwan and Dolia to be begun. This will employ all the neighbouring people in want of work for a month or two and give time to prepare other irrigation schemes. I fortunately recollected a scheme that had been proposed in 1877 when famine threatened. I found it, from a general inspection of the place, very suitable, being central for the Thana talukas of Chotila and Palyad, and likely to be remunerative, while it will employ four or five thousand people for another couple of months after the railway is finished. The Agency Engineer is now making a detailed survey and estimate of this, as well as another smaller scheme.

14. It will be necessary to finance these schemes, which will probably cost two or three lakhs of rupees. Though none of the local petty Talukdars have any money to contribute, I hope to be able to obtain the money and repay it from water rates, but I need not enter into this matter here. It will form the subject of a special report when the plans and estimates are ready.

15. I am glad to say that there is no appearance of emaciation among the people as yet, but there is no doubt that they were beginning to run short of food, and the relief now afforded them has come just in time. By keeping them in fair condition these works will be carried out cheaply, for a fair day's work can now be obtained from them which would not have been the case had they been allowed to run down.

16. In addition to the above works two irrigation schemes have already been started in the Rajkot State, and another in Jasdan is under consideration. The Mianis of Malia are well employed, excavating local tanks, and will be turned on to digging the watercourses of an irrigation scheme now being worked out.

17. The earthwork of the Wadhwan-Dhulia Railway will afford relief to the rayats of Wadhwan, Sayla, Muli, Vankaner, and of the neighbouring Thana Talukas for a month or two, at the expiry of which other relief works must be prepared. His Highness the Thakor Saheb of Morvi having declined to convert his railway on the condition offered him by Government, I have

ordered the detailed survey of the railway from Dhulha to Rajkot via Chotila to be made at once. This line will be a real godsend to the people, for it will afford employment to larger numbers for the rest of the time we must provide for them.

18. All the State Karbharis are just now assembled in Rajkot with detailed information regarding the condition of things in their respective States, and the measures they propose taking to relieve the people, on which I shall submit a further report to Government in the course of a few days.

19. *General Remarks.*—It is evident that there is a general failure of the early crops in the greater part of Kathiawar, and that large numbers will have to be provided with work until next rains. In 1877-78 the pinch did not begin to be felt until February, while this year the people are already destitute, so that there is no doubt a long and anxious time of famine is before us. The matter has, however, been taken in time, and I can assure Government that I am quite prepared to meet the difficulties that lie before us, provided the Chotila Railway is carried out, which, I think, now has become a sine qua non if the people are to be kept alive.

20. As soon as the present deliberations with the Karbharis are concluded, I propose making a further extended tour in northern parts of the province.

Enclosure 12 in No. 6.

Letter from—Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to The Assistant Political Agent, Jhalawad Prant. No. 4228, dated Kathiawar Political Agent's Camp, 10th September 1899.

WITH reference to your No. 1403, of 8th instant, I have the honour to approve of the appointment of the process fee karkun to be in charge of the Famine Loan Fund Accounts and the manner in which you propose to advance the funds.

2. These arrangements, I understand, only apply to the petty Talukdars and Mulgrasias. For the more important Chiefs there should be separate loans under regular contract agreements with the lending State effected through our mediation.

3. The Chiefs of Wadhwan and Sasla have applied to me to obtain loans for them from other States, to which I have consented, provided they agree to the following conditions:—

- 1 To submit an accurate and exhaustive statement of their liabilities, and undertake not to borrow any money in any quarter until the loan is paid off.
- 2 To submit an accurate statement of the average income and expenditure of their estates, showing the balance that will be available for the repayment of the loan with interest.
- 3 To submit an annual budget of State income and expenditure framed in such a manner as to fulfil the terms of the loan and adhere to its provisions.
- 4 To submit an annual statement of actual income and expenditure at the end of the revenue year.
- 5 To pay the annual interest on the loan, and in addition to purchase annually a stipulated amount of Government promissory notes as a sinking fund for the repayment of the loan when it shall become due.

4 The lending State will probably stipulate that the loan should not be repaid under a certain fixed period. This might be 10 years when the

accumulated loan notes could be paid over to the lending State, and the balance of the loan liquidated by annual instalments.

5. These loans should be solely for the purpose of meeting the present distress, and not for the satisfaction of other previously contracted debts, and some guarantee should be given by the State that the money will be devoted wholly and solely for the purpose of meeting the demands of the present scarcity.

Enclosure 13 in No. 6.

Letter from—Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to Secretary to Government, Bombay. No. 794, dated Kathiawar, Political Agency, Rajkot, 5th September 1899.

WITH reference to Government Resolution, No. 5882, dated 31st ultimo, calling for an immediate report on the prospects of the season and the measures which it is proposed to adopt for dealing with the situation, I have the honour to state that, as Government have been kept informed of the state of the crops and stock by my weekly reports, I beg now to submit a general review of the present situation and the calls which the future is likely to make upon us.

Report regarding scarcity in Kathiawar.

2. The rain this year has not only been very scanty, but has fallen irregularly, some parts of the province having received no rain at all until the past week. After the first fall in June, there was a long break, during which most of the crops withered and died down altogether, and the growth of the grass in the grass lands was checked. A few scattered showers fell at the end of July and beginning of September, which kept alive the crops where they still existed. These, in consequence of the showers of the past week, will produce some grain.

3. The rain has been so partial, falling at times in a single village only, the remainder of the taluka remaining unrefreshed, that an agricultural map of the province would resemble a chess-board. It is very difficult, therefore, to form an estimate of the area in which crops will be realized. Endeavours, however, will be made to furnish this information by wire on the 15th.

4. Until the festivals of "Narel Punnam," Coconut day, on the 20th August, and the subsequent one of "Gokal Ashtami," the anniversary of the birth of Krishna, on the 28th idem, the people were still expectant and hopeful, but when these feasts passed without rain, prices of food grain and fodder in Rajkot rose rapidly, one rupee only purchasing 17 lbs. of bajri and 22 of jowar, instead of 24 and 25 respectively in the corresponding date of last year. Dry grass at the same time rose to 30 to 35 rupees per 1,000 lbs.

5. Measures were taken to frustrate the formation of a "corner" in food grains, and some of the grain dealers were induced to open shops for selling grain at cheap rates to the poorer classes. At the same time quotations of grain outside Kathiawar were obtained and published in the bazar. This led to large orders for grain being placed in Karachi, Bombay, and other places, which, with the timely rainfall of last week, resulted in a considerable fall in prices.

As prices are falling in Karachi also, I do not anticipate any present rise in prices here, nor do I expect that even should the rains now cease altogether there will be actual famine. The grain dealers are so active and are satisfied with such a small profit on their transactions that a small rise leads immediately to an inflow of grain from other parts of India, while the province is so excellently served by the existing net work of railways and has so many ports at which grain can be imported very cheaply by country craft that there is no fear of any part remaining destitute of food, as long as there are stocks

in other parts of India to draw upon. Should good rain fall in this or next month, crops of "Chasia" (unirrigated) wheat, grain, and sesamum may still be raised in many parts.

6. The food supply therefore gives no ground for anxiety, but funds will be wanted for two purposes—

- (A) As advances to cultivators whose crops have failed to maintain them and their bullocks until the next crop;
- (B) Wages to the labouring classes and poorer cultivators which will have to be employed on relief works.

7. In the larger States general relief works and advances for grain and fodder are made to cultivators, but in the smaller States and in talukas under the Thanas, I have been careful to discourage the premature opening of general relief works on the principle that every tributary landholder down to the sharer only of a village is bound to assist the cultivators and labouring classes of his village during the first months of scarcity as far as his means will allow. Relief work, therefore, in these talukas has been confined to cleaning out village tanks, deepening old wells and digging new ones. Where the landholder had no funds to advance to cultivators and pay the labourers and could not borrow from the local traders, I have authorized the Prant Officers to lend from the cash balances of the States which are under our management. So far as these measures have sufficed and will carry the people on for another fortnight or more, and in the meantime should rain fall agricultural work will again become available.

8. I am preparing, however, for more unfortunate eventualities in the following manner. The section of the railway which is to connect Rajkot with Wadhwan between the latter place and Dolia (23 miles) is being surveyed, and it will be possible to start the earthwork on it by the middle of this month. Should His Highness the Thakor Sahab of Morvi decline to convert his railway under the terms offered, the direct line from Rajkot to Wadhwan Civil Station via Chotila (43 miles) will have to be made, and will employ a large number of labourers for some time. This railway is most opportune, for it will pass through the districts most affected by the drought.

9. I am suggesting to the Resident of Baroda that the earthwork of the Amreli Railway, which has been surveyed, should be carried out.

10. I am having the province prospected by the Agency Engineer for irrigation tanks to put the people on to when necessary. The interlacing of properties in this province, however, presents many difficulties in this matter, and oblige me to reject several promising schemes.

11. I hope at the Karbhari's meeting, which will take place on the 12th instant, to induce the States to create a central fund for relief measures administered by myself, assisted by a committee.

12. Where I carry out any irrigation scheme the talukdar who will benefit by it will be charged at normal rates, and the additional cost due to the defective labour of famine-stricken people will be debited to the central fund.

13. In conclusion, it is my duty to warn Government that it will be necessary to relax the rule against giving guarantees, for most of the talukdars have not only no cash balance, but are more or less in debt owing to their extravagant outlays on domestic occurrences and the facility of borrowing which has existed until the recent enforcement of the principle of the Court of Directors despatch that talukdars have only a life-interest in their estates. It is difficult now for them to borrow money to assist their cultivators and provide labour without an Agency guarantee that the estate will be held liable after the death of the borrower. As this loan will be unquestionably in the

interests of the successor, there is no objection to giving the necessary guarantee. The terms will, of course, be subject to the approval of the Political Agent and be carefully scrutinized.

I will supplement this report with a telegraph on the 15th instant.

Enclosure 14 in No. 6.

Telegram from—The Political Agent, Rajkot, to the Political Department, Ganeshkhind, dated the 15th September 1899.

Replying Government Resolution 5882, 31st ultimo. Early crops of food grain have completely failed in greater part of Kathiawar, and seventy thousand people employed relief works various States and Thanas. Should no more rain fall, most of remaining crops will die and famine must result. Should general fall 4 inches take place wheat grain and til might be raised and famine averted. Under any circumstances distress must prevail and many will require labour until next rains. Condition reported in my letters, 794 and 815, unchanged at present. Residents of Jhalavad Thana only require general relief; in other thanas only few require employment on village tanks. Large irrigation tank started near Chotila. Wadhwan-Dolia Railway is employing others. Meanwhile other irrigation scheme preparing. Two other irrigation schemes in Rajkot State started and others preparing. Chotila Railway being surveyed. Relief of people well in hand and funds available.

Enclosure 15 in No. 6.

Letter from—P. S. V. Fitzgerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay. No. 3772, dated Palanpur, 19th August 1899.

(Submits report on the condition of the district.)

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of Government, the following report on the condition of this district consequent on the prolonged drought

2. *The rainfall to date.*—The rainfall from the 1st June up to date is shown in the following statement:—

	Inches	Cents
Palanpur	2	95
Rudhanpur	0	3
Sani	4	82
Manjpur	4	10
Tharad	0	63
Vat	2	0
Varahi	0	1
Duodas	0	54
Santalpur	0	15
Kankrej	1	51

With the exception of a few cents last month and 1 cent this month at Palanpur, the whole of this rain fell in June. Throughout the month of July we had an overcast sky and very strong wind, which carried masses of apparently rain-laden cloud over us without giving us any rain. The people

hoped that the Ashadi Amawashia, the end, that is to say, of the dark half of Ashad, would bring rain, but it did not, and during the last fortnight the signs of rain have steadily decreased, and the mornings are beginning to be cold, which has much disheartened the people.

3. *Present condition and future prospect of the rain crop.*—In parts of Palanpur, Vav, and the Kankrej Thana Circle, and in the Sami and Munjpur Mahals of the Radhanpur State, the rain crops were sown in June, but they are rapidly withering; in a few marshy places and more particularly in the Palanpur State these crops may yet be partly saved if we have rain in the next week, but elsewhere I am afraid they are past recovery. I have made very careful enquiries taluka by taluka, and I find that if within the next week or ten days we get a really good fall of rain, jowari can and will be sown all over the country, and though the year will remain a very bad one, actual famine can be averted. But if within the next ten days at the outside we do not get a good general rain the situation will become very serious, more especially in Tharad and Vav and the villages along the edge of the Ran, where no cold weather crop is possible.

4. *Irrigated and cold weather crops.*—In the Palanpur State and Kankrej-Thana Circle and in parts of Diodar and Tervada and the Radhanpur State much can be done by irrigation, and should we be so fortunate as to get a good late rain in October cold weather crops of wheat, gram, and jowari can be raised in Palanpur, Kankrej-Varahi, the Radhanpur State, and parts of Diodar and Santalpur.

5. *Fodder and the preservation of the cattle.*—But our great and pressing difficulty is fodder. Last year the rainfall was very deficient, as will appear from the following figures:—

	Inches	Cents.
Palanpur	16	81
Radhanpur	8	36
Tharad	6	79
Vav	11	28
Diodar	13	60
Kankrej	15	86
Varahi	17	1
Santalpur	11	96

The result is that in many places the stocks of grass and karbi were exhausted before the hot weather was over and the wooded tracts were eaten up by huge herds of starving cattle from Marwar and Sind, leaving little or nothing for the local cattle when the rains failed us in July. I have urged everybody to grow green fodder, and have been doing so for nearly a month. At first there was a great deal of apathy, and putting off in the hope that the rain would come; now I think the people are alive to the necessity, and wherever green fodder can be raised by irrigation, it is being done. But there are places where it cannot be raised at all, as in the greater part of Tharad and in Vav, Santalpur, and Varahi, and in these talukas the difficulties of maintaining the cattle are already acute. In Santalpur up to a few days ago they were getting grass from Cutch, but a prohibitive export duty has been imposed by the Cutch Darbar, and while I still hope to be able to save the plough bullocks and the more valuable of the cows, there can be no doubt that unless we get rain immediately large quantities of cattle must die. In Radhanpur the Acting Administrator, Captain Carnegie, is working with the greatest energy to raise green fodder, and is trying to buy grass elsewhere for immediate wants, and the Palanpur Darbar and Mahajans are endeavouring to

buy fodder wherever it can be procured. But the most that we can hope to buy will be a mere drop in the ocean of our requirements, and we must depend chiefly on the green crop that we can raise. Another difficulty will be transport, and if the rain continues to hold off endeavours will be made to bring as many as possible of the more valuable cattle to centres where they can be supplied with fodder. This I am now endeavouring to arrange.

6 *Water.*—Another difficulty is water, so far in the eastern half of the district the supply is holding out very well, being fed by the hills to the north and east, but in the western and southern parts of the district it everywhere shows signs of giving out. In several villages towards the Ran it has given out entirely, and the people are fetching their drinking water from a distance of two and three miles. Elsewhere as the wells run low the water becomes salt and unfit alike for human and animal consumption or irrigation purposes. If the rain holds off much longer, many villages in the west will have to be temporarily abandoned.

7. *Food stocks and prices of grain.*—So far as I have been able to ascertain (because one or two reports on this point have not yet been received), the stocks of grain in the country are ample, the effect of the plague having been to retard export during the last two years. In Deesa, Palanpur, and Tharad, and markets near the railway, the prices of grain are steadily rising, but elsewhere they are stationary, and in some places they are lower than they have been for some years.

8. *Physical condition and employment of the people.*—So far the physical condition of the people is good, but the lowest classes—those, that is to say, who are always dependent on labour—are beginning to feel the want of employment in Palanpur, Radhanpur, Varahi, and Santalpur. Elsewhere there is as yet no pressure, but there soon must be. In Palanpur for nearly a month past the Darbar has been giving employment to surplus labour on the Goburi road, but the numbers have been very small, and during the current week at my suggestion work has been opened on the Inan Surowar Tank near the town, payment being made by the amount of work done, not by daily wage, and there are now about 100 people on the work. From Radhanpur Captain Carnegie informs me that he has found it necessary to assist the labouring classes and cultivators by employing them on sinking and deepening wells, and the works which he has sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 7,191 will, he calculates, give employment to 2,300 men for 20 days. At Varahi and Santalpur I have sanctioned the commencement of piece work on the tanks, and I am told about 400 are now employed at each place, but actual figures have not yet been received. I have sanctioned the commencement of piece work on the tank at Vav as soon as it may become necessary.

9. *Private charity.*—In Palanpur and Radhanpur the Mahajans are giving grass to cattle, and at Radhanpur and Sami the Mahajans have opened shops at which grain is sold at cheaper than bazar prices. In Santalpur also a savkar has come forward with a stock of grass and a khan of jowari to be distributed to the people, the same to be returned to him in better times quantity for quantity.

10. *The future*—At present the outlook is gloomy in the extreme, but a good fall of rain in the course of the next ten days would do much to save the situation. If that does not come relief on a larger scale will be necessary, but it can be given for a month or two months in deepening tanks, sinking wells, and such like work. For this in the Thana Circles more money will be necessary, and on that point I will address Government separately. As the year advances if no rain falls larger relief works will become necessary, and there will have to be works under European supervision. For the southern part of the Superintendency, Radhanpur, Varahi, and Santalpur, the best work on which to employ the people will, I think, be the earthwork of the Radhanpur-Sami section of the Radhanpur Railway. For the northern part of the Superintendency I am enquiring what will be best, and I hope before long to lay my views before Government.

Enclosure 16 in No. 6.

Letter from—P. S. V. Fitzgerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay. No. 3978, dated Palanpur, 1st September 1899.

In continuation of my No. 3772, dated the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to submit the following further report.

2. *The crops.*—There has been no rain whatever, and the rain crops where sown have finally withered and gone, except in the few places where it has been possible to keep them alive by irrigation, the proportion so kept alive being very small indeed. The time has also passed where, as stated in paragraph 3 of my last report, jowari could be sown on a large scale. If we were to get rain now, no doubt a great deal would be sown for the fodder, but it would not, I am told, develop grain. So now what the greater portion of the district has to look forward to is the possibility of a cold weather crop, and if there is a good late rain cold weather crops can be raised all over the district except in Vav, Tharad, and the villages bordering on the Ran.

3. *Irrigation.*—Since my last report much has been done to increase the area under irrigation. In the Kankrej Thana Circle, which lies along both banks of the Banas river, 1,130 new wells have been sunk. In the Diodar Thana Circle 244. In the Tharad Thana Circle 151, and in Santalpur, where wells have hitherto been looked upon as more or less an impossibility, 99 have been sunk. In the Varahi and Vav Thana Circles, owing to the salt nature of the soil, much has not been done, but new wells have been sunk in 12 villages of each. In the Palanpur State 25,018 bighas have been brought under irrigation. In the Radhanpur State, notwithstanding the difficulty of finding sweet water and the saline character of the soil, Captain Carnegie has succeeded in sinking 79 new wells, and is omitting no effort to raise green fodder. In 26 villages of the Tharad State and 9 villages of the Vav State also wells have been sunk and crops are being raised by irrigation.

4. *Fodder and the difficulty of preserving the cattle.*—But with all that we can do the fodder difficulty is very great. The Palanpur Darbar are importing 7,000 maunds of pressed fodder from Jhansi, and they have purchased 9,000 maunds of grass at Bikanir, and the Mahajans who have been doing excellent service have imported large quantities of grass from the south and karbi from as far away as Sholapur, and have now purchased 4,000 maunds of grass at Bikanir and 3,000 maunds of pressed forage at Jhansi. The Administrator at Radhanpur has imported a lakh of pressed grass, and has now ordered 1,500 maunds more from Jhansi to keep things going till he can get green fodder, and I have been able to persuade the Mahajans at Radhanpur and Tharad and the Thakor of Tharad to order small quantities of pressed fodder amounting in the aggregate to about 1,560 maunds, but all this, though it amounts to over 35,000 maunds, goes a very little way really, and many parts of the district are so far away from the railway that it is impossible to do anything for them. Everywhere I have endeavoured to persuade the Mahajans and the Talukdars, everyone that I thought had money, to purchase and import pressed fodder, but the cost is so great and the difficulties of transport from the railways so considerable that I am not surprised that the advice has not been more largely taken. The Mahajans of Palanpur and Radhanpur and Patan, which, though not in my district, is close to it, have done and are still doing excellent service, but might do better still if they would select the animals they meant to save, but with all that has been done there can be no doubt that very large numbers of cattle have died and are dying. And in districts like Varahi, Santalpur, and the Ran villages it is quite impossible to save them. All I have been able to do is to arrange that those who can may take their plough bullocks to the Kankrej villages on the Banas, where they can raise green fodder for them, and a good many are taking advantage of the arrangement. In Tharad and some of the villages of Vav, the cultivators have considerable stocks of fodder from former years, which will carry them on for some time, and in Palanpur and Kankrej

the great bulk of the plough bullocks will probably be saved; but in the south, especially in Varahi, the loss has already been very heavy, and if the rain continues to hold off must be heavier still.

5. *Water.*—The position with regard to water is much the same as when I last wrote, but it must soon become worse in the western districts if we do not get rain, and many people have left the Santalpur and Ran Kantha villages, and crossed over with their cattle to Sindh, while others have come east into the Kankrej villages along the banks of the Banas.

6. *Prices of grain.*—The prices of grain have gone on rising steadily, and are now very high, viz. :—

					Rs.	a.
Wheat	..	..	...	...	2	0
Bajri	..	..	...	...	1	15
Juvar	..	..	...	...	2	0
Gowar	..	..	...	...	1	8
Gram	..	..	...	...	1	15
Math	...	..	...	...	1	13

per maund of 40 lbs., and all other grain is in proportion.

7. *Physical condition of the people.*—The physical condition of the people who belong to the district is still good, but among the large numbers of Marwardis, who are daily passing through the district bound south, there are many in a very reduced condition.

8. *Emigration.*—Considerable numbers of people have left the Santalpur and Ran Kantha villages, and some of the villages of Varahi and Radhanpur for Sindh. These people are in the habit of going to Sindh, where they get plots of land to irrigate, I am told, and many went in the hot weather, and have not returned. Many more have followed during the last fortnight, even from places where they could get work.

9. *Immigration.*—Thousands of people from Marwar are pouring into the districts every day, and are becoming a very serious strain on the charity of the towns and bigger villages; they ask for work, which we cannot give them, but the Mahajans and other charitable people give them food, and they go on towards Ahmedabad and Malwa. I have brought this to the notice of the Resident, Western Rajputana States. Many of these people are in a very reduced condition, and they tell me that this is the third year of famine in their country.

10. *Employment of the people.*—Considerable numbers of people still find employment locally, and so far no more works than those mentioned in paragraph 8 of my last report have been opened, but on the works that are open the numbers are beginning to increase, more especially here, in Palanpur, where people are beginning to drubble in from villages of the Deesa and Dhanera Mahals, towards the Marwar Frontier. To-day there are 710 men, women, and children working on the Man Sarowar tank, and 245 more on the Gobri tank here at Palanpur. This day last week the numbers were about half. On the Ramla tank at Varahi there is a daily average of 177, and on the tank at Santalpur a daily average of 51. In Radhanpur the people are employed on sinking wells and cleaning tanks, but Captain Carnegy states that no cultivators are working except for themselves. Only the poorest classes are employed. I have not received figures, but the numbers are not large.

11. *Outlook worse.*—The outlook is distinctly worse than it was a fortnight ago. The difficulty of preserving the cattle grows every day greater. The country is unsettled, crime is on the increase, and the people have almost lost all heart. Very soon relief works on a larger scale will be necessary. I have called on the Palanpur Darbar to state what further works they propose to undertake. I am submitting a separate report about the Thana Circles,

and I think I have got things well in hand, but I would respectfully urge that no time be lost in making the necessary arrangements to start the earthwork on the Radhanpur to Sami Section of the Radhanpur Railway

No. 533, dated Camp Dohad, 12th September, 1899.

Forwarded to Government in continuation of this Office, No. 489, dated 22nd ultimo. The measures taken by the Political Agent are satisfactory.

2. The commencement of the earthwork on the Radhanpur to Sami section of the Radhanpur Railway would be an excellent relief work, but it will be seen from Government Resolution, No. 3096, of 29th May, 1899, that the construction of this railway is still under consideration.

F. S. P. LELY,

Commissioner, N. D.

Enclosure 17 in No. 6.

Letter from P. S. V. Fitzgerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department (Famine), Poona, No. 4216, dated 12th September, 1899.

In compliance with the instructions contained in Government Resolution in the Political Department, No. 5882, dated the 31st ultimo, and received on the 4th instant, I have the honour to submit the following report:—

2. *Rainfall.*—The prospects of the season are gloomy in the extreme. The rainfall since the 1st of June has been as follows:—

	Inches.	Cents.
Palanpur	2	97
Radhanpur	0	3
Sami	4	82
Munjpur... ..	4	10
Tharad	0	63
Vav	2	0
Varahi	0	1
Diodar	0	54
Santalpur	0	15
Kankrej	1	51

With the exception of a few cents in July, 1 cent in August, and 2 cents last Saturday night at Palanpur, the whole of this rain fell in June. For all practical purposes we have had no rain since the middle of June.

3. *The Aqtar or rain crop.*—In parts of the Palanpur State in Vav, the Kankrej Thana Circle and the Sami and Munjpur Mahals of the Radhanpur State, the rain crops were sown in June, but they gradually withered away, and are now entirely lost; elsewhere throughout the Superintendency there was not sufficient rain for the sowing.

4. *Cold weather crops.*—Our future prospects depend now upon whether we get rain, good rain, during the next few weeks at the latest up to Divali. If we do, cold weather crops can be raised in the Palanpur State, with the exception of a few villages of the Dhanera and Deesa Mahals,

throughout the Kankrej and Varahi Thana Circles and Radhanpur State, in portions of Diodar and Tharad, and in a few villages of Vav and Santalpur; but for this we shall want very heavy rain, because with an insufficient rainfall last year and this three months' prolonged drought, the whole country is burnt to a cinder, and is as hard as iron, and it will require very heavy rain to soak the land sufficiently for it to bear crops of gram and wheat without irrigation.

5. *Irrigated crops.*—Irrigated crops can be raised in the greater part of the Palanpur State in the Kankrej Thana Circle, and in parts of the Diodar Thana Circle and Radhanpur State; elsewhere the saline character of the soil, and very often of the water, and in many places the depths of the wells, are against them. But a very great deal has nevertheless been done, more particularly in the Thana Circles. More than a month ago, when the whole of July passed without rain and the fodder difficulty began to assert itself, I issued circulars, and did everything in my power to urge the people to grow green fodder, but at first there was a great deal of apathy and putting off in the hope that rain would come. As cocoanut day approached, however, and rain still held off, the people became alive to the necessity, and wherever green fodder (towari and kurbi chiefly) can be raised by irrigation, it is being done. In Radhanpur the Acting Administrator, Captain Carnegy, has been indefatigable in this respect, notwithstanding the difficulties he has had to contend with owing to the saline character of the soil, and all my Thanadars have exerted themselves to the utmost in the same connection, as the following figures will show:—In the Radhanpur State over 1,000 wells will shortly be ready from which fodder crops are being or will be irrigated. In Kankrej 1,130 new wells have been, and more are being, sunk. In Diodar 309, in Tharad 247, in Vav 325, in Santalpur 158, and in 12 villages of Varahi, where sweet water is obtainable, 164 new wells have been sunk. In the Palanpur State the number of new wells has not been reported, but up to the 1st of the current month 25,018 bighas of land had been brought under irrigation, and the area has been added to considerably since.

6. *Fodder and the mortality among the cattle.*—A very serious feature in the situation is the want of fodder for the cattle. Last year the rainfall was very deficient throughout the district, as the following figures will show:

Stations.	Inches	Cents
Palanpur	16	81
Radhanpur	8	36
Tharad	6	79
Vav	4	28
Diodar	13	60
Kankrej	15	86
Varahi	17	1
Santalpur	11	96

The result was that in many places the stocks of fodder, grass, and karbi were exhausted before the hot weather was over, and wooded tracts in the north and east of the Superintendency were eaten up by huge herds of cattle from Marwar chiefly, leaving little or nothing for the local cattle when the rains failed us in July. Even in the last hot weather the mortality among the cattle was very great; the rain in June checked it for a time, except in Santalpur, Varahi, and parts of Radhanpur, Tharad, and Diodar, where it was not sufficient to do any good, but from July it commenced again almost everywhere, and there can be no doubt that the loss of cattle has been very

great, and is daily growing worse. From Radhanpur Captain Carnegy writes as follows:—"There is practically no fodder throughout the whole State, some few cultivators have small stores which may last for their own bullocks a month or so. They are taking care of their best cattle and weeding out the poorer class of animal to take its chance with the great majority which are fed on grass roots, which have little or no nourishment. Cattle are dying in hundreds throughout the State, the mortality among them reaching the large total of about 7,000." He estimates this to be about one-eighth of the total cattle in the State, and says that in every village cattle are dying daily, but he says that quite half of these have died, not solely from starvation, but from eating young jowari which contained some poisonous property. In Varahi and Santalpur also, and in the Rannkanta villages of Vav and Tharad, the mortality has been very great, and nothing can be done to save these cattle. Where green fodder can be raised some of the best of them will be saved, and many people have sold or abandoned their inferior cattle and taken their better beasts away to Scinde and Malwa. The importation of grass at the present rates is out of the question, and even where people can afford to buy the grass the distance from the railway stations is so great and the difficulties of transport over heavy sandy roads with enfeebled cattle are so great, that it is out of the question. All that I have been able to do to help the people of these, the worse districts, is to arrange that those who can may take their plough bullocks to the Kankrej villages on the Banas, where they can raise green fodder for them, and a good many are taking advantage of the arrangement. In other parts of the district things are not so bad. In some of the inland villages of Tharad, Vav, and Diodar the cultivators have considerable stocks of fodder from former years which will enable them to save their best cattle, at any rate for the present, and the greater part of the Palanpur State and the Kankrej Thana Circle have facilities for raising green fodder which will probably enable them to save their best cattle, though the inferior kinds must be left to their fate, and are already dying in considerable quantities. About 35,000 maunds of pressed fodder has been or is being imported from Jhansi, Bikaner, and other places, by the Palanpur and Radhanpur Darbars, and the various Mahjan bodies, the latter everywhere are doing good service in trying to preserve the cattle and might do better if they would only exercise more discrimination in selecting the cattle to be saved, and on this point I am tendering them advice, and, as far as possible, endeavouring to work through them, but it is a difficult matter.

7. *Water*.—The water-supply in the eastern half of the Superintendency is holding out very fairly well, being fed by the hills to the north and east, but in the western and southern parts of the district it is failing fast. Tanks have dried up, wells have run low or turned salt, and very soon, if we do not get rain, many villages towards the Rann will have to be abandoned. Already considerable numbers of people have been compelled to leave their villages on this account. Many have gone to Scinde, while others have come into the villages along the Banas with their cattle.

8. *The physical condition of the people*.—The physical condition of the people of the district is on the whole still good, and so far there is wonderfully little sickness, but among the large numbers of Marwadis who are daily passing through the district bound south, while the larger proportion are still apparently hale and strong, there are many in a very reduced condition.

9. *Emigration*.—As I have already stated in my previous reports to Government, considerable numbers of people have left the western and southern districts of the Superintendency; some of these have merely migrated within the limits of the Superintendency to places where they could get water or raise fodder for their cattle or had friends or relatives who could help them, but very considerable numbers have crossed the Rann into Scinde. This they are in the habit of doing, and many went in the hot weather and have not returned. Many have followed lately both with and without cattle, while many again have gone with their cattle to the big jungles to the east of Gujarat. I have not been able to get any reliable statistics of the numbers, but they are very considerable. The greater part of these people have gone

not so much for want of work as on account of their cattle or owing to scarcity of water, and a fear that if they did not go now they would not have the means of going later on when there is no water left.

10. *Immigration.*—There has been a certain amount of local migration from one part of the Superintendency to another, as stated above. Beyond this there has been no immigration into the district to stay, but thousands of people from Marwar have been and still are passing through the district. Many of these are apparently well-to-do, and say they have come away simply because there was no water or fodder for themselves or their cattle; but many again ask for work, which we cannot give them, and have been a very serious strain on the charity of the Mahajans and others, who give them food, and they go on towards Ahmedabad and Malwa. Many of these people struck me when they came to me to ask for work as being in a very reduced condition, but they are very orderly, and, great as their numbers have been, I have not heard of their having committed any crime.

11. *Employment of the people.*—Up to now considerable numbers of people have been able to find work locally. Many still do and will for some time to come, but the demand for employment is every day becoming greater. In my previous reports to Government of the 19th ultimo and 1st instant, I have stated in detail the relief works that had been opened, and from the first I have been doing all in my power to provide work for those who required it here at Palanpur, and, so far as the means at my disposal would admit, in the Thana Circles also. In Radhanpur, also, the Acting Administrator has provided relief work in no less than 32 places for the people of that State, but in one of the last reports I have received from him he tells me that notwithstanding this he estimates that about 3,500 people have emigrated from his State to Sind and Malwa. I have already in paragraph 9 above stated that considerable numbers had left the western and southern parts of the district, even where work was available, and as the chief reasons which prompted them to do so have been the preservation of their cattle, or the scarcity of water, combined with a fear that if they waited the failure of water and exhaustion of their resources would prevent them going at all, I respectfully submit that this could not have been avoided. On receipt of the Political Department telegram, No. 139, of the 7th instant, I at once addressed His Highness the Diwan in continuation of previous advice, and I do not think that any number of Palanpur people have emigrated, except those who have gone with cattle. I also forwarded a copy of the telegram to the Administrator, Radhanpur, for his information, and am instructing all my Thandars to do all they can to check the emigration of labourers as distinguished from cattle owners.

12. *Numbers now on relief works.*—At the date of my last report to Government there were 710 men, women, and children working on the Man Sarowar tank, and 245 more on the Gobri tank here at Palanpur; to-day the numbers are 1,056 on the Man sarowar tank and 851 on the Gobri tank. Work has also been opened on a tank at Samdhi, and I am told there are 210 people working on it, but I have not yet had time to go and see it. So that in this State there are now 2,117 people on relief works. On the Ramla tank at Varahi, where work was opened on the 9th of August, and on the Santalpur tank, where work was opened a few days later, there were at first considerable numbers, over 400, on each, but this number fell off very considerably, and by the time I submitted my second report (1st of September) the numbers had fallen off to a daily average of 177 and 51 respectively. This, I believe, to be due partly to the sinking of wells, at which they could earn more money, and partly to the high prices of food grain and to fears about the water. My last reports from the Thana Circles give the following figures:—

Ramla Tank	...	...	...	...	79
Limgamdi Tank	...	...	...	...	97
Santalpur Tank	..	...	...	...	23
Roza Tank	..	...	...	...	51
Morwada Tank	..	..	...	...	47
Total	...	...	..	..	<u>302</u>

In Radhanpur the Administrator has got work going on on 31 tanks in the districts and a road at Radhanpur, and he wires me to-day that the approximate number employed on these works is 3,000. So that the whole number now on relief works is 5,419, and here in Palanpur, at any rate, the numbers are steadily increasing every day.

13. *Food stocks, prices of grain, and relief shops.*—All my enquiries go to show that the stocks of food grain in the greater part of the country are ample; in many places, as, for instance, Tharad, Vav, and Palanpur itself, they are said to be very large, the export trade during the last two years having been very considerably checked by the plague. Elsewhere they are sufficient to last for six months, except in Radhanpur, where the stock is reported to be 360,435 maunds only, and with regard to this I am again addressing the Administrator. But prices everywhere are ruling very high, and the people are feeling it very much. In Palanpur the prices yesterday were—

					Rs.	a.	p.
Wheat	...	...	...	...	1	14	6
Bajri	...	...	...	...	1	15	0
Jowar	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Gowar	...	...	...	...	1	8	0
Gram	...	...	...	...	1	13	0
Muth	...	...	...	...	1	13	0

per maund of 40 lbs., and all other grain in proportion, and this is a very fair index of the prices in the districts. In Radhanpur for some time past the Administrator has had shops at Radhanpur itself and Sami, which were started by private subscriptions, where grain has been sold at cheaper rates in small quantities to the very poor, but the Sami shop has now been closed, as the money subscribed was exhausted, and the Radhanpur shop cannot last much longer. The Administrator has, therefore, submitted proposals for opening State shops at five places in the State, which I have forwarded to the Commissioner, N. D., for sanction. In Palanpur during the last week I have persuaded the Darbar to open a similar shop for the sale of grain to the poor, and I am now endeavouring to get one opened at each Mahal. In each of the Thanas subscriptions have been raised, and the poor are being assisted in the same way, but the money will not last very long, and I am therefore very anxious to get money to enable me to assist my Thana Circles.

14. *Crime.*—Everywhere crime is increasing, especially petty theft, and there has been a considerable increase in dacoities and robberies, of which there have been no less than 12 in the Thana Circles and petty States since the 1st of August, besides several in the jurisdictional States, but it is curious that in Vav, Varahi, and Santalpur, where the scarcity is greatest, there has been no increase of serious offences, and this I attribute to the different temperament of the people. Extra police precautions have been taken throughout the Superintendency.

15. *My forecast for the future.*—In the foregoing paragraphs I have endeavoured to give Government as accurate an idea as I can of the present situation in my charge. With regard to the future, everything depends, as I have shown in my 4th paragraph, upon whether we get good rain between this and Diwali; if we do, the situation will be to a great extent saved, but we shall, nevertheless, have to deal with what I may be permitted to call a minor famine. If we do not, I apprehend that the famine in this district will be very severe, and, owing to the want of communications and the same character and scarcity of water towards the Rann very difficult to deal with, I append a statement in which I have endeavoured, after consulting the local authorities everywhere, to make a forecast of the probable numbers of people for whom relief works will be required, (a) in the event of severe famine, (b) in the event of minor famine, and Government will see that the numbers are very large. I do not pretend that this statement is anything more than an estimate, but I do not think that I have over-estimated in the

least. In the case of (b) minor famine, I think my figures are fairly reliable, they may be a thousand or two too many, but not more, because rain now will not benefit some parts of the district so much as others; but in the event of severe famine the district generally is so poor and the last few years have been so bad, that it is quite impossible to say what classes may not have to come on the relief works, and I think that my estimate of 140,000 may be regarded as a minimum, or something very like it.

16. *The proposals for dealing with the famine.*—I have received a letter from His Highness the Divan of Palanpur, in answer to a reference from me as to how he proposed to deal with the situation, giving me a list of works he has opened or proposes to open, and for which he has allotted a sum of Rs. 50,000. Besides this sum His Highness estimates that he will be put to an extra expenditure of a lakh and a half of rupees for purchase of fodder and grain, Tagavi gram compensation, and so forth, and that as, on the other hand, he will lose about two lakhs of revenue, he will be obliged to incur four lakhs of debt. I do not say that I accept these figures, but I give them as he has done so, and the point of them is that he wishes to limit his expenditure on actual relief works to Rs. 50,000. Some of the works he has suggested are useless for relief, and I have told His Highness so, and asked him to suggest others; the rest are all excavation works on tanks, which, though they will be very useful to the district in many ways, will not be reproductive. I believe myself that there are several places in the adjacent hills where considerable irrigation works might be undertaken, but the State has no engineer, not even a competent overseer, and I have no means, therefore, of determining this. If Government could lend me the services of a good engineer for a short period to examine the piece of country to which I refer, plans might be made for further works should such become necessary. In the meantime the works which His Highness has specified are sufficient for the present. In Radhanpur the Acting Administrator proposes to go on with tank work, to take up other village tanks for excavation, as these on which work is now proceeding are completed, leaving the question of larger relief works for the consideration of Major Lyde on his return. He is against the construction of the railway banks as a relief work. I do not agree with him. Major Lyde will not be back till next month, and I do not think that preparations should be delayed a day. I think that the plan of a railway from Viramgam to Radhanpur should be definitely abandoned as manifestly beyond the resources of the State, and that no time should be lost in coming to an arrangement with His Highness the Gaikwar to construct the alternative line from Patan to Radhanpur. The Gaikwar constructing his portion and the Radhanpur State that which is within its limits, and I am addressing the Commissioner, N. D., separately on this subject. The States of Vav and Tharad, in their impoverished condition, cannot do much. I am applying for sanction to their raising loans, and part of the money so raised will, I hope, be available for small relief works in their States. For my Thana Circles I have already by my report, No. 4069, addressed Government with regard to the provision of funds, and as soon as the money can be obtained I propose to organize relief gangs in each Thana Circle to take the various village tanks in hand in succession. In this way, with assistance, I think I could meet minor famine in the Thana Circles and petty States, that is, if the earthwork of the Radhanpur Railway to Sami can also be opened later on. In the Palanpur State also I have no doubt that the Darbar will be able to meet minor famine, and that, as events progress, His Highness will rise to the occasion, and I shall be able to persuade him to provide more funds. But in the event of really severe famine it must, I think, be evident to Government from all I have stated above that the resources of the States themselves will not be sufficient to cope with the calamity throughout the year without very material assistance from the Imperial Government. In the south the Radhanpur-Patan Railway, if an arrangement can be made with the Gaekwar's Government and it can be sanctioned, will give employment to a very large number of people, because the banks will be very heavy, or it may be that Government have some large work in contemplation to which they would permit us to

draft some number of our able-bodied workers. But some large work will be required in the north. I understand that a scheme for an extension of the Palanpur-Deesa Railway to Umarkot in Scinde has been for some time under the consideration of Government, and if such a line is to be constructed, I would urge that Government should take the banks of it or of the section of it included in this Superintendency in hand this year as a relief work.

Estimate of probable numbers who will require Relief Work.

Division.	Villages.	Population according to the Census of 1891-92.	Number of persons for whom relief may be required in the event of serious famine.	Number of persons for whom relief may be required in the event of minor famine.
Palanpur State	496	274,864	30,760	10,000
Radhanpur State	156	98,017	16,852	8,000
Tharad State	48	24,772	8,000	4,000
Vav State	22	13,399	4,000	2,000
Diodar Thana	120	48,454	17,000	5,000
Kankrej „	87	52,579	20,000	3,000
Santalpur „	39	19,999	11,000	8,000
Varahi „	49	20,950	7,000	2,000
Vav „	48	32,869	11,000	5,000
Tharad „	107	47,587	15,000	3,000
Total	1,172	633,490	140,612	50,000

Enclosure 18 in No. 6.

Telegram from—Political Superintendent, Palanpur (Gujarat), to Bombay Political, Poona. Dated 16th September 1899.

Few small showers Radhanpur villages, but situation unchanged for better. Getting worse everywhere. Mortality among cattle steadily increasing. 3,000 more have died in Radhanpur State. Water running short in western villages. Emigration increasing, though we are doing all we can to stop it. Demand for employment steadily increasing. Four more relief works opened. Total numbers on relief works by latest reports about 6,775. Prices rising. Distress increasing.

Enclosure 19 in No. 6.

Letter from—Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay. No. 3800, dated Mahi Kantha Political Agent's Office, Saldra, 2nd September 1899.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report called for in Government Resolution, No. 5582, dated 31st August, 1899.

2. Throughout the Mahi Kantha there has been a failure of monsoon crops due to want of rainfall. The recorded rain at 4 stations is given in the following table, and compared with the average of the past five years.

Station.	Rainfall up to date in 1899.	Average of past 5 years.
Sadra	2.80	32.94
Dabhoda...	7.13	45.46
Satlasna	3.90	32.13
Haldarvas	5.4	38.25

Scanty as the rainfall has been, the greater part of it fell before the season of monsoon proper, and, therefore, very little sowing of bajri and jowar crops has taken place, while math, mag, dangar, and, in Katosan, rice and cotton have not been sown at all.

Where irrigation has been possible, the crops have been kept alive, but this has only been possible on any appreciable scale in the Vatrak Kantha Thana, where water is plentiful and wells are numerous. As the rainfall has been scanty for the last two years supplies of water are limited, wells are giving out, and streams running dry.

The above remarks apply to the whole of the Mahi Kantha.

3. There are three main calamities to be apprehended.

- (a) A cattle famine due to entire absence of fodder;
- (b) A human famine brought about by the failure of food-grain crops, and
- (c) A water famine.

As regards (a) it may be said to have commenced, the fodder crop last year was insufficient, and consequently before the monsoon season was due the cattle were in an attenuated condition. The slight rains that fell in May and the early part of June temporarily relieved matters, for grazing on the green shoots was possible even if there was an insufficiency. These green shoots have, however, long since dried up, and for the last six weeks the cattle have been living mainly on the leaves of the mango and neem, the trees being stripped as clean as though a flight of locusts had passed over them. The immediate result has been to taint the milk, causing to the human consumer gastric derangements which are apt to prove fatal to children.

4. As the prosperity of the cultivator depends on his cattle, such steps as are possible have been taken to preserve them. I addressed the States and Talukas under this Agency early, and advised them to throw open all State forest and grazing land, under supervision, to cultivators, and wherever irrigation was possible to sow fodder crops, taking no revenue for such and guaranteeing the cultivator against an enhanced assessment on account of the temporary use of jiravat as bagayat land. We have no forest lands in the Thana Circles, but the same principle of raising fodder crops is being observed wherever in the beds of rivers and streams, or by wells, water is obtainable. No assessment is levied, but the river beds are only given to cultivators who own cattle, and in proportion to the number of head they have to support.

These arrangements will keep us going if we have heavy rain in October and November, if, however, the drought continues, it is problematical whether the cattle can be kept alive until next monsoon, and the mahajans of the province are not sufficiently wealthy men to support animals on any large scale.

5. As regards (b) the human famine has not yet commenced, but prices are high and pressure is being felt by the poorer and cultivator classes. Under ordinary and favourable circumstances the monsoon crops would not yet be harvested, but the cultivator would be living on credit covered by their security. As there are no crops, there is no security, and consequently no credit, the grain dealers are hard, and the people find it difficult to procure the wherewithal to satisfy their hunger.

Should good rain fall within the next six weeks the situation will be saved, for in Mahi Kantha crops can be raised at any season of the year, provided there is water in the soil, and credit would revive at once. Prices would rule high owing to scarcity elsewhere, but the people of the province would, as a rule, be able to procure sufficient food for their sustenance without charitable relief.

6. If no rain falls, it is impossible to forecast the consequences, but they will be serious. In a large majority of the talukas, and more especially in the smaller ones, the Talukdars are in the same condition as their rayats, they are in debt, and at this time of year live on credit; the grain dealers may consider it worth their while to support the Talukdars and his immediate entourage, but they will not enable him to assist his people, who must look after themselves, or seek charity in other jurisdictions.

In two-thirds of the province water is usually found very near the surface, whence it is raised by Persian wheels, the country, too, is intersected, and especially in the north and north-west, by small streams and rivulets. These are not supplied from any deep laid and permanent springs, but owe their existence to the fact that the surface soil is very porous, and the water-bearing stratum at no great depth; the surface water, therefore, rapidly soaks through the upper stratum, and is retained on the lower one. This, of course, only holds good when there is rain; this year there has been none, and if the want continues the wells and streams will dry up, the usual cultivation by irrigation will have to be abandoned, and many villages will have to be deserted, as there will be no water for drinking purposes.

7. Crime has not yet appreciably increased, as the people have not so far felt the pinch of hunger, or abandoned hope. There is, however, a great feeling of unrest and anxiety, for the greater part of the population are Bhils and Thakardas, whose civilisation is only skin deep; this is their first experience of a famine, and they are not likely to behave with the exemplary resignation of the inhabitants of the Dekkhan, who have already passed through their apprenticeship.

In the north-north-east and east the Bhils are more wild, and as their villages consist of many isolated huts scattered over sometimes two or three miles of country, adequate supervision over them is an extremely difficult matter. Seventy per cent. are armed with swords, and all have bows and arrows, and if to their other troubles is added a water famine, necessitating their removal with their wives and families from their homes, it will be almost an impossibility to prevent them from migrating to surrounding jurisdictions where charity and work are to be obtained. But as they are not addicted much to work at any time, and turbulence is part of their nature, I fear it is probable that dacoities and robberies will increase proportionately as the times grow harder.

These then are the prospects; it only remains to be considered what is to be done to deal with the situation.

8. For the purposes of this report, the Mahi Kantha may be divided up into—

- 1 Jurisdictional Chiefs.
- 2 Attached and managed estates.
3. Thana Circles.

Of the first, Idar alone has any appreciable income, it is supposed to enjoy a revenue of 6 lakhs, but there are considerable alienations, and I

doubt if it can really be credited with much more than half, it is, moreover, believed to be in debt.

Danta has nominally about Rs. 60,000, but the Maharana enjoys a considerable private income from the pilgrims to Ambaji Mata. He can, if he chooses, provide relief works for all his subjects who require it, and the cattle can pick up subsistence in the jungle, of which the taluka principally consists.

Mansa has Rs. 60,000 and is solvent. The Ravalji has already intimated to me the terms of a notification he has issued encouraging the digging of wells, opening a relief work for deepening a large tank at his capital, and offering takavi advances on favourable terms.

The gross revenue of the remaining jurisdictional talukas range from Rs. 2,300 to Rs. 37,000, the greater part being under Rs. 25,000, and more than half under Rs. 10,000. With the exception of perhaps two or three, all are in debt. It will thus be seen that little or no help to the subjects can be expected from the Talukdars, either in the matter of charity or relief works. I have already called upon them to inform me what they propose to do, and when the replies come will communicate them to Government; little, however, must be expected for the reasons I have given above.

As regards Idar, however, I have already been informed by the Divan verbally that it is intended to open three main works, viz., the construction and improvement of roads from Idar to Khed-brahma in the north, to Mundetti and Samlaji in the east, and to Ahmednagar in the south. In the south there will be a work, probably the excavation of a tank in the vicinity of Medhasan, and in the extreme east another for the people around Megharaj.

9. The attached States are seven in number. Of these Ilol, Valasna, and Palaj are on the verge of being handed over to the respective Talukdars who have arrived at a suitable age. Pethapur is bankrupt, Khedavada and Hadol have balances of Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 6,000 respectively, while Deloli has only Rs. 100. Hadol alone, therefore, can in the emergency find some work for its subjects, and this would take the form of improvement of the hilly road towards Satlasna.

10. There remain the Thana Circles, five in number, and with a population, according to the last census, of about 111,500 souls. The inhabitants are mostly Thakardas, and are uniformly paupers, while in Bavisa and Katosan there are, to make the situation more complicated, a multiplicity of sharers in the land called Matadars and Bhayats, who have mortgaged their lands up to the hilt; in many cases alienated them, and in nearly every instance are steeped in debt and have no credit.

The problem of how to find suitable means for the support of these is a difficult one to solve.

It has already been stated that such arrangements as are possible for raising fodder for immediate requirements have been taken, but if the rain holds off for good, schemes of relief works must be taken in hand.

11. It must be borne in mind, however, that the great difficulty with which I have to contend is limited funds, and this being the case I can neither afford to open test works, nor, in fact, any works at all, before distress is considerably more marked, or I shall run into the danger of coming to the end of all my resources before the famine has even reached its most acute stage. In the event of a total failure of rain, I imagine I shall have to open relief works in the Thanas about the middle of November, and I anticipate considerable difficulty in avoiding being swamped at the outset.

Thana	Population.
Katosan	17,600
Sabar Kantha	20,300
Gadhavada	23,600
Bavisa	40,000
Vatrak Kantha	10,000
Total	111,500

by large contingent of famished people from the surrounding petty States, whose rulers are unable to do anything for their subjects.

12. The funds at my disposal are these:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Sabar Kantha—		
Thana Fund - - -	7,500	
Local Cess - - -	2,200	
	9,700	
Katosan—		
Thana Fund - - -	18,000	
Local Cess - - -	10,000	
	28,000	
Gadhavada—		
Thana Fund - - -	2,000	
Local Cess - - -	1,300	
	3,300	
Bavisi - - -		16,000
Vatrak Kantha - - -		<i>Nil.</i>
	Total -	Rs. 57,000

13. In Sabar Kantha I propose to make a road from the Thana to the Idar road and to widen that from the Thana to the village. The probable cost will be Rs 1,000. Tanks at Dedhrota, Khedavada, Derol, and Tajpuri, estimated to cost another Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000, and distributing relief work pretty well all over the Thana Circle.

In Gadhavada, six tanks at Satlasna, Navavas, Bhalusana, Mohur, Chandap, and Bhimpur, evenly distributing work and costing about Rs. 3,500.

In Katosan Thana I have not yet decided on the works, as I have no personal knowledge of the district, and the Personal Assistant who is in charge has only just joined. I have, however, sent for the Thanadar, and hope in a few days to have a proper scheme ready for adoption.

In Bavisa the main work will be the Dabhoda-Sadra road; this runs through 3½ miles of Thana territory on the Dabhoda side and 3 miles of Vasna territory on the Sadra side, the intermediate portion being Baroda. Vasna is too poor, I fear, to assist, but Rs. 10,000 was budgetted for from Bavisa Funds, and Rs. 1,000 from the Sadra Bazar, so that there will be no difficulty in starting the work whenever it may be necessary, the more so that it has already been surveyed and lined out by the Executive Engineer, Ahmedabad Division, and I have the working plans so that the work can be commenced in sections. I hope Baroda will simultaneously open the works on their sections, they having already agreed to make the road.

For Mahisa and some of the outlying parts of the Thana Circle, I have decided on having tank works, *e g.*, at Sametrai, Lavad, Bardoli, and Barmuvada, but these will of course depend on the state of the funds.

Vatrak Kantha is not a Thana Circle in the ordinary sense of the word; it is mainly kept up for the administration of the Jher-Nirmali, in which Baroda and Mandwa are shareholders, and accounts are adjusted each year, so as to leave no balance. It is fortunate that no severe distress is anticipated there, at any rate, for some time.

P.S.—I have asked the Executive Engineer, Ahmedabad Division, if he can let me have pick-axes, shovels, and iron baskets for relief works on loan; if he refuses, I fear a considerable portion of our scanty funds will be swallowed up in the purchase.

Enclosure 20 in No. 6.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, No. 3935, dated Mahi Kantha Political Agent's Office, Sadra, 9th September, 1899.

In continuation of my letter, No. 3800, dated 2nd instant, and with reference to your telegram, No. 139, of 8th idem, I have the honour to state that I have addressed the Chiefs and Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha in regard to their obligations in this time of distress, and attach copies of my circulars for your information.

2. I cannot ascertain that there has been anything in the nature of an influx to British territory of the needy population of the Native States under this Agency, neither do I think that such is probable, for, unlike Kathiawar, the people of this Province who are likely to require relief are mostly Bhils and Thakardas, who have no connections outside Mahi Kantha, and would be completely lost beyond its limits. These people may be driven to crime, both singly and in gangs; they may leave their respective States if not closely watched and wander about the Province, but I do not think they will, as a rule, migrate either in the hope of obtaining work or charity.

3. My assistants are now engaged in making a brief tour through their districts with a view to ascertaining the actual condition of the people, the state of the crops, the prospects both as regards food and water, and the measures of relief necessary in the Talukas and Thana Circles. Until their return, I shall not be able to furnish a full report as to our requirements.

4. In the meantime, however, the following table will show the actual population that the Agency will have to deal with directly:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Thana Circles—			
Bavisi	20,451	19,576	40,027
Sabar Kantha	8,593	8,523	17,116
Gadhawada	7,591	7,268	14,859
Katosan	9,145	8,460	17,605
Jher Nirmali or Vatrak Kantha	3,376	2,998	6,374
Total	49,156	46,825	95,981
Sadra Bazar	1,089	749	1,838
Managed Estates—			
Hadol	2,126	1,958	4,111
Valasna	2,329	2,242	4,571
Pethapur	3,612	3,720	7,332
Total	8,067	7,947	16,014
Grand Total	58,312	55,521	113,833

Of the managed estates I shall here only say that they are all situated on the banks of the Sabarmati, and I do not anticipate for the present there will be much distress in them; the first two named have small cash balances

which will be utilised, should occasion arise, in affording relief. Pethapur has no money, but a goodly number of the inhabitants are well to do and will require no relief.

The Sadra Bazar, as the name implies, consists mostly of shopkeepers.

As regards the Thanas, for the present I anticipate no immediate severe distress in Sabar Kantha, Jher Nirmali, and Gadhwada; in Bavisi trouble is commencing, and in Katosan it has commenced.

I will deal with Bavisi in a separate report after my assistant, Lieutenant Wood, has returned from his tour of inspection, but in reference to Katosan I shall do myself the honour of addressing you now, as some of the proposals I have to make will, should they meet with the approval of Government, apply to the other Thanas also.

5. The Katosan Thana Circle consists of the villages marginally noted.

1. Jypura.	2. Banipura.
3. Basalpura.	4. Mehmadpura
5. Deloil.	6. Hinglaj
7. Devnapura.	8. Sauthal.
9. Katosan.	10. Katosan
11. Virsoda	12. Kanpur
13. Palaj.	14. Jypura (2)
15. Nagar.	16. Tejpura.
17. Martoli.	18. Gokalpura.
19. Jiwapura.	20. Rampura
21. Maguna.	

Of these, Nos. 1 to 4 have a good water supply, their lands are now under irrigated cultivation of jowar and bajri, and they will sow wheat and barley in the cold season, as it is not harmed by the brackish water. They are safe for the present.

Nos. 5 to 7 have a fairly good water supply for the present; they have irrigated some of the bajri of the monsoon crop that was drying up, and will sow wheat and barley in the cold weather, but the water will probably not last after January.

Nos. 8 to 15 have a limited supply of water, which is getting more brackish as the springs attenuate; it will last for themselves and cattle till January. There are no crops standing now, but in the cold season they will sow wheat and barley and irrigate it by sinking the temporary wells deeper where the water obtained, however, is not potable.

The remaining six villages are in a bad way, there is little or no water and no fodder; most of the male population of the Kunbi and Rajput class have gone away with their cattle to their relations in more favoured villages of the Thana Circle and in the neighbouring Gaekwari villages.

6. There are two classes of people who require early relief, viz., the poorer Makwana shareholders of the non-jurisdictional talukas and the Kolis

The former are heavily in debt; in some instances they have placed their talukas under Agency attachment to be dealt with under the Encumbered Estates Rules, they have no credit with the Vanyas or anyone else, and unless they receive advances from the Agency to tide them over the season of distress, they will starve, as they don't know how to dig and to beg they are ashamed.

The Kolis acquire a precarious subsistence by cutting down the living trees in the petty talukas and selling them for firewood. It is extremely desirable to put a stop to this denudation of a country, but as it is the sole barrier between them and starvation, I am unable to influence the Talukdars until some other way is found to offer them a means of living.

7. The marginally noted 22 shareholders of four talukas require

	Shareholders	Rs.
Rampura	4	1,200
Maguna	11	5,600
Virsoda	2	600
Tejpura	5	1,200
	22	8,600

assistance and some of them immediately. It is needless to say that they have asked for considerably more, but the maximum amount that will be necessary for their support for six months is Rs. 8,600. If assistance is to be given, I should give it in grain and monthly, except in the case of Maguna, who wants Rs.

1,000 immediately to pay off their overdue Thana Varad.

The loans I would suggest should carry interest at the rate of 8 per cent., and should be secured by taking one or more of the shareholders' villages under attachment until the debt is liquidated.

Rampura is already under attachment for the liquidation of its debts under the Encumbered Estates Rules. The recovery of the loan would have preference over all other debts.

Three shares of Maguna are also under attachment, and the same rule would apply for the security of the loan to the other eight shareholders; Nagar and Devinapura could be taken under attachment.

In the case of Virsoda, the principal shareholder has three mothers who enjoy guaranteed nimmooks; these would be given in grain direct; the village would be attached.

As regards Tejpura, I do not think the time has yet arrived when advances are absolutely necessary. Should their condition become much worse, they could be dealt with in the same way.

8. To meet these loans, should Government be pleased to allow me a discretionary power for making them, and also for the assistance of other Talukdars, shareholders and Matadars in the other Thanas similarly circumstanced, I would ask permission to indent on the Mahi Kantha Institution Fee Fund, which at the present time has a cash balance of Rs. 10,700 and an invested balance of Rs. 13,100. As the loans are to bear interest, the fund would eventually not be a loser, and by the attachment of the loanees' shares, the debt would be fully secured. Under this arrangement I should not have to ask for any Government loan, as unless the worst fears of a total absence of the later rains are realised, I anticipate that the amount available in the Institution Fee Fund should suffice.

9. As regards relief works, I have already stated in my former report that, having only limited funds, I do not desire to start them generally until about the middle of November, until which time, I think, the people can get on without them. But the Koli class already mentioned must be found work if they are to be required to discontinue cutting down the living trees. There is a large Koli population at Nagar and Katosan proper, and I think that at least 1,000 will at once join any work opened. This at the minimum wage would represent a daily expenditure of about Rs. 100.

The only possible relief works in Katosan are the deepening of existing tanks; this would only require unskilled labour suitable to the people, who are mostly possessed of "powras" or shovels; the earth excavated would fertilize the surrounding fields, and the volume of impounded water in future years would be greatly increased.

These works would be in the villages marginally noted, and their cost would eventually be debitable to Local Funds, and recoverable from the Talukdars and the cultivators, in accordance with agreement already taken from them. I attach a statement* of these works showing their estimated cost, its distribution, and the period within which recoverable as per agreements varying from two to three years. This shows a total expenditure of Rs. 20,344, of which Rs. 9,744 will be chargeable to the Thana Local Cess Fund, and the remainder recoverable without interest. To meet this I have a cash and invested balance in the Thana Funds of Rs. 28,000, which, with the sanction of Government, may be applied to the purpose.

10. It is necessary here to say that the estimates are only approximate, not taken from actual measurements or prepared by any professional person. This brings me to a very important consideration, and that is, Who is to

* Appendix A.

supervise these and other works that it may eventually be necessary to start in the Mahi Kantha? There is no engineer attached to this Agency and no establishment; I do not think it would be safe to leave them to the Thanadars, who have a multiplicity of other duties to perform and have no surplus establishment to assist them.

I would respectfully offer as a suggestion that all relief works in the Mahi Kantha be placed entirely in the hands of the Executive Engineer, Ahmedabad Division, the Political Agent merely pointing out the scheme and locality and providing the funds up to the limit stated in Appendix A. The only large attendance we are likely to have are on works in Bavisi and Katosan, and these are easily accessible by rail to the Executive Engineer. Should it be found necessary to start small works hereafter at Gadhwada, Sabar Kantha, and Jher Nirmali, they will probably be such as the Thanadars can look after. I trust, therefore, that Government may be pleased to place all our works in Katosan and Bavisi under the Executive Engineer, Ahmedabad Division.

11. If works are opened it will be necessary to increase the police force by probably 50 men, as the existing strength is now barely sufficient for purposes of protection.

12. To sum up, I ask the sanction of Government—

- (i) To a discretionary power of making advances from the Institution Fee Fund to needy Talukdars and shareholders at 6 per cent. interest on the security of their taluka lands.
- (ii) To advancing from the Thana and Local Funds the necessary cost of relief works and for takavi advances.
- (iii) To placing all relief works in Katosan and Bavisi under the Executive Engineer, Ahmedabad Division.

APPENDIX A. to Enclosure 20.

Tank deepening at	Estimated Cost.	From Local Fund	From the People	From Talukdars	Recoverable in	REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
1 Katosan ...	6,000	2,000	1,000*	3,000*	3 years...	Agreements have already been passed by all those marked.*
2 Deloli ...	2,000	1,000	500*	500	Do.	No. 2 under attachment.
3 Nungar ...	1,600	800	400*	400	2 years...	No. 3 Maguna shareholders agreed for 200. Thakor not yet agreed.
4 Inglaaj ...	800	400	300*	100*	Do.	
5 Martoli ..	2,000	1,000	500*	500*	Do.	
6 Rampura ...	2,000	1,000	500*	500*	Do.	
7 Karsanpura ...	800	400	300*	100*	Do.	
8 Virsoda ...	4,000	2,000	1,000*	1,000*	Do.	
9 Santhal ...	1,144	1,144	...	...	...
Total ...	20,344	9,744	..	...	...

Enclosure 21 in No. 6.

Circular from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, No. 3400 A, dated Sadra, 8th August 1899.

There having been no rain, and for the moment apparently no signs of any, the immediate cause for anxiety in the Province is the condition of the cattle.

The revenue depends upon the cultivators, and the cultivators depend upon their cattle; if the latter are permitted to die, the Kherut will have to leave his land and the Taluka will get no revenue.

The Political Agent desires to invite the serious attention of all Chiefs and Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha to these facts, and to point out to them that it is their first duty, both as an obligation towards their subjects and in their own interests, to procure fodder for the cattle of their cultivators. When the rain comes the Talukdars will be amply reimbursed for any outlay they may make now, whereas if the cattle are allowed to die the loss in revenue will be permanent.

The Political Agent can only offer suggestions to the Talukdars; it is for them according to local circumstances to decide what particular method to pursue, but the object to be aimed at is to provide fodder or grazing for cattle of the Kherut at a moderate and reasonable charge.

Some of the Talukas, it is known, have stacks of hay considerably in excess of the requirements of the Darbars. Any idea of selling these at high prices should be abandoned; they should be sold to the cultivator at a sufficiently low rate to enable him to buy. Those Talukas that are not so fortunate may have to buy hay and fodder; this they should proceed to do at once, stack it, and sell moderately to the cultivators, and accepting the loss themselves. Where there are grazing lands they should be thrown open without fee, and assistance should be given to the cultivator in transporting his cattle to grazing grounds. In places where grass is to be had, but only for a cash price, takavi advances might well be made for the purpose.

The Political Agent cannot too strongly impress upon the Chiefs and Talukdars the immense importance of prompt and vigorous measures for saving the cattle on which the welfare of themselves and their subjects depends, and he trusts that they will at once consider the best means to meet the trouble and give effect to their determinations without delay.

 Enclosure 22 in No. 6.

Circular from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to States and Talukas, No. 3483 of 1899, dated Sadra, 14th August 1899.

In continuation of this Office Circular, No. 3400 A., dated 8th instant, the Political Agent desires to point out to Chiefs and Talukdars the necessity for immediate and temporary arrangements for securing fodder for the cultivators' cattle.

Wherever there are wells or running streams, the water should be utilised for irrigating such crops as are still standing and for raising Kadab and such like fodder solely for the use of cattle. Talukdars should use all their influence to ensure this being done, and should themselves, wherever they have State land and water, set them a good example. The people should be given clearly to understand that on these fodder crops no Vig-

hoti will be levied or State Bhag taken, and where waste lands are brought for the purpose under fodder cultivation, no Nazarana will be taken for the year. No effort must be spared to raise fodder, for the life of the cattle is the life of the State.

Enclosure 23 in No. 6.

Circular from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to the Jurisdiction Chiefs and Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha, No. 3516 of 1899, dated Sadra, 17th August, 1899.

A considerable portion of the population of your States and Talukas are Bhils, Kolis, Thakardas, and such other communities as are the least law-abiding when scarcity prevails.

A very large percentage of these criminal classes are armed with swords, &c., and it is probable that in view of the failure of rain and crops and the impending scarcity, gangs of these armed classes may make inroads into the surrounding Native States and British territory for the purposes of marauding and loot.

The Political Agent desires to remind you that you are responsible that such gangs do not leave your territory, and that should robberies and dacoities be brought home to your subjects over whom it is your duty to keep a proper supervision, it will be liable to be held as a failure on your part to exercise adequately the jurisdiction you have received from the British Government.

Under these circumstances you should take immediate steps for effective police supervision over the criminal classes in your States and Talukas, and more especially should you guard against their taking arms with them, either individually or in bodies, into other jurisdictions.

This is a warning you must not treat lightly.

Enclosure 24 in No. 6.

Urgent circular from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, No. 3799 of 1899, dated Mahi Kantha Political Agent's Office, Sadra, 2nd September, 1899.

The Political Agent requests that within as short a time as possible you will be good enough to report to him in as brief a form as possible, the prospects of the season in your Taluka (or State) and your intentions as to dealing with the situation.

Indar, Danta, Pol, Malpur,
Mansa, Mohunpur, Amlyara, Rana-
san, Katosan, Ghodasar, Vasna,
Vadagam, Dadhalia, Punadara,
Khadal.

Enclosure 25 in No. 6.

Circular from Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, to all Chiefs and Talukdars, No. 3933 of 1899, Mahi Kantha Political Agent's Office, Sadra, 9th September, 1899.

The monsoon season has passed, and there has been no rain. The people are suffering from want. The cultivators and labourers and the poorer classes generally have no means of obtaining food. Under these

circumstances there has been a great influx into British territory of the subjects of certain Native States in order to obtain work on the relief works already opened, or in the hope of receiving charity.

Under instructions from Government, the Political Agent now finds it necessary to remind the Chiefs and Talukdars of the Mahi Kantha that it is their duty to provide relief works for their own suffering subjects within the limits of their Talukas, and that they cannot be permitted to evade their obligations by leaving them to starve or to seek work elsewhere.

A record will be kept of all persons seeking work outside the State to which they belong, and their doing so held as an indication that the Talukdar has failed in his obligations to Government and his subjects, for no man will seek work elsewhere if he can obtain it in the vicinity of his own home.

The Political Agent desires that the Chiefs and Talukdars will furnish him with as little delay as possible with a statement of the works they propose to open in their respective talukas for the relief of their subjects, the number they are designed to provide work for, and the length of time they will take to complete.

Enclosure 26 in No. 6.

No. 545 of 1899, dated Ahmedabad, 15th September, 1899.

Submitted to Government.

2. The report deals only with Katosan Thana Circles for the present.
3. The Mahi Kantha will be particularly difficult to steer through a famine owing to its poverty. It is split up among numerous petty Talukdars with and without jurisdiction, of whom it would be truer to reverse the ancient saying, for they are ashamed to dig, but not ashamed to beg. The tradition of the horrors of the last great famine in this territory more than a century ago is still preserved in the minds of the people and in colloquial phrases.
4. Colonel Ferris knows his charge well, and the Commissioner has nothing to say against his proposals, except the last, viz., placing all relief works in Katosan and Bavisi under the Executive Engineer of Ahmedabad. At present this would be utterly futile, for the engineering staff in Ahmedabad is totally unable to cope with its own legitimate work. The large work (South Daskroi Irrigation) recently opened near Ahmedabad would be chaotic but for the unremitting exertions of Mr. Mead, the Assistant Collector in charge. The Commissioner can see nothing for it at present but for Colonel Ferris to mass his work at as few points as possible, to employ a few well-paid, rather than many, men to supervise under the Thana-dar, and if possible to make the shareholders themselves responsible for malfeasance. Digging by piecework does not require to be watched every hour.

F. S. P. LELY,
Commissioner, N.D.

Enclosure 27 in No. 6.

Telegram from, Political Agent, Sadra Via Dabhoda, to Secretary, Political Department, Poona, dated 15th September, 1899.

Government resolution 5882, thirty-first August. Situation unchanged. No rain.

Enclosure 28 in No. 6.

Letter from C. N. Seddon, Esq., the Political Agent, Rewa Kantha, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, No. 1512-101 of 1899, dated Camp Dohad, 4th-7th September, 1899.

I have the honour to forward the report called for in Government resolution No. 5882, of 31st ultimo.

2. I propose first to deal with the larger States not under attachment. They are Rajpipla, Baria, and Lunavada. I asked these States some little time ago what they proposed to do. Replies have been received from Rajpipla and Baria, and I have had an interview with the Lunavada Karbhar, and have therefore some idea of what is to be done there, though as yet I have not received any reply to my written representation.

Rajpipla.—The kharif crop is practically lost, except the cotton and a little bajri. If we have good rain now the cotton may do fairly well, and some of the bajri may be saved, though the out-turn will be very small. In parts of the State in the south and east there may yet be a rabi crop provided rain falls. If no rain comes the whole of the harvest will, I fear, be lost. The grass in the forests is probably in much the same condition as that in the Panch Mahals jungles, though in the south it may be better. On the whole, the fodder question is not so acute. It is proposed to start as relief works the following roads (earthworks):—

- (1) Pardi-Balod road (7 or 8 miles).
- (2) Pardi-Thawa road (14 miles).
- (3) Nandod-Dediapada road (5 miles of repair).

And it is proposed to excavate 20 tanks throughout the State. Estimates have not been given to show the expenditure.

His Highness the Raja states that some of these works have already been started, and says that 700 labourers at present work on the Pardi-Thawa road, and more will come. Orders are issued from time to time for the opening of fresh works. Works are in progress in all talukas except Dediapada, where they are not so urgently wanted at present.

Besides relief works, export taxes on jungle produce have been reduced, and in the case of firewood and grass brought by the head-load, entirely remitted. For low lying lands and lands capable of irrigation—no very large area—seed is being given and tagai advanced for the provision of leather bags and other sundries connected with well irrigation.

Lastly, Saykars have been encouraged to continue their advances by the promise of assistance from the State in recovering their demands by summary process.

Lunavada.—The condition of the crops in this State is the same as in the adjoining British territory. That is to say, the kharif crop is practically lost and the raising of a rabi crop depends on the future rain. There is, however, usually only a small area under rabi cultivation. Though this area may be increased this year, much of the soil is not suited to wheat and gram.

Relief works in the form of road construction and tank excavation are proposed. Forest produce will be relieved from taxation.

Baria.—The situation is the same, but rabi cultivation is more extensive, the three main crops being maize, wheat, and gram, of which the two last are rabi.

The Raja reports that he proposes to start the following roads:—

- (1) Baria-Saktala (10 miles).

- (2) Dhanpur-Limkheda or Dhanpur-Baria (15 miles in either case, about), and he also proposes to excavate Piplod and Baria Tanks, and contemplates further provision of works when the necessity for them is shown. Baria State is reported to have received a somewhat better rainfall than Godhra, and not to be at present so urgently in need of help.

On the whole, therefore, I think these three States are fully alive to the gravity of the situation and will do what they can. The works will not be regulated according to the provision of the Famine Code, of course, but I trust they will be sensibly managed.

3. Next, we have the large States under British management, viz., Chhota Udepur, Sunth, and Balasinor.

Chhota Udepur.—I have lately given sanction for the expenditure of Rs. 10,000 in this State on the following works:—Terkuwa tank, Rs. 2,000; Harpalpur tank, Rs. 1,000; Jojkevd road, Rs. 2,000; Tejghad tank, Rs. 1,000; Jabugam tank, Rs. 1,000; Rajpura tank, Rs. 1,000. Other tanks Rs. 2,000. Mr. Dadabhai Hormasji, the Administrator of Chhota Udepur, is an officer of experience and good sense. He has a balance of over four lakhs, and he will get ready and submit further schemes as the necessity for them arises. I am now asking him to prepare other projects. Even in the British district we have not anything like a complete scheme likely to last through a famine till the next monsoon. For some time past there has been a correspondence about the road from Udepur to Bodeli, which requires metalling from Dhokalia to Ghelwad. This work was entrusted to the British Public Works Department, but nothing has yet been done, and it seems doubtful if anything will be done at present, unless the work is given back to the State. The road is about 21 miles in length. It was handed over to the British Public Works Department in 1897 owing to certain difficulties in supervision if left to the State. With Mr. Dadabhai now at the head of affairs, I think the State could manage the road. The matter was decided in Government Resolution No. 3182, of 18th May, 1897, Political Department. Certain fees were ordered to be levied on forest-produce in Chhota Udepur lately (March, 1899). The orders are held in abeyance as a temporary measure.

Balasinor.—The prospects of the season resemble those of the Thasra Taluka of the Kaira District, except that there is a certain amount of irrigation from the large tank near Balasinor. Mr. Doderet opened a sluice gate for a canal fed by this tank in 1897, and I am informed that irrigational facilities in seven villages are afforded. Besides the land under this tank, there is a small amount of rabi cultivation, chiefly grain. The possibility of getting any out-turn this year depends on the later rainfall.

I have sanctioned Rs. 2,000 as a temporary alleviation to be spent on tanks at fourteen places.

I have also sanctioned Rs. 1,000 for tagavi advances. Later on it will probably be necessary to arrange for the construction of the Balasinor-Virpur road, about 15 miles in length. I can think of no other suitable large works at present, but the Administrator, Rao Bahadur Premchand, will be required to forward a further scheme. The balance to the credit of the State is about Rs. 50,000. Although we shall probably find great difficulty in realising our revenue this year, still the State has a long period of minority before it, and in ordinary years considerable savings may be looked for, and, in fact, the financial position of Balasinor is good. A considerable amount of money is owed to the State by Savkars, and it is being realised gradually.

Sunth.—In this State rabi crops of grain and wheat may yet be hoped for. If they fail, there will be practically no harvest.

There is about Rs. 1,50,000 balance in hand. But there is a daughter to be married, and that is a very expensive matter; and it is absolutely necessary to arrange for this marriage. Moreover, the Raja is now 18 years old, and we cannot expect to save much money before he comes of age. And the

present year's revenue will not all come in, I fear. I have sanctioned Rs. 6,000 for excavation in eight tanks and Rs. 2,000 for a road from Jalai to Dhola in the Jhalod direction. A further scheme will be asked for; but I doubt whether we can spend much more than Rs. 20,000. The State has not been under British management long enough for the accumulation of a large balance. I may observe that a sum of Rs. 32,000 on account of Nazarana is to be paid in 1900 to the British Government by the Sunth State. This may have to be suspended for a year. And, lastly, if the worst comes, the State can borrow to obtain the money wanted for the marriage above referred to.

4. The next four States are Bhadarwa, Kadana, Sanjeli, and Umetha.

Bhadarwa.—The Thakor proposes to remit water rates for water from the river Mahi. He has also given permission to the poor to cut free babul wood from waste lands, &c. He has started excavation already at Mokshi and Vankaner tanks, and contemplates further works. Free grain is given at Bhadarwa to the poor. Nevertheless the Thakor has very little money, and I do not think he will be able to do very much. A certain number of labourers will probably try to obtain work in the Kaira District.

Kadana.—The estate is under attachment and is administered by the Assistant Collector of the Panch Mahals. No proposals have yet been received. Kadana has a balance of Rs. 53,000. Its annual revenue is about Rs. 29,000. The young Thakor is grown up, and the attachment will have to be removed soon. We shall have some difficulty in getting our revenue this year. This all means that funds are not very flourishing. However, something can be done, and the Administrator will be asked to submit proposals. The Kadana-Sunth road might be made.

Sanjeli.—Proposals have not been received from the Thakor. But he has, I fancy, no money. He may be able to do some small tank works, but I expect that people from his State will come on the British works to some extent. He will be asked to do what he can.

Umetha.—The estate is under attachment. I have sanctioned tank excavation works in eight villages at a cost of Rs. 3,700. The balance to the credit of the estate is Rs. 32,000. The annual income is Rs. 36,700. There is a long period of British management before us, so that the financial condition of the estate may be described as good. But no useful and fairly large works have been, or apparently can be, suggested.

5. Lastly, I consider, Narukot, Pandu Mevas, and Sankheda Mevas.

Narukot.—The Thakor receives Rs. 5,000 per annum, and the balance is at our disposal. The annual income is Rs. 23,000 net, and we have a balance of nearly Rs. 27,000. We shall, perhaps, get very little revenue this year. We cannot, I think, spend more than Rs. 10,000, or at most Rs. 15,000. I have ordered estimates to be made for a (muramed) road from Jambughoda to Bodeli; I think that will be a suitable work. At any rate, no better is suggested. Tanks might be dug, but I think the road is better. We ought to be able to keep it up. If the Udepur-Dhokah road, mentioned in my paragraph on the Udepur State is started, a certain number of labourers will go to it from Narukot.

Pandu Mevas.—It is difficult to know what to do or suggest here. There are twenty-two Thakors. They are most of them, extremely poor. They cannot do anything useful, except perhaps the Thakors of Chhaliar and Sihora. Chhaliar has a revenue of Rs. 10,000* (Babashai) and Sihora Rs. 17,000* (British). The Sihora Thakor has asked for permission to spend Rs. 14,000 out of the balance of his estate on a new residence, and I have supported him. It will provide a little work. But, apart from this, the Pandu Mevas Circle can do nothing useful, and the people will, being Kolis, probably come on the British works.

* After deducting tribute to Baroda.

Sankheda.—This circle presents a greater difficulty even than the Pandu Mevas, because it is inhabited chiefly by Bhils and Naikdas, and these wild tribes will not leave their jungles or apply to the British authorities for help. I can suggest no useful work. No road is feasible, and tanks are not really wanted; in fact, from what I hear, tank excavation will really benefit nobody. But there must be some labour, or the whole population will come clamouring for gratuitous relief when such relief is not really necessary. I am assured that even the wildest of the Naikdas will work rather than starve, and there must be something to enable us to feel sure that only those who really want help are getting it.

Under any circumstances, I take it that someone will have to spend money in the Sankheda Mevas. And here, again, another difficulty presents itself. There is hardly any establishment. It will be very difficult to see that relief is given where it is wanted, and to find out where it is wanted. It will be quite as hard to feel any confidence that the whole of the money spent goes to the people for whom it is meant. We have a Thandar, 4 Karkuns, and a police force of small dimensions. The first question is, where is the money to come from, and who is to provide it? I will briefly describe the present financial situation. In the Sankheda Mevas there are twenty-seven Thakors. Eight of them have incomes of Rs. 10,000 or over. But they will not realise their incomes in full this year, and if we get no more useful rain it will be very hard for them to obtain anything more than a small part of the usual receipts.

The following Thakors have balances:—

Mandva, Rs. 12,229 in cash.

Vajuria, Rs. 5,577 in cash, and Rs. 1,60,000 in Government paper.

Nasvadi, Rs. 19,530 in cash, and Rs. 15,000 in Government paper.

Bhilodia, Rs. 5,885 (Babashai) cash (share of Chhatrasingji).

Palasni, Rs. 2,180 cash.

Alwa, Rs. 4,500, Government paper.

Sindhiapura, Rs. 2,235, cash.

Dudhpur, Rs. 548, cash.

Bihora, Rs. 2,566, cash.

Of these estates Mandva, Vajuria, and Nasvadi have populations of about 5,000 or over. Bhilodia and Palasni have each between 2,000 and 3,000. Now I do not think anything useful can be done from the balances in hand except in Vajuria, Mandva, and Nasvadi. It remains to be seen whether there is any other source from which help can be obtained.

We have the Mevas Administration Fund. It has at present a balance of about *Rs. 50,000. Its estimated income for the current year is Rs. 19,732, according to the budget. Its annual expenses may be put down at Rs. 16,600. Its income is made up from 4½ per cent. contribution from the Mevas Estates, amounting to about †Rs. 12,000, Rs. 1,000 interest on Rs. 30,000 of its balance which is held in Government 3½ per cent. paper, and other items, such as criminal fines, stamps, fines imposed on Thakors (mohosal), &c. Of the balance Rs. 10,000 has been set aside to provide interest for the payment of Rao Bahadur Manibhai Haribhai's pension. As the fund is in a good financial position, I have not been able quite to grasp the reason for setting aside this sum. But I do not care to propose that a policy followed for some time, and deliberately adopted, should now be changed. And in any case there is a sum of Rs. 3,000 which might be spent. I say that it "might be spent". I mean to say that there is the money there, and I do not see for what it is being saved. Nevertheless the fund is not

* Rs. 49,209 on 1st April, 1899. Rs. 52,694 Budget Estimate on 31st March, 1900.

† Pandu Mevas Rs. 2,268. Sankheda Mevas Rs. 9,766.

intended for public works. It is an administration fund, and the object of its existence is to provide for the administration charges of the Mevas Circles. Next I have the honour to observe that the Baroda Government receives* as tribute annually Rs. 23,022 (Babashai) from Sankheda, and Rs. 23,942 (Bahashai) from Pandu, including the estates of Dodka, Anghad, and Raika. The Sankheda Mevas is intersected in every direction by Gaikwari territory. Ought not His Highness's Government to do something for these circles from which they get so large an income every year? I think that useful works should in fairness be opened in parts adjoining these circles, especially the Sankheda Mevas. I would request that this matter may be considered.

I have instructed Mr. Dulerai to visit Jambughoda and the Sankheda Mevas. He would have gone out before this, but he says that a gang of forty accused persons has been sent up for trial. He cannot drag these men about with him, and they cannot be left in Godhra one day longer than necessary because the accommodation of the Godhra Sub-Jail is unable to cope with so large an addition to its numbers for more than a few days. Mr. Dulerai's instructions from me are to start the Jambughoda-Bodeli road, or, at any rate, get everything ready for it to be started, and then to fix upon and report the works which can be most advantageously, or, rather, least disadvantageously, undertaken in the Sankheda Mevas.

It is clear that we shall want to add to our establishments. I am unable to state definitely yet what additions will be wanted. They will chiefly be, I think, men corresponding to circle inspectors or general duty karkuns in British districts. It will be necessary to have some circle organisation in order to discover distress, tell the people where they can get work, persuade them to go to the works, &c. I think we may require two men in Pandu and three in Sankheda. And I think we may require perhaps an additional Thandar in the Pandu Circle, so as to leave the Deputy Assistant Political Agent free to remain in the Sankheda Mevas.

I can hardly over-estimate the importance of effective supervision. It is no use muncing matters. I feel very little confidence in the present staff. And, even if it were the best possible, it is not sufficient. The police force may require a little strengthening later on. It has been held that the police are of little use because to a starving man prison fare is not repellent, but acceptable. Nevertheless, it is very necessary to have a sufficiently large and intelligent police force to (1) protect relief workers and (2) give early information of the existence or movements of gangs of thieves, and break up and prevent the formation of such gangs. Mr. Phillips, the District Superintendent, Panch Mahals, is in charge of the Mevas Police, and I have every confidence that he will see that the force is sufficient and doing proper work.

My proposals then are:—

- (a) That Baroda be asked, in consideration of the large annual tribute received, to provide some works near the Sankheda and Pandu Mevas circles.
- (b) That such works as can be arranged for be opened by the various Thakors in both circles.
- (c) That the necessary increase in establishments be met from the Mevas Fund.
- (d) That the advisability of spending from the Mevas Fund the difference between Rs. 30,000 and the cost of the extra establishments required be considered and decided, and that if this money be spent, it be spent in the Sankheda circle in the best way that I can devise.

*} Besides Rs. 19,076 from Bhadarwa and Rs. 5,000 from Umetha (both Babashai).

- (e) That the Kolis of Pandu Mevas be allowed to come on the relief works opened in Kara or the Panch Mahals.

I am painfully aware of the inadequacy of these proposals. - But the question is one of very great difficulty. We have no trained establishments, hardly any money, an unmanageable and wild population, and, lastly, nothing useful to spend money and labour upon; and neither officers nor people have had any experience of famine before.

Whatever we may do, I fear that funds may run short in the Sankheda circle. If that come to pass, help from the British Government is all I can think of.

6. That we shall have some scarcity is now a foregone conclusion. If we have no further rain the position will be such as I cannot contemplate without the greatest apprehension. If, however, rain even now comes in any serviceable quantity there will be some rabi harvest, and a certain amount of grass. There will also be a resumption of field operations and a partial restoration of the cultivator's credit with the Bania, who has now, in too many cases, stopped his usual grain advances and decamped with his grain stocks to Godhra and other centres.

Bhils and Naikdas are people who always live a hand-to-mouth existence. They have for the most part absolutely no capital in any form to fall back upon. They usually get advances of grain from the Bania to live on till their scanty harvest is ready, and when it is ready the Bania takes the whole of the produce. This year there is to be no produce, and so their credit is gone, and they cannot make the Banias feed them. This is the dark side of the picture. On the other hand, they are true forest people, and they can live for long, and every year do live for some time, on mhowra fruit and roots and berries. And they can make the utmost possible out of the collection of forest produce. Therefore I attach great importance to the removal of all forest restrictions.

7. In conclusion, I have the honour to say that I do not touch upon the question of remissions more than vaguely. I am required to submit this report directly, and I have neither the statistical information nor the local knowledge to enable me to guess, with any approach to accuracy, what loss of revenue may be expected. My lack of knowledge is of very little moment, because, however intimately I might know the present conditions, I could not possibly foretell the future weather, and everything depends upon what September and October may bring forth.

In all probability some of the tribute paid to the Gaikwar will have to be remitted. The principles upon which such remissions are decided upon and calculated have been long ago laid down, and all I need say at present is that the application of these principles to the case of the various States under this Agency will in due time receive careful attention.

No. 7.

Letter from—A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 4238, dated Abu, the 16th September 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the famine report of the Marwar State for the month of August, 1899.

2. The whole area of the State and its entire population are now shown as "affected" in the return. The Darbar has sanctioned Rs. 19,800 for gratuitous relief, and poorhouses will be shortly opened in all the parganas. Private gratuitous relief in the shape of gram and khichra is also being distributed in Jodhpur City.

3. The number of labourers on relief works have increased from 2,409 on 31st July to 7,261 on 31st August, 1899. Prices of all food grains have risen. Local grain stocks are insufficient, but grain is being imported by rail and taken to the affected areas by means of camels and carts. 17,493 persons, together with 21,235 cattle, are reported to have already emigrated, and cattle owners with their cattle are leaving in large numbers daily for places where they hope to find good pasturage.

4. The general condition of the people is reported to be still good. They are said to be healthy-looking and not emaciated. No deaths are reported as having occurred from starvation.

5. A general report on the condition of the whole of Rajputana will shortly be submitted, as called for in your telegram, No. 2497 I.A., dated the 28th August, 1899.

6. A copy of letter, No. 315 G., dated the 4th September, 1899, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, with enclosure, is attached, intimating that the Tejaji-ka-Mela, or Parbatsar Fair, which was to have been held in September, has been stopped.

7. Since the close of the month, a shower of rain, gauged at 50 cents, has fallen in Jodhpur City, and gave a supply of drinking water, now very scarce, to the masonry khund, called Rani Sagar, under the fort. But its limitations may be gathered from the facts that it gave no water to the numerous other tanks and khunds in the vicinity, and only 2 cents of rain fell at the Residency, less than 2 miles distant. This shower is typical of those which have been falling in Rajputana during the month of September.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

Famine Statement for the month of August 1899.

State.	Area in square miles in thousands.	Population in thousands	Affected area in square miles in thousands.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number of labourers employed on relief works on the last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jodhpur ...	35	2,526	35	2,526	7,261	—

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief.*—There are some private gratuitous reliefs in Jodhpur, where cooked "khichra" and parched gram are distributed to the poor.

2. *Village and poorhouse relief.*—The Darbar has sanctioned Rs. 19,800 for gratuitous relief, and poorhouses will be shortly opened in all the parganas.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing, and embanking of tanks; construction of canals and bunds; and sinking wells.

4. *Physical condition and death, if any, from starvation.*—General condition is good. The people are healthy-looking and not emaciated. No death from starvation.

5. *Food stocks.*—Insufficient.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Sufficient food grains are imported by camels and carts to the affected areas from the railway station.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Depressing.

8. *Rates of wages.*—

	As.	p.
Male	1	9
Female	1	6
Children, 7 years old	1	0
Children, under seven years ..	0	6

9. *Prices of food grains per rupee.*—

—	Minimum.		Maximum.	
	Srs.	Ch.	Srs.	Ch.
Bajri	7	0	14	0
Wheat	6	4	11	3
Moong	5	0	11	5
Gram	8	12	13	0
Juar	8	0	13	8
Ghee	0	12	1	6

10. *Emigration or immigration.*—17,493 persons, together with 21,235 cattle, are reported to have left for Mewar, Malwa, Sindh, and Hissar, and the cattle owners are now going with large number of their cattle towards the countries where they could find a good pasturage.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

Letter from—The Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana. No. 315 G., dated the 4th September 1899.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your office letter, No. 3988, dated 30th August, 1899, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the accompanying copy of letter, No. 1210 G., dated 31st August, 1899, from the Secretary to the Musahab Ala, Marwar, reporting that, for the reasons therein given, the Tejaji-ka-Mela, or Parbatsar Fair, which was to have been held from the 8th to 19th September, 1899, has been stopped.

2. The notices that the fair is not to be held have been duly promulgated.

Enclosure 3 in No. 7.

Letter from—The Secretary to the Musahab Ala, Marwar, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States. No. 1210 G., dated the 31st August 1899.

With reference to the correspondence, ending with this office, No. 1169 G., dated 24th August, I have the honour to intimate that on the hopes revived by the recent outburst of monsoon in Bombay in the middle of August, it appeared possible to hold the Tejaji Fair this year, and thus to afford the cattle owners an opportunity of selling their cattle which, owing to the prevalent scarcity, were already becoming a burden to them; moreover, the sale proceeds realised thereby would have been of material use to them; but as, unfortunately, the monsoon current giving slight showers in the Bombay Presidency failed to reach Rajputana, and the scarcity of fodder and water is now becoming firmly established, the Darbar has been constrained to postpone the gathering—to which effect fresh notices cancelling those sent under this office cover, No. 1135 G., dated 16th idem, are enclosed for favour of promulgation.

No. 8.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Secretary to the Government of India. Foreign Department, No. 4382, dated Abu, the 23rd September 1899.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your telegram, No. 2497, of the 28th August, 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of reports (and enclosures) from the Political Officers in Rajputana, describing the existing scarcity in the Province and the measures adopted or contemplated for the relief of distress. I regret that the short time available prevents me from making this preliminary report as full and complete as I should wish.

2. It will be seen that, except in the States of Alwar, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Karauli, and parts of Sirohi, Kotah, and Jhalawar, the situation is serious. The monsoon of 1899 opened exceptionally well throughout Rajputana, with good rain in June, which extended into the second week of July. Since then there has been no general or seasonable rain in any State, although isolated showers which have benefited limited areas have been received in parts. It is now too late in the year to expect general or heavy rainfall in Rajputana.

3. *Failure of kharif, rabi, and fodder.*—The result of this failure of the monsoon is that the kharif, or rain-fed crops, have either been lost altogether, or will yield a very poor harvest where it has been possible to assist them by artificial irrigation. The outturn in such cases is estimated at from two annas to a maximum of eight annas in the rupee, and that moreover over a very limited area. The grass crop, on which Rajputana, with its enormous herds of sheep and cattle, depends almost as much as on the grain, has either failed or been extremely scanty. Even when supplemented by the withered kharif crops, it has been insufficient for the cattle, large numbers of which have died already. The later monsoon rains having failed, it has been impossible, in most parts, to prepare the land for the rabi or spring crops which are harvested in March and April. Moreover, the tanks, except in rare instances, being empty, and the level of the wells very low, there would be no water with which to irrigate rabi crops.

Failure of Rain in 1899.

	1st June to 18th September.	Average 1st June to 18th September.	Deficit 1st June to 18th September.
Abu	10-29	62-13	— 51-84
Bikaner	1-14	9-28	— 8-14
Jodhpur	1-01	12-21	— 11-20
Udaipur	7-58	Not recorded.	Not recorded.
Ajmer... ..	8-84	19-43	— 10-59
Sambar... ..	8-41	20-00	— 11-59
Jaipur	10-94	25-41	— 14-47
Kotah	14-83	Not recorded.	Not recorded.

NOTE.—Nearly the whole of this meagre rainfall was received before the 10th July, since when there has been practically no rain.

A. H. T. M.

4. *Failure of emigration resource.*—This failure of crops, grass, and water constitutes what is known in Rajputana as trikal, or triple famine, the worst calamity to which the country can be exposed. On such occasions a very large proportion of the people have recourse, as a rule, to wholesale emigration with their cattle. They emigrate, indeed, in large numbers in any year when the season is unfavourable. They are thoroughly accustomed to such a movement, which presents no special hardship to them. The worst feature, however, of this year's scarcity is that it is not confined to Rajputana, but has spread in a less degree but considerably to those countries to which the emigrants habitually resort, namely, Guzerat and Sind

on the west, the Punjab on the north, Haraoti* and Malwa on the east and south. Thus the usual safety valve is choked. Large numbers of people have already emigrated before the season had fully declared itself. But some of these are reported to be returning on their tracks, and many more have been deterred from emigrating by the unfavourable reports received. Thus the numbers to be provided for locally are unusually large.

5. *Position and prospects of States affected.*—The effects of the failure of the monsoon were first felt, as usual, in the British tract of Ajmer-Merwara and the adjoining Native State of Jodhpur on the west. In both of these relief measures were early started and for many months past reports have been regularly submitted to the Revenue and Agricultural Department of the Government of India. Jaisalmer and Bikaner to the west and north were next to feel the pressure; in them also the local authorities have been on the alert. Jaisalmer is too large and poor a State to afford much relief, and its people, who habitually emigrate, do not look for it. But its Council proposes to borrow Rs. 50,000 to enable it to give such help as may be possible. In Bikaner the situation has been partly saved by emigration, by heavy local showers, and by the railway under construction towards the Punjab.

6. *Other States less affected.*—The condition of the remaining tracts in which pressure either is already severe or is anticipated is always better than those above mentioned, and the effects of the present scarcity have reached them later. These are Udaipur, Shahpura, Kishangarh, Tonk, Bundi, and Jaipur. With Udaipur may be included the three small States of Durgapur, Banswara, and Partabgarh in the extreme south of the Province and the hilly tracts of Mewar, all largely peopled by Bhils, who are specially apt at such seasons to become restless and to commit

Udaipur. | Tonk.
Shahpura. | Bundi.
Kishangarh. | Jaipur.

crime. In each of these States arrangements either have been or are being initiated to relieve distress and to prevent famine offences. The Darbars are ready enough, as a rule, to follow in such matters the counsel of the officers accredited to them by Government, so far as their limited means and organisation allow. But in this case their difficulties are enhanced by the fact that comparatively few of their subjects have emigrated, and by the knowledge that expensive relief measures once started must be continued until July, 1900, when it is hoped that good rain will enable the villagers to resume cultivation. The detailed reports submitted by each Political Officer, and enclosed, describe the position of affairs in the States in their charge, and the arrangements started or contemplated.

7. *Remaining States more favourably situated.*—In the remaining States which compose the Province, it is hoped that distress will be less acute, though one and all will inevitably feel the pressure of high prices, and scanty grass and water. These are the States named in the second paragraph of this letter, viz., Sirohi, Jhalawar, Kotah, Karauli, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Alwar, Karauli, Dholpur, and Alwar, which form the eastern fringe of the Province, bordering on Central India and the North-Western Provinces.

8. *Relief works.*—Reviewing the situation as a whole, it is anticipated by those best qualified to judge that the pressure over the greater part of Rajputana will be more acute than in 1877 and in 1891-92, and probably not less severe than in the great famine of 1868-69. Prices of staple food grains have already risen higher than in 1891-92. The railways which have been opened in the last thirty years immensely facilitate the import of grain. But grain supplies are useless unless the people can buy, and the difficulty now experienced by the Darbars in opening works on a scale large enough to enable them to do so arises from three causes: insufficient resources, defective staff and organisation, and unsuitability of the greater part of the country for extensive irrigation projects.

9. In two of the States where the scarcity is worst, Jodhpur and

(1) Balmer-Shadipalli Railway.

(2) Bikaner-Punjab Railway.

(3) Jaipur-Madhupur Railway.

(4) Baran-Marwar Junction Railway.

Vide this office letter, No. 3336, dated 2nd September, 1899, to the Government of India in the Public Works Department.

Bikaner, railways are being constructed, thus affording relief to many. In Jaipur also the new line to Sawai-Madhupur is serving the same purpose. If the earthwork on the projected railway from Baran in Kotah to Marwar junction in Jodhpur could be taken in hand, it would give work on a length of over 200 miles to the subjects of Kotah, Bundi, Udaipur, Shahpura, Jodhpur, and the British district of Merwara. In all these tracts, except Kotah, the pressure either is or will be severe. All are, I believe, prepared to accept the railway. Jodhpur and Shahpura are ready to start the earthwork directly the alignment is sanctioned. Government would no doubt provide funds for the short Merwara section, the commencement of which is strongly advocated* by the Commissioner of Ajmer. Bundi would probably borrow the funds for the earthwork within its limits if it were assured that the amount so expended would be included in the outlay on which the Darbar may expect to receive a return when the line is opened. Udaipur is hesitating pending the result of the enquiry being instituted regarding the probable traffic on the line. Kotah might eventually carry out the earthwork, but it is not necessary to start relief measures as yet in that State. Final reports have not yet been received, but at present it seems unlikely that Kotah, Bundi, or Udaipur would undertake to provide the total amount required for their respective sections. This sum,

* Copy enclosed, No. 1084, dated 18th September, 1899.

	Rs.
Kotah	37,95,000
Bundi	20,40,000
Udaipur	43,75,000
Total	1,02,10,000

therefore, might have to be raised otherwise. If in these circumstances it is considered practicable to commence the railway, I have the honour to recommend that the alignment proposed be accepted as early as possible, and that each State concerned be encouraged to start the earthwork within its limits for purposes of famine relief without further delay.

State.	Length	Estimated total cost	Estimated cost of earthwork only.
		Miles.	Rs.	Rs.
Kotah	44	37,95,000	1,50,000
Bundi	40	20,40,000	1,75,000
Shahpura	18	8,10,000	35,000
Udaipur	83	43,75,000	2,42,000
Merwara	7½	6,00,000	12,000
Jodhpur	21	16,80,000	42,000
Total	213½	1,33,00,000	6,56,000

10. Three other suggested railways would admirably serve the same object, namely, (1) the Kekri-Nasirabad line, which would traverse the affected parts of the Ajmer district and the Kishangarh State; (2) a link between the Jaipur-Madhupur Railway and the Baran-Marwar Junction line, and (3) the projected Rewari-Phalera link, which forms the subject of my letter, No. 3569, dated the 13th September, 1899, to the Public Works Department. The first is described in letter No. 8569-W., dated 4th July, 1892, from the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, to the Consulting Engineer. Its length would be 35.43 miles, and estimated cost Rs. 10,00,217, with fair return. The second would leave the Jaipur-Madhupur line at a convenient point, say Suroli, and avoiding the Banas river, it would run southwards to Deoli cantonment. Its length would be about 73 miles, and it would traverse the worst part of the State of Jaipur.

The strongest objection to the Nasirabad-Kekri line appears to be that it might conflict with the new Baran-Marwar Junction line, which was not contemplated when the report cited above was written in 1892. The third line from Rewari to Phalera would be a most valuable famine work. Altogether, the lines mentioned would traverse almost every affected part of the Province.

11. *Appointment of Special Famine Officer desirable.*—As this letter is required to reach your office not later than the 25th September, it is not possible to discuss in detail the several local reports which form its enclosures, some of which have only now been received. Each of them will be carefully considered, and advice will be tendered to every Darbar regarding the best means of successfully encountering present and anticipated difficulties. Before closing this letter, however, I have the honour to submit that the appointment of a qualified officer specially deputed to superintend and to advise upon the famine operations throughout the whole Province would be attended by many advantages. The appended reports sufficiently indicate the gravity of the situation and of the prospects. Unless a totally abnormal and unforeseen change takes place, extensive measures to mitigate distress must be undertaken by most of the Darbars, as well as in Ajmer-Merwara, and must continue on an increasing scale until the monsoon of 1900 brings relief. Neither the Darbars nor, as a rule, the British officers attached to them, have any special famine experience. It is of great importance that there should

be some uniformity in organizing relief operations and some co-operation between the States, especially in regard to the treatment of aliens claiming help, police measures in the wilder tracts, removal of restrictions on grain traffic, similarity of wage and task, protection of British districts from invasion by the subjects of Native States. Effective supervision in these and other respects could only be exercised by an officer possessed of some expert knowledge, who could devote his entire time and attention to the task of systematizing and improving relief, and who could personally advise each Darbar in turn. An excellent precedent is afforded by the appointment of Colonel A. P. Thornton, I.S.C., to supervise the scarcity operations undertaken in the cold weather of 1896-97, an appointment which it is believed was attended by very beneficial results. If, as I trust, the Government of India regard the present circumstances as justifying a repetition of that arrangement, I have the honour to express the hope that the appointment may be sanctioned at the earliest possible date, as it is in the initial stages that careful supervision and an elastic uniformity of treatment appear to be specially required.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Letter from—Lieut.-Col. C. E. Yate, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana. No. 314-G., dated the 4th September 1899.

In compliance with the directions contained in your office, No. 3623, dated 11th August, 1899, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General,

1. Letter, dated 30th August, 1899, the Secretary to the Musahib Ala, Marwar, with enclosures, and a skeleton map in duplicate showing the affected area.

2. Letter No. 439, dated 15th August, 1899, from the Diwan of Jaisalmer with enclosures, and a skeleton map in duplicate showing the affected area.

the marginally-noted reports* received from the Marwar and Jaisalmer Darbars, describing the present state of the season, the crops, and fodder supplies, the condition of the people and cattle, and the relief operations proposed to meet the distress.

2. A memorandum containing my own remarks on the situation, and the measures required to meet it, is also forwarded for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General.

MEMORANDUM.

Marwar.—There is no doubt that the whole of Marwar will suffer, more or less, from serious drought and famine as time goes on, but the Darbar appear to be quite alive to the situation, and have opened relief works on which some 8,000 people are now employed. These works are to be extended as circumstances demand.

2. The works provided in the programme are numerous, and cover the affected area fairly well. The total cost is estimated at Rs 10,34,850.

3. As far as I have seen, no very serious distress exists at present, and the mortality is confined to the cattle, which are dying for want of fodder.

I personally inspected some of the relief works opened in Jodhpur, in company with His Highness the Maharaja and the Musahib Ala, and I must say I never saw a healthier or better fed set of people than those at work. An emaciated or famine-stricken man, woman, or child could not be discovered amongst them. Though the people have flocked into Jodhpur from the various districts for work, if one is to judge from those I saw, it is clear that they have not yet suffered in the least from famine or starvation.

4. In addition to the relief works provided in the famine programme received from the Darbar, the State desires to commence the earthwork of

* Not printed.

that portion of the Goona-Bara Railway extension to Marwar Junction, which lies within Marwar territory, and a separate application regarding this proposal has been submitted for orders. There will be no difficulty in providing grain for any number of persons employed on this work, and as the district through which this line will run is reported to be well watered by wells, there will be no difficulty about water. Moreover, the Magra-Merwara border, in the vicinity of the projected line, is just the district in which it is most necessary to keep the people well employed to prevent crime.

5. The Darbar have provided a sum of Rs. 19,800 for gratuitous relief, which will be afforded as necessity arises

6. *Jaisalmer*.—Practically there has been no rainfall at all in Jaisalmer this season, and cattle are dying for want of fodder.

7. The relief works proposed to be opened by the Diwan consist of the digging and clearing of tanks, the improvement of kharins, and the repairing of roads. The Diwan proposes to provide work for 1,985 persons, and gratuitous relief for 126 persons for nine months, commencing from the 1st October, 1899, and ending on 30th June, 1900. The total cost is estimated at Rs. 61,818.

8. No considerable proportion of the population apparently seek aid from the State in times of famine. They are accustomed to emigrate to Sind and elsewhere, and fortunately do so at once, as the resources of the State are inadequate to afford relief to its subjects generally, nor is water to be found in sufficient quantities for large collections of people in many parts of the country. No large numbers have emigrated as yet, but the Diwan expects the people to go if no rain falls this month.

9. The staple food of the country—bajra—is selling at 7½ seers per rupee, which is dearer than it was in the scarcity of 1896-97.

The stocks of grain in the country appear to be small, but the Diwan anticipates no difficulty in getting an ample supply from Sind, Punjab, and the railway stations in Marwar.

10. *Sirohi*.—In Sirohi things are comparatively not so bad at present as in Marwar and Jaisalmer, but the rainfall there was only 3 inches and 20 cents in June, 85 cents in July, and none in August. The standing crops are reported to be withering, and they are, it is said, being used by the cultivators to feed their cattle owing to the scarcity of other fodder. The Maharao of Sirohi is putting famine-stricken people on the Pindwara tank as a preliminary work, but other relief works will probably be required as well, and a further report will be submitted on the subject. The attention of the Darbar has been drawn to the matter, and the Maharao's uncle and the late Diwan have been specially deputed to make the necessary arrangements.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

Letter from—Captain F. E. Younghusband, Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana. No. 292-G., dated Bundi, the 4th September 1899.

(Extract.)

Beyond a few local showers of little practical use, Bundi has received no rain for eight weeks. The maize crop where unirrigated has entirely failed, and, owing to the drying up of many wells, portion of this maize crop, which had at first been watered from wells, has also begun to wither. Much of the jowar crop has withered. The flowers of the cotton crop are dropping off day by day, as they are withered by the scorching sun. A goodly proportion of these two latter crops might still be harvested if plentiful rain yet falls, but of that rain there seems, at present, no prospect. Lastly, the grass throughout the State is now almost all dried up.

As a result of this deficient rainfall occurring, it should be remembered, after a succession of poor years, the Durbar estimate that they will lose three lakhs of rupees in revenue, the total revenue of the State in ordinary years being from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 lakhs. They further calculate that extra police precautions in view of possible disturbances, and the extra cost, due to the dearness of grain and fodder of keeping up State establishments, will involve an increased expenditure of Rs. 84,500. So that, with a revenue deficiency of Rs. 3,00,000, and an increase of expenditure of Rs. 84,500, the Durbar has to face the problem of famine relief.

As to the numbers who will require relief, there is some hesitation of opinion just now. In the first estimate that was given to me it was assumed that 5 per cent. of the population would stand in need of assistance, and the cost was put down as Rs. 67,500. But the Durbar had made the mistake of calculating 5 per cent. of Rs. 3,00,000 at Rs. 1,500, and when I pointed out to the Prime Minister that it was Rs. 15,000, and that the cost would consequently be Rs. 6,75,000, or ten times as much, he, in effect, said that in that case the numbers of distressed people must be reduced in proportion. In fact, in the Durbar's estimates, the numbers requiring relief will be calculated according to the amount of money available, and not the amount of money required according to the degree of distress prevailing.

I have myself, however, no hesitation in saying that the Durbar's original estimate of 5 per cent. is near the truth, and, indeed, I should consider it a low one. In village after village that I have visited the people are living a hand to mouth existence by cutting and selling grass and their withered maize stalks, and they have now begun to eat berries and wild fruits. A few days hence, when the grass is exhausted, they will, nearly all, be dependent upon what they can gain from work on roads, tanks, wells, &c. That 5 per cent. of the population will stand in need of relief is certainly not, in my opinion, an overestimate, and those who do not get this relief will wander away from the State, many of them to die of destitution elsewhere.

Enclosure 3 in No. 8.

Letter from—The Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana. No. 309-G., dated the 18th September 1899

IN accordance with the instructions conveyed in your telegram, dated the 1st September, 1899, I have the honour to submit herewith, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General and of the Government of India, a report on the present scarcity in this agency

2. It is estimated that 60 per cent. of the kharif crop is already lost; 10 per cent. of the crop is irrigated and will ripen. The safety of the remainder depends upon the fall of rain.

3. As the rainy season usually ends about this time of year under normal conditions, no sufficient rain to nourish the kharif crop and to moisten the land for the rabi crop can now be expected. A famine may, therefore, be anticipated in Bundi, Tonk, and Shahpura, over an area of 3,738 square miles, and affecting a population of 558,249.

4. It is estimated that the Durbars will lose Rs. 13,30,000 out of a total revenue of 24 lakhs, while they will have to increase their expenditure by Rs. 3,39,500, owing to the provision of extra police and to the dearness of grain and fodder required by their establishments. With their resources thus crippled, they will have to provide for the relief of 50,000 persons, which, at the rate of 2 annas a day for nine months would cost $16\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Of this amount the Durbars say that they will be able to provide only $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

5. I will submit proposals to the Agent to the Governor-General as to the means of providing further funds when the famine declares itself more decidedly.

Report on the present scarcity in the Haraoti and Tonk Political Agency.

1. The Haraoti and Tonk Agency comprises the following States:—

—		Area in square miles	Population in 1891.
Bundi	.. .. .	2,220	295,675
Tonk	{ in Rajputana	1,113	198,934
	{ in Central India	1,639		181,135
Shahpura	.. .. .	405	63,640

2. The Mina villages, 25 in number, of the Jaipur and Mewar Kherar, lying immediately round Deoli, the headquarters of the Agency, are also under the superintendence of the Political Agent.

3. Bundi is a compact State, of which one-half is hilly and in general covered with jungle, and the other half is a rich plain bordering the Chambal river.

4. The Tonk State consists of five isolated divisions many miles apart—some in Rajputana, some in Central India. The two home parganas of Tonk and Aligarh (with an area of 738 square miles and a population of 134,021) lie along the level fertile valley of the Banas river. The pargana of Nimbarhera (area 374 square miles, population 64,888) lies 110 miles to the southwest, and is physically a portion of Mewar. It is partially hilly and stony, but has wide plains of rich black cotton soil. These three parganas are in Rajputana.

5. In Central India lie the three parganas of—

—		Area in square miles	Population.
Chabra	.. .. .	807	46,473
Pirawa	.. .. .	262	40,806
Seronj	.. .. .	569	93,856

The physical features of these parganas, each of which is separate from the other, resemble those of Central India generally. They are characterized by low hills and broad rich valleys usually well watered.

6. Shahpura is a level tract of country with fair soil.

7. In no part of this agency is there any truly desert country. Parts of it are hilly and covered with jungle, but a large proportion, perhaps the greater part, is suited for cultivation or for pasturage.

8. Nor is the rainfall in ordinary years by any means scanty. The average fall being for—

1. Bundi	.. .. .	Inches.
		21.69
2. Tonk	.. .. .	25.0
3. Shahpura	.. .. .	22.94
4. Deoli	.. .. .	24.37

The natural conditions are then, on the whole, favourable to agriculture. The country is mostly level or not too hilly. The soil is good and the rainfall ample. As a consequence, the density of population per square mile is, in the States of this Agency, considerably above the average density of population for Rajputana generally.

It is in—

		Per square mile.
1.	Bundi	133.2
2.	Tonk } in Rajputana	178.7
	} in Central India	125.9
3.	Shahpura	157.0
4.	Rajputana	94.0

9. This population is, however, in a very great degree dependent upon agriculture for a livelihood. The proportion of urban to rural population is in—

	Urban Population.		Rural Population.	
	Number	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Bundi	28,637	9.7	267,038	90.3
Tonk	76,216	20.0	303,853	80.0
Shahpura	11,718	18.4	51,928	81.6
Total Agency	116,571	15.77	622,819	84.23

And of the total population there are directly engaged in pasture and agriculture in—

	Per cent.
Bundi	47.4
Tonk	46.6
Shahpura	59.6

10. With an ample rainfall, if there were also ample means of irrigation, and if the means of communication were sufficiently good to permit of the ready flow of grain to any part of the agency, this large agricultural population might be comparatively indifferent to a deficient rainfall in any one year. But there are no adequate irrigation systems, and the communications are as yet imperfect. Rain ample for an entire season may fall in a few days, but it is allowed to run off the surface away to the ocean unused. Only a small portion is detained in scattered tanks, and there is not a single canal in the whole agency. Even of wells there is by no means a sufficient number. While, as regards communications, though the railways are advancing rapidly in the direction of this agency, and even now pass close to Shahpura and through the outlying parganas of the Tonk State, Nimbahera and Chabra, yet they do not reach the capital of any one of the three States. Bundi is still 67 miles. Tonk 60 miles and Shahpura 22 miles from the nearest railway. A metalled road runs through Bundi from Kotah to Nasirabad; another runs from Tonk to Jaipur; a mird passes through Nimbahera. For the rest the roads are rough, irregular tracks upon which the ordinary country carts can only carry about half the load they can convey on a properly macadamised thoroughfare.

11. Owing to the want of sufficient means of irrigation and to imperfection of the communications, that large proportion of the population of this agency who are dependent upon agriculture, have grave cause, therefore, to fear any large deficiency in the annual rainfall.

12. Such a deficiency has occurred this year, and the ill effects of this deficiency are aggravated by the fact that nearly the whole of what rain did fall fell in one burst at the beginning of the monsoon. The amount in itself, though small, might have partially sufficed if it had been evenly distributed over the last three months. The special evil lies in its having fallen in the short period between June 15th and July 10th. For the last 10 weeks only a few light local showers have fallen, and the crops, which had been sown when

this first rain commenced, have, with the exceptions to be afterwards mentioned, all withered up. The rainfall of the present year up to date is—

—					Ins. Cents.	Deficiency Inches.
Bundi	...	...	...	...	13-30	9
Tonk	Tonk	...	...	...	10-08	15
	Nimbarhera	..	...	...	6-62	25
Tonk	Sironj	...	..	...	24-33	11
	Chabra	..	...	...	22-79	17
	Pirawa	...	...	...	13-06	17
Shahpura	..	...	...	...	10-46	13

13. The water supply in the tanks and wells is fast failing. The former were, at the beginning of the monsoon, well filled with water, as the rains that did fall came down heavily and rushed off into them from the hard-backed surface of the country. But the water in them, which is usually kept for the irrigation of the spring crops, has been nearly all used up for the present autumn crops. And the wells, which for some time past have been very low, owing, it is believed, to the short rainfall of the last few years, were little affected by this year's monsoon. Many are absolutely dry, others can only be used every other day, or every third day, and few have a supply which can be fully counted on. The Banas River, which at this time last year I saw filled from bank to bank, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in width, is now a mere trickle, a few yards broad.

14. An ordinary kharif crop in the States of this agency is made up of the following crops in the proportions named:—

—	Jowar and bajra.	Maize.	Pulse.	Cotton.	Oil-seed.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bundi	60	20	6	8	6
Tonk in Rajputana	68	7	4	9	12
Shahpura	17	38	6	32	7

From this it will be seen that jowar (the great millet) is the chief crop. It and the maize form the staple food of the poorer classes as distinct from the more costly wheat and barley, which are grown in the rabi crop, and are eaten chiefly by the higher classes.

15. The loss which has already been sustained in each of these constituents of the kharif owing to the above recorded deficiency in the rainfall is estimated as—

—	Jowar	Maize.	Pulse	Cotton.	Oilseed.	Total Crop
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bundi	50	94	100	50	50	60
Tonk (in Rajputana)	52	75	68	38	62	55
Shahpura	62	72	66	20	70	55

The remainder may be saved by timely rain; the jowar has already preserved its vitality beyond the most sanguine expectations. After the break in the rain had lasted a month, I was everywhere told by the villagers that it could not last without rain for another week or at most ten days. And much, indeed, has perished, but yet, at the end of ten weeks of scorching sun and parching winds, the jowar still remains green where the soil is good and the position favourable, and this may keep up for another week or two yet. The cotton also appears to possess a wonderful degree of vitality, and in favourable places may survive for a fortnight or more longer without rain.

But for the full amount of the present unparched portion of the kharif crop to be realized, a rainfall of not less than two inches must take place in the next ten days or a fortnight. Slight local showers have fallen on the 14th and 15th, and will be useful if they continue* to the crops grown on rich spongy soil. But separately they are not of much value, and for the crops grown on the harder, less fertile soil, a heavy downpour is required. If no rain at all falls, only the irrigated portion will ripen. This portion is estimated:—

	Jowar.	Maize.	Pulses	Cotton.	Oilseed.
		Per cent.		Per cent.	
Bundi	6	...	30	...
Tonk (in Rajputana)	35	...	40	...
Shahpura	28	...	18	..

16. We may say roughly then that in the affected area which we may take to include Bundi, the Rajputana portion of Tonk and Shahpura (a total of 3,738 square miles, with a population of 558,249)—

(1) There is already lost about—

	50	per cent.	of a normal jowar crop.
80	"	"	maize "
80	"	"	pulse "
40	"	"	cotton "
60	"	"	oilseed "

or about 60 per cent. of a total normal kharif crop.

(2) If good rain falls in the next two or three weeks, the remainder will be saved, and the resulting kharif crop may be estimated at—

	Per cent. of a normal crop.
Jowar	50
Maize	20
Pulse	20
Cotton	60
Oilseed	40
Total	40

* They have ceased and hot dry weather again prevails.—F. E. Y., 18-9-99.

(3) If no more rain falls and only the irrigated portion is saved, the resulting kharif crop will be—

	Per cent.
Jowar	—
Maize	25
Pulse	—
Cotton	35
Oilseed	—
Total ...	10 per cent. of whole crop.

17. The effect of this failure of the kharif crop upon the prices of grain may be seen in the following table, showing the number of seers of the principal items of the food supply of the people could be bought for one rupee on September 15th of the present and the two preceding years, the first of which was a scarcity year:—

	Jowar			Maize.			Barley.			Wheat.		
	1897.	1898	1899.	1897.	1898	1899.	1897	1898.	1899.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Bundi	10	32	14½	10	30½	14½	10	25½	14½	7	16	10½
Tonk	8¾	25	13¼	8¾	24	13¼	8¾	20¼	12¾	7	12½	10¼
Shahpura	10½	19½	10½	10	17¾	10½	10½	19	10½	9½	14	9
Deoli	8	22	11¼	10	21	11¼	10½	20½	11	8½	13¾	9½

18. The deficient rainfall must also largely affect the prospects of the rabi crop. It is impossible to sow seed on the land in its present baked condition. Before sowings can commence a good two-inch downfall is required, and in any case the rabi will suffer serious loss from the deficiency of water in the wells and tanks, for though the tanks may be filled up by a really heavy fall of several inches, the water will not fill into the wells till after another monsoon. Under normal conditions the prospects of the rabi can only be poor. Rainfall, abnormal to this time of the year, may improve them. But ground which should now be moist and ready for seed is hard and dry, and wells and tanks which should be capable of watering 100 acres of land can only water 25 or 30 acres.

19. But, perhaps, more serious than the loss of crops is the total failure of the grass supply. Grain can be imported from outside, but grass cannot be. Except where the rain from a local shower has collected in some hollow, it would be hard to now find a blade of green grass in the whole affected area. Where there ought to be fresh green grass waist-high, there is nothing but brown lifeless scrub. Future rain may bring up new grass, but the old is already absolutely ruined, and the new can only be small in amount. The fodder supply of the country is further diminished by the failure of the maize and jowar crops. The stalks of the ruined maize crops have been cut for fodder, but they are, of course, shorter than the average, and the stalks of all jowar which does not come to maturity, is useless for fodder, as it is poisonous. A fodder famine is therefore a matter of certainty, and hundreds and thousands of cattle and sheep must die in consequence.

20. And yet, again, more grave than failure of either the crops or the fodder supply may be the failure of the water supply. In the hilly parts and on high lying ground by next hot season there will certainly not be enough water for cattle, and there may not be enough for men. Even in the low

lying parts of the country many wells are now dry. In among the hills there are villages dependent on a solitary well each for drinking water. And by the time the hot season comes on many even of these will be dry. Nothing but very abnormal rainfall can alter this.

21. It may further be noted that these misfortunes come to a population who are never very rich, and who have been impoverished by the poor harvests of the last three or four years, by the failure to the extent of 50 per cent. in Bundi and 75 per cent. in Tonk of the rabi crop of the present year, and by the loss of cattle in the drought before the rains of this year. Bundi has a revenue of 8 lakhs, Tonk of 12½ lakhs, and Shahpura of 3½ lakhs; but Tonk is in debt, and Bundi and Shahpura have only small balances in their favour. In all three the greater number of the large landholders are heavily in debt, so that they can do little to help the State. There are grain and cotton merchants of considerable wealth.

But the population, as a whole of all three States, is distinctly poor and the mass of the people are in debt. The large majority of the cultivators had borrowed from the village bunniahs seed to sow for the kharif crop, and this having failed, they are more hopelessly in debt than before. Whether they will be able to obtain from the local bunniahs further grain with which to sow their fields for the rabi crops depends partly upon the future rainfall and partly upon the disposition of the village bunniah to throw good money or good grain after bad. It is worth mentioning, too, that the feeling of the Hindu States of Bundi and Shahpura against cow-killing adds largely to the gravity of the situation. The Muhammadans in the Muhammadan State of Tonk can kill and eat cattle which there is no prospect of being able to keep alive till the following rains. They have, therefore, a means of subsistence which the Hindus deny themselves.

22. Such are the conditions as they stand at present. And as a guide to an estimate of what may lie before us in the future an account of the famine year of 1868 which in many respects resembled the present year may with some advantage here be given. From the Administration Reports of the period I learn that both in Bundi and Tonk plentiful rain fell in July and over an inch fell in August. But no rain fell in September, and the kharif crops in both States were irretrievably ruined. Nor could the rabi crops be sown in Tonk except on irrigated lands. The kharif crop in Bundi was only a third of an average crop and rabi a half, while in Tonk only about a quarter of an average year's harvest was realized. By the 10th October wheat was selling in Tonk at 8, and commoner grain at 10 seers for the rupee, and the streets "became crowded with beggars, whose gaunt, lean forms told but too plainly that actual famine had commenced." By the first week in December prices were 7½ seers of wheat and 8 seers of other grain to the rupee, after which the influx of imported grain caused them to fall. In April the deaths from starvation were described as "lamentably numerous," miserable skeletons found their way into Tonk, in the last stage of emaciation and weakness, and many died." Grass was selling at about the same price as grain, and about 30 per cent. of the cattle died. Altogether the loss in the affected area of the Tonk State, which contained a population of 131,000 souls, was calculated at 17 lakhs of rupees. As the hot season advanced the heat prostrated numbers. Water in many parts was not to be had, and its absence added to the sufferings of the cattle. Towards the end of May cholera broke out, and carried off multitudes of victims, including the Political Agent. "Pestilence was now added to famine, and the people, heartbroken and weary, lay down and died." The next monsoon broke on July 10th, but the area sown for the new kharif crop was much below the average, ranging from three-quarters in Tonk to two-thirds in Bundi. Owing to the mortality among the cattle, much of the ground had to be prepared by hand—a mode of tillage which entailed weary toil and labour. Distress still continued, and was at its height in September, when grain was selling at 5 seers per rupee. With the harvesting of the kharif crop in October, though the amount gathered was only half the outcome of an ordinary year, prices began to lower.

But the country had now to undergo its severest trial. Low intermittent fever and in places scurvy prostrated the people, who, weakened by a long course of bad and insufficient food, sank and died. The mortality during October, November, and December owing to this epidemic was very great, upwards of half the deaths which occurred during the year being ascribed to it. No part of the country was exempted, though perhaps Shahpura suffered the worst. In marching through what were large populous villages, two or three worn figures alone were to be seen, while in many parts the crops were left standing far into the winter, there being no one to cut them.

The prevalence of sickness seriously retarded field operations, already crippled by the loss of cattle, and the spring crop was in many parts not sown till late in the season. It was not till January that the country at last began to recover, but the cultivator, always more or less in debt, was now irretrievably ruined. His cattle, his household, all were gone. And as with the individual, so with the State: the revenue was sadly diminished, the expenditure correspondingly increased, and debt accumulated to such an extent as to seriously cripple each State for many years to come.

23. Comparing then the conditions which led up to the famine of 1868-69 with those of the present year, we may say that the prospects are even graver now than in the autumn of 1868. The years previous to 1868 had been good, and even in 1868 ample rain had fallen up to the first week in August. In the present year we have no such advantage. The rainfall for three or four years has been under the average, and in the present year has, except for a few local showers, ceased on the 10th July.

24. Heavy rainfalls have occasionally occurred in the end of September and in October, and if we were favoured with plentiful rain this year also in the next month or two the remainder of the kharif would be saved, and the prospects of the rabi be good. But such a rainfall would be abnormal. In normal years the rainfall ceases at the present time, and if we are to make a forecast, considering normal conditions only, we must be prepared for—

- (a) A fodder famine,
- (b) An almost total failure of the kharif crop,
- (c) A scanty rabi crop,
- (d) A water famine in the drier parts from which will result tendencies to—
 - (1) Further rise in prices,
 - (2) Assaults upon grain sellers by starving people,
 - (3) Mortality among the cattle and sheep,
 - (4) Difficulties of transport owing to the want of fodder and water along the roads,
 - (5) An outbreak of disease in the weak, ill-fed population,
 - (6) Increased mortality due to starvation,
 - (7) Decrease of sowings next summer due to the want of plough cattle and to the general weakness of the people.

This is the situation which the Durbars must be prepared to face. Already in various parts of all three States attacks have been made upon grain-sellers and upon carts of grain in transit. These have not so far been of a serious character. But they have served to make all grain sellers withdraw their stores from the small villages into the towns and large villages, where protection can be obtained. The Bundi Durbar have also found it necessary to forbid grain carts travelling after dark. In each State special police pre-

cautions have been taken, and the following additions have been made to the police force:—

—	Sowara.	Foot.	Total.
Bundi	60	170	230
Tonk	—	100	100
Shahpura	—	20	20

25. So much has already been done as a preliminary step in the way of protection, and the Durbars have set themselves to consider the measures which should be taken to alleviate the distress which may shortly prevail. It is recognised that there is not now the same reason to fear an actual scarcity of grain as there was in 1868, for railways are now close which were then far distant, and the above-mentioned metalled roads have since been constructed. There is, too, a much greater security to life and property both within the States and around them.

26. Both the Tonk and Bundi Durbars have removed the import duties on grain, and the Bundi Durbar, recognizing the justice of the arrangement, have withdrawn the former heavy transit duties upon grain passing through the State. The existing grain stocks in Bundi, Tonk, and Nimbahera are very considerable, and it is hoped that grain will flow by natural processes of trade into the affected area to fill up deficiencies as they occur.

27. If these hopes are fulfilled, no man who has money need starve, and the chief duty of the Durbars will be to ensure that every man who has need of money wherewith to buy grain should have the means of gaining it. While the provision of grain may, under due supervision to prevent hostile combinations, be left to private enterprise, the provision of work will be the chief duty of the Durbars.

28. Estimates of the numbers of people who will probably require relief have accordingly been framed, and it is anticipated that in—

Bundi	18,000
Tonk (in Rajputana)	18,000
Shahpura	31,000*
Total	67,000

persons will require relief.

There is an unfortunate tendency among the people of these States to shun regular famine relief works. It would be impossible to find a more patient, enduring, long-suffering people or a more law-abiding. Their passive courage under misfortune and their orderly resistance to temptation are most marked. But their attitude is perhaps too passive, and experience in previous years has shown that they will keep on to the very end, hoping against hope, that some impossible rainfall may occur, and then, when at their last gasp, will come and beg a pittance of grain, but that they will not work. The attitude of the Bundi Durbar, too, is inclined to be very similar in character, and is certainly passive rather than active. If famine comes, it is the will of God, and He will provide for the people in His own ways. Those that are absolutely destitute and come within reach of succour will be given enough to keep body and soul together. The rest must depend upon Providence. The organization of relief works, where any one who chooses to work may obtain money, is an idea new to both the Durbars and the people. Still, schemes of relief works have been drawn up, and in Tonk and Nimbahera test

* An excessive estimate which might be reduced to 14,000.—F. E. Y.

works have been started, while in Bundi employment is now given to 800 people on the repair of roads, and in Shahpura to many in the cutting of grass in the State preserves.

29. The scheme of relief works anticipates the construction of the following works at the cost named—

1. Bundi—

					Rs.
					<i>Nil.</i>
New tanks	...	...	...		8,900
Repairing old tanks	...	...	...		8,400
Repairing roads	...	...	...		5,000
Buildings	...	...	...		4,400
Sinking wells	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...		<u>26,700</u>

2. Tonk (in Rajputana)—

					Rs.
New tanks	...	...	...		62,284
Repairing old tanks	...	...	...		4,812
Repairing roads	...	...	...		4,000
Sinking wells	...	...	...		600
Total	...	...	...		<u>71,696</u>

3. Shahpura—

Total 44,000

30. Besides this, more money will necessarily be spent in gratuitous relief. But as it is estimated that there will be the following deficiencies in revenue and increases in expenditure, owing to increase of police establishment, to grain compensation, and to increased cost of grain and grass for State use—

	Loss of revenue.	Increase of expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Bundi	3,00,000	84,500
Tonk	8,00,000	2,15,000
Shahpura	2,30,000	40,000

the States say they cannot afford to spend more than the following sums upon famine relief in all forms—

					Rs.
Bundi	...	...	...	...	75,000
Tonk	...	...	...	...	1,12,000
Shahpura	...	...	...	...	50,000
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>2,37,000</u>

31. The construction of the light earthwork on the proposed railway from Bara to Marwat Junction will, if sanctioned by Government, be an immense boon to both Bundi and Shahpura, and the money so expended (Rs. 1,75,000 in Bundi and Rs. 35,000 in Shahpura), which it will be possible to obtain on loan on the security of the railway, will afford relief to many more.

32. Emigration may provide for some, and it is estimated that from—

Bundi	5,200
Tonk	4,000
Shahpura	25,000
Total	34,200

*will emigrate, but the emigration of those who are not reasonably sure of finding their way to a place where a livelihood can be obtained will be checked, and too much relief by this means cannot be counted on. Indeed, whatever may be gained in this way is more than counteracted by the heavy drain upon the resources of the States caused by the necessity of providing a dole to the numbers of immigrants from other States, especially from Marwar, who are daily passing through. The numbers of these migrants passing each day through—

Bundi	1,000
Tonk	500
Nimbahera	2,000

33. To summarize the position, the Durbars estimate that, if no abnormal rainfall occurs and only normal conditions prevail, famine must follow. This will necessitate the providing of relief for 50,000 persons. For their relief the Durbars say they can afford only some 2½ lakhs, which, at the expenditure of two annas a day for nine months would relieve about 7,500 persons. The commencement of work on the proposed railway would afford relief to 6,200 persons more.

There will, therefore, remain 42,500 persons unprovided for if the railway work is not commenced, and 36,300 persons if it is.

34. The figures all through this report can, of course, be only taken as approximate, and may be very considerably in error, but the truth of the main conclusion that, if no abnormal rainfall occurs, many more thousands of people will require relief than the Durbars have the means of providing for, there is, I fear, little reason to doubt.

Enclosure 4 in No. 8.

Letter from the Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, No. 1080, dated the 16th September, 1899.

(Extract.)

At Ajmer we have practically had no rain since July. The water supply is failing. The Foysagar tank which supplies the bulk of the water used in the city is low and will hardly hold out beyond the middle of October, although the supply has already been cut down. The new Budha Pushkar water supply scheme can hardly be expected to be in working order before the end of the year at the earliest. Grass and fodder are exceedingly scarce and dear, and the stock of grass in the Government Reserves is practically exhausted. The country is parched and dry and seems likely to remain so. There has been great mortality among the weaker cattle. In Merwara we have 33,000 people on relief works, in Ajmer we are opening test works at once. We are considering plans for giving charitable relief, and the resources of all the local bodies, the Rural Boards and Municipalities, and especially the Ajmer Municipality, are being severely strained. There are large quantities of immigrants from Jodhpur wandering through the district, and there is among them, as among the

labouring population of the district, a good deal of destitution. Grain is being largely imported, but the price is already as high as 12 seers per rupee at Ajmer.

Enclosure 5 in No. 8.

Letter from G. R. Irwin, Esq., C.S., Resident at Jaipur, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, Abu, No. 175-G., dated Jaipur, the 17th September, 1899.

In accordance with the instruction contained in your telegram of the first instant, I have the honour to submit a report on the present situation in the States under this Residency.

2. Speaking generally, I may say that everywhere, except in the Hindaun and Gangapur Nizamats of the Jaipur State there is great scarcity at present, and, among the lower classes, distress. In the Malpura Nizammat of Jaipur the state of affairs is verging on famine. Sambhar is probably the next worse district in this State. Dosa and Sawai Jaipur are generally badly off, but in places have been benefited by recent showers. In Shekhawati, I am afraid, there is a good deal of distress, though here also partial rain has put some villages beyond absolute want. Sawai Madhopur is probably rather better off; and from Torawati I have not heard many complaints, but it is probably much like Shekhawati.

In the Kishengurh State as a whole there is scarcity and distress, but it is nowhere, I believe, so acute as in Malpura.

3. If by any miracle good general rain, sufficient to allow of the ground being got ready for the spring sowings, comes by the end of October, I should hope that with the mitigating measures taken by the Darbars, the distress may not deepen into actual famine. But if such rain does not come, and there seems little reason to expect it, we shall throughout Kishengurh and Jaipur, with the possible exception of the Hindaun and Gangapur Nizamats, have to meet famine.

4. From all I can learn there seems reason to believe that throughout Jaipur generally the stock of grain is sufficient to feed the people for a year. In Kishengurh there is probably not so much but it can be more readily supplemented by importation.

5. Water is almost everywhere short. In the Rupnagar district of Kishengurh even drinking water is said to be scarce. Nowhere, except perhaps in the two Jaipur Nizamats mentioned, will the wells suffice to water the spring crops; in fact, the people have had to let great part of even their crops go because the wells were running dry.

6. In Kishengurh they are very short of grass, and in Jaipur also, but not to the same extent.

7. From Kishengurh people with cattle have been emigrating for some time in search of pasture, but others are remaining in their villages. From Jaipur I do not think there has yet been emigration on any considerable scale even of cattle, though in the Malpura Nizammat people have begun leaving their houses in search of work and food.

8. Both Darbars have taken measures to tide their people over till the middle or end of October, when we shall know whether there is to be absolute famine or not. Bohras have been encouraged to assist their aasams, the Darbars having guaranteed to give advances of money and grain, made now under certain conditions, precedence over the Raj demand for revenue, and to recover them executively for the lenders hereafter without requiring them to go into court for their money. State grass lands have been thrown open for grazing and cutting fodder. Takavi advances have been made for petty local works and to assist cultivators with grain, &c. The district officers have been directed to tour through their jurisdictions to watch and report on local conditions constantly, the district staff being

strengthened where necessary. In Malpura special works have been sanctioned and are, I hope, in some cases at least, actually in hand by now, and the operations of the Public Works Department are being generally extended; while extra projects for relief works have been provisionally or finally sanctioned. Jagirdars and others have been urged to assist their tenantry on the lines laid down for Khalsa territory by the Darbars, and will be given assistance from the State Treasury if they require it. In both States food is given to destitute emigrants from foreign territory, and in Jaipur arrangements are being made to assist such persons passing through with cattle by providing food and fodder as far as possible at stages on the main routes to the east and north-east, while work is found for those who are in search of employment. Charitable committees have been formed in both States, under the countenance and with the support of the Maharajas, but relying on private subscriptions, to assist poor but respectable persons whose position in life debars them from seeking public charity or in engaging in manual labour. I do not wish to trouble the Agent to the Governor-General with details of all these various schemes, but I can assure him that both Darbars are fully alive to their responsibilities and the necessities of the situation.

9. The Lawa chiefship is in a very bad way; for the present the Thakur is keeping his people together and assisting them in every way in his power, and here also private charity is at work. But if the rain fails to come in October his people will have to emigrate wholesale, since there is no large work on which they can be employed in the Thikana. I hope, however, to be able to arrange with Jaipur Darbar to find them employment on large works near Lawa.

10. To sum up, there is almost everywhere at the present moment distress, in places acute distress, and in all human probability by the end of next month there will be a widespread famine.

Enclosure 6 in No. 8.

Letter from Captain H. B. Peacock, in charge Mewar Residency, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 368-G., dated the 15th September 1899.

With reference to your office telegram, dated 1st instant, calling for a report regarding the impending famine or scarcity in the States under this Residency, I have the honour to state as follows:—

2. The Mewar Darbar reports that there was good and seasonable rain in the month of June, and the cultivators were able to sow the kharif crops as usual; but in July and August rain failed and only the crops on lands irrigated by wells and tanks are at all matured, while the other, viz., the barani crops, have perished. There is also very great scarcity of fodder.

3. Owing to the failure of the crops and fodder, emigration to some extent is said to have taken place, but no details as to the number of emigrants or the places where they have gone to has been furnished by the Darbar.

4. The districts of Jehazpore, Mandulgurh, Kumulgurh, Hoorda, and the Hilly Tracts are especially mentioned as being affected by distress. Local showers of rain have fallen, and there are signs of more, but no general rain has fallen. Any rain that now falls will affect the prospects of the rabi harvest only by rendering the ground fit for cultivation. If but little rain falls this month there will not be any rabi cultivation except in a few places where wells and tanks may have retained a little water.

5. The Darbar reports the following measures as having been taken :—

- (1) The outturn of the harvest last year was deficient and though the traders have stocks of grain, they are refusing to sell with a view to obtaining higher prices later on. The Darbar has, therefore, ordered grain worth two lakhs of rupees (Oodeypuri) from Cawnpore, Aligarh, &c., and if later on it is found necessary to obtain more grain, further purchases will be made.
- (2) Owing to the very great scarcity of fodder, the District Hakims have been directed to have lucerne grass and jowari sown for the cattle wherever there is water available in wells and tanks.
- (3) For the support of all those requiring relief, the construction of buildings, tanks, wells, &c., has been undertaken, but no precise information can yet be furnished, as some projects only have been sanctioned, and for others further information is still awaited from the District Hakims. It is hoped, however, that in a few days a correct list of the relief works will be known.

6. The Darbar has intimated that the Sirdars and Jagirdars have been asked to report on the state of the season in their estates.

7. A copy of a letter, No. 393-G., dated the 5th instant, from the Officiating Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, supplying the information regarding the districts under his charge is enclosed.

8. The report on the season furnished by the Mewar Darbar as outlined above is meagre and indefinite, and I regret that this is so, more particularly as I carefully informed the Darbar of the various heads under which accurate information was required.

9. The situation is, I think, without doubt, one that calls for careful reflection, and I have lost no opportunity in impressing this on the Darbar.

Enclosure 7 in No. 8.

Letter from Major C. Hutton Dawson, Officiating Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Meywar, to the Resident, Meywar, No. 393-G., dated the 5th September 1899.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 1281, dated 2nd September, 1899, giving cover to certain questions asked by the Agent to the Governor-General, I have the honour to reply seriatim.

(1) *Present situation.*—The situation is grave. The want of grain among the Bhils is being seriously felt; great trouble is experienced owing to the Bunas refusing to sell. I have placed sowars in each village where there are shops, to see that the Bhils are supplied; this plan is so far working well.

(2) *Prospect of grain.*—Nil. The kharif crops have failed. The stock of grain in the country will not last long, and Indian corn, &c., must be at once imported in large quantities. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining wheat for the Meywar Bhil Corps and Kherwara station, I have had to telegraph to Delhi for supplies.

(3) *Fodder.*—There is little or no grass. The cattle are being fed on leaves and dead crops. I fear there will be great mortality shortly. Distance from the rail makes the price of imported fodder prohibitive.

(4) *Water.*—This is a very serious matter, few villages have wells and the nullah pools are drying. Wells must be sunk at once.

(5) *Emigration.*—Nil.

6. *Relief measures.*—Commenced and proposed.

This Office No. 355, dated 10th August, 1899. I would invite attention to the marginally noted correspondence which deals with this subject. A reply is anxiously awaited.

The above remarks also apply to the Kotra District.

Enclosure 8 in No. 8.

Letter from the Political Agent, Ulwar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 3466, dated the 17th September 1899.

In compliance with the request contained in your telegram dated the 1st September, 1899, I have the honour to forward the accompanying report on the present situation as regards possible scarcity or famine, &c., in Ulwar up to the 15th September, 1899.

Enclosure 9 in No. 8.

Letter from the State Council, Ulwar, to the Political Agent, Ulwar, No. 3867, dated the 17th September 1899.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3349, dated the 2nd instant, calling for a report on the present situation as regards possible scarcity or famine, prospects of grain, fodder, and water, emigration and relief measures commenced and proposed in Ulwar up to the 15th September, 1899.

2. *Present situation.*—In reply we beg to report that in the commencement of the kharif harvest the rainfall throughout the State was general, plentiful, and well distributed, the average rainfall from the 20th June to 1st July, 1899, being 6.66, as the following figures will show:—

1. Ulwar	...	...	...	6.70
2. Rajgarh	..	...	...	8.19
3. Thana Ghazi	..	.	...	5.82
4. Bansur	...	...	...	8.18
5. Behror	...	...	..	3.83
6. Mandawar	...	...	..	5.15
7. Kishengarh	...	...	...	4.25
8. Tijara	...	...	..	8.98
9. Ramgarh	...	...	...	7.89
10. Gobindgarh	...	...	...	7.57
11. Kathumer	...	...	...	5.56
12. Luchmangarh	..	...	...	7.86
Total	...	...	..	79.98
Average	...	...	.	6.66

Such plentiful rainfall in the month of June has not been recorded in the State for the last 20 years. The early rains caused an unusually large area to be brought under cultivation. The prospects of the harvest seemed very encouraging, and the agriculturists did spare neither pains nor money to cultivate, and put seeds in, as much land as they possibly could. The rainfall between the 1st and the 21st July was pretty fair, and hopes were entertained of a very good out-turn, but suddenly there was a break in the monsoon after the 22nd July, 1899, and the high winds and excessive heat caused the fields to dry up in a short time. The crops began to wither, until at last, those on the barani land

were almost entirely lost. By means of Takavi advances granted by the State, the zamindars were able to dig kutchha wells on low grounds where water was not very deep, and irrigate and save a portion of the crops. Besides, kharif crops on well land have been saved, but owing to want of rain their power of growth has been considerably diminished, and an outturn of between 8 and 12 annas only in the rupee may be expected from the well land crops.

In villages where the soil is hard, juar, maize (mukki), and cotton are usually grown, but owing to the break in the monsoon the crops did not thrive. In barani land they did not go high up ($1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 feet), and then withered. The cultivators were therefore obliged to cut the withered juar and mukki crops and use them as fodder. In light soils (sandy bhur) the bajra crops are expected to give some small outturn. The masina (pulses) crops on such soils are nearly safe, and should it rain plentifully within a month or so, they would give a fair average produce. Judging from the present state of things, the outturn of the present harvest may be roughly estimated as below:—

	Annas.					
1. Maize (mukki)	$\frac{6}{16}$
2. Juar	$\frac{1}{16}$
3. Bajra	$\frac{6}{16}$
4. Masina (pulses)	$\frac{8}{16}$
5. Cotton	$\frac{1}{16}$

The prospects of masina (pulses) and cotton might still improve, if there be good rain within a month or so.

There can be no doubt that there is scarcity all over the State, and had it not been for the timely assistance rendered to the zamindars by means of advances, &c., a number of them should have migrated by this time. A sum of over fifty thousands was given to the agriculturists in the commencement of the present harvest for the purpose of buying bullocks and seed grains, and at this juncture a sum of Rs. 70,000 has been sanctioned for Takavi advances to help them in sinking kutchha wells, buying seed grains, and materials for working the wells, such as leather buckets, laos, &c. A greater portion of this money has already been advanced, and this has materially helped to remove the present distress.

There have been some slight showers here and there about the end of August and the beginning of this month, but they have done little or no good. Should there be no rain within the next two months, the present scarcity will attain the proportions of a famine, and relief works on a large scale will have to be opened.

Prices are steadily rising, as will be seen from the following comparative figures:—

Names of grain.	27th July, 1899.	15th September, 1899
Wheat	16 seers per rupee.	10 seers 8 ch. per rupee.
Barley	21 do	12 do. 8 do.
Gram	18 do.	11 do. 8 do.
Mung	17 do.	9 do. 12 do.
Moth	22 do.	10 do. per rupee.
Bajra	19 do.	12 do. 8 ch. per rupee.
Juar	21 do.	12 do. per rupee.
Maize	20 do.	13 do. 8 ch. per rupee.

3. *Food grains.*—As there have been successive bad years, the stock of grain in the State is not sufficient for the current requirement. The country is, however, open on all sides by railway communication, and the grain can be imported from the North-Western Provinces or the Punjab when required.

4. *Fodder.*—Fodder, though not abundant, is not scarce. The early rains helped greatly to the growth of grass and fodder, and green grass is still given to the cattle. It is doubtful whether the quantity of fodder available in the State would suffice for the requirements of the year, but everything depends now on the winter rains. The zamindars, it is reported, are trying to dispose of the cattle in excess of their requirements for fear of scarcity of fodder.

5. *Water.*—The water in the wells has not considerably decreased yet. It is expected to hold on until the beginning of the summer season, when a deficiency may be apprehended. The small village johars or tanks have nearly all dried up.

6. *Emigration.*—Owing to the help afforded by the State in the way of Takavi advances, the people have not thought it wise to emigrate. Looking at the severity felt in several other States in Rajputana, this State may be considered very fortunate in many ways, and the agriculturists would think twice before they would desert their homes. It is quite possible they might temporarily shift to the neighbouring villages of Bhurtapore for cultivation, but such cases would be rare. Every effort will be made to induce the villagers to stick to their homes, and, where necessary, works will be opened for their relief close to their doors.

7. *Relief measures commenced and proposed.*—Relief has already been afforded to the people in the following ways:—

Firstly, in the matter of grass.

Secondly, by inducing the Bohras to give loans to the zamindars

Thirdly, by making advances.

Fourthly, by starting small relief works.

Fifthly, by making grain or cash allowances temporarily to the destitute persons and widows.

With regard to the first measure, we beg to report that grass in the State reserves used to be cut on payment for the requirements of the State animals and cattle. With a view to help the people with grass, it has been arranged that they would be allowed to cut grass in equal shares (viz., half to be given to those who cut it, the State retaining the other half) in runds of Jodhawas, Rampura, Tehla, &c., and that when the grass is wholly cut, the zamindars will be allowed to graze their cattle in them. The zamindars can in this way store grass for their own cattle and sell it if they like. As to the second, the Bohras had distinctly refused to help their asamis with the usual loans. The former have been induced through the Tehsildars to give such loans for food, &c., to the asamis as were absolutely necessary, with the assurance that they would be repaid by easy instalments through the Tehsils without any charge, and that the repayment of such loans will have precedence over the State revenue demands. The loans will, of course, be given under a certificate from a responsible Tehsil official.

Thirdly, the State has sanctioned advances to the extent of Rs. 70,000 being given for the purpose of sinking kutchra wells and buying materials for working their wells.

Fourthly, the Tehsildars have been authorised to start small relief works in the shape of digging village tanks or Johars and repairing district roads, &c., in such tracts where no help can be afforded in the manner above specified.

Fifthly, relief is afforded to the destitute and helpless persons and widows by temporary grain or cash allowances.

8. The two Revenue Deputy Collectors have been sent round in the district to see that the above measures are properly and carefully carried out, and to report any special matter which may come within their observation.

9. In conclusion, we beg to say that the relief measures already adopted will be considered sufficient for the present requirement. In the meanwhile such projects and works as may be necessary in case the worst effects of famine should be observable are being carefully considered and decided upon.

Enclosure 10 in No. 8.

Letter from The Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to The First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana. No. 4233:G., dated the 19th September 1899.

In compliance with the orders contained in your telegram of the 1st September, 1899, I have the honour to submit the following report on the situation as regards possible scarcity or famine in the three States in this Agency:

RAINFALL.

Bharatpur.—In Bharatpur ample rain fell in June and up to about 20th July cultivators began to cry out for a break. Tanks and wells filled well. In August, however, there was little or no rain, only a few showers about the 13th of the month, and again about the 27th, the highest amount registered at any station for the month was at Pahari (1.28). In September showers averaging $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch fell about the 5th of the month in various localities throughout the State, affording slight temporary benefit to the crops, and on the 13th instant some welcome and satisfactory rain fell in the northern Tehsils, where the need of rain was most greatly felt, Pahari getting $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, Kama half an inch, and Akhaigurh half an inch. Rupbas also in the south had a useful fall of 64 cents; 55 cents well at Bharatpur.

Dholpur.—In Dholpur ample rain fell in June and up to about 20th July as in Bharatpur. In August practically no rain fell, except half an inch in Rajakhera Tehsil.

In September Dholpur had 44 cents on the 4th and 51 cents on the 13th. These falls have afforded some benefit to the crops.

Karauli.—In Karauli rain fell in June and up to about 20th July. Practically no rain all August, except 40 cents in Machilpur Tehsil. During September 36 cents on 3rd September, no news has been received of any rain since then. It will be seen that the rainfall was very much the same in all the three States.

CROPS.

In all three States the kharif crops sown on high land have suffered considerably from the want of rain during August, but elsewhere they are still green, and, though stunted, yet strong, and if further rain falls may yield an 8-anna crop.

FODDER.

The cattle in all three States are in fairly good condition, and do not yet show signs of want of fodder. At present the supply of fodder is fair, but if no further rain falls the supply may run short.

WATER.

Water is fairly abundant, at present, in all three States, but will run short in some Tehsils if no further rain falls.

EMIGRATION.

No emigration has yet taken place in any of the three States.

GRAIN STOCKS.

In Karauli the stocks of grain are said to be ample. In Dholpur there are from 80,000 to one lac maunds. In Bharatpur they are sufficient. As Bharatpur and Dholpur are on the line of rail, there should be no fear of grain stocks running short at these places.

RELIEF MEASURES.

In Bharatpur Rs. 20,000 have been already set aside for the opening of Civil Agency relief works, under the direction of the Superintendent of Revenue. At present only Rs. 8,000 will be so spent to afford work in the northern tahsils to those who have begun to feel the pinch of scarcity. The Public Works Department is starting work on the Dig-Nugger road and other work which will afford employment to the people of that locality. It is in the northern tahsils of the State that the failure of the rain is mostly felt and where scarcity will first occur.

In Dholpur and Karauli no relief measures have as yet been started. They may be necessary later on if no further rain falls within the next month.

TO SUM UP.

As practically no rain fell in August and only scattered showers in September, the crops are stunted, but not yet lost, and with further rain may yield an 8-anna crop. Fodder and water are sufficient for present use; there is no scarcity of grain stocks; no emigration has yet taken place.

Timely rain within the next month may greatly improve matters, which are not nearly so bad as further west.

Failure of rain will, however, extend scarcity and perhaps famine into Eastern Rajputana.

Enclosure 11 in No. 8.

Letter from—Captain S. F. Bayley, Political Agent, Bikaner, to The First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana. No. 146-C., dated Bikaner, the 20th September 1899.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 3624, dated the 11th August, 1899, and telegram dated 1st September, 1899, I have the honour to forward copies of two reports furnished by the Bikaner Darbar, which contain information on the following heads, viz., rainfall, crops, grain, fodder, water, emigration, condition of the people, cattle, measures for famine relief.

As I have not been present in Bikaner except for a few days in August, when I went there to take over charge from Colonel Vincent, I am unable to submit any valuable personal opinions as to the situation and the measures required to meet it. The memorandum given below has, however, been compiled from information supplied by His Highness the Maharaja direct and can be relied on. I am in constant communication with His Highness on the subject of famine, and know that he takes the keenest personal interest in all questions pertaining to it, and I have the fullest confidence that whatever is needed for the relief of the people of Bikaner will be done by the Darbar.

MEMORANDUM.

Present state of season.—The present state of the season in Bikaner is bad and the outlook gloomy. Out of 16 tahsils only one (Churu) has had

over 5 inches of rain since 1st June, 1899, 3 tahsils have had from 4 to 5 inches, 2 tahsils from 3 to 4 inches, 2 from 2 to 3 inches, and 7 tahsils, including Bikaner itself, have had little over one inch. The deficiency as compared with the average of the past five years varies from 10 inches in Ratangarh to 4 inches in Anupgarh, and there is an average deficiency of about 6 inches for the whole 16-tahsils, as will be seen from the statement enclosed.

Fodder.—Fodder is extremely scarce throughout Bikaner. The crop raised last year both in the Bikaner State and many other places was less than usual owing to insufficient rainfall, and a great deal of fodder has been brought up by bunniahs, and sold outside the State. Latterly the Darbar has imposed an export duty to stop this, and it is calculated that the existing stocks of fodder may just suffice, but no more until the rains of 1900.

Grain.—There is no difficulty about the supply of grain in Bikaner as it can be brought in by train, but the scarcity has, of course, the effect of greatly raising its price. According to the latest reports, satisfactory arrangements have been come to with the bunniahs, and prices are steady. If necessary the Darbar is prepared to import grain on its own account and sell at a loss, but it is hoped that these extreme measures will not be required.

Water.—There is no scarcity of water round Bikaner city, as the wells there are very deep and practically never run dry. But the Gajner tank and the smaller tank in its neighbourhood are absolutely dry, and there is said to be great scarcity of water in some villages, which either have no wells or in which wells cannot be dug beyond a certain level, because the water there tapped is not sweet, and cannot be drunk.

Condition of people.—The condition of the people in Bikaner is so far said to be fairly good. Many of the poorer classes have come into the city to beg or because want of drinking water has made their villages uninhabitable, and about 2,000 are employed on relief works by the Darbar, while some rich Seths of Bikaner city are said to be giving work to about 1,000 more. But among the workers there is a marked scarcity of young men and very few even of the women, children, and old men are said to be emaciated in appearance. There were only 13 patients in hospital on the last occasion when His Highness the Maharaja inspected the relief works at Gajner tank.

Emigration.—It is the custom of the cattle owning Bikaneri to emigrate even in ordinary years, as the year's rainfall is never sufficient to provide pasturage throughout the next hot season. The average emigration is put down at 25,000 each year, and this year it will probably be four times that amount. The Darbar state that statistics for the emigration of cattle cannot ever be approximately supplied. I have endeavoured to impress on the Darbar the fact that emigration this year will not bring the usual advantages to emigrants, because the places to which they emigrate are for the most part relatively as badly off as Bikaner, and I have requested that the want of fodder and water prevailing through Gujerat, Malwa Haraoti, and the Punjab may be widely published throughout the State.

Measures for famine relief.—At present relief works have been started only at Gajner and Bikaner capable of holding 3,500 persons, but not more than 2,000 to 2,500 workers have made use of them up to the present date. The work consists of excavating the dry bed of the Gajner tank and of filling up old tanks and converting them into building sites in the city of Bikaner. Mr. Horsford, Assistant State Engineer, is in permanent charge at Gajner. The work and all arrangements for feeding and maintaining the workers is carried out according to the Famine Code and the directions issued by Colonel Vincent in 1897. The Maharaja himself makes a weekly inspection of the works, and a native officer with a havildar and six men of the Imperial Service Camel Corps are employed in supervising the arrangements under the Assistant Engineer. There is also a hospital with a Native Hospital Assistant in charge.

The number of persons present on the Gajner tank work on the 8th September is given below:—

Workers—

Men	...	...	...	...	211
Women	...	...	...	...	279
Children over twelve	...	...	...	...	110
Children under twelve	...	...	...	...	221

 821

Gratuitous relief—

Men	...	...	...	...	6
Women	...	...	...	...	25
Children	...	...	...	...	158

 189

 Total 1,010*

The Bikaner Darbar have prepared a large programme of other works for use if necessary, and have arranged that the works shall extend in a chain practically dividing the State from north to south, and that from all parts of the State they will be in equally easy reach. The Darbar expect that if no rain falls relief works and gratuitous relief will be required for about 50,000 persons. The Darbar were in hopes that the earthwork of the Bikaner-Bhatinda Railway would form a useful relief work, but I am informed on the authority of the Manager, Jodhpur-Bikaner Railways, that it will not be more than one foot high at any part, and would not last more than a few weeks as a famine work. The contractor will, however, be ordered to employ as many people of the neighbourhood as the work will hold. It is possible, moreover, that a little more earthwork may be provided by diverting the portion of the Jodhpur-Bikaner line between Gigasar and Bikaner, so as to include Palana. This would only lengthen the Gigasar-Bikaner section by a few miles, and would cost little as the rails, &c., are ready to hand, while, on the other hand, it would do away with the necessity of running a special branch line to Palana Colliery which at present exists. This project will not be finally decided on till the return from leave of Mr. Home.

The additional expenditure which will be necessitated by famine relief if no rain falls during this or next month is estimated at Rs. 60,000 a month, or Rs. 5,40,000 for nine months. This includes the total expenditure on relief works, kitchens, and supervising staff. If good rain should fall (which is unlikely) before the end of October, it is estimated that the numbers of persons requiring relief and the expenditure involved will be reduced by one-half.

The following rough statistics illustrative of what is written above have been supplied by the Darbar:—

They are, however, only approximate—				
Total population of Bikaner State	...	...	...	831,943
Persons who are well off and can support themselves by ordinary work in towns	..	..	..	157,200
Persons who are well off and can support themselves by ordinary work in the villages (including camel drivers)	...	...	...	524,750
Emigrants to other States	..	..	..	100,000
Total	...	...	...	781,950

Balance of people needing relief, 50,000, of whom about 20,000 will be fed by sirdars and bunniahs or by the State, at relief kitchens (sadabarats) and the rest will be put on works.

* Numbers had risen to 2,500 by 17th September.—S. F. B.

Financial condition of the State.—The financial condition of the State is good, and the total ordinary expenditure is well within the ordinary assets. This year, however, there is an exceptionally heavy item of extraordinary expenditure to provide for in the shape of railway plant which has either been paid for or must be paid for in advance, and which amounts to Rs. 21,75,000. Against this the extraordinary receipts (sale proceeds of coal) are only Rs. 20,000, and the result is to convert a surplus into a deficit of Rs. 1,31,050, as will be seen from the figures in the statement attached. If to this is added the above noted additional famine expenditure of Rs. 5,40,000, this deficit will be increased to Rs. 6,71,050. The Darbar are doing their utmost to curtail the estimated expenditure by reducing establishments, &c., in all directions where expense can advantageously be curtailed, but they will, I fear, be unable to avoid a sale of Government paper, notwithstanding the fact that the present is rather a season in which to buy than to sell.

Enclosure 12 in No. 8.

Letter from—The Diwan of Bikaner, to The Political Agent, Bikaner. No. 1408, dated Bikaner, 22nd August 1899

I have the honour to submit the weather and drought report on the points referred to in your No. 2020, of the 13th instant.

2. *Rainfall.*—A table of rainfall registered at the different tahsils from the beginning of April up to date is appended to this report, and in column 4 is shown the amount of rain from the date when the monsoon generally sets in and cultivation begins.

3. A very extensive area being attached to each tahsil, the rainfall registered at its centre does not actually indicate the rainfall of that whole tract, but only gives a rough idea of the rainfall, more so because the circumstances of this country being peculiar, and the land devoid of trees and forests, there is nothing to attract clouds low enough to give a continuous and heavy rain. It generally comes down in smart showers, but only in patches.

4. The attached rain return speaks for the uneven distribution of the small quantity of rain which fell at the various centres; and shows that Reni and Sujangarh Nizamats in the east and north-east side of the State had a larger share than the remaining two Nizamats (Bikaner and Suratgarh). The last is considered to be in the worst plight, as a large portion of its area is comprised of hard clay, naturally requiring more rain than the sandy or "bhur" soil.

5. The rain commenced at the different tahsils on 22nd and 23rd June, but with the exception of a few scattered showers, in Rajgarh, Suratgarh, and Anupgarh tahsils, no rain fell after the 10th July.

6. *Crops.*—Wherever they had sufficient rain to commence ploughing, bajri, and in some places moth, crops were sown, but in about 40 per cent. of the villages, as detailed under, no cultivation was begun:—

Nizamats.	No. of villages	Villages in which cultivation commenced.	Villages in which no cultivation was started.
Bikaner	599	151	448
Sujangarh	464	437	27
Reni	671	651	20
Suratgarh	561	130	431
Total	2,295	1,369	926

The early sown crops thrived well at the outset, but those sown later in the beginning of July were either uprooted or did not germinate on account of the high south-westerly wind blowing continuously ever since. The former have also suffered severely from the wind and drought, and are now withering. If it rains even now the standing crops might yield an outturn of five or six annas in the rupee.

7. *Fodder and pasturage.*—Fodder is scarce in the country, especially towards the north. Very little was produced last year, except in the Bikaner and Surpura tahsils, and whatever grass and pala were stacked in the year preceding (1897) has been consumed. The young grass, wherever it had grown, is withering, and is not tall enough to be cut and stacked. It, however, provides pasturage to the cattle for the time being.

8. If it does not rain in August and up to the middle of September a severe scarcity of fodder is apprehended, though there are still plenty of grass stacks near about Bikaner to meet the requirements of the city people, provided they are not exported away to the adjoining States.

9. *Cattle.*—A number of cattle have been removed towards Bhawalpur and Shekhwati, where pasturage was to be found. The large numbers of cattle generally brought in here for grazing purposes in the rains did not come this year, owing to the drought and scarcity of water. In the Reni and Sujangarh Nizamats, as well as in the Pugal putta, pasturage is still procurable to last for a fortnight or three weeks, but in other places the cattle are deteriorating.

10. *Condition of people.*—Owing to two years' consecutive drought and scarcity, the circumstances of landholders, cultivators, and labouring classes are anything but satisfactory. The labouring classes, menials, and, in several villages, the cultivators who have no means of their own, have begun to emigrate, especially to places where, with their relations and kinsmen, they expect to earn livelihood. Emigration in this State is not uncommon, whether it be good or bad year, and owing to the uncertain state of the rains and the country yielding only one crop in the year, the tenantry, as a rule, particularly in the northern district, make a temporary abode for so long only as grazing can be procured for their large herds of cattle. The permanently settled cultivators in the Reni and Sujangarh Nizamats are still reported to be keeping to their villages, but, on the whole, the condition of the agricultural classes is most embarrassing, not so much because they have got no crops, but because they have no fodder and water for their cattle. An ordinary cultivator here can manage to pull through a year of bad harvest with the produce of his live stock, provided there be ample grass and water in the country, but when harvest and fodder both fail, he is unable to support himself.

11. *Famine and relief work.*—Owing to the prolonged drought and there being no crops or food grains in stock to fall back upon, the agricultural outlook is rather gloomy. The staple food grain imported from other places is already selling in Bikaner at high prices (11 seers for the rupee). If, therefore, the weather does not take a turn for the better, and good rain does not fall in this as well as next month, the distress will be very acute.

12. It is too early yet to anticipate whether this drought will result in a famine or in a year of scarcity, inasmuch as a great deal depends on the result of the harvest in other parts of India. If crops all over India fail the consequence will no doubt be disastrous. It often happens that the month of Sarvan goes without any rain, but if it rains in Bhadwa there is not much harm done.

13. His Highness the Maharaja has already extended the State Public Works Department on a large scale, and a means of livelihood will thus be provided for many of the labouring classes. For instance, the Gajner tank

is being deepened, the construction of a house at Chhapar in Sujangarh will shortly be commenced, and a large pit near the city has to be filled with earth, while various sites are to be improved. Alms are also being given daily to about 500 poor and destitute people at Bikaner. In the event of the distress becoming worse, His Highness has proposed to start some test relief works at the afflicted areas at once, and it is further resolved to move the Manager, Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, to commence work on the Suratgarh-Bhatinda Section early, in order to give relief to able-bodied persons.

Enclosure 13 in No. 8.

Letter from the Diwan of Bikaner, to the Political Agent, Bikaner, No. 1536, dated Bikaner, the 15th September, 1899.

With reference to your telegram, dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit further report on the situation as regards possible scarcity or famine in Bikaner.

2. *Rainfall and weather.*—There has not been much change in the weather since my last report, dated the 22nd August last.

During the greater part of the last three weeks the wind was south-westerly, and at times blowing high. The clouds gather up in the afternoon, but disappear at night without any rain. The rainfall registered at the tahsil headquarters during the period is as follows, and the total rainfall from the beginning of June up to now is much below the average of five years, tabulated in the annexed return.

Tahsil	Date of Rainfall.	Rain in Cents.
Hanumangarh	23rd August ..	11
Sujangarh	Do. ...	18
Ratangarh	4th September...	21
Reni	Do. ...	36
Sardarshahr	Do. ...	50
Bikaner	6th September...	11
Surpura	Do. ...	23

But in the interior of different tahsils a good many villages have received scattered showers, and in about 98 villages the rainfall was over 50 cents. These showers have no doubt been beneficial to the standing crops, as well as to the grass, wherever it had survived the drought; but they were not good enough to help the commencement of fresh cultivation.

3. *Crops.*—The standing crops have withered almost to nothing owing to the long drought, but in a few villages of Sujangarh, Ratangarh, Sardarshahr, Dungargarh, Nohar, Reni, Rajgarh, Churu, and Surpura tahsils, the recent rains have done good to the existing crops, and they are expected to yield from 2 to 4 annas produce.

4. *Grain.*—By the railway agency a large quantity of grain has been started by the "bunniahs" and grain dealers in the city, who are still collecting it. The prices that were somewhat steady during the last fortnight

are now going up again; the fluctuations thereof, more or less depend upon the rates of other grain marts of India.

The market is well stocked, and there is no fear of the grain supply running short. The villages in the interior get their supply from the nearest railway station; and strings of camels laden with grain are often seen going backwards and forwards.

5. *Fodder*.—There is a great dearth of fodder all over the State, and with the exception of some old grass stocks round about Bikaner, mentioned in my previous report, there is hardly fodder of any sort to be found. Should rain fall in sufficient quantities in the grass-growing tracts, even now the anxieties of grass and fodder famine will be over. In some places the grass is revived by the recent showers, and is likely to provide pasturage for a short time.

6. *Water*.—Water is abundant in the wells throughout the State, with the exception of some tracts in the north and west.

7. *Emigration*.—A number of villagers with their herds of cattle and also menials and non-agricultural classes have left their residence, and a great many of them moved in the direction of Sindh, where grass and water are reported to be in abundance. In the eastern tahsil the permanently settled cultivators and those who have means of subsistence are still holding to their villages. The emigration seems an old practice of the country, and nothing but fodder and water in tanks can stop the cattle-breeding classes from leaving the country. Over two thousand relief workers have been engaged at the Gajner tank and employment for more is being provided for at Bikaner and in the Suratgarh Nezamet.

8. *Relief works*.—The following have been proposed as relief works; of these the Gajner tank has been commenced since the 23rd August. The rest will be taken on hand from time to time according as the necessity of people wanting relief arises:—

1. Deepening of Gajner tank.
2. Filling up of a pit near Rattan Behary-ji's temple
3. Other new kutchra roads and miscellaneous works at Bikaner.
4. Earthwork on Suratgarh-Bhatinda section to be done by contract
5. Earthwork on Bikaner-Palana section.
6. Breaking up of ballast for the railway at Hanumangarh fort.
7. Deepening of Rampura tank.
8. Ditto Suratgarh do.
9. Ditto Dungargarh do.
10. Repairs of Khari-Suratgarh section to be done by contract.

The above programme is not a complete one, and more work will be added to it later on.

9. *Conclusion*.—The present condition of the country from the agricultural point of view is very serious. If good and general rain falls even now and before the end of the month, the distress will be reduced to half of what is now apprehended. If rain should not fall the distress will be very severe and widespread.

Enclosure 14 in No. 8.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kotah, to the First Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 1645, dated Kotah, the 16th September, 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram dated 1st instant, directing me to submit by the 20th September a report on the present situation in this agency as regards possible scarcity and famine, on the prospects of grain, water, and fodder supplies, and on emigration and relief measures commenced and proposed.

2. First as regards the present situation. Neither in Kotah nor in Jhalawar has good rain been received since 8th July, that is, a period of 10 weeks. In the districts local showers fell, but in no part has anything like the average quantity of rain been received.

Rainfall since 3th July, 1899.

Places.	July.	August.	September 15th.	Total.
Atreo	3.61	.23	—	4.04
Baran	3.90	1.2	.25	5.27
Chipsa Barode . . .	2.44	0.82	—	3.26
Etawah	1.81	1.38	—	2.64
Iklehra	2.40	0.81	—	3.21
Indergarh	2.33	1.22	.02	3.57
Khanpur.	1.62	0.9	—	1.71
Kotah City	0.17	0.4	.11	.32
Mandana . . . . .	.12	.64	—	.76
Mangrole	2.25	.57	.17	2.99
Manohar Thana . . .	2.93	1.96	—	4.89
Sangode	1.02	.11	.20	1.33
Sahabad	4.85	.20	—	5.05
Sultanpur	1.15	.12	.59	1.86
Jhalawar	3.92	.62	.18	4.72

An early consequence of this deficiency was the failure of the usual grass crop. From all sides it is reported that grazing is insufficient, and perhaps the worst feature in connection with the question of the fodder supply is that no fresh grass crop can be expected even if good rain should now fall. The continued drought then threatened the Indian corn crop, and eventually caused its total loss. The people are thus dependent for a fresh food crop on the jowar, which is the staple diet of the poorer classes in Kotah and Jhalawar. This crop has suffered considerably from the want of rain; indeed, its survival at all is remarkable, and can only be accounted for by the richness of the soil in Haraoti and Malwa. The appearance of the jowar shows it in the best fields to be about half the height it would have attained in a normal season. In some fields the plants have withered, and from them little, if any, outturn can be expected under the most favourable circumstances. From the better fields possibly an outturn of four annas may be had if no rain falls. Should good showers be received within a few days the best fields would perhaps produce a twelve-anna crop.

3. The other standing crops such as cotton, hemp, and sesamum are also suffering from the drought, and are likely to be lost if rain does not come very soon.

4. Bazar rates for food-grains form some sort of guide to the situation. The following statement shows the course of trade prices for July, August, and September, and compares them with the prices during the same period in a normal year.

	Wheat.		Gram		Jowar		Indian Corn	
	This year.	1886.	This year	1886	This year.	1886.	This year.	1886.
July :—								
1st half ...	17—12	23—0	22—0	35—8	25—8	27—8	20—0	22—8
2nd half ...	17—0	23—0	20—12	35—0	24—12	27—8	20—0	25—0
August :—								
1st half ...	15—12	21—0	19—12	35—0	23—4	26—0	20—4	25—0
2nd half ...	13—0	21—8	15—10	34—0	18—4	28—0	16—12	20—0
September :—								
1st half ...	10—12	22—0	11—12	34—0	14—0	28—0	12—0	25—0

From the above it will be seen that prices rule much higher this year than they would at the same season in a normal year

5. As regards water supply, there is at present no general complaint. The heavy rain which fell throughout these districts on 8th July was serviceable in causing tanks to rapidly fill, the smaller ones being well filled and the larger ones more than half filled. But the drought caused an unusual consumption of the water so obtained, and I anticipate that the deficiency of water will make itself felt before long

6. To sum up the present situation, there is a decided scarcity of fodder in these States, the sufficiency of the water supply is doubtful, and grain, though not yet scarce, is expensive. The stocks of grain on which people are depending in the absence of a fresh rain crop are undoubtedly large, as is shown by the export statistics.

During the month of August the Goona-Baran railway carried out of the country no less than 75,471 maunds of grain. There is also a considerable export by road towards Ajmer.

The figures are as follows during July, August, and September :—

Wheat.	Gram.	Jowar.	Other Grains	Total Maunds.
1,172	1,483	31,900	721	35,276

This heavy drain on the existing stocks cannot fail to raise prices still higher and to produce scarcity of food stuffs. The traffic is no doubt good for trade and benefits the Darbars in customs duties, but it tells hardly on the poor and all those who have to purchase small quantities of grain daily for their subsistence.

7. Another factor to be taken into consideration is the number of immigrants that have been pouring into the country for some time past, from Ajmer, Marwar, and Jaipur. The advent of these people means more mouths to feed, and their cattle help to diminish the already scanty grass supply

It is, however, reported that, finding grass scarce in Kotah and Jhalawar, large numbers of the immigrants are passing further to the south, where in Malwa they find better grazing.

8. Next as regards future prospects. These depend almost entirely upon the timely falling of good rain within the next few days. As already mentioned, local showers have fallen here and there, and have undoubtedly done good in isolated tracts. In the last week, for instance, small amounts have been measured in various parts of Kotah:—

Kunjer, 12th and 13th September, 0.55 cents;

Kishengunj, ditto, 0.82 cents;

Sangod, 9th and 12th, 0.20 cents;

Anthra, 12th, 0.40 cents;

Baran, ditto, 0.95 cents;

and the crops in particular villages will benefit. But what is wanted is general rain, and good heavy rain, not only to save the standing crops from withering, but also to soften the earth sufficiently to allow of sowings of the spring crops. It is estimated that if 4 inches of generally distributed rain were to fall within the next few days, say a week, the tanks and wells would be sufficiently replenished, the standing crops would in a measure be saved, while the future of the spring crops would be assured. Should no general rain fall in the immediate future, jowar cannot be more than a 4-anna crop, except in isolated places, and if rain holds off altogether during September and October, the spring crops sowings will in most parts be impracticable owing to the hardness of the ground; in other words, the country would have to face a famine.

9. It appears therefore that while general scarcity may prevail to some extent or be imminent, the prospects of down-right famine cannot well be judged at present. In Jhalawar actual famine is not anticipated but the Kotah authorities write less confidently.

10. Neither of the Darbars consider it necessary for the present to open relief works. Distress has not exhibited itself and there is no demand by the people, either local inhabitants or immigrants, for help, which cannot be met by the ordinary works in progress and by private charity. Should relief works be necessary hereafter the Darbars are prepared with suitable projects. In connection with the proposal to start the earthwork of the Baran-Koth line as a relief work in Kotah, a separate report will be submitted in due course in answer to a special reference on that subject.

11. As the Agent to the Governor-General may like to see the opinions of the Darbars themselves, I attach copies of the letters dated 6th and 9th September, which I have received from the Diwans of the two States. My report is based on these letters and upon my personal inspections and inquiries.

Enclosure 15 in No. 8.

Letter from the Dewan, Jhalawar State, to the Political Agent, Cotah, No. 297, dated Jhalawar, the 6th September, 1899.

With reference to your letter No. 1,532, dated the 2nd instant, I beg to say that the failure of the monsoon has practically ruined the makka crop, but the jowar, which is the main crop of the season, has not yet suffered to any considerable extent, and if we have one or two good falls of rain, the outturn may be expected to be normal. That the prices of food-grains have risen considerably all over the country is already known to you, but as yet there is no scarcity. I had a talk with the tahsildars of the Chaumahla on the subject

and they all assured me that if we have even one good fall neither scarcity nor famine need be apprehended in Jhalawar. If, however, no rain comes at all, the famine of grain is bound to prevail though I do not think that we shall have famine here.

2. Owing to early cessation of the rains the grass crop has failed entirely, and already great difficulty is being felt in providing sustenance for the cattle. If no rain comes the distress on this account will become very acute, and thousands of cattle are likely to die of starvation.

3. Emigrants from Marwar and Ajmer have already begun to come here in small numbers; but after staying here a day or two they pass on. No people of this place are likely to emigrate.

4. As yet there is no necessity to open any relief works. But if rains fail altogether, and scarcity of grain prevail the Bund at the Khandya Nullah, between the Chaoni and the city of Patan, and that across the Chandrabhaga, below the city of Patan, will be constructed as relief works. As regards the Chamahla I do not think that any relief works will be needed there.

Enclosure 16 in No. 8.

Letter from the Dwan, Kotah State, to the Political Agent, Kotah, No. 91, dated Kotah, the 9th September 1899.

In reply to your letter No. 1531 of the 2nd September, 1899, I am to submit the following report on the situation in this State as regards possible scarcity or famine.

There has been no general rain in the State since the 8th of July last. There were occasional local showers over very limited areas but not of much practical good.

The makka, as a crop, failed. Juar is so far generally looking well though it has begun to wither. In fact, it is a wonder that it could struggle on so well during the continuance of the present long drought. If it rains within a week or 10 days, a 12-anna harvest may be expected and this will go a great way to keep down the scarcity that threatens, but, if it does not, the crop will be a total failure.

A general fall of 4 inches will not only save juar but will likewise insure the sowing of the rabi (spring) crop. There will then be only scarcity to deal with, but no famine. Should the rains, unfortunately for the country, hold off till the end of October, any subsequent fall would be too late to be of use. Nearly the whole rabi area of the country would be left fallow. A famine of the worst type would have to be faced with all its attendant horrors and suffering.

Kotah has proverbially known no famine and her people are unaccustomed to emigration. They would, therefore, be simply demoralized and quite unprepared to undergo the hardships and starvation which would be their sad lot.

People residing in the open and cultivated part of the country have driven their cattle to the hilly and forest portions where fodder is available, but are dismayed for their future safety at the sight of the immigrants who are daily streaming in with large droves of cattle. Grass, as may be expected, has substantially suffered from the long drought. In most places in the forests and preserves (birs) it has totally dried up. In low-lying lands and those favourably situated, which are few in number, it is still preserved, but its growth has been seriously retarded and the outturn is expected to be a very meagre one. No rainfall can much benefit it, the season having far advanced and the grass being nearer maturity, but inasmuch as it would materially help the sowing of the rabi crops there would be an abundance of other fodder which would make up for the deficiency in grass.

For the last few days the daily average number of immigrants that cross the Chambal at the Ladpura Ghat at Kotah is 200. But down the river there are several fords by which they enter the territory and proceed in the district. Of course all the arrivals do not stay in the State. Sometimes they move on though slowly, remaining a few days at particular places, the destitute, for begging or labour, and the owners of animals for grazing their cattle.

A brisk and unchecked export of food grains from all parts of the State is going on. During the month of August the customs returns show that the Guna-Baran railway alone carried 75,471 maunds or 2,435 maunds a day. Within the past three days of the current month 10,120 maunds have been exported, giving a daily average of 3,373 maunds. The people, especially in the outlying portions of the State, look on this with great concern and forbode evil, the general impression being that the grain stocks are exhausted, and that enough grain has not been left in the State.

No relief works have yet been started, nor there seems at present any need for them, but should the worst happen they would have to be started about the end of October. The State Engineer is being asked to keep ready a list of such works.

No. 9.

Letter from L. W. Dane, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab and its Dependencies, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1228 S., dated Simla, 25th September, 1899.

In reply to your letter, No. 2,499, dated 28th August, 1899, calling for a report on the situation as regards a possible famine or scarcity in the Native States under the political control of the Punjab Government, I am directed to say that inquiry has been made from the States concerned, but up till now replies have been received in respect of four only, viz., Bahawalpur, Jind, Nabha, and Maler Kotla.

2. In regard to Bahawalpur, it is reported that the crops cannot be said to be in bad condition, and efforts are being made to irrigate land for rabi sowings. No part of the State can be characterised as famine-stricken, and there are ample stocks of grain. Immigration from Bikaner is anticipated and will not be checked, as employment can be found for such immigrants on various irrigation works which are to be undertaken during the cold weather at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,00,000. Colonel Grey, the Superintendent of the State, is of opinion that there is no such prospect of scarcity as should necessitate the submission of monthly famine statements, and, as there is practically no rainfall cultivation in the State, his Honor accepts his view as correct, especially if measures are taken to provide relief for the famine-stricken immigrants from Marwar within the limits of the Rajputana Agency, in regard to which the Agent, Governor-General, has been addressed.

3. In Jind, owing to the deficiency of the rains, the kharif harvest on unirrigated land is a complete failure in the three ilaquas of Jind, Dadri, and Sangrur, and prices have risen considerably. There is great scarcity of grass and fodder, and cattle are being driven towards the hills and across the Jumna to graze. The population affected by the scarcity is estimated at 189,707, and their stocks of grain are very low owing to the famine of 1896-97 and subsequent bad harvests. The Darbar believe that the works connected with the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakkhal Railway in the Sangrur ilaqua will be helpful for the relief of famine, and propose that work on roads and tanks should be opened in the other two ilaquas. Advances to zamindars, to be repaid at the next harvest, are also proposed, and the total expenditure on famine relief is estimated at Rs. 50,000.

4. In Nabha it is reported that severe drought is being experienced, and the prices of grain have risen, and a famine is anticipated if the drought continue till the end of October. Relief works (masonry and earthwork) have been started,

and the number of *sadabarts* where food is given gratis to cripples and other helpless persons has been doubled.

5. The condition of the kharif harvest on unirrigated land in Maler Kotla is stated to be very bad, and there is great scarcity of fodder for cattle. The State is still hopeful of rain falling in time to allow of a rabi harvest being obtained, in which case it hopes that relief works will not be required. Should this hope not be realized, proposals in regard to relief works are promised for the middle of November. The people will doubtless find work also on the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakkhal Railway, which traverses this State, and the Government of India in the Public Works Department have been asked to expedite the construction of the line which has been fully financed.

6. I am to say that the information required regarding the other Native States under the political control of this Government will be communicated when received. There will undoubtedly be severe distress and even famine in the petty States of Loharu, Dujana, and Pataudi, as these lie in the famine-stricken tract, but elsewhere, beyond partial distress due to high prices, it is not anticipated that extensive scarcity will prevail.

No. 10.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore; the Resident at Hyderabad (Deccan); the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore; the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu; the Resident at Baroda, Baroda; the Resident in Kashmir, Sialkot. No. 3852 I.-A., dated the 22nd December 1899.

3852 I.-A. My telegram 2497 I.-A., August 28th. Please furnish further brief written report on agricultural situation, crop prospects, and famine relief requirements of Mysore, Hyderabad, Central India, Rajputana, Baroda, and Kashmir. Governor-General in Council wishes to examine position as it now stands, and to revise forecast of October. What is required is brief and general survey of agricultural situation at beginning of January, with information as to extent to which previous forecasts for current financial year require modification. If possible, please form preliminary forecast of relief requirements from 1st April to end of June, and state if stocks are sufficient or can be readily supplemented by private trade. Are prices likely to remain substantially below point touched in 1897? Report should reach Government not later than 14th January; if beneficial rain falls between date of its despatch and 18th January supplementary information should be telegraphed.

No. 11.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Bombay; the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras; the Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, Allahabad; the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, Nagpur; the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Lahore. No. 3853 I.-A., dated the 22nd December 1899.

3853 I.-A. Please see Revenue Department letter, December 19th, about agricultural condition and prospects, and furnish similar information as regards Native States by 14th January.

No. 12.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 2 G., dated Indore, the 2nd January, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, in continuation of correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3852 I.-A., dated the 22nd December, 1899, on the subject of famine relief operations in the Central India Agency, a copy of a note* recorded by me for the information and guidance of the Political Agent in Malwa, and the Darbars of the various States concerned on the present condition of Malwa, and of the measures which are in my opinion necessary for the relief of those affected by the present scarcity in that Agency.

Enclosure 1 in No. 12.

Famine in Malwa, 1899-1900. Note by the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India. Malwa Agency.

The area is approximately 10,000 square miles, comprising States and districts of states enumerated in the following tables :—

Gwalior Malwa Districts.

	Square miles.	Population.
Total area	5,576	790,000
Affected area	1,952	252,369

Indore Malwa Districts.

	Square miles.	Population.
Total area	4,000	650,000
Affected area :—		
Rampura		9,400
Mehidpur		117,000
Bhanpura		100,000
Approximate area . .	2,000	
Jaora State	581	129,400
Rutlam State (whole affected)	723	98,000
Sitamau State	350	36,600
Sailana State	123	34,600
Piploda Thakurat	60	14,000
Other guaranteed Thakurs (whole affected).	25	16,390

* With Appendices A, B, C, and D.

Within this area the rainfall of 1899 has been deficient—the normal average for the Agency may be taken as 35 inches—the actual fall registered during the monsoon of 1899 varies from 18 inches at Ujjain and Rutlam to 8 inches at Neemuch, Mandsaur, and Sitamau. Moreover, such rain as was received fell during the first two months of the season, June and July, the remaining months, August, September, and October, upon which the land depends for the kharif harvest and for the sowing of the rabi, were practically rainless, and in consequence the kharif crop was an absolute failure in the northern and eastern sides of the Agency, while in the south and west, that is in the Ujjain district of Gwalior—the Mehidpur district of Indore—and the Rutlam State, the outturn of the kharif may be taken at from one-quarter to one-third of the normal crop. Throughout the Agency there is a general failure of fodder for cattle, though the supply has been supplemented in parts by the dry stalks of the jowar crop (karbi); the supply of grass, which in ordinary years is so plentiful, has altogether failed, and great loss of cattle must inevitably result. Another consequence of the scanty rainfall is, of course, the scarcity of water in rivers, streams, tanks, and wells. Prices commenced rising in August, when the rate for the cheapest staple food-grains was—

Wheat	13 seers per rupee
Jowar	16½ ” ”
Mukka	16½ ” ”

In December the prices at Neemuch, the headquarters of the Agency, were—

Wheat (cheapest)	9-8 seers per rupee.
Jowar	10 ” ”
Mukka... ..	10-4 ” ”

Famine statements were submitted by the Political Agent from the 13th September, 1899, and circulars were issued to the States of the Agency during October calling upon the Durbars to take immediate steps for the relief of the distress which then threatened, and for the preparation of the information required by the Abstract Famine Code for Native States.

When I returned from furlough and resumed charge of the office of Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, on 4th November, 1899, the position in the Malwa Agency was as follows. There had been deficient rainfall throughout the Agency, the kharif crop had generally failed; the rabi had been sown only in parts and only to about one-tenth of the usual area; grass and fodder were everywhere insufficient, and the water-supply was low. Prices had reached the rates prevalent in the States of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand during the worst part of the famine of 1896-97, and the whole of Malwa was overrun by emigrants from the adjacent States of Marwar and Meywar of the Rajputana Agency, who had come hoping to find in Malwa their usual asylum, and a sufficiency of food for themselves and of fodder for their cattle. No less than 75,000 Rajput immigrants passed through Mandsaur (Gwalior) during the months of July and August. The States of Malwa had been warned of the impending calamity; steps had been taken to collect information as to the condition of the people and the general prospects; relief works had been started in the Neemuch district of Gwalior, and in the States of Jaora and Rutlam; while throughout the Agency the cleaning and deepening of wells, collecting such grass and fodder as could be found, and generally employing the labour in villages, diverted by the dryness of the season from ordinary agricultural operations, had received the attention of the States, and were being carried out in a satisfactory manner. No emigration had taken place, nor were there reports of acute distress from any part of the Agency except among the Marwari immigrants, who, disappointed in their search for food and grass in Malwa, were then crowding into the chief towns of the States and straggling along the roads back to their own country. For these unhappy people the States of Rutlam and Jaora and the Durbars of Gwalior and Indore had made some provision. All who applied were received on relief works in the Neemuch district, and in the towns of Indore, Rutlam, Jaora, and Neemuch. They were fed either by the State or by the charity of local gowcars and banias.

Rest houses and shelters have been provided by Gwalior, Rutlam, and Jaora along the road by which the immigrants were returning to Rajputana, and arrangements have been made for collecting and deporting by rail those whose destitution had been proved by their recourse to relief works and poor-houses in Central India. By the 20th November, 1899, upwards of 3,000 had been so deported by the Jodhpore Durbar, and by that time the stream of returning immigrants had greatly diminished the numbers on relief in the Malwa Agency.

Estimates had been framed of the sums required by the smaller States of the Agency for famine relief and administrative purposes, the amounts asked for being—

						Rs.
Jaora	...	...	...	...	...	4,47,000
Rutlam	...	...	...	...	...	2,50,000
Sitamau	...	...	...	...	...	1,25,000
Sailana	...	...	...	...	...	1,16,000
Piploda	...	...	...	...	...	72,000

These estimates are subject to revision, but loans to meet urgent wants have been sanctioned by the Government of India as follows:—

						Rs.
Sitamau	...	...	...	...	...	50,000
Sailana	...	...	...	...	...	50,000

His Highness Maharaja Sindhia having agreed to advance money to the States of Malwa on the conditions, as to guarantee and interest, sanctioned for similar loans made in 1896-97 to the States of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, the Government of India have been pleased to sanction the arrangement, and it may therefore be hoped that all the Malwa States will be financed to meet their requirements.

Lieutenant Stewart was deputed early in November as Assistant Famine Officer in Malwa, and proceeded at once on tour.

On the 10th December I joined Captain Cubitt, Political Agent, Malwa, at Rutlam, to confer with the Raja and his Dewan on famine relief measures. The journey by rail between Indore and Rutlam, a distance of 74 miles, sufficed to show the general condition of the country. The tanks, streams, and nullahs, which at this season of the year are generally full of water, are practically dry; the fields, as far as the eye can reach on both sides of the railway, although ploughed, and, over large areas, sown for the rabi crop, are bare; only in isolated patches is there any crop growing, and even in these the wheat and gram sown is stunted and dry. In the immediate neighbourhood of Rutlam, where a partial fall of rain occurred in September, there is an area, approximately 20 square miles, of cultivation, and there the wheat and other cereals give good promise. With this exception the whole of the land is lying fallow, and there is but little grass even for the cattle—probably not enough to last for more than a month. The kharif, as already noted, has been almost a total failure so far as food-grain is concerned; but there seems to be a large quantity of kurbi, which will probably suffice for two or three months fodder for cattle.

From information supplied by the Dewan of Rutlam I gather that up to the present there is no real distress in the State. The supply of food is ample, wells have been deepened and cleaned, and relief works have been commenced. The Durbar has taken prompt measures, and I have every reason to believe that adequate relief will be provided, and in good time. I attach a copy of an order issued by the Dewan on the 27th October, 1899. The Central Famine Officer appointed, Mr. Valcalkar, and his assistant, Mr. Brijlal, are intelligent and zealous.

Accompanied by the Political Agent, his Highness the Raja, and the Dewan, I inspected two relief works near Rutlam on 11th December. The larger of these works was the excavation of a tank near the village of Dadra, about four

miles from Rutlam. On this work about 700 persons, all subjects of Rutlam, were employed, the majority being women. They were in good condition, and there was no evidence of distress. It is probable that a large number of these relief workers will leave the works if, as is to be hoped, the area of cultivated land near Rutlam yields a good crop. I ascertained that the system of supervision of the work was good and that daily payments were made in accordance with the rate of wage laid down in the Abstract Famine Code; but I advised the Central Officer to see that a full day's work was exacted from able-bodied workers, all of whom are classed under B and C, paragraph 34, of the Code.

I then visited a work (excavation of a tank) outside the town of Rutlam, where some 500 were employed. This work was being carried out, under State supervision and under the Abstract Famine Code, by the merchants of Rutlam, who are interested in the tank, as a more appropriate charitable relief than the promiscuous feeding of people in the town, which had previously been carried out. Here again I found the relief workers in good condition and all arrangements satisfactory. I then discussed with the Political Agent and the Dewan the general measures necessary for relief, and advised the collection of detailed information from each village, the preparation of registers and statistics, the fixing of sites and places for other projects, the issue of notices to all villages in the State of the exact localities where relief works and poor-houses are to be established, and a systematic course of village inspection and report by Tehsildars and Patwaries. The financial condition of the State was also fully discussed, and it was agreed that the amount to be indented for as loan from His Highness Maharaja Sindhia, should be limited to actual requirements for famine relief and administrative purposes after the State had exhausted all other resources. On the whole I am of opinion that in the Rutlam State relief measures are well in hand, that His Highness the Raja and the Dewan and other State officials are fully alive to their responsibilities, and are quite capable of carrying on their efforts to relieve distress should it appear. I estimate that if the winter rain fails the State will have from 8 to 10 per cent. of the population, or about 10,000, on relief works for three months, and that the cost will probably be Rs. 1,12,500. If, however, good rain falls before the end of December (and it is satisfactory to note that about half an inch of rain fell at Rutlam on the 13th December) the position will be improved, and the estimates of number and cost of relief may then be reduced by about 25 per cent.

From Rutlam I went to Jaora, on the 12th December, accompanied by Captain Cubitt, Political Agent, Khan Bahadur Yar Muhamad Khan, C.S.I., who has recently returned from furlough to Europe, is Minister of Jaora and is thoroughly competent to deal with the distress with which the State is threatened. He has appointed Mubarik Ali Khan, Judge of Jaora and formerly Extra Assistant Commissioner in Berar, as Central Famine Officer; and has already started relief works on an adequate scale—some 1,200 persons in all are at present employed—and projects are being prepared for remunerative works on a larger scale, after the necessary test works have proved the existence of distress. The present condition of the people is satisfactory—the stocks of grain are sufficient, and the Minister and his subordinate officials are preparing for 10 per cent. of the population being on their hands for three months. The prospects in Jaora are bad, but there was a fall of rain on 13th December, and if more rain is received during the month, there will be some out-turn of the rabi crop; but probably, under the most favourable circumstances, not more than one-sixth of the normal amount. The State requires a loan, during eighteen months, of Rs. 2,50,000 to meet famine relief and administration expenditure after exhausting resources and selling Rs. 2,50,000 invested in Government promissory notes. Copy of the Minister's note is attached.

On the 13th I arrived at Neemuch, where I was met by His Highness Maharaja Sindhia, who had kindly come from Gwalior for the purpose, and by the Sar Subah of Malwa and the local officials of the Neemuch district. The condition of this district is bad; the rainfall, eight inches, was less than in any other part of the agency, and about one-fourth of the normal. The kharif was an entire failure, and the rabi has not been sown—there is neither grass nor fodder, and the wells are already very low. Relief works were started under

the supervision of Mr. C. A. Judd, State Divisional Engineer, on the 2nd September, 1899, and have already been largely resorted to. During October and November upwards of 10,000 persons were employed in the Neemuch district; this number has now been reduced by the removal of 3,000 immigrants; but the number is again on the increase, and I have advised His Highness to prepare for at least 20 per cent. of the population for three months from 1st January. I attach a printed copy of a report prepared by Maharaja Sindhia which gives evidence of His Highness's personal interest in famine relief measures, and of the work already done. I visited the poor-house near the city of Neemuch, where there are now 1,300 inmates, most of these being subjects of the Gwalior State, the rest Marwari immigrants. The poor-house is on a good site—on high ground about a mile from the city—it is well managed, and fulfils all the requirements of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States; the water supply from three wells is at present good and sufficient; the food is of good quality and is well cooked; there is provision for the full number of inmates under sufficient cover, and there are huts for cases of small-pox and other diseases outside the camp; the sanitary arrangements are good, and the people are well cared for. There is evidence of acute distress among 5 or 6 per cent. of the inmates, but these cases have only lately sought relief; 84 deaths have occurred in this poor-house since its institution in October. I visited two of the relief works near Neeruch, and found the workers in good condition and under proper supervision. Mr. Judd, a very capable and energetic engineer, is in charge of all the relief works in Maharaja Sindia's Malwa districts, and has a competent staff of subordinates.

The worst parts of the Neemuch district are Singouli and Gungapur—bordering on Meywar—the distress there is reported to be acute, and there is a deficiency of water.

The Maharaja, who I need hardly say takes the most lively personal interest in the work, and who has assumed the duties of Central Famine Officer, tells me that he has ample projects in hand and under preparation to meet all requirements, and he has promised me to provide sufficient funds to ensure relief on works and in poor houses. I have advised His Highness to order his officials to collect more detailed information than has yet been obtained, and to make frequent and regular village inspections, and, above all, to give timely notice of the places where relief works and poor houses are situated. I estimate that in addition to the relief already provided in the Neemuch and Mandasaur districts, on which during the past three and a-half months Rs. 88,000 have been spent, at least 20 per cent. of the population of the northern part of Neemuch district (population said to be 30,000) will come on relief for 90 days from the 1st January; while, taking the whole of the Neemuch Mandasaur and Ujjain districts, provision should be made for 7 per cent. of the population.

There is some distress in Neemuch Cantonment (population of bazar 15,000), and I found that 350 Cantonment people were on relief in Gwalior territory. The flow of Marwari immigrants has now ceased to some extent, but it has been very considerable, and has largely added to the difficulties of the situation. I have advised the Cantonment Magistrate to call a meeting of residents of the Neemuch bazar to devise, at an early date, a scheme for a poor house for Neemuch Cantonment instead of the present system of indiscriminate and fitful distribution of charity which cannot fail to be a premium on mendicancy. A poor house to accommodate from 60 to 70 persons would probably meet all the requirements of the Cantonment.

The Raja of Sailana met me at Neemuch, accompanied by his Dewan. No regular relief work has yet been started in Sailana, probably because the State has no funds, but His Highness assured me that there was no distress as yet, and that occupation had been found for labourers in search of work, in the digging and cleaning of wells. The supply of money to Sailana is a matter of urgency, and I am arranging to send the amount sanctioned by Government, Rs. 50,000, as soon as it is received from Gwalior. The State will certainly

require a loan of Rs. 1,25,000 during the next year for relief works (which at 10 per cent. of the population for 90 days I estimate at Rs. 35,750) and for ordinary expenses of administration. Lieutenant Stewart's report on Sailana is awaited, meanwhile the Political Agent should supply the State with copies of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States and should direct the attention of the Raja and his Dewan to the necessity of full and regular enquiry into the condition of the people, stock of grain, water supply, fodder and grass, means of communication, and all matters connected with famine relief.

I attach a copy of Lieutenant Stewart's report on the condition of Sitamau, I await further information from the Political Agent, as to the exact amount of money required by this State and the projects in hand, or in contemplation for the relief of famine.

From Piploda also I require detailed information, which I trust will be supplied at an early date.

I am not aware that any steps have been taken by the Indore Durbar for the relief of distress in the Mehidpur, Bhanpura, and Rampura districts, where, it is presumed, conditions are generally the same as in neighbouring districts of Gwalior. The Political Agent should endeavour to collect information regarding these portions of His Highness Maharaja Holkar's territory, and should bring to my notice any existing defects.

Generally, and having regard to the many advantages enjoyed by Malwa, such as its previous immunity from famine or even scarcity, the usually healthy climate, the ample communications by rail and road, the large amount of trade, which in ordinary years takes place in grain, opium, cotton, and oil seeds, the number of large and flourishing towns, the quiet, patient, and laborious people who cultivate the land and form such a large part of the population, I hope and believe that there are resources and natural advantages which will materially aid this country during the period of anxiety and distress upon which it is now entering. It will, however, require all the energy, intelligence, and zeal of the chiefs and officials of every State to cope with the difficulties which undoubtedly must arise during the next six or eight months. It is the duty of the Political Agent to bring these responsibilities constantly to the notice of the Durbars—to collect information, to warn all concerned of the inevitable results of neglect or carelessness, and to point out any measures that may occur to him to meet the difficulties of:—

- (1) Arranging relief works and poor houses ;
- (2) Providing supplies at out-of-the-way places ;
- (3) Replenishing stocks of food grains ;
- (4) Advancing grain to ryots for sowing when the monsoon sets in ;
- (5) Advancing money for takavi ;
- (6) Endeavouring to save the lives of cattle ;
- (7) Affording relief to those who cannot go on to relief works or into poor houses, Purda-Nashin women and the like ;
- (8) Developing or maintaining industries such as weaving cloth, cleaning cotton, spinning thread, dyeing, basket-making, &c., &c.

In these and all other matters the Political Agent should encourage the States to ask his advice, and he should be prepared not only to give it, but to see that it is carried out. Frequent visits should be paid to centres of relief works as also to outlying districts ; and reports, returns, and registers received from States should be carefully checked, and from them abstract reports should be forwarded to the Agent to the Governor General.

No. 13.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 524, dated Abu, the 26th December, 1899.

With reference to your telegram of the 22nd December, 1899, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of Major Dunlop Smith's memorandum, dated the 22nd November, 1899, on the condition of Mewar State referred to in paragraph 10 of my letter No. 396-F., dated the 16th December, 1899.

2. I regret if, through an oversight of the despatching clerk, a copy was not attached to my letter.

3. I also have the honour to forward a copy of a second note on Mewar by Major Dunlop Smith, dated the 16th November, 1899, describing the condition of the districts in the north-west portion of the State, which were visited by him, and of printed notes regarding his recent tour through a part of the Haraoiti and Tonk Agency and the Bikanir State.

Enclosure 1 in No. 13.

CONDITION OF MEWAR.

Memorandum by Major J. R. Dunlop Smith, Famine Commissioner, dated 22nd November, 1899.

1. I visited Udaipur itself for four days from the 19th to the 22nd. On the 20th the Resident kindly arranged an interview for the Honourable Mr. Rivaz, Mr. Holderness, and myself, with the leading officials. The following gentlemen attended the conference :—The Honourable Mr. C. M. Rivaz, C.S.I. ; Mr. T. W. Holderness, C.S.I. ; the Famine Commissioner ; the Prime Minister, Udaipur ; the Revenue Minister, Udaipur, and Mr. Bardanji.

Captain Pinney who has been employed for the last three years on Boundary Settlement work, and has now been specially deputed for famine relief works, was present.

2. As elsewhere good rain was received in June all over the State, but the rains failed entirely in the beginning of July. The result has been a total failure of the unirrigated harvest and a very great scarcity of natural fodder. The Darbar estimate that 75 per cent. of both the total area and population are affected by the famine.

The tracts most severely affected are the following :—Jahazpur District, Mandalgarh District, Kamalgarh District, Hoorda District, and Hilly Tracts.

The people of these tracts are Bhils, Minas or Mehars, the two former being criminal tribes and notoriously impatient of distress. The above tracts are all included in the Khalsa area, but the Jagir estates bordering on these districts are equally pinched by the famine. The Jagir area is larger than the Khalsa, taking the State as a whole and the Darbar computes that of the affected population over seventy per cent. live within the different Jagirs. I am inclined to think that this percentage is excessive and it would be safer to assume that two-fifths of the worst tracts are situated within the Khalsa area. So much, however, is absolutely certain that the Jagirdars as a whole will have to spend quite as much as the Darbar on famine relief if they are to act up to their responsibilities, and can afford the expenditure, otherwise the Darbar must step in.

3. The Prime Minister informed us that steps has already been taken to cope with the distress. The ordinary Public Works Budget will provide 2 lakhs (Rs. Imperial = 132,000). This will be spent chiefly on repairs to old, or the construction of new buildings, and will thus be only an indirect means of relief,

for the greater part of the money will be appropriated by skilled labour. Four lakhs (Rs. 264,000) will be spent on special famine relief works, and one lakh (Rs. 66,000) will be given out as *takkavi* for wells. On the assumption that one rupee will support 12 persons for one day, then the sum to be spent on relief works will support 105,600 persons for one month, or 11,727 for nine months. This is just over three per cent. of the affected Khalsa population, so that it will be seen that the sum proposed is quite inadequate. The Darbar, however, we were given to understand, are prepared to go beyond this grant. They certainly will have to spend much more than the sum at present provided in the budget, as the full effects of the scarcity will not become apparent for another two months yet. I am not prepared to offer an opinion whether the amount provided for *takkavi* is sufficient, but it struck me as liberal compared with the grant for works.

4. Works at the following centres have been sanctioned already, and the State Engineer is now on tour in order to inspect those that are in progress and devise, if possible, new projects.

[Here follows a list of sixty different works.]

The great majority of these works are tanks and will be all useful if they are really carried out. They are all situated in the Khalsa area and there is little doubt that the applicants for relief from Jagir estates will not be allowed to work on them.

The five Chittori lakhs sanctioned will be spent on the above works, but more works are urgently wanted if the programme is to keep ahead of the demand for labour. Now that the railway has arrived within two miles of the capital and the new Calcutta-Karachi line will cut through the Muna and Mehar country, there would appear to be no dearth of useful work in the improvement of existing roads and paths, and even in the construction of new roads fit for wheeled traffic. In a country like Udaipur the importance of having good feeder lines of communication can hardly be exaggerated and the ultimate gain to the State revenues as well as to the people will be considerable. As an example I would suggest the improvement of the road from the capital to Nai, and from there the construction of a good road to Goran, *vid* Alsigar, Palia Nal, and Bhagpur. I understand that a proposal was made some time ago to build a branch railway from Maoli to Nathwara, a distance of 14½ miles, and that plans and estimates were prepared. This branch is entirely within Mewar territory, and would be distinctly remunerative. It could be begun on very short notice and there would not be much difficulty about water or grain, as it would start from the existing railway. This would provide some two lakhs worth of earthwork, which would mean relief for 2,400,000 people for one day, or approximately 9,000 people for nine months. It would be an ideal relief work and could be efficiently supervised by the present railway staff with a small extra establishment.

In making these suggestions, I have carefully kept in mind the conservative traditions of the State which are worthy of respect. Any improvement or extension of communications would of course be confined to the limits of Mewar and would take no account of the surrounding territories. What is required is to provide greater freedom of access from the State capital to the outlying districts. The roads will not be directly remunerative. That is they will not pay direct dividends like the railway, but they will inevitably help to swell the railway profits, and they will, as certainly strengthen the power of the chief authority of the State. As famine works they will bring relief close to large numbers of the most stricken villages and will prove the most efficient safeguard against outbreaks of organised crime.

5. One great difficulty in the way of effective relief appears to be the attitude of the Jagirdars, only a small fraction of whom have made any response, and that in a half-hearted way, to the instructions of the Darbar about aiding their distressed villages. As yet there is not much fear of any great mortality, but there is a present and serious risk of organised outbreaks, and

within the next three months there is certain to be very general suffering, and in parts, actual loss of life, unless the Jagirdars are forced to start relief operations on their own account. Apart from all moral considerations they are bound by their position to do so, and their obligations should be rigidly enforced. I understand that the relations of the Darbar with the Jagirdars are more or less complicated, especially in the Bhumat, and if the latter are left to organise relief on their own account nothing will be done. If that is so, the Darbar must be prepared to start active measures at once within the Jagir area, if something approaching to a catastrophe is to be avoided, leaving the accounts to be adjusted at leisure.

6. There appears to be plenty of grain in the country. Everyone, high and low, with whom I discussed this subject is agreed as to there being ample stocks and there is no apprehension as to the future. But later on the supply to the Bhil and Mina villages in the hills may occasionally fail for short periods. The grain-dealers have a lively sense of the restless nature of these tribes and existing communications with some of the wilder tracts are difficult. This all points to the necessity of improving the old paths and making new roads. A liberal policy in this direction on the part of the Darbar will not only go far to relieve distress, but will result in a gradual strengthening of their control over their people. The inhabitants of the Khalsa area and the Jagirdars alike will be brought much more into touch with the central authority and the State will gain in every way. I would suggest that the State Engineer might draw up a programme of works, in consultation with the local officers. I am quite aware that the Bhil cattle are being rapidly reduced by starvation and slaughter, and that this means a considerable shrinkage of transport, but on the Udaipur plateau there are still a large number of cattle in fair condition and the Bhils themselves have a certain number of camels.

I discussed the question of the proposed application for a loan from Government of five lakhs of rupees. Some of the money will, if given, be spent on the purchase of foreign grain, to be issued as kind wages on works, but as this forms the subject of separate correspondence I will not refer to it further here.

Export of grain has ceased for some time now, and so no *hundis* are going out. The local bannias and grain dealers are meeting the difficulty of the depreciated State currency by borrowing freely outside, and in some cases by selling their own golden ornaments.

7. There is no serious scarcity of water in any part of the State just at present and no difficulty is apprehended for the future, except in a few isolated villages. But as far as I could gather these anticipations apply only to the Khalsa area, and in parts of the Bhumat the people may be compelled to evacuate their villages in search of water. This contingency should be guarded against as once the Bhils start wandering in large bodies there may be trouble.

The Udaipur lake is very low, and as the hot weather comes on there is almost certain to be an outbreak of disease. Cholera is very likely to appear. I should think it would be easy to make arrangements for the supply of pure water to the city by laying pipes to some of the adjacent lakes. The work would give employment to a large number of people, and when finished, would permanently improve the physical condition.

8. A few of the works detailed above are now in progress, and the latest returns show that on the last day of October they were giving relief to 10,587 people. This means roughly an average daily cost of Rs. 882 (Imperial). The only work I was able to visit was the levelling of some uneven ground close to the town. Nearly 600 people were employed. The great majority were Bhils. The work was in charge of a European army pensioner, who was assisted by writers and mistris. The system followed was peculiar to the work. All and sundry are not admitted. Every morning the officer in charge attends the place of admission and turns away anyone who by his appearance shows that he is not in need of relief. Ordinarily this would be rather dangerous, but up till now—thanks to close supervision—no harm has been done. The

classification is somewhat elaborate and makes no difference between carriers and diggers. The basis of classification is sex and condition. There are three large parties—(a) fairly strong adults, (b) weakling adults, (c) children. The scale of wages is as follows:—

Class.	Wages in Local Annas.			Amount of Grain Wages will Purchase in Imperial Chittaks.		
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
A	3	2½	...	10	6·3	...
B	3	2½	...	10	6·3	...
C	...	...	1 to 2	...	...	3·3 to 6·3

This is by no means liberal in comparison with the scale in British territory, but full tasks are not always exacted and there are no fines or minimum wages. The men, and especially the women, are fairly well nourished, but most of the children were thin and some were even emaciated. The wages are paid daily, and there is a Bania's shop on the works. I heard no complaints, and the people I talked to seemed contented. The organisation seems to meet the requirements of the case—thanks to good supervision. It is not one that would work under ordinary circumstances. Its great advantage is that it specially takes account of weaklings. It might almost be said without exaggeration that the whole camp is a weakling gang.

9. Gratuitous relief is being given in the town and in five other parts of the Khalsa area in the shape of kind doles. The numbers on the list for the last week of October were 2,534. This item includes persons relieved both in poor-houses and at their homes. This branch of relief should be at once extended to the Jagir area also.

As far as I could make out an even larger total than this are fed daily at the doors of the wealthier members of the community in different parts of the States. The missionaries also in Mewar and in the Bhumat tract are doing much to alleviate suffering, but their means are naturally limited. In Kherwara and Khotra the officers of the local Bhil Corps have raised a fund among themselves and their friends and have imported grain. By this means they have already been instrumental in saving life, but their operations cannot last for many months more.

10. The State has been issuing *takkavi* loans for some time in the Khalsa area, and have also been making advances to the more needy Jagirdars for the same purpose. The Bhumia Chiefs in the Hilly Tracts have at last formally applied for loans, and I spent a long time on the 22nd November in discussing the terms with the principal State officials. This subject, however, is separately treated elsewhere.

Enclosure 2 in No. 13.

MEWAR.

Note by Major J. R. Dunlop Smith, Famine Commissioner, dated 16th November, 1899.

I travelled through thirteen miles of Mewar territory on the north-west of the State, through some ten miles of the Jehazpar Pargana on the north-east and through the "Kherar" villages bordering on Deoli Cantonments. At Jehazpur itself I interviewed the local executive officer and the Deoli Wakil.

The first part of the journey lay along the proposed line of railway from Lambia Railway Station to the border of Shahpura. All the villages passed belong to the Chief of Banera, a fief of Udaipur. The people in this tract did not strike me as out of condition, but there were not the same signs of activity that I saw in Shahpura. The tract is not so fully cultivated, certainly, but even so the proportion of land irrigated from wells struck me as very small. The people were not clamorous, but they were, as a rule, listless and, from inquiries I gathered that little interest had been taken by the executive authorities in the condition of this part.

Jehazpur District.—In this district the signs of distress are slightly more marked. The people are not so cheerful or resigned as in Shahpura, and are clearly not so well looked after. In some villages they clamoured for employment and relief, and towards Jehazpur itself there were loud complaints that only a portion of the money granted for what isolated works are in progress actually reached the people.

The "Kherar" villages have been more stricken by the prevailing drought than any others I saw, but they have the advantage of being within easy distance of Deoli, and are thus under the eye of the Political Agent there. Captain Younghusband, however, tells me that he has the greatest difficulty in getting the Mewar Darbar to act upon his representations, and that even when orders are issued from Udaipur these are not acted up to by the local officials.

Relief Works.—I could not discover that any relief works were in progress in Banera, and as it will take some time for the new railway earthwork to creep along from the west, I certainly think that some works should be opened in this direction at once. Otherwise, when the railway work does reach the people, it will find them debilitated, and much of the money will have to be spent in feeding them up into a condition fit for hard physical labour. I had great difficulty in eliciting what works are in progress in the Jehazpur district. As far as I could make out there are two tanks in progress here—one large and one small—but the local officers were very hazy. Altogether I received a strong impression that the measures taken to cope with the famine in this district are inadequate. It was admitted that there are no works in progress in the hilly country, which begins at the town of Jehazpur, and stretches right across to Bundi, and according to Captain Younghusband that is the region where, owing both to the extent of distress and the character of the people, relief is most urgently called for. As there is plenty of water in and about Jehazpur, the Banas being close by, the Engineer-in-Chief has wisely resolved to keep the railway earthwork here to the last. This is an additional reason for starting other works here at once. The only branch of famine relief of which the local officials displayed any accurate knowledge was the town poor-house. But the influence of this institution is clearly confined to the town itself. Within three miles of Jehazpur we discovered in a small hamlet, close to a main line of traffic, a most necessitous case which should have been discovered days before.

The only work I visited in Mewar was a tank in a Kherar village some five or six miles from Deoli. It is a new tank, and will be of great practical use. From 300 to 400 people were at work. The wages are based on a system of piece work, the excavation of 300 cubic feet being paid by an order on the nearest grain dealer for eight imperial seers of barley. The soil is from medium to hard and the lead is under 50 feet. This is not a poor wage all things considered, but if it is to be exacted then provision must be made for weakling gangs and non-working children and infirm persons. The supervision on the tank is distinctly effective from an Engineer's point of view, but is as markedly inadequate for the reason given in the previous sentence so far as the main object or relief is concerned. It is an efficient means of relief for the able-bodied; it takes no account of the infirm, the sick, and the young.

Water.—There is no great dearth of drinking water at present, but trouble is anticipated some three months hence over most of Banera, the outlying portions of Jehazpur and in a few Kherar villages.

Cattle.—The cattle are not so well off as in Shahpura, but I found it very difficult to make any reliable estimate of the mortality up to date in any

particular tract. It would certainly be wise to work as much as possible on the religious sensibilities of the Darbar in this direction. The *pala* fodder will not hold out for much more than a month in the north of Mewar and the people will have nothing like the same proportion of barley and clover as in Shahpura.

Miscellaneous.—The officials I met were very ignorant of the declared policy of the State as to transit and export duties of grain, but in Shahpura I received loud complaints of the Raja of Banera. The shortest route for imported grain to find its way into the Chiefship is from Lambia Railway Station across Banera. The Raja imposes a tax of 4 annas on every cart that crosses his jurisdiction, and is said to have netted over Rs. 1,200 by this policy in the last twelve months. I believe that the Mewar Darbar have officially abolished all transit duties on grain. If this is so, I think there is ample excuse for bringing pressure to bear on Banera to do the same and to see that his orders are obeyed. The Shahpura people are very bitter about this imposition—from the Chief down to the village menials—and with ample justice unless the impost is a retaliatory measure. I believe Banera is well-off, and can easily afford to abstain from making capital out of the distress of his neighbours. The touring of local officials is almost *nil*, and the ignorance they display of their charges is not creditable.

I would suggest to the Darbar a liberal policy in the matter of *takkavi* grants, although the time for sowing is rapidly slipping away.

Enclosure 3 in No. 13.

Notes by Major J. R. Dunlop Smith regarding a tour through a part of the Haraoti and Tonk Agency and the Bikanir State.

SHAHPURA AND TONK.

I have just made a short tour through part of the Haraoti-Tonk Agency. I have had the good fortune to be accompanied throughout by Captain Younghusband, the Political Agent. The following is a summary of the results of my tour:—

Shahpura.—I travelled right across the lower half of the Chiefship in practically the same direction as the new railway line from Baran to Marwar Junction will take. While at Shahpura itself I had two conferences, one with the Chief himself and the other with his responsible officials. A Special Famine Central Officer has been appointed, who works under the supervision of the “*Kamdar*” of the State, but the Raja Dhiraj takes a keen interest in all the details of famine relief administration and was thoroughly well versed in all that was going on.

Up till now famine labour has been employed almost entirely on grass-cutting in the Chief's preserves which are situated in the very centre of his territory. This is nearly finished now, but the people will have work on the railway. Over 2,000 people were employed on this work during the week before my visit. I had some misgivings about the value of grass-cutting before my visit, but I am bound to say these were removed. The work was closely supervised and was of such a nature as to give relief to weaklings as well as to able-bodied men and women. The Chiefship has now collected a large store of grass and if the Raja resumes his generous custom of last year in giving out his surplus grass to the zamindars in the hot weather the result will be excellent.

Work began on the railway the day before I reached Shahpura. A beginning has been made from the town itself, and the work will go on westwards. There are two tanks open on the northern boundary (*Dhanop* and *Tiswaria*). They anticipate that these will give sufficient assistance to this tract which is furthest removed from the railway. There are also three tanks open on the extreme south (*Raipura*, *Kai*, and *Karmara*). If provision is made

for weaklings on these tanks then there is enough work for some months, as the railway will be in hand. There are 18 miles of the latter in Shahpura. The construction of earthwork should support 4,666 people for three months, but the collection of ballast will be an additional source of employment.

Wages are based on the principal of giving 1 seer to a man, 12 chittaks to a woman, and 10 to a child, but as no children come to the works I am forced to the conclusion that they are discouraged from doing so. This tendency to employ only able-bodied labour should be carefully guarded against.

Tools.—There are 1,100 *phauras* now in use and 400 in store. This supply will soon be exhausted and early steps should be taken to supplement it.

Water.—This has given out in a few villages, but over the greater part of the Chiefship there is no apprehension at present. In most of the villages I visited cultivation was being carried on by the help of new wells or old ones recently deepened.

Cattle.—Some cattle have died, but there appears to have been no actual slaughter as yet, except in the case of male buffaloes. Some of these have, doubtless, been sent to the Nasirabad butchers. So long as only buffaloes are slaughtered not much will be said even by orthodox Hindus. I estimate that some two-thirds of the plough and well-cattle will survive the famine, but all the old and young stock unfit to work will die. There is enough of the “*pala*” fodder to last for about two months more. After that every well in work will have green barley and “*methe*” (clover). In fact the people appeared to me to be growing more fodder than food crops.

Miscellaneous.—The Chief seems to have been judicious in distributing *takkavi* for wells and should certainly be encouraged in this direction. He has also given security to the Bohras for their advances to needy people.

Transit duties have been remitted within the Chiefship.

The people struck me on the whole as in good condition and in good heart. They appeared to be better off than any I saw in the other States I visited. I saw no cases of emaciation or other physical distress, but very few of the women wore ornaments of any value and the clothing of the menial castes was often ragged. All plough and well cattle were in good condition. The rest, and especially the buffaloes, were very thin. The standing kharif crops were poor, but the young rabi crops have germinated well.

TONK.

I travelled through the length of the Tonk Parganna. My route lay along the bank of the Banas on the south and through some 16 miles of the higher ground bordering on Jaipur territory. Both of these tracts are in as bad a plight as the Jehazpur district of Udaipur. The standing kharif crops are cotton and jowar. The former will yield only about 25 to 30 per cent. of a normal crop even on chahi lands. The jowar has, after showing wonderful vitality, almost entirely failed to mature, but the dry stalks are being largely used as fodder. The people are facing the future with much more confidence than they did a month ago, as they have come to realise that something is to be done to help them. *Takkavi* has been given to a somewhat limited extent, and there are about a dozen tanks at work.

Works.—During my tour I visited three relief works—all tanks. As elsewhere I found the work was well done, but the tasks were heavy and little provision was made for the weak and sick. The scale of wages was lower than that in the Jaipur Kherar villages. The system was the same piecework. It gave $3\frac{1}{2}$ Chawarshahi annas for 100 cubic feet. This works out at 26 chittaks for 100 cubic feet, or $4\frac{1}{8}$ seers for 250 cubic feet. As the lead was always over 50 feet this is distinctly low, and has the effect of keeping almost all but professional labourers off the works.

Tanks are open in the Tonk and Nimbahera Parganas, and some small work is going on in Peraia. There is no distress—I gathered—apparent at present in Sironj, but I think that works should be opened as soon as possible in the Chabra and Aligarh Parganas and extended much more in Peraia.

Water.—Water is in short supply both in the Tonk and Nimbahera Parganas, chiefly in the latter, but no scarcity is as yet anticipated elsewhere.

The cattle are beginning to show the effect of bad and insufficient fodder, and slaughter has been going on freely as this is a Muhammadan State. I fear that barely one-fourth of the useful agricultural stock will survive till the next monsoon.

General.—I had a conference with the Prime Minister and Special Famine officers, and had also a talk with the Nawab, I think the Darbar is alive to the gravity of the situation in parts of the State, and they are very anxious for work to begin on the railway from the Jaipur-Madhupur line to Jehazpur. This will form an effective source of famine labour. Two things call for serious consideration—(a) provision for weaklings and dependents on works, and (b) preservation of the sound agricultural stock.

BUNDI.

I was unable to visit Bundi on this tour, but the Political Agent kindly summoned the Diwan, Central Officer for Famine Relief, and two other officials to meet me at Deoli. We had a long conference, and with the help of Captain Younghusband's local knowledge I was enabled to form some idea of the condition of things in the State.

Relief Works.—Up till the date of our conference, the main relief work had been grass cutting in the State preserves, chiefly in the Berar Forest to the south. This gave employment on an average to some 1,500 people. The work was done entirely through a contractor, the people being paid either in cash or kind as they preferred. The wages were as follows:—

Man	...	Re.	0	2	0	Bundi, sufficient to buy 1 Imperial seer.
Woman	..	"	0	1	6	" " " $\frac{3}{4}$ " "
Child	..	"	0	1	0	" " " $\frac{1}{2}$ " "

Some 500 other people had been regularly employed in the construction of buildings and repairs to buildings and roads. But these I gathered were chiefly professional labourers. Work had just begun on the railway line at Bundi itself and this will give ample employment for some months to come to the whole of the northern half of the State. The Darbar have arranged to open irrigation works in two other directions, but their scheme did not appear to me to be large enough. I would suggest metal collection for the metalled roads and, as soon as an Engineer Officer arrives, would have an adequate programme of petty works such as tanks and dams drawn up for the outlying parganas of the State.

Gratuitous Relief.—Three poor-houses are open in Bundi, Naluma, and Patan—all admirable centres, but care must be taken to provide relief for children and dependents on works also.

Grain.—I was agreeably surprised to find that prices were not so high as one would have expected from the inaccessibility of the State. This was owing to the fact that the Darbar while abolishing all transit duties had retained export duties. There were thus stocks of home-grown food in the State, but I gathered that these were rapidly dwindling, and in a few weeks we shall probably find prices ruling higher in Bundi than anywhere in Rajputana, except the sandy deserts on the west. The import trade is already brisk.

I saw nothing of the country or people, but as far as I could ascertain the three tahsils to the south-east, Patan, Aretha, and Arela, are best off. They have had better kharif crops, and the people are at once hardier and

thrifter than over the rest of the State. This is fortunate, as this tract lies to the south-east and is furthest away from the new railway alignment.

Water.—There is no difficulty at present, but there are signs of the supply running short in the Silor-Baronda hilly country on the extreme south. A certain amount of takkavi has been given for wells, how much I could not quite make out, but well sinking and well deepening have been going on for some time.

The cattle have not yet begun to die in abnormal numbers, but they are said to be showing signs of distress. A little grazing is still left towards the Kotah border, and in other parts the well and plough animals are being fed on dry jowar stalks "pala" and other leaves. The Darbar estimate that $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the cattle will survive. I think they are much too sanguine, but cannot speak with any confidence till I visit the State.

BIKANIR.

(Extract.)

I spent four days, from the 4th to the 8th December inclusive, in a visit to Bikanir. In the short time at my disposal I visited several relief works along with His Highness the Maharaja, the Political Agent, and some of the leading officials, and through the courtesy of His Highness was allowed to discuss in a conference the general situation and the whole scheme of famine relief and to examine the famine records.

Bikanir was practically the only State in the Rajputana Agency in which famine was generally prevalent during 1896-97 and a sum of nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs was expended on relief. But the Kharif of 1897 was on the whole good, and, as what Rabi crop there was turned out well, the people began to recover from the effects of the previous two bad years. The monsoon of 1898 was distinctly poor, but there was nowhere any marked distress. The monsoon of 1899 broke favourably in the third week of June almost all over the State, but utterly collapsed in the second week of July, and both the early and late sown crops failed everywhere except in the south-east corner of the State. The administration had, therefore, to meet a widespread famine over a large inhospitable area, which in the previous four years had been suffering from scarcity or actual famine for all but twelve months.

In his memorandum on the famine of 1896-97 Colonel Vincent remarked very truly that scarcity was the rule in Bikanir, but that owing to the migratory instincts of the people the Revenue Department of the State with the Revenue Minister as *ex-officio* Chief Famine Officer would be quite capable of undertaking the administration of any ordinary famine in the future. By an ordinary famine was meant a famine such as occurred in 1896-97. But the Resident added that if after some years of scarcity a complete failure of crops were to occur, and if at the same time famine were prevalent in the surrounding districts and States the burden thrown on the Darbar would be very great. No more accurate description of the present situation could be given. There is no record extant of such a calamity ever having visited Bikanir. The task set the Darbar is therefore one of unexampled magnitude and difficulty.

As the spring harvest is of comparatively slight importance in this part of Rajputana, no anxiety was felt until the break in the monsoon had lasted for four or five weeks. Up till the middle of August the sowings were forty per cent. below the normal, the greatest deficiency being in the Bikanir and Suratgarh Nizamats. On the 23rd of August test works were opened at Gajner, and arrangements were made with the contractor with the railway extension towards Bhatinda to employ famine labour on the modified piecework system. As time went on and it became evident that the monsoon had ceased altogether, the question of a far-reaching scheme of relief was taken up by the Darbar and works were opened at selected centres. From the 2nd August up to the 19th October the Maharaja was himself Central Famine Relief Officer, and the effective organisation now at work is his creation. Kaviraj Bhairam

Dan was the first special officer appointed, but, after a few weeks' experience, His Highness seeing that the work would soon grow beyond the capacity of the Revenue Department, constituted a special Famine Department with himself at the head, and Rao Bahadur Thakur Dhip Sing Bahadur, Commandant of the Ganga Risala, as his Assistant. The Maharaja personally visits some of the works every week, and a Famine Committee which, also meets once a week, has been appointed to discuss the management of the various branches of relief and the provision of labour for the number estimated to require it. There is no doubt that the Darbar has risen to the emergency, and if the famine campaign is prosecuted to the close with the same energy and discretion which have hitherto characterised its operations, there will be little cause for anxiety in Bikanir.

Rao Bahadur Thakur Dhip Singh is the head of the large office at headquarters which deals solely with famine work. He is assisted by Commandant Din Diyal of the State Infantry, six clerks, and five sowars of the State Cavalry. All reports and correspondence pass through this office to the Maharaja. The brunt of the relief operations falls upon the Camel Corps. A large number of both officers and men are employed on the relief works, and the camels are used for transporting grain from the railway to the different camps. This experiment of utilising an efficient and well-disciplined military force for these exceptional duties and so identifying them closely with the ordinary administration has been more than justified by its success. I think there can be no question that unless the Maharaja, on his own initiative, had not taken the bold step of substituting the Camel Corps for the ordinary revenue establishment the latter must have broken down. It could never have attempted to carry out the programme of relief in all its branches without considerable additions to the permanent staff, and such additions must have consisted of untrained, inexperienced men, with little or no stake in the country, and actuated possibly, in many cases, by a not unnatural desire to make the most of their temporary appointments. The Camel Corps, on the other hand, are residents of the State and have a strong interest in its well-being. Three-fourths of them are Rathors, and all ranks have readily responded to the call made upon them. This is chiefly due to the keen practical sympathy displayed by their Chief with his distressed people, and to the ability and energy of their Commandant. During my visit to Bikanir I met Captain Cox, of the Imperial Service Troops, whose co-operation in this scheme has been so valuable, and was glad to hear from him that this employment of the Ganga Risala on duties outside their own profession had not resulted in any loss of military efficiency.

Relief Works.—There are at present eleven relief works in progress throughout the State. Owing to the peculiar character of the country, the habits of the people, the transport difficulties and the failure of water in certain parts, it is impossible to provide work in each separate tahsil, but care has been taken to start operations at as many centres as possible, and to publish the fact. Up to the 31st August, the Gajner tank, twenty miles from the capital, was the only work in hand. During September the first relief work was opened close to the city. In October there were eight works in progress, and on the 30th November the total had risen to eleven, and two poor-houses were established. The projects in hand during my visits are described below. At the close of the last famine the Revenue Department could not draw up a programme for future emergencies owing to the absence of useful works, but the Darbar, with the help of the State Engineer, has had no difficulty up till now in providing labour for all who have applied for it, and the Famine Committee alluded to above keep up a list of projects well ahead of their requirements. These projects are not only effective as means of relief, but are so framed as to eventually bring in profit to the State. All the works except one are managed on the same system. The officers in charge and executive staff belong to the Camel Corps. They are helped by moharrirs of gang writers. To each work is attached a larger or smaller staff belonging to the Department of Public Works, but these have nothing to say to the conduct of operations. Their only responsibility is to allot and lay out the tasks, and to see that the work is being carried out correctly from an engineer's standpoint. Everything else is done by the officer in charge and his subordinates, even to the measuring of the tasks.

General.—All these works except the city extension scheme, which has not yet been begun were giving employment on the last day of November to 28,481 persons, of whom 5,867 were gratuitously relieved in one way or another. There are two poor-houses, one of which at Binasir, containing 1,030 people, I was able to inspect. The people were well cared for and discipline was good. The rations are distributed on the same scale as has been fixed for the relief of dependents on works.

The carriage of grain to the works and, except at Gajner, the water-supply form heavy items of expenditure. The following table gives the details of the daily totals spent on each work inspected by me :—

Work.	Carriage of grain.	Water.			Grand Total	
		Paid to well owners.	Carriage.	Total.	Per day.	Per month.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Rs. a p.</i>	<i>Rs. a p.</i>	<i>Rs. a p.</i>	<i>Rs. a p.</i>	<i>Rs. a p.</i>	<i>Rs. a p.</i>
Gajner	11 4 0	..	...	...	11 4 0	337 8 0
Gharsinar	2 14 0	6 0 0	38 7 6	44 7 6	47 5 6	1,420 5 0
Udamsar	2 4 0	6 0 0	25 0 0	31 0 0	38 4 0	997 8 0
Batan Bihariji	1 5 0	..	6 0 0	6 0 0	7 5 0	219 6 0
Camel Range, &c. ...	0 7 0	..	1 8 0	1 8 0	1 15 0	58 2 0
Road Ballast	0 9 0	..	2 8 0	2 8 0	3 1 0	91 14 0
Poor-house	0 6 0	..	1 0 0	1 0 0	1 6 0	41 4 0
Total	19 1 0	12 0 0	74 7 6	86 7 6	105 8 6	3,165 15 0

The above figures do not include the cost of the rations of the watermen, the cost of the *dhols*, or the cost of working the steam pump at Gajner. The pump is used both for the garden and the palace, and the whole cost of working it is about Rs. 100 per month. On the 30th November there were 28,481 persons on relief of all kinds, so that the monthly cost of carriage of grain and water came to Rs. 2-9-3 per head per month.

Since the first work was opened at Gajner the numbers on relief have steadily increased, as the following figures show :—

Total in receipt of relief on 31st August	910
" " " 30th September... .. .	5,406
" " " 31st October	19,399
" " " 30th November... .. .	28,481

The last total represents $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population of Bikanir as recorded at the census of 1891, but the migration has been so great that probably over 5 per cent. of the people now living within the borders of the State are on relief. Of the total number relieved on 30th November 5,867, or 26 per cent., were on the gratuitous list. Up to that date approximately one lakh of rupees had been spent on the famine. As the spring harvest is so unimportant and the latest safe time for sowing gram will soon be past it is clear that the number of applicants for relief will increase. At present the programme is well abreast of the demand for labour, and the State has still a large reserve of men to fall back upon when the staff has to be increased. I was surprised at the business-like character of the programme. In drawing it up care has been taken not only to provide effective relief but to arrange for works which will be both useful and remunerative. I am told that there are very few irrigation works which could be carried out, but from what I have seen of the country I should think that an irrigation expert could find some really useful works of sufficient size to accommodate large bodies of labour. The idea is worth considering.

Altogether the situation in Bikanir is highly satisfactory. The Darbar is well served, but the success of the relief measures is chiefly due to the deep personal interest taken by His Highness the Maharaja in the campaign, and the energy and ability he has shown in its prosecution.

No. 14.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 668, dated 12th January 1900.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your telegram No. 3852 L.-A., dated the 22nd December 1899, I have the honour to submit the following brief report on the agricultural situation, the prospects of the harvest and the famine relief requirements of the Native States of Rajputana.

2. *Rainfall.*—Since the situation was reviewed in my letter No. 4382, dated 23rd September 1899, there has been no marked or abrupt change, but the circumstances of the affected States have become steadily worse, and the outlook monthly more unfavourable. The intervening period has been practically rainless as will be seen from the following table. The effect of the few showers which fell in isolated tracts in Marwar, Mewar and Sirohi passed away very soon, and in no instance did they lead to an appreciable increase in cultivation :—

Reporting Station	RAINFALL, 1899			
	Normal fall from 1st June to 15th October in inches	Actual fall from 1st June to 15th October in inches	Normal fall from 15th October to 31st December in inches	Actual fall from 15th October to 31st December in inches
Mount Abu	63.95	10.31	0.78	0.16
Bikaner	9.69	1.14	0.29	...
Jodhpur	12.86	1.01	0.31	...
Udaipur	Unknown	7.65	Unknown	0.17
Ajmer	19.85	8.84	0.52	...
Sambhar	20.51	8.69	0.47	...
Jaipur	26.54	10.96	0.41	0.01
Kotah	Unknown	14.83	Unknown	0.02

Since the middle of July showers have been few and far between. Excluding Mount Abu, where the conditions are peculiar, and Udaipur and Kotah, where the normal rainfall is not recorded, the average rainfall during the last six months of 1899 has been only one-third of the normal.

3. *Harvests.*—The extent to which the kharif harvest failed was even greater than was anticipated in September. The failure was almost complete in the worst affected States. In those which felt the drought the least, such as Alwar, Bharatpur and parts of the Kotah Agency, the well crop was only 50 per cent. and the rain crop 10 per cent. of the normal. The yield, moreover, of such staples as did mature was distinctly poor.

The prospect of the approaching spring harvest is very gloomy. Owing to the almost entire absence of rain for five and a half months, it has been impossible to bring under the plough any land for which artificial irrigation was not available. The rabi harvest is, generally speaking, of small importance in Rajputana, but had moderate rain been received during the end of November and beginning of December, large areas would have been sown with the hardier cereals. The time for this has now passed. The sowings on well lands have

been greatly contracted. The early cessation of the monsoon, the tardy approach of the winter rains, which have not yet reached Rajputana, the condition of the cattle, and the failing supply of well water have all contributed to this result. In the absence of any reliable estimate of the area now under crops in each State, it is impossible to make even an approximate forecast for the province as a whole. The only observations which can now be recorded with any confidence are that the standing crops are up to the present time in fair condition, but the total yield will be a mere fraction of the outturn in a normal year. There is a marked shrinkage in the proportionate area under cereals and pulses, and in most parts fodder crops are in the majority. In spite of this, the heavy strain on the well cattle will result in an exceptional percentage of failed areas.

4. *Cattle*.—The most serious feature of this drought is, however, the total absence of grazing. A diminution in the food-supply can be met by imports from other parts of India, but any attempts to remedy such a widespread deficiency of fodder must necessarily be very limited in their scope and effect. At present it may be said that there is no grazing whatever for agricultural stock in any State in Rajputana, except in parts of Kotah, Jhalawar, and the four States in the extreme north-east. As soon as the failure of the monsoon was assured, large droves of cattle were removed to other parts of India where previous experience led their owners to hope that they would find relief. In the majority of cases these hopes were not fulfilled, and it may be safely assumed that barely 20 per cent. of the cattle which have left will ever return. The mortality among those which were left behind may be described without exaggeration as appalling. As the system of reporting hide exports week by week has been in force for only six weeks, the statistics are not sufficient to form a guide as to the rate at which depletion has been going on. It may be noted, however, that during December the average number of hides sent away by railway from Marwar exceeded 250,000 a week. It will probably never be known to what extent the different States have been crippled in this respect; but many years must pass before the majority of those seriously affected can recover their former prosperity. About one-third of the sheep and two-thirds of the goats and camels are expected to survive.

5. *Emigration*.—In my previous letter I alluded to the failure of emigration as a means of mitigating hardships. The people did emigrate in many thousands, the largest number going from Marwar, Mewar, Jaisalmer, and Bikaner. The direction most favoured was towards Malwa, though numbers invaded Guzerat and Sind, and lately the works in Merwara have been swamped by refugees from Udaipur. As relief measures are now more or less satisfactorily organised everywhere except in Mewar, it has been possible to bring back to their own countries as many of the wanderers as could be collected. But there are many difficulties in the way, not the least being the vague character of the reports from foreign States and districts as to the numbers and places of origin of the exiles. There are no materials from which to estimate with any accuracy the volume of the migration which has taken place or the proportion of the people who have returned, all that can be said with any certainty is that, except from Mewar, emigration has been effectually checked, and that during the next few months the general trend of the wanderers will be to their own countries.

6. *Water-supply*.—Very grave apprehensions were felt as to the supply of drinking water in the centre and west of Rajputana when the hot weather conditions re-established themselves in the autumn. It is not now anticipated that these apprehensions will be fully realised. At the same time the prospect is sufficiently serious in Marwar and parts of Sirohi, Mewar, and the Haraoiti and Tonk Agency. The wells in Jaisalmer and Bikaner will probably hold out, but the people will suffer from the effects of drinking so much brackish water, which in ordinary years they mix with curds. In Marwar it is possible that in scattered villages the wells will run dry, and the people will have to throw themselves on the charity of their neighbours. Water is the chief factor in the arrangement of relief works in this State, and the difficulties of the administration will increase as time goes on.

7. *Food-supply.*—Up till the present there has been no sign of the inability of private trade to meet all the requirements of the province in regard to food-grains. It is impossible to conjecture with any accuracy the amount of the grain-stocks existing in any particular tract at any given time, but indications of superfluity or denudation have not been altogether absent. The heavy export duty on home-grown grain, for instance, formerly imposed by the Bundi Darbar, and the history of prices in that State during the last four months, go to prove that the failure of the autumn crop found certain sections of the country in possession of considerable stores. This was, however, the exception.

The statistics of rail-borne traffic are still too meagre to assist materially in forming an opinion as to the resources of the different States. All that can be said at this stage is that the States whose stocks have been sufficient up to date are Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Bundi, Kotah, and Jhalawar. All the rest have been importing freely and will continue to do so until the next kharif harvest is reaped. Marwar, in proportion to its population, returns the heaviest imports. During the last five weeks the average imports have been 70,531 maunds per week. This total at the rate of 5 maunds per head per annum is sufficient to feed 733,512 people daily, or 29·11 per cent. of the total population.

Grain is flowing in freely wherever it is wanted, and there seems no reason to apprehend that this flow will be checked so long as the various Darbars refrain from undue interference with the dealers.

8. *Prices.*—The only direction in which there has been any alleviation of the general distress is in the price of food-grains.

The following table shows the highest prices hitherto recorded during the present scarcity and the latest quotations received :—

State or District.	Price per rupee of cheapest grain ruling during week ending—		Fall in price.	
	4th October.	28th December.	Actual.	Per cent.
	Srs. Cha.	Srs. Cha.	Srs. Cha.	
Marwar	6 8	9 7	2 15	45
Mewar	7 0	7 8	0 8	7
Bundi	9 12	10 0	0 4	2
Tonk	8 4	10 8	2 4	27
Shahpura	8 3	11 0	2 13	34
Bharatpur	9 8	12 5	2 13	29
Bikaner	9 0	10 0	1 0	11
Kotah	10 0	10 4	0 4	2
Jha'awar	9 13	10 7	0 10	6
Sirohi	8 0	9 8	1 8	19
Ajmer	9 4	11 0	1 12	19
Merwara	9 12	11 5	1 9	16

The small decline in Mewar and Bundi compared with the general fall elsewhere is probably due to the interference of the Darbar with private trade. As a rule, such interference has been confined within narrow limits in Rajputana, and, so far as can be judged, this policy of abstention has been justified by its results. It is understood that the Bundi Darbar, at the instance of the Political

Agent, has recently removed restrictions on grain traffic. The future course of prices will depend largely on the accounts received of the progress of the spring harvest in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. Should that progress be satisfactory, there is little reason to suppose that prices will fall much below their present level. But if the winter rains are markedly deficient in those parts of India, the prices of the cheapest food-grains will probably rise to a point they have not attained since the beginning of the famine. There is nothing to show, however, that, if such a contingency arises, it will be accompanied by any slackening in the supply of grain, or that even the high rates of 1897 will be exceeded.

9. *States affected.*—The famine has now reached the stage of development which enables a more accurate estimate to be made of the relative degree of distress in the different States than was possible when the first report was submitted in September last.

The chief factor in this estimate is the extent to which the people avail themselves of the various measures for relief offered to them, qualified by the efficiency of these measures. The usual famine returns and the other indications which present themselves show that the territories in which famine in its most acute form is prevalent are Marwar, Bikaner, Mewar, Jaisalmer, and the greater part of the Harauti and Tonk Agency. Distress is not quite so general in the rest of Bundi and Tonk, Sirohi, Shahpura, Kishangarh, and the three small States of Dungarpur, Banswara, and Partabgarh, but even in this section of the province the situation may be described as serious and is little better than that of the worst tracts. Taken as a whole, the pressure in the remaining States is much less severe, but the distress in parts of Jaipur, for instance, seems to be really acute. Over the whole of Rajputana the famine is admitted to exceed in severity any of which there is authentic record. Prices will never rise so high as in the great famine of 1863-69, thanks to the spread of railway communication. But failure of crops, the absence of fodder, the dearth of water, the block of the emigration channel, and their attendant consequences, are probably unprecedented in degree.

10. *Relief Works.*—Most of the Railway projects mentioned in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this office letter, No. 4382, dated the 23rd September last, are now in hand. The works actually in progress in the different States are shown in the following table:—

State.	Railways.	Other
Marwar	Barmer-Shadapalli	Tanks and roads.
	Baran-Marwar Junction	
Mewar... ..	Baran-Marwar Junction	Small tanks.
Bundi	Baran Marwar Junction	Petty works.
Tonk ... ..	... ..	Tanks.
Shahpura	Baran-Marwar Junction	Tanks.
Bharatpur ... ..	... ..	Tanks and roads.
Bikaner	Bikaner-Surpura re-alignment	Tanks and roads.
	Bikaner-Bhatinda Junction	
Jaisalmer ... ..	... ..	Roads.
Jaipur	Rewari-Phalera Junction	Tanks and roads.
Kishangarh ... ..	... ..	Petty works.
Sirohi ... ..	... ..	Ditto.
Alwar ... ..	... ..	Ditto.

The majority of the workers in Marwar are employed on two large tanks where water is available, but an increasing number are being admitted to the Barmer extension railway. The programme is not sufficient for the estimated demand, but, although the water difficulty is so great, it is probable that additional projects will be added from time to time, and that the supply of works will keep ahead of requirements.

In Mewar the railway works are giving a certain amount of relief, but although improvement is visible, neither the famine programme nor the organisation is yet equal to coping with the needs of the people. There is no lack of useful projects, but the necessity for extending the present scope of the relief measures has not yet been fully grasped. The railway is of great service in Bundi, but the time has now come for starting work in the more distant parts of the State.

In Tonk the works in progress are chiefly tanks and roads, but they are too small and scattered to admit of proper supervision. When the survey has been finished, the earthwork of the link line between the Jaipur-Madhupur line and the Baran-Marwar junction railway *via* Tonk will be taken in hand. This will prove of the greatest service. The programme in Shahpura is equal to all needs. The railway work is well in hand, and the outlying tracts are provided with work on tanks. In Alwar and Bharatpur no railway work is possible; the applicants for labour are accommodated on petty works, such as tanks and roads. The majority of the workers in Bikaner are employed on the excavation of a large public tank, but considerable numbers are engaged on the construction of earthworks for the re-alignment of the existing permanent way between the stations of Surpura and Bikaner and on the extension of the line towards Bhatinda. The total on relief in Jaisalmer is limited, as a large proportion of the inhabitants of the country have found temporary occupation in Sind. The work consists chiefly of road-metalling. The main source of labour in Jaipur is the new link line between Rewari and Phalera junctions, but ordinary relief works afford much employment in this advancing State. In Kishangarh and Sirahi the workers are grouped on petty works, but now that an Engineer officer has arrived in the latter State, the whole scheme of relief will be reorganised. With the exception of Mewar and possibly Bundi, the various Darbars in Rajputana have risen to the gravity of the crisis, and are displaying commendable and effective activity in relieving the distress of their subjects.

11. *Numbers on relief.*—It is exceedingly difficult to form an approximate idea of the number of persons in each State who will require relief until the rains break. The present calamity, which in its dimensions and complex character is without precedent, is being treated on lines of policy which have hitherto not been recognised as practicable by the majority of the administrations concerned. Moreover, the want of reliable information regarding the numbers who have left any particular State and the proportion who may be expected to return makes any forecast based on the total population very uncertain. The figures in the last two columns of the following table afford a forecast of the future, but they are subject to the qualifications detailed above:—

State.	Numbers on relief during week ending the 28th December, 1929.	Probable daily average on relief between 1st January and 30th June, 1930.	Probable cost of relief shown in column 3.
1	2	3	4
Marwar... ..	83,675	125,000	Rs. 18,75,000
Mewar	21,318	68,000	10,20,000
Bundi	4,683	18,000	2,70,000
Tonk	4,022	16,000	2,40,000

State.	Numbers on relief during week ending the 28th December, 1899.	Probable daily average on relief between 1st January and 30th June, 1900.	Probable cost of relief shown in column 3.
1	2	3	4
Shahpura	3,936	8,000	Rs. 1,20,000
Bharatpur	12,495	16,000	2,40,000
Bikaner... ..	32,666	49,000	3,67,000
Jaisalmer	1,733	3,000	45,000
Jaipur	32,500	40,000	6,00,000
Kishangarh	8,124	12,000	1,80,000
Sirohi	2,019	9,000	1,35,000
Alwar	2,819	10,000	1,50,000
Dholpur	—	6,500	97,300
Karauli	—	2,000	30,000
Kotah	—	8,000	1,20,000
Jhalawar	—	2,500	37,500
TOTAL	209,990	393,000	55,27,000

The figures in column 3 have been obtained by adding those in column 2 to the numbers expected to be in receipt of relief when distress is most acute and dividing by 2. If the estimate is approximately correct, the exact totals of column 3 will be approached in number in most cases about three months hence, and will be considerably exceeded during the last three weeks of the famine. The figures have been framed on the supposition that the winter rains will be delayed till the end of January, and will then be somewhat deficient in quantity. The amounts shown in column 4 have been obtained by multiplying the figures in column 3 by 180 and dividing by 12, on the assumption that the distress will last for 6 months more, and on the average basis that every rupee will support twelve persons for a day. Expenditure on plough cattle and seed-grain and in other directions will probably swell the totals shown in column 4.

12. *Government Loans.*—The following table shows the various States which have applied for or received loans in accordance with paragraph 5 of Mr. Barnes's letter, No. 2909 L.-A., dated 9th October, 1899, with the amounts already granted or recommended by me to Government :—

State	Application	Recommended by the Agent to the Governor-General.	Sanctioned by the Government up to date.	Remarks.
1. Jodhpur ...	Rs. 36,00,000	Rs. 36,00,000	Rs. a. p. 13,00,000 0 0	Balance under consideration of Government.
2. Sirohi ...	2,00,000	2,00,000	70,000 0 0	Ditto ditto.
3. Jaisalmer ...	50,000	50,000	50,000 0 0	Ditto ditto.
4. Dungarpur ...	1,00,000	1,00,000	50,000 0 0	Ditto ditto.

State	Application.	Recommended by the Agent to the Governor-General.	Sanctioned by the Government up to date.		Remarks.
			Rs.	a. p.	
5. Kishangarh...	1,10,000	1,10,000	60,000	0 0	Balance under consideration of Government.
6. Lawa ...	20,000	20,000	20,000	0 0	
7. Tonk ...	15,00,000	8 to 10 lakhs	2,00,000	0 0	Ditto ditto.
8. Bundi ...	4,00,000	4,00,000	16,866	10 8	Ditto ditto.
9. Kotah ..	30,00,000	Not yet supported.	—		Under consideration of the Agent to the Governor-General.
10. Shahpura ...	1,50,000	1,50,000	50,000	0 0	Balance under consideration of Government.
11. Bharatpur ...	9,00,000	Not recommended.	—		Rejected by the Agent to the Governor-General.
12. Mewar ...	5,00,000	Ditto ...	—		Ditto ditto.
13. Hilly Tracts (Mewar).	58,700	58,700	50,000	0 0	Balance under consideration of Government.
TOTAL ...	1,05,88,700	54,88,700 to 56,88,700	20,18,766	10 8	

It would, I think, be imprudent at this stage to predict that the assistance which Government will be asked to afford will fall short of the maximum sum named in Mr. Barnes's letter cited above.

No. 15.

Letter from S. W. Eagerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 274 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 15th January 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 3853-I.A., dated the 22nd ultimo, requesting that information on the lines indicated in the Government of India's letter in the Revenue Department, No. 2—49-41-F., dated the 19th idem, may be furnished as regards the Native States in this Presidency by the 14th January 1900.

2. The information on behalf of the Gujarat Agencies (viz., Mahi Kantha, Rewa Kantha, and Palanpur) will, I am to say, with reference to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 8375, dated the 9th ultimo, be submitted to the Government of India to-morrow, having only just been formulated by the Famine Department of this Government.

3. I am to forward the following information regarding other Native States.

4. *Cutch*.—The agricultural prospects have improved in so far that 369 new wells have been sunk. Rs. 15,000 in round figures have been sanctioned for an increase of 21,688 acres under irrigation up to date. 33,258 cwts. of grain and 1,00,000 cwts. of fodder from early irrigation have been harvested. It is expected that 50,000 cwts. of grain and 2,00,000 cwts. of fodder will be gathered up to June next from winter crops. It is anticipated that private traders will maintain the requisite stocks. 2,17,000 cwts. of grain and 8,481 cwts. of fodder have been imported by merchants. The Darbar imported

45,325 cwts. of grain, 1,00,000 bundles of grass, and 22,321 cwts. of grass are being imported. 30,000 persons are in receipt of relief, and the numbers will probably rise by 10,000 to 12,000 before next June. The condition of the cattle is better. The Darbar do not expect to lose any more. Fodder prices have fallen; that of kurbi by 50 per cent. Water will hold out except in parts of the Northern Districts, which are already deserted. The Tuna Anjar tram line has been sanctioned; also works at Mandvi and Mundra sufficient for requirements. The Political Agent considers that the Darbar would be wise to open works at Mandvi. The Darbar has spent up to date about rupees six lakhs on famine relief. Loans to Jagirdars and Girasias have been granted by the State up to Rs. 1,00,000 in round figures. The State will probably require no assistance from the British Government.

5. *Kathiawar*.—The agricultural situation is practically unaltered. No cold weather dry crops have been sown, but crops from well irrigation, which have been considerably extended since August, will save most of the surviving plough cattle and will give some relief to cultivators themselves, but none to the labouring classes. Food stocks will in all probability be fully maintained by private trade. This Government sees no present reason to alter the estimate accompanying my letter No. 8375 of the 9th ultimo, unless some of the States succeed in borrowing in the open market. According to that estimate, assistance to the extent of 60 lakhs will be required up to the end of June. I am to acknowledge receipt of your telegram No. 3844-I.A., dated 22nd ultimo, commenting on this estimate, but can only at present repeat that the estimate is based on the best information available to officers of considerable experience, one of whom was in charge of the Sholapur District during the famine of 1896-97, and that this Government cannot at present modify it. The report called for in the telegram above referred to will follow.

6. *Kaira, Surat and Thana Agencies, comprising the Cambay, Dharampur, Sachin, Bansda and Jawhar States*.—The Cambay State has applied for a loan of Rs. 3,00,000 at 4½ per cent. to meet the additional expenditure occasioned by the famine, or in the alternative that Government will give a guarantee if they endeavour to raise the money in the open market. The State is undertaking the Petlad-Cambay Railway in co-operation with the Baroda Darbar and pressing on the work to open up their territory. The loan would no doubt be a convenience, but is not at present an absolute necessity, though it may become so before the monsoon. The Sachin, Bansda, and Jawhar States need no assistance. In connection with the Dharampur State, I am to append a copy of a letter* from the Chief, No. 42, dated the 5th November 1899, to the Agent to His Excellency the Governor at Surat, together with the remarks of the Agent and the Commissioner, N. D., thereon. It is clear that the Dharampur Darbar will not be able to get through the year without some assistance. The actual estimated requirements of the State for relief purposes are Rs. 2,45,000, and it will be seen that the Raja has reduced his expenditure as far as possible in consultation with the Political Agent. But the Raja asks Government to guarantee and negotiate a loan of 9 lakhs for him at 9 per cent. He has a heavy debt at high interest, and with the Government guarantee he could probably raise the 9 lakhs at 6 per cent., and the operation would actually decrease the burden of interest at present falling on the State and much strengthen its position for the future. The Raja is not in debt by his own default and extravagance, is a most conscientious ruler, and worthy of every assistance. If the policy of allowing a guarantee is disapproved, a direct loan of Rs. 2,50,000 seems necessary. The Raja is willing to accept the terms on which the Government of India have granted such loans in Rajputana.

7. *Poona and Satara Agencies, comprising the Bhor, Aundh and Phaltan States*.—None of these States require help.

8. *Alakhot State*.—This State also does not need any assistance. The State will be severely crippled by the famine and its relief expenditure is estimated at about Rs. 3,00,000, but suspension of instalments of Nazarana and

* Not printed.

of other Government dues will enable it to meet its liabilities as it has a sum of Rs. 2,73,000 saved with a view to the suitable marriage of the late Raje Saheb's daughters. That fund it must now draw on and replace hereafter.

9. *Kolhapur and Southern Maratha Country.*—The late rains having failed, the agricultural prospects in almost all the States in this Agency have seriously deteriorated. Crops are much below the average. No hope of reaping late crops is entertained. Generally prices will rise above those of 1897. Food stocks will be maintained by private trade. The extent to which the States included in this Agency have applied for help is explained in the annexed copy of a letter from the Political Agent, No. 16, dated the 6th instant, and its accompanying statement. There is no necessity for any assistance to Rámdurg, which has ample funds to meet the emergency as estimated. The case of Jath is difficult. The State is one which suffers from every famine and it is not freed from the liabilities incurred in the famine of 1896–97. Suspension of demands against it will be necessary and a loan of Rs. 3,20,000 is apparently the minimum assistance which will enable it to meet the present emergency. The State is under British administration on account of the minority of the Chief. The mediatised Jaghir of Ichalkaranji may also need some assistance, but the figures submitted are evidently unreliable and I am to withhold any definite estimate as to its wants.

Should the Governor-General in Council see fit to sanction this Government either arranging for interstatal loans or giving a guarantee for loans raised in the open market, all the above demands except for Káthiáwár could be arranged without any call on the resources of the Imperial Government.

10. The remaining States, *viz.*, Sávanur, Sávantvádi and Janjira, are not in need of help.

No. 16.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 365, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 16th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 274 of yesterday's date, and with reference to paragraph 2 thereof, I am directed to submit the following information regarding the Gujjarát Agencies:—

The agricultural situation is practically the same throughout the Pálanpur Superintendency, comprising Pálanpur State, smaller States included in Thána Circles and Rádhanpur State. The situation in this Superintendency is too easily summarised. After a previous year of insufficient rainfall there has been practically no rain this year since the middle of June. The kharif crop and grass have absolutely failed. All but a fraction of the cattle have died or must die. In certain areas there is a limited amount of produce grown upon wells, which will supply fodder for the surviving cattle and a small amount of food for human beings. This is not possible on by far the greater part of the land even in the more fertile parts, and in the less fertile parts even drinking water has already failed.

2. As regards the *Pálanpur State* the relief requirements are estimated by the Political Superintendent, as follows:—

Out of a population of 275,000 he anticipates an average of 34,854, and a maximum of about 53,000 persons on relief, involving an expenditure up to the end of June of Rs. 10,35,688, or say 10½ lakhs. Towards this outlay His Highness has applied up to date for six lakhs on the terms laid down by the Government of India. According to the latest available Administration Report (1897–98), the gross income of the State was Rs. 6,59,527 against a gross expenditure of Rs. 6,49,594, and the balance at the end of that year was Rs. 15,622. His Highness also now asserts that he has already spent nearly 2½ lakhs on famine relief and that the end of the year will find him indebted to his State banker for ordinary expenses to the extent of over 6 lakhs. He proposes to pay off the six lakhs asked of Government as follows:—

1901, 1902, and 1903 the interest only.
 1904—½ lakh and interest.
 1905—½ lakh and interest.
 1906—1910—1 lakh and interest every year.

The Commissioner, however, considers that these figures of income and expenditure are practically valueless, and makes the following remarks:—"Mr. Fitzgerald entertains no doubt that nothing like 2½ lakhs has been spent on famine. The statement that a balance against the State of 6 lakhs will be run up with the State banker which His Highness expects to pay off in ten years, implies (as for the first three years he will pay nothing but interest) that for the remaining seven years he will pay off two lakhs per annum or more. Mr. Fitzgerald does not doubt that he can do this, but it gives some idea of what the savings of former years must have been, no vestige of which is now admitted. If a loan of say 10½ lakhs be granted on the above estimate of famine requirements (Rs. 10½ lakhs), it would have to be made repayable in 15 years. If a share in the Deesa Railway should be also taken, some reduction might be made in the strictly famine loan corresponding to the cost of earthwork and ballast, and 20 years might be allowed for repayment of the 15 lakhs. The railway might be expected to pay the interest of what is expended on it. At present, however, His Highness has only put his hand to an application for six lakhs."

3. The Governor in Council, however, doubts whether it will be necessary to continue relief to so large a proportion of the population as the Political Superintendent anticipates. The number on relief works is already exceedingly large, but it is possible that the conditions are not sufficiently strict. It is not apparent why relief should be required in this State to an extent far in excess of that given in British districts in which there has been an equally complete failure of crops. Pending further inquiry on this point, the Governor in Council thinks that the loan should be limited to Rs. 6,00,000 inclusive of that of Rs. 2,00,000 already sanctioned.

4. Regarding *Thána Circles* and petty States the Commissioner, N. D., reports as follows:—

"6. The population is 272,000. In the estimate now submitted by Mr. Fitzgerald it is assumed that there will be no reflux of people who have gone away to Sind and elsewhere in large numbers. On this assumption he asks for Rs. 5,75,000 up to 30th June for famine relief in the *Thána Circles* including the petty States. He also asks for special loans to the Chiefs of the small States aggregating Rs. 55,000, differing from the proposals in paragraph 14 of my letter quoted in the preamble of Government Resolution No. 8276, in that he asks Rs. 15,000 instead of Rs. 10,000 for Wáo. Mr. Fitzgerald will be asked for further information on these two points. It is presumed that the guarantee sanctioned by Government in Government Resolution No. 7,164 of 21st October 1899 has not been availed of.

"7. As for security, the only present basis for the General Famine Relief loan is the General Agency Fund, which is little more than solvent. An additional one-anna cess is estimated by Government (Government Resolution No. 6,879 of 7th October last) to produce in normal times Rs. 35,000 per annum, in which Mr. Fitzgerald concurs. A two-anna local cess is estimated to produce Rs. 65,000 net, when the effects of famine are over. It appears to me that any more detailed forecast is premature. Everything future is still so uncertain. All that can at present be safely said is that there will be a fund available which may allow of repayment of the loan with interest in 17 years as per Mr. Fitzgerald's statement A. It may be noted that this statement provides for a loan estimated to carry on relief up till the end of November, not the end of June.

"8. From *Tharid* and *Wáo* will have to be recovered their share of the famine relief loan and also any loans that may be made to them for domestic maintenance and management. *Dodar* and *Thára* will have to contribute to the special cess for famine relief work, but will be singly responsible for any loans granted for maintenance."

5. The Governor in Council recommends that for the purposes above referred to a loan of Rs. 6,30,000 may be sanctioned.

6. The population of the *Rádhanpur State* is 98,017. The Administrator assuming that 20 per cent. of the population will need relief, calculates the daily average number to be 19,272, and the cost for 13 months to be Rs. 8,19,060. He estimates, however, that after setting apart Rs. 1,00,000 for *tagai*, there will be available out of the resources of the State Rs. 2,36,563. The Governor in Council is inclined to think that relief is being given in the State also on too liberal a scale, but considers that a loan of the amount of Rs. 5,83,000 calculated by the Administrator to be required over and above the existing resources available for relief should be sanctioned, as it can be repaid while the State is under the administration of this Government.

7. In the States under the *Mahi Kántha Agency* there has been little or no useful rain, such as there was having for the most part fallen before the cultivating season. It is stated, however, that over the greater part of the area there

is water near the surface and all existing wells have been utilized, with the result that more grain will be harvested than was at first thought probable, and that the supply of fodder is not so deficient as elsewhere. The Political Agent states that in no case has there been a loss of more than 33 per cent. of agricultural cattle.

8. The accompanying statement* gives the Political Agent's estimate of requirements for Thána Circles.

9. The basis of the estimate has not been clearly explained, but it is stated that in Kátosan about 4½ per cent. of the people are now on relief works, about 6 per cent. in Bávisi and only about 67 per cent. in Sábarkántha. His Excellency in Council thinks that the loan of 2 lakhs required for the Thána Circles should be sanctioned on the security of the Thána Funds. The surpluses are, it is true, small, and the Political Agent doubts the expediency of raising the cess, but the means of securing repayment may be left for future consideration. Unless the assistance asked for is granted, large numbers of people will either die or be driven for relief to British territory.

10. As regards the jurisdictional States under the agency the means of forming any useful estimate of relief requirements have not been supplied. The Chiefs are not willing to supply information. The principal State is Idar and only 1 per cent. of its population are at present being relieved, but many are in a very emaciated condition and many others are on relief works in British territory. The Chief has contemplated carrying on works costing only Rs. 50,000, but the Political Agent considers an expenditure of at least 2,00,000 to be necessary. This amount has already been sanctioned, and no further assistance appears at present called for. The sums required for other States, which are small, and Talukas amount in the aggregate to Rs. 82,400. They also should be sanctioned. The condition that the States may be taken under management if the loans are not repaid within the time stipulated affords adequate security.

11. As regards the States under the Rewa Kántha Agency little information is available. There have apparently been no crops except on irrigated land, but the situation may be alleviated if the mhowra yield be good. The Raja of Rájppla has given a list of works which he proposes to undertake, and the cost after exhausting his own resources will be about 5 lakhs. There are also asked 1 lakh for Sunth, 1 lakh for Bálsinor, and 1 lakh for Jámbughoda and other smaller States. A further report is promised by the Political Agent, but the Governor in Council has little doubt that an adequate distribution of relief in the Rewa Kántha will not be possible without loans amounting to 8 lakhs. The States are fairly prosperous, so that the security for repayment is ample.

12. I am to add that this Government are concentrating the whole famine administration in the hands of the Special Famine Department and to request that any orders on these letters may be communicated to this Government in that Department.

No. 17.

Letter from W. R. H. Merk, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.—No. 104, dated Lahore, the 13th January, 1900.

In reply to your telegram No. 3353 I.-A., dated the 22nd December 1899, I am directed to submit the following report as regards the agricultural condition and prospects in the Punjab Native States.

2. There is no distress in Bahawalpur. The ordinary works started in the State, as reported in paragraph 2 of Mr. Dane's letter No. 1228 S., dated

* Not printed.

the 25th, September 1899, afford ample employment to immigrants from Bikaner.

3. On the whole the prospects in the Jind State appear somewhat better than was expected when the State was last reported on in September. The Pharif harvest has yielded a larger out-turn than was anticipated, and the prospects of the coming rabi are on the whole more favourable. A special officer has been appointed to control relief measures in the State, and work on the Dhuri-Jakhai Railway, which has been reserved for local labour, will be carried out under his supervision and will provide sufficient labour for the famine-stricken. Gratuitous relief will be afforded throughout the State where necessary. The Darbar has already advanced Rs. 20,000 for the purchase of seed, thus enabling a larger tract to be brought under cultivation. The Lieutenant-Governor considers that these arrangements for the present are sufficient. The attention of the Political Officer with the Raja has been directed to the State operations for the relief of famine. The State is not in need of funds.

4. In Nabha the distress is restricted to those tracts which are entirely dependent on the rainfall. The State has granted large remissions of land revenue. Relief works have already been started at the capital, and Sandabarts, where food is given gratis to the poor and helpless, have been opened in all three ilukas of the State. The State will not need aid in the shape of funds. The Raja is a vigilant ruler of the old type, and attends to the wants of his people.

5. The circumstances of the Kapurthala State are similar to those of the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts of the Jullundur Division. No distress exists in the State at present, nor is it likely that if experienced at all it will be acute.

6. There is no serious distress at present in Faridkot or Maler Kotla. No change has taken place in the former, and relief works have been started in Faridkot itself for the employment of the poor. In Maler Kotla the revenue will be paid and the people are not yet in distress. The funds of both States are sufficient to carry out any relief measures that may hereafter be found to be necessary.

7. In Patiala an area of about 50 square miles containing some 400 villages with a total population of about 229,600 is affected. The State has suspended Rs. 2,58,700 land revenue, and has various schemes under consideration with a view to alleviate distress. A certain amount of gratuitous relief is being administered. But owing to the absence of vigorous direction, personal interest, and maintained effort in the central authority of the administration, the Lieutenant-Governor fears that the requisite attention to famine operations is not yet seriously paid by the Darbar, and though there is no reason to apprehend for the present widespread distress or risk to life in the State, the Darbar is being pressed to attend to these matters. The State expresses willingness to bear the expenditure on any relief works that may have to be undertaken, and apparently does not look to Government for aid in that direction.

8. There are still no signs of scarcity in the Kalsia State, but distress has deepened in the States of Dujana, Pataudi, and Loharu, and the Commissioner of Delhi reports that it is likely that he will need a loan of a lakh and a-half to assist the rulers of those States in affording relief to their subjects.

No. 18.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 699, dated Baroda, the 10th January 1900.

In reply to your telegram No. 3852 L.-A., dated the 23rd December last, I have the honour to submit the following on the present agricultural situation, crop prospects and famine relief requirements of Baroda territory.

2. After the first few showers in the beginning of the last monsoon, the rains held off generally throughout the State, except in the greater portion of the Naosari Division, south of the River Tapti. Sowing operations were commenced after the first showers, but the crops mostly dried up. In parts of the Baroda and Kadi Divisions a shower towards the end of September gave some hopes of a revival of the monsoon, and the land was resown, with the result that the seed was lost. Until the Deserah festival, the people had hopes of rains, as in this part of India such a total failure of monsoon has never occurred within the memory of the present generation, but these hopes were not realised. The ryots then began to deepen their wells and dig new wells wherever possible, as the only resource left; in this they were assisted by the Darbar by liberal grants of taccavi advances. Special arrangements were made to give taccavi advances promptly in places where the conditions were favourable for the excavation of irrigation wells. Taccavi advances for seed, for fodder, and for the subsistence of the families of those engaged in irrigation were also made, and thus some alleviation of distress has been afforded. The crops raised by irrigation are reported to be in fairly good condition.

3. The number of persons on the relief works and receiving gratuitous relief throughout the State at the end of December was about 60,000, or 2½ per cent. of the total population. It is expected that by the end of March the number may increase to 120,000, or 5 per cent., and reach the culminating point in May or June at 150,000.

4. Stocks of food-grains with the people are running low, but private trade is active and able to meet any requirements for supplies of grain. Prices are somewhat easier and steadier now than they were a month ago, owing to abundant harvests in the rice-producing districts in other parts of India. It is not possible to say whether there would be a great rise or not next April, but it is anticipated that prices will not rise much higher than they did in 1897.

No. 19.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 399 G., dated Indore, the 11th January 1900.

I have the honour to submit the report called for in your telegram No. 3852 L-A., dated the 22nd December, 1899, on the agricultural situation and prospects in Central India, and the probable extent to which measures of relief will be required.

2. I would preface my report by observing that the forecast made by Colonel Wyllie in his letter No. 8031 G., dated the 23rd September, 1899, has so far as the *kharif* crop is concerned been fully justified. There was no rainfall sufficient to benefit the crops in the affected parts of Central India between the date of Colonel Wyllie's report and the end of the year 1899, and the failure of the *kharif* within those parts has been even more complete than was anticipated.

3. For the purpose of this report, I have found it convenient to divide Central India into four groups, arranged according to their position, their circumstances, and the administrative necessities of the situation. The first group consists of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand. Both these areas suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97. The second group includes the northern portions of the Maharaja Sindhia's territories and the petty States directly under the Resident at Gwalior. The third comprises the whole of Malwa and includes a large portion of Maharaja Sindhia's and Maharaja Holkar's territories, the smaller States of the Malwa Agency, Bhopal, as well as the Dewas States and the small Thakurates of Bagli, Pathari, and Karodia, which are under

management by the Central India Agency. The fourth group consists of the Bhopawar Agency, including portions of the Gwalior and Indore States,

GROUP I.

4. *Bundelkhand-Baghelkhand*.—In Bundelkhand there is no reason to anticipate any distress; no reports of scarcity or failure of crops have been received from Captain Pritchard.

In Baghelkhand, Captain Pinhey, who had charge of this Agency in the famine year of 1896-97, and is fully acquainted with the usual symptoms of distress, reports that, in the northern parts of the Agency, the kharif crop was good and the rabi estimated to yield an eight to ten anna crop. In the southern tahsils of Rewah, however, and in parts of the smaller States of Nagode, Maihar, and Sohawal, there is practically no rabi crop; in spite of this the condition of the people is still good, and there have been no reports of starvation or acute distress; but to afford timely relief, and so prevent emigration, it has been found necessary to open relief works and schemes for providing work for upwards of 35,000 persons, at a cost of about 2 lakhs, up to the end of March, are already in operation, while for the period from April to June provision will be made for 65,000 persons at a cost of 3½ lakhs. This programme will, it is hoped, be carried out without assistance from Government, beyond the cost of deputation of the two Famine Assistants already appointed. Fodder, except in Maihar, is reported plentiful, and the condition of cattle is so far good. Food-stocks are sufficient everywhere except in Maihar, and there they can be easily replenished by private trade, as the East Indian Railway runs through the State. Prices throughout the affected area are not likely to go below the point reached in 1897; the price of wheat in December, 1896, was 8 seers to the rupee, whereas during December, 1899, it has not gone below 13½ seers to the rupee, and jowar is now selling at 23 seers to the rupee, as compared with 12½ seers in 1896-97.

GROUP II.

5. *Gwalior, Northern Districts, and the States under the Resident, Gwalior*.—In this area the kharif has been fair and the prospects of the rabi crop are not regarded as bad. In Colonel Pitcher the Gwalior Darbar possesses an officer of large revenue experience who in 1896-97 was in charge of famine operations on a large scale, and is fully competent to deal with any emergency that may arise, though judging from present circumstances no distress is likely to occur. His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, too, is fully alive to the necessities of the situation throughout his State, and the administration of famine in his territory may with confidence be left in his hands. The condition of cattle has not so far shown any signs of deterioration. As for food-stocks the Gwalior Darbar reports that exportation is going on, and that there are apparently surplus stocks in hand, while prices are steady. It is at present impossible to estimate with any accuracy the extent of famine relief likely to be required between April and June, but the number on relief works at the close of the year was only 7,500 out of a population of nearly 2 millions, and of these many are wanderers from Rajputana. In any case, the Gwalior Darbar will require no assistance from Government. Similar remarks apply to the smaller States under the Resident at Gwalior, save that in these cases measures necessary to prevent severe distress will be supervised by the Resident, who has to-day started on a tour to these States.

GROUP III.

6. *Malwa, including part of Gwalior, part of Indore, the States of the Malwa Agency, Dewas, &c.*—In this area the kharif may be said to have failed over large tracts, from which Bhopal, the Dewas States, and Bagli may be excluded. In these three States the yield may be taken at from 4 to 8 annas. As regards the rabi it has practically failed, very little having been sown for

want of rain. The condition of the people is consequently bad, and much distress must be looked for. This is in part due to the want of agricultural employment and partly to high prices, the position being greatly aggravated by the influx of large numbers of immigrants from Rajputana with their cattle.

These immigrants are now being gradually drafted back to their homes, but the numbers in receipt of relief are still great.

The numbers on relief towards the end of the year were approximately 6,000 in Gwalior, 6,000 in Indore, and 15,604 in the States in the Malwa Agency, while in Bhopal the number was only 593. The population in these tracts* is, respectively, 790,000, 650,000, and 328,990, and the Political Agent estimates that 25 per cent. of the entire population of the Native States in his Agency may require relief between April and June, in which case further loans may be required. In this connection I would invite a reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3683, dated the 12th December, 1899. Maharaja Sindhia having placed 12 lakhs at my disposal for distribution in loans to Native States for famine and administrative purposes, no call on Government need be anticipated, unless the situation proves far graver than at present supposed. The condition of cattle throughout the Malwa Agency is bad, fodder being very scarce. Food-stocks are not sufficient, but requirements can be met by private trade; as the whole area is well served by railway and road communications, grain is already being steadily imported. The prices of jowar, the staple food, has already reached 10 seers a rupee, and it is feared that it will rise higher than in 1897, when it was 9 seers.

In the Bhopal Agency the situation is better. As the kharif crop was generally between 6 annas and 8 annas, there is a larger supply of fodder and the stocks of food-grains are sufficient.

In Dewas the situation is not serious, but it has been found necessary to suspend revenue, and relief will, it is thought, have to be provided in the next four months to 2,222 persons, at a cost of Rs. 50,000. Stocks are sufficient, and can easily be supplemented by private trade.

GROUP IV.

7. *Bhopawar*.—The Political Agent reports that the rabi will nowhere yield more than a 6-anna crop, and that for the most part it will fail altogether. Much labour has, however, been provided for the wilder agricultural classes and the Bhils in cutting grass for stock and export, the digging of wells has been encouraged, 200 having been started in Barwani alone. The condition of the people is consequently not as bad as would otherwise have been the case. In Dhar the price of jowar varies from 6 to 7 seers a rupee, which is higher than in 1897, but the Political Agent expects no general rise above 8 seers. In Barwani, Ali Rajpur, Jhabua, and Jobat grain is cheaper. Food-stocks generally are insufficient, but can be easily supplemented by private trade. In Dhar 20,000 persons are already employed on relief works, in Barwani 6,000, in Ali Rajpur 3,000, in Jhabua 1,000, and in Jobat 2,000, and the numbers are rising. Such loans as are necessary will, however, be made available from the sum placed at disposal by Maharaja Sindhia. Regarding Gwalior territory lying within the Bhopawar Agency, it is too early to say anything more than that the conditions are similar to those prevailing in the rest of the Agency. His Highness will shortly visit this tract himself and take the steps necessary to secure effective relief.

As for Indore territory, conditions are similar, but the famine administration of the Darbar cannot be relied on to meet requirements. Mr. Bosanquet has devoted himself energetically to the task of coping with the distress prevailing in his Agency, and he and his assistant, Lieutenant Holden, have visited every part of it; and as for the most part the States concerned are small, he is personally responsible for the direction of the necessary measures, and I am confident that he will do all that is necessary to mitigate the distress with which the States of the Bhopawar Agency are threatened.

* Gwalior, Indore, and States of Malwa Agency.

General Summary.—Reviewing the position generally, I am of opinion that the Malwa and Bhopawar Agencies give cause for anxiety, and that owing to the total failure of the rabi crop, to the scarcity of fodder and water, and to the high prices already prevailing in these Agencies, it may be anticipated that the existing distress will intensify during the next six months, and that at least 10 per cent. of the population will come on to relief works; while in certain districts—inhabited, by Bhis the percentage will be far greater. I do not anticipate distress in Bundelkhand, and only to a limited extent and over small areas in Baghelkhand; while in Northern and Eastern Gwalior, and in eastern parts of the Bhopal Agency, I expect there will be some distress necessitating active measures, but no actual famine.

I can assure the Government of India that every possible means will be adopted by me and by the officers serving with me in Central India to keep the Chiefs and officials of Native States mindful of their duties and responsibilities, and to bring to notice any faults or shortcomings in the administration of famine relief. As the financial part of the question is practically settled by the sanction accorded by the Government of India to Maharaja Sindhia's offer of a loan of 12 lakhs, I do not attempt any forecast of expenditure during the current financial year. It is probable that, before prosperity is restored, the whole of the 12 lakhs to be lent by Maharaja Sindhia will be required by the States of Malwa and Bhopawar, but only such sums will be advanced as are actually wanted month by month. Equally impossible is it from the data to hand to form a preliminary forecast of relief requirements from 1st April to the end of June, but, as I have remarked, I trust that it will not be necessary for me to ask the Government of India for pecuniary aid to the States of Central India.

With regard to stocks of grain it may be assumed that the supply will be generally sufficient throughout Central India, and that wherever stocks run low they can be supplemented by private trade. Prices, from the indications already noted, are in my opinion likely to remain substantially *above* the point reached in 1897 in the Malwa and Bhopawar Agencies, but below that point in Bundelkhand, Baghelkhand, Northern Gwalior, and Bhopawar.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

STATES OF THE CENTRAL INDIA AGENCY.

No. 20.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7763 G., dated Indore Residency, the 15th September, 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted letters, and to report that Maharaja Holkar has at length agreed to remove all restrictions on the export of grain from the Indore State—which up to this time His Highness has persistently maintained.

2. May I be permitted to convey to His Highness an expression of the satisfaction of the Government of India at the receipt of this intelligence?

Enclosure 1 in No. 20.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, No. 7237, dated Indore Residency, the 29th August, 1899.

In the correspondence which passed between this office and yourself in 1896, Colonel Barr informed you of the strong views held by the Government of India in favour of free trade and non-interference in grain traffic during times of scarcity and high prices.

The practice of stopping exports, or imposing prohibitory duties the moment prices begin to rise, is an unfortunate tendency which all Native States formerly found difficulty in overcoming.

But the extension of railways, and improved communications with what were formerly out of the way places, have completely changed the conditions of trade in India, and with a few isolated exceptions all Native States have now accepted the free trade principles.

I should be glad to hear that His Highness the Maharaja Holkar had also resolved to adopt an enlightened policy in regard to the Indore State and to allow grain to enter or leave his territories without the imposition of any kind of impediments.

Enclosure 2 in No. 20.

Letter from Rai Nanak Chand Bahadur, Minister to His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, to the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 861, dated Indore Darbar, the 11th September, 1899.

In continuation of my letter No. 820 of the 30th August last, regarding the export and import of grain on the principle of free trade policy, and with reference to Captain Windham's letter No. 7447 of 1899, dated the 6th instant,

I am glad to inform you that His Highness the Maharaja Sahib has been pleased to adopt the policy in regard to the Indore State as suggested by you and that a general order to this effect will be printed in the next issue of the Holkar State Gazette. I request you to be good enough to communicate this to the Political Agent at Bhopawar that he may issue Parwanas in the meantime, if he likes, and let me know kindly the names of the Mahals, so that I may direct the revenue authorities concerned not to restrict the export of the grain.

No. 21.

Letter from H. Daly, Esq., the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 2776 I.-A., dated Simla, the 25th September, 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 7763-G., dated the 15th September, 1899, reporting that His Highness the Maharaja Holkar has at length agreed to remove all restrictions on the export of grain from the Indore State.

2. The Government of India have received this intelligence with satisfaction, and His Highness the Maharaja may be so informed.

No. 22.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 8649, dated the 13th October, 1899.

Following telegram received to-day from Political Agent, Baghelkhand ;—
Begins. Have returned from tour and find, owing to scanty rain in September and complete cessation since fourteenth idem, South-West Rewah, South Nagode, whole Maihar—approximate area 6,650, population 600 thousand—seriously affected. Darbars will doubtless do their best, and relief works being started, but to prevent wandering into British territory and to acquire reliable information, services of two British officers as Famine Assistants required in Baghelkhand. Scarcity anticipated in other parts of Agency also if no rain falls within one month. *Ends.*

No. 23.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 3006 I.-A., dated the 17th October, 1899.

3006 I.-A. Your telegram 8649, October 13th. Services of two officers for famine work in Baghelkhand have been applied for. Addressed to Agent to the Governor-General, Central India, and repeated to Political Agent, Baghelkhand.

No. 24.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9060 G., dated Indore Residency, the 25th October 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information and orders of the Govern-

Telegram from His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, to the Agent to the Governor-General, dated the 26th September, 1899.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General, to His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, dated the 26th September, 1899.

Letter to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 8790, dated the 18th October, 1899.

ment of India, a copy of the marginally-noted correspondence in regard to the relief and maintenance of famine-stricken immigrants from Rajputana.

2. Large numbers of these people with their wives and children are scattered throughout Central India, and as time advances their distress must increase.

Already many of them are employed* on works in the Malwa and Bhopawar Agencies, and many are subsisting on private charity doled out to them in the large towns.

My desire is that, before distress reaches the acute stage, some systematic plan may be adopted which will ensure relief to the destitute, and prevent the heavy mortality which must otherwise occur among persons who have no homes of their own in Central India, and no recognised claims on the authorities.

3. The scheme I have suggested to Mr. Martindale, although costly, could, I think, be successfully carried out in the Northern States of this Agency, but would, I fear, be attended with difficulties in the south-west owing to the distance of some of the States, such as Ali, Rajpur and Burwani, from a railway.

4. An alternative to the deportation of immigrants back to Rajputana would be to classify them carefully on relief works, and to recover afterwards the expense of their maintenance from the States to which they belong.

The drawback to this plan is the difficulty of verifying the classification and the natural objection States might raise to paying large sums of money until their liability to the charges was demonstrated to their satisfaction.

5. A copy of the latest immigration return I have received from the Political Agent in Malwa for the week ending on the 7th October is attached.

Enclosure 1 in No. 24.

Telegram from His Highness Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, dated the 26th September, 1899.

Thousands of people are passing through Malwa towards south from Rajputana and Manawar since a week; people are also coming from Rajputana towards Shopore and Goons. I shall be very thankful if you will kindly request the Agent, Governor-General, Rajputana, to influence the States concerned to check emigration. I am trying my best to help the emigrants, but at the same time I have to look after my own subjects. A favourable reply will oblige.

* Note.—On the 14th October out of 15,089 persons employed on Gwalior works in the Malwa Agency, 2,251 belong to Rajputana.

Enclosure 2 in No. 24.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Camp Bhopal, to His Highness Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior, No. 3 C., dated the 28th September, 1899.

Your Highness's telegram of 26th reached me to-day. I am calling on Political Agent, Malwa, for full particulars, and, as soon as they are received, will at once represent matters to Agent, Governor-General in Rajputana, in view of applying a remedy. I thank Your Highness for your generous assistance to immigrants which I trust for the present may not be relaxed.

Enclosure 3 in No. 24.

Letter from Captain C. J. Windham, First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 8790, dated Indore Residency, the 18th October 1899.

I am directed to address you in regard to the large number of immigrants from Rajputana, who have made their way into the different States of Central India in the hope of finding subsistence, and are now confronted with scarcity where they had looked for plenty.

2. Accurate statistics are not available, but it is estimated that during part of the month of September people were passing through Neemuch and Mandisore, going south, at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 a day. Although the greater number of these persons possessed cattle and were not of the poorest class, there is only too good reason to fear that the unexpected difficulties they have since had to encounter will in many cases soon exhaust their slender resources.

3. In the earlier part of the season, Colonel Wyllie endeavoured, through Political Officers, to impress on the Darbars the propriety of providing relief for all who required it, and for allowing immigrants with cattle free access to pasture lands. But since the middle of September little or no rain has fallen in Central India, food-grains have risen to almost famine price, and in many places a grass and water famine are apprehended.

In these circumstances it is scarcely surprising that outsiders should be regarded with disfavour, and that the Darbars should question their right to come on local relief works.

For the first few days after the Gwalior Darbar opened works in the neighbourhood of Neemuch and Mandisore, 90 per cent. of the persons who had recourse to them belonged to Rajputana. This no doubt was largely due to the proximity of the works to the main road. Since the distance to them has increased, the number of immigrants on them has fallen to something under 25 per cent., but shows no signs of falling lower.

4. Colonel Wyllie has made enquiries through Political Officers whether any particular localities exist within their charges, to which immigrants from Rajputana might advantageously be directed, but in no instance has he received a satisfactory reply.

5. It is neither possible, nor permissible, to compel Native Chiefs to administer relief on a large scale to people other than their own subjects, and the attached copy of a telegram addressed to the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia may be taken as a fair representation of the feeling of the Chiefs in Central India in the matter. The practice so far followed by the majority of the States is, Colonel Wyllie believes, to give relief to immigrants wherever they apply for it on the understanding that they pass on elsewhere the following day. The local officials, it must be remembered, have no sympathy with outsiders, and desire to impress their superiors with a sense of their own merits and good management by showing as small a relief expenditure as possible.

6. Colonel Wyllie wishes to bring the matter to the attention of the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana in good time before acute distress arises in view of eliciting his opinion as to the measures which had best be adopted.

The only plan which suggests itself to Colonel Wyllie, the details of which need working out, is that Rajputana immigrants seeking relief should be collected on works at convenient centres as near as possible to a railway line and drafted back in batches to the States or districts to which they belong.

If this scheme commends itself to Mr. Martindale, Colonel Wyllie will address Political Officers respecting its feasibility, and will ascertain whether the Darbars in Central India are ready to co-operate.

No. 25.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. C. Wyllie, C.I.E., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9168, dated Indore Residency, the 29th October, 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter* No. 2758, dated 23rd October, 1899, from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand, reporting on the condition of the kharif crops and the prospect of famine within his charge.

2. Captain Pinhey, who has spent four years in his present appointment and did excellent service in the famine of 1896-97, has a thorough knowledge of the States in his Agency, and bases his carefully prepared report on observations and inquiries made personally in the course of a recent tour through the scarcity affected areas.

3. It will be seen that the whole of the Rewa State south of the Kaimur range comprising 9,220 square miles, with a population of about 756,000, is already seriously affected, and will remain so until the next rainy season. Within this area distress threatens to be greatest in the districts of Ramnagar and Sohagpur, neither of which, fortunately, suffered much in the last famine.

4. In the smaller States in the Agency, distress is at present confined to Maihar and a large portion of Nagode, where, under Captain Pinhey's direction, effectual measures will be taken to cope with it.

5. Proposals for any loans which the Baghelkhand States may require will be submitted later, when the prospects of the rabi crops have been ascertained and reported on.

No. 26.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 9745 G., dated Indore Residency, the 13th November, 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statements for October 1899, from the States of Jaora, Rutlam, Sailana and Sitamau of the Malwa Agency.

2. The Political Agent is being asked to furnish the prescribed map of the affected area which will be forwarded when received.

* Not printed.

Enclosure 1 in No. 26.

Famine Statement for the month of October, 1899.

State.	Area	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands in Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaora ...	606 square miles.	117	606 square miles.	117	2,000	Nil.

Remarks.

The district wells are cleaned and dug. The physical condition of people is at present good. No death has occurred from starvation. 66 manasas, 17 mains and 9 maunds food grains are at present in the State. 11,287 maunds, 35 seers grain imported into the territories of the Jaora State. 1 manasa, 9 mains grain exported from the territories of the State. The rates of food grains have risen very high. Kharif crops have been destroyed. The hopes of the rabi crops are gradually coming to end. The bad effects of famine are increasing every day. The rates of wages are an anna and an anna and a half. No change has occurred. About 24,317 persons immigrated from Rajputana into the territories of the Jaora State and passed on to Rutlam, Khachrode, Indore, Ujjain, &c. in search of pasture for their cattle and water for themselves. Finding that there is scarcity of grass in this part of the country too, most of them are returning to their homes in Rajputana. The immigrants were given alms by the bankers and merchants of Jaora, who have collected funds for the purpose. About 100 persons are fed on charity every day.

(Sd.) MUBARAK ALI,
Acting Minister, Jaora.

Enclosure 2 in No. 26.

Famine Statement for the month of October, 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in Thousands	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in thousands in Column 4	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rutlam ...	729 square miles.	89	—	—	—	—

DARBAR OFFICE,
RUTLAM,
4th November, 1899.

(Sd.) C. RUSTAMJI,
Dewan of Rutlam

Remarks.

No relief work has yet been opened, but arrangements for the opening of test relief works are being made, and it is expected that some works would be opened in a short time.

Enclosure 3 in No. 26.

Famine Statement for the month ending October 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands in Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sailana ...	309.8*	31	309.8	31	Nil.	125

* *Vide Census of 1891.**Remarks.*

1. No relief works have been opened as yet, it being considered that the poorer classes of people will manage to support themselves even without such aid for some weeks more. It is proposed to start relief works when these will be considered necessary.

2. The merchants of this place and the State have already imported grain amounting to many manasas, and more quantities are being imported according as they are wanted here.

3. No emigration has taken place from this State.

4. Immigrants come here in small numbers, reside here for a short time and then leave with their cattle for other places (for further information on this subject please see the Immigration Statements regularly forwarded from here).

(Sd.) RAJKISHEN,
Dewan of Sailana.

Enclosure 4 in No. 26.

Famine Statement for the month of October 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands in Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sitamau ...	350 square miles.	29	The whole district.	29	None.	None.

SITAMAU, }
9th November 1899. }

(Sd.) BALWANT RAO TRIMBAK,
Kamdor of Sitamau.

Remarks.

No special relief has been as yet opened, but it is quite necessary to open such a work. Some 50 persons are working on the State building works, and some 100 persons on private works. It has not been found out, nor is it known that some deaths have taken place owing to starvation. No persons have emigrated from here. Importation of grain is current always from outside.

No. 27.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 9773, dated Indore Residency, the 14th November, 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statement for October 1899, for the Gwalior, Isagarh, and Malwa Prants of the Gwalior State.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Famine Statement of the Gwalior, Isagarh and Malwa Prants, Gwalior State, for the month of October 1899.

No.	State	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 5.	Total number on relief works on last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Gwalior Prant ...	5,063	989	1,995	229	7,442	—
2	Isagarh Prant ...	8,434	954	—	—	—	—
3	Malwa Prant ...	5,578	789	1,953	252	14,968	2,689
	TOTAL ...	19,063	2,734	3,888	481	22,410	2,689

Remarks.

Relief works in progress consist of repairs to old bunds, tanks and wells, sinking of kachha wells, repairs of kachha-pucca roads and construction of kachha bunds and roads, &c. Besides these, test works have been freely opened in almost all the pergunas, in order to see how far relief is needed by the Gwalior subject. Extensive labour will shortly be available on the Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopur Railway lines which are being surveyed. A poor-house has been established at Neemuch, and is worked out on the system laid down in the Famine Code. As yet there is no widely marked deterioration in the physical aspect of the people. No deaths from starvation have been reported. From affected areas exportation of grain is going on, showing that there are surplus stocks. No extensive deterioration of condition of cattle has yet been observed. No emigration has yet been reported, but the number of emigrants registered on various relief works, specially in Malwa Prant, is as follows:—

From British Territory	...	...	...	469
" Jodhpur	...	...	...	216
" Mewar	...	...	...	466
" Marwar	...	...	...	1,148
" Chittaur	...	...	...	19
" Tonk	...	...	...	29
" Jhalawar	...	...	...	36
" Udaipur	...	...	...	12
" Indore	...	...	...	95
" Dhar	...	...	...	4
" Jaipur	...	...	...	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	2,495

No. 28.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 10,074, dated the 21st November 1899.

The following States require loans urgently for administrative and famine relief purposes on estimates framed by Political Agents, namely, Sailana one lakh ten thousand, Sitamau one lakh twenty-five thousand, Jhabua one lakh, and Pathari two thousand. They have no money in their treasuries, and I consider advances are necessary to start relief works urgently needed, and to provide pay for establishments. Loans aggregating approximately eleven lakhs have been asked for by States of Jaora, Rutlam, Piploda, Dewas, Jobat, Nagode, Sohawal, and estates of Garhi Charadpura, Paldeo, Bagli, and Kamta. Their requests are being examined and will be submitted shortly; meanwhile I trust that funds urgently needed by Sailana, Sitamau, Jhabua, and Pathari may be placed at my disposal at Indore Treasury.

No. 29.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 3508 I.-A., dated the 23rd November 1899.

No. 3508 I.-A. Your telegram 10,074, dated November 21st. Proposed loans for Sailana and Sitamau seem very large in proportion to population. Please explain how estimates are arrived at. Estimates should ordinarily cover sums likely to be required for famine relief and expenditure due to scarcity, but for no other purpose. Please distinguish between sums required up to end of March and sums required next year.

No. 30.

Telegram from The Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Viceroy's Camp, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 11 C., dated the 26th November 1899.

Your telegram 3508 I.-A., November 23rd. Please refer to Foreign Secretary's letter No. 3888 I.-A., December 27th, 1896, regarding loans to Bundelkhand Chiefs. The position in Maiwa is identical with that in Bundelkhand in 1896, and, unless loans are made to cover expenses of administration as well as for expenditure on famine relief, the States whose resources are exhausted will not be able to meet the crisis. Details will be called for, but, meanwhile, I urge that I may be supplied with funds to prevent possible serious consequences. It is understood that loans will be given on conditions similar to those approved in 1896. Copy given to Foreign with Viceroy.

No. 31.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Camp. No. 3530 I.-A., dated the 29th November 1899.

Your telegram 11 C., November 26th. Government loans of one lakh to Jhabua, rupees two thousand to Pathari and half a lakh each to Sailana and Sitamau are sanctioned. Sums fixed for Sailana and Sitamau will, if necessary, be reconsidered when detailed estimates are received. Loans will be repayable in ten years, and will bear interest at 4 per cent. General conditions should follow those laid down in 1896. Only sums actually required in immediate future should be issued.

No. 32.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, to the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta. No. 10,574 G., dated the 5th December 1899.

Your telegram 3530 I.-A., November 29th. Maharaja Sindhia has offered loans not exceeding twelve lakhs to States for famine and administrative purposes on terms sanctioned in 1896. May I accept offer, thus relieving Government of India of loans asked for? If approved, I will ask Sindhia to send money to Indore Treasury, and will issue loans to extent sanctioned in your telegram under reply in such sums as are actually required for immediate future use.

No. 33.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore. No. 3683 I.-A., dated the 12th December 1899.

On the understanding that you see no political objection, please thank Maharaja Sindhia from Government of India, and accept His Highness's offer to make loans on terms of 1896 to States in Central India for famine and administrative purposes. The loans sanctioned in my telegram 3530 I.-A., November 29th, may be met from this source. Further loans should not be made without reference to Government of India. See paragraph 3 of my letter 3075 I.-B., 11th November 1898. You should advise Comptroller of all sums advanced by Gwalior, and of all payments made therefrom.

No. 34.

Letter from Lieutenant-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 No. 11068 G., dated Indore Residency, the 16th December 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 3683 I.-A., dated the 12th December 1899, intimating that the Government of India have accepted the offer made by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia of loans to States in Central India for famine and administrative purposes, and conveying certain instructions as to the condition on which the loans may be granted.

2. In reply, I have the honour to state that the acceptance of his offer is being duly communicated to His Highness with an expression of the thanks of the Government of India.

3. As regards the loans already sanctioned, viz. :—

	Rs.
Sailana	50,000
Sitamau	50,000
Pathari	2,000
Jhabua	1,00,000

or Rs. 2,02,000 in all; the Resident at Gwalior has been asked to arrange with the Darbar to place this sum without delay at my disposal at the Indore Treasury, and the Political Officers concerned will arrange for its being made available for expenditure in the States in question.

4. As regards the other States named in my telegram No. 10074 G., dated the 21st November 1899, I await detailed reports from the Political Agents in Malwa and Bhopawar as to the actual requirements of each State for (a) famine relief, (b) administrative purposes, together with an estimate of the financial condition of each State and the probable deficiency in revenue collections due to the failure of crops. These reports will be submitted to the Government of India, and sanction for each loan will then be requested.

No. 35.

Letter from Lieutenant-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. No. 11,067 C., dated Indore Residency, the 16th December 1899.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3683 I.-A., dated the 12th December 1899, sanctioning the grant of loans by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia to States in Central India for famine and administrative purposes, I have now to submit the following case for the consideration and orders of the Government of India.

2. Certain States, as Jaora (Malwa Agency), Dewas and Bagli (Indore Agency), have savings invested in Government securities, but with no prospect of realising enough of the current year's revenue to enable them to adequately discharge famine and administrative duties. In such cases it cannot be said that the States have actually exhausted their resources: it is of course open to them to sell their Government securities, but with the price of such securities ruling so low as at present, the reluctance to sell is very reasonable; and the States are naturally anxious to borrow against these securities instead. But the rate of interest on ordinary loans is exceedingly high just now, and to borrow even against Government securities would be a costly measure; unless the Government of India are prepared to treat States holding Government securities on a different basis, their only resource is that they should be permitted to participate in the allotment made by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia for loans to States in Central India under the guarantee of the British Indian Government. Such loans at 4 per cent. are profitable to the Maharaja, who would, I am sure, be glad to make them; at the same time they differ from ordinary loans, inasmuch as no prolonged charge on the State is involved; the sum borrowed could at any time be paid off if necessary by the sale of the securities.

3. I venture then to recommend that, in such cases, I may be authorised to negotiate the loan with His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia. In my opinion a State that has invested savings deserves generous treatment in emergencies of this kind, if the benefit of investing savings is to be generally appreciated.

No. 36.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore. No. 3,863 I.-A., dated the 23rd December 1899.

No. 3,863 I.-A. Your Letter 11,067 G., December 16th. Government of India agree with your views, and you are authorised to proceed accordingly in cases where circumstance of a State justify the concession of not requiring it to sell Government promissory notes.

No. 37.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Barr, C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 11.389 G., dated Indore, the 23rd December 1899.

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India, a letter No. 277 C., dated the 18th December 1899, together with reports,* in original, from the Famine Assistants attached to the Baghelkhand Agency reporting the result of their inspections, up to the end of November 1899.

2. The reports are satisfactory, and I am glad to note that Lieutenants Knollys and Adams are doing good work and making useful inspections and recommendations.

A further report on the actual institution of relief works in Maihar, in accordance with the programme assented to by the Raja, is awaited from the Political Agent.

 Enclosure in No. 37.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinkey, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, No. 277 C., dated Camp, via Sutna, the 18th December 1899.

In forwarding copies of weekly reports, up to end of November, from the Famine Assistants attached to this Agency, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, I have the honour to report that the States of Maihar, Nagode, and the Ramnagar tahsil of Rewah have been placed in charge of Mr. Knollys and the Sohagpur district of Rewah under Mr. Adams.

2. Both Assistants having received their instructions left my camp at Nagode on the 16th November. Mr. Knollys proceeded through the southern portion of Nagode to Maihar, and Mr. Adams marched direct to Umariā through Ramnagar.

3. I consider that the information collected and forwarded by both Mr. Adams and Mr. Knollys will prove of the greatest practical use to all the States concerned, and has already enabled me to gauge fairly accurately the condition of things in the affected area. The programme that has been drawn up for Ramnagar jointly by Mr. Knollys and the Magistrate of Rewah will meet all requirements for some months to come, and, though very few works had been actually started by the end of November, yet the fact that an officer was known to be touring about in the district has undoubtedly inspired confidence and prevented the emigration which might otherwise have taken place.

4. It will be seen also that a fairly workable programme has at length been drawn up for Maihar, but I hear that no works have been actually started, and it remains to be seen whether the Raja really intends to carry out his promise to Mr. Knollys that adequate relief would be afforded as soon as it is required.

5. In Sohagpur a large number of persons have been engaged in cutting grass for export, and, as grass presses have now been purchased and set up in three places, it is to be hoped that the Darbar will be able to send the grass to Indore and other places when it is required and sell it at a remunerative price.

* Not printed.

No. 38.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 11379-G., dated Indore Residency, the 23rd December 1899.

I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India a copy of a letter No. 559-I., dated the 16th December, 1899, from the Political Agent in Bundelkhand, forwarding a report by Captain W. Ewbank, R.E., together with appendices and a scheme of famine relief works for States in the Bundelkhand Agency.

2. I concur with the Political Agent's opinion that Captain Ewbank's report is useful, and I consider that it reflects much credit on that officer. I also approve the Political Agent's suggestion to supply each State with a translation of the report affecting it, together with copies of the plans. As Captain Ewbank has now left the Central India Agency, it is impossible to obtain from him a record of protective works carried out or commenced. This will be more readily obtainable from the States concerned, and the Political Agent will be directed to call for the record from each State.

3. I would suggest that the report may be printed, and that I may be supplied with 25 copies.

Enclosure 1 in No. 38.

Letter from Captain C. H. Pritchard, I.S.C., Political Agent in Bundelkhand, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 559-I., dated Nowgong, the 16th December 1899.

With reference to letter No. 3253-I.A., dated the 8th December, 1898, from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, I have the honour to submit a report with appendices* and scheme of famine relief works for the States in the Bundelkhand Agency by Captain W. Ewbank, R.E.

2. The report is a useful one, and I propose to issue to each State a translation of Captain Ewbank's report as to projects (together with copies of plans) provided for the individual State in question.

3. I would note that Captain Ewbank's report does not furnish "a record of protective works which have been carried out or commenced," although this record was called for in paragraph 2 of the Foreign Department letter above cited.

4. I would suggest that Captain Ewbank's report be printed, and I would ask that 12 copies may be supplied to me.

Enclosure 2 in No. 38.

Letter from Captain Ewbank, R.E., to the Political Agent in Bundelkhand, dated Chakrata, the 21st October 1899.

I have the honour to forward a Scheme of Famine Relief Works for Bundelkhand.†

I was assisted in this work by Overseer Changa Singh of Ajaigurh State and Overseer Budh Singh of Cihatarpur State, both of whom worked very hard and willingly.

* Copies of plans of individual works have not been sent.

† Report is attached. The plans are separate.

The Agency Sub-Overseer Narain Rao Ragunath also assisted me, and I had the following Khallasis :—

Karim Khan. | Mahadeo Prashad. | Ram Deen.

The work necessitated my being in camp continuously for 14 months. In addition to the above Munshi Nawazi Lal was with me and rendered me much help.

Enclosure 3 in No. 38.

BUNDELKHAND FAMINE RELIEF WORKS SCHEME.

(Extract).

This scheme is designed to fulfil as far as possible the requirements set forth in paragraph 60 of Captain Ramsay's Famine Report for the Bundelkhand Agency, 1897. A copy of this paragraph is appended—Appendix I.

It was not found possible to work on the exact lines suggested, *viz.*, "the provision of one or more large works and a number of smaller works in each pargana," partly because it was impossible to draw up all these projects in the time allotted, and partly because the ground in some parganas is quite unsuited for profitable irrigation works. Experience shows that when distress is severe the people will travel long distances in search of relief.

The scheme provides for local irrigation works designed as far as possible to irrigate land that is now out of cultivation, and includes two classes of works—

- (a) The construction of bandhs,
- (b) The utilisation of existing tanks, bandhs, or natural features to form local reservoirs for canals.

The advantages of bandhs have been dealt with in the Bundelkhand Famine Reports, also in a report on irrigation in Bundelkhand that I submitted in September, 1897.

The works could be carried out for either of two purposes—

- (a) As *protective* works, to be executed by contract as funds become available, to protect the crops against the partial failure of the rains so common in Bundelkhand.
- (b) As *relief* works to be executed during famine.

The requirements for protective works are the irrigation of as much land as possible, combined with a fair return by the increased revenue on their cost.

Relief works require primarily sufficient earthwork to provide work for three months for all who are likely to require such relief. Masonry work, from the small number employed on it relatively to its cost, is not well suited for relief work. Thus, for relief work the construction of new bandhs with much earthwork and little masonry is more advantageous. The utilisation of existing tanks and bandhs to feed canals requires more masonry and less earthwork, and so is better adapted for protective works.

The cost of the masonry in each work is shown in table.

In 1897-98 the general guide for Famine Relief in British India was contained in the Famine Code, North-Western Provinces and Oudh of 1896, and Circular No. 18, Public Works Department. "Rules and Orders for the conduct of Public Works Department Relief Works under the Famine Code." The latter Circular simplifies the rules given for the tasks and classification of relief workers, but in both these publications there is a good deal which cannot be rigidly enforced in Native States. Captain Ramsay has in his Famine Report drawn up simple forms which Native State officials can be expected to understand and render.

"On the approach of famine the Political Agent has, for the guidance of State officials, either to ask them to read and follow the British India Codes, or must make extracts therefrom of the important points and issue these as *rubakars*. In the former case the officials of small States will fail to grasp the essential points, and in the latter case the Political Agent is put to much labour—labour increased by his probably having had no experience of famine, and at a time when he wishes to devote all his energies to touring about the country.

I have, therefore, ventured to draw up a code based on extracts from the British India Codes and on experience of famine relief in Bundelkhand in the hope that this may prove of assistance.

APPENDIX.

Summary of Works showing Totals for States.

STATE.	Area.	Revenue.	Contract cost.	Famine cost.	AVERAGE PROFIT ON		Relief workers for three months.	REMARKS.	
					Contract cost.	Famine cost.			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	sq. mls.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			No.		
Ajagarh ...	5,588	9,676	59,879	1,12,144	17.6	11.4	14,025		
Bijawar ...	2,326	4,432	62,057	1,07,364	7.1	3.9	11,515	The figures in columns 5, 6, and 7 show the percentage of profit for each State, calculated by the total increase of revenue and the total cost of the works designed for that State.	
Orchha ...	5,036	8,703	77,932	1,42,345	12.4	7.4	12,472		
Panna ...	1,854	3,323	38,521	55,655	9.9	5.9	5,876		
Shajapur ...	2,250	3,608	27,173	51,457	13.6	7.0	6,037		
Sarila ...	2,824	5,071	16,657	31,580	43.3	23.1	3,612		
Bera ...	1,789	1,789	11,077	21,055	10.1	8.4	2,478		
Baoni ...	2,474	2,856	13,930	36,788	15.4	8.3	4,199		
Saunthar ...	3,403	3,403	17,773	33,655	19.8	10.6	4,034		
Dulia ...	11,841	9,791	1,38,888	2,37,144	9.5	5.2	27,178		
Garrauli ...	173	296	4,751	9,083	6.2	3.9	1,071		
Alipore ...	296	606	7,373	13,552	9.2	5.0	1,561		
Bihat ...	1,125	1,850	16,287	30,893	11.2	6.9	3,605		
Tori Futtehpore ...	436	672	8,487	16,029	7.9	4.2	1,873		
Dhurwai ...	270	440	6,371	12,174	7.0	3.6	1,540		
Bijnor ...	315	560	6,027	11,886	6.6	4.5	1,358		
Nagawan Riba ...	315	584	9,384	19,400	5.9	3.0	2,352		
Lughasi ...	819	1,388	14,969	30,315	9.9	5.2	3,505		
Banka Pahari ...	572	690	9,946	18,791	6.9	3.6	1,638		
Ohatterpur ...	3,854	5,899	79,153	1,38,850	10.0	6.5	14,934		
Charkhari ...	2,936	3,999	35,712	62,707	11.0	6.6	6,207		
Gaurihar ...	310	500	6,187	11,494	8.1	4.3	1,316		
TOTALS ...	50,796	71,105	6,59,367	12,03,981	—	—	1,32,381		The average profit for all the works in the scheme is— 10.7 per cent. on Contract cost. 5.9 " " Famine cost.

W. EW BANK,
Captain, R.E.

No. 39.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 11528-G., dated Central India Agency, Indore, the 30th December 1899.

1. I have the honour to refer to your telegram No. 3663-I.A., dated the 12th December, 1899, conveying the sanction of the Government of India to the grant of loans to States in Central India for famine relief and administrative purposes, from the sum of 12 lakhs, proffered with that object by His Highness the Maharaja Sindha.

2. I have to submit, for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India, an application from the Dewas State, Senior Branch, for a loan of upwards of 2 lakhs, spread over ten months, to enable it to tide over the present crisis.

3. The actual sum asked for is Rs. 2,35,588, but I believe that experience will show that this sum is in excess of actual needs. The recoveries of land revenue and miscellaneous income will, I hope, exceed anticipations, while, on the expenditure side, it will probably be still possible to effect some small economies, and the estimate that 5 per cent. of the population will have recourse to relief works, as well as the rate of 3 annas per head per diem, should also prove excessive. A reduction of Rs. 33,588 from the sum asked for may, on these grounds, be made with safety, and I recommend that the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the grant of a loan, from the 12 lakhs above referred to, of such amounts, not exceeding two lakhs in the aggregate, as may from month to month be found necessary.

4. The State is a solvent one; last year it had a revenue of Rs. 3,52,238, and its expenditure was Rs. 3,41,881, the average for the last three years being Rs. 3,50,980 and Rs. 3,37,626, respectively, but it is only just emerging from a period of financial prostration (sufficiently described in page 166 of Aitchison's Treaties, Engagements, and Sanads, India, 3rd Edition, Volume IV.), and has consequently no investments on which to fall back. The loan will accordingly be liquidated by annual payments from surplus revenue in such instalments as may be found possible, but not less than Rs. 25,000 per annum, besides the interest at 4 per cent. No further expenditure on public buildings being necessary this surplus will be realised without difficulty, and in this connection it must not be overlooked that the short recoveries this year under Land revenue will be due to suspensions, and that with the return of prosperous seasons and good harvests much of the suspended revenue will be recovered and the State's capacity for repayment largely increased thereby.

5. As the working balance available in the State Treasury is now reduced to Rs. 7,994-1-5, I would ask that the sanction asked for may be communicated at an early date.

No. 40:

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 11529-G., dated Indore, the 30th December 1899.

I have the honour to refer to your telegram No. 3663-I.A., dated the 23rd December, 1899, conveying the sanction of the Government of India to the grant of loans to States in Central India for famine and administrative purposes on the security of their investments in Government securities.

2. I understand that even in such cases the Government of India desire that, before a loan on those lines is arranged, the facts and circumstances should in each case be reported for their security and orders. Accordingly I now

submit for sanction an application from the Dewas Darbar, Junior Branch, for a loan of upwards of two lakhs spread over ten months to enable it to tide over the present crisis.

3. The actual sum asked for is Rs. 2,74,182, but I believe that experience will show that this sum is in excess of actual needs. The recoveries of land revenue and miscellaneous income will, I hope, exceed anticipations, while, on the expenditure side, it will probably be still possible to effect some small economies, and the estimate that 5 per cent. of the population will have recourse to relief works, as well as the rate of 3 annas per head per diem, should also prove excessive. A deduction of Rs. 74,182 from the sum asked for may, on these grounds, be made with safety, and I recommend that the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the grant of a loan from the sum of 12 lakhs proffered for such eventualities by Maharaja Sindhia, of such amounts, not exceeding two lakhs in the aggregate, as may from month to month be found necessary.

4. The State is solvent; it has a revenue of about four lakhs, its investments in Government securities amount to four lakhs, and the loan now recommended will be liquidated by the sale of those securities when fair prices can be realised, and meanwhile by annual payments from surplus revenue. In this connection it must not be overlooked that the short recoveries this year under land revenue will be due to suspensions, and that with a return of prosperous seasons and good harvests, much of this suspended revenue will be recovered, and the State's capacity for repayment largely increased thereby.

5. As the working balance available in the State Treasury is now reduced to Rs. 8,422, I would ask that the sanction asked for may be communicated at an early date.

No. 41.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 58-I.A., dated the 3rd January 1900.

Your letter* 11432-G., December 26th. Loan of Rs. 25,000 to Jobat State sanctioned. This loan should be paid from amount placed at your disposal by Maharaja Sindhia.

No. 42.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 114-I.A., dated the 6th January 1900.

114-I.A. Your letter 11528 G., December 30th. You may make loan as proposed to Dewas, Senior, of such amounts, not exceeding two lakhs in aggregate, as may month by month be found necessary. Strict economy in ordinary expenditure should be insisted on. It is noted that loan will be made from the funds supplied by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia.

No. 43.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 196-G., dated Indore, the 8th January 1900.

I have the honour to apply for the sanction of the Government of India to a loan of Rs. 7,000 to the Sohawal State, Baghelkhand Agency, from the amount placed at my disposal by His Highness Maharaja Sindhia.

* Not printed.

2. This loan is required by Sohawal for the Thakurat of Durjanpur, which consists of 42 villages, with a total population of 6,503. The Political Agent estimates that the cost of maintaining 10 per cent. of the population on relief works for a period of 3 months will amount to Rs. 3,656-4-0. The accompanying map and statement* show the position of the works which it is proposed to open and the approximate cost of each.

3. The Thakur of Durjanpur is not in a position to provide the money required for these works, nor can the Sohawal Darbar assist him. The Darbar have, therefore, applied for a loan of Rs. 3,700 for relief works in Durjanpur, and a further sum of Rs. 3,300 for the personal expenses of the Thakur and his family, making a total loan of Rs. 7,000.

The Political Agent reports that the loan for relief works is urgently required, and asks that the amount (Rs. 3,700) may be placed at his disposal for the purpose, and suggests that the works should be carried out under the direct management of the Agency. In this suggestion I concur, as I am aware that neither the Sohawal State nor the Durjanpur Thakurat have the means of organising adequate famine relief works. The estate was for many years, and until quite recently, under the direct control of the Raja of Sohawal during the minority of the present Thakur, and owing to gross mismanagement by the Sohawal State officials, there was no surplus revenue handed over to the Thakur when he came of age, while the revenue had decreased and many villages had been practically deserted.

It is proposed to repay the loan by yearly instalments of Rs. 900, at the prescribed rate of interest, viz., 4 per cent.

I recommend that the proposed loan may be sanctioned, and I shall feel obliged by the necessary sanction being communicated to me by telegram.

No. 44.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 342-G., dated Indore, the 10th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 11,389-G., dated the 23rd December, 1899, I have the honour to submit, in original, for the information of the Government of India, letter No. 55, dated the 8th January 1900, from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand, forwarding copies of weekly Inspection Reports furnished by Lieutenants Adams and Knollys, together with a special report by Lieutenant Knollys on the condition of the Maihar State.

Enclosure in No 44.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 55, dated Sutna, the 8th January 1900.

In continuation of this office report No. 277-C., dated 18th December, 1899, I have the honour to forward copies of weekly reports received from Lieutenants Adams and Knollys, together with a special report on Maihar from Mr. Knollys (No. 1, dated 5th January, 1900), as requested in paragraph 2 of your letter No. 11,481, dated 28th/29th December, 1899.

2. During the early part of December I made a tour through the northern part of Rewah. Rain was much wanted for the standing rabi crop, and as no rain has yet fallen, the outturn will hardly be more than 8 to 10 annas in the rupee. The kharif crops, however, had been fairly good, and though villagers were clamorous for remission of revenue, there was no distress anywhere, and I do not anticipate the necessity for starting relief operations in this part of Rewah.

3. On 31st December, 1899, I accompanied his Highness to Umaria, and, after assisting at the transfer of the colliery to the Rewah Darbar, I visited

* Not reproduced.

Sohagpur and Ghunguti before returning to Sutna. As reported by Mr. Adams, there appeared to be practically no rabi crop anywhere. A large number of persons were engaged in bringing in grass, which is now being carefully stacked and pressed for export. Most of the grass I saw seemed to be of a fairly good quality, and I do not agree with Mr. Adams in thinking that it will not be worth very much as fodder. Sufficient grass has now been collected, and the people are to be drafted on to other works or allowed to collect hurra and bagai grass for the local contractors.

4. Mr. Knollys's report on Maihar shows that the Raja has started a few works at last, and I trust that emigration will now cease.

5. The numbers on relief works in Unchehra of Nagode increased considerably during the month, and, with a diminished revenue, it will be impossible for the State to meet its expenses this year without the assistance of a loan. I have called for a revised budget estimate from the Diwan, on receipt of which a further special report will be submitted.

No. 45.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 224-I.A., dated the 11th January 1900.

224-I.A. Your letter 11529-G., December 30th. You may make loan as proposed from funds supplied by Sindhia to Dewas, Junior, of such amounts, not exceeding two lakhs in aggregate, as may month by month be found necessary. Strict economy in ordinary expenditure should be insisted on.

No. 46.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 462-G., dated Indore, the 12th January 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement of the Indore State for December, 1899, together with a map illustrating the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 46.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st December 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4 in decimals.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Indore	8,075 square miles.	1,054	Indore City	1,335	1,834	* Khargone south of Nerbudda.
			Indore Zilla	...	...	784	632
			Mehidpur "	359	83.9	394	635	
			Mandleshwar Zilla.	85	15.7	433	283	
			Bijagadh* Zilla	278	104.7	590	1,438	
			Nimawar Zilla.	389	78.7	532	1,545	
			Bhaupura Zilla.	221	45.1	736	583	
			Rampur Zilla	185	35.8	1,157	174	

Remarks to accompany Statement for the month ending 31st December 1899.

The physical condition appears to be satisfactory.

No death has been reported to have occurred from starvation.

The rates of wages are 2 annas to each man, 1½ annas to each woman, and 1 anna to each child. There was emigration to a certain extent.

(Sd.) NANAK CHAND,
Minister to His Highness
the Maharaja Holkar, G.C.S.I.

No. 47.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 265 I.-A., dated the 13th January, 1900.

265 I.-A. Your letter 196 G., January 8th. You may make loan of Rs.7,000 to Sohawal, from funds supplied by Sindhia, for relief in Durjanpur on terms proposed.

No. 48.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 493 G., dated Indore, the 13th January, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statement for December 1899, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 48.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st December 1899.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Population of the affected area in thousands.	Number of relief workers on the last day of the month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief on the last day of the month.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Rewah	13,000	1,503	Ramnagar Tahsil ...	202	5,519	...
			Sohagpur Illaka ...	311	4,461	2
			Berdi Tahsil, including Singrowli.	243	1,000	...
2 Nagode	501	84	Tahsils Unchehra, Dhanwahi and Parsmania, area 290 square miles.	42	3,504	185
3 Maihar	406	77	Whole State ...	77	728	33
			Total ...	875	15,212	220

Remarks.

1. REWAH.

Ramnagar.—The relief works started are bandhs and tanks. Arrangements have been made for starting kitchens where necessary. Condition of people and cattle is very good. Food-stocks sufficient for the present, but

unless dues are remitted on grain imported from Sutna and Maihar stations *via* Rewah and Amarpatan, there is every probability of scarcity in the future. Prospects of affected area are bad; as no rain having fallen, there is little chance of a more than 2-anna rabi crop. No change in rates of wages, no deaths from starvation, and no emigration or immigration.

Sohagpur.—A considerable number of persons are employed on cutting and stacking grass which is in the nature of a relief work. General condition of people, cattle, &c., is the same as stated above.

Berdi.—Relief works have been started. Custom dues have been temporarily remitted to facilitate the import of grain.

2. NAGODE.

The relief works are of the nature of bandhs and tanks constructed for the purpose of irrigation and public utility. Gratuitous relief comprises distribution of cooked food from kitchens established in central places, and cash to persons unfit for labour on account of infirmity or respectability. Numbers on relief works are increasing, as the kharif produce is becoming exhausted. Condition of people and cattle is good. Food-grain, fodder and water are available without difficulty. Rates are stationary. Tilli (rape seed) has been gathered. Without the winter rains, the prospects of rabi are not good. If rain does not fall even in January, the outturn of the crops sown in bandhs will be 8 annas, and of those sown in other ordinary land 2 annas. 46 persons from Dhanwahi and 11 persons from Unchehra have gone to Jubbulpore and Rewah for work in the ordinary way. Four persons have come from Maihar and Rewah and settled in Dhanwahi. Works have been opened by the Thakur of Umarhat and by the Darbar on behalf of the Illakadar of Lahra, whose Illaka is under the management of the State. Works have been started in Tahsil Parsmania also. Zamindars and Lumbardars of Dhanwahi, to whom money was advanced as loans, are opening private works. In anticipation of water scarcity in Parsmania, wells are being deepened.

3. MAIHAR.

Relief works were started on the 20th December 1899. Relief works consist chiefly of road making and enlarging tanks, and gratuitous relief comprises kitchens and sadabarti (distribution of uncooked food as charity). Physical condition of people on relief works is bad, due to works having been started late. No deaths from starvation and no immigration, but evidently a fair amount of emigration from some of the villages south of the Kaimurs took place before the opening of relief works. Grain-stocks are sufficient in north-east portion of Maihar, and can be easily replenished by rail in other parts. General condition and prospects of affected area are bad. Fodder and water are available with ease.

No. 49.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore. to the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta. No. 630, dated the 17th January 1900.

Bundelkand reports rainfall 60 cents. Baghelkhand—120 cents (m) Rewah, Maihar and Unchehra and 175 cents. Sutna. Standing crops will be greatly benefited. No reports from Gwalior or Political Agents, Malwa and Bhopawar. Political Agent, Bhopal, on tour reports beneficial rain in Kurwai and Pathari and at Sehore. General result is that areas previously safe or doubtful are benefited, while condition of areas likely to suffer considerably remains unaffected.

No. 50.

Letter from Lieutenant-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. No. 749 G., dated Indore, the 20th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 11053 G., dated the 16th December 1899, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Gwalior State for the month of December 1899, together with a map of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 50.

Famine Statement for the month ending December 1899.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Prants.</i>						
Gwalior	5,053	989	1,935	229	2,711	108
Isagarh	8,434	954	...	...	*2,419	...
Malwa	5,576	789	1,953	252	6,349	1,962

* On test works only.

REMARKS.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of and repairs to kachapacca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds, &c. Test works have been freely opened almost everywhere in the State, in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people. Abundant labour will shortly be available on the Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopur Railway lines which at present are under survey. A poor-house long since established at Neemuch is being worked on the system laid down in the Famine Code. As yet there is no marked deterioration of the physical aspect either of people or of cattle and no death from starvation has been reported. The decrease in the number of relief works in Gwalior Prant is due to the people returning to their houses to take up the rabi operations which are in progress. No emigration to any noticeable scale has yet been reported. Number of immigrants registered on various relief works is as under :—

Jodhpur	...	...	...	...	...	211
Jhalawar	...	...	...	...	...	120
British India	}	Banda...	...	...	...	4
		Neemuch Cantonment	...	...	...	221
		Jhansi	...	...	...	28
		Ajmer...	...	...	...	27
		Mainpuri	...	...	...	1
Dhar	...	...	...	...	...	19
Udaipur	...	...	...	...	...	99
Tonk	...	...	...	...	...	18
Indore	...	...	...	...	...	26
Jaipur	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nagore	...	...	...	...	...	6
Karoly	...	...	...	...	...	86
						<u>875</u>

MAP.

(Sketch not reproduced.)

No. 51.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 994 G., dated Indore, the 26th January, 1900.

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3683 I.A., dated the 12th December 1899, in which you conveyed the sanction of the Government of India to the grant of loans to States in Central India for famine and administrative purposes from the sum of 12 lakhs placed by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia at my disposal for such contingencies

2. I have now to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 128, dated the 16th January 1900, from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand, in which he applies for a loan of Rs. 60,000 for famine relief purposes in the Nagode State during the months of April, May, and June.

3. Captain Pinhey's recommendation has my support. The numbers on relief have already increased, and the finances of the State are unequal to the occasion. I would request then that the sanction of the Government of India may be conveyed to a loan of Rs. 60,000 to the Nagode State from the 12 lakhs above mentioned for famine purposes in April, May, and June of this year: the amount to be repayable as proposed by the Political Agent in four annual instalments of Rs. 15,000 each with interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

Enclosure in No. 51.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Political Agent in Baghelkhand to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 128, dated Satna, the 16th January, 1900.

With reference to paragraph 5 of my No. 55, dated 8th instant, I have the honour to submit herewith revised budget estimates* of revenue and expenditure for the Nagode State for the remaining 3 months of the current financial year, and to report that, in the opinion of the Dewan, a loan of Rs. 60,000 will be required for famine works and taccavi, viz., Rs. 35,000 for relief works and Rs. 25,000 for taccavi, for the period April to June 1900.

2. The revised estimates show that there will probably be a decrease of Rs. 32,800 in receipts, but as the actual opening balance amounted to Rs. 63,627-12-9, instead of only Rs. 50,800 as estimated, the net decrease will amount to about Rs. 20,000.

By reducing expenditure under the heads of Settlement establishment (transferred to relief operations), Public Works, Palace (the Raja's allowance having again elapsed), payment of debts and other smaller items, it will be possible to bring the expenditure down to Rs. 1,61,000 and to allot an extra Rs. 34,000 to famine works up to end of March.

3. At the close of the year there will thus be only a balance of Rs. 2,000 in the treasury, and, as, owing to a poor rabi crop, very little revenue will be realised during the first few months of the next financial year and a heavy expenditure will still have to be incurred for relief works and taccavi up to the end of June a loan, as desired by the Dewan, would appear to be absolutely necessary,

4. I should be glad, therefore, if a loan of Rs. 60,000 could be sanctioned for the Nagode State, to be paid back by four annual instalments of Rs. 15,000 each at 4 per cent. interest.

No. 52.

Letter from Lieutenant-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.—No. 1039 G., dated Indore, the 27th January, 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegrams No. 3683 I.A., dated the 12th December 1899, and No. 3863 I.A., dated the

* Not printed.

23rd December 1899, I have now the honour to ask the sanction of the Government of India to a loan, not exceeding rupees three lakhs twenty-five thousand, to the Jaora Darbar for famine and administrative purposes during the current year.

2. The financial circumstances of the Jaora State are summarised in the accompanying statement, from which it will be seen that, after fully utilizing all in-coming revenue and balances, other than investments in Government Promissory Notes, the expenditure will exceed assets by Rs. 3,27,000.

3. A detailed statement of the income and the expenditure and the excess of the latter over the former month by month has been called for to enable us to further scrutinize requirements and to determine in what instalments the loan shall be made; but in the meanwhile, as the Minister reports, that the balance actually available in the treasury on the 1st January 1900 was only Rs. 29,649, I would further request permission, by telegram if possible, to make the Darbar an immediate advance of Rs. 1,00,000 from the amount placed at my disposal by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia.

4. The loan of Rs. 3,25,000 will be easily repaid in annual instalments of not less than Rs. 1,00,000 with interest at 4 per cent., and should the value of the Darbar's securities rise sufficiently, liquidation will be accelerated by their sale.

Enclosure in No. 52.

Statement summarising the financial condition of the Jaora State.

	<i>Rupees.</i>
1. Estimated receipt according to budget... ..	9,27,000
2. Receipts as now estimated	3,80,000
3. Estimated expenditure according to budget	8,67,000
4. Expenditure as now estimated	8,12,000
5. Difference between items 2 and 4	4,32,000
6. Balance in hand at beginning of year— <i>Cash</i>	4,45,000
7. Balance in hand at beginning of year— <i>Government paper</i>	2,50,000
8. Estimated expenditure on relief works	1,99,000
9. " " " taccavi	82,000
10. " " " loans to Thakurs	59,000
11. Total of items 8, 9, and 10	3,40,000
12. Total of items 4 and 11	11,52,000
13. Total assets, items 2 and 6, <i>omitting Government paper</i>	8,25,000
14. Difference between items 12 and 13	3,27,000
15. The amount of loan asked for	3,25,000

No. 53.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore. No. 644 I.-A., dated the 2nd February, 1900.

Your letters 994-G., January 26th, and 1039-G., January 27th. You may make loan of Rs. 60,000 to Nagode, and, pending submission of detailed information, may advance one lakh to Jaora, from funds placed at your disposal by Sindhia. The loans will be subject to the usual conditions. Your further letter should state more clearly whether the whole loan to Jaora is to be made from Sindhia's funds or only the one lakh now sanctioned. Please also explain the very great difference between present and budget estimate of receipts. Also consider whether State should not be asked to try to obtain a private loan on the security of its Government paper.

No. 54.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 1305 G., dated Indore, the 2nd February 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3683 I.A., dated the 12th December 1899, I have the honour to ask the sanction of the Government of India to a loan, not exceeding Rs. 50,000 from the funds placed at my disposal by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia, to the Thakur of Piploda, a mediatized Chief in the Malwa Agency (*vide* Aitchison's Volume IV., page 353), for famine and administrative purposes during the current year.

2. The financial circumstances of this State, as reported by the Political Agent, are summarised in the accompanying statement, but the amount Rs. 72,000 applied for is, in my opinion, excessive, and the Political Agent is being informed accordingly with instructions to insist on further retrenchment of ordinary expenditure. At the same time a detailed statement of the probable income and expenditure and the excess of the latter over the former month by month has been called for to enable me to further scrutinize requirements and to determine in what instalments the loan shall be paid.

3. The Political Agent represents that some advance is urgently needed. I would therefore request that sanction to grant of the loan as stated in paragraph 1 may, if possible, be intimated by telegram.

Enclosure in No. 54.

Statement.

	<i>Rupces.</i>
1. Income, 1899-1900, as originally estimated ...	97,000
2. Probable actuals	15,000
3. Expenditure, 1899-1900, as originally estimated ...	75,000
4. Probable actuals	67,500
5. Estimated expenditure on famine relief	19,500
6. Total of 4 and 5	87,000
7. Loan applied for by Political Agent (6-2)...	72,000
8. Loan to which sanction is now asked	50,000

No. 55.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, to the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, No. 1403, dated 6th February 1900.

Acute distress reported by Political Agents, Malwa and Bhopawar, in Holkar's districts in both of those Agencies. Full reports by Political Agents were furnished to Resident, Indore, who forwarded all, through Minister, to Maharaja Holkar. Receiving no reply from His Highness, Resident summoned Council on 28th January, explained position and suggested adequate relief works. Bosanquet attended this meeting of Council and gave personal experience of extent of famine in his Agency, and, as Darbar have no engineering establishment of any kind, he offered to superintend famine relief. Council unanimously adopted all suggestions made by Resident, and matter was referred, on 1st February and again on 5th February, by Resident to Maharaja Holkar. Report received from Minister last night regrets inability of Council to take any steps towards famine relief, because Maharaja Holkar absolutely refuses to sanction expenditure, and has peremptorily ordered stoppage of all famine relief, together with immediate refund of taccavi advances in cash already made, and will not sanction suspension of revenue.

Position most critical, as reports show that hundreds of Holkar's subjects are starving, and deaths in Rampura and Bhanpura of Malwa, as reported by Indore State Famine Officer, exceed thirty a day. Bosanquet reports acute distress in all Holkar's territory in Bhopawar Agency, and lawlessness on part of starving Bhils. Full reports follow by post, but I request orders by telegram, because Minister reports that Council are powerless, and all expenditure on famine relief is actually prohibited. The point on which orders are required is as to provision of funds to supply food to starving population, pending prohibition of relief works. Under present constitution, neither Minister nor Council can expend money without the Maharaja's authority.

No. 56.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 704 I.-A., dated the 7th February, 1900.

Your telegram 1403, February 6th, 1900. Under decision conveyed in my letter 2030 I.-B., July 19th, 1899, Holkar is required to consult Resident and to be guided generally by his advice. If His Highness preserves his present attitude in respect to famine relief, the necessary measures must be taken without consulting him, and the Minister and Council must, without reference to His Highness, incur such expenditure as they may, in consultation with the Resident, determine to be necessary. The Government of India cannot allow the lives of thousands of human beings to be jeopardised by the caprice of their ruler. You may direct Jennings to proceed at once on above lines. Should you see risk of any serious trouble, or should there be difficulty in obtaining access to State Treasury, it may be well to adopt precautions such as the movement of a suitable force from Mhow to Indore. Before taking such action you should telegraph your views and recommendations and await final orders. Keep me informed as to situation

No. 57.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 719 I.-A., dated the 8th February, 1900.

Your letter 1305 G., February 2nd. You may make loan not exceeding Rs. 50,000 to Piploda, from funds placed at your disposal by Sindhia. Terms of repayment will be as usual, and loan should be made by instalments as actually required.

No. 58.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 1587 G., dated Indore, the 9th February, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 644 I.-A., dated the 2nd February, 1900, in which you conveyed sanction of the Government of India to the immediate grant of an advance of Rs. 1,00,000 to the Jaora Darbar for famine and administrative purposes.

2. With reference to the enquiries and suggestions made in that telegram, I have the honour to state that—

- (1) The whole loan can be met from the 12 lakhs placed at my disposal by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia :

- (2) The great difference between the present and original budget estimates of receipts is due to the fact that throughout Jaora *both* crops have failed, that most of the State is under ryotwari settlement, and that when crops fail no revenue can be collected from the villages.

3. I beg to forward a statement* submitted by Khan Bahadur Yar Muhammad Khan, C.S.I., Minister, Jaora State, showing the period at which it will be necessary to borrow money. It will be seen that the amount absolutely necessary as a loan is Rs. 3,25,000, for which I request sanction, in order that I may allot the loan as required from time to time during the current year from funds placed at my disposal by His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia.

4. It is impossible for the Jaora State to obtain a private loan on the security of its Government paper, on interest lower than Bank rates, which are quoted to-day at 9 per cent. I anticipate no difficulty in obtaining all the money required from His Highness the Maharaja Sindhia at 4 per cent.

No. 59.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 1760 G., dated Indore, the 14th February, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the Famine Statements† of the Native States under the Bhopal Political Agency for the month of January, 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 59.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January, 1900.

Name of State	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected Area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Narsingarh State	669	116	Nearly all villages of Khujner, Chapera and Pachore Parganas more or less, and parts of the Narsingarh Pargana. About 500 square miles.	35	669	Nil.

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief works.*—Deepening of old and sinking of new wells.
2. *Public relief works.*—Pachore-Shujalpur road and radicating prickly trees.
3. *Physical condition of people.*—Good.

* Not printed.

† Statements for two States only printed.

4. *Death from starvation.*—Nil.
5. *Food-Stock.*—Sufficient up to date.
6. *Importation of grain.*—Private traders have commenced to import grain into the State.
7. *General condition and prospects of the affected area.*—Present condition is fair, but prospects are gloomy.
8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Nil.
9. *Emigration.*—Nil.
10. *Immigration.*—A considerable number of immigrants from Rajputana.

8th February, 1900.

L. S. NEWMARCH, Major,
Political Agent in Bhopal.

Enclosure 2 in No. 59.

Famine Statement for the month ending the 31st January 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajgarh ...	957.2	119	957.2	119	1,809	984

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief works.*—70 persons are employed on private relief works.
2. *Public relief works.*—Sinking and deepening wells and oris and digging tanks.
3. *Physical condition of people.*—Good.
4. *Death from starvation.*—None.
5. *Food-stock.*—There is a stock of grain in the State to last till June 1900.
6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain can be imported from other places.
7. *General condition and prospects of the affected area.*—Gloomy.
8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Wages range between 2 annas and 1½ annas.
9. *Emigration.*—Nil.
10. *Immigration.*—Thousands of Marwaris have immigrated into this State.

L. S. NEWMARCH, Major,
Political Agent in Bhopal.

8th February, 1900.

No. 60.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1869 G., dated Indore, the 16th February, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of January 1900, together with a map of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 60.

Famine Statement of the Gwalior State, including Gwalior, Isagarh and Malwa Prants, for the month ending January 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected Area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prants :—						
Gwalior ...	5,053	989	1,935	229	2,573	102
Isagarh ...	8,434	954	—	—	1,683*	1
Malwa ...	5,576	789	1,953	252	9,195	2,948
			Agar $\frac{206}{1947}$	$\frac{149}{477}$		

* On test works only.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of and repairs to kachapucca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds, baories, &c. Test works have been freely opened almost everywhere in the State in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people.

Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopur, two railway lines are at present under survey, and abundant labour of all sorts will shortly be available over the same. Light showers followed by light rains and hails have for the time being conduced to the reduction of people on test works, but emigrants from adjoining States, and from Marwar and Meywar in particular, still continue to come in this State over works which provide free and unrestricted labour to all persons affected by famine. A poor-house long since existed at Neemuch, but on account of increased numbers another one has been ordered to be opened there, and will be in working order during February on the principles laid down in the Famine Code.

District Agar, which was reported now to be affected by famine, has been brought on the list of lightly-affected tracts, and several relief works have been opened at Neemuch and Amjhera districts, where famine has been reported to be more severe than before. No emigration to any noticeable scale has yet set in, there is no marked deterioration in the physical aspect either of people or of cattle, and no death from starvation of any State subject has yet been reported. A few Marwari emigrants who had either lived long on unwholesome food or had starved while travelling to Gwalior State, have of course, been registered as dead in the Neemuch poor-house. Number of emigrants registered on various famine relief works is an under :—

Partabgarh 1, Sitamau 1, Jodhpur 254 Jaipur 13, Indore 56, Jaora 242 (Jhansi British India 2), Neemuch Cantonment total $\frac{187}{189}$, Udaipur 31, Bikaner 9, Datia 2, Tonk 1, Karauli 39, Dhar 49, Miscellaneous 92.

(Map not reproduced.)

No. 61.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 1906 G., dated Indore, the 17th February, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the monthly Famine Statement for January 1900, received from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand.

Enclosure in No. 61.

Famine Statement for the month ending the 31st January 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Rewah ...	13,000	1,508	Ramnagar Tahsil ...	202	6,927	
			Sohagpur Ilaka ...	311	729	
			Bardi Tahsil including Singrowli	248	6,944	
2. Nagode ...	501	84	Tahsils Unohhra, Dhanwah and Paramania, area 290 square miles	42	3,237	159
3. Malhar ...	405	77	Whole State ...	77	1,989	140
			Total ...	875	19,820	299

Remarks.

Ramnagar (Rewah).—Relief works as mentioned before have been continued. Establishment of poor-houses has not been necessary owing to the timely institution of relief works; however, gratuitous relief is being given by Thakurs and wealthy landowners to the poor who are unable to work and who have no friends to support them. Darbar kitchens have also been established in several places in case of necessity.

Physical condition of people is excellent, and no deaths have occurred from starvation. No emigration and no immigration. Food-stocks are sufficient for the present. Remission of import duty on grain is expected. Standing crops have been immensely benefited by the recent rains, and hence the prospects have slightly improved, except in Manpur, Jhobi and Amarpur districts, where little or no rabi has been sown. Since the rains fields have been actively ploughed for sowings in June. In some places barley has been sown afresh. As an effect of the rain, a good mauha crop is expected. Wages have remained unchanged, and prices almost steady. Cattle are in good condition. Fodder and water are plentiful.

Sohagpur (Rewah).—Cutting of grass has been stopped. Other relief works have been continued as stated before. Since the recent heavy rains people have been busy ploughing their fields. Gram, wheat, barley and mutra are said to have been sown in Chandia, Singwara and parts of Sohagpur. Other conditions are much the same as in Ramnagar.

Bardi (Rewah).—More relief works have been opened. The recent rains have improved the prospect.

Nagode.—Relief works as stated before have been continued. The sub-ordinate ilakadars have opened and are prepared to open more relief works. Kitchens have remained open in central places and on relief works. The decrease in the numbers of persons receiving relief has been owing to rainfall which has done material good to the rabi crops. Some fields have been ploughed and crops sown afresh in the Dhanwahi Ilaka. Physical condition of people and cattle is good. Fodder and water are available. In a few villages only the standing crops have been slightly damaged by hail. Seven Lohars (iron-makers) from Bhadanpur of Maihar are said to have come and settled in Parsmania. Eight persons of the menial class have emigrated from Unchehra, but are expected to return when harvesting begins. Construction of the Unchehra-Parsmania road as a relief measure has been taken up. A bund is being thrown up on the *thaka* system (by contract) in the Nagode Tahsil for the benefit of such persons as may be in need of support there. Prices of grain are stationary. Grain-stocks are sufficient.

Maihar.—Kitchens have now been started both at Maihar and Bhadanpur. Relief works are mostly bunds, tanks, and repairing a road. Physical condition of people on works has improved. No deaths from starvation. Grain-stocks are insufficient everywhere, but are easily obtainable by rail. General condition and prospects of the affected area are bad, as little rabi was sown before the rains and none after it. Eighteen villages in north-east portion of Maihar which were quite free from famine have had their good rabi crops considerably damaged by a most severe hailstorm on 21st instant, and will require relief to a certain extent in about two months' time. No immigration and, as far as can be ascertained, no emigration this month.

General.—I doubt the correctness of the information received regarding numbers on relief works in Sohagpur and Bardi. In Sohagpur the relief works are all small village works scattered over a large area, and carried out entirely by ilakadars and small landowners. The returns therefore are received very late and are sometimes not submitted at all. The number 729 shows the number on 4 relief works near the railway from which returns had been received by the 7th February.

As regards Bardi, a few works may have been started, but I doubt if so many as 6,944 persons are actually at work, and I have called for a detailed report on the subject from the Rewah Darbar.

The Durjanpur Ilaka of Sohawal must now be included within the affected area, and arrangements for starting relief works have been made.

The rainfall, which amounted to 2.96 inches at Rewah and 2.75 at Sutna during the month, has done immense good throughout the northern part of the Agency, and, with the exception of Durjanpur, I do not now consider that there is any fear of scarcity or distress spreading beyond the area already reported as affected.

Damage by hail has been reported from three villages in the Chaube Jagirs and from the small part of Maihar, which had not been affected by distress and where consequently a good rabi crop had been expected.

No. 62.

Letter from Lieutenant-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. No. 1946-G., dated Indore, the 19th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1906-G., dated the 17th February 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, in original, weekly reports* for the month of January 1900, from Lieutenants Knollys and Adams, together with a special report, dated the 11th January, 1900, by Lieutenant Adams, on "Hill and Jungle tribes."

* Not printed.

Enclosure in No. 62.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinhey, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, to the First, Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, No. 320, dated Satna, the 12th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 55, dated 8th January, 1900, I have the honour to forward herewith (in original) weekly reports for the month of January, 1900, from Messrs. Knollys and Adams, together with a special report (dated 11th January, 1900) on Hill and Jungle tribes by Mr. Adams.

2. The chief feature of the month under notice is the heavy rain that fell throughout the Agency between the 13th and 31st, varying from nearly 3 inches north of the Kainour Range to about 5 inches in the Sohagpur District. Where no rabi crops have been sown this rain has come too late, as, for instance, in the west of Ramnagar, the Chandia Ilaqua of Sohagpur, most of Maihar, and the Unchehra and Dunwah Districts of Nagode. But in the rest of the Agency where rabi has been sown and might otherwise have withered, it has done an incalculable amount of good, except in a comparatively few villages which were visited by a severe hailstorm. From reports so far received the hail has damaged about 18 villages in Maihar, unfortunately the very ones that had not previously been affected by scarcity, and three villages in the Chaubey Jagirs, where a fairly good rabi crop is expected.

3. Besides saving the rabi the rain will insure a good crop of mahua, which should considerably reduce the numbers on relief works in Ramnagar and Sohagpur by the middle of March. As will be seen from Mr. Adams's reports, the condition of Sohagpur to the east and south-east of Sahdol is fairly good, and now that large numbers will be employed in cutting timber in that part of the forest which has lately been given in contract, and that there is likely to be a good mahua crop, I imagine that relief works in Sohagpur except on a very small scale will hardly be required after the beginning of next month.

4. In Ramnagar the distress will now probably be confined to the western border, and works will have to be continued and extended in the Manpur, Amarpur, and Jhobi districts.

5. Reports concerning Maihar are now satisfactory, and much credit is due to Mr. Knollys for having persuaded the Raja and his officials to carry out so many genuine works, and thus prevent any further emigration.

6. Good work is being continued in the affected districts of Nagode. The loan mentioned in paragraph 5 of my last report has now been sanctioned, and will provide for both the continuation of relief works if necessary to the end of the hot weather and also for Taccavi advances.

7. Mr. Knollys draws attention to the lightness of the task exacted on British works just across the border. It is hoped that these tasks may be increased, as otherwise, even if there is no actual distress in Rewah villages, it will be impossible to prevent labourers from going on to works near at hand where wages can be earned so easily.

Enclosure in No. 62.

Letter from Lieutenant F. Adams, I.S.C., Famine Assistant to the Political Agent, Baghelkhand, to Captain A. F. Pinhey, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, No. 152, dated Camp Karkeli, 11th January 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 321-G. of 1899, forwarding circular letter No. 3363 of 14th August, 1899, I have the honour to report that I have made enquiries into the condition of the hill tribes of the Sohagpur Ilaqua. These tribes consist principally of Kols, Gonds, and Baigas.

The Kols appear to have merged into the general population to a large extent, and the majority of them will go to relief works. The Gonds and Baigas are tribes which principally depend on jungle roots and fruit for food.

At the present time these products are scarce, and the mohwa is not ready to be picked; this causes some distress amongst them, which, however, will cease if they obtain a good crop (of mohwa), but, if it fails or only yields a poor crop, this distress will largely increase.

The headmen of the Gonds, or Gond Thakurs, will not work, as they say their people will lose respect for them if they do. The Gonds themselves say they are willing to work, but they will not submit to the discipline necessary on ordinary relief works, nor will they do so much work as is exacted from the ordinary workers. It therefore appears to be advisable to set apart separate small works for them, which should take the form of village tanks, or other works which they can see will be for their own advantage, when finished. These works should be placed under the control of either the Gond Thakurs, if known to be trustworthy, or responsible men who will encourage them to work, and will get those who live at some distance to leave their villages and live on the work. The inhabitants of a small village (Amha, in South Chandia) which I visited, and which is entirely populated by Gonds, said they would be willing to do this. Gonds should be paid partly, if not wholly, in grain.

In this Illaqua, I think, it will be practically impossible to have shops or dépôts for selling grain at cheap rates, as there are very few, if any, officials who could be made responsible for the management of them, and the number which would be required would be considerable.

Grants of grain or the money to buy it might be advanced to the Thakurs, who own the villages, or to the Gond Thakurs themselves, who would have to repay such advances when they get in their crops. They should be made responsible for the distribution of this grain to those of their villagers or tribesmen who require it, and in sufficient quantities to save them from starvation.

The usual, if not the only, system of cultivation practised by these people is to burn the ground with wood fires, then to spread the ashes over it, and sow their seed as soon as the first rains have softened it. Rules, which apparently have been strictly enforced this year for the first time, have been issued by the Darbar to stop the cutting of wood for this purpose; I think it would probably relieve distress to a considerable extent if these rules could be remitted for the present season. It would also tend to prevent the desire to emigrate, as these people are in the habit of leaving their villages immediately they think they have cause for dissatisfaction with their surroundings, and the enforcing of these rules certainly affects their prospects to a large extent.

I think it is advisable that forest dues be remitted for this season, at any rate those on the products in which these people trade. This will enable them to cut wood, bamboos, &c., and sell them to the larger villages, where they can buy grain with the proceeds, and the remission of forest dues will largely compensate them for the dearness of grain.

Laggan might be ordered to be remitted or reduced, as the ground has practically yielded them no produce this year, and it is nearly, if not quite impossible for them, to pay it.

If it is possible to give free grants of grain to the people, this would undoubtedly save them from distress and prevent immigration, but it is not probable that any return for such grants would be obtained from the hill tribes in this Illaqua, and it would not be easy to arrange locally for the proper supervision of the distribution of such grants.

These remarks apply equally to Gonds and Baigas.

No. 160, dated Sutna, the 19th January, 1900. Copy forwarded to the Rewah Darbar for information and guidance.

No. 63.

Letter from Lieutenant-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, No. 2087-G., dated Indore, the 22nd February 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements furnished by marginally noted States in the Bhopawar Agency for the month of January, 1900, together with a map.†

Dhar,
Barwani,
*Ali Rajpur,
*Jhabua,
*Jobat,
*Bagode (De-
was).

Enclosure 1 in No. 63.

Famine Statement for the month of January 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dhar	1,740	168	1,740	168	26,186	7,859

REMARKS.

In the absence of the Superintendent on tour, the Naib Karbari has furnished this return, with the single remark that the decrease in numbers is due to the fact that some tests (not specified) were introduced "in order to admit only such people to the works as deserved to be so relieved." I have received no reply as yet to my enquiry as to the nature of those tests, but I gather from my inspection of the relief works in the Dharampuri, Mandu, and Nalcha Parganas during the past week that they consist of a proper enforcement of reasonable tasks and reduction of wages. At the beginning of the month, owing to the abnormal increase of the numbers on relief from 13,811 at the end of the November to 27,366 at the end of December, I had addressed the Darbar on the importance of fixing wages at the bare amount needful for the subsistence of the worker and of exacting an adequate task. On the 6th January the numbers further rose to 40,826. It is evident, therefore, that the remedy was needed. The numbers fell to 35,628 on the 13th January, and have now fallen below the figure at the end of December. Even at my inspection there was room for improvement in the task system. With the assistance of the Executive Engineer, I regauged the workers and arranged a regular system of work. In the case of Dharampuri, the rates were too low, viz., with grain at 8 seers a rupee, only 1 anna for a woman, 1½ for a man (using a shovel), and 1½ for a man (with a pickaxe). I have advised the Darbar to raise these rates by one pice each. The people employed are chiefly Bhils, and there can be no question of their having private means, or supporting themselves otherwise. The only economy is to make them work. The rates will permit of an occasional fine of one pice for short labour. The reduction in numbers is, I believe, due to the elimination of (1) the urban population of Dhar, and the agriculturist class in the Malwa Parganas who were supplementing their private resources or resorting to State labour instead of to private employers, and (2) persons from neighbouring States. Dhar is interlaced with other States, and a practice seems to have arisen of persons from adjoining territory, where relief was backward, coming to stay with friends in Dhar so as to join the State works. A rule was, therefore, made that persons not belonging

* Not printed.

† Not reproduced.

to the State should produce a certificate of residence from the patel of their village before being employed. The Bhumias freely avail themselves of the concession. The rule therefore only affects the people of Gwalior and Indore territory. Adequate relief measures are now being introduced in the Maharaja Sindhia's possessions. Relief in Indore territory is practically nil. This forms the subject of separate correspondence. There is no reason why Dhar should make good the deficiencies of Indore administration. I have found the people in Dhar territory in fair to good condition. I believe that there have been no deaths from starvation. Food-stocks are sufficient, and a relief programme has been prepared which will suffice till the rains.

Enclosure 2 in No. 63.

Famine Statement for the month of January 1900.

Name of State	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Barwan	1,362	80	1,362	80	8,357	1,051

REMARKS.

Private relief. — 6,171 } persons were relieved during the month. The
Village " — 1,344 } operations of the charitable fund mentioned
Poor-house " — 19,380 } in the last return still continue.

General character of relief.—Road construction and tank excavation, grass cutting and timber hauling from the forests.

Physical condition of people.—Fair generally. Fair to bad in the western part of the State.

Deaths from starvation.—Nil.

Food-stock.—Sufficient for the present.

Importation of grain.—5,973 maunds during the month.

General condition and prospects.—The Darbar's arrangements are very thorough, and it is only due to the disinclination of Bhils to come on to relief works till the last moment that the condition of the people in the western districts is bad. It is they and the Kolis from Guzerat who fill the poor-houses, whence they are drafted on to the works as they recover strength. There are two large relief works (roads) in the western districts. The grass cutting operations are now coming to an end, as the grass is getting too dry to cut. Sufficient has been collected to meet a large export demand. What remains in the forest will maintain the large herds grazing there till the rains. Mankers (the most troublesome class in the State) have been chiefly engaged in grass cutting. They are now taking willingly to road work, 3,411 being so employed.

Wages.—No change in rates.

Emigration.—303.

Immigration.—966.

No. 64.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2147 G., dated Indore, the 24th February, 1900.

In continuation of Colonel Barr's letter No. 1760 G., dated the 14th February, 1900, I have the honour to submit the
 Rajgarh | *Basoda (Hydergarh).
 Khilohpur. | *Sundarsi (Dhar) Famine Statements furnished by the
 marginally noted States in the Bhopal Political Agency for the month of
 January 1900.

Enclosure 1 in No. 64.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January, 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajgarh ...	957.2	119	957.2	119	1,609	984

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief works.*—There are 84 persons in the poor-house opened by the State at Rajgarh, 70 persons in the poor-house opened by private agency at Karanwas, and 900 persons in that at Biaora.

2. *Public relief works.*—Digging of tanks, wells and oris ; a jail is also being built at Talen.

3. *Physical condition of people.*—Good.

4. *Death from starvation.*—None.

5. *Food-stock.*—There is a stock of grain to last till June.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain is imported as usual.

7. *General condition and prospects of the affected area.*—Good at present ; fair.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—With a view to prevent an overcrowding of those capable of maintaining themselves, the rate of wages has been reduced from 1½ annas to 1¼ annas.

9. *Emigration.*—Nil.

10. *Immigration*—Famine-stricken people, especially Marwaris, are immigrating into the State in large numbers.

15th February, 1900.

L. S. NEWMARCH, Major,
 Political Agent in Bhopal.

* Not printed.

Enclosure 2 in No. 64.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January, 1900.

Name of State.	Area in square miles	Population in thousands	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Khilchipur ..	272.9	36	272.9. one-half of the area is slightly affected and the other half is severely affected.	36	375	25

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief works.*—Nil.
2. *Public relief works.*—Digging of a tank and wells and construction of the Khilchipur-Rajgarh road.
3. *Physical condition of people.*—Good.
4. *Death from starvation.*—Nil.
5. *Food-stock.*—There is a sufficient stock of jowar and makka to meet the necessities of the State.
6. *Importation of grain.*—Only wheat and grain are imported here from other places.
7. *General condition and prospects of the affected area.*—Fair at present ; gloomy.
8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—The labourers are paid in two ways :—
 - (1) In grain as follows :—

1 man	...	...	...	...	1 seer per day.
1 woman	...	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ " "
1 child (over 6 years and below 12 years)	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "
1 child (under 6 years)	...	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ " "

This system of payment is for Bagris. Those persons who are unfit for work are also paid according to this scale.

(2) In cash, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas each.

9. *Emigration.*—125 persons emigrated from the State.
10. *Immigration.*—30 persons have immigrated into the State.

L. S. NEWMARCH, Major,

The 15th February, 1900.

Political Agent in Bhopal.

No. 65.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 2164 G., dated Indore, the 26th February, 1900.

In continuation of Colonel Barr's letter, No. 462 G., dated the 12th January, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement furnished by the Indore State for the month of January 1900.

2. I would beg to draw attention to paragraph 7 of the remarks that accompany the Famine Statement regarding deaths from starvation.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January, 1900.

State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands	AFFECTED AREA.				Estimated population in thousands of column 4 (in decimals).	Total number on relief works on last day of month	Numbers on gratuitous relief.			
			Zilla.	Pargana.	Area in square miles							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
Indore.	8,075	1,099	Indore city ...	—	—	—	—	1,506	1,983			
			Indore district ...	—	—	—	—			901	478	
						Pitlawad ...	—	167	167	11		
						Mehidpur ...	—	—	—	—	682	385
						Sundarsi ...	—	15	—	3.7		
						Mehidpur ...	—	157	—	38.3		
						Tarans ...	—	187	—	41.9		
									359	83.9		
						Mandleshwar ...	—	—	—	—	289	325
						Mardana ...	—	32	—	6.1		
						Amlotha ...	—	15	—	2		
						Nagalwadi Sindhwa ...	—	13	—	12.2		
						Brahmangan ...	—	38	—	7.6		
						Chikalda ...	—	172	—	43.2		
						(Lawani & Dai)	—	—	—	—		
									270	71.1		
						Sirkar Bijagadh ...	—	—	—	—	1,678	1,278
						Khargone ...	—	102	—	27.9		
						Oon ...	—	45	—	20.2		
						Bhangan ...	—	37	—	17.5		
						Khudgaon ...	—	16	—	9.4		
						Muhammadpur ...	—	65	—	17.2		
						Chanpur ...	—	255	—	23.5		
									520	115.7		
						Nimawar ..	—	—	—	—	957	1,260
						Nimawar ...	—	100	—	27.6		
						Rejore ...	—	160	—	29.6		
			Kataphod ...	—	69	—	12.3					
			Harangan ...	—	60	—	9.2					
						389	78.7					
			Bhanpura ...	—	—	—	—	722	449			
			Bhanpura ...	—	187	—	34.1					
			Sonel ...	—	34	—	11					
			Garoth ...	—	227	—	35.1					
						448	80.2					
			Rampura ...	—	—	—	—	642	182			
			Rampura ...	—	162	—	80					
			Nandwal ...	—	93	—	5.8					
			Manasa ...	—	140	—	28					
			Naraingarh ..	—	104	—	18					
			Khadawada ...	—	78	—	10.5					
			Chandwara ...	—	72	—	24					
						579	116.3					
						2,732	556.9	6,873	6,335			

REMARKS.

1. Slight rain fell in the Nimawar district, which will be useful to the crops. There were slight showers in the parganas of Mhow, Betma and Hasalpur also.

2. The rabi has been sown on 514 bighas in Naraingarh, 668 bighas in Manasa, 446 bighas in Rampura, 450 bighas in Gerot, in the Rampura and Bhanpura districts. The sowings in the other mahals are between 1½ and 2 annas. In Nimar district rabi has been sown on 1,851 bighas; in Mehidpur on 8,873 bighas. The exact figures for the other districts are not to hand.

3. The condition of the standing crops is not satisfactory.

4. The prospects of harvest cannot be precisely gauged, but they may be safely put down as gloomy.

5. Food-supply will last for three months in the Mehidpur and Nimar districts, for five months in the Nimawar and Indore districts, and for two months in Rampura and Bhanpura districts, but can readily be supplemented by private trade and State help.

6. Many cattle have died and are dying in Rampura and Bhanpura districts, and in Pitlawad Mahal of Indore district. Condition unsatisfactory all round and growing worse every day.

7. 450 deaths from starvation have occurred in Rampura and Bhanpura districts; reports from the other mahals have not been received, but deaths from starvation have been known from other sources to have occurred in Pitlawad, Nimar and Mehidpur.

8. There is only one month's fodder-supply in Rampura and Bhanpura districts; one to one and-a-half months' supply in Nimar, one to two and-a-half months' supply in Mehidpur district.

9. Prices were stationary throughout the month.

10. Opium has been sown on 74 bighas only in Rampura Mahal, and the sowings have generally been far below the average, irrigated lands having mostly put under wheat and gram.

11. No change in the wages.

7th February, 1900.

NANAK CHAND,
Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar.

No. 66.

Letter from Sir William Cunningham, K.C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 1008 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 26th February 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 399 G., dated the 11th January, 1900, regarding the agricultural situation and prospects in Central India. Since that letter was written, the general situation has been ameliorated, though unfortunately not in the worst affected areas, by an opportune fall of rain. On the other hand, the condition of affairs in Indore territory appears from the separate representations which you have recently made to be far worse than was indicated in the summary of the position which is given in your letter under acknowledgment.

2. In Gwalior the distress will no doubt be adequately dealt with under the directions of the Maharaja Sindhia, and the funds which His Highness has generously placed at your disposal will apparently suffice to meet the loans which have been or may be required by the poorer States in Central India. In the Bhopawar and Baghelkhand Agencies the Political Agents are displaying energy and ability in guiding the relief operations of the Darbars. As regards the Malwa Agency, the information before the Government of India is not so clear, but you are apparently satisfied that adequate measures have been adopted for the grant of relief. The situation in the smaller States of this Agency will, however, evidently demand close attention.

3. There appears to be indications that the rates of wage given on the relief works in some States have been unnecessarily high. Political Officers should advise Darbars to see, with reference to the current prices of grain, that the daily payments do not exceed a fair subsistence wage. The exaction from the able-bodied of a full day's work (which may be taken at 8 hours) is also a matter of importance.

4. The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the increase in dakaiti during the latter half of 1899. During the latter half of 1899 about 81 cases have been reported from Central India, in which 11 persons were killed and 27 injured. The increase has been even more marked in Rajputana. The returns indicate that the great majority of cases are in all

probability to be ascribed to Bhils and other jungle and criminal tribes who are suffering from want. A more effectual system of relief for the Bhil population seems to be required. I am to request that you will give the matter early and careful consideration, and will also report to the Government of India whether you have any proposals to make with a view to strengthening or supporting the police of the various Darbars, or any other steps to recommend for the check and prevention of lawlessness.

No. 67.

Letter from Sir William Cunningham, K.C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 1069 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 1st March 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Colonel Barr's letter No. 11379 G., dated the 23rd December 1899, regarding the scheme of famine relief works for the Bundelkhand Agency prepared by Captain W. Ewbank, R.E.

2. Captain Ewbank's report reflects much credit on that officer, and should prove of permanent utility in the event of famine relief works having again to be undertaken in the Bundelkhand Agency. It should also prove valuable outside the Agency as showing how simple and useful relief work projects should be prepared. The draft "Famine Code for Bundelkhand," which accompanies his report, contains rules for the classification and wages of relief workers and the laying out of tasks, which are based on the system now in force in British provinces and are suitable for adoption in Native States. Pending the revision which will hereafter be undertaken of the "Abstract Famine Code for Native States," you are authorised to permit Captain Ewbank's draft code to be followed, subject to any modifications which you may consider to be advisable, in any of the States of the Central India Agency where relief operations are or may be required. The wage scale prescribed in paragraph 61 of the report, though somewhat below that in force in British India, is probably sufficient for relief works in Native States. If it should prove too low in any respect—and this should be carefully checked—it could be suitably modified. The wage (14 chittacks) proposed for the "digger" in Captain Ewbank's scale is possibly open to criticism, as being only higher by 1 chittack than the "carrier's" wage. The heaviest work falls on the "digger," and he is usually the first person fined in the event of the task not being done. It is usual on this account in British India to give him somewhat more than a bare subsistence wage.

Possibly, however, Captain Ewbank may have considered that fines for short work are in practice difficult to supervise in Native States, in the absence of effective supervision and accurate daily measurement, and that they would not ordinarily be levied for short work, but only on exceptional occasions where contumacious idleness has to be dealt with. On this supposition the low wage fixed for the digger, and also the absence of any reference in Captain Ewbank's Code to fining for short work, or of a penal wage below which fining should not be carried, may perhaps be accounted for. But in order to protect Native States from undue extravagance, it will be desirable to take all precautions possible in the particular circumstances of each State, to ensure that the task shall be a genuine test of distress, and that the relief work may not become a holiday resort for the well-to-do and idle. If a penal wage should be prescribed, 9 chittacks for adults and 7 chittacks for children would be suitable.

3. The suggestion to supply each State in the Bundelkhand Agency with a translation of the report affecting it, together with copies of the plans, is approved; and the Government of India will be glad to be furnished with a copy of the record of protective works carried out or commenced in each State as soon as the information is available. It is hoped that the masonry pillars referred to in paragraph 10 of Captain Ewbank's report have been erected by the States concerned.

4. I am to invite your attention to the second paragraph of the letter from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 3253 I.-A., dated the 8th December 1898, and to request that the information therein called for, regarding the retention of the Native Surveyor, may now be supplied.

No. 68.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 3,083 G., dated Indore, the 20th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 342 G., dated the 10th January 1900, I have the honour to submit, in original, a letter No. 612, dated the 11th March 1900, from the Political Agent in Baghelkhand, forwarding a further report by Lieutenant Knollys on the progress of famine operations in the Maihar State in the Baghelkhand Agency.

I have instructed the Political Agent to inform the Raja of Maihar of the regret and dissatisfaction with which I have heard of his action in regard to famine relief, firstly, in stopping the supply of necessary funds; secondly, in failing to accept the advice of the Famine Officer and avoid giving the latter an opportunity for personal communication on a matter greatly affecting the welfare of his subjects; and, thirdly, in quitting his State in spite of Captain Pinhey's request to the contrary. I have further asked Captain Pinhey to warn the Chief that conduct of the kind now brought to notice will, if persisted in, render it necessary to take more active steps to ensure proper administration.

Enclosure 1 in No. 68.

Letter from Captain A. F. Pinney, Political Agent, Baghelkhand, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, No. 612, dated Satna, the 11th March 1900.

With reference to paragraph 4 of my report No. 55, dated 8th January 1900, and paragraph 5 of my report No. 320, dated 12th February 1900, I have the honour to forward a further report from Mr. Knollys (No. 2, dated 5th March 1900) regarding the progress of famine operations in the Maihar State.

2. After some delay in starting relief works, the Raja of Maihar at length seemed to realise the serious nature of the situation, and not only instituted a few works himself, but also encouraged his zamindars to start works on their own account. These works appear to have proceeded satisfactorily throughout the month of January and up to the end of the first week in February. On the 15th February, Mr. Knollys returned to Maihar from a tour in Ramnagar (Rewah), and reported to me that the Raja had begun to stop sending sufficient funds for keeping his relief works going in distant villages, and that people had again begun to emigrate, while a few cases of emaciation had come under his notice.

3. On receipt of the above information I at once wrote to the Raja and pointed out that I was sorry to hear that he had been stopping works at such a critical time, and that he not only seemed to avoid meeting Mr. Knollys and acting on his advice, but refrained from answering or taking any notice of letters addressed to him by that officer. I suggested that, as his management of relief works had so far not been a success, he should, in future, act more in accordance with the advice of the officer especially appointed to assist him, and that he should give up all idea of leaving his State, as I understand he had contemplated doing at the present juncture.

4. Shortly after writing to the Raja I found an opportunity of visiting Maihar and inspecting the works there. Accompanied by Mr. Knollys I arrived

at Maihar on the 28th February and found that the Raja in spite of my advice that he should not leave his State had gone off the day before to Allahabad, without sending me any intimation of the fact and using for his armed followers a license that I had been asked to make out in the name of his youngest son. I telegraphed to him to say that I hoped he would return soon.

5. After touring through a part of Maihar and finding, as stated by Mr. Knollys, that large numbers had emigrated and that the Raja's works were being conducted in a system which involved a maximum of expense with a minimum of advantage to distressed workers, I returned to Maihar city on the 6th instant and found the Raja still absent. I understand that he returned to Maihar in the early morning of the 7th, while my camp was at Unchehra.

6. I do not wish to bring unnecessary complaints against a Chief who, in ordinary times, though never very amenable to advice and always inclined to resent interference of any kind, even in important matters, has, on the whole, ruled his State satisfactorily for many years, and if he had not chosen to absent himself during my visit to Maihar and had given me an opportunity of discussing matters with him, I dare say I could have persuaded him to carry on his relief operations in future more in accordance with the principles laid down in the Famine Code, and to apply for a loan if his funds were running short. But his conduct on the present occasion has been such that I feel obliged to bring it to the knowledge of the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, and I would suggest that serious notice be taken of his behaviour in leaving Maihar in the manner above described, and that he be informed that, if he does not at once take Mr. Knollys more into his confidence and start such works as may be considered necessary on a system more in accordance with the Code, famine operations in his State will be placed directly under the supervision of the Political Agent, to whom sufficient funds will be advanced to be ultimately recovered by instalments from the Maihar State.

Enclosure 2 in No. 68.

Letter from Lieutenant E. Knollys, Famine Assistant, to the Political Agent, Baghelkhand, dated Maihar, the 5th March 1900.

I have the honour to submit herewith, for your information, a special report on the condition of Maihar.

In order that the present state of affairs in Maihar may be fully understood, it will be necessary for me to give a resumé of the famine relief operations in that State.

In October the Political Agent, Baghelkhand, toured through Maihar and found even then signs of impending distress; he addressed a letter to the Maihar Darbar urging the necessity of drawing up a programme of relief works. Apparently the Raja disregarded this letter, as up to 19th November no programme had been drawn up.

In November I was deputed to supervise and organise relief measures in Maihar, Nagode and Ramnagar. On arrival at Maihar on 19th November, I drew up, with the assistance of the Diwan, a programme of relief works (zamindari and Darbari) which would have given employment to 9,750 persons for three months. This programme I read over to the Raja, who agreed to it, and said that there would be no lack of funds to carry on the works. He also gave me to understand that the Diwan was empowered to start any works that I might recommend. I then toured through Maihar accompanied by the Diwan: the villagers were then in a fair condition, but talked of emigrating unless relief works were started soon. I inspected sites for relief works and arranged with the Diwan that they should be commenced within a fortnight or sooner, if necessary. As I had to inspect Ramnagar (Rewah State), I requested the Maihar Darbar to forward me every week a list of the relief works started and the numbers employed on them. The Diwan left me on the Maihar-Rewah border, with the intention of making arrangements for starting the relief works at once.

As during my tour in Ramnagar no reports reached me from the Maihar Darbar, I wrote again and again to them on the subject, and the Political Agent also directed them to send me a detailed list of works started. Nothing, however, was received from them, and as in December anonymous complaints were being received that nothing had been done in Maihar, I hurried back. On arrival at Maihar I found that no works at all had been started, and that people had commenced to emigrate.

The Diwan, although fully realising the distressed condition of the villages, had not been authorised by the Raja to institute any works, despite the promises made to me. Police were stationed at the different villages on my line of march to prevent any of the famine-stricken people making complaints to me; also mounted sowars were kept near my camp to prevent riding out alone and ascertaining the true state of affairs; with the greatest difficulty I managed to secure an interview with the Raja. He had left Maihar city presumably on hearing of my coming and went to Birme, about 7 miles off. Hearing that he was going to Badanpur the next day, I wrote suggesting an interview there, but he replied that he would not be able to see me there. So I wrote back to him saying that I would be at Birme that day (18th December) at 3 o'clock. On arriving at Birme I found that he had gone to Gunwara, and although the sowar who took my letter had returned, yet the Raja did not send me any answer or explanation. I went on at once to Gunwara, and, after some attempts on the Raja's part to avoid seeing me, managed to secure an interview. He pointblank refused to open works at once and said that there would be no distress for another two months; yet at the same time he admitted that people had emigrated from Kakara, a village for which a relief work had been promised three weeks ago.

I reported to the Political Agent at Sutna, but on my return found that the Raja had thought better of it and had started works. These works were fairly satisfactory as reported in my No. 1, dated 5th January, 1900, and thinking that now everything would go on all right I continued my tour in Ramnagar. On my return, however, on 15th February, I found that during the last few days the Raja had begun to stop works on his bandhs, &c.; on the Badanpur road there were only 70 at work instead of 800, at Maihar only 100 workers instead of 400, and the same with all his works. From enquiries made I ascertained that sometimes all work would be stopped for seven days at a time. Finding everything so unsatisfactory in Maihar and that the people had begun to emigrate in large numbers, I again brought the matter to the notice of the Political Agent, who then himself came to Maihar.

During the last week I have accompanied the Political Agent in his tour, and everywhere in Maihar there are signs of emigration on a large scale. One of the Maihar officials admits that 700 people have emigrated: personally, I think that at least 2,000 have gone off to British territory. This is all due to sudden cessation of work on relief works at a critical period of the famine. There is hardly a single village south of the Kaimur range, from which there has not been a certain amount of emigration. Emigration has occurred in the following villages visited by Political Agent and myself, viz. :-

Village.	No.	Village.	No.	Village.	No.	Village.	No.
Latagaon ...	300	Etwarah ...	40	Ajwan ...	50	Pahlta ..	16
Kissenpur ...	100	Kakara . . .	50	Badera ...	25	Saleyi ...	50
Riwar ...	90	Barrara . . .	25	Jhoba ...	20	Moharwa .	10
Tikar ..	3	Barkoulh ...	12	Pipra ...	28	Badanpur ...	40

At the end of February the Raja informed, through his Diwan, that he had sanctioned zamindari relief works to the extent of Rs. 1,400 at Riwar, near

Latagaon ; I went there on 1st March and found that the zamindars were only ready to expend Rs. 40 this year on the works, and that they had told the Raja so.

I have frequently written to the Raja on the subject of getting loans from Government, starting kitchens, sanctioning zamindari works, and offering my advice whenever I thought necessary, but can get no answer from him. The Diwan has always been ready to assist me, but no powers have been delegated to him to start works or initiate relief measures of any description.

Owing to the ticket system in British territory all those who have emigrated will probably return shortly, and unless satisfactory relief works are started there will be very acute distress.

From the above it appears that no reliance can be placed on the relief measures instituted by the Raja, and unless he can be induced to accept a loan or organise the relief works more in accordance with the Famine Rules for Native States, no satisfactory results can be expected.

No. 69.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore, No. 1696 I.A., dated the 19th April, 1900.

You may make loan as proposed to Dhar, from funds supplied by Sindhia, of such amounts not exceeding five lakhs in aggregate as may month by month be found necessary, but other loans already agreed to from Sindhia's funds will, if fully disbursed, aggregate eight lakhs forty-nine thousand, and I understood Sindhia had only agreed to lend up to twelve lakhs.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE BOMBAY NATIVE STATES.

No. 70.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6395 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 21st September, 1899.

I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that owing to the serious condition of affairs in Káthiáwar, consequent on the absence of rain in that Province, the Governor in Council has granted permission to the Political Agent, Káthiáwar, to guarantee loans which may be contracted by the Talukdars of Káthiáwar, strictly for purposes of relief, and all the terms of which have received his previous sanction, and has informed him that if the lenders are private persons, the discretion vested in him should be most carefully exercised and only in cases where other loans are not possible.

2. I am also to state that the Governor in Council has accorded sanction to petty non-jurisdictional Estates under Agency management in Káthiáwar, which possess cash balances, making loans to other Estates in Káthiáwar of the same kind which possess no such balances, in cases where it is not possible to obtain the previous sanction of the Government to loan.

3. I am to add that the Political Agent has been informed that the practice of granting the loans, referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter, must be discontinued as soon as the emergency which has necessitated it has passed, and that he should submit, for the information and orders of Government, a monthly statement in the annexed form.

No. 71.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6878 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 7th October, 1899.

I am desired to submit the accompanying papers* and to request the early orders of the Government of India thereon.

2. The Thana Circles in the Gujarát Agencies comprise the Estates of petty Talukdars, who are unable to maintain efficient police and establishment for administrative purposes themselves, and whose jurisdiction is exercised for them by the Agency through officers called Thanadars, who have criminal, civil, and administrative powers.

3. These Talukdars are quite unable to cope with an emergency such as now confronts them, and there is no obligation, except in the last resort, to spend Provincial revenues in areas of foreign territory. The expedient of

advancing money, to be recovered with moderate interest when the seasons are again favourable, seems to be feasible and sound, and I am to ask the sanction of the Government of India to the advance of money at four per cent. to the Political Superintendent, Pálanpur, to be devoted to famine relief in the Thana Circles up to such maximum as the Government of India may see fit to fix. An one anna cess might, the Governor in Council thinks, be safely estimated to produce in normal times a revenue of Rs. 35,000, and the maximum to be fixed should, in view of possibilities, be fixed as high as possible. It is very probable that any sum so arrived at will prove inadequate for the necessities of the case up to next monsoon, and that recourse to direct Government expenditure will be inevitable if the people are to be kept alive.

4. I am to say that the Governor in Council, in view of the urgency of the case, placed Rs. 10,000 at the disposal of the Political Superintendent, in anticipation of the orders of the Government of India on this reference. I am to say that the matter is most urgent and to request orders by telegram.

No. 72.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 6942 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 11th October, 1899.

I am directed to submit, for the orders of the Government of India, a copy

Letter from His Highness the Divan of Pálanpur, G.C.I.E., No. 379, dated the 28th September, 1899.

Memorandum from the Political Superintendent, Pálanpur, No. 4493, dated the 30th September, 1899.

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., No. B.—28, dated the 4th October, 1899.

of the papers* noted in the margin regarding a loan of four lakhs of rupees which His Highness the Divan of Pálanpur has asked this Government to give him at 4 per cent. interest to enable him to take steps to

cope with the distress prevailing in his State.

2 His Highness the Divan has always shown himself to be a loyal Chief, willing to co-operate in all matters with the British Government; and I am to say that the Governor in Council is of opinion that when he turns to Government in a crisis, such as the present, for what to him means considerable assistance, but to Government a not unprofitable utilization of funds at its command, it is good policy to meet His Highness' request rather than to refer him to the open market.

No. 73

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 7035 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 13th October, 1899.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying papers,* and to request the sanction of the Government of India to the interstatal loan proposed.

2. I am to explain that the State of Sayla lies south-west of Wadhwan in the most afflicted part of Káthiáwár. The Chiefs there are not very wealthy and in the face of the almost unprecedented calamity which appears to be before the Province, it is absolutely essential that more favoured States who have balances shall, through the mediation of the Agency, come to the aid of their less fortunate brother Chiefs.

* Not printed.

3. The objects of this loan include an investment in the proposed Rájkot-Chotila-Wadhwan Railway. It is not yet certain that the Government of India will sanction that project, although the Political Agent has spoken of it in recent reports as a *sine qua non* if the people are to be kept alive. What is certain, however, is that if the Railway be not sanctioned, other relief works in the same area will be no less imperatively necessary. I am to ask the very earliest orders on the particular request by telegram.

4. I am to make also a further request. It has been estimated that if no late rains come, the Province may next hot weather have over 400,000 persons on relief, and that the famine may cost the Province some 125 lakhs. It is obvious that in such circumstances the orders enforced in normal times as to interstatal and other loans must be relaxed and that the agency must intervene to enable Chiefs to get money on fairly reasonable terms. Time is also of considerable importance at the present crisis, and I am therefore to ask that authority may be temporarily granted to this Government to sanction such loans or the grant of the guarantee of the Agency, where necessary, without previous reference to the Government of India.

No. 74.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No 3036 I.-A., dated Simla, the 19th October 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters regarding the prospects of possible scarcity or famine in Native States in the Bombay Presidency, and the orders issued by the Governor in Council in respect to the loans which may be required for purposes of relief by Talukdars in Kathiawar.

2. The grant of loans from the cash balances of estates which are under management will require and will doubtless receive the close supervision of the Political Agent. The letters under acknowledgment contain no indication of the rate of interest at which such loans would be made. In connection with this question, and with the anticipated necessity of providing funds for relief measures in the Palanpur, Mahi Kantha and Rewa Kantha Agencies, I am to enclose, for the information of the Governor in Council, a copy of the letter marked in the margin, the fifth paragraph of which indicates the policy contemplated by the Government of India in respect to any loans which may be

To the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October 1899.
(See papers relating to Rajputana.)

required by Native States in Rajputana to enable them to meet extra expenditure due to famine or scarcity.

3. The instructions contained in the third and fourth paragraphs of the letter to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana may also be useful to the Governor in Council as a guide in dealing with similar questions in Native States in the Bombay Presidency.

4. With reference to paragraph 9 of your letter No. 6393, I am to say that the connection with Sind will probably run from Viramgam by Malia, Bhuj, Lakhpat and Mughalbin to Hyderabad, and *not* by Radhanpur; but the project has been set aside as one that cannot be at present undertaken. Should it be decided to start earthwork on this line for purposes of famine relief, the Railway Department desire, if possible, to receive two or three months' notice with a view to laying out and marking the land. The branches to Radhanpur from Viramgam or Patan have not yet been surveyed, but the Bombay-Baroda Railway Company should be moved to undertake the survey if it is necessary to start relief works. The Baroda chord line will be available for famine relief work.

No. 75.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, No. 3098 I.-A., dated the 24th October 1899.

3098 I.-A. Your letters 6878, October 7th, and 6942, October 11th, and telegram 202 M., dated 14th. Government of India sanction loans as follows :— To Idar two lakhs, to Thana Circles loans up to a maximum of one and a half lakhs, and to Palanpur two lakhs. Interest will be four per cent., and term for repayment ten years. General conditions should follow those indicated in paragraph 5 of letter to Rajputana, copy of which was sent you with my letter 3036 I.-A., October 19th.

No. 76.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, No. 3110 I.-A., dated the 24th October 1899.

No. 3110 I.-A. Your letter 7035, October 13th. Government of India sanction immediate Government loan to Sayla State of such sum, not exceeding Rs. 50,000, as is actually needed for famine or expenditure due to scarcity, but for no other purpose. This is not a time at which the State should expect loans to repay another debt or to make investments in railways. The famine loan will bear interest at 4 per cent., and be repayable by instalments in ten years. Please furnish an estimate, however rough, of total loans likely to be required for famine expenditure by States in Bombay. Government of India will then decide how funds are to be supplied. They would prefer to give a general decision instead of treating cases individually as they arise. As at present advised, Governor-General in Council is indisposed to extend system of inter-statal loans, especially when the lending State can only find funds by selling Government paper. One disadvantage of the system is that it would probably involve great diversity of terms and loans.

No. 77.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, No. 3235 I.-A., dated the 1st November 1899.

Please see my telegram 3110 I.-A., October 24th. Instead of loan from Porbandar, a Government loan, not exceeding Rs. 50,000, is sanctioned for Bajana to meet expenditure directly due to famine or scarcity, but for no other purpose. Interest 4 per cent., and loan repayable by instalments in ten years. In all future cases of loans for Native States, please furnish approximate average income and expenditure of the State, and its surplus, if any, at close of last financial year.

No. 78.

Telegram from the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, Mahabeshwar to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 231 M., dated the 2nd November 1899.

Following telegram from Political Agent, Kathiawar :—*Begins.* Bhavnagar urgently requires five lakhs to carry on administration and relief works. Will Government kindly advance this amount? *Ends.* Average revenue of the State about 38 lakhs. Other information required in your telegram 3235 I.-A.

of 1st called for, but the loan may be safely advanced: Application from Chief of Wadhwan has been posted, who asks for guarantee of loan of five lakhs for famine and administrative purposes. The rough estimate of loans required by States in Bombay asked for in your telegram 3110 I.-A., dated 24th October, is not completely available, but Political Agent, Kathiawar, anticipates amount necessary may reach 60 lakhs, and Political Superintendent, Palanpur, estimates total loans required for relief purposes at twenty-four lakhs and fifty-six thousand, and for maintenance purposes at eighty thousand. Information for Mahi Kantha and Rewa Kantha Agencies not yet available. We cannot guarantee any estimate.

No. 79.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, Mahabaleshwar, No. 3276 I.-A., dated the 3rd November 1899.

Your telegram 231 M., November 2nd. Orders as to Bhavnagar's wish for loan will be issued as soon as possible. In calculating probable requirements of Rajput States, Government of India assumed that, where distress was acute, the number of units coming under relief would be nine times the population, and where distress was severe, but not acute, six times. Cost of relief was taken at Rs. 90 per thousand units. Other charges due to famine at one-quarter the cost of direct relief. These estimates were based on actuals of famine in Rajputana and Central India in 1896-97, and may be of use to you in preparing your estimates. When your estimates are complete, please distinguish between amount required this financial year and amount required after March. Advances made to States at present should be limited to amounts actually required in near future.

No. 80.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, Mahabaleshwar, No. 3371 I.-A., dated the 11th November 1899.

3371 I.-A. My telegram 3276 I.-A. and your 234 M., both dated November 3rd. Immediate Government loan of one and half lakhs to Bhavnagar is sanctioned pending fuller information as to total amounts required for Bombay States. Loan will be at 4 per cent. and repayable in ten years.

No. 81.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Political Secretary, Bombay Government, No. 3384 I.-A., dated the 13th November 1899.

Wadhwan loan. See my telegrams 3110 I.-A., October 24th, and 3276 I.-A., November 3rd. Government loan, not exceeding Rs. 75,000, is sanctioned for Wadhwan for famine relief and expenditure. Loan will bear interest of 4 per cent. and be repayable in ten years. Other questions as to Wadhwan finances should be kept distinct, but the Thakur and all Chiefs of distressed States which require financial aid should be made to understand that in famine years all ordinary expenditure should be cut down to the lowest possible limits.

No. 82.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 8375 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 9th December, 1899.

I am desired, in reference to your telegram, to submit the estimate of the Political Agent, Kathiawar, as to the amounts which will be required to enable him to deal with the famine necessities of the Province of Kathiawar.

2. It will be seen that for purpose of loans to States of the first four classes he estimates for charges amounting to Rs. 71,39,430 under the heads:—

	Rs.
Ordinary administrative charges	42,33,000
Advances to Bhayats and Girasias	2,75,950
Takavi	2,82,200
Actual relief	23,48,280

To meet this the States will as estimated only have, owing to failure of crops a revenue of Rs. 12,50,413, and the balance Government are asked to advance is Rs. 58,89,017. Of this amount there is required—

	Rs.
Up to 31st March, 1900	29,44,507
After ditto	29,44,510

The whole of this amount is recoverable in due course.

3. The sum required for administrative charges is large, and is, of course, not strictly famine relief, but the State machinery must be kept going. The police and others must receive their wages, and the money must be found. If the Government of India are not disposed themselves to advance it, I am to request that authority may be granted to raise loans from other sources.

4. Similar figures for the smaller States and the non-jurisdictional Estates in the Thana Circles, *i.e.*, administered directly by the Agency, are as under:—

	Rs.
Ordinary administrative charges	17,68,263
Advances to Bhayats and Girasias	6,800
Takavi	1,20,682
Actual relief	9,86,310
	28,82,155

Of these amounts it will be observed that the Political Agent estimates that Rs. 15,01,572 will be recoverable, and that Rs. 8,77,145 will be irrecoverable. The Governor in Council does not detain these papers to discuss or consider whether the amounts are really irrecoverable. They must be taken to be so for the moment, and the present duty is to place the necessities of the Province, in regard to saving life and carrying on the Administration, before the Government of India at the earliest possible date. It is probable that some of the parent States from which these smaller Bhayadi Estates have separated may be willing to repay the loans as the price of securing the re-absorption of the Estate in the old territory, or British management may gradually redeem the obligation. But whether that be so or not is a matter for future detailed examination, when there is leisure to appraise the liability and resources of each Estate.

5. As regards the question whether these estimates can or cannot be accepted, the Governor in Council, after careful examination of them, considers that they are framed on sound bases. Experience in the last famine shows that in British Districts the cost of relief was Rs. 100 per 1,000 units, with prices at 17 lbs. per rupee. Prices are already at that level, and there seems every prospect of their rising. The estimate, therefore, seems, if anything, to be pitched somewhat low in its essential feature, but the Governor in Council is, at any rate for the present, content to rely on the judgment of the Political Agent and Mr. Morison in that regard.

6. As to the other Agencies under this Government, Cutch at present requires no assistance. The Palanpur, Mahi Kantha, and Rewa Kantha Agencies are so intimately connected with British Gujarat that for purposes of famine administration they have been placed under the Commissioner, N. D., and the Famine Department of this Government.

7. There is no probability of any large measure of assistance being required south of the Nerbudda. The little State of Jath in the Southern Maratha Country is in need of assistance, but that can easily be arranged by loan from other States of the Agency which are not suffering from the scarcity, and which have not inconsiderable balances at disposal. The necessary details in its case are at any rate not at the moment available.

Enclosure in No. 82.

Letter from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, No. 1008, dated Rajkot, 15th November 1899.

In connection with my letter No. 974, dated 28th ultimo, forwarding a rough estimate of the aggregate loans which the States of Kathiawar will require to meet the demands of the famine, and in reference to your telegram No. 2381-M of the 4th instant, suggesting data for calculating the probable cost of the famine, I have now the honour to submit estimates in tabular form of the amount of money which will be required (a) for each State and (b) for the Thana Circles.

2. In making this estimate I have proceeded on the following assumptions. Where the rain crops have entirely failed and the brackish character of the subsoil water prevents irrigation from wells, the character of the famine has been considered as intense; where some small fraction of the rain crops has been reaped, or where a good deal of well irrigation has been resorted to, the character of the famine has been considered as severe only. In consequence of the irregular and partial character of the rainfall, it is very difficult to classify accurately, and it is possible some tracts of one degree of severity may creep into those of a different character; but for the purposes of this statement, viz., to estimate the amount of pecuniary help the States will need, the above classification seems sufficiently accurate.

3. Proceeding to estimate the cost in the several States which will require monetary aid according to the degree of severity of the famine, I have thought it safer to be guided by the detailed statistics of the Deccan famine of 1896-97 than the data of the Rajputana famine, as I have no figures to show how the latter are arrived at. Moreover, the cost of the Rajputana famine is so very much below the estimate I have arrived at from calculating the daily cost of maintaining the probable number of people who will come under relief that I do not think they can be relied on. For example, the number of persons being relieved in Bhavnagar now, at the beginning of the famine, is 23,000. The Darbar expects 60,000, but I have taken as an average 40,000.* At 1½ annas

* NOTE.—This is only 8 per cent. of the population and below the severity figure, which is 10 per cent.

per head, the food alone of these persons will cost $13\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for 12 months ; but according to the Rajputana calculation, the population of Bhavnagar being 5 lakhs, the number of units to be relieved will be 45 lakhs and, at Rs. 90 per 1,000 units the cost would only be Rs. 4,05,000. The estimate of Rs. 90 per 1,000 units is not far from the actual cost of maintaining the people in the Deccan, but the mode of calculating the units (9 times the population) is, I think, misleading.

4. In the Deccan famine of 1896-97 (*see* para. 12 of the report of the famine) the actual units relieved were as follows :—

Sholapur	46 times the population.
Bijapur	36 "
Ahmednagar	31 "
Poona	10 "
Nasik	9 "

Mr. Morison, whose opinion is entitled to the greatest weight, owing to his having administered the famine relief operations in Sholapur in 1896-97, considers that the conditions, in Jhalavad at least, which is the district most affected at present, are almost as bad as Sholapur, where the Deccan famine was most intense ; that 35 times the population is the least number of units for whom relief will have to be provided, and that 40 times would probably not be excessive for the whole province. In this estimate 35 times the population has been adopted to calculate the number of units in the part where famine is intense, and 30 times where it is severe.

5. The cost per 1,000 during the Deccan famine was as under :—

	Rs.
Sholapur	106
Bijapur	100
Ahmednagar	94
Poona	117
Nasik	89

I have adopted the Rajputana rate of Rs. 90 per 1,000 units for calculating the cost of relief in this province. To this must be added the ordinary cost of administration, which I have fixed at 75 per cent. of the ordinary annual income. Besides the above, it is necessary to allow for—

(a) Takavi advances to cultivators, and

(b) Loans to subordinate landholders (Bhayats and Mulgarasias), each of which I have calculated at 5 per cent. of the ordinary revenue. At this estimate, the total amount required is, for the States I. to IV., Rs. 58,89,000 ; for the Thana Circles and States below Class IV., Rs. 23,79,000 = Rs. 82,68,000, half of which will be needed during the present financial year and the remaining moiety after the 31st March next.

6 The aggregate of the several loans will, no doubt, appear to Government to be large ; it is, therefore, necessary to explain that the amount includes one year's administrative charges and public charges, such as tribute, &c., less a small fraction of the ordinary revenue which it is expected may be realised this year from the cold weather irrigated crop. The assistance needed for administration, &c., amounts in States Class I. to IV. to Rs. 29,82,000, and in Talukas below Class IV. and Thana Circles to Rs. 12,65,000. The several loans, however, do not much exceed one year's income of the individual States, and in some cases fall short of it. In the famine of 1896 Government lent Rs. 2,50,000 to the Jhat State, whose revenue was only Rs. 1,97,000.

7. The circumstance that so many States in Kathiawar have not sufficient cash balance to defray the cost of the administration of their estates for even a few months is, no doubt, discreditable to their management, and this famine will, I hope, be a lesson to them ; but the difficulty must be faced, and the money must be found, if their subjects are to be kept alive. I have already been obliged to make temporary advances from local funds aggregating Rs. 7,18,000, otherwise many people would already have died of starvation, and applications for monetary assistance for relief works continue to come in.

8. If Government do not wish to advance the whole sum of Rs. 41,34,000 for the current financial year at once, I may be allowed to draw monthly on the treasury up to six or seven lakhs of rupees as the States may require money.

9. I fear that in the case of some of the estates under Thanas there is no prospect of the Government advances being recovered, but I hope to save Government the cost of maintaining many of the Thana Circle people by concentrating them on the earthwork of the Dolia-Rajkot Railway should the direct route *via* Chotila be sanctioned.

10. The Dasada, Jhinjuvada, and Bagaara Estates are rich, compact properties which can repay, by annual instalments, the famine advances, but the Thanas of Wadhwan, Bhoika, Palyad, Chotila, Babra, Chamardi, Songadh, Dhrafa, Lodhika, and Lakhapadar consist of a large number of poor, petty Talukdars. Even if it were practicable to debit them in proportion to the number of their people relieved, it would be impossible to recover the cost from their properties ; unless, therefore, the Chotila Railway be sanctioned I must find one or more large irrigation tanks on which to employ these people, and I see no other source from which to defray their cost except the British Treasury.

11. The Chotila Thana country is largely composed of hill and pasture, and is cultivated by a poor and inferior class of agriculturist. It was the first to feel the famine, and in a very severe degree. It was necessary to open a relief work in the shape of an irrigation tank as early as the beginning of September. This will cost at least half a lakh. In consequence of the delay in sanctioning the Chotila Railway, I had to start another tank which will cost about a lakh. This expenditure must, I fear, fall on Government, but both the tanks promise to yield a fair return on the capital outlay.

No. 83.

Letter from the Honourable Mr. J. W. P. Muir-Mackenzie, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Famine), Calcutta, No. 655-F., dated Bombay Casile, 8th December 1899.

I AM directed to forward for the information of the Government of India copies of the monthly famine reports received from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, and the Political Agents, Kathiawar and Rewa Kantha, for the month of October, 1899. The reports are in the form prescribed in No. III. of the rules circulated with the letter from the Government of India, No. 12—48 F., dated 23rd April, 1892.

Enclosure in No. 83.

*Famine Statement for the month ending 31st October, 1899, for the
Kathiawar Political Agency.*

State.	Area in Square Miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Jhalawad Prant.</i>						
Dhrángdhra... ..	1,156.5	103,754	1,156.5	10,000	4,119	72
Limdi	345	48,176	345	48,176	1,050	300
Wadhwan	242.6	42,438	242.6	42,438	966	50
Lakhtar	247	25,203	247	25,203	1,000	100
Saela	222.1	15,000	222.1	15,000	1,388	185
Chuda	78.2	13,000	78.2	13,000	587	46
Muli	133	16,723	133	16,723	150	...
Bajana	183.12	15,958	183.12	15,958	2,500	...
Patri... ..	39.4	3,125	39.4	3,125	50	...
States below Class IV. and Thana Circles.	1,351	134,733	1,351	134,733	4,200	1,102
Total	3,996	418,110	3,996	324,356	16,010	1,855
<i>Sorant Prant.</i>						
Junágadh	3,283	484,000	3,283	484,000	9,832	1,600
Porbander	636.5	85,785	636.5	85,785	9,655	6,005
Jafrabad	42.329	12,389	42.329	12,389	1,897	894
Manawadar	90	16,009	90	16,009	778	28
Thana Deoli	94	12,000	94	12,000	400	...
(Jetpur) Mulu Wala	35	6,867	35	6,867	500	52
(Jetpur) Wala Naja Kala.	72	16,000	72	16,000	650	...
Sardargadh	65	13,000	65	13,000	200	...
Vadia	72	10,000	72	10,000	585	14
States below Class IV. and Thana Circles.	769	33,289	769	33,289	6,995	...
Total	5,158	689,339	5,158	689,339	31,492	8,593
<i>Halar Prant.</i>						
Navanagar	3,791.3	379,611	3,791.3	379,611	27,930	542
Morvi	822	106,000	822	106,000	9,100	162
Gondal	1,024	161,000	1,024	161,000	4,797	—
Wankaner	390.73	41,000	390.73	41,000	2,000	100

State.	Area in Square Miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Halar Prant—cont.</i>						
Dhrol	283	27,000	283	27,000	443	100
Rájkot	274	50,000	274	50,000	9,031	240
Virpur	66.9	7,700	66.9	7,700	40	...
Mália... ..	64	13,703	64	13,703	3,166	1,471
Kotda (Sangáni) ...	74	10,000	72	9,850	285	10
States below Class IV. and Thána Circles.	297	59,853	297	59,853	1,595	...
Total... ..	7,086	835,867	7,084	855,717	58,387	2,625
<i>Gohilwad Prant.</i>						
Bhávnagar	2,860	467,382	2,860	71,372	22,945	1,200
Pálitána	289	60,848	...	...	921	150
Vála	109	18,000	109	18,000	379	18
Jasdan	283	35,000	283	35,000	4,509	1,025
Láthi	42	8,000	42	8,000	1,890	100
States below Class IV. and Thána Circles.	249	86,343	249	86,343	1,372	...
Total... ..	3,832	675,573	3,543	614,725	32,016	2,493
Grand Total	20,071	2,638,889	19,781	2,484,137	137,905	15,566

*Remarks to accompanying Famine Statement for the month ending
31st October 1899.*

The physical condition of the people continues good, the only signs of emaciation observed being in the case of some children on relief in Chotila Thána; since coming on works and being fed in kitchen they have improved. No deaths from starvation reported. Food stocks are ample, much grain being imported through the several ports of the Province. Prices showed early in the month a slight tendency to fall; since then they have been steady at about 18 seers for jowári, the staple grain, and there is at present no tendency to rise. Emigration and immigration are both checked so far as possible, and there is no appreciable flow of population either into or out of the Province. The scarcity of fodder accentuates the distress much—perhaps half the total number of cattle have already died; every effort is being made to save the remaining half and the mortality is now less.

Relief works are chiefly: (1) construction of tanks, the largest of which are Chánpa Kuwadva, Peplia and Halenda; (2) earthwork of railway from Wadhwa to Dolia; (3) sinking of wells—10,000 new wells have been dug in the province since July; (4) roads, especially in Navánagar, Porbander and Bhávaagar States; (5) petty works of various sorts. The latter class are at present very numerous, and an effort is being made everywhere to substitute large central works. The province is being prospected in every direction for suitable sites for tanks (both for irrigation and drinking purposes) and works undertaken as soon as possible. Cattle farms have also been started in some

places and suitable places are being prepared for others. So far there is no great scarcity of drinking water, and it is not believed that the water famine will ever become so acute as it is in Rájputána, though in a few places there is scarcity. Generally it may be said that so far the measures of relief have been timely and sufficient. The number at present on works equals between 5 and 6 per cent. of population. The figures for gratuitous relief cannot be taken as very accurate; more accurate figures will be available next month. There is not much private relief. A map* showing the areas most seriously affected is appended. The whole province is affected more or less.

Famine Statement for Month ending 31st October 1899 for the Rewa Kantha Agency.

State.	Area in Square Miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rájpipla	475½	172	The whole State.	172	558	5
Chhota Udepur	87½	94	Do.	94	232	...
Deogadh Báriya	313	111	Do.	111	2,397	66
Lunáwada	388	90	Do.	90	†2,500	...
Bálasnor	189	53	Do.	53	198	...
Sunth	394	74	Do.	74	816	...
Bhadarwa	27	13	Do.	13	216	...
Kadána	130	18	Do.	18	63	...
Sanjeli	34	6	Do.	6	131	...
Umetha	24	6	Do.	6	174	...
Nárukot	143	7	Do.	7	269	...
Sankheda Mewás	3,042½	70	Do.	70	487	...
Pandu do.	81½	22	Do.	22	356	...
Dodka do.	14½	6	Do.	6	26	...
Total	7,110½	742	...	742	8,423	71

NOTE.—No village or poor-house-relief, but in some large towns and villages grain shops are opened by Mahájans, principal traders, for selling grain at cheap rates to the poor.

General character of relief works: Roads, tanks and wells.

Physical condition of people: Poor. No deaths from starvation.

Food stocks fairly sufficient. Grain is being imported from Bombay and other places. General condition and prospects of the affected area gloomy.

Rates of wages on relief works: Maximum two annas; minimum one anna and six pies.

* Not reproduced.

† Figures received apparently incorrect. From other information 2,500 appears about the actual number.

*Famine Statement for the Month ending 31st October 1899 for the
Palanpur Superintendency.*

State.	Area in Square Miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6†	7
Pálanpur State ...	3,177	275	The whole Superin- tendency.	275	23,915	716
Rádhanpur State ...	1,150	98		98	22,220	7,515
Tharád State ...	940	25		25	601	...†
Wao State ...	380	13		13	...†	30
Thána Circles ...	2,475	222		222	3,034	236
Total ...	8,122	633		633	49,770	8,497

REMARKS.

Private Relief.—The Pálanpur Mahájans feed beggars and wanderers from Márwár and elsewhere who have again begun to arrive in small parties. In Rádhanpur since the opening of regular poor houses private relief has decreased and the Mahájans are devoting themselves principally to attempting to keep alive such animals as are brought to them. In many places in the petty States and Thána Circles charitable funds have been raised for the support of the aged and infirm and where possible the poor houses are being maintained from these subscriptions, but the money will not last long.

2. *Poor Houses and Village Relief.*—There are poor houses at Pálanpur, Rádhanpur, Sami, Munjpur, Tharád, Wao, Diodar, Sihori, Wárahi and Sántalpur. Village inspection and relief has been organized in the Thána Circles, is being organized in the Pálanpur State, and it is believed has been organized in Rádhanpur.

3. The central relief work at Rádhanpur is a road 16 miles long in the direction of Pattan. At Pálanpur some of the relief workers are employed on the roads round the town, and there are some gangs on well sinking and field improvement, such as levelling, draining and terracing; otherwise the relief works throughout the Superintendency are tanks.

4. *The Physical Condition of the People* is reported to be on the whole good, but in Rádhanpur the Administrator states that privation was beginning to tell on them and that many emaciated persons are arriving from outside the State. There are some reduced persons on the Pálanpur works also.

5. *Deaths from Starvation.*—The Administrator of Rádhanpur states that there have been fourteen deaths from starvation in the poor-house there and others are said to have occurred in the previous month. It seems very early for this, and a full report has been called for. No such deaths are reported from any other part of the Superintendency; there have been some deaths from diarrhoea on the Pálanpur works, but the disease is prevalent among other people also.

6. *The General Condition* of the whole Superintendency is bad in the extreme. The mortality among the cattle has been enormous and large numbers have been driven away to other parts of India. Great difficulty is

* The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief in Rádhanpur are very large and an explanation has been called for.

† The relief work for the Wao State and Wao Thána Circle is one and the same and the poor house for Tharád State and Tharád Thána Circle is one and the same. In both cases the figures are included under Thána Circles.

‡ The figures in column 6 include dependants and non-working children.

already felt with regard to transport. No cold-weather crops except such as can be raised by irrigation can now be hoped for, and in the west towards the Runn water is running short or turning salt. Several villages have been entirely abandoned, and the prospect is gloomy in the extreme.

7. *Rate of Wages.*—In the Thana Circles the relief works are conducted entirely by piece work, allowance being made for aged dependants and non-working children. In Palanpur the workers are partly paid by piece work, but principally by daily wage of—

2 annas per male adult,
 1½ do. female adult,
 1 do. working children,

allowances being made to aged or infirm dependants and non-working children. The rate of wage at Radhanpur has not been reported.

8. *Grain stocks* are sufficient for the present except in Santalpur, where arrangements have been made to import, but a large quantity of grain destined for Radhanpur is lying at Pattan railway station for want of transport, and the same difficulty is being experienced in getting grain out to Wao, Tharad, Santalpur, and Diodar.

9. *Emigration.*—It is the custom in the eastern part of the Superintendency for a considerable portion of the people, even in ordinary years, to go to Sind after harvest and return for sowing with earned money. Last year, owing to the scanty rainfall, larger numbers than usual went. This year they have not returned as usual. On the contrary, more have gone. From Radhanpur also, when the pinch first began to be felt, considerable numbers emigrated to Ahmedabad, Idar, and a few to Sind, but some of these have begun to return.

10. *Immigration.*—The influx from Marwar has in great measure ceased, and many have been sent back, but a good number are believed to be in and about Radhanpur; a good many people are believed to have come there from Baroda territory also, though the Administrator does not say so specifically. There has also been a certain amount of immigration from one part of the Superintendency to another.

No. 84.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay; to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 8640, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 19th December, 1899.

In connection with paragraph 2 of Foreign Department Letter No. 3036-I.A., dated the 19th October, 1899, indicating the policy contemplated by the Government of India in respect to

loans required by Native States to enable them to meet extra expenditure due to famine or scarcity, and with reference to Foreign Department telegram No. 3098-I.A., dated the 24th October, 1899, communicating the Government of India's grant of a loan of two lakhs to His Highness the Divan of Palanpur, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the paper noted on the margin, including the reply which this Government has given His Highness the Divan of Palanpur

Letter from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 5417, dated the 15th November, 1899 (with accompaniment).

Endorsement from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 817, dated the 27th November, 1899.

Endorsement from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 821, dated the 29th November 1899 (with accompaniments).

Letter to the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 8598, dated the 18th December, 1899.

has given His Highness the Divan of Palanpur with regard to His Highness's reluctance to accept the third of the conditions on which the Government of India have sanctioned the loan in question.

2. In reporting the above mentioned proceedings, I am to inquire whether this form of acceptance of the terms of the loan is sufficient, and whether the terms themselves have been correctly presented, and to say that this Government proposes to embody the acceptance of a loan by all States in this Presidency to which they are made in a formal letter from the Political Agent, reciting the terms and a letter of acceptance from the Chiefs, and to ask whether this procedure will suffice.

Compare paragraph 3 of Government of India's Letter No. 3391-I.B., dated 7th September, 1897.

Enclosure 1 in No. 84.

Letter from P. S. V. FitzGerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay. No. 5417, dated the 15th November, 1899.

With reference to your No. 7454, and accompaniments, on the subject of a loan to the Palanpur Darbar of two lakhs of rupees for famine purposes, I have the honour to report that after two interviews with His Highness's Minister on the 4th and 11th instant, I addressed His Highness a letter, copy attached, to which I have to-day received His Highness's reply, No. 548 of date, a copy of which is also appended.

2. It will be seen that His Highness accepts all the conditions set forth in my letter which follow those contained in paragraph 5 of the letter of the Government of India, No. 2909 of the 9th of October, to the address of the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana. But he considers the third condition set forth in my letter derogatory to his prestige and position as a First Class Chief, and asks for my good offices to secure some modification of its terms.

3. The condition is that if the loan is not repaid within the time stipulated, the State shall be *liable* to be taken under the management of the Agency, and I cannot honestly say that I see anything in this derogatory to His Highness's prestige and position; it is simply a matter of business. His Highness is to receive money from Government on exceedingly easy terms; were he to go into the open market for it, he would have to pay double the rate of interest, and even then he would not, under existing circumstances, obtain the money unless he agreed to terms (such as the writing over of a Mahál, or possibly two) which would be far more humiliating to his prestige.

4. There is another aspect of the matter. Two lakhs of rupees will certainly not be sufficient to meet the demands of famine relief in the Palanpur State to the end of the year. The Commissioner in his report to Government has estimated the cost of food alone at ten lakhs of rupees, and in addition to this, there will be the pay of staff and establishment, the cost of tools and plant, and other incidental expenses, and judging by the numbers now on the works, I shall not be surprised if the estimates so far made are exceeded.

5. It will thus not be safe to estimate the cost of famine relief in the Palanpur State at less than twelve lakhs of rupees, and as the Darbar assert that they have no reserve, I apprehend that this will be the least sum that Government will have to lend them if the people are to be kept alive. The Darbar in good times, with economical management, ought to be able to repay a lakh a year; that would take twelve years, possibly thirteen, because any repayment next year is doubtful, and under these circumstances I am averse to recommending any material alteration in the terms, because, though it is of course true that even without the stipulation to which His Highness takes exception Government could at any time take the State under management, the existence of the stipulation in black and white will act as a powerful incentive to the necessary economy and the punctual repayment of the loan.

6. I would point out that His Highness has not responded to my invitation to formulate the exact terms to which he is prepared to agree, and as I am not aware of the nature of the agreement to be taken from other Native States,

I would request that I may be supplied with a draft agreement which I can present for His Highness's acceptance and signature.

7. Lastly, I would beg respectfully to remind Government that His Highness's first application was for a loan of four lakhs of rupees, of which only two have been sanctioned, that he has since in his letter No. 483, dated the 31st ultimo, forwarded to the Commissioner under my No. 5156 of the same date, asked for from two to four lakhs more, and I would state that I believe the estimate contained in my paragraphs 4 and 5 above to be the *minimum* that will be required and that nobody but Government will lend him such a large sum of money, except perhaps on terms that would mean the ruin of the State.

Enclosure 2 in No. 84.

Letter from P. S. V. FitzGerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, to His Highness the Diwan Sahib, G.C.I.E. No. 5348, dated the 11th November, 1899.

Adverting to Your Highness's letter to my address, No. 379, dated the 28th September last, and to conversations I have recently had with your Highness's Minister, I have the honour to inform you that I have received a communication from Government, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Government of India, sanctioning a loan to Your Highness of two lakhs of rupees at 4 per cent. interest, the term for repayment being ten years.

2. The telegram states that the conditions of the loan are to follow those indicated in a letter addressed to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, which were—

- (1) That the resources of the State were exhausted, and that it had no property which it could turn into cash ;
- (2) That the Darbar, taking a loan, agreed to be guided in all matters of famine relief and in other matters concerning the expenditure of the money by the advice of the Political Agent ;
- (3) That the Darbar also agreed that in the event of the loan not being repaid within the time stipulated, the State should be liable to be taken under the management of the Agency until the loan is repaid ;
- (4) That the exact terms of the loan should be settled with each Darbar concerned.

3. I have already informed Your Highness's Minister of these conditions, and I am directed by Government to draw Your Highness's particular attention to them. With regard to them I would observe that condition (1) has been practically admitted when Your Highness applied for the loan and the Government of India sanctioned it, and with regard to condition (4) I would invite Your Highness to lose no time in formulating and submitting to me the exact terms to which you are prepared to agree. I see nothing in the terms propounded to which Your Highness need hesitate to agree, and as your credit as a Ruler is involved in the maintenance of your people, for which you must have money, I would urge you to do so without delay.

4. I would add that the loan of two lakhs which has now been sanctioned is in reply to Your Highness's first letter. Your second letter, No. 483, dated the 31st ultimo, was forwarded to the Commissioner under my No. 5156 of the same date, and on that orders are awaited, but I have no doubt that in due course of time Government will be willing to afford you further assistance.

Enclosure 3 in No. 84.

Letter from His Highness the Divan of Palanpur, to P. S. V. FitzGerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 548, dated the 15th November, 1899.

In reply to your letter No. 5348, dated the 11th instant, I have the honour to request you to convey my thanks to Government for their kindly consenting to give this State a loan of Rs. two lakhs at 4 per cent. interest to be repaid within ten years, to the conditions regarding which I agree. However, among the four conditions attached I find that the condition (3) is rather derogatory to my prestige and position as a First Class Chief. If you will therefore be pleased to use your good offices in having it modified in consideration of the loyalty and devotion of this State to the British Government, I shall feel further obliged to you as well as to Government.

Enclosure 3A in No. 84.

Letter from His Highness the Divan of Palanpur, to P. S. V. FitzGerald, Esq., Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 609, dated the 25th November, 1899.

I have the honour to request you to kindly arrange to get immediately the sum of rupees two lakhs, or at least a portion of it, to enable us to pay the relief workers as the State Banker has since some days ceased making any advances on that account, and the Darbar's resources are exhausted to my utmost consternation. As you know I have already agreed to the conditions Government have attached to the loan, and would therefore deem it a high and special favour by their being pleased to remit the sum without any delay.

2. At the same time I shall feel obliged if you will be good enough to get the sanction of Government for the sum applied for in my letter, No. 483, dated the 31st ultimo, so that further money may be coming in time, and the relief works can go on uninterruptedly.

Enclosure 4 in No. 84.

Endorsement from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 5685, dated the 27th November, 1899.

Forwarded in original to the Commissioner, N.D., with the compliments of the undersigned in continuation of correspondence ending with this office endorsement, No. 5443, dated the 16th instant.

2. The Darbar are still finding money for the relief works they have on hand, though constantly protesting that they have none and can get none. An early provision of funds is therefore desirable, as the numbers on relief are very large. At the same time, the services of a competent Engineer are urgently required in order that the money when received from Government may not be wasted.

Enclosure 5 in No. 84.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, No. 8598, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 18th December, 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5417, dated the 15th ultimo, and to request that His Highness the Diwan of Palanpur may be informed, with reference to the third of the conditions on which the Government of India have granted His Highness the loan of two lakhs, that in loans recently contracted by other States for ordinary purposes, e.g., Dhrangadra and Wadhwan, &c., a similar condition has been agreed to and that this must stand.

2. The form of agreement in connection with such loans is under the consideration of Government, and orders on the subject, I am to say, will be issued hereafter.

No. 85.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 3844 I.-A., dated 22nd December, 1899.

No. 3844 I.-A. Your letter 8375, December 9th. As indicated in enclosure in my letter 3036 I.-A., October 19th, Government of India consider that Darbars should, as far as possible, conduct their own relief operations. Experience has shown that relief measures managed by Darbars are less costly than under our system, and provided relief given is sufficient, as judged by results, there is no need to press our standards on Darbars. Hunter's estimates for relief seem exorbitant, especially in respect to area classed as severely affected. Government of India consider that for direct famine expenditure and advances to Bhayadas, Mul-Girasias and cultivators up to end of present financial year, it will be sufficient to place at disposal of Political Agent a further sum of eight lakhs in addition to sums already sanctioned. Subject to control of Bombay Government, Political Agent may make loans and advances up to limit thus fixed. A further report, with revised figures and estimates for coming financial year, should be furnished not later than end of January. As regards loans for general administration, Hunter does not give sufficient information. His estimate of 75 per cent. for ordinary charges is very high, and he does not show that economy is being inculcated. Please see my telegram 3384 I.-A., November 13th, and 3596 I.-A., December 7th. Before specific loans for administration can be agreed to, Government of India require following information respecting each State which needs such assistance—*firstly*, actual income and expenditure for three years; *secondly*, funds, if any, at State's disposal distinguishing between cash balances and investments in Government paper or other securities; *thirdly*, proposed expenditure on administration in current and coming financial years, indicating any economies effected and any extra charges due to famine.

Meanwhile, to meet urgent needs for purposes of administration, a sum of five lakhs, being distinct from sums granted for relief, will be placed at Political Agent's disposal, and Bombay Government may authorise advances therefrom pending submission of desired information and receipt of orders thereon. Please consider whether charges for tribute, &c., which are payable to, or retainable by, Government or by local funds could not be conveniently held in suspense till present pressure is over. It is understood that no further applications for loans are likely to be made on behalf of States outside Kathiawar Agency. Is this correct?

No. 86.

Letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 460 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 24th January, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8640, dated the 18th December, 1899, with enclosures, regarding the terms applicable to loans made by Government to Native States for extra expenditure due to famine or scarcity.

2. The terms have been correctly set forth by the Bombay Government, and the Government of India are not disposed to modify them. I am at the

same time to explain that the third term, relating to the liability of the borrowing State to be taken under management, was formulated in 1896 with special reference to the embarrassed condition of some of the smaller States which were then taking loans and the financial administration of which was not on a sound basis. In the case of States whose finances are satisfactorily conducted by the Darbar, the Government of India would have no desire to intervene in the management unless it was clearly shown that the Darbar were culpably negligent in the matter of repaying the famine loan. A general explanation to the above effect may, if the Governor in Council considers this desirable, be given to the Darbars of Native States in the Bombay Presidency.

3. The plan proposed by the Government of Bombay for embodying the conditions of the loans in (1) a formal letter to each Chief and (2) a letter of acceptance from each Chief is approved by the Government of India.

No. 87.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 563 L.-A., dated the 30th January, 1900.

563 L.-A. The appointments reported in your letter 414, January 19th,* appear to the Government of India, in the absence of explanation, to be extravagant. Please see my telegram 3844 L.A., December 22nd. Unless and until the Darbar arrangements hopelessly break down, the efforts of our officers should be limited to guiding and directing the Darbar's relief measures. Our officers should not, except in last resort, assume charge of relief operations or require adherence to standards of a British district. Please report what the actual position is in above respect, and what is total cost of special famine staff sanctioned by Bombay Government as distinguished from staff entertained and paid by Darbars.

No. 88.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1319 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 16th February, 1900.

In confirming my telegram No. 1024, dated the 6th instant, a copy of which is attached hereto, regarding the construction of earthworks on the proposed extension of the Rajkot-Jamnagar Railway to Salaya as a famine relief work, and the official proposal of the Administrator, Navanagar State, to lease to the Imperial Government the administration of the customs at that port, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter No. 78, dated the 1st idem, and of its accompaniment, from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, on the subject.

2. The capabilities and natural features which the Salaya harbour possesses were reported in this Government letter No. 1897, dated the 11th March, 1889. Nothing has occurred since that report was written to, in any way, modify the estimate then formed of the capabilities of the harbour.

3. The draft agreement which accompanies the Political Agent's present letter is merely an indication of the lines on which the local officers in Kathiawar consider that a lease might be negotiated and the details will require very careful consideration in the Revenue Department, before any definite agreement could be arrived at; but I am to enquire, with reference to this Government letter No. 2171, dated 30th March, 1897, whether the Government of India would approve of negotiations being opened with the State in the general sense of the memorandum, and to say that in the event of that proposal finding favour, the Governor in Council would solicit an expression of the Government of India's views, as to the points which must be regarded as essential terms of any such lease.

Enclosure 1 in No. 88.

Telegram from the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1024, dated the 6th February, 1900.

Please see paragraph 5 of our No. 5898, dated the 31st August, 1899, and Bombay Government Resolution No. 6592, dated the 28th September, 1899. Administrator and Political Agent consider construction of railway embankment necessary for famine relief purposes. Administrator officially proposes to lease the administration of the customs at the port to the British Government. This will effectually guard our interests in that regard. Details of this negotiation will take time, but in view of urgency of work for relief purposes this Government ask sanction to commencement of embankment on the understanding that extension of Jamnagar Railway to Salaya will be sanctioned, provided the negotiations as to lease of the customs administration are carried to a conclusion satisfactory to Government of India.

Enclosure 2 in No. 88.

Letter from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, No. 78, dated Rajkot, 1st February, 1900.

The necessity of providing relief works for the famine-stricken people of the Nawanagar State has induced the Administrator, Colonel Kennedy, to apply for permission to construct the earthwork for the projected Railway from Jamnagar to the port of Salaya on the north coast of Kathiawar.

2. The matter is urgent, as the Administrator points out that he will soon have no useful or remunerative work to employ the people on ; whereas this earthwork will be a very convenient relief work, and, if utilised later for a railway, the money spent on it will have been profitably laid out.

3. It is obvious that it is not advisable to undertake it without an assurance that the Railway will hereafter be sanctioned. It was felt, however, that before giving sanction, Government would expect some provision to be made to secure the collection of British customs on goods entering British India through the port of Salaya, which possesses natural advantages, and might be hereafter improved so as to admit of ocean-going steamers.

4. In order to provide this protection to British customs, Colonel Kennedy, the Administrator of the State and myself have drawn up an agreement contained in the accompanying draft, leasing the management of the customs of the port of Salaya to Government, under certain conditions, and I now beg to submit the scheme for the consideration of Government.

5. The advantages to the State from this arrangement are so obvious and substantial, while only the sentimental objection of a concession of this trifling part of the State's authority at the Port can be urged against it that we need not, I think, allow the circumstance of the State being under administration, during the minority of the young Chief, to stand in the way.

6. The advantages to the State are these : that whereas at present the State Railway from Rajkot to Jamnagar has been financially a disappointment owing to the extension originally proposed to Salaya having been disallowed, and to the fact that the Bedi Bandar near Jamnagar town is only inaccessible at certain tides, when the conversion of the Morvi Railway to metre gauge, now in hand, is carried out and the Kathiawar and Continental metre gauge systems are linked up between Wadhwan Civil Station and Viramgan, a very large traffic may be expected through Salaya, which has by far the greatest natural advantages of any port on the coast of Kathiawar. This extension, therefore, would bring in a large revenue to the Nawanagar State both from customs and railway receipts.

7. It is only necessary to refer very briefly to the previous correspondence

relating to the development of the ports of this province and their connection by rail with the interior and British India.

8. Railways now serve the ports of Bhavnagar, Veraval (under Junagadh), Porbandar, and Bedi Bandar, near Jamnagar, leading into British territory *via* Wadhwan Civil Station.

9. The Porbandar State, now under British administration, proposed in 1892 to improve the harbour at Porbandar by the construction of a breakwater and jetty, but, before sanctioning the scheme, the Government of India considered that general measures should be taken to prevent goods from entering British India through any of the Kathiawar ports without the payment of British customs duty, and proposed that the maritime States should raise their tariff, on foreign trade, to that of the British Customs Act, and admit British Customs Officers to collect their port customs, who would credit Government with that portion of the revenue which was due on goods passing into British India, the balance being paid to the State.

The States demurred to this, on the ground that the enhanced customs duty would drive away their foreign trade and that the measure was an interference with their internal administration.

10. In the meantime certain proposals were made to secure the collection of British customs at the Porbandar port in the event of the harbour scheme being sanctioned; but the professional examination of the harbour scheme by the Public Works Department resulted in its being abandoned by the Administrator on the ground that its cost was prohibitive when compared with the pecuniary advantages that might be expected from its execution.

11. I have already shown, in my previous letters on this subject, that the value of foreign trade passing into British India by rail through Kathiawar ports is insignificant, and that these ports constitute no danger to British customs, either present or future, for the following reasons.

12. The Bhavnagar State is bound by agreement to levy duties on all foreign trade up to British tariff, but the Bhavnagar port has practically no foreign trade, because foreign native craft will not risk the difficult navigation of the Gulf of Cambay and the Bhavnagar creek into which large ocean-going steamers will not venture. Moreover, the creek is so inconvenient and the deposit of silt so formidable that the State is endeavouring to develop the Port Albert Victor bandar on the Chanch creek by making a road there from Sanosra on its Railway which, it hopes, afterwards, to utilize for a Railway. It is open to Government to impose any conditions to protect its customs before sanctioning this Railway.

13. The port of Verawal, belonging to Junagadh, has no harbour, and the cost of making one, for anything but small native craft, would be prohibitive.

14. The Porbandar harbour scheme having been abandoned, there remains only the port of Salaya, the subject of the present reference, and as its natural features are such that it might, with artificial improvements, accommodate ocean-going steamers, the proposed arrangement has been designed to protect British customs.

15. The effect of this agreement is to place the collection of the port customs in the hands of Government, the British Government and the Nawanganar State sharing the cost of collection in proportion to the value of foreign trade goods passing into British India and Kathiawar respectively. The customs receipts on foreign trade goods intended for British India to be credited to Government at British tariff rates. Customs on all other goods, whether of home or foreign trade, to be levied at local tariff rates and the receipts to be handed over to the Nawanganar State.

16. It remains to be considered how to prevent any fraud on British customs by importers declaring goods, on entering, to be for local consumption, and exporting them afterwards by rail into British territory.

17. It will not be possible to strike a proportion of the customs receipts on foreign trade goods for credit to Nawanagar based on population, because other ports of foreign Kathiawar now obtain goods through Salaya and will do so to a greater extent, as the port is improved.

18. After giving this question a great deal of thought, the most simple and practical plan appears to be to levy customs at local tariff rates on all foreign trade goods, entering through Salaya. As it would not pay to take these goods into British India by any other route than the Railway, the bookings to British India Stations would show what goods passed into British India. The additional customs charge to make up the British tariff would then be levied from the consignors and the whole amount of duty, at British customs rates, would be credited to Government.

19. It may be urged against this that fraudulent traders might book the goods to a Railway Station in Kathiawar just short of the British frontier and rebook them afterwards to British India. This would entail Railway expenses such as terminal charges, &c., which would probably render it unprofitable, but if this fraud were practised it would be easily detected by the Railway returns showing a traffic, disproportionate to the importance of the place, and the rebookings.

20. In conclusion, I would respectfully solicit a very early disposal of this reference in order that the Administrator may start the earthwork as a famine work, as soon as possible.

21. If the Government of India approve of the general principle of the scheme it might be sanctioned, by wire, subject to consideration of the details.

Enclosure 3 in No. 88.

DRAFT AGREEMENT.—SALAYA BANDAR.

In consideration of the Nawanagar State being allowed to extend its Railway from Jamnagar to the port of Salaya and to fully develop the above port, the Nawanagar State agrees to lease to Government the entire sea Customs administration of the above port (permanently or for a term of years) on the following basis :—

1. On all dutiable goods intended to be imported into British Territory from other than British India ports, duty may be levied at a rate not exceeding the Government tariff in force at British ports for the time being, and the receipts shall be credited to the British Government.
2. On all goods not entering or intended for British Territory from any ports, duty shall be levied at such rates as the State may fix from time to time, and the receipts shall be credited to the Nawanagar State.
3. The cost of the administration of the Customs at Salaya to be jointly defrayed—the share of the cost debitable to Government being calculated on the proportion of the goods referred to in clause 1. intended for or imported into British Territory the remaining cost to be debited to the Nawanagar State.

J. M. HUNTER, Colonel,
Political Agent, Kathiawar.

No. 89.

Letter from S. W. Edgerley, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 414 Political, dated Bombay Castle, 19th January 1900.

I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that in consequence of the pressure of work caused by the famine it has been found necessary to create the following temporary appointments in Kathiawar and Palanpur, and to request that, as the appointments are likely to last for more than six months, you will obtain the sanction of that Government, under Article 96 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, to their continuance for such period, not exceeding a year, as may be necessary.

- (1) Mr. W. T. Morison, I.C.S., to be Special Assistant to the Political Agent, Kathiawar, on Rs. 2,500 per mensem. Mr. Morison was, at the time of his special appointment, in receipt of a salary of Rs. 2,360 per mensem as Acting Senior Collector and Collector of Land Revenue, Customs, and Opium. His immediate junior receives Rs. 2,420 in salary and allowances as Collector, Ahmedabad. He took charge of his special duties on the 22nd October 1899, in the afternoon.
- (2) Captain H. F. Jacob, 3rd Assistant Political Resident, Aden, on Rs. 600, to be Special Assistant Political Superintendent, Palanpur, on Rs. 840 per mensem. In fixing this salary regard has been had to the distance of the transfer and to the fact that his junior, Captain J. W. B. Merewether, is acting on Rs. 700 per mensem. The appointment came into effect on the 5th December 1899.
- (3) Mr. Thakurdas Mathuradas to be Special Assistant Political Superintendent, Palanpur, on Rs. 720 per mensem. He is Assistant Judge on Rs. 500 per mensem, and was drawing Rs. 600 per mensem as Acting 1st Assistant at the time of his appointment. His duty commenced from the 8th October 1899.
- (4) Lieutenant G. Warneford to be Special Assistant Political Superintendent, Palanpur, on Rs. 575-4-0 per mensem. Previous to this appointment he was drawing the same salary as Acting Second in Command, Savantvadi Local Corps, and *ex officio* Assistant to the Political Superintendent, Savantvadi. He has as yet no permanent appointment in the Political Department. He assumed charge of his special appointment towards the end of December 1899.

2. The above-named officers, I am to say, are under the orders of the Political Agent, Kathiawar, and the Political Superintendent, Palanpur, respectively, for such duties, either ordinary or in connection with the famine, as may be assigned to them.

3. I am to add that funds are available for the cost of the appointments falling within the current year, and that provision will be made in the Budget for the ensuing year to meet the cost of these special appointments.

No. 90.

Letter from Sir William Cunningham, K.C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 1,009 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 26th February 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 274 and 365, dated the 15th and 16th January 1900, regarding the agricultural position and prospects in the Native States in the Bombay Presidency.

* Printed above as reply to Government of India's circular telegram.

2. The Government of India cannot divest themselves of the apprehension that the famine operations in these States are being conducted on an extravagant basis. The position, as regards financial demands, appears to be as set out in the following table :—

	Affected population in thousands.	Proposed loan in thousands of rupees.	Remarks.
Kathiawar	1,078*	80,00	* Colonel Hunter's figure.
Dharampur	120	2,50	
Jath	71	3,20	
Palanpur	275	4,00	In addition to 2 lakhs already given.
Palanpur, Thana Circles and petty States	272	6,30	
Radhanpur	98	5,83	
Mahi Kantha Agency	582	4,82	
Rewa Kantha—			
Rajpipla	172	5,00	
Sunth	74	1,00	
Balasinor	53	1,00	
Petty States	133	1,00	
Total	2,928	1,14,65	

The Government of India have already agreed to loans aggregating 21½ lakhs for Kathiawar and 5½ lakhs for other States in Bombay, and have suggested that charges for tribute, &c., in Kathiawar, amounting to about 8½ lakhs, should be held in suspense. I am to mention, for the information of the Governor in Council, that in the famine of 1896-97 the numbers who came under relief in Central India were equivalent to a daily average, throughout the year from September 1896 to August 1897 inclusive, of 4 per cent. of the distressed population. The States of the Bundelkhand Agency were then facing their third consecutive year of famine. Judging from the expenditure reported on the famine of 1896-97, the charges to Darbars in the grant of loans and advances to cultivators and jagirdars may be estimated at about ¼ of the charges for relief. Taking the cost of relief at Rs. 100 per 1,000 units, and making allowance for other expenditure connected with famine and for administrative requirements, the Government of India are disposed to consider that the direct and indirect expenditure in the above Bombay States on account of the present famine should not exceed a maximum of 65 lakhs in round figures, and of this it may reasonably be suggested that the States should be able to meet at least one-third. It is of course not intended that the rates and figures derived from the reports of 1896-97 should be adopted as a standard by which the expenditure and relief on the present famine should be limited: the information is merely communicated in case it should prove of assistance in framing estimates.

3. The relief figures returned from the Bombay States, when compared with the similar returns from British India, are on the one hand so high and on the other hand so remarkable, in some instances, for their steadiness as to suggest the need for careful examination of the system on which relief is being conducted.

The following* figures were given for the areas specified on the dates named :—

Date.	States.					
	Kathiawar.	Palanpur Superintendency.	Rewa Kantha.	Radhanpur.	Cutch.	Mahi Kantha.
December 2, 1899	224	48	9	28	24	...
December 9, 1899	227	50	1	27	27	..
December 16, 1899	217	56	1	28	28	1
December 23, 1899	205	79	2	no returns	28	3
December 30, 1899	207	82	2	do.	29	3
January 6, 1900	194	81	12	do.	29	8
January 13, 1900	193	81	13	do.	31	7
January 20, 1900	191	74	14	do.	35	6
January 27, 1900	186	70	17	do.	38	8
February 3, 1900	192	68	20	do.	40	10

These totals represent the percentages given in the following table in which the corresponding percentages for other areas are entered for purposes of comparison :—

		2nd December 1899.	3rd February 1900.
Kathiawar	on the whole population	8.14	6.97
	on Colonel Hunter's figure of 1,078, for thousands affected.	20.77	17.81
Palanpur Superintendency	...	7.43	10.52
Rewa Kantha	...	1.22†	2.72
Radhanpur	...	28.57	no return
Cutch	...	4.30	7.16
Mahi Kantha	...	0.17‡	1.71
Bombay (excluding Native States)	...	2.27	8.76
Punjab	...	2.36	4.72
Central Provinces	...	6.72	13.69
Rajputana (excluding Ajmer-Mewar)	...	1.24	3.36
Central India	...	1.54	4.02
Baroda	...	1.98	2.69

I am to invite the Governor in Council to consider whether some explanation of the figures in the Bombay States should not be furnished.

4. As regards Kathiawar, the Government of India trust that it will not be necessary to make any further loans during the current year: they may be

* The figures are in thousands omitting 000—fractions of 1,000 over 500 are taken as 1,000.
 † On 9th December 1899. ‡ On 16th December 1899.

willing, if the relief figures are satisfactorily explained and fuller information as to the conduct of relief operations is furnished, to grant some further assistance after the 31st March 1900 ; but, as at present advised, they consider that the additional assistance from Government ought not to exceed 5 lakhs. For the remaining States in Bombay I am to authorise the Bombay Government to grant during the current financial year loans up to 5 lakhs in addition to what has already been sanctioned. For the coming year 10 lakhs will be provided to meet demands on account of these States ; but I am to warn the Government of Bombay that this represents the extreme limit of the assistance which the Government of India consider that they should be asked to afford. At the same time the Governor in Council is in no way precluded from making recommendations for grants in excess of the above totals, if he is satisfied that the applications deserve support.

5. The suggestion that the orders on your letters should be communicated to the Famine Department has not been overlooked ; but the political aspects of the matter are, in the opinion of the Government of India, even more important, and I am consequently to address this letter to you. It is for the Bombay Government, in the Political Department, to endeavour to hold the balance between permitting Darbars to neglect their duties to their subjects and permitting Political Officers, with their famine staff, to interfere too hastily and drastically with the methods and administration of the Darbars.

No. 91.

Letter from J. Monteath, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Calcutta, No. 1231 Famine, dated Bombay Castle, 2nd March, 1900.

With reference to your telegram No. 563-I.A., dated 30th January, 1900, I am directed to state that the course described in it has been followed from the beginning with regard to the administration of famine relief in the Native States under the political supervision of this Government. Nevertheless it is not in the opinion of the Governor in Council possible to dispense with any portion of the additional establishments entertained without disadvantage to the rulers of the States or loss of many of their people or without unjustly throwing a burden which should be borne by the subjects of one State on the subjects of another State or on the subjects of the British Government.

2. As desired I am to append a statement* of the special famine staff so far sanctioned by this Government, showing separately additions to the political staff made for the purpose of general control and the staff needed for direct administration of famine relief in certain jurisdictional States and in Thana Circles, and to make the following remarks.

3. The more intelligent Chiefs in Káthiáwár do not even require advice and are in no way interfered with so long as the returns which they supply indicate no need for guidance. But there are some States even among those in the higher classes in which relief has been given in a lavish and indiscriminate manner and in which the enforcement of stricter conditions under the direction of the Special Famine Assistant has resulted in much economy and saved further demoralization. There are on the other hand States in which the duty of preventing death from starvation has been in no sense adequately performed, from which people have fled for assistance to other States and to British territory and even found their way to the town of Bombay to the great injury to the health of the town. Several hundreds have been sent back to their homes from that city. The Chiefs of States of the lower classes are not held to be competent to exercise jurisdiction higher than that of magistrates of the several grades in British territory and clearly could not be relied on to

* Not printed.

administer famine relief without close control and indeed it has been found in at least one case that advances made for the purpose have been diverted to wrong uses. The Talukdars in Thana Circles, which constitute nearly one-eighth of the whole area of Káthiáwar, exercise no jurisdiction and have neither the means nor the power to administer famine relief. In them as well as in the States under British management during the minority of chiefs there is no alternative to the direct management of relief works by British Officers. For this purpose and for the supervision required in the circumstances above described the establishments specified in the list are essential.

4. The arrangements of the Pálanpur Darbar did hopelessly break down, and the direct administration of famine relief in that State has been undertaken by the Political Superintendent at the request of His Highness the Diwán made in a letter of which a copy is appended. The State of Rádhanpur is under the management of a British Officer during the minority of the Chief, and the rest of the area under the control of the Political Superintendent consists of two petty States, in which no relief is attempted owing to absolute poverty, and of Thana Circles. The Political Superintendent has thus to arrange for the direct management of all relief works in the area under his supervision and the establishment specified in the list is necessary for the purpose. It may be explained however that Mr. White was deputed mainly to work out projects for the profitable employment of people who have been doing work of no utility, and he is now engaged on the survey of an extension of the Pálanpur-Deesa railway to Tharád and Rádhanpur. The Government of India will, as soon as possible be addressed with regard to that line. There is no useful work available in the tract through which it would pass, and it will probably be impossible to have the people supplied with food when the few remaining bullocks are employed in cultivation unless a railway is made. If however the survey shows that the line will not be financially successful or if for other reason it is not considered desirable to undertake it, it will not be necessary for the Political Superintendent to ret in the services of so highly paid an officer as Mr. White.

5. In conclusion I am to state that the Political Superintendent is pressing for the services of a Staff Corps Officer who can be spared by his Commanding Officer at Deesa and that the Political Agent, Mahi Kantha, has applied for additional establishment, including an European Officer, at a cost of Rs. 800 per mensem. In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council the additional assistance is needed. In the Radhanpur State in particular there is not yet adequate supervision, and the P'dar and other Darbars in Mahi Kantha cannot be relied on to make judicious use of the loans sanctioned or asked for on their account without close control.

6. I am to request the favour of an early reply.

Enclosure in No. 91.

Letter from His Highness the Diwán of Pálanpur to the Political Superintendent, Pálanpur, dated 30th November, 1899.

You have been already told that the State being the first and foremost in opening relief works has already incurred a heavy debt and the amount on their account has already gone to nearly rupees two lákhs. Since some days the State banker has refused to advance any money on this account and the payments are being made with the utmost difficulty. Now there is no money left to maintain the relief works and I am quite despondent and hopeless unless Government money comes in soon to help us. This frank admission though highly painful and distressing to my mind is quite true. I venture therefore to propose that if you will kindly take over in your charge the management of the relief works I am quite willing and ready to hand them over to you. You may conduct them by borrowing money from Government or elsewhere on behalf of the State. Anyhow some such arrangement is necessary also to control the huge numbers of relief workers, now mustering strong, some of whom I think without being pinched by destitution or starvation. We have to save

the really destitute and the needy, and at the same time look to the present and future welfare of the State, and hence to be strict in admitting men on relief works and exercise strict economy are the things now urgently essential for the salvation of the State. You will therefore kindly arrange in any way you may like to reduce the numbers of the people at present on the relief works that the limited means of the State may suffice to maintain only the needy during the whole famine period. I look upon your personal self for some such device, as I consider you my patron and well-wisher. My loyalty to the paramount British Power is well known, and you being its representative here, I have always respected your valuable advice. At this critical juncture I approach you with these lines, which you will mercifully take into your serious and favourable consideration.

2. I do not know again whence to bring money for maintaining the relief works, numbers on which already total to far higher figures than those that other States of Palanpur's position and income have got. Any step, therefore, you will be good enough to take for a speedy reduction in them and for getting immediate loans from Government will go to save the State from a precipitous ruin which is fearfully impending upon it.

3. I see also that something should be done to save the remaining bullocks in the country for the good of the cultivators and the State, but sheer want of money here again is heavily in my way. However, I hope to do something when Government loans are received. There is no other source of borrowing money, as the money market is so very tight, and Government is, therefore, my only recourse and the saviour of the State. I therefore throw myself at your mercy. I have repeatedly informed you of the total want of money through Mr. Dullabhji, and now rely upon you as to extricating the State from its present extraordinary difficulties and myself from the excruciating anxieties to which I have fallen an unfortunate victim.

4. The people of this country have been always poor and used to frugal meals, which consist generally of inferior cereals. Any reduction in their wages will not therefore affect their subsistence, which barely they should be given when the famine pinches the State as well. Even for their own sake it is better to do so. That will enable us to keep them alive till the last moment. For it is quite patent that when all the resources of the State are exhausted everything will come to sudden standstill. I leave everything, therefore, to your option.

5. At such a calamitous time I look upon you personally as the best friend, patron, and well-wisher of me and my State. The remaining of some last year's arrears and the great reduction in this year's income have reduced the meeting of even the current expenses a difficult task, as is well known to you.

No. 92.

Letter from The Honourable Mr. J. Monteath, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1440, dated Bombay, the 13th March, 1900.

I am directed to request that you will be so good as to lay the following facts before the Government of India for their consideration and for such action as may be deemed expedient.

2. In the taluka of Barsi, in the district of Sholapur, the number of people on relief works some days ago amounted to about 36 per cent. of the population, and the number of new applicants is sometimes more than 2,000 in a day. Within a few days there was an increase of nearly 10,000. The population of the town of Barsi does not appear to be seriously affected by famine, and it forms about one-seventh of the population of the taluka. Enquiry at villages did not indicate that an unusually large number of local inhabitants had gone to the works. There can be little doubt that the enormous demand for relief

in that taluka, is due to an influx of distressed people from the territory of His Highness the Nizam, by which it is entirely surrounded. In accordance with

Telegram No. 1963, dated 28th September 1899 (Department of Revenue and Agriculture).

Letter No. 3194 L.-A., dated 30th October 1899 (Foreign Department).

the orders contained in the communications from the Government of India, noted on the margin, considerable numbers have been sent back, but it is alleged that they have not been kept or do not remain for many days on works in His Highness's territory, and that they on their return, as well as others who have become aware of the result of admitting that they belong to that territory, falsely state that they come from British villages. Crowds of people are met coming from the direction of Latur, but they all, though often in a hesitating manner and after correction, claim to be British subjects. It is, of course, impossible in the circumstances to obtain evidence one way or other, but it is incredible that so many of the inhabitants of the Barsi Taluka as are represented by the number of persons employed on relief works can be in need of relief.

3. It is believed that works in other parts of the Sholapur district as well as of the Ahmednagar district which adjoin Hyderabad territory are similarly, although not to the same extent, made use of by His Highness's subjects. The number of people relieved on all works in the Sholapur district amounts to about 21 per cent. of the population.

4. The situation is one of extreme gravity. It is quite impossible to have ready an establishment sufficient to cope with such enormous influxes, or even tools for their immediate employment, and the grant of relief without a condition of work adds to the attraction, besides demoralizing the whole body of workers.

5. The only remedy is the provision of sufficient relief by His Highness the Nizam for his own subjects. There is frequently difference of opinion as to the measure of relief which is sufficient, but I am to suggest that the Resident may be instructed to obtain some definite statistics of the number of works open within say 20 miles of the whole frontier, of the number of people employed on them, and of the rates of wages paid. It is impossible in the circumstances described to be satisfied with a general statement that relief is provided, and unless some effective measures are taken to secure the provision of adequate relief for His Highness's subjects in His Highness's territory, it is difficult to over-estimate the seriousness of the result in the Sholapur district, where work suitable for famine labour is becoming rapidly exhausted.

6. In view of the urgency of the case, I am to request that the Resident at Hyderabad may be asked to obtain early information of the nature above indicated, and to press on His Highness the need of establishing sufficient relief works in Hyderabad territories.

No. 93.

Letter from Sir William Cuninghame, K.C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 1519 L.-A., dated Simla, the 7th April, 1900.

I am directed to reply to your letter No. 1231, dated the 2nd March, 1900, explaining the circumstances in which the Government of Bombay have found it necessary to authorise the temporary employment, at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,683 a month, of additional staff and establishment in connection with the administration of famine relief in the Native States of Kathiawar and Palanpur.

2. In view of the facts now supplied, and of the arguments adduced in justification of these measures, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction the temporary appointments of the four officers* named in your letter No. 414, dated the 19th January, 1900, for such periods, not exceeding a year

* Mr. W. T. Morison, on Rs. 2,500 a month. Captain H. F. Jacob, on Rs. 840 a month. Mr. Thakurdas Mathuradas, on Rs. 720 a month. Lieutenant G. Warnford, on Rs. 575-4-0 a month.

in any case, as may be absolutely necessary. The additional establishments, costing Rs. 800 a month, reported in paragraph 5 of your letter No. 1231, dated the 2nd March, 1900, as being required for Mahi Kantha, may also be entertained, on the same conditions, at the discretion of the Government of Bombay.

3. The Governor-General in Council desires, however, to observe that the numbers on relief in the Native States in question are already exceedingly high; they are increasing weekly, and the famine expenditure is approaching a figure which threatens permanently to embarrass the States which will have to be financially responsible for it. The Government of India believe that it would have been better, and more in keeping with the policy which they have adopted in the past, had the States, especially the larger ones, been left from the beginning to manage their famine relief to a larger extent on their own lines, and with greater regard to the measure of their own resources. As this has not been done, it is now incumbent upon the Government of Bombay to give their Political Officers and their special famine assistants clear instructions to administer relief with due regard to the actual resources and reasonable borrowing powers of the several States, and to keep relief down to the lowest limits compatible with the saving of life. It has been proved in Rajputana that this object can be accomplished by a measure of relief which falls considerably short of that contemplated by the Famine Code of British India, and it is unnecessary for officers entrusted with the administration of relief in the Native States of Bombay to consider themselves bound by all the provisions of the Bombay Famine Code, and debarred from expedients and restrictions which would otherwise commend themselves to their judgment.

4. I am to add that the Governor-General in Council has accorded his sanction in the present case with considerable misgiving, as he still doubts the wisdom of the policy necessitating these appointments. But he will rely on the Bombay Government to issue such instructions to their special officers as will really make their appointments economical to the States concerned.

No. 94.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2653, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 9th April, 1900.

I am directed to transmit herewith, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the monthly famine report for the month of February, 1900, received from the Political Superintendent, Palanpur.

Enclosure in No. 94.

Famine Statement for the month of February, 1900, for the Palanpur Superintendency.

State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands (according to the last census).	Affected Area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Palanpur State	3,177	275	The whole Superintendency.	275	45,593	1,512
Radhanpur State	1,150	98		98	15,539	932
Tharad State	940	25		25	—	—
Wao State	380	13		13	—	—
Phana Circle	2,475	222		222	21,465	2,212

Explanation.

The figures in column 6 include dependants and non-working children.

The poor-houses and relief-works for Tharad and Wao States and Thana Circles are one and the same, and the figures are included under Thana Circles.

REMARKS.

The figures of daily average on works for the month were as follows :—

Palanpur 41,184 or 14.9 per cent. of population.

Radhanpur 17,179 or 17.5 per cent. of population.

Thana Circles and Petty States 18,056 or 8.1 per cent. of population.

In the month of January the figures were—

Palanpur 34,101 or 12.4 per cent. of population.

Radhanpur 20,083 or 20.4 per cent. of population.

Thana Circles and Petty States 15,911 or 7.1 per cent. of population.

It will thus be seen that during the month there was an increase in the Palanpur State and the Thana Circles and Petty States and a decrease in the Radhanpur State. As I have stated before, to take the figures on the last day of the month only is misleading.

2. *Private Relief.*—In Palanpur the Mahajans continued to distribute parched gram to the Marwadis and other beggars during the month, and the Darbar gave Sadavarta and similar charities to beggars as before.

In Deesa the European residents of the Cantonment have come forward and offered to my assistant, Major O'Donnell, Rs. 130 per mensem towards the support of an orphanage. The trading community have promised something, and Mr. Manekji, a Parsi gentleman in Deesa Camp, has very generously placed a suitable building for their occupation, at the disposal of Major O'Donnell, not far from the Mission House. Mr. Gillespie has offered to supervise the education of the children, and to take charge of any who may be left adrift when the famine is over. What has been promised will, as reported by Major O'Donnell, last for the present, and 24 children, who have absolutely no one in the world who could look after them, are now in the orphanage. Some eight native gentlemen have volunteered to visit the orphanage and see that the children are properly looked after, while Mrs. O'Donnell, to whom I am indebted for the initiative, and who from the first has taken a most kindly and practical interest in all that related to distressed children, and other European ladies will be frequent visitors.

In Radhanpur the Administrator reports that the private relief consists of the giving of handfuls of grain in the towns. The quantity given is small and is not encouraged, as it only tends to draw beggars to the towns who eventually find their way into the poor-house.

Little private relief is given in Thana Circles and Petty States, as there are few who have the means to do it, and many village owners are as poor as the persons claiming such relief. From the Bombay Charitable Relief Fund, however, 90 high-caste persons, mostly widows and their children, were given assistance during the month. From this fund also clean blankets were supplied to the hospitals, and a stock of condensed milk obtained for the poor-houses, while a sum of Rs. 300 was placed at the disposal of Captain Oldfield to provide clothes for such as needed them on his works. On the Palanpur works a large supply of petticoats for the women who needed them were presented by Mr. Mangalji Ishwar of Palanpur.

3. *Relief in Villages and Poor-houses.*—As stated in my report for the month of December, little assistance is given in the form of village relief in the Superintendency, but the Circle Inspectors have orders to send all people who cannot get a living in their villages or be supported by their villages or relations

to works, poor-houses or hospitals, as the case may be, and there are poor-houses and hospitals at every centre.

4. *General Character of Relief-works.*—At Palanpur and Deesa the same works as were reported in the month of December continued during the month under report. The storage tank at Hadmatya was also in progress and the large stone-breaking work referred to in my last report was started at Chitrasi on the 23rd February. These works are carried on under the professional supervision of Captain Edgell, R.E.

Thana Circles.—The number of places where the works were open in the Thana Circles (including Wao and Tharad States) on the 28th of February was seven. One work was completed and closed during the month and three new works were opened. All these works were tanks, and as none of them are very large they necessitate constant transfers of workers.

In Radhanpur the Administrator reports that the distribution of relief-workers on the last day of the month was Radhanpur Tank 1,606, Sami Tank 7,791, Radhanpur Sami Road 5,274, Samsherpura digging kankar 174, Mujpur Tank 222, finishing off gangs 220.

5. *Physical Condition of the People.*—On the whole, the physical condition of the people is fairly good, except in Diodar and the districts towards the Runn, where many reduced and not a few emaciated people continued to claim relief. Small-pox and measles are still prevalent, especially at Palanpur; but the prevalent diseases are mostly diarrhoea and fever. The total mortality of the month reported from relief-works and poor-houses was 1,263. These were principally from diarrhoea, dysentery and fever; but there were also 44 deaths from emaciation.

6. *Deaths from Starvation.*—No deaths from actual starvation have been reported, but during the month 7 dead bodies were found lying by the roadside or outside the gates of Palanpur in the early morning. These were all of unknown wanderers from a distance.

7. *Food-stocks and Importation of Grain.*—There is nothing to add this month to what has been said in my last report on this subject. During the month 25,815 Bengal maunds of food-grain and 8,648 maunds of grass were imported into Palanpur, and 38,013 maunds of food-grain and 3,275 maunds of grass were imported into the Radhanpur State.

8. *Changes in Rates of Wages.*—The same wages as were reported in my last report continued during the month.

9. *Emmigration or Immigration.*—The same remarks as in last month's report apply for February also.

10. *General Condition and Prospects of Affected Area.*—The condition of the country has remained very much the same. The prospect, however, is not so bad in one way, namely, that the numbers on relief did not run up to what we anticipated. I now hope to be able to make a considerable modification in my estimates. The great difficulty is to find suitable work for the people so as to concentrate them. The earth-work of the railway has recently been sanctioned and will find employment for famine labour to the extent of about three lakhs of rupees; but otherwise, West of Deesa there seems to be nothing that we can do but continue to clear out and repair the village tanks. The future is still full of apprehension, and most particularly from the point of view of transport and the provisioning of the more remote tracts for the monsoon. The question of replacing the plough cattle and providing seed will soon claim attention also, and we have a terrible hot weather before us, but I do not think that the general conditions and prospects are materially worse than they were when I last wrote.

No. 95.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., I.C.S., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 2713, Political, dated Bombay Castle, 11th April 1900.

In continuation of paragraph 1 of my letter No. 2270, dated the 24th March 1900, I am directed to forward herewith, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 122, dated the 22nd February 1900, and of its enclosures, giving the details, omitted in the statement accompanying my previous letter, of the financial condition of the Navanagar State and the amount of loan required for famine relief and administrative expenditure.

Enclosure 1 in No. 95.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, to the Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay, No. 122, dated the 22nd February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 79, of 1st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from the Administrator, Nawanagar, No. 3329 of the 6th instant, together with a statement showing the financial condition of the State and the amount required to meet the demands of the State.

2. In the revised estimate forwarded with my letter No. 79 above quoted, approximate deficit of 10 lakhs was entered as I had no calculations before me. Colonel Kennedy has now given the details of his requirements under each head and explains the need for them in his letter. The deficit according to his estimate comes to Rs. 13,00,000 but he wishes to have a margin of 2 lakhs.

3. There is no need to alter my estimate of the cost of the whole famine which I hope to keep under 40 lakhs.

Enclosure 2 in No. 95:

Letter from the Administrator Nawanagar State, to the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 3329, dated the 6th February 1900.

With reference to your No. 673, dated the 1st instant, I have the honour to submit that the Nawanagar State will require assistance from Government to meet the extraordinary drain on State finances owing to the existing severe famine. I therefore beg to append a statement containing information in the form asked for.

2. It will be seen from the statement that the average of income for the last three years has been Rs. 29,03,320 (Column 9). The estimated expenditure for administrative charges and Political charges including Government tribute and Agency contributions, &c., for (a) the two remaining months of the present British financial year, *viz.*, February and March 1900, and (b) the first six months of the next financial year, *viz.*, April to September 1900, comes, according to my calculations, to Rs. 3,85,252 and Rs. 9,27,543 respectively (Columns 12 and 13 of the statement). The total thus comes to Rs. 13,12,795 for eight months, *i.e.*, Rs. 19,69,193 lakhs for a year. The percentage according to this calculation works out at 67.8 per cent. In your letter you have calculated the proportion of administrative expenditure to income at 65 : 100. There is, therefore, an excess 2.8 per cent. over your standard in the total expenditure

of this State, but it must not be lost sight of that this total expenditure includes items such as Government tribute, Political contributions to Agency, interest payments, and these total in round numbers Rs. 2,50,000 a year: and when this is taken into consideration the strict administrative charges fall to Rs. 17,49,193, *i.e.*, 59.2 per cent. of the average income according to the last three years.

3. Under the head extra charges due to famine for eight months (February to September 1900) I estimate the amount (Column 14) to be Rs. 16,50,000 for eight months (February to September 1900). Since 1st July to 31st December 1899 it has been Rs. 5,29,536, and for the first two months of the State Revenue year, *i.e.*, July and August, there was practically very little expenditure under this head as the famine had not irretrievably declared itself, so the figure Rs. 5,29,536 represents more properly the amount of expenditure for four months only, *viz.*, September to December 1899. The amount of Rs. 16,50,000 will, therefore, not appear to be excessive when compared with the actuals of the four months from September to December 1899. The estimated amount of Rs. 16,50,000 includes famine charges of all sorts, *viz.*, Relief works, advances to cultivators and loans to aliens.

4. According to your calculations, the amount required for famine charges would be the following—

(a) Relief works	...	...	...	...	Rs.
					11,06,910
(b) Advances to cultivators at 5 per cent. on average income	...	...	...	...	1,45,166
(c) Loans to aliens at the same rate	...	...	...	...	1,45,166
Total	...	...	...	...	13,97,242

or about fourteen lakhs of rupees. My estimate is Rs. 16,50,000 or Rs. 2,50,000 more. The reason for the difference is that I have already allotted Rs. 2,50,000 for advances to cultivators, *viz.*, Rs. two lakhs for food grains, and Rs. fifty thousand for (a) seed and (b) apparatus to draw water from wells such as water bags, ropes, &c. For (a) seeds the amount allotted is Rs. 25,000, for (b) apparatus the same amount. I do not anticipate any saving out of this allotment of Rs. 2,50,000 and believe that a further allotment will probably be necessary, at least for the purchase of seed and bullocks and food grains for the cultivators. In a rent in kind system the cultivators have no alienable interest in their occupancies. They cannot raise any money by way of mortgaging their holding as the British occupants do. Therefore the State has a greater burden to take up in respect of the maintenance of cultivators than in the British districts. Thus the five per cent. rate which, if I am right in believing, is based on British District figures will not well suit a State having the rent in kind system where cultivators are mere tenants-at-will.

5. In the same way, the amount lent to aliens has already amounted to Rs. 1,46,909 up to 31st December 1899, *i.e.*, it has already exceeded the 5 per cent. estimate. I believe in the hot weather and especially in the beginning of the next monsoon, a large amount will be required for loans to such people, otherwise they will not be able to take advantage of a good monsoon, and will have to face another year of scarcity but little better than the present through their inability to take advantage of a good year. This would be extremely hard and would create and accentuate a widespread discontent leading to crime. I would therefore allow Rs. two lakhs more under this head too; because not only are the aliens to be maintained but also their cultivators and Ubhads by opening profitable relief works at their villages. The estimated increases under these two heads, *viz.*, loans to cultivators and loans to aliens, explain away the difference in your and my estimates.

6. Under these circumstances, I respectfully request a loan of not less than Rs. 13 lakhs to this State from Government and trust my explanations have

been convincing enough to enable you to support my request as strongly as possible.

7. In conclusion I may add that I would prefer to have 15 lakhs, and would feel safer with this sum, and moreover, once this famine is over, this amount could be repaid in a very few years—three or four.

Enclosure 3 in No. 95.

Statement showing the income and expenditure for the last three years and the amount proposed to be advanced to the State.

Name and Class of State.	Actual Income and Expenditure.						Average of income.	Funds (if any) as State's disposal.	
	1896-97.		1897-98.		1898-99.			Cash balance.	Investments in Government securities.
	The year begins on 1st July and ends on 30th June every year.								
	Income.	Expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.	Income.	Expenditure.		8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Nawanagar State, Class First.	Rs. 26,56,466	Rs. 18,25,808	Rs. 31,84,945	Rs. 48,39,890*	Rs. 28,68,561	Rs. 22,60,756	Rs. 29,03,320	Rs. 6,79,416	Rs. 2,86,215

Name and Class of State.	Proposed expenditure on Administration.		Extra charges due to Famine from 1st February to 30th September 1900.	Total for 8 months, February to September 1900 A.D.	Deduct expected income and balance.	Net deficit to be met.	
	Current Financial year for 2 months, February and March.	Coming Financial year for 6 months, April to September 1900.					
	11	12					
Nawanagar State, Class First.	Rs. 3,86,252	Rs. 9,27,548	Total of columns 11-12, Rs. 13,12,795	Rs. 16,50,000	Rs. 29,62,795	Expected income for 8 months Balance on 1st Feb 1900. } 7,40,000 9,65,631 Total ... 17,05,631	Rs. 12,57,164 or about Rs. 12,60,000

* Includes Rs. 23,91,612 of Railway charges.

No. 96.

Letter from W. T. Morison, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 49—M., dated Bombay Castle, the 23rd April 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 1009-I.A., dated the 26th February, 1900, regarding loans to Native States for famine relief purposes, I am directed to forward herewith, for the early consideration of the Government of India, copies of a letter* and telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, asking for a further allotment of 14 lakhs for the purpose of making loans for the purpose of famine relief and administrative expenditure in Native States and Thanas in Kathiawar. The Political Agent reports that of this amount 5 lakhs will be required on 1st May, 5 lakhs on 1st June, and 4 lakhs on 1st July.

2. I am directed to state that, after giving the subject his most careful attention, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the grants asked for are absolutely required, if serious loss of life from starvation is to be prevented. The explanation given by Colonel Hunter in paragraph 7 of this letter will, the Governor in Council trusts, induce the Government of India to modify to some extent their opinion that the famine operations in Kathiawar are being conducted on an extravagant scale. But besides this, Government have the assurance both of the Political Agent and his Special Famine Assistant, and also of the Honourable Mr. Monteath, Chief Secretary to Government, who visited Kathiawar and inspected some of the relief works in January last, that the tests for relief on those works, which are being financed by Government loans, are as severe as they can safely be made. The task-table of the Bombay Famine Relief Code has been entirely discarded, and tasks about 50 per cent. heavier are exacted. Fining is, where this can be done without danger to life, permitted without a limit, and the Chief Secretary to Government on the occasion of his visit found that some gangs were being fined 70 per cent. of the maximum pay. In fact, wherever the task system is in force, it approximates very closely to piece-work. On several large works where the piece-work system is being worked, the average daily wage earned by adults is not more than 1½ lbs. of grain. Whenever possible, the distance test is enforced, and the necessity for the concentration of famine labour on large central works has been carefully kept in view. In short, I am to say that the tests for relief on works financed by Government loans in Kathiawar are so severe that no further stiffening would, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be possible without incurring the risk of considerable mortality.

3. I am to state further that only in the case of three States—Junagadh, Wankanir, and Lakhtar—have the Political Officers found it necessary to advise the Chiefs to be more liberal in their relief operations. It was found that, owing to the entirely inadequate arrangements in these States, a considerable number of people were dying of actual starvation, and the Governor in Council considers that the Political Officers would have failed in their duty had they not exerted themselves to stop this mortality. Elsewhere in the province, the efforts of Government have been from the first mainly directed to checking extravagance, and introducing a certain amount of uniformity in the mode of giving relief, so as to prevent the danger of large numbers of destitute people wandering from State to State about the province. The receipt of your letter No. 1519-I.A., dated 7th April, 1900, was made the occasion for again impressing on all Political Officers the necessity for limiting their interference with the relief arrangements of Native States to the amount actually required to prevent death from starvation, and the Governor in Council, I am to state, does not, on careful consideration, believe that that limit is being exceeded.

* Letter from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 245, dated the 9th April, 1900. Telegram to the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 41 M., dated the 20th April, 1900. Telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, No. 118, dated the 21st April, 1900.

4. In conclusion I am to request that, in view of the urgency of the matter, as explained in the Political Agent's telegram of 21st instant, the orders of the Government of India may, if possible, be communicated before the end of this month.

Enclosure 1 in No. 96.

Letter from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 245, dated Rajkot, the 9th April 1900.

I have the honour to again address you on the subject of the additional loan that will be required to meet the famine requirements in this province during the current financial year, because the last five lakhs placed at my disposal by the Government of India is becoming rapidly exhausted, and an additional grant on the 1st May is absolutely necessary if the people on relief are to be kept alive.

2. I venture at the same time to offer an explanation on certain remarks in the letter from the Government of India, No. 1009-L.A., dated 26th February last.

3. After submitting my first estimate in November last, I endeavoured to reduce the amount which Government would have to advance by assisting some of the larger States to borrow in the open market under an Agency guarantee. In my revised estimate of monetary requirements I calculated that, if the States mentioned in paragraph 6 of my letter No. 79 of the 1st February succeeded in effecting loans in the open market, the requirements of the province would be reduced from 82 lakhs (plus 10 for the Nawanagar State) to 37 lakhs for the whole period of the famine, including the loan of ten lakhs to Nawanagar.

4. I am glad to be able to report that of these States all but the four noted* have obtained loans privately, and Dhrangadhra and Wadhwan are sanguine of succeeding in doing the same. No. 3 has not applied for funds and No. 4 will probably obtain the funds he wants in the market. These may, I think, be safely left out of my estimate.

5. The financial position is as under :—

Requirements in round numbers.

	Rs
Revised estimate of 1st February	37,00,000
Additional 3 lakhs for Nawanagar, making a total of 13 lakhs for that State.	3,00,000
	<u>40,00,000</u>
Received up to date from Government	26,25,000
	<u>14,00,000</u>

I shall require five lakhs during each of the months of May and June, and the remainder in July.

6. The remarks of the Government of India on my estimate contained in their letter No. 1009-L.A., dated 26th February last, lead me to fear that I have not made the situation and the system of relief in this province sufficiently clear.

I may, therefore, explain that this province is divided into a large number of separate tributary estates, whose political and financial position varies from

1. Dhrangadhra. 2. Wadhwan. 3. Rustamkhanji. 4. Bhima Walla.

a 1st class State with 40 lakhs of revenue to a shareholder in a village. For the purpose of this explanation, the States may be classed into—

- (a) Jurisdictional States, and
- (b) Non-jurisdictional petty estates grouped into the Thana circles, who contribute towards the cost of administration of justice by Agency officers.

All these States collect their own land revenue independently of the Agency, unless, for some reason, they are under temporary Agency management.

Many of the larger States have sufficient surplus balance to meet the demands of the famine without assistance ; while the remainder of the former and those in the Thana circles which are enumerated in the table which accompanied my letter No. 1008 of the 15th November had not sufficient funds either to carry on the administration, to afford famine relief or to assist their subordinate landholders and cultivators.

7. The whole province is affected by famine, but it is only for the impecunious States and petty Talukdars under Thanas that I have applied for help from Government. This explanation appears called for by a remark in the comparative statement of the percentages to population of people in receipt of relief in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of India above referred to. It is there stated as under :—

	Per cent.
“ On the whole population	8·14 ”
“ On Colonel Hunter's figure of 1,078 thousands affected	20·77 ”

My figure of 1,078,000 does not represent the number affected, but the population of the impecunious States which required monetary assistance from Government. The whole population of Kathiawar amounting to nearly 30 lakhs is affected by the famine, and the number of people in the whole of Kathiawar in receipt of relief is given on the 2nd December last as 224,000. The Government of India appear to have understood that this last figure represented the number on relief works in the impecunious States with a population of 1,078,000 and arrived at the 20·77 per cent. by a comparison of these figures, whereas the number on relief in the impecunious States in my table on the 2nd December 1899 was 74,919, giving a percentage of only 6·8 per cent. on 1,078,000, the total population of those States. On the 3rd February the number on relief works in these States to their aggregate population bore the proportion of 6·3 per cent., not 17. The percentage in these States in the last returns for the week ending 25th March was 8 per cent.

It is no doubt this misunderstanding that has led the Government of India to conclude that our famine relief system is too attractive and is being administered on an extravagant scale.

8. A comparison with the numbers in receipt of relief in the Deccan in 1896-97 will convince Government that our percentage in these borrowing States is remarkably low, for the percentage in Sholapur in April, a little later than our last return, was 17·7 per cent. When it is considered (a) that Kathiawar is facing a famine after two seasons of insufficient rain, (b) that in the Deccan there was enough rain to produce fodder, though no grain, whereas in many parts of Kathiawar, the rain was insufficient to sow the land even, (c) that the Native States calculate to a rupee what the cultivator can pay and levy in ordinary years a much heavier assessment than in British territory, making it almost impossible for the peasantry to lay by for famine years, and lastly (d) that the cultivator in Kathiawar is a tenant-at-will and has no right of occupancy on which he can raise money, the small number on relief is calculated rather to arouse fears that we are keeping people off the works by exacting too heavy a task. In fact, the small number on the works, considering the

4. In conclusion I am to request that, in view of the urgency of the matter, as explained in the Political Agent's telegram of 21st instant, the orders of the Government of India may, if possible, be communicated before the end of this month.

Enclosure I in No. 96.

Letter from Colonel J. M. Hunter, C.S.I., Political Agent, Kathiawar, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, No. 245, dated Rajkot, the 9th April 1900.

I have the honour to again address you on the subject of the additional loan that will be required to meet the famine requirements in this province during the current financial year, because the last five lakhs placed at my disposal by the Government of India is becoming rapidly exhausted, and an additional grant on the 1st May is absolutely necessary if the people on relief are to be kept alive.

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3. After submitting my first estimate in November last, I endeavoured to reduce the amount which Government would have to advance by assisting some of the larger States to borrow in the open market under an Agency guarantee. In my revised estimate of monetary requirements I calculated that, if the States mentioned in paragraph 6 of my letter No. 79 of the 1st February succeeded in effecting loans in the open market, the requirements of the province would be reduced from 82 lakhs (plus 10 for the Nawanager State) to 37 lakhs for the whole period of the famine, including the loan of ten lakhs to Nawanager.

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5. The financial position is as under :—

<i>Requirements in round numbers.</i>	Rs.
Revised estimate of 1st February	37,00,000
Additional 3 lakhs for Nawanager, making a total of 13 lakhs for that State.	3,00,000
	40,00,000
Received up to date from Government	26,25,000
	14,00,000

I shall require five lakhs during each of the months of May and June, and the remainder in July.

6. The remarks of the Government of India on my estimate contained in their letter No. 1009-I.A., dated 26th February last, lead me to fear that I have not made the situation and the system of relief in this province sufficiently clear.

I may, therefore, explain that this province is divided into a large number of separate tributary estates, whose political and financial position varies from

1. Dhrangadhra. 2. Wadhwan. 3. Rustamkhanji. 4. Bhima Walla.

Enclosure 3 in No. 96.

Telegram from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, Rajkot, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department, Mahableshtar. No. 118, dated 21st April 1900.

Your wire 41 M. India orders will not reduce my estimate 14 lakhs. On contrary, English market being closed if Dhrangadhra, Wadhwan, fail to obtain local loans my estimate will be doubled. High rate interest of local loans forced States to English market. Endeavours, however, will be made to find local accommodation. I have already under authority Government wire 132 P., 31st August, guaranteed local loans to 60 Talukdars aggregating over 5 lakhs in form given my wire 73, 3rd March. Five lakhs on 1st proximo absolutely indispensable, as 1+ lakhs is exclusive of those States borrowing in market.

No. 97.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political Department. No. 1976 I.-A., dated the 5th May 1900.

1976 I.-A. Your letter 49 M., April 23rd. Immediate loan of five lakhs for Native States and Thanas in Kathiawar sanctioned. Please explain why remaining nine lakhs required cannot be raised in open market—see my telegram 1605 I.-A., April 14th.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

BARODA.

No. 98.

Special Branch Diary for the week ending 7th October 1899.

Baroda is at present full of famine-stricken people. The number may roughly be put down at three or four thousand.

Most of them are beggars. The distress among them is most acute; although cheap grain-shops have been opened by the Mahajans, these people have no money wherewith to purchase grain, and go from street to street in the hope of obtaining food.

So far as is known, no active steps have been as yet taken by the Darbar to relieve distress, either by opening relief works in the vicinity of the capital or starting poor-houses.

Crime is on the increase. It is reported that 5 villages near Badharpur, a station on the Gaekwar's Dabhoi Railway, were set fire to by some people, and stocks of grain stored therein carried off.

No. 99.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Resident at Baroda. No. 2985 I.-A., dated Simla, the 16th October, 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 16468, dated the 21st September 1899, regarding the prospects of famine or scarcity in Baroda territory.

2. The arrangements made by the Darbar for relieving distress appear to be suitable and judicious, ~~and are, it is understood,~~ likely, in your opinion, to prove sufficient. It is a matter of principle that the actual direction of famine relief operations in Native States should remain, as far as possible, in the hands of the Darbars, and that the Political Officers concerned should merely keep themselves acquainted with the general situation, with a view to bringing promptly to the notice of the Darbars any instances in which the relief afforded appears inadequate, or in which there is undesirable departure from the general principles for the administration, of such relief.

3. It will evidently be essential to maintain a careful watch on the situation in Baroda, and the scattered nature of Baroda territory may render this a matter of some difficulty. The Government of India desire to be kept thoroughly informed of the arrangements from time to time carried out by the Darbar and of the measure of success which attends them. Should you find it necessary, you may apply to the Government of India for the services of one or two junior officers to give you temporary assistance.

No. 100.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident at Baroda, dated the 20th October, 1899.

Your Special Branch Diary for week ending 7th October. See my letter 2985 I.(a), October 16th. If relief works have not been started at Baroda, and necessity for them is apparent, you should bring the matter urgently to the notice of the Darbar.

No. 101.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident at Baroda, No. 3179 I.-A., dated the 30th October, 1899.

Please see my telegram, October 20th, about relief works in Baroda. Following telegram from Bombay, Revenue, dated 27th October:—*Begins. 327.* Reported influx of 4,000 Baroda subjects on one relief work in Broach. Commissioner has addressed Resident. It is requested that Baroda be pressed to start relief works without delay, and that Bombay Government may be fully informed of places in which relief works are already and are intended to be started. *Ends.* Unless necessary relief works have been actually started, please make urgent representation to Darbar. Report to me what present situation is, and keep Bombay informed of relief works opened in Baroda.

No. 102.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 19085, dated Baroda, the 1st November, 1899.

With reference to your office letter No. 1881 I., dated the 7th May, 1892, forwarding a set of rules for the preparation of famine reports relating to Native States, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a statement giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded during the last month in consequence of the distress caused by failure of crops in Baroda territory. A map of the locality affected has not been appended to the statement as required by the rules, as it is not available.

Enclosure in No. 102.

Famine Statement for month ending September, 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief
Baroda	8,226 sq. miles.	2,367	6,436	2,069	17,757*	

* *Note*—This figure includes the number of persons on relief works in the Okhamandal district, a report of which was submitted with this office letter No 17895, dated 15th October, 1899.

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement for the month ending September, 1899.

Gratuitous relief on an organised scale as part of the famine relief operations was not commenced in September, the poorer classes being relieved by private charity. The charitable relief is dispensed by the State in the charitable institutions maintained permanently and the grain shops, for selling grain at reduced prices, established by the Mahajans.

No. 103.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 19402, dated Baroda, the 8th November, 1899.

I have the honour to ask reference to my letter, No. 16468*, dated 21st September, 1899, in which an outline is given of the general measures for famine relief contemplated by the Baroda Darbar, and your reply, No. 2983 I.—A., dated 16th October, 1899, in which the Government of India, while accepting these measures as suitable, desired a careful watch to be maintained on the situation, and asked for a report from time to time on the arrangements carried out by the Darbar and the measure of success attending them. The Government of India, moreover, offered the services of junior officers for affording temporary aid to this Residency in maintaining a supervision over Baroda relief operations.

2. Relief works have been opened for some time past in the Okhamandal district, but up to the middle of October, although a programme of relief operations had been drawn up, no steps were taken in the other parts of the State to start any but minor works, which were opened chiefly in the Kadi and Baroda Divisions as test works. The reasons being that enquiry showed no such distress existed as to warrant the commencement of larger works, and ample relief would be provided on the earthworks of railways shortly to be commenced. Towards the end of October signs were not wanting that distress was on the increase and demanded more relief. Since then I have been pressing on the Darbar the necessity for opening systematically more relief works, and asking for information as to the measures to be adopted. Although I explained that there was no intention of taking any of the responsibility off the State or unnecessarily interfering in ways and means of carrying out these measures, I had to overcome some disinclination before I received, and have been able to submit, the information required in the form enclosed with your letter, No. 1880 I.—A., dated 7th May, 1892, and again alluded to in your telegram, dated 1st November, 1899. Statements have since been drawn up and explained to me personally by the Famine Commissioner, giving in detail relief operations in the four Divisions of this State. These are, I am informed, by no means exhaustive, but are accurate as regards the particulars entered, and sufficiently demonstrate that His Highness the Gaekwar is prepared to do his best to meet his responsibilities. These statements are herewith forwarded with the following remarks.

3. Taking first the Northern or Kadi Division: The programme provided is full, and will it is anticipated, give ample work for those desiring relief. The construction of the railway from Kalol (Rajputana-Malwa Railway) to Vijapur will shortly be commenced, and will provide work for a number of people residing in the Southern part of the Division. A railway from Patan to Radhanpur has been surveyed, and the Government of Bombay has, I understand, already sanctioned the commencement of the earthwork from the Radhanpur end. No doubt the chief advantage will be obtained by the Radhanpur State, and as statistics gathered show it will not pay, and the question of jurisdiction is likely

* Printed above, as a reply to Government of India's telegram of 28th August.

to crop up, the Baroda Darbar has not favoured the project, and in lieu will carry out a project to clear the feeder of the ancient Khansarovar Lake at Patan, which will employ a large number of people for a long time.

4. In the Baroda Division, railway construction forms the chief work. The Baroda-Godhra chord line has been pegged out and the earthwork has been commenced, and the Petlad extension to Cambay will be commenced within this month. The Darbar further contemplates making a line from Badharpur, a station on the Dabhoi Railway, to Songir quarries, and have already asked sanction to the construction of a 2' 6" gauge line from Miyagam, on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, to Sinore, a small town and place of pilgrimage on the banks of the Narbada. In the event, as is probable, of other works being required pending sanction of the last two projects, metal quarries at Motipura, have been opened, and an expenditure of Rs. 19,000 has been sanctioned, and already some 600 men and children find relief on them. This work is reported to be capable of considerable expansion.

5. The works provided for the Naosari Division are of minor character, as the distress in this part is not so great, and the grass forest will afford employment for some time.

6. The Amreli Division includes the outlying district of Okhamandal, chiefly inhabited by the Waghir and cognate tribes. The distress in this district is undoubtedly more severe than anywhere else, and famine has practically prevailed for two years, and the people generally are reduced to the lowest stage of distress and suffering. Every available scheme to provide work will shortly be exhausted, after which it is proposed to convey the people of that district by boat to Kodinar, and employ them on metal breaking and other works in the vicinity. This district, which has lately been visited by the Chief Engineer and Sir Subah, at one time gave cause for grave anxiety, and disturbances were feared among the criminal tribes. The Darbar has, however, been induced to adopt more liberal measures, and fears are for the present allayed. Mr. Harrison, the Assistant Resident, furnishes me with weekly detail reports of this district.

7. In the Amreli Division proper the works provided seem sufficient, and other projects are available. Lieutenant O'Brien, Assistant Resident, has already visited some of the works, and his report is generally satisfactory. A much-needed railway project of some 10 miles in length from Chital to Amreli, and passing through a small portion of Gondal State, has been under correspondence for 10 years. The project has been pressed for by the Political Agent, Kathiawar, as suitable for famine relief, and an extension might eventually be made from Amreli to Kodinar. The Baroda Darbar have, however, been unable to waive jurisdiction, and at present there seems no prospect of the project being taken up.

8. Charitable and gratuitous relief has, I am informed, been arranged for in the principal towns from private and other sources. In Baroda City His Highness the Gackwar has supplemented funds collected by a donation of a similar amount, and cheap grain shops under some supervision have been opened. Poor-houses as required will now, the Minister informs me, be erected, and discretionary grants have been placed at the disposal of the District Officers, to afford relief to urgent cases of distress and those unable to work.

9. The condition of the agricultural stock here, as in the district round, is a source of, perhaps, the greatest anxiety, as the supply of fodder in the affected area has entirely failed. At the commencement steps were taken to grow lucerne and ordinary grass by irrigation for which advances were made, but the outturn failed to meet requirements. The forests in the Naosari Division contain an ample supply of grass, and being situated on the banks of the Tapti, it is proposed to form a large cattle camp here as soon as sufficient grass has been cut for exportation. Some 10,000 head of cattle from Kadi are reported to have already been collected here, and as many more as is possible will be sent during the next two or three months. A very large number of cattle have died in the Kadi and Amreli Divisions. Grass is being sent to these districts from Naosari forests as transport is available. Here again much difficulty is experienced, and some 40 million pounds of hay is now awaiting removal from Songhad and Vyara

Stations on the Tapti-Valley Railway for want of sufficient waggons. I am now in communication with the Bombay, Baroda, and Central Indian Railway authorities, and hope to arrange for a further supply of waggons; meanwhile, any material progress in the scheme for preserving cattle must be delayed.

10. In addition to relief works every encouragement is being given to sinking wells. I am informed that three parties, headed by responsible officers of the Survey Department, have been despatched to the Kadi Division, and have been provided with funds to make advances on liberal terms.

11. The complaints referred to in your telegrams* have been received direct from the Bombay Revenue officers and also from the Political Agent, Kathiawar, and I lost no time in explaining the difficulties to the Darbar and advising relief to be opened on the borders. His Highness, I am glad to report, promptly responded, and works have been opened and the British authorities informed. In villages and lands so interlaced it goes without saying that for many reasons emigration must occur between British and Baroda districts. In the particular complaint from Broach, the large works opened by the Collector was an inducement to refuse the smaller works by the Darbar in the Padra and Choranda Talukas, and the difference in payment of wage in British and Babashai currency no doubt was a further inducement. A list of works opened and to be opened has now been supplied to the Commissioner, Northern Division, and I trust no further complaints will be received of overcrowding on British districts by Baroda subjects.

12. Finally, with regard to the offer of junior officers for temporary assistance, while expressing my acknowledgments, I would point out that three Assistants, viz., in Okhamandal, Amreli, and Baroda, are at present sufficient for such supervision as is required. The Government of India are probably aware that His Highness the Gaekwar maintains a large Public Works Department controlled and supervised by a European Chief Engineer of high professional attainment, and, in addition to an increase to his staff, a Famine Commissioner with Assistant have been appointed to carry out famine work. Until, therefore, further developments show the need, it will, in my opinion, be better to continue with the present arrangements.

13. A statement showing the number of persons finding relief in the four divisions of His Highness's territory during the past three weeks is appended.

14. A copy of this report and of its accompaniments is being sent to the Government of Bombay for their information.

No. 104.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 679, dated Baroda, the 10th January, 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of December last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

* Your telegram No. 2,767 I.-A., dated the 22nd September, 1899. Your telegram No. 3,179 I.-A., dated the 30th October, 1899.

Enclosure in No. 104.

Famine Statement for month ending December 1899.

State.	Area in Square Miles.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Baroda ...	8,226	2,367	6,436	2,069	52,910	10,623

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement for the month ending December 1899.

The record shows an increase of 7,601 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of December being 63,533, including those on gratuitous relief, against 55,932 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of tank excavation, road-making, and metal-breaking. Earthworks of the railway lines* in His Highness the Gaekwar's territory were started during the month.

Gratuitous relief for children under seven years of age and those unable to work on an organised scale as part of famine relief operations was started during the month.

The physical condition of the people throughout the Baroda territory continues to be good.

Maps indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

No. 105.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 2602, dated Baroda, the 8th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 679, dated the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of January last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 105.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Baroda ...	8,226 square miles.	2,367	6,436 square miles.	2,069	50,579	12,837

* Baroda-Godhra Railway, Petlad-Cambay Extension, Kalol-Vijapur Railway.

*Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement for the month ending
January 1900.*

The record shows a decrease of 117 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of January being 63,416 including those on gratuitous relief, against 63,533 of the previous month.

The works in progress consist chiefly of tank excavation, road-making, and metal-breaking. Earthworks of some of the railway lines sanctioned by the Government of India also continue.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and those unable to work.

The physical condition of the people continues to be good.

Maps indicating the affected tracts as required by the rules accompany.

No. 106.

*Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at
Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.
No. 3981, dated Baroda, the 3rd March 1900.*

I have the honour to forward a brief diary and report of my tour in Okhamandal, and would ask that, if any sums are available for distribution in that district from the General Famine Relief Fund lately organised in Calcutta, the needs of the people may have favourable consideration.

Enclosure in No. 106.

DIARY.

I left Bombay on the 23rd January and reached Dwarka (Okhamandal) on the night of the 24th. During the 25th and 26th I visited the district south and south-east of Dwarka, including the following relief works:—

Clearing the Gomti Creek.—This is a fairly large work and has for its object the removal of a sand bar which has silted up and prevents the sea entering the creek where formerly native vessels used to enter and discharge cargo on the wharf; this work includes the construction of a retaining and preventing wall, to provide a flow of water to flush the creek and wash out the stagnant drainage from the city, and scour the "holy pool" near the temple used for bathing by the pilgrims, which is at present an offensive cesspool. Some 675 labourers are employed on this, and the work is anticipated to last until the end of March 1900.

Dhora tank on the Charkla road.—This is an old tank which by deepening the bed and increasing the bund is capable of a large water storage, and of giving work for some time to a large number of labourers.

Road from Dhora tank to Mulwasar.—A new work completed excepting metalling.

Dwarka-Wachur road completed. It is proposed to continue this to Dhenki and Charkla.

On 27th I travelled by road from Dwarka to Beyt, visiting Warwala, Mojup, and Aramra, and inspecting works on the way; these for the most part had been completed, with the exception of earthworks to keep out the sea and reclaim land for cultivation north-west of Manpura. Most of the wells in the vicinity of these villages had become brackish, the smaller villages were practically deserted, and the few people that remained seemed in the last stage of

destitution. The continuation of the road across the creek from Aramra to Arthara was in course of construction ; some 2,000 people were employed, and it was calculated to afford work till about the middle of March. When completed, it will save a detour of 4 miles to Arthara, which at low tide is the bunder to cross to the Island of Beyt.

Reaching the Island of Beyt on the evening of 27th, I halted there the 28th, and inspected the relief works in the island. With the exception of enlarging the Durgleshar tank, all the tank work (all on a small scale) had been completed and several wells dug by relief labour. The Durgleshar tank is capable of considerable more work than has been expended on it. It is the largest tank in Beyt, and at present the wells dug in the bed of the tank afford the only potable water in the island. The Hanuman Temple road, about 4 miles in length, was in course of construction, and is practically the only work left to be done in Beyt ; about 320 labourers are employed on it and it will be completed about middle of March.

The worship at this temple is an important adjunct to the pilgrimage to Beyt, and as this temple can be approached only by a detour and with some difficulty during high tide, the road is likely to be a boon to pilgrims.

The total population of Beyt is about 5,000, the larger number of whom are employed in and about the temples ; the labourers on the works were therefore mostly imported, and included Waghirs. On enquiry I was informed that no cattle had been allowed to die of starvation, and the few I saw in the island were in good condition ; indeed, the leading members of the island community seemed more anxious to preserve cattle than human life.

Leaving Beyt on the 29th, I sailed across to Rajpura Bunder and visited the villages through the centre of Okhamandal, reaching Dwarka in the evening. Most of the relief works commenced had been completed, but proposals for others were under consideration : these were chiefly roads. I visited several Waghir villages, the largest and most important being Goriali. This village is usually one of the most flourishing in Okhamandal, and the tract of country from Simlesar to Dwarka is perhaps the most fertile. I found Goriali practically deserted, the greater part of the inhabitants being absent on relief works, while the country right up to Dwarka presented the appearance of a desert and devoid of every green thing ; the wells for the most part were brackish and drinking water scarce.

During my visit to Dwarka I inspected the Okhamandal Battalion, which is erroneously called in official correspondence the Waghir Battalion, as there is not a single Waghir enlisted. I was able to congratulate Mr. Harrison, the Commandant, and Mr. Warden, Adjutant, on the smart appearance presented by this corps on parade. The total strength of the battalion which is kept up entirely by the Baroda State is 460 men, but, as their duties are chiefly police, including thanas of 1 non commissioned officer and 2 to 3 sepoy at all the principal villages, it is difficult even to get the whole battalion together ; hence the precision with which parade movements and exercises were carried out is all the more creditable. All classes except Waghirs are enlisted, Muhammadans and Pardesis preponderating. Mr. Harrison reported the behaviour of the men to be good.

Leaving Dwarka on the 1st February I travelled by sea to the port of Verawal to Amreli, where I halted 5th and 6th. At Amreli I visited the relief works in the vicinity—all useful works in this district have apparently been exhausted, and until His Highness the Gaekwar decides to make the Chital-Amreli Railway, a distance of 10 miles with probable extension to Dhari, there is nothing left but metal breaking. Metal is found in abundance, and camps of from 2 to 3,000 labourers are now employed in digging and breaking metal. Works at Damnagar have been stopped, the metal-breaking at Amreli being given as a distance test. Bands of labourers had also been imported from Dwarka and were being passed on to Baroda for employment on the Godhra Branch Railway construction.

I returned to Baroda on night of 8th February.

REPORT.

Okhamandal with an area of 280 square miles and a population of 26,905, of which about 5,355 are Waghirs and cognate tribes, is the *ultima thule* and the white elephant of the Gaekwar's possessions, and nothing probably but the sentiment attached to the inclusion of the holy shrines of Beyt and Dwarka within the Baroda State reconciles him to the annual cost of about half-a-lakh of rupees in its administration.

2. Years of famine or scarcity visit Okhamandal with deplorable regularity every three years, and the Okhamandal of the present, a waste of sand with wells for the most part brackish and no trees, can scarcely be recognised as the district described by Major Johnstone in 1862, a district, which he writes, as easy to clear of jungle as to drain the sea.

3. The present condition of the country is perhaps as bad as it has ever been and is due to the following causes:—Owing to excessive rain during the monsoon of 1897 nearly the whole of the crops throughout the whole district were destroyed; consequently the cultivators and labouring classes began to suffer for want of food early in 1898, and in April of that year it was found necessary to open relief works. Unfortunately, the monsoon of 1898 failed and the works had to be continued, and day by day the distress became more and more acute and the number of labourers of all classes increased; to make matters worse cattle began to die off for want of fodder, which added seriously to the distress of a population whose life is in their flocks and herds both for domestic use and agricultural purposes. Hopes of a good monsoon in 1899 were disappointed, and the end of the season found prospects worse and relief works had to be carried on to a larger extent. Continued scarcity followed by famine has now reduced the people to the greatest distress, and there is nothing between them and starvation, but the famine dole obtained from the benevolence of the Darbar, which has met its responsibilities in a liberal spirit, and extra works have been sanctioned as required.

4. By the end of the year (1899) the number of people on famine relief works in Okhamandal rose to 10,775. Of this number 3,615 were Waghirs and cognate tribes, and 7,160 belonged to other classes. Framing a calculation on figures submitted by the Darbar Public Works Department, the average from the commencement of the relief works on 1st April 1898 up to 31st January 1900 may be estimated at about 4,200 labourers per week. The total expenditure during this period was Rs. 2,80,244-14-7, and taking the average (a very low one) of labourers at 4,200, the cost per head amounts to Rs. 33-5-10 per annum, which gives about 1 anna and 5 pies a day for each labourer. Between 1st April 1898 and 31st January 1900, 118 tanks and wells have been constructed and renewed by the Darbar Revenue Department, and 32 roads have been constructed and repaired.

5. During the month of November 1899 the Baroda Famine Code Rules were introduced into Okhamandal. These provided for gratuitous relief for children under 7 years, and under this head a sum of Rs. 6,902-4-4 has been expended up to 31st January 1900, and one poor-house has been opened at Dwarka, where food is supplied gratuitously for the old and infirm, but it is not much resorted to.

6. Nearly all useful works having been exhausted, the Darbar has sanctioned taccavi advances for wells Rs. 33,000, and recently maintenance advances, which gives to families monthly allowances on the best security obtainable, for the most part land. It has also been found necessary to permit Waghirs to pledge their salami land for taccavi and other lands: the payments being made in small instalments over a number of years and effected through the Assistant Resident. The Darbar are further endeavouring to deport some 5,000 non-Waghirs by sea to other parts of Baroda State for employment on railway works. The people are strongly opposed to leaving their own district; the measure is one of doubtful utility and will probably entail large expenditure in transit charges which would be better spent in Okhamandal. Under this scheme a small number have already been drafted to the Baroda-Godhra Railway earth-works.

7. The wage and amount of work originally enforced under the Baroda Famine Code is as follows :—

	Cubic feet a day.				
Male adults	40 to 50
Female adults	30 „ 35
Boys and girls	15 „ 20

Grain for above work—

	l.b.				
Male adults	2½
Female adults	2
Boy	1½
Girl	1½

But under recent orders issued in February the following scale has been adopted :—

In ordinary soft soil—

	Cubic feet.				
Male adults	81
Female adults	54
Boys and girls	27

Hard soil, &c.—

	Cubic feet.				
Male adults	65
Female adults	43
Boys and girls	22

The amount of grain for work in both soils being as before. The people have, however, complained of the hardship of this scale, and enquiry has shown they have reason, as the hardships of nearly 3 years have reduced the people to a lower physical condition than those in other parts of Baroda, and I have urged on the Darbar that it is almost impossible to enforce the same scale of work and wage in Okhamandal as in other parts.

8. Generally the people were duly appreciative and grateful to the Darbar, but much suffering and hardship might have been avoided by a more consistent method of granting relief. Especially is this apparent in the indecision and parsimony in giving in dribblets sums sanctioned for works involving much unnecessary going to and fro at long distances from works till further amounts are received. This is mainly due to the directing authority at Baroda disregarding local condition and advice of local officials. Payment of the wage is for the most part made and accepted in kind; this, though probably more convenient, leaves no margin for the recipients to purchase clothes; this is especially felt by the women whose clothes are reduced to rags, and who in many instances are unable to attend the works for want of clothes.

9. The latest return of number employed on relief works in Okhamandal shows that 29 per cent. of the entire population are employed on relief works. It is estimated that under most favourable circumstances no less a sum than nearly 8 lakhs of rupees will have to be spent in this district.

10. The opinion formed after my tour is that his Highness the Gaekwar has evidenced every intention to meet his responsibilities and is doing his best to relieve the people, but that as it is impossible for the State to meet all needs of the people, a grant-in-aid might be asked for from the General Famine Fund now organised, to buy clothes for the women and to assist in obtaining cattle for the next agricultural season.

No. 107.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Ravenshaw, Officiating Resident at Baroda, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 4400, dated Baroda, the 9th March 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2602, dated the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a statement giving information regarding the number of persons to whom relief was afforded by the Baroda Darbar during the month of February last, in consequence of the distress at present prevailing in their territory owing to failure of crops.

Enclosure in No. 107.

Famine Statement for the month ending 28th February 1900

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Baroda	8,226	2,987	6,436	2,069	48,108	11,955

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement for the month ending February 1900.

The record shows a decrease of 3,353 labourers during the month, the total on the last day of February being 60,063, including those on gratuitous relief, against 63,416 of the previous month. The decrease is due to the Darbar having granted advances for the maintenance of cultivators and their families. The money thus advanced will be recovered by easy yearly instalments extending a period of 12 years.

The works in progress consist chiefly of tank excavation, road-making, and metal-breaking. Earthworks of the following railway lines sanctioned by the Government of India also continue :—

- (i.) Baroda-Godhra Chord railway.
- (ii.) Petlad-Cambay extension.
- (iii.) Kadi-Kalol-Vijapur railway.

Gratuitous relief was afforded to children under 7 years of age and those unable to work.

The physical condition of the people continues to be good, except in the Okhamandal district, where the people are on relief works for over two years.

The condition of the agricultural stock is not satisfactory for want of fodder, and many have died.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE RAJPUTANA STATES.

No. 103.

Letter from H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 2909-1.A., dated Simla, the 9th October 1899.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram No. 2895-1.A., dated the 8th October, 1899, I am directed to convey the following instructions in connection with famine relief operations in Rajputana.

2. Major Dunlop-Smith's deputation as Famine Commissioner is at present sanctioned for a maximum of three months. He will be entirely under your orders, and his principal duty will be to advise and assist you and the Political Officers in Rajputana in the organisation of famine relief. He will also be available to assist and advise in respect to the relief measures which may be necessary in Ajmer-Merwara. Major Dunlop-Smith will draw the pay or salary which he would from time to time have received in the Punjab *plus* a deputation allowance of Rs. 300 a month, and, subject to the usual rules, travelling allowance at the rate of Rs. 7-8 a day. All charges connected with his deputation will be met from Imperial revenues. You should report as soon as you are in a position to do so whether it will, in your opinion, be advisable to extend the period of Major Dunlop-Smith's deputation, and, if so, for what further term. You are probably aware that Major Dunlop-Smith gained much practical experience in the organisation and administration of famine relief during the famine in the Punjab in 1896-97.

3. The Government of India consider it desirable, as a matter of principle, that the actual direction of famine relief operations in Native States should remain, as far as possible, in the hands of the Darbars, subject only to the general supervision of the Political Officers concerned, who should bring promptly to the notice of the Darbars any instances in which the relief afforded appears insufficient, or in which there is undesirable departure from the general principles for the administration of such relief. The Government of India will be prepared to arrange, if possible, for the temporary deputation to Rajputana of a few Engineer Officers with experience in irrigation works to advise you and Darbars as to what works, likely to afford protection in future years, could now be profitably undertaken. I am to invite you to report at an early date whether any, and, if any, how many, such officers could now be usefully employed in Rajputana. The question of what recovery, if any, should be made from the States concerned in respect to such deputations might be left over for future decision.

4. The Governor-General in Council is ready to place at your disposal the services of young Staff Corps officers to assist Residents and Political Agents in supervising the administration of famine relief by the Darbars. Such officers would be deputed under the terms of Article 101 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the cost would be borne by the Government of India. If you desire to avail yourself of this offer, you should report as soon as

possible how many officers you desire in the first instance to see deputed, and where and when they should report themselves for duty.

5. The Government of India are also prepared to entertain favourably recommendations for the grant of loans to Native States in Rajputana to enable them to meet the extra expenditure which the famine or scarcity will entail on them. If you decide to recommend any such loans, I am to request you to furnish at the earliest possible date an estimate of the amounts likely to be required up to September next, together with any suggestions you may have to offer as to the terms on which the loans should be granted. The terms upon which loans were granted by the Maharaja Sindhia, under the guarantee of the Government of India, to distressed States in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand in 1896-97 were as follows :—

- (1) That the resources of the State were exhausted, and that it had no property which it could turn into cash.
- (2) That the Darbar taking a loan agreed to be guided in all matters of famine relief and in other matters concerning the expenditure of the money by the advice of the Political Agent.
- (3) That the Darbar also agreed that, in the event of the loan not being repaid within the time stipulated, the State should be liable to be taken under the management of the Agency until the loan is repaid.
- (4) That the loan, with interest, should be repaid in or before the month of May, 1908.
- (5) That the exact terms of the loan should be settled with each Darbar concerned.

These conditions are probably inapplicable, at any rate in their entirety, to the larger States in Rajputana ; but they may be of assistance to you in framing any proposals which you may wish to make. Any loans to the States of India in Rajputana on the present occasion would be made direct by the Government and the interest chargeable would be 4 per cent. The maximum amount which the Government of India, upon the information before them, consider that they might reasonably be asked to lend before September next is fifty lakhs of rupees, and their offer must not for the present be held to apply to any larger total. In order to enable the Government of India to gauge the situation as accurately as possible, I am to request you to furnish further forecasts of the relief likely to be required as soon as the prospects of the next rabi are more definitely known. Any proposals you may submit should distinguish between loans likely to be required during the current financial year and those which may be needed on or after the 1st April, 1900.

6. It appears not improbable that it may be specially difficult to arrange for the administration of relief among the Bhils in the States under the Mewar Residency ; and, in order to provide for the due control of these wild tribesmen, the employment of additional European officers under the Resident's orders may be desirable. Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. F. Bignell, Commandant of the Mewar Bhil Corps, who was recently in Simla, has suggested that he should be permitted to personally conduct relief measures in the Mewar Bhil tracts, calling in his 2nd-in-Command from Kotra to attend to his military duties. Colonel Bignell considers that, with the assistance of one young Staff Corps officer, he could make adequate arrangements for relieving and controlling the Bhils in these tracts. I am to request you to report as soon as possible whether you concur in these suggestions. If so, steps will at once be taken with a view to relieving Colonel Bignell of his purely military duties and to placing at his disposal a junior officer to assist in relief measures. It is assumed that the Mewar Darbar will, originally or ultimately, provide the funds required for relieving the Bhil population of the State. This point should be noticed in your reply.

7. The Government of India observe with satisfaction that the Bundi and Tonk Darbars have removed transit duties on grain. The policy of non-interference with free trade in grain will no doubt be advocated by yourself

and your officers should restrictions be hereafter introduced or suggested by any Darbar.

8. The necessity for careful precautions against the introduction of plague into Rajputana by emigrants returning from the Bombay Presidency will doubtless receive your continued attention.

No. 109. 4.

Letter from A. H. T. Martin Dale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 43 F., dated Abu, the 24/25th October 1899.

(Extract.)

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October 1899, conveying certain instructions in connection with famine relief operations in Rajputana, and to express my most grateful recognition of the assistance offered, and of the very liberal attitude of the Government of India towards the province in regard to the calamity which has befallen it.

The information required to enable me to submit a full report upon the several points discussed in your letter is being collected. Meantime and with special reference to the 5th paragraph, I have the honour to submit a copy of a telegram,* dated the 18th October 1899, from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, in which he adverts to the distressing circumstances of the Tonk State, and recommends the immediate advance of a loan of 5 lakhs of rupees to the Tonk Darbar, to enable them to start relief works, and to help their subjects who are suffering from the famine.

The existing liabilities of the Tonk State amount to about 19 lakhs of rupees, incurred chiefly for the railway recently constructed from Guna in Central India to Baran in the Kotah State in Rajputana. The State has practically no resources of its own, and certainly could not raise a loan in the market except on exorbitant terms. I have, therefore, the honour to recommend that, in anticipation of the receipt of the detailed report promised by Captain F. E. Younghusband in the telegram quoted above, an immediate advance of two lakhs of rupees may be granted to assist the Darbar in this crisis.

Probably the best form of relief work the Tonk Darbar could start would be the earthwork on the projected railway from Saroli town (Jaipur) on the new Jaipur-Madhupur branch, towards Jehazpur (in Udaipur) on the Baran-Marwar Junction line. This has already been inspected by Mr. Harman, the Engineer-in-Chief of the latter survey. It passes near the capital of the Tonk State and through the Deoli Cantonment, and presents no difficulties of any kind. Mr. Harman considers that, if he can be supplied with some good upper subordinates, the line could be marked out and the plans prepared, so as to admit of the commencement of the earthwork by the end of December or the beginning of January.

The financial arrangements of the Tonk State have already been taken under the control of the Government of India, through the Political Agent, and there would in my opinion be no risk in making the advance now recommended, despite the objections to granting a loan before the terms for repayment have been finally settled. The circumstances are exceptional, and I therefore recommend compliance with the Political Agent's application on the Darbar's behalf, although I would restrict the advance to two lakhs of rupees pending the receipt of the fuller information promised.

* Not printed.

-No. 110.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 4,993, dated the 25th October 1899.

My letter No. 43—70, dated 25th October, recommending loan two lakhs to Tonk. I strongly urge immediate advance of rupees fifty thousand to Jaisalmer Darbar at four per cent. for famine relief, repayable by yearly instalments of rupees ten thousand. Circumstances of State are deplorable. Resources are exhausted. Seths refuse loan except at exorbitant rates. State minority. Administration is good. State liabilities are under two lakhs. Repayment of advance advocated is assured. Letter follows.

No. 111.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3155 I.-A., dated the 27th October 1899.

Your telegram 4993, October 25th.—Loan of rupees fifty-thousand to Jaisalmer State for famine relief sanctioned on terms proposed.

No. 112.

Letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, No. 3194 I.-A., dated Simla, the 30th October 1899.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bombay, a copy of a letter* from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana on the subject of emigration from Native States into adjoining provinces.

2. The Government of India agree generally in the views expressed by Mr. Martindale, and I am to express a hope that the Bombay Government will issue instructions accordingly. It is, of course, very inconvenient to a Local Government to have its relief works and poor-houses crowded by foreign refugees, and this is a very proper ground for complaint and remonstrance; but the Governor in Council will no doubt concur in the principle that emigrants from Native States should not be sent back to their States, until the State authorities are in a position to take over and provide for them. The only thing to be done in such cases is, therefore, to endeavour to collect the refugees of each State on separate works, and to arrange with the Political Officers concerned for the removal of the refugees to relief works in their own States.

Enclosure in No. 112.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.—No. 36 F.—70-III., dated Abu, the 24th October, 1899.

With reference to Foreign Department endorsement No. 2918 I.-A., dated the 11th October, 1899, and enclosures†, regarding the influx of emigrants

* No. 36 F.—70-III., dated the 24th October 1899, with enclosures.

† 1. Telegram from the Government of Bombay, to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, dated the 19th September 1899.

2. Telegram from the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, to the Government of Bombay, No. 1,963, dated the 23rd September, 1899.

from Rajputana into the Amedabad district, Northern Division, Bombay Presidency, I have the honour to forward a copy of my letter No 19-F., dated the 21st October, 1899, addressed to the Commissioner, Northern Division, Bombay, on the subject.

2. From the figures given in the telegram from the Government of Bombay, dated the 19th September, 1899, there appears to be some confusion in regard to the several States to which the emigrants are said to belong. Thus 8,000 persons are said to have come to one relief work from Jodhpur, and 5,000 to the same work from Marwar, although these are two different names for one and the same State.

3. The number of emigrants from the affected States in Rajputana is doubtless very large. But the Darbars concerned have again been instructed to endeavour to arrange for the recall of their subjects, and are being advised how best to effect this.

4. The difficulty is intensified by the absence of water in Marwar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer, from which most of the emigrants flow. As the Government of India are aware, it has hitherto been the practice in these States for a large number of persons to migrate with their cattle even in normal years. In unfavourable years the Darbars, so far from checking emigration, have encouraged it, being thoroughly aware of their inability, arising from slender resources, inadequate machinery, and scanty supplies of grain, fodder, and water, to support the entire mass of the distressed population. Probably for the first time on record, the emigration expedient has this year altogether failed. Applications have been received from all the districts adjoining Rajputana, to which emigrants from this province usually resort, asking that aliens may be recalled. The several Darbars in Rajputana have been addressed accordingly, and are engaged in organising measures to enable them to meet this embarrassing demand. They are arranging for loans, increasing their establishments, and starting relief works where water can be found in sufficient quantity to supply large numbers. In some instances agents have already been sent with money to recall emigrants and to find them employment within the State. Within the next month earthwork will be commenced on railways traversing many of the most affected tracts.

5. But arrangements of this kind, and on an unprecedented scale, take time to mature; and it would in my opinion be extremely imprudent to insist on the immediate return to their own country of the many thousands of persons who have sought maintenance abroad. Their enforced transfer in large numbers before measures were complete for their reception would be attended by grave danger, and not improbably with serious disturbance and plundering of grain stores both by the way and wherever they found themselves eventually deposited. I am informed that many persons have already been sent back from the Bombay Presidency prematurely.

6. I have accordingly the honour to recommend that, for the present, local officers should be instructed to adopt arrangements similar to those indicated in my letter to the Commissioner of the Northern Division, of which a copy is enclosed, on the understanding that their works will be relieved of the undesirable incubus of foreign emigrants at the earliest possible date. This will, it is hoped, be before the end of the present calendar year.

Enclosure 2 in No. 112.

Letter from the Famine Commissioner and Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputna and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, to the Commissioner, Northern Division, Bombay Presidency, No. 19-F., dated the 21st October, 1899.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of letter, No. 12, F., dated 5th instant, from the Collector of Ahmedabad addressed to the Governor-General's Agent for Rajputana, in which that officer formulates certain proposals for returning

to their homes any immigrants from the States in this Agency who may claim admission to the relief works open in British territory.

2. I am to say that the Agent to the Governor-General, while fully aware of the inconvenience and expense caused by an influx of distressed subjects of Native States, is not prepared at present to accept recommendations for dealing with the problem which go beyond the procedure enjoined in paragraph 596 of the report of the last Famine Commission. I am to express the hope, therefore, that the Collector may be desired to admit to his relief works all applicants belonging to Native States who are willing to submit themselves to local tests and tasks imposed, and to postpone the adoption of active steps in the way of wholesale deportation.

3. In the meantime it would seem advisable to keep a record of such immigrants, and to endeavour to ascertain if there are any special causes leading to this tendency to leave their own homes. It would also be convenient, as the Collector suggests, to confine all immigrants to special gangs, discriminating, if at all practicable, between the subjects of different Native States, and to keep this office informed from time to time, either direct through yourself or through the Government of Bombay and the Government of India, of the extent to which congestion of this kind prevails.

4. To facilitate the eventual transfer of the aliens to their own country, the Agent to the Governor-General would suggest that the Collector should adopt a regular system of drafting them from the various works under his control to those relief centres in his district, from which they could ultimately be most easily removed by the representatives of the State to which they belong.

5. In conclusion, I am to request that, in the absence of very exceptional circumstances, the Collector will refrain from direct communication with the Native State officials, in order to avoid undesirable complications.

No. 113.

Telegram from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Ajmer, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 100-F., dated the 13th November 1899.

Resident, Jaipur, recommends loan of Rs. 20,000 to Thakur of Lawa in Kishengarh. Thakur holds Rs. 30,000 in Government paper, but prefers loan to selling out securities at present low rate. I would support application on condition of hypothecation of securities as guarantee of repayment. Letter with reasons follows, but meantime would solicit telegraph reply, Resident representing case as urgent.

No. 114.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Camp via Ajmer, No. 3437 I.-A., dated the 16th November 1899.

3437 I.-A. Your telegram, 100 F., November 13th. Immediate Government loan of rupees 20,000 to Thakur of Lawa sanctioned, provided it is all required for expenditure due to scarcity or for famine relief. Loan will bear interest at 4 per cent., and be repayable in ten years.

No. 115.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 209-F., dated Ajmer, the 22nd November 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the prescribed famine report* of the Marwar State for the month of October 1899.

2. The number of labourers on relief works has risen from 10,985 on the 30th September 1899 to 26,025 on the 31st October 1899. Poor-houses have now been opened in all the parganas of the State, and in these 4,614 persons received gratuitous relief as against 2,263 in the last month. Prices of all food-grains have risen, and 6,050 men, together with 1,580 cattle, are reported to have emigrated to Malwa and Sind, though most of the emigrants have returned and are returning. There have been no other marked changes in the condition of the affected area.

3. The Darbar will be asked to submit these reports in greater detail and to show the works in progress with the number of labourers in each. The variations in the price of food-grains are difficult to reconcile. The rates of wages need check.

No. 116.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 240-F., dated Ajmer, the 27th November 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the famine report* for the Alwar State for the month of October 1899.

2. Only one-third of the State appears to be seriously affected, and even there the general condition of the people and the crops is not so bad as was at first apprehended. Liberal taccavi advances, the opening of the State grass reserves, and an abundance of "pala," small "Ber" bush, have helped materially in alleviating distress. Only 656 persons were on the relief works on the 31st October 1899, but many find employment on the ordinary public works of the State.

3. Four poor-houses were opened in October, and in them an average number of 316 persons received gratuitous relief daily. One hundred and ninety-three agricultural families have temporarily emigrated from the State to Bharatpur where they have relations. People from Marwar and other States were entering the State in considerable numbers, some apparently remaining on local works, and the majority passing through into the Punjab and North-Western Provinces. This emigration has since, it is believed, been largely checked.

No. 117.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 267-F., dated Ajmer, the 29th November 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the famine report* for the Bikaner State for the month of October, 1899.

* Not printed.

2. Practically the whole of the State is affected, but measures have been promptly taken to alleviate distress. Eight works have been opened by the State, and they give employment to 15,852 persons; 3,507 persons are on gratuitous relief, while the number of those receiving private charity is estimated at 25,000. The famine fund started by the wealthy Seths of Bikaner amounted to Rs. 1,33,000 at the end of October.

3. The construction of the Bikaner-Bhatinda Railway supplies employment to many people. Medical arrangements have been made at various places; the health of people on the works is so far good. Wages are given in the shape of rations, there is no apprehension of grain supplies failing. Emigrants are returning from abroad, and arrangements are being made to bring back all subjects of Bikaner from places where they have assembled.

No. 118.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 268-F., dated Aymer, the 29th November 1899.

I have the honour to report that the Punjab Government have expressed their readiness to place the services of Mr. G. C. Wakefield, Assistant Engineer, at the disposal of this Administration for employment in Rajputana on famine relief works.

2. It was at first proposed to constitute the Merwara district as a separate executive division, and to place Mr. Wakefield in charge as Executive Engineer. It has now been decided, however, as a temporary measure, to make two sub-divisions in Merwara, and to place each in charge of an Assistant Engineer under the general control of the Executive Engineer, Ajmer Provincial Division. The recent arrival of Mr. Godfrey, Assistant Engineer from Assam, has made this arrangement practicable.

3. The change in plan, moreover, sets Mr. Wakefield free for employment elsewhere. It is proposed to attach him to the Haraoti and Tonk Agency for special famine duty. The Baran-Marwar Railway, which has already been started, will give employment at first to a considerable number of people in the three States of Shahpura, Bundi, and Tonk, which constitute that Agency. But, as the hot weather approaches, this project alone will not suffice to provide for a large proportion of those who will require relief. None of the States in the Agency has an adequate programme of relief works, and the preparation of such programmes is a matter of urgent necessity. In this direction and in the supervision of all branches of famine relief in the different States of the Agency, Mr. Wakefield's experience and administrative ability will be of material service. The Political Agent entirely concurs in this view, and I should hesitate to advise the Government to make large advances to the Darbars concerned, unless they had the advantage of qualified advisers to ensure that the funds are duly expended.

4. If Mr. Wakefield's services are obtained, I have the honour to recommend that he be given the status and pay of an Executive Engineer while employed on the duties described. They will be both responsible and onerous. He will work under the superintendence and orders of the Political Agent of Haraoti and Tonk.

P.S.—Since writing the above, Mr. Wakefield has arrived from the Punjab, and has been sent to Deoli for service in the Haraoti Agency.

No. 119.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 330-F., dated Abu, the 10th December 1899.

With reference to the fifth paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter, No. 2909 I.-A., dated 9th October, 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of the letters noted in the margin, and their enclosures, from the Resident, Mewar, who recommends the grant of a loan of Government Rs. 1,00,000 at 4 per cent. per annum to the Dungarpur State for famine expenditure, namely, Rs. 50,000 at once, and the balance in April, 1900.

2. The circumstances of the Dungarpur State were described in my letter, No. 2225, dated the 14th June, 1898, containing proposals for conducting the minority administration. The revenue of the State is about Rs. 2,20,500, and the present debt is less than one lakh of rupees. In ordinary years it is calculated that the normal surplus of receipts over expenditure will reach at least the sum of Rs. 50,000.

3. The acute distress due to the existing famine is described in the present correspondence and in the Assistant Resident's reports for September and October, forwarded with my letter, No. 331-F., dated 10th December, 1899. The pressure is undoubtedly severe beyond the scope of local resources. I have accordingly the honour to support the Resident's recommendation for the loan, to be repaid by annual instalments in June of each year, amounting to Rs. 20,000, exclusive of interest due. I have the honour to request the favour of a reply by telegram if possible.

4. Since the enclosed reports were received, it has been decided to apply for the services of a Staff Corps officer to co-operate with the Assistant Resident in supervising famine operations in his political charge, which includes the States of Banswara and Partabgarh, as well as Dungarpur.

Enclosure 1 in No. 119.

Letter from the Resident Mewar to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 476-G., dated the 17th November 1899.

In continuation of my letter, No. 440-G., dated 30th October, 1899, and telegram of 16th November, 1899, I have the honour to forward copy of the letters noted in the margin received by me from the Assistant Resident in Mewar, replying to the various points referred to in your letter, No. 4883, dated 21st October, 1899, so far as the Dungarpur State is concerned.

2. Captain Peacock applies for a loan of 1 lakh for expenditure on famine relief works in the Dungarpur State, to be repaid by annual instalments of Rs. 20,000 in five years. I trust that this may be granted.

3. Captain Peacock has omitted to mention what part of the loan is required during the current financial year, and what is needed on or after the 1st April, 1900. He has accordingly been asked to furnish this information, which will be submitted on receipt.

4. With reference to paragraph 3 of your letter, No. 4883, of the 21st October, 1899, I do not think the nature of the famine works to be undertaken in Dungarpur would warrant the State in incurring the expense that might be necessitated by the deputation of a special engineer officer, and, if

the services of a native Assistant Engineer are obtained as proposed, this will, I think, be sufficient.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter, Captain Peacock, it will be seen, is not inclined to accept the offer of the services of a Special Relief Officer to assist him in supervision; but, as stated in my telegram of yesterday, I think the deputation of such an officer would be advantageous, and I would recommend that an officer be appointed and directed to join Captain Peacock as soon as possible, communicating with him at Dungarpur direct.

Enclosure 2 in No. 119.

Letter from the Assistant Resident, Mewar, to the Resident, Mewar, No. 1158, dated the 13th November 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 1560, dated the 23rd October, 1899, regarding the assistance which the Government of India are prepared to offer Native States in the form of loans and the services of Government officers for the supervision of relief measures in connection with the prevailing scarcity.

2. The States under the political charge of this office are:—

Banswara, Dungarpur,		Partabgarh, Kushalgarh (Chiefship),
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and none of them have a surplus balance credit being all more or less in debt. They will all, therefore, undoubtedly readily accept the favourable offer of a loan to assist them in combating the famine. I have not as yet received replies from Banswara, Partabgarh, and Kushalgarh. I will, therefore, defer replying regarding these States until I receive their definite proposals, and will confine this communication to the State of Dungarpur, which has a minority and is administered by Government through a State Council.

3. The Dungarpur State is at present in debt. There was a monthly balance debit with the State Treasurer at the end of October of Rs. 59,436-15-3. In addition to this it has undertaken to pay a sum of Rs. 5,186-0-3 to the creditors of the late Choti Maji. There are little, if any, prospects of recovering any revenue for the last kharif or for the rabi, which should now be in the ground; there is thus little hope of decreasing to any great extent the present balance debit above alluded to, as the income, deprived of the land revenue item, will be small, and the expenditure, apart from the famine expenditure, must continue.

4. This demonstrates sufficiently the necessity the State has of obtaining a loan from some source for the purposes of expenditure on famine relief. There would be no difficulty in obtaining any sum required from the State Treasurer, viz., the firm of Rai Bahadur Seth Sobhag Mal at Ajmer, but the interest would be 9 per cent. per annum, and therefore, if the Government would advance a specified sum to the State, it would be a distinct saving, as the interest that the loan would be liable to is, as stated, 4 per cent. per annum.

5. The following three relief works have been sanctioned so far:—

		Chitori Rs.
Dungarpur-Bhiloda Road ...	...	18,660
Dungarpur-Aspur Road ...	...	12,325
Dungarpur-Mewara Road ...	...	12,165
Antri-Galiakote Road ...	...	6,734
Total ...	...	<u>49,884</u>

The first three are in progress of construction. These road works will afford labour to those who live in close proximity to them, but will not suffice for those at a distance. The latter must have work given them somewhere near their villages, for, owing to the wild nature of the country and its Bhil population, villagers will not be induced to go far from their homes for fear of Bhil raids.

A scheme of tanks and wells is under preparation for this purpose, which will probably require, say, Rs. 50,000.

6. I think, therefore, if the Government would be considerate enough to advance a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 (Imperial), it would be all expended before the end of the famine, and it would be of immense benefit to the State. No conditions in regard to Dungarpur would appear necessary, as the State is under direct management.

7. As regards repayment, I have in paragraph 3 above described the extent of the liabilities. The ordinary* annual income† and expenditure leaves a balance credit of 76,210 Chitori rupees, and I would suggest that the loan be repaid by annual instalments in June of each year, amounting to Rs. 20,000 and interest due.

8. The services of an Engineer Officer referred to in paragraph 3 of letter No. 4883, dated the 21st October, 1899, from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, would be of undoubted advantage, but in the event of a Native Assistant Engineer being appointed to Dungarpur, as recommended in my letter, No. 1098, dated the 4th November, 1899, to your address, his services would not be necessary.

9. As regards paragraph 4 of the First Assistant's letter before referred to, I do not consider that any special relief officers are required for the States under this office, as I am of opinion that the Assistant Resident, Mewar, will be able to sufficiently supervise all relief measures.

10. In conclusion, I would add that I have consulted the Kamdar in the matter of this communication, and he has desired me to say that the Council are sensitive of the great kindness shown in the offer of assistance proposed by the Government.

Enclosure 3 in No. 119.

Letter from the Assistant Resident, Mewar, to the Resident, Mewar, No. 1160, dated the 15th November 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement, No. 1684, dated the 10th November, 1899, enquiring my opinion as to the desirability of the deputation of a Staff Corps Officer to aid in organising famine relief arrangements and preserving order in Dungarpur, Banswara, and Partabgarh.

2. In paragraph 9 of my letter, No. 1158, dated the 13th instant, written before the receipt of your endorsement under reply, I stated that I did not consider the services of an officer necessary. Now that the Dungarpur State accounts have been placed on a clear basis by the framing of an annual budget of income and expenditure, and the several departments of the State have been reorganised, I anticipate that there will not be any difficulty experienced by the Assistant Resident, Mewar, in effectually supervising all famine arrangements in the States. I would at the same time beg to express my thanks for the very considerate offer of assistance.

* Deducting abnormal items.

† Vide paragraph 8 of the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General's letter, No. 3874, dated 23rd August, 1899.

Enclosure 4 in No. 119.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 439 G., dated the 23rd November, 1899.

In continuation of my letter, No. 476 G., dated 17th November, 1899, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of a letter No. 1190, dated 21st November, 1899, from the Assistant Resident in Mewar, reporting that Rs. 70,000 of the loan of one lakh required for expenditure on relief works in the Dungarpur State is needed immediately, and Rs. 30,000 on the 15th April, 1900.

2. The purposes for which Captain Peacock requires this Rs. 70,000 do not appear to me to come under the terms of paragraph 5 of Foreign Department letter No. 2909 I.-A., of 9th October, 1899.

Captain Peacock states that so much as Rs. 70,000 cannot be expended under some months. The estimate of the relief works sanctioned comes to Rs. 49,884.

I would therefore suggest that Rs. 50,000 be advanced this year, and the remainder next year.

Enclosure 5 in No. 119.

Letter from the Assistant Resident, Mewar, to the Resident, Mewar, No. 1190, dated the 21st November 1899.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement, No. 1744, dated the 17th instant, regarding the amount of the loan required by the Dungarpur State from Government, in order to meet expenditure incurred owing to the famine.

2. I regret that I omitted to mention in my letter No. 1158, dated the 13th November, 1899, how much of the loan, viz., Rs. 1,00,000, was required during the present, and how much after the commencement of the next financial year. It would be convenient if Rs. 70,000 could be obtained immediately, and Rs. 30,000 on the 15th April, 1900.

3. In explanation of the request for Rs. 70,000 now in a lump sum, I should state that, though so large an amount cannot be expended by the State under some months, yet no portion of it will be considered as lying idle, for, owing to the failure of harvests and the consequent want of revenue, the State has already a large overdraft with its treasurer, on which it has to pay 9 per cent. interest. It is obvious, therefore, that as soon as the loan is received and paid into the local treasury (Seth Sobhag Mal), the balance of account will turn in favour of the State. The State will thus have to pay 4 per cent., the rate required by Government, instead of 9 per cent., as interest, and will, at the same time, have funds to expend as required on famine works.

No. 120.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 334 F., dated Abu, the 10th December 1899.

With reference to the fifth paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter, No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October, 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 3574, dated the 6th November, 1899, in which the Resident of

Jaipur recommends the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,10,000 at 4 per cent. per annum to the Kishangarh Darbar from the Imperial Treasury.

2. The annual revenue of the State is about 4½ lakhs of British rupees. The Darbar estimate that their famine expenditure will reach about the same sum. They have no money invested in Government securities, and practically no other resources except a small hoard of cash or jewels believed to be secreted as a kind of heirloom in the Kishangarh Fort. I agree with Mr. Irwin in the view that this treasure may be disregarded for present purposes.

3. The Darbar ask for Government Rs. 60,000 at once, and Rs. 50,000 after the 31st March, 1900. They propose to repay the loan by three instalments closing in April, 1903. By Article 7 of the Salt Agreement of 8th May, 1879, the Government pay the Darbar Rs. 25,000 a year.

4. The circumstances of the State are good, and its administration under the Maharaja and the Diwan, Rai Bahadur Shyam Sundar Lall, compares favourably with that of most States in Rajputana. It is believed to be free from debt. The famine pressure is not so acute as in other parts of the province, but is still severe. I have accordingly the honour to support the Resident's recommendation. There need, I think, be no apprehension regarding the punctual repayment of the loan, provided the seasons are propitious. But to provide absolute security a condition of the advance might be that the salt payment is withheld by Government each year until the whole amount is liquidated. This would be in about five years, unless the Darbar preferred to pay off the loan earlier.

5. I have the honour to request the favour of a reply by telegram if possible.

Enclosure 1 in No. 120.

Letter from the Resident, Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner and Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 3574, dated the 6th November 1899.

At the request of the Kishangarh Darbar, I have the honour to apply for a loan of Rs. 1,10,000 to that State from Government, and to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General the following particulars regarding the financial position, &c., of the State.

2. The ordinary income of the State may be put at about 4 lakhs in the State coin, plus about one lakh in British rupees, and the average expenditure at Rs. 3½ lakhs in Kishangarh currency, plus about Rs. 60,000 in British coin, the rate of exchange at present being about British rupees 100 = Kishangarh Rs. 170; the ordinary surplus may be put roughly at about Rs. 70,000 Government.

3. They reckon on receiving this year about Kishangarh Rs. 3,67,000 = British Rs. 2,16,000, and having to spend about Kishangarh Rs. 7,60,000 = about British Rs. 4,50,000, leaving a deficit in the year of about British Rs. 2,30,000. To meet this deficit they have about a lakh's (British rupees) worth of grain, which will be used in famine relief and for the up-keep of the Raj establishments, and an opening cash balance of Kishangarh Rs. 25,000, say British Rs. 15,000.

4. There is money buried in the palace, a hereditary hoard, which by some sort of family statute the Maharaja is pledged not to use except in the most dire extremity. The Diwan even has no official knowledge of this reserve; it is not shown in the treasury accounts, and its amount is not known, but it is vaguely supposed to be somewhere about Kishangarh Rs. 2 lakhs. I think that it would be impolitic to refuse a loan to the State on the ground of this supposition unutilised resource. The Maharaja would certainly bor-

row from the Seths in preference to falling back on the hidden treasure. The State surpluses have been largely invested, as they accrued, in establishing the spinning and ginning mills at Kishangarh, and the capital could not now be taken out of these concerns without seriously damaging the interests of the State.

5. A loan, therefore, is the only way of meeting the current year's deficit. I think Rs. 1,10,000 will be enough with economy, and that is the amount which after consultation with me the Darbar have decided to ask for. They may, I think, with ordinary fortune, calculate on being able to repay it in two annual instalments of Rs. 35,000 each, and a third of Rs. 40,000 falling due on the 1st of April, 1901, 1902, and 1903, the date on which payments to Kishangarh are made under the Salt arrangements. The Darbar would like to take Rs. 60,000 now, and Rs. 50,000 after 31st March, 1900.

No. 121.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 335 F., dated Abu, the 10th December, 1899.

I have the honour to invite a reference to my letter, No. 43 F., dated the 25th October, 1899, to your address, in which I reported the application for a famine loan of 5 lakhs of rupees for the Tonk State from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, and recommended an immediate advance of 2 lakhs, a modified proposal which was sanctioned in your telegram, No 3189 I.-A., dated 30th October, 1899, pending final settlement of the terms of the loan.

2. I have now the honour to forward a copy of the Political Agents more detailed reports referred to in the
 No. 371 G., dated the 23rd October, 1899. third paragraph of my letter cited above.
 No. 1563, dated the 23rd October, 1899. In these reports Captain Younghusband describes the circumstances of the State at some length, and gives an estimate of the anticipated famine expenditure, with the date on which the total cost, viz., 14½ lakhs of rupees, of which nearly one-half is recoverable, is based. He recommends the advance of a Government loan of 15 lakhs of rupees, to be paid by instalments of Rs. 50,000 a year from 1st January, 1902, to 1st January, 1916, and thereafter by yearly instalments of 1 lakh until the whole advance has been discharged. If this arrangement were observed, the loan would be paid off in the year 1932. The Darbar ask for an immediate advance of 5 lakhs, with a further advance of 5 lakhs in March, 1900, and the remaining 5 lakhs after the 1st April.

3. The normal revenue of the State is about 12½ lakhs, and, excluding debt payments, the normal expenditure is 10½ lakhs. The debts amount to nearly 19 lakhs as shown in my letter of the 25th October, 1899. The interest payable on existing liabilities is Rs. 78,000 per annum. As noted by Captain Younghusband the State finances are under the control of the Political Agent by the arrangement enforced some 12 years ago. There is, therefore, no question as to the ultimate repayment of any advance which Government may see fit to make, but I should hesitate to add so large a sum as 15 lakhs to the existing debt, unless the exigencies of the State leave no alternative. A further argument for caution is afforded by the proposed railway through Tonk from the Jaipur-Madhupur line to the Baran-Jodhpur connection. The Darbar may desire to contribute towards its construction.

4. I would accordingly recommend that the loan already sanctioned be increased to 5 lakhs by a further immediate advance of 3 lakhs, and that from 3 to 5 lakhs, as circumstances may demand, be advanced in March, 1900, leaving the need for any further assistance to be determined when the exact yield of the rabi harvest has been ascertained.

5. The application of the advances will be controlled by the Political Agent, assisted by Mr. Wakefield, Executive Engineer, whose services have been obtained from the Punjab Government, and by Lieutenant Haworth, I.S.C., who has been deputed to the Haraoti and Tonk Agency as Special Famine Officer. The supervision of these officers affords some guarantee that the large sums of money, the advance of which is now recommended, will not be seriously misapplied.

6. As the new railway has already begun to give some return, and a considerable part of the famine expenditure is recoverable, I would not place the instalments of principal and interest at a lower figure than Rs 75,000 a year. With due economy, the Darbar should not find these payments an excessive burthen.

Enclosure 1 in No. 121.

Letter from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 371 G., dated the 23rd October, 1899.

In forwarding, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General and of the Government of India, the report, dated September 18th, on the prospects of famine in this Agency, I stated that the Tonk Darbar estimated their probable expenditure on account of famine at about Rs 10,15,000, of which Rs. 8,00,000 was due to loss of revenue and Rs. 2,15,000 to increase of expenditure.

2. It has now become a certainty that there will be a famine, and the Darbar have further to consider that the famine will not be confined to a small area, but will extend over all the surrounding States and districts. This additional consideration makes the situation still more serious, for now no portion of the population can be saved by emigration, and the price of food has necessarily increased with the increased extent of the famine area.

3. In addition, the Darbar now find that besides the Rajputana parganas the Parawa Pargana in Central India will also be affected, and possibly the Chabra Pargana to a slight extent also.

They now anticipate that famine will prevail over the following area —

	Area in square miles.	Population.
Tonk Pargana	578	114,298
Aligarh	160	19,623
Nimbahera	374	64,888
Pirawa	262	40,806
Total	1,374	239,615

4. Of this population, 186,200 are on Khalsa land, and will have to be provided for directly by the State. The remaining 53,415 are in Istimrari and Jagir villages, and will be provided for by Istimrardars and Jagirdars helped to a certain extent by the State.

5. The Darbar think they will have to furnish relief for 9,310 persons, or 5 per cent of the Khalsa population, for ten months. This percentage is small compared with the numbers which obtain relief in British provinces, and I think it may subsequently be found to be below the mark. On the other hand, the Darbar make much larger remissions and suspensions of revenue than is the custom in British territory.

6. To aid the Istimrardars and Jagirdars in providing relief for the people in their villages it is proposed to give them loans on adequate security to the extent of Rs. 1,27,722.

7. Assuming the cost of relief to be Rs. 90 a day for each 1,000 persons relieved, the Darbar estimate that the following extra expenditure will be incurred up to August 31st, which is the close of the Tonk financial year :—

	Rs.
1. Relief works and gratuitous relief	2,93,519
2. Loans and takavi advances to cultivators ...	2,08,000
3. Extra Police establishment	12,931
4. Grain compensation to State servants drawing Rs. 5 per mensem or less	55,415
5. State Stables, Jail Hospital, &c.	54,541
6. Loans to Istimrardars and Jagirdars	1,27,722
Total	<u>7,52,128</u>

The loss of revenue due to famine is estimated on—

1. Suspension of revenue	5,39,957
2. Remissions	1,64,300
3. Decrease in recovery of advance	19,775
Total	<u>7,24,032</u>

The total cost of the famine will, therefore, be 14,76,160

8. Of this sum, it is anticipated that Rs. 7,00,000 will be subsequently recovered as follows :—

	Rs.
1. Repayments of loans to cultivators	2,00,000
2. Payments of revenue suspended	3,60,000
3. Repayment of old advances	19,000
4. Repayment of loans to Istimrardars and Jagirdars	1,21,000
Total	<u>7,00,000</u>

As a further sum of Rs. 2,51,800 out of the total amount to be borrowed will be spent upon the construction and repair of tanks and roads, the State will be permanently improved to this extent or near it.

9. The famine will clearly be severe, and 5 per cent. is a low estimate of the numbers who will need relief on relief works and gratuitously. Large numbers of others who will not come to relief works can, with advantage to the State, be helped by means of loans granted on approved security for the deepening of wells and the repair of tanks. I consider, then, that at least the amount of expenditure anticipated as necessary by the Darbar will be required.

10. To obtain the money required two courses are open to the Darbar: Firstly, a loan might be taken from one or the other of the Ajmer and Rutlam firms, in which case at least 6 per cent. interest would have to be paid; or, secondly, the loan might be granted by Government on more favourable terms. The Darbar earnestly hope that the latter privilege may

be afforded them by Government, and the State be thus saved an additional expenditure of about Rs 30,000 per annum.

11. The present indebtedness of the State is on—

	Yearly Interest.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Loans from Ajmer and Rutlam Firms and old debts.	3,51,197	18,000
2. Railway Loan	15,00,000	60,000
Total	18,51,197	78,000

Of these loans, the latter is a productive work, which has already begun to bring in an income, and which next year will probably bring in an income equal to the interest payable on the capital expenditure.

12. The average actual revenue of the State is 12½ lakhs, and the average actual expenditure (excluding debt payments) is 10½ lakhs. There is, therefore, 2½ lakhs available for the repayment of debts, and if we set aside the productive railway loan, the State has never been so free of debt as it is at the present time, after 12 years of control by the Political Agent. The disconnected districts which go to form the Tonk State are all good land. By next year every district will be within easy reach of various railways—the Japur-Madhupur Line, the Bina-Bara Railway, the Midland Railway, and the Rutlam-Malwa Line. The land revenue settlement of the State has recently been concluded, and His Highness the Nawab has just given his consent to the employment of a British officer to superintend the land revenue collection, so that, if Government approve of the deputation of such an officer to the Tonk State, there will be an efficient means of ensuring that the money spent in loans to cultivators will be duly recovered, and that the land revenue demand is properly realised.

13. I have, therefore, the honour to recommend that a loan of 15 lakhs of rupees be granted to the Tonk Darbar by the Government of India. This loan the Darbar could repay in instalments of ½ lakh a year from January 1st, 1902, to January 1st, 1916, when the yearly instalments of one lakh each on account of the Gwalior Darbar's railway loan will have all been paid off, after which date the Tonk Darbar could repay the proposed Government loan at the rate of one lakh a year.

14. This help from Government in a time of sore need would be highly appreciated by the Tonk Darbar, and still more by the people. The receipt of the money would, moreover, remove an additional hardship due to exchange which is now pressing heavily on the State. The currency here is Chawarshahi. To import grain from British Provinces British currency rupees are needed. Before the closing of the Government mints, 106 Chawarshahi rupees would buy 100 Government rupees. To-day 148 Chawarshahi rupees are needed. I would desire to ask, therefore, that a portion of the loan, if sanctioned, may be made available in Government rupees at the earliest possible date, so that the purchase of grain from outside may not be further impeded by the rapidly rising rate of exchange.

Enclosure 2 in No. 121.

Letter from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, to the Famine Commissioner, No. 1563, dated the 23rd October 1899.

The First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General's letter, No. 4888, dated October 21st, forwarding the Foreign Department letter, No. 2909 I-A, dated October 9th, reached me after the issue of my letter, No. 371-G., dated the 23rd October, 1899, to the First Assistant, in which I made proposals regarding a loan of 15 lakhs to the Tonk Darbar. I have now the

honour to submit the further information asked for by the Government of India.

2. The financial position of the State I have already described, and also the terms upon which the Darbar would desire that repayment should be made. The Darbar are anxious to receive a portion of the loan at once in order to advance money to cultivators and Istumrardars to deepen wells for the irrigation of the rabi crop, to purchase seed for sowing and to commence relief works on a scale commensurate with the distress which will prevail in November; and also in order, by the importation of British currency rupees, to reduce the extraordinarily high rate of exchange of Chawarshahi rupees, which is at present causing an almost complete stoppage of the import of grain, which has necessarily to be bought with British rupees. The portion of the proposed loan which the Darbar asked for at once is 5 lakhs, for they had on October 20th only Rs. 40,000 in their treasury. They would require another 5 lakhs before April 1st, and the remainder afterwards.

3. The finances of the State are already controlled by the Political Agent, so that there is no need to enter any stipulation in that regard in the conditions upon which the loan would be granted. The supervision exercised by the Political Agent over famine relief would also serve to ensure that the money proposed to be spent for that purpose will be properly expended, while the appointment of an officer to the charge of the Land Revenue Department as proposed will be some check on the proper disbursement of loans and advances.

4. The estimate of the cost of the famine has been made on the assumption that the rabi crop will fail. This is taken for granted by the Darbar. We are now in the end of October. There are no signs of the heavy fall of rain which would alone suffice to make the ground fit for the sowing of seed. The water in the wells is abnormally low, and only a third of even the land usually watered from wells will be sown. A famine worse even than that of 1868 is, therefore, anticipated by the Darbar.

No. 122.

Telegram from the Hon'ble Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3761 I.-A., dated the 13th December 1899.

Your letter, 268-F., November 29th. Wakefield may be employed as proposed in Haraothi and Tonk Agency on pay of Rs. 500 a month, with travelling allowance under ordinary rules. All charges on account of Wakefield will, for the present, be met by Government of India, question of any recovery from States concerned being left open—see paragraph 3 of my letter, 2909 I.-A., October 9th.

No. 123.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 396-F., dated Abu, the 16th December 1899.

In accordance with the provisions of rules 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States, I have the honour to forward a copy of the Famine Reports of the Mewar State for the months of October and November, and of the Famine Reports of the Kherwara and Kotra Bhd tracts for October, with a copy of the Resident's covering

letters noted in the margin, and of their enclosures.

* No. 1762, dated 21st November, 1899.
 * " 1915, " 5th December. "
 * " 1735, " 16th November. "
 * " 1813, " 26th " "

2. The Darbar report for October was unaccompanied by any remarks on the general situation or by a map, and the information it contains is meagre. Roughly, about three-fourths of the area of the State are shown as affected, and the numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief in October are reported to have been 10,587 and 2,534 respectively. These numbers, however, only include persons residing in Khalsa lands.

3. The Darbar report for November, with which the maps enclosed, were forwarded, shows an increase in the number of people for whom relief was provided, the number on relief works on the last day of the month being 15,306,* and in receipt of gratuitous relief 6,242.†

4. The physical condition of the people is reported to be fair, but 47 deaths are said to have occurred from starvation and cold.

5. Excluding the hilly tracts of Kherwara and Kotra, the most seriously affected parts of the State are the Kherar Mina district of Jehazpur, and the Mandalgarh, Kumalgarh, and Mugra Parganas. In these tracts works have been started, which will be largely supplemented at an early date.

6. As in other parts of Rajputana, the difficulty of organising relief is much increased by the fact that by far the larger area of the Mewar State lies in extensive semi-independent estates. The numbers provided with relief in these estates are so far small. Many of the nobles hold exaggerated ideas of their own importance and independence, and resent interference by the Darbar, which is only too ready to disclaim responsibility for the support of people living in Jagir or non-Khalsa lands. At the same time the nobles themselves have not the means to provide relief on a large scale, and are reluctant to apply to the Darbar for loans, and thereby to increase the Darbar's hold over them. The question is a delicate one and will require careful handling to obviate serious friction. But it has been strongly impressed upon His Highness the Maharana that he is primarily responsible that adequate measures are adopted for the relief of all the inhabitants of the Mewar State, whether they live in Khalsa or Jagir lands; and at least that none who apply for assistance will be turned away from the relief works wherever situated.

The gravity of the situation in the hilly Bhil tracts under the political charge of the Superintendent (and Commandant of the Mewar Bhil Corps) is sufficiently shown by the enclosed reports from Colonel E. Bignell, the Superintendent, and Major C. Hutton Dawson, the Assistant Superintendent. Special measures have since been organised for the relief of these tracts.

8. In conclusion, I have the honour to report that the organisation of relief measures in Mewar has formed, and still forms, by far the most difficult task of all presented by the existing famine in Rajputana. The State suffered seriously in the outset by the fact that it was without a Resident from the 20th June, 1899, when Colonel Ravenshaw was transferred to Ajmer, until 15th October, 1899, when Colonel Yate joined at Udaipur. The Maharana, who vainly endeavours to concentrate in his own person the entire administration of affairs, grasped neither the gravity of the situation nor his own responsibility for relieving distress. I visited his capital in person towards the close of September expressly to impress both points upon him. He agreed then to start relief works (including the earthwork of the Baran-Jodhpur Railway), and to place the general control of the operations in the hands of Lieutenant J. C. D. Pinney, I.S.C., Boundary Settlement Officer in Mewar. But after I had left, arrangements hung fire, and neither my personal representations nor the repeated remon-

* For Khalsa Land	13,512	† In Khalsa land	...	5,042
.. Jagir ..	1,215	.. Jagir ..	...	200
.. Dewasthan ...	579	.. Dewasthan ...	...	1,900
Total .	<u>15,306</u>	Total ..	...	<u>6,242</u>

stances of the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, who has political charge of the Kherar Mina tract in the north-east of the State where distress is very severe, availed to induce His Highness to adopt immediate and adequate relief measures. Moreover, in my opinion, Colonel Yate, the Resident, was inclined at the outset to take too optimistic a view of the circumstances, and to minimise the severity of the distress prevailing, more particularly in the Bhil tracts and the parts of the State bordering on the British district of Merwara.

9. Within the last few days, however, and since the enclosed reports were written, the Darbar has been aroused to a fuller sense of its obligations, and has been moved to introduce actual practical relief measures on a more suitable scale. Additional works have been opened in the Mina country. Darbar officials have been despatched to confer with the British officers of Merwara regarding relief on the frontier. The railway earth-work (which the Mewar Darbar alone of the Darbars interested has refused to undertake, although providing the requisite funds for its execution) will be started at once under our own supervision in the neighbourhood of Lamia Station, as well as towards Merwara. Arrangements have been initiated for opening relief projects in some of the jagir estates. Loans are being advanced on favourable terms to Bhumat Chiefs in Kherwara and Kotra. The horde of Mewar subjects, who in many thousands had invaded the Ajmer and Merwara districts in search of assistance, and of whose condition the Commissioner of Ajmer gives a most unfavourable account, are being recalled to relief works in Mewar. I have impressed on the Resident the importance of touring through the worst parts of the State as early as possible, accompanied by the Chief himself, in order that he may ascertain the actual circumstances of each tract by personal inspection, and thus be in a stronger position to advise the Darbar regarding the remedial measures necessary.

10. I have the honour to enclose a copy of a memorandum, dated the 22nd November, 1899, in which Major J. R. Dunlop-Smith, Famine Commissioner, has embodied the results of his recent visit to Udaipur, and of the conference held there on the 20th November, at which, among others, the Honourable Member of His Excellency's Council in the Revenue Department and the Secretary to the Government in the same Department were present. The Resident has been desired to urge on the Darbar the adoption of such of the suggestions therein offered as may be practicable and expedient.

No. 124.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 400-F., dated Abu, the 17th December 1899.

With reference to 5th paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter, No. 2909, of the

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| <p>1. To Resident, No. 4885, dated 21st October, 1899.</p> <p>2. From Resident, No. 412-G., dated 4th November, 1899, and enclosures</p> <p>3. To Resident, No. 129, dated 14th November, 1899.</p> <p>4. From Resident, No. 459-G., dated 29th November, 1899, and enclosures.</p> | <p>9th October, 1899, regarding famine relief operations in Rajputana, I have the honour to forward a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin,* in which the Resident, Western Rajputana States, forwards an application from the Marwar Darbar for an advance from Imperial Funds of 36 lakhs of rupees at 4 per cent per annum.</p> |
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2. The Jodhpur State was one of the earliest in Rajputana to be affected by the present famine. The Government of India have been kept informed by periodical reports of the condition of the country, and of the

* Not printed.

measures adopted to alleviate local distress. The Resident's letter of the 29th November and its enclosures contain the latest available account of the circumstances of the State. It may be asserted, without hesitation, that in no part of India at present is famine more severe or distress more acute.

3. His Highness the Maharaja and his advisers have displayed a praiseworthy readiness to set aside accepted traditions and to admit the fullest responsibility for supporting the people of the State until the period of famine is over. The earliest date possible for relief is unfortunately remote, namely, September, 1900. The unaided resources of the State are inadequate to meet the unprecedented demand imposed upon them. Its existing liabilities are estimated at 28½ lakhs of Government rupees. These include the amount still due on the loan of 25½ lakhs recently advanced by the Mysore Darbar for the extension of the Marwar railway system westwards towards the port of Karachi. The State has no funds invested in Government securities, nor other available resources which can be utilised to meet a large famine expenditure. The normal revenue of the State is estimated at about 48 lakhs of Government rupees and the normal expenditure at about 40 lakhs.

4. The outlay required for famine purposes until the kharif crops are harvested in September and October, 1900, is calculated at Government Rs. 30,00,000. To this should be added Rs. 6,00,000 to meet the expected deficit in the current year's budget, total, 36 lakhs. Of this amount 20 lakhs are asked for during the current financial year, as noted below:—

		Rs.
1899, December, Budget deficit	...	6 lakhs
" " Famine loan	...	3½ "
1900, 1st January	..	3½ "
" 1st February	.	3½ "
" 1st March	...	3½ "
Total		20 "

The Darbar would be glad to receive the balance (16 lakhs) by instalments of 3½ lakhs each on the 1st April and 1st May, and 3 lakhs each on the 1st June, 1st July, and 1st August, 1900. If the whole amount of 36 lakhs is advanced, the State liabilities, including interest charges, will be about 93 lakhs of rupees, as set out in the third paragraph of the Resident's last letter.

5. It is proposed to discharge the whole of this amount in sixteen years, ending with the year 1914-15. In this connection it may be noted that under the Salt Agreement with Jodhpur the Imperial Government pays that State a total sum of Rs. 9,61,395 a year; but the Mysore Darbar has an interest in this assignment under the terms of the arrangements* for the repayment of the Mysore Railway loan referred to in the 3rd paragraph of this letter.

6. If the Government of India agree to advance the loan solicited, the control of its expenditure will rest with the Resident. Besides the ordinary Darbar establishment, the Resident will be assisted in its application by Mr. W Home (the State Engineer) and the special Famine staff, consisting of two Executive Engineers, a Staff Corps Officer, and a European Medical Officer, all of whom will be working in the State before the close of the current calendar year. There is, therefore, a fair guarantee that the sums advanced will be usefully expended. I entertain the hope, which

* *Vide* correspondence ending with Foreign Department letter No. 3056 L.B., dated 9th November, 1898.

to be shared by the Resident, that with economical management the whole of the amount now asked for will not be required.

7. However this may be, the necessity for immediate assistance is beyond question, and I have accordingly the honour to express the hope that the sum of 9½ lakhs may be placed at the disposal of the Darbar in the Ajmer Treasury during the current month of December, namely, 6 lakhs to meet the Budget deficit, and 3½ lakhs as the first instalment of Famine loan.

8. The Darbar's explanation of the apparently excessive estimate of land revenue (namely, Rs. 48,20,000 against an average of Rs. 31,71,000) for the present year has been called for, and their figures in support of the anticipated increased expenditure of 2½ lakhs under the head of "Military" will be examined. The last estimate was probably framed before the Government of India relieved the Darbar of the cost of maintaining one Regiment of Imperial Service Lancers by transferring* it to Muttra; but the enormously enhanced cost of fodder may not improbably account for the excess.

9. In conclusion, I have the honour to state that the limit of Rs. 50 lakhs, indicated in the 5th paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter already cited, has been steadily borne in mind in disposing of the numerous applications for loans which have been received from Native States. Some of these applications I have declined to forward; others have been largely reduced. But there is good ground to anticipate that reasonable applications will be received which will reach a total of not less than Rs. 70 lakhs before the month of September, 1900, and this probability must be noted in submitting the request for so large a sum as 36 lakhs from the single State of Jodhpur.

No. 125.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3812 I.-A., dated the 20th December 1899.

Your letters 336 and 334 F., December 10th. Immediate loans of fifty thousand rupees to Dungarpur and sixty thousand to Kishangarh are sanctioned, and Government will be prepared to supplement these loans in next financial year, but revised estimates of requirements should be furnished in or about February next.

No. 126.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3815 I.-A., dated the 20th December 1899.

Your letter 335 F., December 10th. According to figures furnished in your crop and weather telegrams, Tonk Darbar should not be spending more than rupees ten thousand a month for direct relief. It is assumed that these figures are for khalsa area only. Darbar had rupees forty thousand in hand on 20th October, and Government have since given loan of two lakhs. Before considering further loan, Government desire to know how much of above total has been spent and on what objects. Please also furnish particulars as to items 2 to 6 inclusive in Darbar's estimates, and state approximate amount of loans and advances which it is proposed to give up to 31st March. Do Darbar propose to import grain themselves, or to give loans in British rupees to grain merchants for purchases in distant markets?

* *Vide Foreign Department telegram of 8th October, 1899.*

No. 127.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 457 F., dated Abu, the 21st December 1899.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Famine Report of the Karauli State for the month of November, 1899.

2. From this report it will be seen that there has been so far no real distress, and that it has not been necessary to open any relief works.

3. The Darbar has remitted current revenue to the extent of nearly Rs. 50,000, and has advanced Rs. 12,000 in taccavi loans. In addition to these measures, arrears of revenue amounting to Rs. 8,000 have been struck off.

4. These liberal concessions, and the employment of those who have no land fit for rabi cultivation in cutting and stacking grass, have sufficed to keep the people from feeling any severe distress.

5. The physical condition of the people and of their cattle is reported to be good.

 Enclosure 1 in No. 127.

Letter from the Political Agent, Eastern Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 5624 G., dated the 8th December 1899.

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of monthly Famine Report, together with Famine Statement, according to sections 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States, for the month of November, 1899, received from the Karauli Darbar.

 Enclosure 2 in No. 127

Famine Report of the Karauli State for the month of November 1899.

In the report submitted for the month of October, it was stated that the remission of rent that has been allowed to the ryots from the current year's collection will be dealt with in detail in the report for the month of November.

It is satisfactory to note that a remission of rent of nearly fifty thousand has been allowed to the cultivators. They have also been exempted from paying arrears of land revenue to the amount of eight thousand, and taccavi to the extent of twelve thousand has been advanced to them. Thus in proportion to the resources of this State, the ryots have been helped in their distress to the amount of seventy thousand. The Tahsildars have also been ordered to encourage them by all means to bring in as much land under the plough for rabi cultivation as possible.

The effect of remission of rent allowed in the month of November has been, as is lately reported by the Revenue Department, that plots of land which were never used before for rabi cultivation has this year been prepared and is being irrigated.

In the Dang portion of the territory where paddy was destroyed and the supply of fodder was supposed to be failing gradually, the Tahsildar was ordered to enquire into the condition of such villages. It is apprehended that a few villages will be thus affected, and the local revenue officials have been ordered to adopt measures for the relief of such villages and send in

their reports as soon as practicable. In the meantime, many among the agricultural population who have not even a patch of land for rabi cultivation have been employed by the State on wages to cut grass from the State Runds or grass preserves for the consumption of the State stables. In this way, what with remission of rent for the current year and taccavi advances and exemption from arrears of revenue of previous years, and the expediency of allowing a large number of people to cut grass, temporary relief has been given to those whose distress required the immediate attention of the State.

There is at present no actual water famine prevailing in any part of the State, though in the Dang portion the supply is slowly getting scanty.

The physical condition of both the agricultural population and their cattle is still sound and healthy looking.

The supply of food grains in the market is sufficient. People in the town have begun to make large imports from Agra, the effect of which has soon told on the bazaar of Karauli. Food grains were sold in the month of November at a little easier rate than in the previous month.

Since no actual relief work was opened during the month, columns of the monthly Famine Returns have been left blank

Famine Statement for the month ending 30th November, 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karauli...	1,262	156,000	—	—	—	—

Note on the Famine Statement.

Some of the Jagirdars of this State have opened relief works in their jagirs where poor people are employed in making bunds.

In the State charity houses, located at different parts of the territory, flour is doled out to a large number of poor beggars.

Physical condition of the people is sound. No death owing to starvation has taken place.

The banias have made purchases during the harvesting season, and their granaries are well stocked with food grains.

During the month of November over eight thousand maunds of food grains have been imported from Agra into Karauli town by the local banias.

No change of rate in the wages has yet taken place.

No emigration has yet been brought to the notice of the authorities of this State. As for immigration, thousands of Marwaris, with immense herds of cattle, are daily coming on.

No. 128.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 452 F., dated Abu, the 21st December 1899.

With reference to paragraph 5 of Foreign Department letter, No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October, 1899, intimating that the Government of India were prepared to entertain recommendations for the grant of loans

to Native States in Rajputana, I have the honour to submit a copy of the marginally cited letters* from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, recommending the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,50,000 to the Shahpura Chiefship.

2. The revenue of the Chiefship is about 3½ lakhs, and at the commencement of the present year there was a cash balance of Rs. 40,000 to the credit of the State. A decrease of revenue, however, amounting to Rs. 2,00,000 on account of remissions and suspensions of the current demand, is now anticipated, while it is proposed to expend about Rs. 1,50,000 for the provision of the necessary measures of relief. The State possesses no Government securities, and it is reported to have no accumulated treasure on which it can draw to meet this abnormal outlay.

3. If the loan is sanctioned, one lakh of rupees will be required immediately, and half a lakh after the 1st April, 1900.

4. It is proposed to repay the advance by eleven annual instalments, namely, two instalments of Rs. 7,500 each, and the remaining instalments of Rs. 15,000 each. The final payment would be on the 1st January, 1911.

5. The Chief requests that he may be permitted to make these payments half-yearly in equal portions on the dates on which the tribute (Rs. 10,000) to Government is due, viz., on the 1st July and 1st January.

6. The little State of Shahpura is well administered, and the Chief is very sincerely desirous of helping his people to tide over the present period of pressure. The principal relief scheme would be the earthwork of the new railway extension from Baran, which will traverse Shahpura for a distance of 18 miles, and which is estimated to cost Rs. 35,000. The expenditure of the loan would be under the general control of the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, assisted by Messrs. Wakefield and Haworth, I.S.C. In these circumstances I have the honour to support the Political Agent's recommendation to the effect that an immediate advance of one lakh be made to the Shahpura Chiefship, and the remaining half lakh be allotted after the 1st April, 1900. The loan would bear interest suggested, the interest due being liquidated together with the instalments.

No. 129.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 454 F., dated Abu, the 21st December 1899.

With reference to the fifth paragraph of Foreign Department letter, No 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October, 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 1869, dated the 1st December, 1899, from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, and of its enclosure, recommending the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,68,666-10-8, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum to the Bundi State.

2. The only cash payment which the Darbar ask Government to make is the sum of Rs. 56,666-10-8. They would wish to receive this amount on the 31st January, 1900, and suggest that the balance of the loan may be provided by permitting them to defer payment of the instalments of tribute which are due from Government after deducting the amount of salt compensation they would receive from Government on the 31st January, 1900, 31st July, 1900, and 31st January, 1901. The tribute the Darbar pay to Government is Rs. 1,20,000 a year; and the salt payment from Government to the Darbar is Rs. 8,000. Under existing arrangements, the latter is deducted from the former, and the net balance of Rs. 1,12,000 is paid by the Darbar into the Ajmer Treasury in two equal half-yearly instalments of Rs. 56,000 each on the 31st January and 31st July.

* Not printed.

The Political Agent reports that the annual revenue of the State is between 7½ and 8 lakhs of rupees, and that the expenditure is shown as approximately the same. The State possesses no reserve in Government securities, and my enquiries show that it has no accumulated treasure. It is anticipated that there will be a deficit in the current year's revenue of about 3 lakhs and an increase of expenditure of Rs. 2,59,000, chiefly on account of the necessary provision of funds for the earthwork of the proposed railway extension westwards from Baran in Kotah. About 40 miles of this line pass through the Bundi State, on which the estimated charges of Rs. 1,75,000 for the earthwork will fall. Moreover, extra establishment must be provided, and funds found for the additional police force entertained for the suppression of famine crime.

4. The Darbar propose to repay the loan by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 40,000, besides the interest due, on the 31st July and 31st January each year—the dates on which their tribute is due—commencing with the 31st July, 1901.

5. I have the honour to recommend that the loan may be sanctioned on the terms mentioned, and that the sum of Rs. 56,666-10-8 may be placed to the credit of the Bundi State at the Ajmer Treasury by the 31st January, 1900. Owing to the persistent exertions of the Political Agent, Captain F. E. Youngusband, the Darbar have been taught to appreciate in part the gravity of the circumstances, and the responsibility resting upon them. The general supervision of the relief measures adopted will devolve on the Political Agent, aided by Mr. Haworth, I.S.C., and Mr. Wakefield, Assistant Engineer, whose services have been lent by the Government of the Punjab.

Enclosure in No. 129.

Letter from the Political Agent, Harauti and Tonk, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, No: 1869, dated the 1st December 1899.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1623, dated 30th October, 1899, forwarding a copy of a letter from His Highness the Maharao Raja of Bundi, in which he stated that he had no need of a loan from Government, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter from the Minister, in which a request is made for a loan of Rs. 1,68,666-10-8, a sum equivalent to the amount which would be paid in the next three instalments of tribute due, less the usual deduction for salt compensation.

2. Though it would have been more graceful for the Darbar to have at once accepted the liberal offer of Government, I think it is satisfactory in the interests of the people that the Darbar have now decided to accept this help; which will be applied to the payment of workers on the new railway passing through the State. I have accordingly the honour to recommend that the present request of the Darbar be granted.

3. The normal annual revenue of the State is between 7½ and 8 lakhs, and the expenditure is generally shown to balance the revenue. The State is not, as far as I am aware, in debt, and I was informed that at the commencement of the present financial year, there was a small credit balance. The State has no money in Government promissory notes. The Darbar estimate that owing to the famine there will be a decrease of Rs. 3,00,000 in the revenue receipts, while the increase of expenditure will be—

	Rs.
On extra police establishment	4,500
Increased cost of establishment	80,000
Famine relief work on railway	1,75,000
Total	<u>2,59,500</u>

4. The Darbar wish the sum of Rs. 56,666-10-8 to be paid them on January 31st, 1900, in the current financial year and the remainder to be paid in the following financial year, and they desire that the payment should be made by simply cancelling the tribute payments due on—

31st January, 1901,

31st July, 1901,

31st January, 1902,

respectively. By this means the State would be saved the trouble and expense of sending the tribute money one hundred miles by road to Ajmer, and conveying back the Government loan the same distance.

5. The repayment of the loan will, it is proposed, be made in half-yearly instalments of Rs. 40,000 each, on July 31st and January 31st of each year, commencing on July 31st, 1901.

No. 130.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 459 F., dated Abu, the 21st December 1899.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of the Kotah State for the month of October, 1899, and of the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 2112, dated 18th November, 1899.

2. The report is not submitted in the prescribed form, and the numbers who have been employed on the test works are not given. The attention of the Political Agent has been directed to these defects. He has been requested to obtain in future from the Darbar a statement in accordance with the rules which were forwarded with Foreign Department letter, No. 1881 L., dated 7th May, 1892.

3. The report shows that the whole of the State has suffered from the scanty rainfall, but at present no real distress has made itself felt.

4. The stock of grain appears to be plentiful, but as the season advances distress is anticipated. Measures of relief are being projected and will be started when the necessity arises.

Enclosure 1 in No. 130.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kotah, to The First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, in Rajputana, No. 2112, dated the 18th November 1899.

With reference to your telegram, dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit copy of a statement, as required under Rule 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States, for the month of October, 1899, furnished by the Kotah Darbar.

2. With regard to the sources from which supplies of food may be obtained, there is no reason at present to anticipate that existing stocks will be exhausted. It is believed that there are large quantities of grain stored away in "Khais," and though the export trade is not so heavy as it was, there are many maunds of grain lying at Baran Station waiting for export.

3. The failure of the rabi crop, however, will mean a very serious loss of revenue to the State, and will also deprive many of the poor people of the field labour, which in ordinary years enables them to earn enough to maintain themselves.

Enclosure 2 in No. 130.

Monthly Statement of the Kotah State as required by Rule 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States for the month of October 1899.

(A) *Grounds of belief.*—The scarcity has by this time so far advanced that it seems hardly necessary to give grounds for its existence. Owing to an exceptionally long drought, the kharif crops have most seriously suffered. Mukka has failed. Jowar on a most favourable estimate is not calculated to yield more than one-fourth of the average annual produce. Til and cotton are no better than jowar. Spring sowings have not commenced. The whole rabi area, in fact, is lying fallow for want of moisture in the land. Water in wells and tanks is fast sinking low.

(B) *The area and population likely to be affected.*—The whole State having a population of 719,661 is affected by this calamity, which, with regard to its extent and intensity, is the greatest of its kind that the State has ever known.

(C) *The character of the communications in the affected area.*—Speaking generally, the communications throughout the State are fairly well established.

(D) *The condition of grain stocks.*—It is, of course, difficult to give a satisfactory account of the grain stocks. Past experience, however, and the existing condition of the trade in general do not show that they are exhausted to an extent that need cause anxiety. Export is not so brisk as it was in the months of August and September.

(E) *Sources from which supplies of food may be obtained.*—Considering the very extensive area over which the present scarcity prevails, Bengal and the eastern portion of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh are the parts from which, in case of need, supplies may be obtained.

(F) *Proposed measures of relief.*—Grain advances to cultivators directly by the State in some cases, and in others by means of Bohras, on the security of the State have been made. Test works have been started in different parts of the State, and at Kotah, for the able-bodied; while the sick, infirm, old, and the children that have gathered are gratuitously relieved. Private charity has not kept behind, and is relieving, in its own ways, most of those whom the gratuitous relief provided by the State does not reach.

(G) *An estimate of any extra expenditure likely to be incurred and the local sources from which it can be met.*—All the public measures of relief mentioned above under (F) mean extra expenditure that would have to be provided by the State. This expenditure from November, 1899, to March, 1900, has been roughly estimated at Rs. 10,87,500 in my letter, No. 222, of 31st October, 1899.
9th November,

(Sd.) RAGHUNATH DAS,
Diwan, Kotah State.

No. 131.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 460 F., dated Abu, the 21st December 1899.

With reference to the 5th paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter, No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October, 1899, regarding famine relief operations in Rajputana, I have the honour to forward a copy of the marginally cited report from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and of its enclosure,* No. 465 G., dated the 3rd December, 1899, and enclosure.
from the Sirohi Diwan, who asks for

* Not printed.

the services of an Engineer officer to assist and advise the Darbar respecting measures of famine relief, and for a loan of two lakhs of rupees, bearing interest at 4 per cent per annum.

2. Arrangements have been made to send to Sirohi Mr. Knight, one of the Engineer officers who have recently been deputed to Rajputana. A large irrigation work, namely, the construction of a new tank at Pindwara, is already in progress under the supervision of the Executive Engineer, Abu, Public Works Division.

1st January, 1901	...	Rs. 25,000
1st February "	.. "	25,000
1st March "	... "	20,000
Total	...	<u>70,000</u>

3. Of the loan applied for, the Darbar, would be glad to receive Rs. 70,000 during the current financial year, and the remainder (Rs. 1,30,000) after the 1st April 1900.

4. The average normal income of the State is reported to be about 4 lakhs of rupees. Of late years the expenditure has somewhat exceeded the income, with the result that at present the State is in debt to the extent of 1½ lakhs. It is also anticipated that, owing to the scanty harvests of the present year, the revenue will fall considerably below the average. It has been ascertained that the Darbar have no money invested in Government securities, and that there is no accumulated treasure. Distress in the State is severe and widespread; on this subject the reports submitted from time to time by the Resident, and forwarded to the Government of India, leave no room for doubt.

5. If the loan is sanctioned, the State proposes to repay it by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 10,000 with interest, commencing on the 30th September, 1901.

6. The Resident and the Engineer officer who will supervise the relief works will be in a position to see that the money is properly applied, and I have, therefore, the honour to recommend that the Darbar's application may be sanctioned on the terms mentioned.

Enclosure in No 131.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 465 G., dated the 3rd December 1899.

With reference to my letter, No. 4144, dated 18th November, 1899, to the Sirohi Diwan, a copy of which was forwarded to you with my letter, No. 448 G., dated 22nd idem, I have the honour to submit, for the favourable consideration of the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy* of a letter from the Diwan of the Sirohi State, applying for the services of an Engineer officer for the purpose of assisting the Darbar in famine relief. The Darbar have several big projects in view in the shape of tanks, but hesitate to commit themselves to these works until an expert's opinion on them has been obtained.

2. Since August the poorer classes, particularly the Bhils and Grassias, have maintained themselves (by special permission of the Darbar as a species of famine relief) by cutting and bringing in for sale grass and wood from the State forests. This has caused incalculable injury to the forests, from which they will probably never recover, and until regular famine works are started the felling of the trees must continue. The Darbar are most anxious, therefore, that an Engineer should be sent to their assistance as speedily as possible.

3. The Darbar further ask for a loan from Government of 2 lakhs, of which only Rs. 70,000 are wanted in the current financial year. It would probably be convenient to the State to receive Rs. 25,000 on the 1st of

* Not printed

January and on the 1st of February, and the balance of Rs. 20,000 on the 1st of March.

The State revenue is estimated at about 4 lakhs per annum, and latterly through bad management, or unforeseen causes, the yearly expenditure has, I am told, exceeded the revenue, with the result that the State is in debt to native bankers to the extent of 1½ lakhs.

In consideration of their financial difficulties, the Darbar ask that they may be allowed to repay the Government loan by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 10,000 each, beginning from the 30th September, 1901. They are, however, prepared to agree to any reasonable conditions that Government may impose.

As regards this year's crop prospects, the Darbar expect to realise 2 annas in the rupee for the kharif and possibly 4 annas for the rabi. They have omitted to mention what sums this forecast represents, but, taking the annual land revenue figures for the last five years as the basis of calculation, a 2-anna revenue for the kharif may amount to Rs. 11,000, and a 4-anna revenue from the rabi to Rs. 22,000.

No. 132.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 461 F., dated Mount Abu, the 21st December 1899.

In accordance with the provisions of Rules 15 and 16 of the Abstract Famine Code for Native States, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of the Sirohi State for the fortnight ending with 15th November, 1899, with a copy of the Resident's covering letter, No. 453 G., dated 23rd November, 1899.

2. The Resident has recently visited Sirohi, and the results of his visit are awaited and will be duly communicated.

3. An application for a loan of 2 lakhs has been forwarded for favourable consideration under cover of my letter, No. 460 F., dated the 21st December, 1899, and in that letter I have also reported that one of the three Engineer officers lately deputed to Rajputana will be sent to Sirohi to advise the Darbar and to superintend the relief works.

4. Future Famine Reports will be submitted in the form prescribed in your telegram, No. 3541 I.-A., dated 1st December, 1899, together with a map showing the extent of the distress.

Enclosure 1 in No. 132.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, No. 453 G., dated the 23rd November 1899.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 429 G., dated 8th November, 1899, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, copy of a letter, No. 523, dated 18th instant, from the Diwan of Sirohi, submitting his report on famine for the fortnight ending 15th November, 1899.

The Darbar has been asked to submit its reports in the prescribed Famine Code form in future.

2. I hope to meet His Highness the Maharao of Sirohi and his Diwan at Erinpura on the 29th or 30th November for the discussion of famine matters.

Enclosure 2 in No. 132.

*Letter from the Duan of Sirohi, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States.
No. 523, dated the 18th November 1899.*

(Extract.)

In continuation of this office No. 493, dated 4th instant, I have the honour to submit the following report as to the present situation, prospects of grain, fodder, and water, the condition of the people and cattle, emigration, and the relief measures on account of the prevailing scarcity during the fortnight ending 15th instant.

There was no rainfall in any part of this territory during the period under reference, nor does there appear any hope for it. If there be, however, any rain, the prospects of the rabi crops will be greatly improved.

The prospects of grain, fodder, and water, and the condition of the people and the cattle are the same as those reported in the foregoing report. During the fortnight under report His Highness the Maharao Saheb Bahadurji visited Pindwara, Rohera, Abu Road, and Santpore. I was also with the Darbar, and we could find that the suffering poor are still able to maintain themselves by sale of grass, wood, and kabara from the hills, and especially at Pindwara and Rohera they bring kabara far less from the jungles than grass. The Bhils and Grassias are also to a certain extent engaged in sowing rabi crops, neela, &c.

The number of irrigated wells remains on the whole stationary, and owing to the arrangements having been made with Boras to provide grain, seeds, and other implements of husbandry, the cultivators have been engaged in sowing rabi crops.

The Mahajans have been still importing grain, as the occasion arises, and owing to the influx of gram at Sheoganj and Abu Road, the rates there went down during the period under reference.

As stated above, the poor are yet in a position to support themselves, and out of the ordinary works proposed to be taken in hand for their relief

Note by the Resident.

The Superintending Engineer has kindly seen him and told him his opinion on the project.

during the prevailing scarcity, the plan and estimate for the tank at Sirohi are ready, and the State Overseer is deputed to wait on you with them and to

consult Major Spilsbury, the Superintending Engineer.

No. 133.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 477 F., dated Abu, the 22nd December 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of the Bikaner State for the month of November, 1899.

2 The number of persons employed on relief works increased from 15,852 on the 31st October to 23,007 on the 30th November, and the number in receipt of gratuitous relief from 3,507 to 5,848. As anticipated, the number of persons privately relieved has decreased with the opening of the State relief works. The estimated number of those in receipt of private charity is not given, but the subscriptions to the Famine Fund started by the wealthy Seths of Bikaner have raised the fund to Rs 2,50,000, while contributions are still flowing in.

3. The principal relief project is the construction of the earthwork on the Surpura-Palana Section of the Bikaner-Bhatinda Railway, which gives

employment to over 9,000 people. The other works consist chiefly of the excavation of tanks and the repair of the road to Gujner, a distance of about 16 miles.

4. Wages continue to be paid in grain rations. Food stocks are plentiful, and the general physical condition of the people remains good.

5. The Maharaja himself directly superintends the management of relief measures, and is exerting himself admirably both to mitigate distress and to suppress crime.

Enclosure in No. 133.

(Extract.)

Famine Statement of the Bikaner State for the month ending the 30th November, 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bikaner	22,340	832,000	22,340	832,000	23,007	5,848

Remarks.

Private relief.—Private charitable relief is decreasing since opening of State relief works. The subscriptions raised from the leading Seths of the Bikaner State now amount to Rs. 2,50,000, and more is expected to come in.

Village and poorhouse relief.—There are two poorhouses open, viz., (1) Bhinasar, (2) Sheo Bari, where the old and infirm and the pardanashin women are fed.

General character of relief works.—Of the works in progress mentioned in last report, the work at Devi Kund was stopped on 12th November, 1899, and the people drafted to the Palana railway work. The new works opened during the month under report are: (1) new range for camel corps and polo ground, (2) clearing Hanumangarh Fort and making ballast, (3) excavation of Kasaoli Tank near Churu, (4) repairs to Gujner Road.

Physical condition of the people.—The general health of the labourers is very good.

Death (if any) from starvation.—An old woman at Suratgarh was found drowned in a well, and it was surmised that she might have been led to put an end to herself from want of food. As, however, there are relief camps both at Suratgarh and Hanumangarh, and the accommodation there is in excess of the applicants, the above-mentioned surmise is believed to be incorrect.

Food stocks and importation of grains.—As much grain as is required is imported from the Punjab and North-Western Provinces.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—Famine is general throughout the State, and there is no prospect of a change before the next rainy season. The people, however, are not suffering from starvation or extreme emaciation, and adequate arrangements are being made and continue to be made for their relief.

Changes in the rates of wages.—People on the famine relief works are paid in corn instead of cash. Wages have fallen in consequence of famine.

Emigration or immigration.—A number of emigrants to Sind and the Punjab are said to have returned and to have found employment on the various relief works, and as many emigrants as could be found have been brought back from Ajmer.

Adequacy of food rations—Rations continue to be given to workers and persons in receipt of gratuitous relief at the works and poorhouses according to the scale given in the report for October, 1899.

Famine fund and its expenditure.—Famine expenditure during the month of November, 1899=Rs. 57,533-1-9.

No. 134.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 478 F., dated Abu, the 22nd December 1899.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a joint Famine Report for the month of November for the States of Tonk, Bundi, and Shahpura, submitted by the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, under cover of his letter,* No. 409 G., dated the 6th December, 1899.

2. The Political Agent has been requested to move the Darbars to furnish in future monthly reports accompanied by a map showing the density of distress in the different districts, in the form issued with Foreign Department letter, No. 1881 I.-A., dated the 7th May, 1892. The Political Agent has also been instructed to submit these monthly reports separately to facilitate reference and disposal.

3. The number on relief works and of those in receipt of gratuitous relief is at present comparatively small, but it is steadily increasing. The principal relief work in Bundi and Shahpura is the earthwork of the section of the Bara-Marwar Railway, and in Tonk employment is given in the repair and excavation of tanks. In all these States the relief works will shortly be largely supplemented.

States.	Numbers on 30th November, 1899.		Total
	Works	Gratuitous Relief	
Tonk	4,470	2,458	6,928
Bundi	4,135	250	4,385
Shahpura	2,064	210	2,274

4 Wages in the three States are given in the cash equivalent of a fixed gram ration. The physical condition of the people is generally good, but 16 deaths from starvation are reported from Bundi, and 25 from Shahpura, chiefly among immigrants. The correct definition of the term "starvation" is under separate consideration.

5 The local staff has been supplemented by the addition of Mr. Wakefield, C E, and Mr. Haworth, I S.C, whose services have recently been lent to the Haraoti and Tonk Agency. The Bundi Darbar have adopted a code

* Copy enclosed.

of simple relief rules framed by Major Dunlop-Smith, the Famine Commissioner, who has lately made a tour through the Agency.

6. The Government of India have been solicited to advance famine loans to the extent of Rs. 8,00,000 to Rs. 10,00,000, Rs. 1,68,666-10-8 and Rs. 1,50,000 for the States of Tonk, Bundi, and Shahpura, respectively.

Enclosure 1 in No. 134.

Letter from the Political Agent, Haraoth and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 409 G., dated the 6th December 1899.

With reference to your telegram, dated 2nd November, 1899, I have the honour to forward the monthly Famine Report for the month ending 30th November, 1899.

Enclosure 2 in No. 134.

Famine Statement of the Haraoth and Tonk Agency for month ending 30th November 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in thousands of column 4	Total Number on relief works on last day of month	Numbers on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tonk	2,752	380,069	1,376	239,740	4,470	2,458
Bundi	2,220	295,675	2,220	295,675	4,135	250
Shahpura	405	63,646	405	63,646	2,064	210
Total	5,377	739,390	4,001	599,061	10,669	2,918

Remarks on Famine Statement for month ending 30th November 1899.

Besides the State relief, a small amount of private relief is also given at the capitals of all three States, chiefly in the form of the distribution of grain to the poor. No village relief is yet started. In Tonk 1,761 persons are fed daily with cooked food in two large serais. In Bundi 200 people are fed in a serai. In Shahpura no poorhouse has yet been established. The construction of the light earthwork on the Bara-Marwar Railway is the main relief work in Bundi and Shahpura. Besides this, new tanks are being constructed and old tanks repaired in Shahpura and Tonk. The physical condition of the people is still fairly good, though there are signs of falling off in the children and in very old people. Sixteen deaths from starvation are reported from Bundi and 25 from Shahpura. These are mostly among emigrants. The food stocks are sufficient, and grain is being imported largely. The prospects of the rabi crop are very poor, as only land which can be irrigated from wells has been sown. The rate of wages in all three States is the money equivalent of one seer of grain for a man, $\frac{3}{4}$ seer for a woman, and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer for a child. No payments are made to dependants. There is practically no emigration from the States, and the tide of immigrants passing through the States has nearly ceased.

F. E. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Political Agent.

No. 135.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 517 F., dated Abu, the 23rd December 1899.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Famine Report of the Durgapur State for the month of November, together with a copy of the marginally cited letters from the Resident and Assistant Resident.

Letter from the Resident, No. 1970, dated the 12th December, 1899.

Letter from the Assistant Resident, No. 1288, dated the 7th December, 1899.*

2. The whole area remains affected. The number on relief works on the last day of the month was only 1,488, but a large number of persons are said to have emigrated, and it is explained that many of the remainder still earned a livelihood by bringing in wood from the forests, and have not yet been obliged to seek for relief on the works which have been opened in the State. These works are reported to be sufficient for the present, but provision is being made to supplement them with a view to future requirements.

Eight deaths from starvation are reported. The Assistant Resident is taking steps to verify the accuracy of this return.

3. Local crime continues serious. The returns received do not support the opinion expressed by the Resident in paragraph 4 of his letter that "the crime, such as it is, is entirely confined to cattle stealing and petty thefts amongst the Bhils themselves." Several serious dacoities attended with loss of life have occurred, and I have had to suggest the advisability of employing the departmental agency, with the co-operation of the Bhil Corps, for the suppression of disturbances in Durgapur and the other small States in the Mewar Residency. A separate report on this subject has been submitted to the Government of India. Colonel Yate, who has recently visited Partabgarh, intends to inspect the Durgapur famine arrangements in person at an early date.

Enclosure 1 in No 135.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana. No. 1970, dated the 12th December 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, copy of a letter,* No. 1288, dated 7th December, 1899, from the Assistant Resident in Mewar, enclosing the Famine Statement of the Durgapur State for the month of November, 1899.

2. Famine is prevalent in the whole State, but the condition of the people does not seem to be so bad as in many of the more affected districts in Mewar. The people are still able to procure a means of livelihood by bringing wood from the jungle, and comparatively only a small proportion have as yet resorted to relief works.

3. The number of relief works provided in the State seems sufficient for the present, and further works, in the shape of tanks and wells, are under consideration.

The Assistant Resident in Mewar has been asked to expedite submission of a list of these, and the sooner they are started the better, as owing to the constant raids amongst themselves, Bhils do not dare to leave their villages for distant works.

The services of a native Assistant Engineer have been applied for to supervise relief works.

* Not printed

4. Five thousand persons are reported to have emigrated from the State during the month of November, but this is the first I have heard of it. No reports have been received of the presence of Dungarpur emigrants on relief works outside the State.

5. There has been a marked increase in crime owing to the famine, but measures are being taken for its repression. The Assistant Resident reports that a special police force, consisting chiefly of Bhils of the district, is being organised for the purpose of preserving order in the State. The crime, such as it is, is entirely confined to cattle stealing and petty thefts amongst the Bhils themselves, and will die out of itself when conditions improve.

6. The Revenue Superintendent, Kishen Lall, who signs the reports, appears too new to the districts, and his statements do not seem too reliable. He probably is fresh from some settled British district, and, like most men of his class, is of comparatively little use when put down in a Bhil country. The grain question will probably be a difficult one; but, as soon as I am able to visit Dungarpur, I shall be better able to judge of the situation.

No. 136.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3872 I.-A., dated the 23rd December 1899.

Your letter, 400 F., December 17th. Government of India sanction immediate loan of nine and a half lakhs to Marwar Darbar from Ajmer Treasury, and further loan of three and a half lakhs in January. Additional sums up to total limit of thirty-six lakhs will be made if experience and further enquiries show this to be necessary. Exact terms of repayment can be settled later. Government of India will be glad to learn as soon as conveniently possible whether your anticipation that whole amount will not be required is likely to be realised.

No. 137.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 590, dated Abu, the 28th December 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 400 G., dated the 14th November, 1899, from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, recommending that the services of a British officer may be placed, as a temporary measure, at the disposal of the Tonk Darbar to superintend and conduct the revenue administration of the State.

2. In the brief sketch of Tonk affairs with which Captain Younghusband presents his proposal, he shows that for the period of 12 years from 1886 to 1898 the control of the Tonk finances and revenue system was practically in the hands of an officer of the British Government. This arrangement terminated with the departure in April, 1898, of Mr. A. L. P. Tucker, C.S., who, in addition to his duties as Settlement Officer, has also political charge of the Haraoti and Tonk Agency. Since that time no direct supervision has been exercised by a British officer over the revenue administration, although until March, 1899, this branch of the State affairs was conducted not unsuccessfully by Sahibzada Abdul Alim Khan, who assisted Mr. Tucker in conducting the revision of the settlement, and was left by him in charge of

the Revenue Department. Early in the present year, however, the Sahibzada, who is a son of the Prime Minister and nephew of the ruling Chief, fell into disfavour, and has since been dismissed from his post for alleged irregularities and banished from the State. His Highness the Nawab has not been able to suggest the appointment of any official who, in the opinion of the Political Agent, is capable of performing the duties involved satisfactorily.

3. As the Government of India are aware from my letters cited in the margin, the existing liabilities of the State No. 43 F., dated the 25th October 1899. approximate to 19 lakhs of rupees, and the No. 335 F., dated the 10th December 1899. estimated expenditure on relief measures due to the present famine is estimated at 14½ lakhs. A loan* of two lakhs to the Darbar has already been sanctioned by Government, and I have recommended that this loan be increased by an early advance of three lakhs, with further assistance in the year 1900-1901 as circumstances may demand, after the yield of the rabi crops has been ascertained.

4. I have carefully considered the circumstances of the Tonk State during the last year, and have had many opportunities of discussing them with the Political Agent, the Chief, and Sahibzada Obeidullah Khan, both at Tonk and elsewhere, with the result that I am led to endorse Captain Younghusband's opinion that Tonk affairs require the undivided attention of a capable British officer for the next two or three years at least. The State finances, always embarrassed, are now more heavily involved than they have been since the Nawab received powers of administration in 1870. It is true that these liabilities are largely due to the construction of the section of the Guna-Baran Railway lying within Tonk limits. But none the less unremitting vigilance and strict control are essential to extricate the State from their burden.

5. Moreover, as shown in the preceding paragraph, the State debts will be seriously increased by the present famine, one of the principal relief measures in contemplation being the construction of a link railway from the Jaipur-Madhupur extension through the Tonk State to Jehazpur on the new Baran-Jodhpur line. This work, with the many complications invariably attending railway construction in a Native State, will need close attention. Distress is acute throughout the Tonk State, and the energies of the Political Agent and the officers specially deputed for famine duty to the Haraoti Agency, which includes also the States of Bundi and Shahpura, will be more than taxed to ensure that the Government loans are duly applied and relief measures properly organised. When the actual famine is ended, it will be two years or more before Tonk can recover from the calamity.

6. But the strongest ground for urging that a British officer be temporarily attached to the Tonk State is that alluded to in the 9th paragraph of Captain Younghusband's letter, namely, the imperative necessity for securing that the settlement arrangements elaborated with so much pains by Mr. Tucker and his predecessors are placed on a firm basis and faithfully observed by the Darbar. Mr. Tucker left Tonk in April, 1898, before the revision was complete, and immediate indications were not wanting of a tendency to drift away from the rules and principles he had introduced. The scheme he gave the State is, I believe, sound and good, but to place it on a practical and enduring working basis needs more time and attention than the Political Agent can devote to it, and different qualifications from those possessed by any official at the command of the Darbar. It would be a serious misfortune if the labour and expense lavished on this revision since Captain Pears started it in 1886 until Mr. Tucker left the State in 1898 were to be neutralised for want of a trustworthy officer of experience to establish securely the reformed arrangements.

7. It was understood at first that the Nawab was prepared to receive a native officer of the status of Rao Bahadur Vinaik Rao, who managed Tonk

* Foreign Department telegram No. 3189, dated the 30th October 1899.

finances so successfully from 1886 to 1894, and after considerable difficulty I had succeeded in securing, subject to the sanction of the Government of India, the services of a very competent native official trained under Mr. O'Dwyer, Settlement Commissioner in Bharatpur and Alwar, who seemed admirably adapted for the post. But His Highness the Nawab has since expressed to the Political Agent his hope that a native official may not be appointed, mainly on the ground that a British officer, besides being more acceptable to himself, would command more ready obedience from the State officials of the distant Tonk districts, such as Chabra, Sironj, and Nimbahera, than any Native would be likely to secure.

8. The Tonk administration is hampered by ceaseless intrigue. There is unfortunately a total absence of local talent, and particularly of trustworthy officers capable of efficient superintendence and control. For this and other reasons I am disposed to think that a British officer would be of special advantage to the State, although ordinarily in such a case I should have advocated the appointment of a native. There is no question that a native appointed from outside (especially a Hindu) working in Tonk would have more than ordinary difficulties to encounter. The maximum pay which the Darbar is in a position to offer is a net salary of from Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 a month, exclusive of the usual leave and pension allowances. In this connection I would invite attention to the correspondence of 1894,* in the course of which the Government of India expressly guarded the principle that the employment in Tonk of foreigners who have received a training in the British service is not infrequently beneficial.

9. If the Government of India accept the view that the circumstances of the State demand temporary assistance in the form indicated, the scope and limitations of the appointment can form the subject of a further communication. As at present advised, I should recommend that the officer selected should, subject to the general superintendence of the Political Agent, be entrusted with the control of the revenue and financial branches of the administration. On this subject, however, I should prefer to consult Captain Younghusband further before presenting final proposals.

Enclosure 1 in No. 137.

Letter from the Political Agent Havaoti and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 400 G., dated the 14th November, 1899.

I had recently the opportunity of discussing verbally with the Agent to the Governor-General the question of the appointment of a Land Revenue officer to the Tonk State, and in accordance with his instructions I have now the honour to submit the following report and proposals in this regard.

2. It is necessary in the first place to emphasise the very exceptional difficulties which stand in the way of administration in the Tonk State. It is a Hindu State ruled by Muhammadans. It is divided into six isolated portions—three of which are in Rajputana and three in Central India—the latter being several hundreds of miles from the capital. There are three different currencies, and the administration is carried on in three different languages. If I add that on the Nawab's succession the State was 14 lakhs in debt, and has never since been free, the difficulties of administering the State will, I hope, be recognised.

3. Into so bad a condition had the administration fallen in the years previous to 1886 that the Government of India in their letter, dated 3rd July, 1886, stated that Tonk required "firm treatment," and that "the Nawab should be required to agree to conditions which will secure to the Political Agent the power of reforming the administration and of controlling it so long as his direct supervision may be necessary."

* From the Government of India. No. 3671, dated the 15th October, 1894.

4., These instructions led to the Nawab agreeing to be bound by certain conditions, of which one was that he would neither appoint nor dismiss a high official without the sanction of the Political Agent, and another was that he would abide by the advice of the Political Agent in all matters which concerned the administration of his State. From this time the affairs of the State improved. The services of a very able Government official named Vinaik Rao were lent to the Darbar. He, in his capacity as Finance Member of Council and under the supervision and control of the Political Agent, reduced the debt year by year and reorganised the financial system. He was disliked by the Darbar, for his task entailed the removal of many abuses. But at the present time there are no two opinions in Tonk as to the real services he rendered to the State.

5. This remarkably capable official met an untimely death in 1894, and Colonel Thornton, the then Political Agent, urgently recommended the selection of a "thoroughly competent and trustworthy officer to fill his place." Against this, however, the Nawab strenuously set his face, contending that his own officials were perfectly capable of properly carrying on the administration of the State. At the time the administration was taken in hand by the Political Agent, Colonel Biddulph, the land revenue settlement was also undertaken, and it so happened that in 1894 Captain Pritchard was in Tonk carrying on the duties of the settlement of the State. As, therefore, the Nawab was so opposed to the appointment of what he termed an "outsider" to his State as Financial Member of Council, it was decided that Captain Pritchard, the Settlement Officer, should, in addition to the duties he was then performing, be appointed Political Agent resident in Tonk, with full powers of supervision and control over the finances of the State. Shortly after Captain Pritchard's departure on leave in 1895, Mr. Tucker took up the combined duties of Settlement Officer in Tonk and Political Agent of both Haraoti and Tonk, and this officer brought the settlement to a conclusion in 1898.

6. But from the time that Mr. Tucker relinquished his duties as Settlement Officer in Tonk in April, 1898, to the present day, there has been no Government official, either Native or British, to exercise that direct supervision which had proved so beneficial to the interests of the State in the past. When, therefore, the Nawab in March of the present year (1899) suddenly ordered the dismissal of Sahibzada Abdul Alim Khan, the official of the State whom Mr. Tucker had left in charge of the land revenue administration, I remonstrated with His Highness for this breach of his undertaking not to dismiss high officials without reference to the Political Agent, and I at the same time warned him that, if he should after the investigation which I called for find it impossible to retain the services of the Sahibzada, I should be compelled to recommend to the Agent to the Governor-General that a trained Government official should be appointed in his place. I understood His Highness in an interview I had with him to agree to this proposal, but as he now states that he made no such agreement I do not desire to press the point. The Sahibzada was dismissed, and His Highness being unable to name any official who, in my opinion, had the position and the experience to carry on the exceedingly difficult task of administering the land revenue in the State, I recommended to the Agent to the Governor-General that a competent Native official from the Government service should be appointed to succeed the Sahibzada who had been dismissed.

7. In taking this step I only repeated a recommendation which my predecessors have often found it necessary to make. It has only been when the State has been kept firmly in hand through Government officials, British or Native, that it has progressed. Under the rule of its own officials it has invariably deteriorated. I believe the Nawab to be well meaning and I have great pleasure in testifying to his sincere loyalty to Government. But he is far too weak and too much influenced by those immediately round him to successfully rule a State like Tonk without constant guidance, and he has no good officials upon whom to rely. His uncle, the Minister, carries on his duties well in the exceptionally difficult position in which he is

placed. But he has no efficient officials to support him, and he is much hampered by the tendency the Nawab has always shown to favour or discourage officials without any reference to their real capacity and with sole regard to their personal influence with him. The Nazims of the outlying parganas pay little attention to the Minister's orders. They know that it is more important to satisfy the Nawab, and to satisfy His Highness it is not so necessary to perform their official duties with diligence as to pander to his personal whims and fancies.

8. I therefore find now, as my predecessors have found before me, that there must be some influential and experienced official, Native or British, in direct and constant contact with the Darbar to keep the administration firm. Otherwise it collapses. His Highness appears to specially resent the appointment of a Native official for this purpose, and he would much prefer to be left to manage his own affairs with his own officials. But if he is to have any one he would like to have a British rather than a Native official, even at a considerably higher salary. He distrusts a Native, whereas his relations with British officers have always been satisfactory. At the commencement of his rule, while still a minor, he was under the guidance of Captain James Blair whose name is still revered in Tonk, and the Settlement Officers appointed to the Tonk State, Colonel Pears, Captain Pritchard, and Mr. Tucker, have always been on good terms with His Highness. The Nawab believes too that a British officer directing the land revenue administration of the State would cause much less annoyance and would have much more authority in the outlying parganas than any Native official could have.

9. I have, therefore, the honour to recommend that an officer be appointed by the Government of India to superintend the land revenue administration of the State. The system of this land revenue administration has been carefully devised by British officers. There are good subordinate officials in the State who have been trained for years under British officers. What is now wanted is some one at the head of the land revenue administration with sufficient authority and experience to keep the system working properly; and I believe that such an officer is specially needed in this year of famine when an unprecedented strain is being put upon the whole system of administration.

10. The description of officer I would venture to recommend should be appointed would be either an officer of the Political Department, who has had some experience of revenue work, or else an Assistant Commissioner from a British province. In his dealings with the Darbar he would have the assistance of advice from the Political Agent, and in dealing with the details of administration, he would be helped by the subordinate State officials who have been trained by British officers.

No. 138.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 545 F., dated Abu, the 29th December, 1899.

In continuation of my letter, No. 454 F., dated the 21st December, 1899, recommending the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,68,666-10-8 to the Bundi State, No. 2006, dated the 18th December 1899. I have the honour to forward a copy of the

letter noted in the margin, since received from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, and of its enclosure,* in which the Bundi Darbar solicit a further advance of Rs. 2,31,333-5-4, thus raising the total loan applied for to four lakhs of rupees.

2. The Political Agent explains that the Bundi Darbar have at length commenced to realise the gravity of the situation and the necessity of largely

* Not printed.

supplementing their programme of relief works. The chief project is the earthwork within Bundi limits of the proposed railway extension from Baran in Kotah to Marwar Junction, the estimated charge for which, as mentioned in my former letter, is Rs. 1,75,000. The Darbar now wish not only to carry out the light earthwork of their section, but also the heavy earthwork and the collection of ballast and building materials. They also contemplate the provision of relief work on road repairs and the excavation of tanks.

3. The financial position of the State was briefly explained in my letter, No. 454 F., of the 21st instant. I share Captain Younghusband's opinion that, unless the resources of the Darbar are largely supplemented, they will be altogether unable to make adequate arrangements for relieving the acute distress prevalent over the greater part of the State.

4. If Government see fit to comply with their application, the Darbar request that the additional loan now asked for may be paid in cash as follows: One lakh immediately and the remainder by instalments according to requirements. Including their previous application, the total cash payments during the current financial year will be in round numbers Rs. 1,50,000, viz., Rs. 1,00,000 now and Rs. 50,000 on the 30th January, 1900.

5. The Darbar propose to repay this supplementary loan by annual instalments of Rs. 50,000, commencing from the date on which the first loan has been liquidated. The interest on the loan will, however, be repaid annually from the outset.

6. As I have already stated, I am convinced by the reports of the Political Agent and of Major Dunlop-Smith, the Famine Commissioner, that the Bundi Darbar will need at least 4 lakhs of rupees before next September to enable it to provide suitably for the relief of its subjects. There appears, however, to be no necessity to complicate the arrangement in the manner suggested. I would recommend that the Government should place one lakh of rupees at the disposal of the State in the Ajmer Treasury as soon as this can be conveniently arranged, and half a lakh more before the end of January, leaving the balance of 2½ lakhs to be advanced between the 1st of April and the 31st July, 1900. The loan should be repaid by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 25,000 each, exclusive of interest, on the 31st January and the 31st July each year, commencing with the 31st July, 1901, by which time it is to be hoped that two good harvests will have been reaped and garnered.

Enclosure in No 138.

Letter from the Political Agent, Harauti and Tonk, to the Famine Commissioner and Secretary to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 2006, dated the 18th December, 1899.

In continuation of my telegram dated 16th December, 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter I have received from the Prime Minister of the Bundi State, containing a request from the Bundi Darbar for a further loan of Rs 2,31,333-5-4, which, in addition to the sum of Rs. 1,68,666-10-8 for which a loan has already been asked, would bring the total of loan asked to the sum of four lakhs of rupees.

2. The Bundi Darbar are gradually awaking to the gravity of the situation and the necessity for opening further relief works. His Highness takes great interest in railway construction, as the work on it affords an efficient means of relief to his people. He is anxious to push the work forward as far as possible during the present year, and wishes that not only the light earthwork on the railway, but also the heavy earthwork, the collection of building material and ballast, and the construction of the stations should be carried out. It is for all this work and for the carrying out of tank and road construction that the Darbar now somewhat tardily ask for the assistance which Government was pleased to offer them some months ago.

3. I have in my previous letter* given details regarding the financial position of the State. It is only necessary to add that the Darbar are prepared to repay the further loan now asked for in annual instalments of fifty thousand rupees each, commencing from the time when the loan previously asked for has been fully paid up.

4. I have the honour to recommend that, for the sake of the destitute people of Bundi, the present request of the Darbar be acceded to.

No. 139.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 543 F., dated Abu, the 29th December, 1899.

With reference to the second paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter, No 2909 I.-A., of the 9th October, 1899, regarding Major Dunlop-Smith's deputation as Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, I have the honour to report that the period of three months, to which the term of his appointment was at first limited, will expire on the 11th January, 1900, and to recommend that, having regard to the valuable work which he is performing in connection with the prevalent distress in the province, his deputation may be extended for a further period of nine months

No. 140.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 542 F., dated Abu, the 29th December, 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of the Jodhpur State for the month of November, together with a copy of letter No 471 G., dated the 5th December, 1899, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. The number of persons employed on relief works as shown in the following table was 39,207, and 10,719 were gratuitously relieved, including 7,896 children. Poorhouses have been opened throughout the State; 17,361 emigrants are said to have been brought back from the British districts and Native States, where they had been previously collected by State officials specially deputed for the purpose, at a cost to the State of Rs. 24,255

—	Works	Gratuitously.	Total.
30th September ...	10,985	2,263	13,248
31st October ...	26,025	4,614	30,639
30th November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926

3. No deaths from starvation are reported, but the Resident believes, no doubt correctly, that a number of people must have died from the effects of insufficient nourishment.

4. There has been a considerable increase of crime which the Darbar are doing their best to check by raising the number of police and by patrol-

* No. 1869, dated the 1st December, 1899.

ling the borders of Jaisalmer and Palanpur with detachments of Imperial Service troops. Mr. Kemball, who has lately joined Rajputana as Assistant General Superintendent, Thagi and Dakaiti, visits Jodhpur immediately to confer with the Resident on this subject.

5. The chief difficulty already experienced in arranging large relief works is the scarcity of water, and this increasing difficulty will very seriously limit the number of centres at which relief can be afforded to labourers on schemes of magnitude. The services of Captain Bremner and of the Staff Corps officer deputed to Marwar will be of the greatest assistance to the Darbar in supervising the works which will be more and more scattered as the season advances.

6. The Resident has been requested to have the monthly Famine Reports submitted in future in the form prescribed in Foreign Department letter No. 1881 I.-A., dated the 7th May, 1892, accompanied by a map showing the density of distress in the different districts.

Enclosure 1 in No. 140.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 471 G., dated the 5th December, 1899.

In compliance with the instructions contained in your letter No. 919 C., dated the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Report from the Marwar Darbar for the month ending 25th November, 1899.

2 It will be seen that no emigration of people or cattle is reported from Marwar during the month, but this is incorrect, as my information from other sources shows that people have been steadily leaving Mallani for Sind. I have again asked the Darbar to stop the exodus. No fewer than 17,361 persons were brought back by Motamids, specially deputed for this purpose, as shown below:—

District or State.	Number.	Cost of feeding and conveyance.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Ajmer	4,930	5,787	0	0
Beawar	4,496	2,423	0	0
Ahmedabad ..	4,339	8,245	3	0
Palanpur				
Deesa				
Neemuch				
Gwalior	3,596	7,800	0	0
Total	17,361	24,255	3	0

There has also been a steady stream of people returning of their own accord from Central India, many of them, I regret to say, in a very emaciated condition and some only arriving to die.

The question of bringing back other emigrants from Central India, Jaipur, and Sind will be dealt with as necessity arises.

3. The heavy mortality among cattle may be judged from the fact that the export of hides between the 1st April and 30th October, this year, was 59,956 maunds,* as compared with an average of 5,310 maunds for the corresponding period of the previous 5 years.

4. Relief works are divided into those under Mr. Home, the State Engineer, and those managed by Civil Agency. The latter are again subdivided into works—

- (a) Under Hakims of districts.
- (b) Under Hawala (Revenue) officials.
- (c) Under the Forest Superintendent.

The total number of persons on relief works on the 25th November was 39,207, as compared with 16,862† in October. Rs. 48,028 were paid in wages on Mr. Home's works, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 6½ pies. Rs. 9,679 were spent on Civil Agency works, giving an incidence of 1 anna 8¾ pies per head. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief on the 23rd November was 10,719, of whom 7,896 were children; the cost of this relief is not stated by the Darbar. Excluding this item, extra establishment charges, the price of blankets, medicines, and other small incidental expenses, the Darbar has spent no less than Rs. 81,962 on relief measures during the month.

5. The number of births and deaths on relief works and in poorhouses during November is said to have been 68 and 259 respectively. No deaths from starvation have been reported, but that there have been many there can be no doubt.

When distress prevails to the extent felt in Marwar, in spite of all State efforts, numbers of persons must die of want of food and of diseases brought on by exposure and starvation.

6. Famine has necessarily led to an increase of crime, but the Darbar is doing its best to suppress it. The strength of the pargana police has been raised, additional outposts have been established, and 10 parties of the Imperial Service Lancers have been sent out to patrol the borders of Jaisalmer and Palanpur.

7. A statement showing the prices of food-grains in the several parganas of Marwar during October and November is enclosed. A slight fall in prices will be observed. The difference in prices noticeable in some of the districts is attributed to the distance of the markets from the railway.

8. The difficulty of finding suitable projects for famine works is much enhanced by the difficulty of finding good water. Most of the wells contain saline matter, which has a purgative effect, and in weakly persons is liable to produce diarrhoea and dysentery. The works at present opened by Mr. Home are not capable of giving employment to many more people; his chief work is the construction of a tank at Dholera in the Sojat Pargana, 14 miles from Pali, and affords relief to about 30,000 persons including children. The bulk of the people on the works are well nourished and healthy. As a rule, the taskworkers only earn the minimum wage, sufficient to give 8 chat-tacks of grain, young children receive gratuitous relief and are not dependent on their parents' earnings. All old and weakly persons are put on day labour and earn the medium wage.

* Note.—Ten hides go to the maund.

† Note.—The Darbar states that the figures given by them in their October report were incorrect. Instead of 26,025 they should have been 16,862.

Enclosure 2 in No. 140.

Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of November 1899.

State.	Area in square miles in thousands	Population in thousands	Affected area in square miles in thousands	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number of labourers on relief works on the last day of the month.	Number of persons receiving gratuitous relief.
Marwar ...	35	2,526	35	2,526	39,207	10,719

Remarks.

(1) *Private relief.*—There are some private gratuitous relief, where cooked khichra and parched grain are distributed to the poor.

(2) *Village and poorhouse relief.*—The Darbar has opened poorhouses in all Hakumats and places where its want was felt.

(3) *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing, and embanking of tanks, construction of bund and earthwork of Baran Railway.

(4) *Physical condition and death (if any) from starvation.*—Fair. No death from starvation reported

(5) *Food-stocks.*—Sufficient.

(6) *Importation of grain.*—Sufficient food-grains are being imported first by rail and then by camels and carts from the railway station.

(7) *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Depressing.

(8) *Rates of wages—*

Male	...	...	...	...	2½ annas to 1½ annas.
Female	...	...	...	...	2 „ „ 1¼ „
Children	...	...	...	...	1 anna „ ¾ anna.
Under 7	...	...	...	...	9 pies „ 6 pies.

No. 141.

Letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 3949 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 29th December 1899.

In reply to your letter, No. 218 F., dated the 24th November, 1899, I am directed to state that there is no objection to the loan of Rs. 50,000 granted to the Jaisalmer Darbar being repaid by five yearly instalments of Rs. 10,000, plus interest at 4 per cent. per annum, if this arrangement is more convenient. The instalments may, however, be spread over any number of years, not exceeding ten, if this is shown by experience to be advisable.

No. 142.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 3977 I.-A., dated the 30th December 1899.

Your letter 454 F., December 21st. Loan to Bundi State of Rs. 1,68,666, annas 10, pies 8, sanctioned on terms proposed. Loan may be formed by

postponing payment of half-yearly instalments of tribute due to Government. Apparently Darbar does not want a cash payment—see paragraph 2 of Minister's letter

No. 143.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 558 F., dated Abu, the 30th December 1899.

In continuation of my letter quoted in the margin, forwarding the No. 396 F., dated the 16th December, 1899. Famine Reports of the Mewar State for the months of October and November, and of the Hilly Tracts (Kherwara and Kotra) for October, I have now the honour to submit a copy of the Famine Report of the two latter districts of the Mewar State for the month of November, 1899

2. Distress has become acute throughout these districts. Ten deaths from alleged starvation are reported from Kotra, and the deaths in Kherwara are said to be numerous, although the exact number is not given.

3. Relief works have not yet been opened in this locality, although the Darbar has contributed Rs 4,000 towards the system of gratuitous relief which the British officers have inaugurated at Kherwara and Kotra with the assistance of some of the local baniahs and inhabitants of those small stations. The Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund have recently authorised the grant of Rs. 3,500 for the same purpose.

4. As I have already reported, I visited Udaipur towards the end of September, when hopes of good rain no longer remained, to impress upon the Maharana of Udaipur the necessity of organising remedial measures without delay, and more particularly of starting the earthwork of the Baran-Jodhpur Railway, of obtaining a special officer to superintend relief operations, and of advancing adequate loans on favourable terms to the Bhumat Chieftains of these wild hill tracts to enable them to maintain their poor Bhil subjects. No opportunity has since been lost of emphasising the urgency of prompt and adequate relief, especially in the Kherwara and Kotra districts. Three months have been wasted by the Darbar in haggling about terms, and, unless the reports from the local officers are grossly inaccurate, distress has meantime become so acute in these districts that the introduction of relief measures can no longer be safely entrusted to His Highness, whose present proposals are ludicrously inadequate. I have accordingly desired the Resident to submit immediate recommendations for Government advances to the eight Bhumat Chieftains of Kherwara and Kotra on the same terms as those accorded to Lawa, Shahpura, and other petty Chiefs. These will be forwarded directly they are received, and I have the honour to express the hope that they will receive the early sanction of Government.

Enclosure 1 in No. 143.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, No. 1989, dated the 14th December 1899.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Returns* of the Kherwara and Kotra districts for the month of November, 1899, as received from the Political Superintendent and Assistant Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar.

* With skeleton maps.

Enclosure 2 in No. 143

Famine Statement for month ending 30th November 1899.

State	Area	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month	Numbers on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar Bhumats Hilly Tracts Kherwara.	900 square miles	50 in last return by mistake—35 was entered.	The whole	50	Nil	500 receive aid from Kerwara charitable kitchen.

Private relief.—Four to five hundred starving poor receive a dole of cooked food from a kitchen supported by the inhabitants of Kherwara. The mission support 11 men, 5 women, 35 children

Raj relief.—The Darbar is sending 4,000 Udaipuri rupees to Kherwara and Kotra to keep up a kitchen for the sick and weak who, when they have regained strength, will be drafted on to relief works when they are begun.

Deaths—Very numerous; bodies of wanderers constantly picked up in station limits, apparently of those struggling into Kherwara to get relief at kitchen; deaths at kitchen average 1.5 per diem.

Physique.—Fifty per cent poor, 20 per cent very indifferent, 10 per cent bad, 20 per cent skin and bone

Cattle—Nearly all eaten; when the last are finished the distress will be terrible

Food stocks.—Very small, supplemented by what I can afford to import from Cawnpore.

Emigration.—Large numbers have migrated to Malwa and Mahikantha in search of grazing, but are now returning in a state of destitution.

Crops—Nil Water very scarce

[Sketch not reproduced.]

Enclosure 3 in No. 143.

Famine Statement for month ending November 1899.

State	Area	Population in thousands.	Affected area	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar Bhumats Kotra districts.	650 square miles.	21	The whole	21	Nil	Nil

Remarks on Famine in the Kotra District (Mewar).

(i) Many starving people come to Kotra daily; upwards of one hundred are fed by private charity.

(ii) Numbers are debilitated.

- (iii.) There have been two deaths from the effects of starvation in the Kotra Dispensary and eight deaths reported in the district
- (iv.) There is sufficient grain in the country, but the Bhils are too poor to buy. There is not much difficulty experienced at present in importing it.
- (v.) The general condition of the country is serious.
- (vi.) Emigration has closed. There are a good many arrivals from the Kherwara districts.

Statement of Deaths from the Effects of Famine.

- (i.) One man was brought into hospital suffering from dysentery. After four days' treatment he died. He had fed for some days previous on the roots of the wild plaintain and the wood of the Palsa tree pounded to flour.
- (ii.) A girl, age about 15, was brought to hospital suffering from dysentery. She died after three days' treatment. She had fed on roots.
- (iii.) No details available regarding the deaths in the district.

No. 144.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 24 I.-A., dated the 1st January 1900.

24 I.-A. Your letter 452 F. December 21st. Loan of rupees fifty thousand to Shahpura, bearing interest at four per cent. and repayable within ten years, is sanctioned. Please state on what basis you calculate that Shahpura will need one and a half lakhs.

No. 145.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 594, dated Abu, the 1st January 1900.

I have the honour to forward a copy of correspondence* including a recommendation from the Resident, Mewar, that the Government of India will sanction an advance of Rs. 58,700 for the relief of the Hilly Bhil Tracts under the political control of the Officer Commanding the Mewar Bhil Corps at Kherwara, who is also Superintendent of those Tracts.

2. Since the monsoon failed in July, the condition of the Bhils in these parts has given rise to serious anxiety. The latest reports on the subject are those forwarded with my letters No. 396 and No. 558 of the 16th and 30th December, 1899, to your address. At the end of September, I visited Udaipur principally with the object of inducing His Highness the Maharana to make adequate arrangements for relieving the people in the Hilly Tracts; and it was then proposed that this should be done by Darbar advances to the eight Bhumat Chieftains who hold that part of the country under His Highness the Maharana.

3. Since that date, the three months which have passed have been occupied in a fruitless attempt to settle terms of repayment acceptable to both parties. The difficulty has been accentuated by the traditional ill-feeling existing between the Darbar and these feudatories, and by the fact that some of the latter have not completed the liquidation of advances made

* Not printed.

by the Darbar to them several years ago. However, until lately, I entertained the hope that a suitable arrangement might be concerted which would both afford immediate relief and from which ultimate political advantages might be anticipated.

4. These expectations have not been fulfilled. Colonel Yate reports that the Darbar are only prepared to make loans aggregating in all the small sum of 36,000 Udaipuri rupees, equivalent to about 20,000 Government rupees, and that only one-third of this amount will be advanced at present. The interest demanded is, indeed, not high averaging roughly about 5 per cent. per annum; but the terms attached are open to objection, namely, repayment within 7 years, and the surrender to the Darbar of Bhumat villages from the date of advance until full liquidation by way of security.

5. Apart from the fact that the advances offered are altogether inadequate, the time allowed for repayment is, in my opinion, too brief to render compliance possible, and the village surrender clause would almost inevitably provoke incessant and dangerous friction in a country but half civilized and inhabited by reckless hill people who keenly resent Darbar interference in their isolated pals. I accordingly desired the Resident and the Political Superintendent of the Hilly Tracts to submit proposals for Government advances under the terms of Mr. Barnes's letter, No 2909, dated 9th October, 1899, and these are embodied in Colonel Yate's report, No. 538 G., dated 21st December, 1899, which forms enclosure No. 4 of this letter.

6. He proposes that in addition to the loan of Rs. 12,000 (Udaipur) which the Darbar have apparently already advanced to the Superintendent, Colonel Bignell, for distribution to the Bhumat Chieftains, the Government of India shall advance a further sum of Government Rs. 58,700 with the same object. He would utilise the Darbar loan for relief works, and the Government loan mainly for the purchase and import of grain from British India into the Hilly Tracts. As security for repayment he suggests that the villages surrendered by the Chieftains should be administered conjointly by the Political Superintendent and the Darbar Kamdars.

7. This system of dual obligation and control appears to me to be needlessly complicated and likely to produce future controversy and embarrassment. It would be preferable in every way in my opinion, as the Darbar have failed after incessant pressure to treat the case adequately, that the advances should be made from the Government treasury only. I would recommend that the management and distribution of these advances should be entrusted to the Political Superintendent, Kherwara, and the Assistant Political Superintendent at Kotra, who alone know the circumstances and requirements of the people, subject to the general control of the Resident. They would be responsible for the due application and repayment of the loans. Cash advances, if any, made by these officers to the Bhumat Chieftains should be reduced to the lowest practicable limits, as the majority of them do not appear fit to be entrusted with large sums.

8. If these proposals are generally approved, I would recommend that the Resident at Udaipur should be authorised to send the Political Superintendent, Kherwara, immediately either a sum of Government Rs. 25,000, or a sum in local *conage* equivalent to Government Rs. 25,000, after deducting and repaying to the Darbar the advance of Rs. 12,000 Udaipuri already made by the Maharana. The balance should be distributed, as required by the Political Superintendent and the Assistant Political Superintendent, chiefly over relief works in the different holdings. In addition to this sum of Rs. 25,000, I would recommend that credit for a further sum of Rs. 25,000 be given to the Political Superintendent at Cawnpore, or other large grain centre, to enable him to import supplies without delay to replenish the food-stocks of the country.

9. The rate of interest might be fixed at 4 per cent. per annum, as with other famine loans advanced by Government. The period of repayment of the amount expended within the limits of each Bhumat holding

might extend over a term of 12 years beginning from the 1st January, 1901. I would not recommend that any villages should now be taken under management; but it should, I think, be stipulated in writing that, after the expiration of the period of repayment, the administration of the entire holding of any Chieftain in default should be taken over by the Political Superintendent at Kherwara (or the Assistant Political Superintendent at Kotra as the case may be) until liquidation is completed.

10. The advance of half a lakh now recommended would probably suffice for the current official year. The area of the tracts is about 1,550 square miles, and the population about 71,000, distributed as shown below:—

[Here follows distribution scheme.]

11. The local officers would undoubtedly need assistance in carrying out these relief measures, and I would accordingly support the proposal contained in the Resident's letter, No 1974, dated the 13th December, 1899, to the effect that the services of a qualified Staff Corps officer be placed at Colonel Bignell's disposal, either for duty with the corps or for famine employment as may be decided*. The present regular staff is as follows:—

- (1) Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel E Bignell, I.S.C.
- (2) Second-in-Command, Major Hutton Dawson, I.S.C., at Kotra.
- (3) Wing Officer, Lieutenant H S. Alexander, I.S.C
- (4) Adjutant, Captain H. P. Bell, I.S.C
- (5) Medical Officer, Lieutenant S Hunt, I.M.S

Lieutenant T. Hay, of the 5th Regular Bengal Cavalry, has been suggested by Colonel Bignell as well suited for the service

12. If these recommendations are generally accepted, I have the honour to request that sanction for the two advances described in paragraph 8 may be communicated by telegram, leaving further details to be settled subsequently. I am aware that direct advances from Government to the Chieftains may have the regrettable result of encouraging some of them to persist in their unfriendly attitude towards the Darbar. But the Maharana has, in my opinion, missed an unrivalled opportunity of increasing his influence over them, and making a fresh departure by the adoption of conciliatory and liberal measures, a point which I did not fail to impress upon him at Udaipur; and the emergency of the case does not admit of further procrastination. My chief regret, indeed, is the delay which I have already allowed to elapse in submitting these proposals, in the hope that his Highness the Maharana would accept a broad view of his position and responsibilities.

No. 146.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Agent to the Governor-General's Camp, No. 141 I.-A., dated the 8th January, 1900.

Your letter 594, January 1st. Government of India sanction an immediate loan up to half a lakh for relief in Mewar Bhil Tracts. This sum to be held at disposal of Bignell, who may draw on Cawnpore treasury up to rupees forty thousand, while Resident, Mewar, may make Bignell cash advances up to rupees ten thousand. If Bignell desires any other distribution of the credit, this will be arranged on hearing from you. Amount of

* In this connection, vide paragraph 6 of Foreign Department letter, No. 2909, dated 19th October, 1899, cited in paragraph 5 above.

loan will, if necessary, be increased later. Whole question of terms of loan and arrangements for recovery will be left over for future settlement in communication with Bhumia Chiefs and Mewar Darbar. No steps in this respect need be taken at present, as it seems politically desirable to await an opportunity of effecting an arrangement which will be palatable to Darbar. It is understood that Bignell will personally supervise the relief measures, and he may, if he sees fit, entrust his purely military duties to his subordinates. As regards assistance for Bignell in his famine work, further orders will follow with reference to your telegram 653 F., January 7th. Bignell's attention should be drawn to Central Provinces letter about relief of jungle tribes -see my letter, 3732 I.A., 14th December.

No. 147.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 679 F.-C., dated Camp Jaipur, the 13th January, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No 478 F., dated the 22nd December, 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Haraoti Agency for November, 1899, I have now the honour to forward a copy of letter, No. 8 G., dated 4th January, 1900, from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, and of the accompanying Famine Report of the States of Bundi, Tonk, and Shahpura for the month of December, 1899.

State	Number on 31st December		Total
	Works.	Gratuity	
Tonk	8,864	1,932	6,801
Bundi	5,768	276	6,044
Shahpura	2,818	1,288	4,106
Total	13,455	3,496	16,951

2 The total number of labourers on relief works in the three States has increased from 10,669 on 30th November to 13,455 on 31st December, and of those gratuitously relieved from 2,918 to 3,496. The condition of the people continues on the whole fairly good, though deaths from reputed starvation have occurred both in Bundi and Shahpura. I have recently addressed the Bundi Chief by kharita, impressing upon him the necessity of adopting more comprehensive and liberal measures than those hitherto contemplated for the relief of his distressed subjects.

Enclosure 1 in No. 147.

Letter from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 8 G., dated Deoli, the 4th January, 1900.

In continuation of this office letter, No. 409 G., I have the honour to forward, for information of the Agent to the Governor-General, Famine Statement for the month ending 31st December, 1899.

Enclosure 2 in No. 147.

No. 9.

HARAOTI AND TONK AGENCY.

Famine Statement for month ending 31st December, 1899.

States.	Area.	Popu- lation in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total Number on relief works on last day of month.	Num- bers on gratui- tous relief.	Number of crimes due to scarcity	Number of emi- grants passing through the State.	Number of persons emi- grated from.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tonk	2,752	890,069	1,376	239,740	4,869	1,932	69	4,802	397
Bundi	2,320	295,675	2,320	295,675	5,768	276	1	129	—
Shahpura	405	63,646	405	63,646	2,818	1,288	86	176	124
Total	5,377	789,390	4,001	599,061	13,455	3,496	156	5,107	721

The condition of the people continues on the whole to be fairly good, though deaths from starvation have occurred in both Bundi and Shahpura. No rain has fallen, and the prospects of the rabi crops are extremely poor. Work on the railway is being pushed forward in Bundi and Shahpura, and the survey of the branch lines running through Tonk is nearly complete. Numerous tanks are being constructed in the various affected districts of the Tonk State. The food stocks are sufficient and grain is being largely imported to all three States, though there is much delay on the railway owing to the excess of traffic.

No. 148.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 290 I.-A., dated the 15th January 1900.

Your letter, 545 F., December 29th. Further cash loan to Bundi of Rs. 75,000 is sanctioned. On figures hitherto supplied, this should give Darbar ample funds for famine relief expenditure which has already been incurred or will be incurred up to end of Samvat, 1956, in April next. Question of additional loan will be considered on receipt of revised reports on general situation, which are due on 14th January. Collection of ballast is suitable for relief work purposes, but funds required for railway, as distinct from relief, must be dealt with quite separately.

No. 149.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 721 F.-C., dated Camp, the 19th-21st January 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 457 F., dated 21st December, 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Karauli State for the month of November, 1899, I have now the honour to forward a copy of Famine Statement and Monthly Famine Report of the same State for the month of December, 1899.

2. The general situation at Karauli remains unchanged, and there is no serious distress. Relief measures have, however, been started in a few villages situated in the more broken portion of the State, where, owing to the failure of the paddy crop, 300 persons are being employed in cutting grass for the State stables. The Darbar have also sanctioned the commencement

of further relief works, viz., digging 5 tanks and wells in the tahsils of Mandrael and Machilpur, where the supply of water threatens to fail.

3. In one tahsil alone some mortality from small pox is reported among the cattle; elsewhere the physical condition of the agricultural population and of their cattle is said to remain good.

4. Over 6,000 maunds of food grains are reported to have been imported in December, 1899, and the market rates are now steady. Rabi cultivation is nearly over; a fair harvest is anticipated. The prices of fodder are easier than in November.

Enclosure 1 in No. 149.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st December 1899.

KARAU LI STATE.

State.	Area	Population in thousands	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karauli ...	1,262	150	A few villages in the Dang portion of the territory.	...	...	...

Note on the Famine Statement.

Some of the Jagirdars of this State have opened relief works in their jagirs, where poor people are employed in constructing bunds. Prominent among these are Bhanwar Chiman Singh and Thakur of Amargarh.

In the State charity houses located at different parts of the territory, flour is doled out to a large number of poor beggars. Their number will not be less than two hundred a day.

Physical condition of the people is still sound.

No death owing to starvation has taken place. The baniahs have their granaries well stocked with food grains.

The food grains imported during the month of December have been over six thousand maunds. No change of rate in the wages has taken place.

No emigration has yet been brought to the notice of the authorities of this State. Immigration among the Marwaris was very brisk in the month of November. They have mostly repaired to the Dang of Dhorai. Very few of them could now be seen here.

With a view to relieve the distress among the agricultural population of this State, the expedients that were adopted by the authorities of this State, viz., the remission of revenue, partial exemption from payment of arrears of land revenue and taccavi advances, have gone so far to alleviate the sufferings of those who were affected by the present hard times, that the rabi sowings have not fallen below the average. On the other hand, such lands which were before set apart for the cultivation of poppy or sugarcane have all this year been taken up for the cultivation of wheat and barley. Hence there is a very fair prospect of reaping a good rabi harvest. Certainly winter rain is very badly wanted. A few moderate showers would, at this time, have been most welcome, and have at once brightened up the prospects. Rabi cultivation is now nearly over, and irrigation is now briskly going on everywhere.

Owing to the failure of rains, paddy was mostly destroyed in the Dang portion of the territory. Hence some villages in that portion have been affected with distress, and these cultivators who have been thrown out of work have now been employed in cutting grass for the consumption of the State stables. The number of such people comes up to about 300.

A few days ago, the Tahsildar submitted a report regarding opening relief works in the Dang portion of the territory. The Council of this State passed orders to commence relief works. The following works have been, therefore, taken up at once:—

Five tanks and one or two wells in the tahsils of Mandrael and Machilpur.

There is no actual water famine at present prevailing in any part of the territory, though in the Dang portion the supply is gradually getting scanty. But there is one redeeming feature in that portion of the territory, which is the close proximity to the Chambal.

Fodder which in the beginning of October was sold at a very high rate owing to general panic in the country consequent on the State being visited by a large number of Marwaris, with their immense herd of cattle, is now available at an easier rate. In fact, the price has now greatly fallen, and hay stacks could now be seen everywhere, and there is every hope that, excepting perhaps the extreme Dang portion, the supply will never fail till the end of summer. As for the Dang portion, the people there have the Dang of Dhorai near at hand to draw their supply.

The physical condition of both the agricultural population and their cattle is still sound and healthy-looking. But there is some mortality among cattle in one tahsil owing to cattle pox.

Food supply.—The importation of corn is going on, though not with that degree of briskness as it was in the beginning of November. But the baniahs in the town have their granaries well stocked with food grains. The market rate has been steady since the latter portion of November, and does not for the present show any tendency to rise. This is entirely due to the large importation during the month of November and the beginning of December.

No. 150.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara, Abu, No. 391 I.-A., dated the 19th January 1900.

Your letter, 1407, December 29th. Government of India consider that, when an estate under Court of Wards is already in debt, the Court is not justified in borrowing either from Government or in open market to pay for direct famine relief. Loan for Bhinae estate may, if you think fitting, be applied for under Land Improvement Loans Act, which would give indirect relief, but any relief outside that should be paid for by Government of India.

No. 151.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 720 F. C., dated Camp, the 19th-21st January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 461 F., dated 21st December 1899, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report with map of the Sirohi State for the month of

December, 1899, together with a copy of letter No. 5 G., dated the 2nd/4th January, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States.

2. About 1,500 persons were employed on the two tanks which have been commenced as relief works. Only six persons were gratuitously relieved by the State, but large numbers are reported to have been supported by private charity. The State has hitherto hesitated to start relief works on a large scale owing to the want of competent professional advice, but now that Mr. Knight, the Assistant Engineer, whose services have been specially lent by the Government of India, has arrived, extended works will be commenced.

The loan of Rs. 70,000 which the Darbar have recently received from the Government of India for expenditure on famine relief projects will enable the State to commence at once the works recommended by Mr. Knight.

3. The stocks of food-grains are said to be sufficient and the public health to be generally good. Three deaths from starvation among wandering mendicants are reported from the Pindwara district.

4. The Resident, Western Rajputana States, accompanied by the Famine Commissioner, has lately visited Sirohi to ascertain whether the relief arrangements are being effectually conducted, and to advise the Darbar in regard to the rate of wages which at present seem to be unduly high. Other matters connected with the organization and conduct of relief measures have engaged their attention, and their report is now awaited.

5. A large poor-house has been started at Mount Abu, in the Sirohi State, where weak and helpless persons are received and cared for until they are strong enough to earn an adequate wage on adjacent works, or to be sent back to their own States. Many have already been so returned. It is maintained partly by private contributions from residents in the station supplemented by a grant from the Calcutta Central Fund.

Enclosure in No. 151.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 5 G., dated the 2nd/4th January 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, copy of a letter* No. 590, dated the 29th ultimo, from the Diwan of Sirohi, submitting his report on famine for the month of December, 1899.

It will be seen from the map accompanying the report that famine prevails throughout the State, but is most severely felt in the eastern districts, which are fortunately traversed by the Rajputana-Malwa Railway. The population of the more distressed area is estimated at 75,809, and is chiefly composed of Bhils and Grassias, who in ordinary years live a hand-to-mouth existence and have little or no savings to fall back on.

2. Two relief works, one at Sirohi and the other at Pindwara, were opened during the month, on which some 1,498 persons have been employed. The condition of the people on the works is said to be good. The construction of three tanks in the Rohera, Khuni, and Santpur districts is contemplated as soon as Mr. W. E. Knight, Assistant Engineer, can examine and report on the projects. Only 6 persons received State gratuitous relief, but many others were supported by private charity, and by doles of grain given at charitable institutions and temples. The Darbar are anxious to relieve distress, but, in the absence of professional advice, hesitated to embark on large and expensive schemes. Mr. Knight has now arrived at Sirohi, and the excuse for any delay in organising relief has disappeared.

Not printed.

3. The wage rates on works were—

Men	...	...	...	2 annas to 2½ annas.
Women	...	...	...	1¼ „ 1½ „
Children	...	...	...	1 anna to 1½ „

These rates are obviously too high and must be reduced. The subject will be discussed with the Darbar during my approaching tour through Sirohi with the Famine Commissioner.

4. Grain-stocks are replenished from British India and are sufficient. Prices of food-grains have improved a little. Wheat is selling at 8 seers, barley at 9½ seers, and makki at 9 seers per rupee.

5. The public health is good. Three deaths from starvation are reported from the Pindwara district. The deceased are described as wandering mendicants. There has been no emigration; 1,100 persons with their cattle are said to have immigrated from Marwar. In regard to these people further enquiry will be made.

6. Forty-three cents of rain fell on the 12th and 14th December, to the benefit of irrigated crops. Most of the villages in Sirohi possess wells, and a four-anna rabi is anticipated.

A sum of Rs. 4,023 has been sanctioned for deepening wells, and the cultivators are growing fodder for their cattle.

No. 152.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 732 F. C., dated Camp, the 22nd January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 396 F., dated the 16th December, 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Mewar State for October and November, 1899, I have now the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 24, dated 6th January, 1900, from the Resident, Mewar, and the accompanying report for the month of December, 1899.

2. It will be seen from these papers that there has been a considerable increase in the number of persons employed on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief, respectively, compared with the figures given in the statement for November 1899. This increase, as has been explained by the Resident, is probably due to a large extent to the return of Udaipur emigrants from Beawar, into which district they had poured in search of relief.

3. Poor-houses have been opened at Udaipur city and at Dabok, 12 miles distant, in which some 2,000 to 3,000 people are daily fed. A large tank at Khemli, near Udaipur, on the Chitor Railway, has been started to provide employment for famine-stricken people in the vicinity of the capital. The earthwork of the railway near Lamia Station now affords relief to about 5,000 people, under the direct management of Mr. Billings, Special Executive Engineer.

4. The most severe distress at present prevails in the Bhil Tracts, where the Resident intended to tour immediately to inspect the poor-houses and relief works which have been started. Mr. Williams, the State Engineer, is engaged in Kherwara prospecting for relief works in the adjacent hilly tracts, and Mr. Lillie, the Manager of the Udaipur-Chitor Railway, has been deputed to start relief works on the Merwara borders.

5. A subsequent letter No. 33,* dated 10th January, 1900, from the

* Not printed.

Resident, Mewar, shows that his Highness the Maharana has at length decided to establish a separate office at headquarters for the supervision of famine relief in Mewar. It is hoped that this measure will be attended by beneficial results. I have addressed a kharita to the Maharana, couched in forcible terms, emphasising the imperative necessity of a far wider and more liberal famine relief organisation than anything he has so far undertaken in the Mewar State.

Enclosure 1 in No. 152.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 24, dated the 6th January 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for your information, a translation of the Mewar Famine Statement for the month of December, 1899, together with the prescribed map in duplicate.

2. It will be seen that the numbers reported to be in receipt of relief have largely increased during the past month, but how far this return is accurate only special supervision will show.

3. The condition of the cultivating class throughout the plateau of Mewar is, I believe, still very fair. The zamindars are still holding their own, cultivating what ground they can from wells, and are thus preserving their cattle.

So far as I have been able to judge, signs of clearing out and deepening of wells are visible in all directions. This shows that the Darbar's taccavi advances for this purpose have been a reality and have been taken advantage of—at any rate, the wells have been deepened, which has afforded a certain amount of work and employment.

4. The class in the open country that is now commencing to suffer is that of the agricultural labourers, who have work on hire under the cultivating classes mentioned above.

I am told that a large proportion of the emigrants who have lately been brought back from Merwara belonged to this class. It is for them, not for their employers, that relief work will now have to be found, and it is the return of these men from Beawar that has apparently so swelled the returns.

5. The greater number of these people, as the Darbar report, belonged to the estates of Jagirdars, and the question of the proper relief by the Jagirdars for the famine-stricken belonging to their respective jagirs is the most difficult problem that has to be faced in Mewar. No chief in Mewar, from the Maharana downwards, has the faintest conception of the gravity of the situation, or of his personal responsibility for the saving of the life of his subjects.

The Native Chief, of whatever degree, is comparatively callous to individual suffering, and considers expenditure on his part to alleviate distress a waste of money when it does not bring him in any direct return. Responsibility for life has only of late years been assumed by the Government of India, and the idea has by no means as yet penetrated down into the wilds of Mewar. Consequently all measures of relief have more or less to be forced upon those who have to inaugurate them, and much delay ensues before they can be properly started.

6. The most severe distress at present, so far as I can gather, is in portions of the Bhil Tracts, and I hope to start in a day or two to inspect the poor-houses and relief works in those parts, accompanied by the Darbar Famine officials and the local Hakim.

7. Numbers of famine-stricken Bhils and of other low classes have been flocking into Udaipur of late, and doubtless many deaths have occurred amongst them. A poor-house has been established at Udaipur and at Dabok, 12 miles out, and in these some 2,000 to 3,000 people are daily fed, but many are too emaciated to survive when they arrive, and the cold nights have told hard on them all, and pneumonia, dysentery and diarrhoea have been very fatal.

8. A large tank at Khemli, the first station out from Udaipur on the Chitor Railway, is to be started at once for the employment of all famine-stricken around Udaipur itself, but want of men and tools, &c., has hitherto delayed the opening of this, despite the fact that the work has long since been sanctioned by the Maharana.

9. Mr. Williams, the State Engineer, is still engaged at Kherwara prospecting for relief works in the hilly tracts, but is expected back shortly.

Mr. Lillie, the Manager of the Udaipur-Chitor Railway, has also been deputed by the Darbar to start relief works in the Deogarh and Bednor Jagirs on the Merwara border, and the works on the Bundi frontier in the Jehazpur district are, I believe, progressing under charge of the local Hakim.

10. The deputation of the principal Minister of the State, Kothari Bulwant Singh, to Beawar, to bring back the Mewari emigrants there, has had a good effect generally. He reported the return to Mewar of 14,000 people and that no more were now left in Merwara.

Enclosure 2 in No. 152.

Famine Statement of the Mewar State for the month of December 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mewar ...	12,670	1,800	9,513	1,350	23,876	11,112	—

Memorandum of Remarks accompanying the Mewar Famine Statement for December 1899.

- Private relief.*—About 2,500 persons are in receipt of private relief.
- Village and poor-house relief.*—About 3,500 are afforded relief in villages and poor-houses.
- General character of relief works.*—Tanks, wells, canals, buildings, &c.
- Physical condition of people, and deaths, if any, from starvation.*—The physical condition of the people on the whole is fair, but some show signs of emaciation and debility. 1,000 persons (men, women and children) died during the month. Among these there were many famine-stricken immigrants from other places, and persons who died from fever and diarrhœa, &c. The number of those who died from actual starvation is very small.
- Food-stocks.*—Food-stocks are sufficient at present.
- Importation of grain.*—Grain is being imported as required.
- General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The most affected districts are Jehazpur, Mandalgarh, Kumalgarh, and the Mugra districts. In the other districts the distress is not so severe. If winter rains fall, there is hope of the distress decreasing.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—The wages of labourers have been decreased from 4 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 annas. In places wages are given in grain.

9. *Emigration or immigration, &c.*—Owing to the provision of relief works in Mewar and the turning back of the emigrants from other districts emigration has decreased.

— About 14,000 Mewar immigrants, of whom the greater number belonged to the estates of Jagirdars, who were assembled at Beawar, have been brought back. In the city the number of paupers arriving from other countries is increasing.

No. 153.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. F.C. 734, dated Camp, the 22nd January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. F. 455, dated the 21st December 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Alwar State for November 1899, I have now the honour to forward copy of a letter* No. 93, dated the 6th January 1900, from the Political Agent, Alwar, and of the accompanying Famine Report for the month of December 1899.

2. It will be seen that the area affected remains the same as reported previously. The number of persons employed on relief works has increased from 2,198 in November to 3,163 on 31st December 1899. Those gratuitously relieved during the month numbered 12,052 (of whom 6,886 are reported to be immigrants from the surrounding foreign States), and the daily average of persons received in the poor-houses established by the State was 389.

3. Grain has been largely imported from the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces and prices have fallen. A large area of land has been taken under rabi cultivation, and a further sum of Rs. 22,621 has been advanced to the agriculturists during the month under report, bringing the total taccavi advances to Rs. 1,63,464. No less than 608 masonry wells and 7,613 kutchas wells have been constructed or improved.

4. No death from starvation has been reported, and the physical condition of the people continues good. Arrangements have been made in each of the twelve tahsils for distributing food to destitute and helpless persons. My personal enquiries on tour at Alwar satisfy me that the Council of Regency, acting with the advice of the Political Agent, Captain L. Impey, are fully alive to the requirements of the situation, and are undertaking relief measures on a suitable scale. I noticed several wanderers from Marwar, but not one of them was ill-clothed or appeared to be ill-fed.

No. 154.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 735 F.C., dated Camp, the 22nd January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 641, dated the 6th January 1900, forwarding a copy of the Famine Reports of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for November 1899, I have now the honour to submit a copy of the reports furnished by the said States for the month of December 1899.

* Not printed.

2. The number of persons employed on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief on the last day of the month under report, compared with the average daily numbers in November 1899, are shown in the following table :—

States.	Daily Average in November 1899 (approximate).	Numbers employed on last day of December 1899	Increase.
<i>Kotah.</i>			
Number of persons employed on relief works.	1,500	4,370	2,870
Number receiving gratuitous relief ...	1,000	2,278	1,278
<i>Jhalawar.</i>			
Number of persons employed on relief works.	400	700	300
Number receiving gratuitous relief ...	250	800	550

3. In Kotah 93 deaths are reported among passing immigrants from reputed starvation and 49 in the camp at Ganeshpal where relief is afforded to 1,828 persons. Both the kharif and rabi crops having partially failed, the distress in Kotah is general throughout the State, and no map is therefore attached to the report. The stock of food grains is reported to be sufficient, and the physical condition of the people remains good. Though naturally anxious, they are not seriously alarmed by the prospect before them, and none of them have emigrated from the State.

4. The condition of Jhalawar is so far reported to be short of actual famine. The tahsils of Patan and Pachpahar exhibit more distress than other parts. Relief works have been commenced in the former tahsil, and measures are being adopted to commence work in the latter also. In the Pachpahar Tahsil a poor-house has been opened to accommodate and feed the sick and infirm. The condition of the people continues good, though wandering immigrants are sadly reduced. There are now no complaints regarding scarcity of grain. It is interesting to note that the temporary apprehension in this connection ceased directly the Raj authorities abstained from interfering with the ordinary course of trade.

Enclosure 1 in No. 154.

Famine Statement for month ending 31st December 1899.

State.	Area.	Population.	Affected Area	Estimated Population of Column 4	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kotah State ...	5,673 sq. miles.	719,061	5,673 sq. miles.	719,061	4,370	2,278

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for month ending 31st December 1899.

A large number of the famine-stricken is supported by private charity at several large towns and villages in the State.

Village and Poor-house Relief.—A camp established at Ganeshpal near Kotah afford relief to 1,828 and the Raj poor-house in the city to 50 old, cripple and children.

As already reported no regular relief works were opened, but a few test and miscellaneous works in different parts of the State were in progress giving employment to 4,370 persons.

General physique of the people is good.

93 deaths from starvation among passing and wandering immigrants were reported ; as also 49 among those encamped at Ganeshpal.

Food-stock is sufficient.

There has been no importation of grain.

People, although naturally anxious, are not much alarmed and are trying to meet the calamity which is general and widespread. They, however, look forward with anything but hopefulness.

Rates of wages are rather falling.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place.

Immigration is slow.

The whole State being equally affected by famine so far as failure of both the crops of the year is concerned, no map defining the affected area of the State is attached.

Enclosure 2 in No. 154.

JHĀLAWAR.

(Extract.)

The number of persons on private relief may be considered to be between 700 and 800 daily. The ladies of the palace and the leading Sahukars of Patan distribute parched and boiled grain and also cooked food to the poor. Formerly the State used to distribute grain, but now cooked food is given to all such persons as live inside the two poor-houses provided for them by the State, one at Chaoni and one at Patan. Being out in camp, I cannot give you the exact number of these persons on the last day of December 1899.

From the reports that I have received from the Tahsildars from time to time I understand that the condition of the tahsil of Pachpahar is worse than that of any other, that of Patan Tahsil being only a little better than that of Pachpahar. These two tahsils received the least rainfall during the monsoon. I have now been through the Pachpahar Tahsil, and I am glad to say that hitherto I have seen little or no signs of famine. It is true that grain is selling very dear : but somehow or other the people have hitherto managed to live almost as well as they used to do before. I have seen numbers of starving Marwaris reduced to mere skeletons ; but I have not met with a single person of this country in that condition. Later on, when the produce of the kharif crop has been exhausted, the people may find themselves in a worse condition, but hitherto they cannot be said to be suffering from famine. Although I do not think that there is famine anywhere in the State, to distinguish the two tahsils (Patan and Pachpahar) from the other three I have coloured them light blue. The above remarks are not meant to be interpreted as signifying that there is absolutely no distress on account of deficiency of food-grains ; but what I mean to say is simply this that the distress has not yet reached the limit where famine begins.

The people of this State are in good condition, but the Marwaris are not so. The State is doing everything in its power to protect them from hunger and cold, but still some of them must have died from the consequence of the slow starvation here and there. A poor-house has just been opened at

Pachpahar where I have caused all the sickly and infirm to be put. These shall be fed at the expense of the State. From time to time the baniahs were allowed to sell grain at their prices, that is to say, from the time the State ceased to interfere with the prices there has been no complaint as regards the scarcity of grain anywhere in the State. No people of this State are reported to have emigrated from here.

No. 155.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 750-F., dated 23rd January, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 542-F., dated the 29th December 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of Marwar for November 1899, I have now the honour to submit a copy of letter No. 11 of the 6th January 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the accompanying Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of December.

2. From the following tabular statement it will be seen that there was an increase since last month of 38,877 persons employed on relief works, and 3,071 receiving gratuitous relief respectively. The rise in numbers employed on works is attributed mainly to the return of emigrants, of whom 36,421 voluntarily came back in December from Malwa, Sind and Guzerat, and 3,094 were brought back by the State :—

	Works.	Gratuitous.	TOTAL.
30th September.. ...	10,985	2,263	13,248
31st October	26,025	4,614	30,639
30th November ...	39,207	10,719	49,926
31st December ...	78,084	13,790	91,874

3. Poor-houses have been opened, and special medical comforts have been arranged in the hospitals at private expense. The State expenditure on gratuitous relief amounted to Rs. 13,942, an outlay largely supplemented by private charity. A special Motamid has been deputed to bring back emigrants from the works in the States of Rutlam, Jaora, and Neemuch in Central India, and a quarantine camp, with a Hospital Assistant, has been established at Marwar Junction to keep the new comers under medical observation for a period of ten days.

4. No deaths from starvation have been reported during the month, but cholera broke out in the Phalodi District, and is said to have caused 36 deaths up to 25th December. The physical condition of the people elsewhere is generally good.

5. The few showers of rain reported from the Sojat, Bali, Jessole and Dosuri Districts have somewhat benefited the standing crops, and a $4\frac{1}{2}$ anna rabi outturn is anticipated over a limited area. Food-stocks are sufficient and are easily replenished. No emigration took place during the month, and though the water-level has slightly sunk, there appears to be no distress from want of water in most parts at present.

6. A copy of the printed memorandum, prepared by the Famine Commissioner who has visited Marwar since the de-patch of my report for November, is enclosed for the information of the Government of India. Major Dunlop-Smith was, on the whole, favourably impressed by his local inspection and enquiries.

Enclosure 1 in No. 155.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 11, dated 6th January, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of the Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of December 1899, together with a skeleton map showing that the whole area of the State has been affected, distress being most acute in the districts.

2. The total number of labourers on relief works on the 25th December was 78,084, as compared with 39,207 persons at the end of November. This large rise is due to returning emigrants. Of these 78,084, 69,546 were employed on Mr. Home's Works, and 8,538 on Civil Agency Works. The total expenditure during the month was Rs. 1,41,537, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 5½ pies.

3. Poor-houses have been opened in all the districts, and on relief works, blankets have been freely distributed by the Darbar, and special medical comforts, such as arrowroot and Mellin's food, have been provided at private expense in the hospitals. The total number of persons receiving gratuitous relief was 13,790, showing an increase during the month of 3,071. The cost of this relief amounted to Rs. 13,942. Private relief has also been largely given.

4. The health of the people on the works has been good. Many of those who returned from Malwa and other places have improved in appearance. A Motamid has been deputed to bring back another batch of emigrants who have sought refuge on the works at Rutlam, Jaora, and Neemuch, and the Darbar has, at my request, established a quarantine camp, with a Hospital Assistant in charge, at Marwar junction with the view of keeping the new comers under medical observation for ten days.

5. There was no emigration during the month; 36,421 emigrants have returned of their own accord from Malwa, Sindh, and Guzerat; 3,094 other persons were brought back by the Darbar Agents at a cost of Rs. 945.

6. The small rainfall reported from the Sojat, Bali, Jessoli, and Desuri Districts has benefited the irrigated crops, and a 4½-anna rabi is anticipated.

7. The wages on the work have been as follows:—

	A.	P.	A.	P.
Male	1½	0	to	2½* 0
Female	1	0	to	2 0
Children over 7 years	—	0		9
„ under „	—	0		6
„ in lap „	—	0		3

8. The price of the cheapest grain ranged from 12 seers to 7 seers per rupee. No distress from want of water is reported. The Jodhpur City supply has been successfully augmented by pumping up water from wells at Mundore, six miles distant, and conducting it in pipes to the Gulabsagar tank.

9. No deaths from starvation were recorded, but I regret to say that cholera has broken out in the Phalodi District, and 36 fatal cases occurred up to the 25th December.

Food-stocks are replenished from British India, and imports are abundant.

Medical arrangements have been satisfactorily carried out under Colonel Adam's and Captain Grant's supervision. Lieutenant Menzies of the 8th Bombay Infantry has joined for famine duty, and is employed under the Resident's orders.

* No explanation is offered of the high rate of 2½ annas paid to male labourers, and has been called for.

Enclosure 2 in No. 155.

Memorandum by Major J. R. Dunlop-Smith, R.E., Famine Commissioner.

MARWAR

1. I have just concluded a short visit to Jodhpur, during the course of which I was able, through the courtesy of His Highness the Maharaja, to discuss the situation with the leading officials, and to visit some of the relief centres and the works now in progress.

2. The years are known in Jodhpur as "Kal" or famine, "Kurra" or scarcity, and "Zamanah" or ordinary, according to the character of the crops and the grazing. The last *kal* year was 1891-92, and this was followed by two very favourable seasons. The next four years, I am told, were all considered to be *kurra*, or poor. One of these, 1896-97, was the year of famine over the greater part of Upper and Central India, but only isolated parts of Marwar suffered; and when the monsoon of 1897 broke, a good deal of money came into the State from the sale of cattle to the distressed British districts on the north. But the following year was distinctly bad; and when the last monsoon failed altogether about the third week of July, it was evident that famine conditions would quickly develop. This development has been so rapid that, till the beginning of November, the administration proved unequal to the strain of dealing with what may be, without exaggeration, described as the biggest Marwar famine of which there is any reliable record. The first hopeful sign of an organized attempt to meet the situation was observed after the return from leave of Mr Home, the State Engineer, and since the arrival of Colonel Curzon Wylie the change has been most remarkable. The chief features of the scheme of relief now at work are described below.

3. There is a Central Famine Office in Jodhpur which generally controls all operations. The Maharaja has directly associated himself with this agency, which has also at command the valuable advice and assistance of Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh. The relief works are divided into two classes. The first class consists of works managed by the Public Works Department under Mr. Home, and the second, of petty works carried out by Civil Agency. The former are by far the more important and provide for the great majority of the workers. The latter are conducted by the ordinary revenue staff of the different parganas. Poor-houses and collecting stations for wanderers have been, and are being, opened wherever necessary.

4. The relief works in progress at the date of my visit were as follows —

[Here follows a list of 30 works.]

The first eleven works are all under Mr. Home's management, his assistant for this branch of his duties being Captain Bremner, R.E. According to the latest returns, the total of workers alone was 48,411. Numbers 12 to 20 are under the supervision of the District Administrative Officers, Nos. 21 to 24 under the Hawala (Revenue) Officials, and the remainder are controlled by the Forest Superintendent. Details regarding all the Civil Agency works are hard to obtain; but from the returns of expenditure on Nos. 12 to 30 sent in to the central office, I gather that about 3,000 persons, all told, were relieved in this way. The total, therefore, in receipt of relief at present throughout Marwar is well over 50,000.

5. Mr. Home kindly allowed me to accompany him on a tour round the principal works which are described below:—

(a) *Kharra Dam*.—This work consists of the construction of a large dam across the old bed of one of the tributaries of the Luni River. It begins on the edge of a depression near Kharra Village, and stretches for some distance to the north-east. At the end furthest from the railway a cut has been made to lead the water from the higher ground into the lake which will be formed behind the dam in the rainy season. The first section of the work was made on the

contract system. The rate was originally Rs. 3-8-0 per 1,000 cubic feet, but this had to be raised to Rs. 4-0-0 later on. This section is almost finished now, and in a few days the task system will be universal. The contract from the first applied to the workers in the pits only, that is, to the diggers and carriers. The people employed on the bank in breaking clods and dressing have been paid throughout according to the Code scale of wages. The hospital and the few huts of the workers still paid by contract are close to the main dam. The rest of the workers are accommodated in two camps close by the new cut. There were 2,017 persons relieved on this work, but this total will gradually increase as fresh drafts from the collecting station at Pali are received every day. The organisation of the work is the same as that followed on the Dholerao Dam, which, as being the largest project in hand, is described in detail below. A collecting station has been lately established here. This is the place of admission for newcomers, who receive cooked food on first arrival. It should be provided at once with some sheds, as at present the people have to lie out in the open. Many of these also join in very bad condition and require attention for some days before they can be drafted on to the works. I saw about 100 inmates of this enclosure—for it is little else at present—and few families who had been wandering for the last three months were very emaciated. The hospital is a comfortable little camp of *sarkhi* huts surrounded by a wall of the same material. There were 76 patients under treatment. I think it would be a good thing to remove it bodily to the present arrival depot and combine the two. Just now it is much too far away from the main body of the workers, and it is impossible for the official in medical charge to exercise the supervision that is required over both places.

6. *Dholerao Dam*.—This is a very large work which is likely to supply labour for over 20,000 people until the rains break. A solid earthen dam with a masonry core wall is being built across the rocky bed of the Sukli stream that comes down from the Aravalis past Soojat. On the right bank the dam will be prolonged by a formidable earthen bank with a puddle core running along the centre. A smaller earthen dam is also under construction on the left bank. The village of Dholerao stands on some rising ground at the junction of the masonry and earthen dams. The stone work is done through a contractor who draws all his unskilled labour from among the famine workers. On the occasion of my visit, 23,882 persons were on the works, which is therefore equal to three full relief "charges."

The Officer in charge is one of the permanent officials of the Public Works Department. He is the general supervisor, and is responsible for every thing connected with the work except the admission of applicants, payments, supply of coin and food, the care of dependants, and the medical and sanitary arrangements. The sub-overseers, besides their own professional duties, have to see that the results of the measurements of tasks are properly recorded by the gang-writers. The latter keep the muster rolls and attend the cashier during payments. The Motamid on the works is L. Mokhan Chand, whose permanent appointment is that of Superintendent of the Salt and Abkari Department. He is responsible for all the duties ordinarily performed by the Famine Naib-Tehsildar in British districts except those consigned to the professional Officer in charge. He receives and classifies fresh applicants with the help of the Hospital Assistant, but M. Natha Singh divides the workers into diggers, carriers and clog-breakers. He superintends payments, arranges for the supply of coin and food, and is in sole charge of dependants, both adults and children. The cashiers who make the actual payments are directly under his orders. His miscellaneous establishment consists of two executive assistants, clerks and peons. The Subadar and his men keep order on the works and guard and escort treasure.

(b) *Equipment and supply of coin*.—The contractor for the masonry dam finds his own equipment and arranges separately for paying the men employed by him. The tools and plant for the larger earth dam, on which there are approximately 14,500 workers, are all supplied by contract, and I was told that the arrangement worked well. Those for the dam on the left bank, where about 3,200 are employed, are procured direct by the Officer in charge, and

are kept overnight by the store-keeper attached to that camp. The digging tools seemed to be of good material and to give satisfaction. The carriers use nothing but baskets, which are purchased locally. Baskets are generally expensive in the long run, and I would suggest that kerosine tins cut in half be used for carrying earth. They are very strong and last for a long time. If these are introduced the people should be allowed to use them for carrying water from the wells for their private use. I am quite aware that the constant demand for baskets does much to assist a certain section of the community. Even so, the first thing to look to is economy and efficiency on the works; and even if baskets are adhered to, I think that they should be made by dependants on the works or the inmates of the various poor-houses. If the change results in some professional basket-makers being left without employment they can come on to the works and make baskets there for a famine wage.

The coin is brought from Jodhpur by railway to Pali, and from there on camels. Now that work is in full swing there is a small demand for pice, which circulates freely on the works. Hitherto the supply has been well ahead of the demand, and the Motamid deserves credit for his arrangements. The safe is kept in a strong house in the village, where the cashiers attend every evening to make up their accounts.

(c) *Water*.—There is no great difficulty about water at present, but there is likely to be trouble later on unless the new borings in the rocky bed of the river turn out well. There are four drinking wells on or close to the work. It is a question whether these will hold out till April. Water for washing is obtained from the brackish wells. Their supply seems constant enough. As the store of good water is so limited I think that special arrangements should be made as early as possible for guarding it. A havildar might be put in charge of the four wells, with a regular staff of watermen under him. At present anyone can draw water at any time, and the crowds at any particular well get disorderly at times. I would have a couple of masonry troughs built at a sufficient distance from each well to prevent the people from crowding round its edge. No one should be allowed to dip his own vessel into these troughs. All comers would be served by the watermen told off for the purpose, who should be provided with zinc buckets or kerosine tins. The official in medical charge of the camp should regularly inspect the wells, and keep up a store of permanganate of potash for disinfection when necessary. The people should be encouraged to use tins instead of ghurras. If these or similar arrangements are made the risk of infection will be largely reduced, and the waste of good water now going on will be stopped.

(d) *Food*.—I am told that the village of Dholerao originally contained four grain-sellers. There are now nearly one hundred. They have all taken up their quarters inside the village, each man annexing the first empty house he came across. The result is considerable overcrowding, and the narrow lanes are congested in the evening when the payments are over. I understand that the bunnias refuse to set up their shops on the works in case they may be robbed. But the camp is guarded, and if the present establishment of watch and ward is not sufficient, it can be increased. The confusion, overcrowding and noise in the village are so great that very probably the bunnias would be glad to escape if they were given *sirkhis* to build their shops with. There is no difficulty whatever about the supply of food, which keeps pouring in. The period in a famine, when the dealers unload their stocks of old unwholesome grain, was over some weeks ago, and now nothing but good wholesome food is sold. Vegetable sellers are of course few and far between, but I did come across baskets of country radishes for sale. These were all brought from villages with well-lands at the base of the Aravallis.

(e) *Hospital*.—The hospital is in charge of a Compounder. It has been newly built. It is an enclosure of unbricked sheds with mud walls and roofs of *sirkhi*. A small segregation hospital has been run up a few hundred yards to the south. This hospital was opened on the 14th October, and up to the 9th December 769 patients had received treatment. The only suggestion I have to make with regard to the hospital, is that more care should be taken

to keep the water-supply separate from that of the camp. There are so few wells that it is impossible to reserve one, but I think a separate staff of water-carriers should be organised from among the workers.

(f) *Hutting*.—The accommodation for workers is on the whole better than on any other work I visited. The people are employed for the first two days after admission in making their own huts. These have mud walls from two to three feet high, with a roof of *sirkhi*, and very many of them are surrounded by an enclosure of bushes and thorns which their inmates have collected. But the supply of *sirkhi* is limited, and as time goes on it will be difficult to arrange for adequate protection for everyone. It would be advisable to have all the roofs plastered with mud if all the spare brackish water is not wanted for the core of the dam.

(g) *Conservancy*.—The conservancy arrangements are entirely in the hands of the medical official. As the huts run along both sides of the dam there is a row of latrine trenches on each side also. These are about 200 yards away from the camps, and are marked by yellow flags. The workers have got into the habit of using them, and I saw no signs of nuisances within prohibited limits. Supplementary rows of smaller trenches are being dug close to the huts. These are intended for night use. I cannot help thinking these are a mistake. They only block up the open spaces round the huts, which are none too large considering the large crowd of people. The workers, too, will probably use them in the early morning to save themselves a longer walk. It is impossible to control their movements during the night; and if a strong staff of sweepers under a person with some authority is sent round the camps every morning nothing more should be required. As the hot weather advances this question of sanitation will become more and more important.

A burning ground for Hindus and a cemetery for Mussalmans have both been provided.

(h) *System of work*.—The recruiting ground is close to the tent of the officer in charge. All new applicants who have been registered and classified as workers by the Motamid are inspected here by M. Natha Singh, and are told off by him to dig, carry, or break clods, according to their condition and capacity. Their names are then entered in the pay sheets by a gang-writer, and the gangs are made up, care being taken to keep families together. The gangs are then given a mate and marched off to build their huts opposite the part of the dam on which they are to work. When the huts are finished—in from two to three days—the gangs are set to work on their tasks which have been already lockspitted on the ground. The gangs vary in size and constitution, but contain on the average from two to three diggers and six to seven carriers. One mate is in charge of three gangs. Each gang is given the excavation of a pit 20 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 6 feet deep. This is divided into three sections of equal size. When the first section has been dug to a depth of two feet the second section is begun, and so on, each section being deepened by two feet at a time until the pit is finished. The soil at Dholerao is very hard to work. It is very hard and stony, and is perfectly-dry. The lead at present is 150 feet; but as the bank grows and the borrow-pits retreat the carriers' work will increase. The present tasks for a man digger and two carriers (woman and working child) are as follows:—

Highest rate of wage for an outturn of 80 cubic feet and over.

Medium rate of wage for an outturn of 60 cubic feet and over.

Lowest rate of wage for an outturn of 40 cubic feet and over.

These are not heavy, but diggers have not yet got accustomed to the heavy earth, and only in exceptional instances earn even the medium wage. The gangs vary in size so much that it was difficult to work out the proportion of carriers for any given section of the work, but it struck me as low. Mr. Home told me that the diggers are not inclined to increase their outturn, being quite satisfied with the lowest wage. This was confirmed by a calculation of the cost of output of 1,000 cubic feet which I made for the last week in

October and the first week in December. The cost during the former week was just under Rs. 14 ; but during the latter this had been doubled. In working out the cost I took into account the wages of diggers, carriers, and clod-breakers. The chief reason for this deterioration has been the hordes of returning wanderers from Malwa, who rushed the works all through November. It was greatly to the credit of Munshi Natha Singh that he was able to keep these people employed at all. I would suggest that some system of ascertaining the yield per digger, per worker, and per unit relieved be worked out. The return, if made up every week, will show how the work is progressing, will be a useful indication of the state of discipline on the work, and will show at what rate its capacity is being exhausted. The question of cost of outturn, which is of so great practical importance when there is no dearth of useful projects, is really of little more than academic interest in Marwar under present conditions. Works are so hard to find, owing largely to the water difficulty, that the chief object of those in charge of the administration of relief is to make the schemes on hand last as long as possible. Measurements are made once a week, and the results are entered in the pay sheets.

The clod-breakers, who are all old and infirm or young children, are kept quite separate from the diggers and carriers. They work on the top of the bank in gangs of from 12 to 15 persons. They are distinguished in the returns as "daily labour" as opposed to the task-workers, to whom they stand approximately in the proportion of 1 to 8. Their names are registered on admission, but no muster rolls or pay sheets are kept up, as will be explained below.

(i) *Wages*.—The inmates of the hospital, poor-house and collecting-ground are fed from kitchens on the same cooked rations as are prescribed for persons on gratuitous relief elsewhere. These are—

Imperial chittaks.					
Men	...	...	...	...	10
Women	...	...	...	...	8
Children	7 to 12	...	...	...	6
„	under 7	...	...	...	4

The food is issued twice a day, and consists of maize and rice boiled up with water and salt. The workers of both classes are paid at the following rates, the figures representing Jodhpur pice :—

Rate.	Men.	Women.	Children
Highest	10	7	4
Medium	8	6	3
Lowest	6	4	3

There are 48 pice in the local rupee, which, at the present rate of exchange, is equal to 14 annas of Imperial currency. Considering the present rate of grain these rates are not illiberal ; and although the great majority of the people are on the lowest scale they seem to be in good condition. Some of them are evidently putting by a little money, as the head cashier's books show. Every morning the grain-dealers bring in loads of pice to the central treasury to exchange for rupees, and for the last six weeks the totals of these deposits have fallen short of the totals of wages actually paid on the works by from Rs. 80 to Rs. 130 per day, or over Rs. 700 per week on the average. This means a saving of 6 pice per head per week. This saving is by no means general, as those of the workers who offer pice to the cashier for change are generally mates or members of special gangs. The only suggestion I would make regarding the wages is that when the outturn is absurdly low fines might be exacted. Such fines should be rarely levied, as the Dholerao work, owing

to the bad water and the comparatively strict discipline, is by no means popular. A wholesale system of fining might have the effect of driving masses of people away, and the result would be a block on the other works.

(k) *Routine*.—Work goes on from 8 to 12 and from 2 to 6, the interval being spent in feeding and resting. There is no muster in the morning, the measurements having been hitherto accepted as a sufficient check of attendance in the pits. Payments are made in cash daily. The staff begin shortly after the people resume work in the afternoon. Each cashier is accompanied by the gang-writer and either a sub-overseer or a mistri. The former has the nominal rolls, and the latter his register, which shows only the serial numbers of the gangs with the numbers of men, women and children in each, and the last recorded weekly outturn of work. Each person is paid at the lowest rate on six days out of the seven. On Monday, when the results of the measurements are known, all who have earned a higher wage receive the extra allowance. All diggers and carriers are paid in this way. The clod-breakers or "daily labourers" are treated differently. The cashiers and executive staff keep no nominal registers of these people. In the morning, as soon as they are all assembled, they are numbered by a mistri, and the writers issue tickets to them. These tickets are of different colours for men, women and children. The people are then left practically in sole charge of their mates until the evening, when the payments are made. A cashier and writer go round the various gangs and issue pice in exchange for the tickets. This system was devised when the works was first started, and I can quite understand that it was the best that could be devised to meet the emergency. But it has obvious disadvantages. To begin with, the existence of two radically different modes of payment on the same work must breed confusion, and in time lead to fraud. The workers can and do change their gangs at will; and if the mates are dishonest or lazy there is little to prevent a carrier, woman or child, from attending the morning issue of tickets and evening payments, and yet draw a carrier's wage for work in the pits. A smart writer also could easily arrange for a private supply of tickets and reap a rich harvest, which he would share with the cashier. Then, if a "daily labourer" happens to be absent during the issue of tickets, he can draw no pay for that day. The ticket system also renders a close supervision of the attendance impossible. I know the staff is overworked; but I think that arrangements might be made to amalgamate the two sets of workers and gang them together, keeping the names of all on the same muster sheet. This will give trouble at first, but in a few days I should think that the extra labour would be very little more than that now required for sorting and issuing the tickets. As soon as payments are over the cashiers take their books to the head cashier, and are busy till late in the night making up accounts. The executive staff take their returns to the Officer in charge, and next day the latter compares notes with the motamid and chief cashier.

(l) *General*.—Considering the great difficulties that they have had to face, both the officer in charge and the motamid deserve every credit for the standard of efficiency to which they have brought this work. M. Natha Singh is evidently a person of considerable administrative ability and force of character. The suggestions I have made above are not intended to be in the way of criticism. I have been prompted to put them forward because he has now his staff so well in hand that I think he will be able gradually to carry them out.

7. (a) *Pali Tank*.—This work consists of the excavation of a tank by the side of the main road to the railway station, about a mile from the town. The spoil is thrown up in the shape of a large bank between the tank and the railway. As Pali is one of the collecting depôts for wanderers, the work has filled up very rapidly. In the last week the numbers have risen by 24 per cent. On the date of my visit 7,000 persons were on the work exclusive of dependants. No more can possibly be accommodated. The soil is very hard and quite as difficult to work as that at Dholerao. The organisation is on the same lines, but the tasks are appreciably lower. Although the camp is not one-third of

the size of Dholerao, it did not strike me as nearly so well managed. It has not been open for so long, and contains a mixed crowd of wanderers and unsatisfactory townsfolk, but there is room for improvement. The wages are paid in Imperial coinage, as Pali is a big market and is on the line of railway. They work out to a daily average per head of 13·3 pies. This is a fair subsistence wage, but I think that when the cost of outturn is worked out it will be found that the people are not doing enough. Pali is accessible and will always be popular, and the system of fines can be worked here much more freely. It would probably have the effect of weeding out an appreciable number of the people from Pali itself, who have not yet come to an end of their resources.

(b) *Poor-house and hospital.*—These are at present combined: The inmates are accommodated in a square block of old stables, the open verandahs of which are protected by rough sacking. On the outside there is an open enclosure in which mud huts are being built by famine labour. When these are ready, the poor-house people will be removed, and the stables will be left to the patients and their attendants. The institution has been open since the 16th October. It is in charge of the Hospital Assistant of the Pali dispensary, assisted by a compounder. On the date of my visit there were 101 patients, suffering chiefly from dysentery and guinea-worm. A small room in the corner of the building, but opening to the outside, is used as the contagious ward. It contains, at present, two cases of small-pox. As Pali is the great distributing centre for all the different relief camps in Marwar, a separate building should be arranged for as a segregation hospital. Free vaccination of all new arrivals will guard against small-pox, but if all contagious cases are to be accommodated in this ward, the danger of spreading infection will be very great, not only among the other patients, but through the works in progress at other centres. There is plenty of famine labour, and this should be utilised to build a fairly large hospital well away from the town and the works.

(c) *Distributing depôt.*—A large depôt has been established in the commodious yard of the cotton press belonging to Seth Chuni Lal. It is in charge of one of the State munsiffs. All new arrivals by train or road are received here and drafted on to works. At present these drafts are being sent by road to Kharra, 10 miles away. The sick are sent on to the hospital close by. On the occasion of my visit there were some two or three hundred people present. These were chiefly wanderers who had returned from Malwa. Those who belonged to the higher agricultural castes were in fairly good condition, and had both clothing and wraps. The menial castes were generally fine-drawn, and there were some distinct cases of emaciation. The people received cooked rations twice a day, based on the poor-house scale. The general management appeared to be faulty. None of the staff could explain intelligibly the system of drafting. The sleeping accommodation was defective; the higher castes appeared to receive the most attention, irrespective of their physical condition, and there seemed to be no arrangements for a regular daily medical inspection of the inmates. I feel sure that, if Misr Brahmā Nand, the resourceful Civil Superintendent of all the works under the Public Works Department, has time to reorganise this institution its usefulness will be greatly enhanced.

8. (a) *Bāvan-Marwar Railway.*—This is part of the through line which will eventually connect Calcutta and Karachi. This section stretches from Marwar Junction to the Merwara border in the hills, some 20 miles away, and runs through a very fertile country. As the question of the approach from the east to the main line of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway is still under discussion, work was begun at a point $\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from Marwar Junction. The earthwork of the first two miles has been finished, and the advance parties have reached the eighth mile. This is the lightest part of the whole section. The organisation is on the same lines as that of the Dholerao work, with a few important modifications.

The borrow-pits are 50 feet long by 10 feet broad by 2 feet deep. The huts are built with good mud walls, and in a few cases are roofed with *sirkhis*.

Most of the roofs are made of the *anjwal* bush, of which there is no scarcity. The workers are paid in Imperial coinage at the following rates :—

Class.	Men.	Women.	Children.
	A. p.	A. p.	A. p.
Special	2 6	2 0	1 0
Medium	2 0	1 6	0 9
Lowest	1 6	1 0	0 6

As the cheapest grain is selling at 9 chittaks for 1 anna, these rates are fair. All dependants receive doles of grain in the shape of parched gram and maize. The adults of both sexes receive 8 chittaks per day, and the children half that ration. The day before I visited the work the numbers on the rolls were :—

On task work	4,797
„ daily labour	3,688
Dependants and sick	2,156
Total	10,641

While the workers were being paid, I noticed that there were a good many Baroda half-anna pieces in circulation. I am told these are readily accepted by the bunnias at par value, but I think that the sooner they are got rid of the better.

(b) *Collecting dépôt.*—A collecting dépôt has just been established outside Marwar Junction Railway station. Only the bamboo frame-work of the enclosure has been erected as yet, and the staff are busy getting things into working order. Famine labour might be employed in making a stout mud wall all round, and in building huts. From 15 to 20 people arrive here daily, and are drafted on to Pali. In a short time the existence of this dépôt will become known, but the staff should be required to patrol the village and its approaches, and attend to necessitous cases. When we were returning from the earthwork camps after dark, we came upon three people lying near the railway who certainly required attention.

9. *Barmer extension.*—I hope to visit this work on my way to Jaisalmir, but do not wish to delay this note till my return.

10. *Civil Agency Works.*—While at Marwar I met M. Lachman Dass, the Forest Superintendent, who is in charge of all the works on the slopes of the Aravallis. He has six reservoirs on his programme. One of these, supporting over 500 people, is in hand now. The reservoir is being excavated on the piece-work system, at a fixed rate of Rs. 5 per 1,000 cubic feet. The other works will be consecutively taken up on the same principle. He has also given an order for the collection of two lakhs of bamboos, and this work will employ a large number of people for the next few months. A good many Grassias are making a livelihood by the collection and sale of fallen leaves. A certain amount of relief is undoubtedly being given in this tract, but the inspecting officer of the circle might be deputed to visit the Grassias and report on the arrangements for the future.

Poor-house, Nadelao.—This institution is located in an old palace about five miles away from the city on the high rocky plateau to the west. The Jaisalmir road passes close to the gate of the enclosure. In my note of 28th October last, written after visiting Jodhpur, I recommended that an organised attempt should be made to clear the city itself of beggars and wanderers, and to accommodate them in some large poor-house at some distance from the city.

The Nadelao poor-house is the result. The palace itself stands in a large compound surrounded by a high wall. There is a considerable garden with a good supply of water. The basement of the building consists of a great number of low-roofed chambers and passages, which give a large amount of accommodation, and fresh rooms are being built up against the surrounding wall. The establishment live in the upper rooms. The rooms in the upper storey are out of repair. There is also accommodation for some 300 persons in an adjacent building. This institution serves as a poor-house, a drafting centre, and a hospital combined. The superintendent is a paid servant of the State. He has one assistant, and there are two compounders. There are four good cooks, who are assisted by six persons selected from among the inmates. The place has been open for over six weeks now, and the number of inmates on the day of my inspection was as follows :—

Men	...	...	...	...	191 or 18 per cent.
Women	...	...	...	...	325 „ 30 „
Children	...	...	...	...	579 „ 52 „
Total					1,068

About one-tenth of these were attending hospital. During the previous five weeks drafting had been going on, and 780 persons had been sent on to one or other of the relief works in progress. Thirty-nine deaths had occurred, chiefly among the older inmates.

I examined the books of the poor-house, and found that the castes of the persons relieved were in the following proportion :—

No.	Caste.	Percentage of total.
1	Bhil	47
2	Jat	14
3	Bambhi	12
4	Rajput	6
5	Mussulman	4
6	Prohite	2.6
7	Mali	2.5
8	Others	11.9

If the Bhis are excluded, the comparatively large percentage of Rajputs is significant. There have been very few Bishnoi admissions; and from the very small number of names of menials on the register, it would seem as if these classes still found remunerative occupation in the city. Doubtless a very large number of the superior menial castes are making a fair living by carrying water into the city. When the new scheme for bringing water to Jodhpur is in working order, a large number of these people will be thrown out of work. The people are fed twice a day on doles of cooked food served hot. The food is a pottage of wheat or bajra and dal (moong) in the proportions of 8 to 1. Salt is added during the cooking, and once a week onions are given. No other vegetables are procurable for anything like a reasonable price. The daily expenditure, exclusive of the pay of the superintendent and his staff, averages Rs. 90 (Jodhpuri). This works out to an average per head per day of nearly As. 1. 2 (British). The scale of rations given below struck me as liberal. Possibly this was purposely arranged, as no ghi, oil or condiments are given,

and the supply of vegetables is so scanty. The quotations are in Imperial chittaks :—

	Chittaks.
Men	11½
Women	10
Children 7 to 11 years	6½
„ under 7 „	3

The Nadelao house is a purely private charitable institution, except for the fact that the services of the staff are lent free. Funds are supplied from subscriptions and donations given by the leading officials and gentlemen in Jodhpur, and I was assured that the committee of management will be able to maintain their present expenditure until the arrival of the monsoon. The committee is a strong one, and is presided over by Rao Bahadur Pandit Sukh Deo. They are doing an eminently useful work, and, as far as I could judge, they are doing it well. As they have practically taken so heavy a responsibility off the shoulders of the civil administration, I would suggest that the latter might assist them by adding to the overworked staff. I feel a certain amount of diffidence in venturing to put forward any advice when the subscribers and the committee have already done so much, but the demands upon them, both in the way of money and personal attention, would be eventually lightened if a regular system of labour were instituted. The inmates also should be required to vacate their quarters for a couple of hours daily, so that these may be thoroughly cleaned. Considering the large proportion of Bhils, the discipline is already good; but once a regular routine is established, even the Bhils will yield to pressure. An appreciable amount of remunerative work might be done. The adults and the sturdy boys whom I saw should certainly be organised into a band and set to clean up the garden and compound, to begin with at least. These are only suggestions, however, for further improving what is already not only one of the most useful branches of the general system of relief, but an indispensable complement of the others. It reflects credit on all who are concerned with it.

12. *Poota Hospital*.—A combined hospital and poor-house has been established by the Durbar close to one of the city gates on the edge of the circular road. The buildings consist of old stables which serve their purpose very well. Seth Rang Raj, one of the city bankers, is in unofficial charge, and a hospital assistant looks after the wants of the people, who are regularly inspected by the Residency Surgeon. At the date of my visit there were 114 men, 44 women, and 79 children. The great majority of these were under medical treatment, the remainder being in attendance on their sick relations. The patients received cooked food twice a day on the same scale as at Nadelao, except in cases where special diet is ordered by the medical authorities. There are two Brahmin cooks, who receive assistance when required from such of the patients or their friends as are fit for the work. The hospital is maintained entirely from State funds, and is in excellent order.

13. *Sursagar Orphanage*.—This is a purely private orphanage kept up by Rao Bahadur Pandit Sukh Deo. The orphans are housed in a building close to the old Residency at Sursagar just outside the city. The accounts are kept by one of the clerks in the Pandit's office, and the establishment consists solely of a paid cook, who prepares the food and sees to discipline among the children, of whom there are 50 already. Nine are Bhils, the rest being chiefly Rajputs and Prohits. They are all clothed in a distinctive uniform, and seemed to me to be in good condition and quite happy. It would be a good thing to give the bigger boys some occupation. The Rajputs should eventually make good recruits for the State Cavalry.

14. *Nagor Poor-house*.—A private poor-house is kept up at Nagor, in the north of Marwar by the agents of a wealthy Seth, a resident of the town, who has a large banking establishment at Hyderabad, Deccan. I was not able to

visit Nagor, but I understand that 1,500 people are given relief in the shape of grain doles every day. Some are given shelter in the out-houses on the Seth's property, but there is no regular organisation, and practically every applicant is fed irrespective of his necessity. Nagor is a very large centre with a resident Hakim, and I am strongly of opinion that efforts should be made to systematise relief giving in the town. The Seth's munificence is worthy of all praise, but is apt to have evil as well as good effects if discrimination is not exercised. There are others in the town who are also well to do, and their assistance should be obtained. There are great possibilities in Nagor. It is an important cattle market, and the Nagor breed of cattle is known and appreciated all over Upper India.

15. *Gratuitous relief.*—At present there is no organised system of gratuitous relief to people at their homes. I was told that a scheme is now under preparation, and district officials are employed in preparing lists of all persons who will require this form of assistance. This will require constant supervision, for no form of famine relief is more liable to abuse. If the inspecting officers of the three relief circles are active and on the alert and keep the local Hakims to their works, a good deal may be done in this direction.

16. *Other forms of relief.*—In all large towns a certain amount of indiscriminate charity is dispensed; and although this is not an unmixed good, it helps to lessen the general tale of suffering. In Jodhpur itself there are various private agencies at work. The better born poor, whose lot is cast in seclusion, and who are barred, both by circumstance and tradition, from making their necessities known, are being effectively relieved by those in the palace who can best sympathise with them. Some English ladies in Jodhpur also are arranging for a supply of warm clothes for the sick and infirm in various camps, and for the provision of light good food for the very young children. The missionaries take their share in the general scheme of mission relief, which has its centre in Beawar.

17. *Cattle.*—The cattle question is almost hopeless. At the cattle census taken during settlement ten years ago, the total number of buffaloes, bullocks, and cows was returned as 1,223,670. Everyone whom I consulted agreed that not 5 per cent. of these are left. There was exceptional mortality among the agricultural stock in three of the four years which preceded this famine, and in 1897 Jodhpur was largely drawn upon by adjacent British districts. In the seven months ending with 30th October last, the railway returns show that the hides of close on half a million animals were exported. Local officers calculate that fully 30 per cent. of the cattle in the State were removed by their owners in search of grazing, and only a minute proportion of those will ever return.

According to the Marwari proverb, "*Unth chodio akro, bakri chodio kakro*" (a camel will eat everything but the *ak* bush, and a goat everything but stones) one would expect that the majority of these animals would struggle through till the rains; but this is not the view of the local officials. I was assured that there had already been considerable mortality among both sheep and goats, and the camels had begun to suffer especially in the Malani pargana on the Jaisalmir border. I enquired into the history of the cattle in two villages. In the first, out of 1,000 head, only six she buffaloes and four pairs of plough bullocks were alive. In the second, out of over 400 head, only seven were left. None of the sheep and goats were left, and the camels had all been taken off to graze near the hills. The cattle that remained were being fed on stores of *pala* and *jal*, and even on the dried stalks of the *kair* bush.

18. *Conclusion.*—Mr. Home calculates approximately that, with the works now on the programme, he will be able to support 73,000 people till the middle of February, 67,000 till the end of April, 60,000 till the end of May, and 58,000 till the rains break in July. If no more works can be discovered near a good supply of water, it may be necessary, as time goes on, to put some of the workers on purely gratuitous relief. This should be avoided even if the expensive experiment of sinking artesian wells has to be tried.

Famine relief operations were started in Jodhpur on anything like an adequate scale nearly three months too late, but the change that has been worked since the beginning of November in spite of such a heavy handicap, is very remarkable. All classes, from the State officials down to the distressed people themselves, show palpable signs of the new life that has been infused into the administration. The Maharaja takes a close interest in all that is going on, and the Musahib Ala is a source of great strength.

It is very unfortunate that both should have been incapacitated at such a time. The various branches of relief are now in active progress, and the administrative machine is working smoothly on the whole. Two matters, however, call for close attention. One is that the Circle Inspectors and local Hakims be kept continually up to their work. The necessity of this is at once apparent from the fact that no deaths from starvation were reported in November. The difficulties of getting about Marwar are very great in a season like this, but the distant and secluded corners of the various revenue subdivisions are just the parts where the suffering is greatest, and which, therefore, require to be carefully watched. The other point is the establishment of a workable system of co-operation between the district officers, and this must include the organizing of a series of pickets for the control of wanderers along the main lines of traffic and close to the centres of relief. The Marwari is a wanderer by instinct, but none of the present generation have had any experience of a year like the present; and unless this habit is checked, an ever-increasing mortality is sure to occur.

MARWAR (Malani Pargana).

1. Through the kindness of the Resident I was allowed to accompany him on a tour partly by railway and partly by road through the Malani Pargana of Marwar. I was thus able to inspect both the railway relief camps and some works conducted by the Civil Agency. At Barmer I met and discussed the situation with Pandit Madho Pershad, superintendent, and with the Hakim of Barmer. Mr. Todd was good enough to show me some of the work going on under his direction.

2. *Railway slip siding.*—A long slip siding is now being made close to Barmer railway station. This is meant to save any train which may get out of hand coming down the steep gradient from the hills to the west. Only 200 people are employed at present; and as the lead is well over a quarter of a mile, there are from 4 to 6 carries to every digger. The wages are paid at the same rates as obtain on the large work described below. The soil is very light and the outturn is good, so that the work cannot be expected to last very long. I was told that it is intended to draft the people on to the large camp later on, but it appears to me that there is a good deal of useful work in and about Barmer itself. There is an abundant supply of stone on the hills less than a mile away, and the surplus famine labour might be employed on its collection. Barmer will always be a comparatively important railway centre, and this opportunity might be taken of building rough godowns for goods, walls for the station-yard and adjacent buildings, and so on. The people would be much more usefully employed than on making the road described below, and here also there is the ever present difficulty of dearth of works. Money has to be spent in feeding the people. The majority of applicants for relief are willing to work; and even if they are too unskilled to build, they can at least collect the material.

3. *Railway extension.*—The great majority of the famine labourers in this large pargana are employed on the railway between Balotra and the rail-head, which has now reached a point 30 miles to the west of Barmer. Most of these people are engaged in clearing the cuttings already made and in removing the heavy sand-banks on the windward side of the permanent way. The advance parties towards the rail-head do ballasting work. I visited the largest camp of all, situated about five miles to the west of Barmer. This forms the nucleus of a "charge" of 2,500 people. The officer in charge is a Permanent Way Inspector, whose head quarters are four miles further west at Jassia. The charge spreads over some 12 miles; and as there seems every possibility of a

steady increase to the present numbers, I think the time has come for splitting it up into two. The staff consists of one clerk, on Rs. 10, two treasurers, who are paid by the revenue department, and four of the Inspector's own permanent railway mates. The labourers are divided into gangs of 50 each, families being grouped together. Each gang has a mate selected from one of these families. The gangs begin work as soon as the sun is above the horizon, and stop at noon. They begin again about 2 p.m., and knock off at dusk. As the labour is chiefly the removal of large rolling sand-hills of every conceivable shape from the windward to the leeward side of the line, measurements are practically impossible. Discipline, therefore, depends upon the supervision of the railway mates and the officer in charge. Mr. Todd, who knows his men, and is constantly checking the progress of the work in his movements up and down the line, tells me that this supervision is considering the limited staff, effective. Most of the labourers are drafted from the collecting depôts at Balotra and Barmer, but some come direct from neighbouring villages. On admission their own names and the names of their villages are registered, and they are then ganged and set to build their own huts. Two days afterwards they are given a fixed section of the line. No daily muster is taken; but as the conditions of the camps are anything but comfortable, even from the standpoint of a dweller in the desert, and as the nearest villages are, as a rule, too far away for the people to visit them, even for a couple of days, there are no absentees. Payments are made every fourth day. The officer in charge, accompanied by a cashier and bags of pice, goes along the line on a trolley and pays each individual. There is a danger that any of the workers who happen to be absent for half an hour may not get their wage, but I failed to discover an instance of this, although I made minute inquiries among the people. They soon got to know on what day their pay is due, and they take very good care to be present. The scale of wages and the amount of grain these will purchase at present rates are as follows:—

Class.	A. P.	Chittaks
Gang mates	2 0	16
Men	1 9	14
Women	1 6	12
Working children	1 0	8
Non-working children	0 6	4
Infants at the breast	0 3	2

I went through the line of workers and visited some of the huts, and, judging from the condition of the former, the above scale appears to be sufficient. There were one or two complaints, chiefly about the children's pay, which was said to be small. I hope that, as soon as the charge is split up into two, daily payments will be introduced. I would suggest also that a notice board be erected opposite each gang showing in Hindi the exact scale of wages. These precautions will reduce the risk of fraud, which, at present, is not inconsiderable.

The huts are grouped on either side of the permanent way. They are made entirely of *ak*, the stems forming the frame-work, and the leaves the covering. Most of them have a small enclosure round about of the *pala* bush. The pits would make good sites for the huts, but the people say they are too cold and they prefer to camp on the top of the embankment. There is no difficulty at present about water, which the labourers fetch for themselves. Food is supplied by a bunnia of Barmer, who has two camp shops. The man himself lives at Jassia, but I inspected the grain in the other shop which is kept by the agent. The grain which was being actually sold at the time of my

visit, was wheat. It was sound but of inferior quality, and very much adulterated with dirt. The purchasers, however, were having it cleaned before weighing by a servant of the bunnias. This was all right so far as these individuals were concerned, but it does not follow that everyone takes the same precautions. The bajri was in good condition. The maize and gram were both weevil eaten. Among the former there was hardly a grain which had not been attacked. Colonel Adams, who was with us, did not consider either unwholesome, but both must have been distinctly deficient in nutritive power, and it therefore follows that the people who purchase it are not getting the full ration which their wages should enable them to procure. This bunnia has many advantages. He has the monopoly of supplying grain to 2,500 people, a chance few grain-dealers in Malani ever dream of, and the transport from Barmer costs him nothing, as he has a free pass for the construction trains. If he makes a profit of one pie per head per *diem*, he must be earning nearly Rs. 400 a month.

I had no means of testing his weights; but a man who will sell bad grain will have no scruple in using false weights. There were no complaints from the people about the quality of the grain, but many of them are probably in his debt. This man certainly requires to be looked after very closely indeed, and it would not be a bad thing to allow some others to come up the line on the same terms.

There is a hospital on the works in charge of a hospital assistant. We found a few cases of illness in the huts at some distance from the hospital. The hospital assistant says that the people refuse to come to the hospital, preferring to be looked after by their friends. This is not the case in other famine camps that I have seen. If proper arrangements are made, and each patient is allowed to have one of his or her relatives as attendant, there will be few refusals. The hospital assistant should also patrol the line daily if possible, and go through all the huts. It is quite probable that many of the people do not know that there is medical aid within reach. Such inspections also will prevent any epidemic from assuming serious proportions.

CIVIL AGENCY RELIEF.

4. *Poor-house.*—A poor-house was opened in the town of Barmer towards the end of September, and was removed to the sand-hills near the railway line in the beginning of November. The local schoolmaster is the superintendent. There is a large enclosure of stout *ak* stems laced together. The huts and sheds are made of the *pala* bush, with roofs of *sirkhis* or *sunnia* grass. There is ample room. There is a hospital shed on one side. The superintendent has a mate, on five annas a day, to assist him, and there are two cooks paid in kind and one sweeper family on Rs. 5 per month. The inmates are divided into two classes. The first contains the usual sick, crippled, lunatics, and infirm. The second is made up of weak and emaciated people, who only require a few days' careful treatment and feeding up to enable them to take their place on the works. The register showed the following inmates as present on the day of my visit :—

	Men	Women.	Children.	Total.
Class I.	26	24	4	54
„ II.	25	24	17	66

Class II. is likely to gradually diminish in numbers as the supervision of the local Hakims over their respective charges becomes more effective. Drafting from this class is regularly kept up.

The people are fed once a day—at noon—on food cooked inside the enclosure. The food consists of *dalliu* made of *bajri* and *mung dal*, with salt added during cooking. There is no scale of rations. Each person is allowed

to eat as much as he likes. I was told that the cost of the food works out to 1 anna (Imperial) per head per day. This seems to me excessive. I feel sure that, with a little more care, not only will it be found possible to give two meals a day, but the expenditure will be cut down. I question the wisdom of giving people as much food as ever they can eat once a day, and this custom must be dangerous in the case of those who are emaciated owing to want of food. No doubt such are admitted to the hospital, but it is quite possible that before the doctor can see a man who has been starving for some time, the latter will have been given a full meal, with results that can be easily imagined. The mahajans of Barmer have raised a fund from which is defrayed half the cost of this institution, the Jodhpur Darbar paying the other half. A few of the inmates do a little spinning and grinding, but there is no methodical system of work, and the children are all idle. The great cry from all the works in Malani at present is for more carriers' baskets, and it would pay to secure the services of one or two professional basket-makers, who could teach the people to make baskets and keep them at work.

Since the beginning of December, I am told, the poor-house is visited once a day by the hospital assistant in charge of the local dispensary. This medical visitation is most important. I saw one or two cases of marked emaciation among the newcomers, and there were two serious cases of disease in the hospital. I would suggest that the mate who is supposed to be always on duty, and who seems an intelligent man, should be given some Mellin's Food for special cases. He can be taught how to give it. If he is not to be trusted, then there should be a strict rule that every person manifestly suffering from hunger or disease should be inspected and treated immediately on arrival by the Hospital Assistant.

5. *Distributing Depot*.—A camp has been formed just outside the poor-house for the collection of applicants for relief and their distribution among the different camps. No attempt has been made as yet to make any enclosure or to build huts. The people are registered on arrival, and told to sit down on the sand-hills until they are formed into gangs and their destination is fixed. This process takes from two to three days, and during that time the people are idle. Eighteen hundred people were collected on the date of my visit. These were divided into 36 gangs of from 30 to 40 persons, with one mate over each gang.

They are paid during detention on the following scale :—

Class.	A.	P.
Mates	1	3
Men	1	0
Women	1	0
Children above 7	0	9
.. below 7	0	6

Payments are made daily in Jodhpuri pice, but just now these have the same purchasing value as British copper coin. Muster is taken while payments are being made. This institution is a very necessary one under present conditions in Malani, but requires to be thoroughly organized. A reliable superintendent should be appointed with at least a couple of intelligent mates under him. The mates might be selected from the applicants and kept with their families permanently attached to the camp. The first thing to do is to make a wall all round the camp. There are any amount of stones to be had for the picking up on the hills close by. Then stone walls for the sheds should be built and roofed with *ak* stems and *sunnia* grass, if that is obtainable. All new arrivals should be employed on this work until they are drafted elsewhere. A small permanent gang of about 20 people could be kept up to show newcomers what to do. Very few tools will be required. Several of the people themselves asked to be given work, as they object to receiving gratuitous relief. As things at present stand, a considerable amount of useful labour is being thrown away.

The people I saw were chiefly Jats, but there were a few Bishnois, Brahmins and Kumhars. They were all in good condition, and, as a rule, well clothed. The hospital assistant should be required to include this camp also in his daily rounds. I saw one case which was fit for the hospital. The water-supply is not good. From what I gathered, the supply at Barmer generally is not very full, and I would suggest that some system be organised for its protection and distribution.

6. *Station road*.—A road is now being made from the town to the railway station. Earth is taken from burrow pits on either side. As the soil is very sandy, this work is of questionable utility, unless it is meant to lay down metal later on. A few duststorms will otherwise soon remove all trace of what is being done. One hundred and fifty persons, divided into three gangs, are on this work just now. They are paid at the following rates :—

Class.	A.	P.
Mates	2	0
Men	1	9
Women	1	6
Children above 7	1	0
„ below 7	0	9

7. *Jallipa Tank*.—This work consists of excavation of a tank close to the village of Jallipa some 7 miles to the north of Barmer. The officer in charge is a Hindi-knowing moharrir, who was formerly employed in Jodhpur. He does everything down to measurements, and is assisted by six mates selected from the coolies. The work was opened on 2nd of November, and on the date of my visit 179 people were employed. These are paid at the following rates :—

Class.	A.	P.
Mates	2	0
Men	1	9
Women with infant	1	9
„ alone	1	6
Children above 12	1	0
„ „ 7	0	9
„ below 7	0	6

No one is admitted without the order of the Hakim of Barmer. I was told that new arrivals are reported to the Hakim; and until the orders of that officer are received, they receive a "subsistence" allowance. The work is professedly intended for the members of the respectable castes (*izzatdar*), so it is evident that all and sundry are not admitted. The meaner applicants are referred to the distributing depôt at Barmer. Payments are made daily, and one week's supply of pice is kept in reserve. Measurements are said to be carried out once a week, but the moharrir failed to produce any record of these. The amount of work done really depends upon the state of discipline maintained. The people all belong to seven or eight of the surrounding villages. The water is brought by famine labour from a well 2 miles away.

8. *Sheo Tank*.—Sheo is a large village 32 miles from north of Barmer and close to the border of Jaisalmir. The workers are employed in excavating a fairly large tank on the outskirts of the village. The spoil forms a bank on one side only. The officer in charge is a Potedar in the permanent service of the State, and draws Rs. 12 per month. On the day I inspected the tank, 115 people were employed. These mainly belong to the village of Sheo, and I found representatives of all the prevailing castes. There were Rajputs, Charans, Mahajans, Malis, Bambias, and even some Musalmans. They were

split up into two gangs with a mate over each. The work was opened on 3rd September, the sanctioned estimate being Rs. 1,500. This was all spent by the 5th December, a period of 92 days. Thus, Rs. 16-5-0 has been the daily average expenditure on pay. If the Potedar's pay is deducted, this means a daily average attendance—at nine persons per rupee per day—of 143 people. The old returns were not available, but I very much doubt if the total on the work ever reached 120. This might be enquired into with advantage. The following is the scale of daily wages:—

Class.	A.	P.
Men diggers	2	0
„ carriers	1	9
Women with infants	1	9
„ alone	1	6
Children above 7	0	9
„ below 7	0	6

The above figures represent Jodhpuri pice, which do not seem to have quite the same purchasing value as they possess nearer the railway. There are 51 pice in the rupee, which can buy at present 6 seers 10 chittaks of the cheapest grain, so that the daily wage of a man digger can buy 16½ chittaks. If the above figures, for which I am indebted to the local Hakim, are correct, the wages are reasonable. At first payments were made every third day; they are now made every second day. It would be quite easy to pay such a small number of people every day. The daily task is said to be 100 cubic feet of hard clay per digger per day, and I was assured that this is generally performed. As I could unearth no record of measurements, and the laying out of the tasks on the ground was by no means regular, I think this is open to doubt. The soil is a hard clay, and it would take a really good digger accustomed to this class of work all his time to do the prescribed task. Good water is obtained from a well in the bed of the tank, and there seems no lack of grain in the village. The people appeared contented, and I heard no complaints.

9. *Cattle*.—The district of Malani, lies between Marwar proper and the vast sandy desert of Jaisalmir. Its general configuration, climate and physical conditions, no less than the habits and character of its population, mark the transition between the general features of these two great tracts. Agriculture, which forms the main concern of the vast majority of the inhabitants of Jodhpur, and is of such small concern in Jaisalmir, is practically confined to the tract on the east traversed by the Luni river. Over the east of the district the chief interest of the people lies in their cattle. According to the last census there are 72 persons to the square mile in Jodhpur, 7 in Jaisalmir, and about 24 in Malani. Statistics of the cultivated areas are unfortunately not obtainable; but if we exclude the Luni valley, the amount of land annually put under the plough is of little account. The scanty and uncertain rainfall which admits of unirrigated crops being raised only in the most spasmodic way, and the curious aversion of the people to sink new wells, both combine to reduce agricultural operations to a minimum. The majority of the peasantry are graziers and cattle-dealers and a total failure of one or even two harvests would affect them but slightly, provided that grazing was left for their animals. Unfortunately, for two years past, the grazing has been poor, and this year it has completely failed. The resulting distress exceeds anything within the experience of the oldest inhabitant of Malani. The total population of the pargana was recorded as 221,000 at the last census, and the number of cattle (bullocks, cows and buffaloes) is estimated by the local officers to have been 400,000 before the famine began. The same authorities state that only 2 per cent., or 8,000 of these are remaining. There are 509 villages in Malani. Each of these is surrounded by a few outlying settlements (*dhanis*). These latter are entirely deserted, so that the local estimate of the loss of cattle from death and migration would give an average of 16 head now present in each village. Judging from what I saw of the villages on a tour of 54 miles along one of the main lines of road, I do not consider that this is under the mark.

The questions as to how many cattle have died and how many will return are beset with much more difficulty. Sixty thousand persons, or 27 per cent. of the total population, are said to have emigrated. From inquiries which I made from all classes of the community, I gathered that these people took with them about 80,000 head of cattle, and that only about 60 per cent. of the animals will return. The majority of the remainder will be sold, but some will die. Of the 8,000 which still survive in the pargana, only 5,000 will pull through till next rains. In August next, therefore, the total of the cattle will be about 53,000. This means that, by that time, the people will have lost 87 per cent. of their assets. At the modest rate of ten rupees per head, this loss amounts to nearly thirty-five lakhs of rupees.

After the agricultural stock the sheep have suffered most, and the loss in wool will be very great. The goats and camels are still holding out very well, but the milk of the former is not up to its usual standard of quantity or quality, and the working powers of the latter already show signs of decline.

10. *Emigration.*—As stated above, some 60,000 persons are believed to have emigrated. These are chiefly Bhils, Megwals, and the class known as Sindhis. Few, if any, have gone to the Malwa, which was the main direction of the trek from Marwar proper. The majority are in the habit of leaving their homes every year some time in March and returning with the first shower of rain. They have gone to their old haunts in Sindh, and will have little difficulty in supporting themselves till the famine is over. Of the remaining 1,610,000, some 14,000, or 23 per cent., are now in receipt of relief. The Superintendent thinks that, in time, another 10,000 or 11,000 will come on to the works, and that, by the end of April, there will be 25,000 people, or nearly one-half of the resident population, dependent on State aid. The present programme is certainly not sufficient for that number, but Mr. Todd has already shown so much resource in accommodating the numbers he has done, that there will be no anxiety for the next three months. During this period no pains should be spared to discover new projects to meet the increased demand for labour. Water will always be the great difficulty. It is quite possible, with more careful organisation, to expand the operations of the civil agency and largely increase their usefulness. But before this can be done, the faults in the present system of working should be remedied. This remark is not made in any spirit of criticism. I fully appreciate the great difficulties the local Hakims have had to contend with. The Superintendent of Malani is both able and energetic, and has accomplished much already in spite of a very weak staff and in the face of many difficulties peculiar to his charge. The State has now received a loan from Government which will be paid in British coin. Steps should, therefore, be taken to organise all relief works on the same principle, and, if possible, to pay the workers at uniform rates in British pice. As additional staff becomes available tasks should be more rigidly enforced, and measurements should be regularly carried out. At the same time, the Hakims and the whole subordinate staff should be made to raise their own standard of supervision and work up to that of their present chief.

No. 156.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 755 F., dated Camp, the 24th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 453 F., dated the 21st December 1899, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Statement for the Jaipur and Kishangarh States

submitted by the Resident, Jaipur, for the month of December 1899, together with a map showing the degrees of the density of distress in the different districts.

2. In Jaipur the numbers on relief works have increased from 25,400 in November to 33,338. The increase in Kishangarh has not been large, viz., 6,685, as against 6,260 in the preceding month. The numbers on gratuitous relief are 7,017 in Jaipur and 2,233 in Kishangarh. The corresponding figure in November for Kishangarh was 2,000.

3. The Resident has not offered any remarks on the situation in this report, but a copy of a separate report, dated 1st January 1900, which he lately submitted referring to the same period is enclosed for the information of the Government of India.

4. Mr. Irwin has lately completed an extensive tour through the Kishangarh State, and has satisfied himself that the relief operations there are adequate. My own enquiries made during my recent visit to the State lead to the same conclusion. In Jaipur which I have also visited during the present month, the famine arrangements are, so far as I was able to judge, distinctly good. The Darbar is spreading liberally and judiciously to alleviate the distress of those of its subjects who are seriously affected by the scarcity. Its organisation is generously supported by private charity, in which the Rev. Dr. Macalister of the United Presbyterian Mission is one of the ablest and most energetic promoters.

5. I have the honour to enclose also a copy of the most recently revised statement of relief works in the Kishangarh State which was submitted to me by the Dewan during my recent visit to that State.

Enclosure in No. 156.

Famine Statement for the Month ending 31st December 1899.

State	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaipur ...	14,465	2,325	10,926	2,026	33,338	7,017
Kishangarh ...	858	126	858	126	6,685	2,233

1. *Jaipur*.—There has been no very marked change in the conditions since my last report.

2. A relief camp has been opened near the city for distressed inhabitants, and it now contains 1,126 persons who are employed in the reclamation of an old nulla bed.

3. The latest figures of labourers on relief and other works by the State are 33,338, of whom 15,423 are engaged on the Rewari-Phalera Railway. In addition some 7,000 persons are reported to be employed on relief works in villages owned by private persons.

4. 6,505 persons are returned as being in receipt of gratuitous relief and 512 are fed at the Jaipur work-houses.

5. 954 deaths from supposed starvation have been reported in Jaipur territory since the scarcity began, but these are supposed to have been mostly

destitute immigrants, mainly from Marwar. The condition of the Jaipur people remains wonderfully good. I crossed last month the best part of 200 miles among villages from 16 to 50 miles away from Jaipur city, and only saw about 20 persons (including children) showing great emaciation. Most of them I sent to the Jaipur and Sambhar poor-houses.

6. There was during the month a sharp outbreak of cholera at Chirawa and Khetri, but this seems to have now died out, or nearly so. There have also been many deaths from something very like cholera on the Jaipur-Bikaner border, but it is doubtful whether the disease is more than severe diarrhœa induced by the consumption of unwholesome food among famine-stricken immigrants.

7. The Chirawa Seth have, I am informed, been exceedingly liberal in giving food to starving people.

8. About 7,500 people are said to have left their homes since the famine developed, some with cattle, some in search of employment. A good many of these have, it is believed, found work in the State.

1. *Kishangarh*.—There is not much to report from Kishangarh where things are much as they were a month ago.

2. Three new irrigation tanks have been sanctioned: a tannery is under construction, in which it is intended to give employment to Chamars and people of that class, and an orphanage has been opened in which between 40 and 50 children have been admitted already. Carpet-making arrangements have also been made to provide employment at their own homes, and their own occupations for weavers and artisans who are not a success on works.

Altogether Kishangarh is showing the most praiseworthy enterprise and energy in dealing with its difficulties.

3. The last figures are on relief works 6,685, on gratuitous relief 2,233.

The Darbar reports no death from starvation among its own subjects, though there have been deaths of immigrants from Jodhpur and Jaipur in dbaramsalas and dispensary.

4. 183 men and 27 cattle are reported to have emigrated during December, while 893 people and 310 cattle came in to the State.

No. 157.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 756 F., dated Camp, the 24th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 560, dated the 30th December 1899, forwarding the Bharatpur Famine Report for November 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of that State for the month of December 1899.

2. The situation at Bharatpur remains much the same as reported before, and so far no acute distress has been felt.

3. Altogether 12,298 persons were employed on the last day of the month on civil works and 11,182 on works under the Public Works Department.

—	Works.	Gratuitous	Total
November ...	8,000	700	8,700
December ...	12,298	973	13,271

to the destitute and for tending the sick.

4. Relief works are for the most part irrigation schemes and communications under the control of the Public Works Department. The condition of the labourers was generally good, and no deaths from starvation or any cases of contagious disease were reported.

5. Prices of food-grains ruled lower, and stocks were plentiful owing to large importations. Fodder supplies also were reported to be sufficient.

Enclosure in No. 157.

Famine Statement for the Month ending 31st December 1899.

(Extract.)

State.	Area.	Population in Thousands	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bharatpur ...	1,974.07	639,000	700	250,000	1,116 Civil Agency Works 11,182 P. W. D. Works	81

REMARKS.

Private Relief.—His Highness the Maharaja distributes daily from his private purse 8 maunds 10 seers of parched gram to 660 poor men at Muttra-Darwaza Railway Station and Deorhi, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer being given to each person. On Christmas Day His Highness distributed 4 maunds of grain.

Village and Poor-house Relief.—(a) Three poor-houses have been opened at Kama, Dig and Weir at the cost of Rs. 75-8-11 each per mensem from the 28th December 1899. The money was advanced by His Highness out of the contributions from temples. The work is conducted by the Revenue Department; one private poor-house is maintained near the city by the public subscriptions.

Clothes were supplied to inmates of the poor-house. His Highness gave 648 blankets and 375 coats and trousers to be distributed to the poor on the 1st January 1900.

The sick are fed as directed by the Hospital Assistant on duty.

No contagious disease among them.

General Character of Relief Works.—Relief works of digging ponds are in progress under the superintendence of the Revenue Department. Men engaged on them and those getting gratuity numbered 1,158. Wages are paid daily. Besides this many people are given relief on works in progress in Public Works Department.

Physical Condition.—The condition of labourers is generally good.

Deaths, if any, from Starvation.—No such deaths appear to have occurred.

Food-stocks.—There is no danger of grain being scarce, as besides the local grain stocks, much grain is imported from British territory.

Rates are as follows :—

—	Wheat.	Gram.	Bejhar.	Jowar.	Gojri.	Bajra.	TL.
By the end of November	Srs. ch. 9 15	Srs. ch. 11 11	Srs. ch. 11 12	Srs. ch. 10 10	Srs. ch. 10 12	Srs. ch. 10 0	Srs. ch. 8 14
By the end of December	10 12	12 4	12 8	12 0	11 12	10 8	8 4

The latter rates are favourable and it is due to much grain being imported from outside.

Importation of Grain.—Much grain is imported from outside. Quantity of grain imported cannot be ascertained as the import duty has been suspended.

General Condition and Prospects of Affected Area.—No change in condition has been effected as winter showers have not fallen yet. Cultivators are watering fields with well water, and many other men are engaged on relief works, and the unfit get gratuitous relief. Rs. 21,000 were sanctioned for the civil Agency works besides Public Works Department Works.

Change in Rates of Wages.—Wages are given on civil agency works, according to the Famine Code at the rates reported for the previous months.

Emigration.—None have emigrated ; some men go to neighbouring places for cultivation and come back when work is done.

Other Matters.—Condition of cattle is good. Fodder is sufficient. In villages where water is scarce, it is obtained from neighbouring places. If winter showers fall, there will be no danger, but if they fail, crops will be liable to damage, generally at villages having brackish water, and in some cases, in "Sairabi" lands, &c.

No. 158.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 758 F., dated Camp, the 25th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 477 F., dated the 22nd December 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Bikaner State for the month of November 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of that State for the month of December 1899.

2. The increase in the number of persons on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief is shown in the table beneath :—

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total
October	15,852	3,507	19,359
November	23,007	5,848	28,855
December	27,600	7,263	34,863

The expenditure on famine during the month of December amounted to Rs. 72,205-15-9. The charitable relief fund opened by the Seths of Bikaner reached a total of Rs. 275,000.

3. Ten relief works were in progress on the last day of the month. Of these 4 were irrigation works. Of the others the principal is the earthwork on the Palana Surpura-Railway extension which gave employment to 12,456 persons.

4. A considerable number of emigrants were brought back from Ajmer during December, and arrangements have been made to bring back those still remaining in the Jaipur State.

5. The free importation of grain continues. The physical condition of the people is well maintained, and no deaths occurred from starvation. The rate of wages remains unchanged.

6. The interest which His Highness the Maharaja has displayed in the relief arrangements from the outset continues unabated. There is no question but that an immense amount of distress in the State has been and is being prevented or diminished. A copy of the Famine Commissioner's printed* note, dated 8th December 1899, in which he describes the situation in Bikaner as "highly satisfactory," is appended.

Enclosure in No. 158.

Famine Statement of the Bikaner State for month ending the 31st December 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bikaner ...	22,340 square miles.	832,000	22,340	832,000	26,670 plus 930 employed on Bikaner - Bhatinda Railway work which is done by contract=27,600.	7,263

Remarks.

I. *Private relief.*—Private charitable relief is decreasing since the opening of State relief works. The subscription collected from private individuals has reached the total of Rs. 2,75,000. The list is still in circulation.

II. *Village and Poor-house relief.*—There are two poor-houses open, viz., (1) Bhivasar, (2) Sheobari, where the old and infirm and pardanashin women are fed.

III. *General character of relief works.*—Of the works in progress mentioned in the previous report, the work of filling up the tank near Ratanbehariji's temple at Bikaner was completed on 7th December 1899, and the workers were then drafted to railway earthwork on Palana extension. The only new work opened during the month under report was that referred to in the report for November 1899, viz., the removal of part of the city wall with a view to rebuilding it so as to enclose an increased area.

IV. *Physical condition of the people.*—The physique of the people continues to be good.

V. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

* Not printed.

VI. *Food-stocks and importation of grains.*—Importation of grain from out-stations continues.

VII. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—As previously reported, but adequate arrangements are being made to provide works for the needy and to relieve the distressed.

VIII. *Changes in the rates of wages.*—No notable changes during the month.

IX. *Emigration or immigration.*—About 375 emigrants were brought back from Ajmer, and arrangements have been made to send back those found in Jaipur through the Bikaner Vakil stationed there.

X. *Adequacy of food rations.*—Rations continue to be given to workers and persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in the quantities previously described.

XI. *Famine fund and its expenditure.*—The famine expenditure during the month of December 1899 amounted to Rs 72,205-15-9.

No. 159.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 783-F., dated Camp, the 30th January, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 558, dated 30th December, 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra in the Mewar State for the month of November, 1899, I have now the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 23, dated 6th January, 1900, from the Resident, Mewar, and the accompanying reports of these same tracts for the month of December, 1899.

2. In the Kotra District 165 persons were employed on relief works on the last day of the month, and works were also opened in Kherwara, but too shortly before the submission of the report to allow of any detailed information being given. Gratuitous relief was afforded to 331 persons in Kherwara, and to 236 in Kotra. Eighty deaths are reported from Kherwara and 18 from Kotra, The majority of these are attributed to the after effects of insufficient nourishment.

3. Since the date of my last report effect has been given to the arrangements therein indicated as necessary in these remote and sorely troubled tracts. The Government of India have sanctioned liberal advances for the purchase of food-grains and for local relief works. An addition has been made to the staff. Relief operations have been started independently of the Darbar. The situation in these parts, and the means for alleviating it, have been so fully discussed in separate reports and correspondence that they require no further notice here.

Enclosure 1 in No. 159.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 23, dated the 6th January, 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Famine *Statements of the Kherwara and Kotra Bhumats for the month of December, 1899.

The Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, has brought to notice the lawless conduct of the Bhils of certain khalsa villages in the hilly tracts

* With maps in duplicate.

of Mewar. I have addressed the Darbar regarding the necessity of opening suitable relief works for these Bhils and for keeping them in proper control, pointing out that if once the Bhils of one Pal get out of hand other Pals will follow suit, and the Darbar will in the end have a general Bhil rising on their hands,

Enclosure 2 in 159.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st December, 1899.

(To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next month.)

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar Bhumat Hilly Tracts.	900 square miles.	50	The whole.	50	Relief works just started; no reports received as yet.	200 received relief from Kherwara Charitable Kitchen throughout the month; 470 were sent to relief works, being sufficiently re- covered on 22nd December. Darbar kitchen fed 81. Mis- sion fed 50.

Remarks.

Relief works.—Works have been started too lately for any detailed information to be given.

Private relief and Darbar relief.—A grant of Rs. 3,500 has been given by the Central Charitable Relief Fund, of this Rs. 1,100 has been sent to Kotra. The Darbar has sent 4,000 Udaipuri Rs. = 2,660 Rs. Imperial, of this $\frac{1}{3}$ has been sent to Kotra.

The inhabitants of Kherwara subscribe Rs. 380 monthly and outside friends Rs. 50 per mensem. Gifts of money for blankets have also been received. The amount of good done has been very great, and at least 700 lives have been saved. The Mission also support 50 people.

Deaths.—Eighty deaths have taken place at the dispensary and kitchen, nearly all from after effects of starvation. Patients seem to be getting on all right for 15 days after admission when diarrhoea and dysentery set in and death ensues. The difficulty lies in the fact that a Bhil looks on robbery as honourable and accepting charity as dishonourable.

Relief works in Khalsa Bhumats and villages.—I can hear of no relief works in the khalsa villages of Valicha, Banjaria and Tom or in the Bhumat villages of Patia and Sarwaid which are under the Magra Hakin. The Bhils of these places are utterly out of hand and have taken to plundering far and wide. Unless the Darbar provide work for these starving and desperate men, a collision with the troops under my command is inevitable.

No. 160.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 778 F., dated Camp, the 30th January 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 559, dated the 30th December 1899, forwarding the Famine Report of the Dholpur State for November 1899, I have

now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Report of that State for the month of December, 1899.

2. There is at present no famine in the Dholpur State, and no relief works will be necessary until after the rabi crop has been harvested, when works may be required to support a maximum number of 7,000 persons for 3 months. The Darbar propose to sink wells in the Dang portion of the territory where water is scarce, and to commence work as soon as practicable. The rabi outturn is estimated at 8, 12 and 6 annas in the rupee in the Dholpur, Mania and Bari districts, respectively. No scarcity is apprehended, as food-stocks are reported to be abundant and are being further supplemented by large importations.

3. The Darbar now explain that further enquiries have elicited that, of the 156 persons reported in their statement for November as emigrants, only 94 can be properly classed under that head, and these are expected to return early, as they left only to avoid payment of the revenue demand.

4. There is still sufficient fodder for present needs, and the cattle are in good condition.

5. There has been no marked change in the condition of the people or rate of wages since last report.

6. During my visit to Dholpur on the 24th to 26th January, I discussed the situation and prospects at length with the Political Agent, the Maharaj Rana and the Diwan. The only pressure comes from high prices. The wave of immigration has ceased. Supplies are abundant, and the young crops, already fair, will be much improved if the rain which is falling in adjacent districts reaches the Dholpur State.

Enclosure in No. 160.

Famine Statement for the month ending the 31st December 1899.

Name of State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dholpur ...	766,237 acres, or 1,197 square miles.	291,000	383,181 acres, or 598 square miles, i.e., half the State.	145,500	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>

REMARKS.

The test work opened on November 27th was closed on December 24th, on which date 222 persons were employed.

Dholpur, the 5th January, 1900.

A. N. THORPE,
State Engineer.

Private relief.—Some Rajputana refugees have received private relief when passing through the State.

Villages and poor-house relief.—None has been given during the month.

General character of relief works.—The test work which was opened on 27th November was closed again on December 24th, as only ordinary labourers, who are in no way "Famine-stricken," came upon the work, and refused to work properly owing to the small rates given (rates were given strictly in accordance with the Famine Code), notwithstanding fines and other means

taken to get a fair amount of work out of them. Owing to the refusal of Government to sanction the realignment scheme of the Indian-Midland Railway, other schemes for relief are now being considered. Except in the "Dang," there will be no need of relief work until after the rabi has been harvested. During March, April, May and June a few fairly large works may be required. In the Dang it is proposed to sink wells in all villages where water is scarce, and to commence this work as soon as funds are available for the purpose.

Physical condition of people.—No change reported.

Death, if any, from starvation.—No cases of emaciation or starvation have yet been reported; a few cases of emaciation among the Marwaris passing through from Rajputana have been privately relieved.

Food-stocks.—Are ample. A brisk import and export trade is being carried on.

Importation of grain.—27,319 maunds were imported by railway during the month.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—In Dholpur, Mania, and Bari the rabi prospects are estimated at 8, 12, and 6 annas in the rupee, respectively.

Changes in rates of wages.—Nil.

Emigration.—The district officials seem to have misunderstood the term "Emigration." Enquiries have been made into the numbers given in November report, and of these only the following should be classed as emigrants :—

Baseri	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Kolari	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

or 94 instead of 156 reported. Most of these 94 appear to have left to avoid paying their revenue, and are expected to return at once. During December 350 persons are reported to have left their villages in Rajakhera district.

The matter is being enquired into, as these persons have most probably not left the State.

Emigration from other tahsils has stopped. The tahsildars report that during November it is usual for the people to move about.

Immigration.—During the month the following persons have agreed to settle in the State :—

—	Persons.	Cattle	District from which emigrated.
Rajakhera	76	228	British territory, Gwalior, and Jodhpur.
Baseri	12	218	Bharatpur.

A great number of persons and cattle are still passing through the State.

Other matters.—Cattle are in fair to good condition. A few deaths from small-pox have been reported from Gird and Kolari Tahsils. Foot and mouth disease has also been reported from Kolari and Gird. This disease has been brought into this State by the cattle of refugees from other States. Fodder is scarce, but there is still sufficient for present needs. The greatest scarcity is now in Kolari. There is no scarcity of water except in villages previously reported. Prices have been steady with a slight rise during the month.

C. HERBERT, Major,
Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana.

Bharatpur, the 12th January, 1900.

No. 161.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 840-F., dated Camp, the 4th February, 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 141 I.-A., dated 8th January, 1900, I have the honour to forward extracts

from the letter noted in margin from the No. 80, dated the 28th January, 1900. Resident, Mewar, and of its enclosure, and to request that unless there be any objection, Lieutenant-Colonel Bignell may be given a credit of Government Rs. 12,000 on Bombay and Rs. 28,000 on Cawnpore, instead of a single credit for the whole sum of Rs. 40,000 on the latter place.

Enclosure 1 in No. 161.

Extract from a letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 80, dated 29th January, 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith copy of letter No. 88 G., of the 22nd instant, from the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, and, with reference thereto, to request that, instead of a credit of Rs. 40,000 on Cawnpore, Lieutenant-Colonel Bignell may be given a credit of Rs. 12,000 on Bombay and Rs. 28,000 on Cawnpore as desired by him.

Enclosure 2 in No. 161.

Extract from a letter from the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, to the Resident, Mewar, No. 88 G., dated 22nd January, 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 113, of 16th January, 1900, giving cover to First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana's No. 678 F.-C., of the 13th January, 1900, I have the honour to state that I see no reason to modify the arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 of the latter communication, unless the Government of India would let me have 12,000 Imperial rupees at Bombay and 28,000 at Cawnpore. This would enable me to buy grain, such as Danubian makki, from Ralli Brothers, and other Bombay grain merchants. Still, if any inconvenience would be caused, I do not press the matter.

No. 162.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 891-F., dated Camp, the 7th February, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Statements of the Bauswara State and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of November, 1899, and of the Partabgarh State and the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of December, 1899.

2. The Bauswara report for November shows that the whole area of the State was equally affected, and therefore no map is forwarded with it. Half the Bhil population and 25 per cent. of the remaining castes are reported as distressed, but their physical condition is described as fair. Fifty persons were gratuitously relieved, and 161 were employed on relief work, which consisted of tank excavation.

3. Prices are reported as being nearly double the normal rates, but the food-stocks were being replenished by importations.

In the State of Partabgarh the numbers on relief works in December are returned as 1,932, and in receipt of gratuitous relief as 35. The relief works consisted of deepening the Partabgarh tank, sinking new wells, and improving old wells. The general condition of the people is reported to be good, though fever and small-pox were prevalent in some villages. Local food-stocks were low, but grain is being imported in sufficient quantities.

5. In the Kusalgarh Chiefship during November 425 persons were employed on relief works, and 300 received gratuitous relief, and for December the numbers are returned at 400 and 300 respectively. The whole area of the chiefship is affected. The relief works consist of digging and deepening wells. The physical condition of the people is said to have been good in the reports for both months. Food-stocks were insufficient but were being supplemented by importations.

6. None of the reports under review make mention of any death from starvation. Practically there was no emigration.

7. The Resident has again been desired to insist on the punctual submission of these monthly famine statements.

P.S.—I have the honour to enclose a copy of report No. 27-C, dated 1st February, 1900, and of its accompanying note, in which the Resident, Mewar, gives the latest available information regarding the situation and prospects in the Banswara State.

Enclosure 1 in No. 162.

Letter from the Assistant Resident, Mewar, to the Resident, Mewar, No. 1403, dated the 21st December 1899.

I have the honour to forward the Famine Statement for November 1899, as received from the Banswara Darbar.

2. The Darbar reports that as the whole State is affected by famine it has not been considered necessary to forward any map showing the areas affected severely and slightly. I am again addressing the Darbar and hope that the prescribed map will be submitted with the Famine Statement for December, 1899.

Enclosure 2 in No. 162.

Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the month ending the 30th November 1899, as received from the Darbar.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief work on last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Banswara	sq. miles. 1,500	2,11,641	Whole State.	Half of the Bhil population is affected by famine and one-fourth in other castes.	161	50 persons.

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the month ending 30th November 1899.

1. *Private relief.*—In the city of Banswara six new buildings are being erected and six are being repaired.
2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—The poor at present maintain themselves by selling grass, fuel, wood and other articles of the jungle, and they eat jungle fruits, e.g., yalms, etc.
3. *General character of relief works.*—A tank is being deepened.
4. *Physical condition of the people.*—The health of the famine-stricken people is fair.
5. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—Nil.
6. *Food-stocks.*—The quantity of grain in stock is half of the quantity required.
7. *Importation of grain.*—Grain had not been imported from outside up to this, but importing has commenced now.
8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The whole of the area has been affected, but the state of the affected area is medium.
9. *Changes in rates of wages.*—The rates of food-grains previous to the year of famine was as under :—

				Srs.	
Wheat	..	...	...	15	per Salim Sahi rupee
Mukki	...	...	...	25	" "
Gram	...	...	...	20	" "
Kodra	...	...	...	42½	" "
Sal	...	...	...	30	" "

In the beginning of the present year the rates were as follows :—

				Srs.	
Wheat	...	...	...	10	per Salim Sahi rupee
Mukki	...	...	...	16	" "
Gram	...	...	...	13	" "
Kodra	...	...	...	25	" "
Sal	...	...	...	20	" "

and the present rates are as below :—

				Srs.	
Wheat	...	...	...	8	per Salim Sahi rupee
Mukki	...	...	...	10	" "
Gram	...	...	...	10	" "
Kodra	...	...	...	16	" "
Sal	...	...	...	14	" "

10. *Other matters.*—None.

Enclosure 3 in No. 162.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 27-C., dated the 1st February 1900.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the notes taken by me at a famine conference I held at Banswara on the 29th January 1900.

2. I am glad to say that in my journey from Dungarpur to Banswara I saw hardly any signs of famine except the weak and distressed assembled at the poor-houses in the two towns of Dungarpur and Banswara. I saw no famine-stricken people. The country districts traversed by me were all well to do, and no famine need, I think, be apprehended in the settled villages. In the purely Bhil pals and villages there is said to be a certain amount of distress, but it is astonishing how Bhils manage to eke out a living on jungle produce; at present they are living largely on the hearts of date palm trees, and the mahawa fruit which ripens in another six weeks or two months will be a great help in this respect. In fact it will remove almost all anxiety regarding actual starvation.

3. Lieutenant Nicolas, who has been at Banswara since the 12th January, has now left for Partabgarh to see how the relief works are getting on there. After that he will return to Banswara and I have requested the Assistant Resident to get him back to Dungarpur to supervise village relief works in that State as soon as possible after that.

4. The Assistant Resident is proceeding to Banswara himself very shortly, and I have instructed him to report how far the relief works mentioned in my notes have been carried out and what further relief arrangements he may consider necessary.

Enclosure 4 in No. 162.

Copy of notes taken by the Resident in Mewar, at a Famine Conference held at Banswara, on the 29th January 1900.

PRESENT :

1. Kamdar Lalsingh.
2. Faujdar Gunpat Rao.
3. Kothari Jewar Chand.
4. Tehsildar Nathu Lal.
5. Savidar Ana Rao.
6. Bukshi Goverdhan Lal.
7. Kothari Kastoor Chand.
8. Nazim Kothari Chandu' Lal.
9. Mohtamim Kahatsali Kothari Kastoor' Chand.

Lieutenant Nicolas, Special Famine Officer, states that when he arrived at Banswara on the 12th January 1900 he found some grain was being distributed in the city, and about 50 people had been working for some three days on the Daila Tank. Since then a proper poor house has been started, and the work on the tank has been properly set going and some 400 were now employed on it. These are all local people, and the work is sufficient for them for the present, but will not last through the hot weather. Asked in what districts distress is worst, the tehsildar states, in Bangarhi, Danpur, Bhungra, and Kalinjera, all Bhils. There are eight tehsils in the State. In five Patels and Bhils are mixed, viz., Kalinjera, Partapur, Loharia, Kamhera, Danga, Dungan, and in Bangarhi, Danpur and Bhungra, only Bhils. The Patels and Brahmins are not in distress. The Bhils are in distress, but not so badly in the Patels village as in their own. There are some 8,000 or 10,000 houses of Bhils in Bangarhi, Danpur, and Bhungra. In these districts it has hitherto been forbidden to cut teak. This year the restriction has been removed and the Bhils have earned their living by cutting wood and grass. The tehsildar states he was in the Bhil country a month or so ago, and people were not then dying of starvation. The Kamdar states that these districts are full of mahawa trees, and the Bhils will live on the

fruit during the hot weather. Work has been sanctioned, the Kamdar states, on tanks at Danpur and Loharia at a cost of Rs. 200 and Rs. 1,000 Salim Sahl, respectively. It is pointed out that this only provides for a little over 300 men at 2 annas a day for one month. Rana Rao states that the Pal Bhils will not work on relief works. They cut wood, etc., but do not do earthwork. The Palwi Bhils number about 4,000 houses. The Faujdar states that the Katra and Samria Bhils broke out and committed several dacoities a month or more ago, but since then they have been quiet. The Bhils generally are living upon cattle. Steps have been taken to stop dacoities, and this has been successful so far. It appears, however, that no steps have been taken to arrange for any relief works if the distress gets greater. It is necessary that plans and estimates for tanks and wells, &c., on which the people can be employed should be prepared at once. The Kamdar is directed, therefore, to start work on the Danpur and Loharia tanks at once to be made when these are done.

Gunpat Rao states that there is a broken tank in Bhungra which, if repaired, will benefit the State greatly. The cost is estimated at Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 15,000. The Kamdar is directed to ask the Maharawal to sanction this at once. Another tank like this is said to be in Dunga. This also should be sanctioned.

Gunpat Rao states that in Bargarhi there is a good return to be got from wells at an average cost of Rs. 50 each, and that four men have been sent out to arrange for this and their reports came in to the Kamdar. The Kamdar is directed to ask the Maharawal to order Kastoor Chand to prepare a list of all sanctions for wells and to submit it to Lieutenant Nicolas with date of commencement of work.

It is explained to the Kamdar that Lieutenant Nicolas is now proceeding to Partabgarh, but will return in 15 or 20 days, and the Kamdar is requested to have a list of all possible tanks and a list of wells ready for Lieutenant Nicolas on his return. In the evening I visited the poor-house and tank in company with His Highness the Maharawal, Lieutenant Nicolas, Faujdar Gunpat Rao, and Kothari Kastoor Chand. At the poor-house we found 95 people mostly Bhils from the surrounding villages with a few from distant villages. All weekly and more or less decrepit. They are all fed on cooked grain twice a day. At the Daila Tank the workers almost all were in good condition. Men, women, and small children were all employed, and there is no doubt the work supplies a much needed want. I asked His Highness the Maharawal to start tanks on the same principle all over the State.

No. 163.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 895-F., dated Camp, the 8th February, 1900.

With reference to the 5th paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter No. 2909 F.-A., dated the 9th October 1899, regarding the issue of loans to Native States in Rajputana to meet expenditure on famine relief, I have the honour to submit a copy of correspondence,* and of its enclosures, in which the Political Agent, Kotah, recommends the advance of 3½ lakhs of rupees by Government to assist the Darbar in relieving the distress of its subjects.

2. I have delayed submitting this application until my recent visit to Kotah had afforded me an opportunity of discussing the situation and prospects in person with the Political Agent (Captain Stratton), the Darbar officials, and Major Dunlop-Smith, whom I had arranged to meet there. My local enquiries and personal inspection of the relief works and gratuitous relief operations in the State led me to the conclusion, shared by the Political Agent and the Famine Commissioner, that the Darbar's original estimate of requirements was largely exaggerated, and that, setting aside administrative exigencies which

* Not printed.

these advances are not intended to meet, an immediate advance of 3½ lakhs of rupees will amply suffice for all purely famine demands to the end of the current financial year. The Darbar has no Government securities or other resources on which it can draw at present. In fact it has been necessary to raise a temporary loan to meet current charges.

3. So far, therefore, I am prepared to support the Darbar's request, and I would recommend that, if funds are available, they may be permitted to draw up to 3½ lakhs at 4 per cent. per annum at the Government Treasury, Ajmer. If further aid is required after the 31st March 1900, the Darbar will present revised figures at a later date showing the actual expenditure thereto, and a carefully framed forecast of future requirements up to September next. A statement is appended beneath showing the advances actually sanctioned by Government up to the present time :—

State.	Amount sanctioned.	
	Rs.	a. p.
Jodhpur	13,00,000	0 0
Sirohi	70,000	0 0
Jaisalmera	50,000	0 0
Kishangarh	60,000	0 0
Lawa	20,000	0 0
Tonk	2,00,000	0 0
Bundi	2,43,666	10 8
Shahpura	50,000	0 0
Hilly Tracts, Mewar	50,000	0 0
Dungarpur	50,000	0 0
TOTAL	20,93,666	10 8

No. 164.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Camp, No. 745 I.-A., dated the 9th February 1900.

745 I.-A. Your letter 840 F., February 4th. Orders have issued as desired regarding credits for Bignell at Bombay and Cawnpore.

No. 165.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 932-F., dated Agent, Governor-General's Camp, the 17th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 732-F.C., dated 22nd January 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Mewar State for the month of December 1899, I have now the honour to forward the famine statements with map for the same State for the month of January, with a copy of the Resident's covering letter 94, dated 5th February 1900.

2. The figures in the following Table illustrate the growth of relief operations in the month under report. The number on relief works was 73,092 in January against 23,876 in December.

	Relief.	Gratuitous.	Total.
October	10,587	2,534	13,121
November	15,306	6,242	21,548
December	23,876	11,112	34,988
January	73,092	13,527	86,619

The Resident, who was asked for the explanation desired in your office telegram No. 234-F., dated the 3rd February 1900, attributes this sudden increase to the inclusion for the first time of the persons on the relief works, opened during January in the Jagir Estates of Deogarh and Bednore near the borders of the Merwara district. They are under the immediate control of Mr. Lillie, Manager of the Udaipur Railway. The number of persons receiving relief on these works is said to be about 50,000. They are chiefly employed on tank construction. The number of gratuitous relief recipients has risen from 11,112 in December to 13,527 in January. The increase is due to the extension of the poor-houses at Udaipur and Dabok. The condition of the people is much the same as previously reported, but they no doubt suffered intensely from the abnormal cold, which prevailed throughout Rajputana in January. It is reported that no less than 1,092 deaths occurred from starvation, cold and illness due to insufficient food. But these figures are admittedly untrustworthy.

3. From 15,000 to 20,000 persons migrated from Deogarh, Bednur and adjoining tracts to the works opened in the Merwara District, but most of them were brought back in January by Mr. Lillie, and were employed on the works opened by him in the Deogarh and Bednore Estates with funds supplied by the Darbar.

4. A copy of the notes recorded by the Resident during the tour to which reference was made in the fourth paragraph of my letter, already cited, is enclosed. The Darbar have issued orders to start relief works and poor-houses throughout the country visited by him, and there is reason to hope that these orders will receive fuller and more practical effect in future than has hitherto been the case.

5. The whole question of relief operations in the Mewar State is, from a variety of causes, replete with difficulty. It has engaged and is engaging the closest attention of the Famine Commissioner, who is now with me at Udaipur, and of myself, and I hope to submit a separate report on the subject at no distant date.

Enclosure 1 in No. 165.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 94, dated the 5th February 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the Famine Statement received from the Mewar Darbar for the month of January 1900, together with the prescribed skeleton map in duplicate and a note on Famine Relief by Lieutenant Pinney, the Famine Officer.

Enclosure 2 in No. 165.

Famine Statement for January 1900.

State	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar...	12,670	1,800	9,513	1,350	Khalsa ... 18,262 * Jagir ... 52,605 * Deosthan... 2,225 Total ... 73,092	Khalsa ... 9,225 * Jagir ... 1,527 * Deosthan ... 2,775 Total ... 13,527

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for January 1900.

I.—*Private Relief.*—According to last month's report about 2,500 people received private relief, apart from this "Ghughary" Chands have been established in 24 villages by subscriptions from Jagirdars, Brahmins and Bamias, amounting in all to Rs. 8,862, by means of which the above numbers will have been increased, but returns have not yet been received of the number of people thus relieved.

II.—*Village and Poor-house Relief.*—Ditto ditto.

III.—*General Character of Relief Works.*—Talao, wells, canals and buildings.

IV.—*Physical Condition of People, Death (if any) from Starvation.*—Those people affected by the famine are in a thin and weak condition. The Hakim's returns show 1,092 deaths from starvation, cold and illness.

V.—*Food Stock.*—In some places the merchants have stores of grain.

VI.—*Importation of Grain.*—Grain is being bought and imported from outside, as required.

VII.—*General Condition and Prospects of Affected Area.*—In Jahazpur, Mandalgarh, Mugra, Kamalgarh, Deogarh and Bednur, the famine is very severe. If winter rains fall, the severity of the famine will be mitigated it is hoped.

VIII.—*Changes in Rates of Wages.*—Nil.

IX.—*Emigration or Immigration and Other Matters.*—16,000 inhabitants of Deogarh and Bednur emigrated to Beawar, but were brought back by Mr. Lillie and placed on works in these districts.

Six hundred Mewar people emigrated to Neemuch and were brought back by State officials. It has recently been reported that about 600 Mewaris have emigrated to Indore. State Officials are now being despatched to bring them back.

* These numbers are in accordance with last month, since full returns of this month have not been received from Jagirdars and Deosthan

In the last month, the number of persons on relief works in the Jagir estates was 2,605, and in this month the number is 52,605, out of which 50,000 persons are of Deogarh and Bednur as shown by Mr. Lillie in his letter.

Notes on the Monthly Report for January 1900.

1. The most noteworthy feature of the month seems to be the large development of relief works in Deogarh and Bednur. From these two estates about 30,000 famine-stricken people wandered over the borders of Mewar into British territory. These people were brought back, but their number quickly increased to over 50,000 by the daily inflow of other famine stricken people, who had not been over the border.

Mr. Lillie distributed these people as follows:—

30,000 at and near Deogarh.

20,000 at and near Bednur.

At Deogarh the people have been distributed on relief works by Mr. Lillie.

At Badnore most of the people are reported to be now at work on tanks, and the remainder to be about to be employed.

2. The numbers on the Khalsa relief works, according to the returns received, show a slight diminution from last month. But since these returns were submitted, special efforts have been made in the Mugra to increase the number of relief workers, and it is probable that at the present time the numbers on the Khalsa relief works are considerably in excess of those returned.

3. The increase in the numbers receiving gratuitous relief is chiefly due to the large increase of the numbers in the poor-houses of Udaipur and Dabok.

Most of the people are Bhils, and many of them are fit for work. Efforts are being made to draft them out to Khemli and Jaisamand, but the Bhil, when he has once sunk to destitution and has begun to live on charity—a method of existence which under ordinary circumstances is foreign to his nature—seems to be an extremely difficult person to manage.

4. The Ghughary Chandas established in 24 villages seems to indicate a way in which village relief may be largely extended. The villages in which Chandas have been established are chiefly in the Mugra, and are places in which a few well-to-do Banias have collected under the protection of small Jagirdars or Mafidars. Collectively these people have shown themselves willing to subscribe to a local Ghughary Chanda for the relief of their own poor, who from physical reasons are unfit for manual labour. These Chandas are under local management, supervised by the Thanedar or Naib Hakim of the district.

No. 166.

Letter from Sir William Cuninghame, K.C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 1007 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 26th February 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 668,* dated the 12th January 1900, regarding the agricultural situation in Rajputana.

2. As some guide to the number of persons who are likely to come under relief, it may be useful to refer to the figures reported in the famine of 1896-97. It will be remembered that the States of the Bundelkhand Agency were then facing their third successive year of famine. The percentages of the population

* Printed above, as reply to Government of India's circular telegram.

of the affected areas, who were under relief on the last days of each month, were as follows :—

—	RAJPUTANA.		CENTRAL INDIA.	
	Affected population about 1,668,000.		Affected population about 8,977,000.	
	On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.	On relief works.	On gratuitous relief.
December 1896 ...	2.02	0.18	1.86	0.22
January 1897 ...	0.96	0.16	3.55	0.18
February „ ...	2.34	0.29	3.99	0.53
March „ ...	1.85	0.37	5.29	0.48
April „ ...	1.69	0.34	5.13	0.61
May „ ...	1.71	0.36	6.09	0.62
June „ ...	1.44	0.31	3.10	0.56
July „ ...	0.82	0.16	1.20	0.45
August „ ...	0.04	0.11	0.69	0.56
Whole period ...	1.56	0.26	3.45	0.47

The corresponding percentages of relief workers in those States of Rajputana which are acutely or very severely affected appear to have been—

—	Marwar.	Bikaner.	Mewar.*	Tonk.	Bundi	Shahpura.	Kishangarh.
30th November 1899	1.55	2.76	0.89	1.17	1.39	3.32	4.29
27th December 1899	2.56	3.14	0.91	1.28	1.95	4.41	4.86
31st January 1900 ...	3.12	3.22	4.13	0.93	1.80	3.83	4.27

Paragraph 11 of your letter under acknowledgment indicates an expectation that, in the four States of Marwar, Mewar, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer, the numbers in receipt of relief when distress is most acute will total 251,000, or 5.79 per cent. of the population, and the figures which you give in that paragraph work out to average rates of 3.79 for the acutely and severely affected States and of 3.32 for the whole area in respect to which you estimate. The highest percentages are for Shahpura (12.5) and for Bundi (6.08). When Major Dunlop-Smith was on tour in Shahpura in the middle of November, he found the people "in good condition and good heart," and thought they seemed better off than any whom he saw in the other States which he had visited. In Marwar the expenditure on relief works in December was † Rs. 1,41,537, which is described as giving an incidence of 1 anna 5½ pies per head. This is equivalent to an average daily total of 50,380 throughout the month, or 1.99 of the population. The estimates in your paragraph 11 appear to be for relief workers only; they do not include gratuitous relief. Judging from the expenditure reported on the famine of 1896-97, the cost of gratuitous relief may be taken at about ¼ of the expenditure for relief workers, and the other famine charges of Darbars in the grant of loans and advances to cultivators and jagirdars may be estimated at about ½ of the charges for relief under both heads. It is of course not intended that the rates and figures derived from the reports of the famine of 1896-97 should be adopted as a standard by which the expenditure and relief on

* Excluding Mewar Bhil tracts.

† Enclosures in your letter No. 750 F., dated the 23rd January 1900.

the present famine should be limited. They are merely communicated to you in case they should prove of assistance in framing estimates. When the time comes for furnishing final reports on the present famine, it will be very convenient if you can supply, as far as possible, information on the following points :—

- (i) the actual number of day units of relief, distinguishing relief workers from persons on gratuitous relief given in each State ;
- (ii) the cost of relief in each State under each of these two heads ;
- (iii) the other charges arising directly from the famine which the Darbars have had to bear :
- (iv) the amount of emigration month by month and the approximate dates by which the emigrants returned.

3. In a letter No. 400 F., dated the 17th December 1899, regarding loans for Marwar, you expressed the opinion that reasonable applications for loans up to a total of not less than 70 lakhs would be received from the States in Rajputana by September next. In your letter now under acknowledgment you say that it would be imprudent to predict that the assistance which Government will be asked to afford will fall short of the maximum of 50 lakhs. On the information at present furnished and the estimates which it is possible to form, the Government of India are disposed to consider that the maximum of 50 lakhs need not be exceeded. You are, however, in no way precluded from making recommendations for grants to a total exceeding that amount if you are assured that the applications deserve support.

4. The Government of India are gratified to observe that in the majority of instances the Darbars are facing their difficulties with energy and success. In Mewar the grant of relief on a sufficiently extended scale was long delayed. It may be hoped that the Maharana is now alive to a sense of his responsibilities and to the necessity for comprehensive relief measures, and perhaps no further stimulus is at present necessary. You are, however, authorised to inform His Highness, if you see fit, that the Government of India view the position in Mewar with grave anxiety. I am to enquire whether you are satisfied that all necessary measures are being taken in Dungarpur, Banswara, and Partabgarh. The information furnished in respect to these States is somewhat meagre, and the Government of India are not without apprehensions that distress there may now be, or may shortly become, much more severe than is indicated in the reports yet received. The character of the population may render special arrangements necessary. You will doubtless bear in mind the necessity of seeing that sufficient stocks of food-grains are distributed to the outlying villages before the rains commence. There is of course no wish to interfere with private enterprise, but among a turbulent society of jungle tribes private traders may need special protection and encouragement at the present juncture.

5. There are indications that the rates of wage given in some States may have occasionally been unnecessarily high. Political Officers should advise Darbars to see, with reference to the current prices of grain, that the daily payments do not exceed a fair subsistence wage. The exaction from the able-bodied of a full day's work (which may be taken at 8 hours) is also a matter of importance.

6. Finally, I am to direct your attention to the recent increase of crime in Rajputana. The Government of India are not in possession of complete returns, but the reports available show that in the latter half of 1899 about 160 dacoities occurred, in which 35 persons were killed and about 230 injured. In all but a few of these cases the value of the property looted was small, and there appears to be little doubt that the great majority of the outrages were committed by semi-starving persons in search of food or the means of buying it. Most of the cases are probably to be ascribed to the Bhils or to the criminal tribes. In a report No. 733 F.C., dated the 22nd January 1900, you mentioned that special repressive measures were being adopted in Dungarpur, but you did not explain

what these measures are. It appears to the Government of India that what is principally required is an effective system of relief for the Bhil population. The position in respect to dacoity appears to be serious, and the Government of India would be glad to learn at a very early date what steps you are taking or propose to take with a view to checking and preventing lawlessness, and what measures, if any, are possible and desirable in the direction of strengthening or supporting the police of the various Darbars.

No. 167.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1066 F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 27/28th February 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3812 I.-A., dated 20th December 1899, I have the honour to forward, for the favourable consideration of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 83 G., of 14th February 1900, from the Resident of Jaipur, who submits a revised estimate of the famine requirements of the Kishangarh State.

2. For the reasons explained, Mr. Irwin anticipates that, in addition to the advance of Rs. 60,000 already made by Government, the Darbar will require about Rs. 90,000 between the 1st April and the end of July, making a total of Rs. 1,50,000, instead of Rs. 1,10,000 to which their original application was limited.

3. I have lately had an opportunity of visiting the State and of discussing the situation there with the Resident, as well as with the Maharaja and his advisers. In my opinion the revised estimate is not excessive. I would, however, recommend that an advance of Rs. 50,000 be made on the 15th April next, leaving the balance of Rs. 40,000, to be given should circumstances show that it is absolutely required at the time.

4. The numbers in receipt of relief on the latest date for which figures are available were—

(1) Works	...	...	...	...	...	5,542
(2) Gratuitous	...	...	...	...	...	2,770
Total	...	...	...	...	...	8,312

Enclosure in No. 167.

From the Resident, Jaipur, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 83 G., dated the 14th February 1900.

As directed in your telegram No. 467 of the 21st December 1899, I have the honour to submit a revised estimate of the requirements of the Kishangarh State during the next financial year.

2. Owing to the failure of the Christmas rains, the situation has changed for the worse since I applied on behalf of the State for a loan of Rs. 1,10,000, Rs. 60,000 of which have already been paid to the Darbar. It is now anticipated that between the 1st April and next July about British Rs. 90,000 will have to be spent in relief measures. If a great part of the ordinarily cultivated area is not to be left fallow, the Darbar, in addition to carrying on relief works, will have to assist the people largely in getting bullocks to replace those that have died, and it is most important that they should not be short of funds for these and other purposes.

3. I have been through the revised estimates for the Government financial year 1900-1901. Including relief measures the total expenditure may be taken as about British Rs. 3,75,000, and the receipts, including an opening balance of British Rs. 19,000, at British Rs. 3,02,000, leaving a net deficit of British Rs. 73,000 on the year. Little of the revenue, however, can be expected to come in till next September or October, and I think I am tolerably safe in saying that up to the end of August the expenditure will exceed the receipts including the opening balance by approximately Rs. 90,000.

4. I have discussed the situation with the Dewan, and have come to the conclusion that it will be necessary to ask the Government of India to lend the Darbar another Rs. 40,000, in addition to the balance of Rs. 50,000 remaining over from the grant of Rs. 1,10,000 previously applied for. I would recommend that this additional Rs. 40,000 be repayable on the 1st April 1904. I hope the Governor-General's Agent will approve this proposal.

5. I went through the greater part of the State during last month, and I can say with confidence that the Darbar are carrying out their relief measures with great care and thoroughness.

No. 168.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1073-F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 756-F., dated the 24th January 1900, forwarding the Bharatpur Famine Report for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 744, dated the 8th February 1900, from the Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana, and the accompanying Famine Report of that State for the month of January 1900.

2. The following table shows the comparative number of persons on relief works and gratuitous relief during the months of November, December, and January :—

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
November 1899	8,000	700	8,700
December „	12,298	973	13,271
January 1900	10,288	1,332	11,620

3. The report is on the whole satisfactory, and appears to require no special remark. The condition of the people and cattle is said to be well maintained. There have been no deaths from starvation. Emigration has ceased. Wages remain unchanged. The total number in receipt of relief has slightly decreased.

Enclosure 1 in No. 168.

Letter from the Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 744, dated the 8th February 1900.

I have the honour to forward the Bharatpur State Famine Statement for January 1900, together with report in accordance with sections 15 and 16 of the Famine Code.

2. Owing to the failure of the winter rains the prospects of the crops are not good, which is much to be regretted.

3. The Public Works Department has ample work of a remunerative character on which to employ all persons seeking relief

Enclosure 2 in No. 168.

Famine Statement for the Bharatpur State for the month of January 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousand.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers of gratuitous relief.
Bharatpur	1974-07	639,000	700	250,000	Civil Agency Works, 110. Public Works Department Works, 10,178.	Persons getting gratuity from private poor-houses, 373. Persons getting gratuity from Bharatpur private poor-house, 959.

REMARKS.

1. *Private Relief.*—His Highness the Maharaja continued distribution of parched grain to the poor as mentioned in the previous month's report.

2. *Village and Poor-house Relief.*—There are three poor-houses, at Kama, Dig, and Weir, under the management of the Revenue Department.

They are maintained by subscriptions from temples, as described in the previous report. Subscriptions of Rs. 146-12-0, Rs. 51-8-0, and Rs. 46-12-0 a month in Kama, Dig, and Weir, respectively, have been given by Zamindars, &c., for these poor-houses. Cooked food is given to the destitute persons incapable of doing any work.

3. *General character of Relief Works.*—Civil Agency works have been stopped. Only in one tehsil a pond is being dug, and on this work there were 110 men on the last day of the month. Wages to these men are given at the previously reported rates according to the Famine Code.

The Public Works Department has provided works for the relief of the distressed in almost all the parganas of the State. The number of persons engaged on such works was 10,178 on the last day of the month under report.

4. *Physical condition.*—The condition of labourers is generally good.

5. *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—No such deaths occurred.

6. *Food stocks.*—There are no fears of grain being scarce on account of the import of grain from outside.

Rates are given below in seers and chattaks per rupee :—

—	Wheat.		Grain.		Bejhar.		Goja.		Jawar.		Bajra.		Til.	
	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.	Srs. ch.
End of December 1899...	10	12	12	4	12	8	11	12	12	0	10	8	8	4
End of January 1900...	10	4	11	12	12	0	11	0	11	4	9	12	8	0

In comparison with the last month, rates of the month under report are higher.

7. *Importation of grain.*—Quantity of grain imported by road cannot be known, as it is not entered in the Customs Registers on account of suspension of import duties on grain.

		Maunds.	Seera.
Imports by rail amounted	... ..	5,371	0
Exports by rail amounted	... ..	6,470	30

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The condition of cultivated sairahi lands has become worse than before, and that of chahi land, we are afraid, is also becoming bad in consequence of the failure of cold weather rains. Some of the cultivators are busy in irrigating their fields from wells, while others are engaged on Public Works Department relief works.

9. *Change in rates of wages.*—There is no change. Rates are the same as reported for the previous month.

10. *Emigration.*—None have emigrated from the State.

11. *Other matters.*—The condition of cattle is generally good. Fodder is sufficient everywhere except in some places where the deficiency is made up by obtaining it from adjoining villages. In consequence of failure of winter rains the condition of crop in sairahi and barani lands is bad, and chahi lands are also suffering from it.

SOHAN LAL, *Rai Bahadur*,

Member and Secretary, State Council, Bharatpur.

7th February, 1900.

No. 169.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1074 F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 640 of the 5th January 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Jaisalmir State for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 80-G., dated the 5th February 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the accompanying Famine Report of that State for the month of January 1900.

2. The table given beneath shows a decrease of 312 in the total number of persons on Relief Works and gratuitous relief in January compared with the corresponding figures of the preceeding month :—

	On works.	Gratuitous	Total.
October 1899	921	6	927
November 1899... ..	1,162	14	1,176
December 1899... ..	1,689	47	1,736
January 1900	1,407	17	1,424

The Resident has called for an explanation of the decrease. It will probably, I imagine, be found in the emigration figures.

3. Five small works were opened in January (month under report) in addition to the nine reported before. The total expenditure for the month amounted to Rs. 4,727.

4. Except in the Bap and Nokh parganas, where cholera has appeared, the general health of the few remaining people is reported to be good.

It is said that no death from starvation occurred during the month.

5. There has been a considerable rise in the price of Jawar, the staple food of the people, although food-stocks are reported to be sufficient and importation is satisfactory. The grain prices for December and January are entered as follows :—

	Wheat.	Bajra.	Jawar.
December	8	8½	10½
January	8	8	9

6. During the month 6,062 persons with 6,875 head of cattle are reported to have emigrated.

Enclosure 1 in No. 169.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana No. 80 G., dated Jodhpur, the 5th February 1900.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying Famine Report of the Jaisalmir State for the month of January last, together with a skeleton map showing that there has been no change in the affected area.

2. The number of labourers on relief works has fallen from 1,544 at the end of December, to 1,280.† The number of non-working children has also fallen from 145 to 127, and the number on gratuitous relief from 47 to 17. The cause of these decreases has not been given, and the Diwan has been asked for an explanation.

The works in Jaisalmir are all small. Five new ones were opened during the month in addition to the nine started last month. Of these, one work at Bap had to be closed on account of the appearance of cholera. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,685, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 10 pies as compared with 1 anna 2 pies last month.

The poor-house has maintained 17 inmates during the month at a cost of Rs. 42.

The general health of the people, except in the Bap and Nokh districts, where cholera prevails, has been good.

No deaths from starvation are reported.

During the month 6,062 persons with 6,875 cattle emigrated.

Grain stocks are replenished largely from Sindh and are sufficient, but prices have risen. Jawar is selling at 9 seers per rupee as against 10½ seers in December.

The wage rate on the works has remained unchanged.

*Work	...	...	...	...	...	...	Rs.
Gratuitous	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,685
							42
							<hr/>
						Total	4,727
†Men	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Women	...	...	...	...	...	...	596
Children	..	...	..	..	...	...	370

Drinking water in sufficient quantities is obtainable in the city and principal villages.

No rain fell during the month.

Famine Statement for the month of January, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands	Affected area in square miles	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on the last day of month	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaisalmir ...	16,062	115½	16,062	115½	Working persons .. 1,280 Dependants or non-working children 127 <hr/> 1,407	17

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for January 1900.

1. *Private Relief.*—Nil.
2. *Village and Poor House Relief.*—Nil.
3. *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, improving roads, collecting rubble stone and kankar, and drawing water from wells, suitable for employment of men, women, and children.
4. *Physical condition of the people.*—In Bap and Nokh pargannas cholera is prevailing. The health in other districts generally good. The health of persons receiving relief was also good.
5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—None.
6. *Food Stock.*—Sufficient.
7. *Importation of grain.*—Satisfactory.
8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Condition distressing. Prospects gloomy.
9. *Changes in rates of wages.*—No changes. Prices of grain were—

	Seers.
Wheat	8
Bajra	8
Jowar	9

10. *Emigration or immigration.*—The emigrants up to date total 37,574, of which 6,026 have gone during the month. They had fairly sufficient food with them when left.

None of the emigrants were brought back by the State, nor had any one voluntarily returned during the month.

The number of cattle left up to date is 27,951, of which 6,875 have been taken in the month. The cattle existing in the territory are in poor condition.

No. 170.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1075-F., dated Agent to the Governor-General's Camp, the 28th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 750-F., dated the 23rd January 1900, forwarding the monthly famine report of the Marwar State for December 1899,

I have now the honour to forward the corresponding report of the same State for January 1900, with a copy of the Resident's covering letter No. 82-G., dated the 5th February 1900.

2. The following tabular statement exhibits the progress of distress from the commencement of relief operations in the State. It will be seen that there was a decrease of 4,861 persons on works in January, while the number on gratuitous relief shows an increase of 4,589 persons, as compared with the previous month. The decrease on works is explained by the Resident as due partly to the excessive cold and partly to a reduced scale of wages adopted by the State. From a separate report (No. 328-G., dated the 31st January 1900) (copy enclosed) made by Captain Grant, I.M.S., there would seem to be no reason at present to apprehend that the wage scale is insufficient.

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total
30th September	10,985	2,263	13,248
31st October	26,025	4,614	30,639
30th November	39,207	10,719	49,926
31st December	78,084	13,790	91,874
31st January	73,223	18,379	91,602

3. One thousand two hundred and forty-five deaths occurred during the month on relief works and in poor-houses, due chiefly to diarrhoea, dysentery, and pneumonia. Besides these, 42 cases from starvation were reported. The Resident is no doubt, correct in his belief that these were chiefly among wanderers.

4. There was no emigration during the month. The number of persons who were brought back from Kotah, Nimach, Rutlam, and Jaora is returned as 2,370, besides 5,800 persons who came home voluntarily from Malwa, Sindh, and Guzerat.

5. The report presents no salient features. Cholera has subsided. The relief organization in Marwar is steadily improving every month.

Enclosure 1 in No. 170.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 82-G., dated the 5th February 1900.

I have the honour to submit a copy of the Darbar's famine report of the Marwar State for the month of January 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the affected area in which there has been no change.

2. The total number of labourers on relief works on the 25th January was 73,223, as compared with 78,084 at the end of December. The decrease during the month is due partly to a reduction in the wage rate, and partly, I believe, to the excessive cold, which has induced a number of people, who had means of subsistence, to return temporarily to their villages. The total expenditure on famine relief from 1st April 1899 up to the end of January is said to have been Rs. 9,04,621 ; Rs. 1,88,202 were spent during the month, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 5·4 pies.

4. State gratuitous relief supported 18,379 persons (of whom 16,739 were children) at a cost of Rs. 29,565, giving an incidence per head of 9·5 pies. A large number of persons have also subsisted on private charity.

5. During the month the scale of rations was made uniform on all works.

6. The following scale is in force :—

Class	Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum (Penal).	
Men	Chitaks. 14	Chitaks. 12	Chitaks. 10	} In British chitaks.
Women... ..	12	10	8	
Children	8	6	4	
Children in arms	receive one	pice.		

7. The task which regulates the wage varies on the different works. As a rule the labourers only earn the minimum wage, but it has been decided, while the abnormal cold lasts, not to give below the medium ration.

8. Captain Grant, I.M.S., has reported very favourably of the physical condition of the people on the works, with the exception of those emigrated and have since returned. In many instances these have come back weak and emaciated. Small-pox is very prevalent among new-comers, especially among children. Otherwise the general health has been good.

9. Payments in British Currency are made on all the works.

10. Two hundred and fifty-nine births and 1,245 deaths occurred on the relief works and in the poor-houses. Diarrhœa, dysentery, and pneumonia are the chief fatal diseases.

11. Thirteen famine dispensaries are maintained under Captain Grant's supervision, well supplied with blankets and extra medical comforts.

12. No emigration is reported during the month. The deportation of Marwaris from other States is a great tax on the Darbar. During the month 2,370 persons were brought back from Kotah, Nimach, Rutlam, and Jaora at a cost of about Rs. 4,500. Besides these 5,800 persons have returned of their own accord from Malwa, Sind, and Guzerat.

13. The drinking water is almost everywhere brackish, but sufficient, and grain stocks are abundant, being easily replenished by rail from British India.

14. Prices of food-grains have risen, and coarse rice at 8½ seers per rupee, which formerly had no purchasers, now finds many consumers.

15. Forty-two deaths from starvation have, I regret to say, been reported by the Darbar. I believe these have been chiefly among wanderers.

16. Shelters for starving cattle and other animals have been opened in Jodhpur and Pali.

17. Lieutenant Menzies has spent the greater part of the month on tour visiting Civil Agency works, of which there are 29 in the different districts; his reports on the condition of the management of the works are satisfactory.

18. I am glad to say that the outbreak of cholera in the Phalodi district (mentioned in my last report) appears to have subsided.

Enclosure 2 in No. 170.

Famine Statement for the month of January 1900.

State.	Area in square miles in thousands.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles in thousands.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number of labourers employed on relief works on the last day of the month.	Number of persons receiving gratuitous relief.
Merwar ...	35	2,526	35	2,526	73,223	18,379

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief.*—Private gratuitous relief was doled out in some 21 places, where cooked "khichra" and parched gram were distributed to the poor. The number of doles distributed during the month by private charity is 225,584.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Poor-houses are kept up in the parganas and on relief works for the non-working and the sick. Chupper huts have been erected where necessary.

3. *Medical relief.*—Blankets have been distributed among the poor. Due attention has been paid to medical relief. There are 13 dispensaries maintained by the Darbar, besides a number of compounders for providing relief to the sick.

4. *General character of relief works.*—Digging, clearing, and embanking of tanks, construction of bunds, and sinking wells.

5. *Physical condition and death, if any, from starvation.*—General condition is good. The people, who have been on relief works, are more healthy than the new refugees. Number of deaths from starvation is 42.

6. *Food stocks.*—Sufficient.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—The water is holding out. In Jodhpur itself the Khokarya water-work is working well. The lifting pump works 16 hours daily, raising 20,000 cubic feet of water, which supplies 50,000 chattels to the city.

The rabi crop, which has been about $4\frac{1}{2}$ anna in the rupee, is faring well. There have been 7 cents. of rain in Nawa, and a slight drizzling here and there.

8. *Condition of cattle.*—The cattle are in an emaciated condition, a large number of whom have died.

9. *Emigration or immigration.*—Nil.

Two thousand three hundred and seventy persons were brought back, whose feeding and conveyance cost the Darbar Rs. 4,539-4-6. In addition to this 5,801 persons have returned voluntarily from Malwa, Sindh, and Guzerat. Two Motamids are out to bring back emigrants from Jaipur and Indore.

JODHPUR,

The 2nd February, 1900.

SUKHDEO,
Secretary to the Musahib, Ala, Marwar.

Enclosure 3 in No. 170.

Letter from Captain J. W. Grant, I.M.S., on Special Famine Duty, Marwar, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 328, dated Jodhpur, the 31st January, 1900.

In reply to your No. 357, dated 22nd instant, enclosing copy of No. 717-F. C., dated 19th idem, from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, I have the honour to inform you that the physique of the persons on the relief works is, with the exception of recent arrivals, practically as good as what one would find in an ordinary year. Nearly half the number on the works belongs to the criminal tribes. Bheels, Minas, Grassias, Thoris, Bambis, &c., who at ordinary times lead a precarious existence, do but little useful work, and therefore have to support themselves on very small means. These persons are probably better off this year than

they usually are. In the poor-houses and free-dieted rest camps, people often grumble at, and even decline to eat the "khichri" prepared of mung and rice.

As regards the adequacy of the food ration, it is quite sufficient to maintain their physique unimpaired during the next six or eight months. After the weather has become warmer, I think it might be reduced without danger. At present the minimum wage is enough to buy twelve to thirteen chitaks. The whole of the amount paid on the works is not paid to the Baniyas for food, and there is sold a good amount of tobacco, opium, and other articles which cannot be considered necessaries of life.

2. There is no weighing machine on any of the works, but at Pali, the one at the railway station may be used, and a certain number of representative persons will be weighed monthly. But there will be some difficulty in keeping them under observation from month to month, as in spite of all that the famine officers can do, people leave, and wander about from one relief work to another.

No. 171.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1076 F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 758-F., dated the 25th January, 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Bikaner State for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 429 of 10th February, 1900, from the Political Agent, Bikaner, and the accompanying Famine Report of that State for the month of January, 1900.

2. The following table gives the comparative numbers of persons on relief works and gratuitous relief in each month since October last :—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous.	TOTAL.
October	15,852	3,507	19,359
November	23,007	5,848	28,855
December	27,600	7,263	34,863
January	27,264	7,546	34,810

3. The report shows that the position generally remains unchanged. The Political Agent personally inspected some of the outlying relief works and found their arrangements satisfactory. The numbers in receipt of relief were about the same as in December. There were no cases of starvation and the health of the remaining villagers is said to be good. Arrangements are being made for bringing back from the Lahore and Delhi divisions of the Punjab a large number of Bikaner emigrants. The Bhawalpur relief operations seem to be attractive.

4. The Jaipur Resident has been addressed regarding famine works in Shekhawati.

Enclosure 1 in No. 171.

Letter from The Political Agent, Bikaner, to The First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 429, dated the 10th February, 1900.

(Extract.)

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Statement, together with a rough map (in duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of January, 1900.

The figures in this report compare as follows with those in the report for December 1899 :

Gajner tank—

December 1899	...	...	...	5,470
January 1900	...	...	...	4,193
Decrease of	...	...	...	1,277

attributed by the Darbar to superior attractions offered by paid* work in Bhawalpur. My own information leads me to believe that the famine workers dislike Gajner, because the cold there is more severe than at other places (owing to the presence of water a short distance under the soil) and because they had till recently to carry earth to the top of a very high mound. This mound has now been stopped and the earth is carried elsewhere.

Enclosure 2 in No. 171.

Famine Statement of the Bikaner State for month ending the 31st January, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousand.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in thousands of Column 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bikaner ...	22,340	832,000	22,340	832,000	27,264	7,546	

REMARKS.

I. *Private Relief.*—Private charitable relief has decreased since the opening of State relief works as reported in previous reports. Subscription from individuals now amount to Rs. 2,80,000, and the list is still in circulation. Clothing has been supplied to the people by the State, as well as by rich Seths.

II. *Village and Poor-house Relief.*—Old and infirm persons and "pardamashin" women are fed at the Sheobari and Bhinasar poor-houses, and gratuitous relief is given to persons incapable of working, at all the works.

* *i.e.*, paid in coin, not by rations.

III. *General Character of Relief Works.*—The following works were started during the month :—

- (1) Construction of a house for His Highness the Maharaja at Chhapar (on 30th December, 1899).
- (2) Repairs to the fort wall at Sardar Shahr (commenced on 19th January, 1900).
- (3) A small relief camp to break stone for railway ballast was opened on 23rd January, 1900 at Dalmera on the Bikaner-Bhatinda Railway.

IV. *Physical Condition of the People.*—The general appearance of the people everywhere is good.

V. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—Nil.

VI. *Food Stocks and Importation of Grains.*—The food stocks are sufficient, but importation of grain from out-stations continues.

VII. *General Condition and Prospects of Affected Area.*—General condition continues as previously reported, and there is no prospect of a change before the next rainy season. The people, however, are well cared for, and every effort is made to lessen their sufferings and provide them with means of subsistence.

VIII. *Changes in the Rates of Wages.*—Nil.

IX. *Emigration or Immigration.*—Orders have been passed to bring back 25 Bikaneris from the poor-house at Bharatpur. It has been ascertained that the Bikaneris in Jaipur are all professional beggars, who will not remain on works, and as there are at least an equal number of persons from Jaipur and Shekhawati in Bikaner territory, and the Resident, Jaipur, has not pressed for the removal of the Bikaneris from Jaipur, the question of bringing them back has for the present been dropped.

X. *Adequacy of Food Rations.*—Rations continue to be given to the workers and to those on gratuitous relief in the quantities previously reported.

XI. *Famine Fund and its Expenditure.*—The expenditure on famine during January, 1900 amounted to Rs. 75,878-2-0.

S. F. BAYLEY, Captain,
Political Agent.

No. 172.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1077-F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 755-F., dated the 21st December, 1899, forwarding the famine report of the Jaipur and Kishengarh States for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 70-G. of 6th February, 1900, from the Resident, Jaipur, and the accompanying Famine Statements of those States for the month of January, 1900.

2. The following table shows the comparative number of persons on relief works and gratuitous relief since October last. The numbers on the works in Jaipur are steadily increasing. The Resident doubts the accuracy of the large

figures for gratuitous relief, and will investigate them further on his return from tour :—

—		Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
Jaipur—				
October	... ..	7,000	48,732	55,732
November	... ..	25,400	(not re- ported).	25,400
December	... ..	33,338	7,017	40,355
January	... ..	35,340	24,928	60,268
Kishengarh—				
October	... ..	5,412	1,600	7,012
November	... ..	6,263	2,000	8,263
December	... ..	6,685	2,233	8,918
January	.. ..	6,240	3,037	9,277

3. The Jaipur reports are specially full and interesting. The Jaipur Famine Organisation has been much improved of late, and the arrangements compare favourably with those in force elsewhere. As in other States, the pressure is increasing. Mr. Irwin has noted much emaciation in parts of the Jaipur, Sambhar, and Malpura Nizamats. The death returns for January reach the large figure of 1,024. Most of these, doubtless, were foreign wanderers, but the total includes 235 persons belonging to Jaipur also, most probably belonging to the wandering class. They either die by the road or in the poor-houses, where they came too late to be saved.

4. The Kishengarh report demands no special notice. The number of starvation cases are not reported, but some no doubt occurred, and it is remarked that the exceptional cold caused an increase in mortality among the workers and other paupers. An application has recently been made to Government in favour of supplementing the Kishengarh famine loan.

Enclosure I in No. 172.

Letter from the Resident at Jaipur to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 70-G., dated Jaipur, the 6th February, 1900.

I have the honour to submit copies of the famine reports for January, furnished to me by the Jaipur and Kishengarh Darbars.

2. The month's operations are fully described in these papers, and I have only the following remarks to make :—

(1) There are 6,137 persons employed on the Rewari-Phalera line in addition to the 27,026 persons given in column 6 of the Jaipur Statement; large numbers of Marwaris are reported to have gone off the works, presumably to Jodhpur, which accounts for the decrease since December.

(2) I do not know how the number on gratuitous relief can come to be so great as 24,928, unless this figure includes people receiving charity from Jagirdars and Seth's Sadabarts. Being at a great distance from headquarters I cannot ascertain particulars without unduly delaying this report, but I intend to inquire into the matter on my return to Jaipur next week.

(3) There is much emaciation in the Chaksu and Phagi Tahsils of the Jaipur Nizamats and in parts of Sambhar, as well as in the Malpura Nizamats. There is also a good deal in Sawai Madhopur.*

(4) Mention of two poor-houses at Panwar and Kherar is apparently a clerical error. Panwar is a village in the Kherar.†

(5) A bund cannot be constructed at Salimabad in Kishengarh without the consent of the Salt Department since the river runs into Sambhar Lake. This consent I am doing my best to obtain, but I am afraid I am not very likely to be successful.

3. I have nothing further to say beyond what has already been noted in my narrative report for last month.

Enclosure 2 in No. 172.

Famine Statement for the month ending 31st January, 1900.

State	Area in square miles	Population in thousands	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of col 4	Total number in relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jaipur State	1,452,775	2,826,000	1,452,775	2,826,000	27,026 <small>(excluding the numbers on the Rewara-Phalera Railway works)</small>	24,928	

MEMORANDUM.

The following officers have been appointed to supervise the famine relief operations in the State :—

(1) Pandit Sheo Nath, Deputy Collector and Magistrate of Saharanpur, lately pensioned. He had been put in charge of Nizamats Sawai Jaipur and Madhopur.

(2) Pandit Jainath Atal, Naib Dewan. He has been put in charge of Nizamats Dosa, inclusive of Bandikoi, Gungapur, Hindown, and Kot Kasim.

(3) Muhammad Hamid-ulla Khan, who has served the Raj in various important capacities and was of late acting as Superintendent of the Customs Department. He has to look after Nizamats Malpura and Sambhar.

The three officers have been vested with powers to make Takavi advances and carry out measures requiring prompt execution, without waiting for sanction of the Council.

Detailed instructions have been given to them for their guidance, and they have to submit to the Council weekly reports of what they see and the steps they take for alleviating distress. They have gone out, and their reports for the first week are expected to reach the Council in a day or two. Naib Nazims or Circle officers (36 in number) whose appointment was noticed in the report for the month of December last will have to carry out the instructions given to them by the special Famine Officer for the portion of territory in which the Naib Nazims are posted.

* Para. 5 of remarks attached to Jaipur Statement.

† Organization of relief measures in Jaipur Subhead 1.

1. *Organisation of Relief Measures.*—The relief measures adopted by the Darbar as noticed in the last month's report are in operation.

The following further measures have been taken during the month of January, 1900, for alleviating distress which is increasing :—

(1) Poor-houses have been opened at Chaksoo, Panwar and Kherar (near Deoli). The poor-house at Chaksoo is under the supervision of Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai, Superintendent, Imperial Service Transport Corps, and those at Panwar and Kherar are looked after by the local officers.

Orders have lately been passed for opening poor-houses at Nizamut Malpura and at Tahsil Tadarai Singh. Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai will shortly proceed to Malpura to help the Nazim in completing the arrangements.

(2) Orders have lately been passed for remitting the usual interest on all Takavi advances.

(3) The Raj has also passed orders for advancing money without security to long-established cultivators to enable them to purchase food-grains.

(4) The Nazim of Shamver has been instructed to call back the Jaipur subjects who had emigrated into Kishengarh and get them employed on the Phalera-Rewari Railway earthworks.

(5) The Jagirdars have been ordered to start relief works in their respective Jagirs, and money will, if required, be advanced to them from the Raj Treasury for the purpose.

(6) Orders have been passed for making Takavi advances without security to cultivators of every Khalsa village to enable them to repair village tanks and wells and also to make new ones where found necessary.

(7) The following sums have been sanctioned for works noted below :—

Rs.	
(1) 50,000	for the Chandsen Bund, the cost of which has been estimated at Rs. 1,31,601.
(2) 26,180	for the canal from River Mashī to the Tori Sagar.
(3) 5,551	for making a tank near Renwal village.
(4) 962	for repairing a tank in Kishenpura village.
(5) 10,000	for digging kankar for the Tonk Road between Chaksoo and Niwai.

TOTAL Rs. 92,693

Colonel Jacob has been requested to carry out the above as relief works proper, as not coming under the usual rules of the Public Works Department and to fix the following wages for the labourers :—

For each man a minimum of annas 2 and a maximum of annas 2½, and for each woman a minimum of 1½ annas and a maximum of annas 2 per day.

As people are likely to arrive at the above places in expectation of employment before the works are actually started, the Superintending Engineer has been authorised to grant free rations to all such people from the 5th February until the works are commenced.

(8) Besides the sums mentioned above Rs. 25,292 have been sanctioned during the last month for small irrigation works and repairs to buildings.

(9) Takavi advances to the amount of Rs. 10,340 have been made to the zamindars of Khalsa villages, and further advances, amounting to Rs. 23,000, have been made for the earth works of the Rewari-Phalera Railway during the last month.

(10) The Darbar have passed a resolution that small Jagirdars who are in distress should be allowed to withdraw their sawars from Raj service, and no Tafawat should be charged on them, so long as famine continues in the land. The Bakshi Jagir has been ordered to submit to the Council a list of such Jagirdars within a week's time. Necessary orders will be passed as soon as the list is received.

(11) The Darbar continue to purchase and import barley which costs about 8 seers a rupee and is sold at 10 seers a rupee in the Jaipur City and within the Municipal limits.

The sale of grain as a relief measure amounts daily to about Rs. 9,000, and thus it entails on the Darbar a loss of one-fifth of the cost price.

(12) The relief camp under supervision of Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai is giving support and shelter to sufferers from famine in and around the city of Jaipur. The number of men, women, and children in it is as follows :—1,581 men, 1,050 women, and 998 children—total 3,629, all of whom, with the exception of 68 men, 25 women, and 10 children, who are physically disabled for work, are employed in filling up the old channel of the Amani Shah Nullah.

(13) The care and attention with which the committee for affording relief to poor "pardanashin" women both in the city of Jaipur and villages is discharging the duties entrusted to that body, cannot be too highly praised. Dr. Macalister, President of the Committee, is devoting almost the whole of his time and attention in selecting proper objects of charity.

2. *The Continuance or Cessation of Emigration.*—Emigration is gradually becoming less everywhere with the only exception of certain villages in Nizamats Shambhar and Malpura.

3. *The Physique of the People.*—The people generally do not look emaciated except in the district of Malpura.

4. *Deaths from Starvation.*—One thousand and twelve deaths took place mostly among immigrants from Marwar, and 235 persons belonging to the Jaipur territory are reported to have died during the month of January last.

5. *The Occurrence of Famine Crime and the Measures taken to Cope with it.*—Three cases of theft of stocks of grain have been reported. The offenders have been arrested and made over to the Nazims for trial. The Gerai and Police officers have been instructed to send the wandering and famine-stricken people for labour on works within their easy reach; 150 camel sowars, 6 jamadars, and 3 Resaldars, lately employed for the suppression of crime, are carefully discharging the duties entrusted to them. Sowars have been posted on the frontiers conterminous to the neighbouring States for the same purpose. Twenty-four Barkandazes have been appointed on six small railway stations for their safeguard.

6. *The Condition of Crops.*—Cultivation for the rabi corps is going on in irrigated areas. Prospects appear to be unfavourable up to date.

7. *Condition of Cattle.*—Agricultural animals are generally in fair condition with the exception of those in Nizamats Sambhar and Malpura.

8. *The latest Procurable Figures of Persons employed on Relief Works or receiving Gratuitous Relief.*—Twenty-seven thousand and twenty-six persons have been employed on relief works, and 24,928 persons received gratuitous relief as entered in the statement.

9. *The Extension of Relief Operations to Districts hitherto Untouched should be Specially Noted.*—None of the districts has been left untouched since the famine began to appear, and relief works have been started as found necessary in all the Nizamats.

REMARKS.

1. *Private Relief*.—Ten thousand six hundred and twenty-seven persons are employed on private works in the village.

2. *Village Relief*.—Gratuitous relief is given to 3,297 persons in grain and cash allowance at various places within the Jaipur territory.

3. *Poor-house Relief*.—Cooked food is given to 447 persons in the poor-house near the Jaipur city.

4. *General Character of Relief Works*.—Earthworks.

5. *Physical Condition of People*.—The people generally do not look emaciated except in the district of Malpura.

6. *Deaths, if any, from Starvation*.—One thousand and twelve persons mostly immigrants from Marwar and 235 persons belonging to the Jaipur territory are reported to have died from starvation within the Jaipur territory during the month of January 1900.

7. *Food Stocks*.—Not sufficient, and grains being largely imported into towns and villages from outside.

8. *General Condition and Prospects of affected Area*.—Malpura, Sambhar, and the western part of Shekhawati are in great distress. The distress is less in the Northern and Eastern Districts.

Irrigated lands are expected to yield some produce where there are irrigation wells.

Prospects for rabi crops appear to be very discouraging owing to scarcity of water in irrigation wells and bunds.

9. *Changes in Rates of Wages*.—Nil.

10. *Immigrants and Emigrants*.—Twelve thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, mostly from Marwar, immigrated into this territory for work or for begging food.

The Darbar have at a cost of more than Rs. 2,200 deported nearly one thousand Marwaris. The Marwar Darbar have promised to take charge of them.

One thousand seven hundred and thirty-six Jaipur subjects left their houses for works within or outside of this territory during the month of January last. Emigration is gradually becoming less with the exception of certain villages in Nizamats Sambhar and Malpura.

Fodder is dear and becoming more and more scarce, especially in the Sambhar and Malpura districts.

Prices of food-grains are almost stationary.

Four chittacks of parched grain or *ata* per head is distributed by Mahajans and Jagirdars, etc., in villages of different Nizamats.

Enclosure 3 in No. 172.

Famine Statement of the Kishengerh State for the month of January 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on the last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kishengerh ...	863 square miles.	135	840 square miles.	115	6,240	3,037

Remarks.

Arrangements are still in force for affording relief at their homes to "pardanashin" and respectable paupers, as also to those who are helpless and infirm in villages and towns throughout the State, out of funds raised for the purpose by monthly subscriptions.

Raj Sadabarats at the Head-quarters of parganas, as also those kept up by private individuals and religious endowment funds, continue to give gratuitous relief.

There are kitchens attached to larger relief works for the maintenance of the children and dependents of the workers.

There is also a poor-house at the Suddar, which has nearly 900 inmates.

The Jagirdars and Rajputs, who are in need of help, have now all had provision made for their maintenance by guaranteed loans or Takavi advances or in cases of destitution by donations from the Darbar. Further advances have been made during the month to Jagirdars for opening relief works in their estates, especially where they are under the Court of Wards.

Surveys for irrigation bunds are being made in four or five other estates under the Court of Wards in view of their being undertaken by Takavi advances.

A fund has been raised for the protection of cattle, and steps have been taken for collecting and feeding such cows, bullocks, etc., as cannot be taken care of by their owners in places where the prickly pear is to be found in abundance or where facilities exist for grazing or keeping them.

The measures adopted for providing work to "parda" and other women at their homes are :—

- (1) Supply of coarse cotton procurable in large quantities from the local cotton-mills, for spinning into coarse yarn.
- (2) Weaving.
- (3) Supply of unhusked rice for husking.
- (4) Corn-grinding.

A good many people in the villages still manage to earn their living by selling the sweepings of the jungle and forest lands and the flowers of the Khejra tree as fodder as well as by digging up the various kinds of edible roots abounding in the beds of lakes and in low lands; but their number is fast decreasing.

Sugarcane and hay are being imported from the North-Western Provinces and easternmost districts of Central India for use as fodder.

The markets are well-stocked and prices a little easier than in the previous months on account of favourable rains in Northern India.

The earthwork of the irrigation bunds that were under construction in the Rupnagar district is nearly over, and consequently a large number of workers will have to be drafted to distant relief works which are already crowded, unless the Salemad scheme is sanctioned.

The condition of the people is unchanged.

The weather has been very chilly and cloudy during the last fortnight and this has caused an increase in mortality among the workers and other paupers.

The standing rabi has been improved by the rains and cold weather.

There was a little damage from frost in the first-half of the month.

Work on the sinking of new wells and deepening old one is in full swing.

The ground is being prepared for sowing jowar as a fodder crop.

There is a little increase in crime, but it is confined to petty thefts alone.

Arrangements have been in force for supplying cheap warm clothing and blankets wherever needed, whether at home or at the relief works and poor-houses.

The numbers in the orphanage are steadily increasing.

The garnet mines continue to be worked on the same principle and as successfully as in the previous month.

The emigration statistics for the month are as follows :—

EMIGRATION.		IMMIGRATION.	
Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.
161	760	1,101	322

The chief grain shops at the various centres continue to sell the coarser grains at cost price, which is generally about 10 (ten) per cent. lower than the market retail price.

Good accounts continue to be received of cattle that have emigrated to the North-Western Provinces and eastern parts of Central India.

No. 173.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1098 F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 720 F.C. of the 19th January 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Sirohi State for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 81.G., dated 5th February 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and of the accompanying Famine Report of that State for the month of January 1900.

2. The following table shows the comparative increase in the number of persons on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief :—

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 1899	1,498	6	1,504
January 1900	2,883	53	2,936

3. Practically all the labourers are at present employed on the important tank works at Sirohi, Kundul and Chandela. A new tank work is shortly to be commenced at Rohera. The State granted further advances during the month for deepening, sinking, and repairing new and old wells in different districts.

4. The following ration scale has been adopted by the Darbar at the advice of the Resident and Famine Commissioner :—

—	Maximum.	Minimum.	Penal.
	Chittacks of Gram.	Chittacks of Grain.	Chittacks of Grain.
Male digger	15	12	8
Female	12	10	7
Children between 10-14 years.	10	8	6
Children below 6 years...	3	3	3

5. The general health of the people is reported to be good, but 42 deaths, apparently from starvation, occurred among wandering medicants. These were not identified. There has been no emigration during the month.

6. The relief works are now under the supervision of Mr. W. E. Knight, Assistant Engineer, whose services have been lent by the Government of India. He is an energetic officer, and with his advent much mismanagement has disappeared. His Highness the Maharao and the Dewan of the State take much interest in the operations, and, though somewhat tardily, they have accepted Mr. Knight's recommendations. The arrangements are being rapidly placed on a sound working basis.

Enclosure in No. 173.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 81 G., dated the 5th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 5 G., dated 2nd/4th January 1900, I have the honour to submit a copy of the Sirohi Darbar's Famine Report* for the month of January, together with a map of the famine affected area, in which there has been no change.

2. The number of persons employed on relief works has increased from 1,498 to 2,883, and that on gratuitous relief from 6 to 53.

3. Mr. W. E. Knight, Assistant Engineer, assumed charge of his famine relief duties in Sirohi on the 31st December last. Until his arrival there had been much mismanagement in the organisation of relief, in consequence of the ignorance and apathy of the State officials and the absence of qualified supervision. I fear some little time must yet elapse before things are in proper working order. His Highness the Maharao and the Dewan deserve credit for their readiness to accept recommendations, and for their endeavours to carry them into effect.

* Not printed.

4. On the occasion of my visit to Sirohi with Major Dunlop-Smith on the 10th January 1900, we approved of the Darbar's adopting the following ration scale :—

	Maximum.	Medium.	Penal.
	Chittacks.	Chittacks.	Chittacks.
Male diggers	15	12	8
Female	12	10	7
Children between 10-14	10	8	6
Children below 6 ...	3	3	3

The majority of the labourers earn the medium scale.

5. The price of food-grains has risen slightly—wheat is selling at seven seers 12 chittacks, barley at 10 seers, jowar at nine seers and makki at eight seers 8 chittacks per rupee; grain-stocks are everywhere understood to be sufficient, and grazing for cattle and water are far more abundant than in Marwar.

6. The public health and the health of the people on the works is reported to have been good. I noticed, however, on my visit to the Chandela tank on the 8th January a considerable number of emaciated and weakly persons. I regret to report that 42 deaths, apparently from starvation, occurred among wandering beggars. Blankets for the sick and clothes for the children have been sent to Chandela (near Abu Road) to which place inmates from the poor-house at Abu are reported as soon as they are fit to work. It is everywhere found that people sell their blankets on the very first opportunity.

7. No emigration is reported to have taken place during the month. The weather has been abnormally cold. The people on the works and the half-starving cattle have felt it a good deal.

No. 174.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1099 F., dated Amere, the 28th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 735 H., dated 22nd January 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for December 1899, I have now the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 450, dated 14th February 1900, from the Political Agent, Kotah, forwarding the Famine reports of the same States for the month of January 1900.

2. The following table shows the progress of distress in the two States since November last :—

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
<i>Kotah.</i>			
November	1,500	1,000	2,500
December	4,370	2,278	6,648
January	13,462	4,332	17,794
<i>Jhalawar.</i>			
November	400	250	650
December	700	800	1,500
January	700	800	1,500

3. The Kotah figures show the large increase of 9,092 and 2,054 in the numbers of persons employed on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief respectively. This is sufficiently accounted for by the difference in prices, which rose during the month from 10½ seers (staple food grain) to 8½ seers per rupee, owing, no doubt, to the failure of the expected winter rains. Food stocks are reported sufficient, and no appreciable importation of grain is said to have taken place, but the prices now quoted will probably soon attract imports on a considerable scale. The general physique of the people is reported to be fair; the number of deaths has risen from 142 in the last month to 241 in that now under report. Railway and other relief works have been started. Both Darbars understand their responsibilities in regard to the relief of distress, as I ascertained personally during my recent visits.

4. In the Jhalawar report the number of persons both on relief works and on gratuitous relief are returned as identical with those in the preceding month. Enquiries have been made on this point.

5. The Diwan of the State had just returned from a tour through the Chaumehla before submitting the report, and he says without hesitation that there is no famine anywhere in that tract. The small relief works which have been started consist of tank and well deepening and collecting grass for the State Bazaar, and are sufficient to meet requirements. Adequate arrangements have also been made for poor-house relief and the care of orphans. Grain is reported to be abundant, and importation is being encouraged. In some villages of the Platan and Pachpahar Tahsils water is scarce now, and a water famine may be apprehended later on. A few deaths are reported among wanderers, but among the people of the State itself there are no starvation cases. On the whole, the condition of the State is not such as to cause any anxiety yet.

Enclosure 1 in No. 174.

Letter from the Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 450, dated the 14th February 1900.

In continuation of this office letter No. 86, dated 9th January 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the monthly Famine Reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of January 1900.

2. The total number of persons in Kotah on relief as well as on gratuitous relief has increased this month by 9,092 and 2,054 respectively.

3. Takkavi advances have been made to cultivators to repair and make wells. Railway earthwork has been opened at Autah, which is giving employment to 2,900 persons.

The number of deaths from starvation is reported to be 241 against 142 in December last.

9. There are no changes in the figures of the Jhalawar State.

Enclosure 2 in No. 174.

Statement for month ending 31st January 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
	Sq. miles.					
Kotah	5,673	719,061	5,673	719,061	13,462	4,332

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for month ending 31st January, 1900.

Private Relief.—In the city of Kotah grain is doled out every day to 218 helpless inhabitants and boiled juar to 800 persons. In Nizamata Tare 8 maunds of grain are distributed daily among 640 persons at the village of Sarola. At Tahsil Ghatoli a tank is deepened with funds privately subscribed by local Sahukars.

Village and Poor-house Relief.—Two thousand six hundred and seventy-four persons are gratuitously relieved.

General character of Relief Works.—Takkavi has been advanced to cultivators to repair and make wells. Railway earthwork at Autah opened during the month is giving employment to 2,900 persons. Other relief works under the Public Works Department employ 1,559.

General physique of the people is fair.

Food stock is sufficient.

No appreciable importation of grain has taken place.

General condition so far is not bad, but future prospects, owing to the failure of the rabi crops, give cause for anxiety.

Rates of wages are 2 annas, 1½ annas and 1 anna.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place.

Enclosure 3 in No. 174.

Letter from the Diwan of Jhalawar State to the Political Agent, Jhalawar State, No. 23, dated 24th January 1900.

In submitting herewith the Famine Statement for the month of January 1900, I have the honour to state that I have just been through the Chaumehla, and from what I have seen of the people there, I have no hesitation in saying that there is no famine anywhere in the Chaumehla. The accompanying statement will show that, in spite of the deficiency of water, the people have managed to sow a very good percentage of the rabi crop. This they were enabled to do by sinking and clearing a large number of wells and oris, for which they received large advances from the State. Even in Pachpahar, the worst of all the Chaumehla Tehsils, in this respect the irrigated rabi sowings amount to nearly one-third of what they were in Sammat 1955. The condition of the Patan Tehsil is similar to that of Pachpahar, the rabi sowings amounting to over one-third of the previous year. But with the exception of a few bighas in Patan, there is no irrigated rabi anywhere. The crop (rabi), as sown this year, consists chiefly of barley, which will be fit for use in about two months, and in some cases even before that. The outturn of the kharif crop has been scanty, except in Gandhar, and some villages of Dag and Awar tehsil. Some of the people eat bread prepared from a mixture of cornflour and ground wild Ber; but this they do more or less every year. So the use of the wild Ber cannot be taken as an evidence of any abnormal condition of the people. There is no sickness anywhere in the State, and the general health of the people may be considered as good.

2. The relief works at present open in the State are :—

- (i) The Khandya tank, which employs about 370 persons daily, where, though at present only about 225 persons are employed daily, a good many more will be added to the number as soon as huts have been erected for labourers to live in at night. These huts are being constructed now.
- (ii) The Kishanpura tank,
- (iii) *Collecting Grass for the State Bazar.*—At present about 480 are employed daily in this work.
- (iv) *Clearing and Sinking Wells.*—The number of persons employed on wells in various villages cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy, but the three wells in the Chhaoni employed about 300 persons daily.

The overseer has, moreover, completed the surveys of three or four tanks in the Chaumchla, and he has also prepared an estimate of the expenditure to be incurred on one of these tanks. As soon as Mr. Tickell has examined this estimate, and the site of the tank if necessary, I shall write to you about it, and the work could then commence any day.

3. There are two poor-houses in the State, the one at the Chooni, which at present contains about 230 persons, and the other at the city of Patan, where the number of inmates amounts to about 475. These persons receive cooked food from the State, and most of them have been supplied with clothing also. But it is a pity that some of these men sell away their blankets or other clothes when they can get an opportunity to do so. When I was at Pachpahar the other day, a poor-house was opened there, and some 25 persons were put into it; but I am told that some of them have since left the place and gone away.

4. His Highness has also opened an orphanage at the Chhaoni, which at present contains some 39 children of different castes. Almost all of these, when first admitted, were in a very emaciated condition, but now they have improved a great deal. Proper arrangements have been made for preserving the castes of these children.

5. There have been a few deaths among the Marwaris and other outsiders, who had been long starving before they came here; but so far as the people of this State are concerned, starvation and famine are quite unknown as yet. Grain is abundant everywhere, and His Highness has further encouraged importation by removing customs dues payable on grain imported into the Chaumehla tahsils. But still there is some distress on account of very high prices of food grains, more so in a few isolated villages where there is no rabi and where kharif crop has entirely failed. It is especially for these people that relief works are being provided by the State. In some villages in Patan and Pachpahar tahsils water is scarce and later on water famine may be apprehended. In places where kharif crop has failed entirely, there is scarcity of fodder also. Though fodder is abundant nowhere, the people have somehow managed so that their cattle have not suffered much as yet. On the whole, the condition of this State is not such as to cause any anxiety.

No. 175.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1101-F., dated the 28th February, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 891-F., dated 7th February, 1900, forwarding the Famine Reports,* I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Famine Reports for the Banswara State for the months of December 1899 and January 1900. The Resident's covering letters contain no comments upon the reports.

2. The numbers on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief are shown in table beneath:—

—		Works.	Gratuitous	Total.
End of November 1899	...	191	50	241
„ December 1899	...	432	78	510
„ January 1900	...	576	100	676

* Banswara and Kushalgarh for November 1899.
Partabgarh and Kushalgarh for December 1899.

3. The relief works, which are as inadequate as the report, consist of petty buildings and well and tank works.

4. The situation and prospects in the Banswara State were described in the Resident's letter No. 27-C., of the 1st February, 1900, which was enclosed with my letter of the 7th February already quoted. The Banswara arrangements are unsatisfactory, but now that a special Famine Officer, Lieutenant Nicolas, I.S.C., has been deputed to this and the adjacent petty States, it is hoped that the organization will be improved, and relief operations placed on a more suitable footing. Instructions are under issue on this subject.

Enclosure 1 in No. 175.

Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the Month ending the 31st December, 1899.

State.	Area.	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column No. 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on the last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Banswara ...	1,000 square miles.	211,641	Whole State	Half of the Bhl population is affected by famine and one-fourth in other castes.	432	78

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the month ending the 31st December, 1899.

1. *Private Relief.*—In the city seven buildings are being erected, one well being sunk, and one tank being deepened. In the district 10 wells and 3 tanks.
2. *Village and Poor-house Relief.*—The poor up to this maintain themselves by selling grass, fuel, and wood, and other articles of the jungle. They eat also jungli fruits, e.g., yalms, &c.
3. *General character of Relief Works.*—Well and tank works have been commenced as relief works.
4. *Physical condition of the People.*—The health of the famine-stricken people is good.
5. *Death (if any) from Starvation.*—None.
6. *Food Stocks.*—The quantity of grain in stock is half of the quantity required.
7. *Importation of Grain.*—Grain is now being imported.
8. *General condition and prospects of Affected Area.*—The whole of Banswara is affected and the prospects are bad, there being no cultivation except in small patches by wells and tanks.
9. *Changes in Rates of Wages.*—None, same as last month.
10. *Emigration or Immigration.*—Some persons have emigrated from the district to other districts, while some have immigrated into Banswara District.
11. *Other Matters.*—None.

Enclosure 2 in No. 175.

Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the Month ending the 31st January, 1900.

State.	Area	Population in Thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated Population in Thousands of Column No. 4.	Total Number on Relief Works on the last day of Month.	Number on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Banswara ...	1,000 square miles.	211,641	Half of the Bhil population is affected and one-fourth of the other castes.	Half of the Bhil population is affected and one-fourth of the other castes.	576	100

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Banswara for the month ending the 31st January, 1900.

- Private Relief.*—In the city seven buildings are being erected, two tanks being deepened, one well being sunk.
In the district 10 wells and 4 tanks.
- Village and Poor-house Relief.*—The poor up to this maintain themselves by selling grass, fuel, and wood, and other forest products. They eat forest fruits as well.
- General Character of Relief Works.*—Well and tank works have been commenced on relief works.
- Physical condition of the People.*—The health of the famine people is fair.
- Death (if any) from Starvation.*—None.
- Food Stock.*—The quantity of grain in stock is half of the quantity required.
- Importation of Grain.*—Grain is now being imported.
- General condition and prospects of Affected Area.*—The whole of Banswara is affected, but in some places there is no distress in the true sense of the word.

In most places there is cultivation by wells.

- Changes in Rates of Wages.*—In the beginning of the last month the rates were as under :—

	Seers.
Wheat	8 per Salem Sahi rupee.
Mukki	10 " "
Gram	10 " "
Kodra	16 " "
Sal	14 " "

The rates at present are as under :—

	Seers.	Chittaks.
Wheat	4	6 per Salem Sahi rupee.
Mukki	4	12 " "
Gram	4	8 " "
Kodra	16	0 " "
Sal	14	0 " "

- Emigration or Immigration.*—Some persons have emigrated while some have immigrated into Banswara District.

11. *Other Matters.*—None.

No. 176.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1080 F., dated Camp Ajmer, the 28th February, 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with Foreign Department telegram No. 765 L.-A., dated the 20th February 1900, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 120 G., dated the 20th February 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, who specifies the dates on which the Jodhpur Darbar would request payment of the further instalments of the loan of 36 lakhs provisionally sanctioned by the Government of India for expenditure on famine relief operations in the Marwar State. Of this loan Government advanced 13 lakhs in December 1899 and January 1900.

2. The total expenditure on famine between the 1st October 1899 and 31st January 1900 amounted to Rs. 7,51,813-1-6. Up to September 30th the famine expenditure was Rs. 1,52,808-11-9, making a total to 31st January of Rs. 9,04,621-13-5. This is more than covered by the 13 lakhs Government have already advanced in December and January, so the Darbar require no instalment in February. They ask for 3½ lakhs on the 1st March, April, May and June, and 3 lakhs on 1st July, altogether 17 lakhs, which (added to the 13 lakhs already received) gives a total of 30 lakhs.

3. The Resident anticipates that the total expenditure on famine relief alone from the first to last will not eventually exceed 25 lakhs. But he notes that a further sum of 5 lakhs will probably be required to replace plough cattle and to facilitate agricultural operations. This would give a total expenditure on famine of 30 lakhs up to the end of July 1900.

4. In separate correspondence under submission, the Darbar have asked permission to charge against the Famine Loan a comparatively small item of Rs. 50,000 for artesian well experiments. But this, if sanctioned, should come out of the monthly instalments and should not swell the total.

5. If the Resident's estimates are verified, the total advances will be limited to 30 lakhs against 36 lakhs originally anticipated.

Enclosure 1 in No. 176.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 120 G., dated the 20th February, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram, dated the 17th February.

2. Of the 30 lakhs loan sanctioned by the Government of India, the Jodhpur Darbar has received, or is about to receive, the following sums:—

	Rs.
In January	9,50,000
„ February	3,50,000

The Darbar has asked that the balance may be paid in the following instalments:—

	Rs.
On 1st March 1900	3,50,000
„ „ April „	3,50,000
„ „ May „	3,50,000
„ „ June „	3,50,000
„ „ July „	3,00,000

3. The Darbar has spent on famine relief between the 1st October 1899 and the 31st January 1900 Rs. 7,51,813-1-6 as detailed below, and in a letter which is about to follow I have submitted a request that a further sum of

Rs. 1,52,808-11-9 expended between the 1st April and 30th September 1899 may be charged to the famine loan.

				Rs.	a.	p.
October	1899	...	...	1,10,711	12	9
November	"	...	...	1,62,936	7	3
December	"	...	...	2,19,547	4	3
January	1900	...	...	2,58,617	9	3
Total				7,51,813	1	6

4. In January Rs. 2,14,350 were spent in maintaining on works and gratuitous relief 91,602 persons.

5. The numbers on relief rose in February to 115,565 and may continue to increase, but I am hopeful that the total expenditure on relief will not eventually exceed 25 lakhs.

6. A further sum of 5 lakhs will probably be required to replace plough cattle and to facilitate agricultural operations after the setting in of the rains.

No. 177.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department No. 1118 F, dated Camp, the 3rd/5th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 679 F.-C., of the 14th January, 1900, forwarding the famine report of the Tonk and Haraoti Agency for December, 1899, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter* No. 57 G., dated 6th February, 1900, from the Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, and the accompanying famine reports, of the States of Bundi, Tonk and Shahpura for the month of January, 1900.

2. The following table shows the comparative numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the three States, respectively, during the months of November, December and January. Tonk shows a total increase of 1,465 over the figures of the previous month, and Bundi and Shahpura a decrease of 896 and 1,455, respectively. The unusual cold of January probably accounts for the decrease.

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
<i>Bundi.</i>			
November	4,135	250	4,385
December	5,768	276	6,044
January	4,886	262	5,148
<i>Tonk.</i>			
November	4,470	2,458	6,928
December	4,869	1,932	6,801
January	5,575	2,691	8,266
<i>Shahpura.</i>			
November	2,064	210	2,274
December	2,818	1,288	4,106
January	1,728	1,023	2,751

* Not printed

3. Major Dunlop-Smith, the Famine Commissioner, has lately completed a tour through these States. His report will be forwarded to Government in due course. My personal inspection of the Shahpura poor-houses and relief works left a very favourable impression upon my mind. The Tonk Darbar also are willing to comply with advice regarding their chief arrangements, but their administration is defective. The commencement of the railway earthwork from the Jaipur-Madhupur line to Deoli and Jehazpur in the south will do much to systematize and expand their organization. The Bundi relief arrangements, with the exception of the railway work now in active progress, are discreditable. The Darbar is unwilling to realise its responsibilities or to face the situation resolutely. I have lately been obliged to order the immediate introduction of more liberal and comprehensive relief.

Enclosure in No. 177.

(Extract.)

Remarks.

The condition of the people has deteriorated considerably owing to the cold and to the fact that the means of gaining a livelihood by collecting and selling jungle products is now exhausted. Deaths from starvation are reported to have occurred. Many of these are of wayfarers from outside, but numbers also are subjects of the State itself. No rain has fallen, and the crops sown on tank land are suffering in consequence. The total rabi crop will be very poor. Railway work is progressing, five miles of earthwork have actually been completed. Poor-houses have been opened and are in working order. Food-stocks are sufficient, and grain is being imported freely.

No. 178.

Memoranda by Major J. R. Dunlop-Smith, R.E., Famine Commissioner, Rajputana.

MEWAR.

1. After an interval of three months I paid a second visit to Udaipur when His Highness the Maharana kindly arranged for me to see his leading officials and inspect some of the relief operations in progress. I had also the advantage of daily communication with Mr. Pinney and Mehta Bhopal Singh, who are directly concerned with this branch of the administration. These two officers constitute a special famine office directly under the orders of the Durbar. They receive and collate the reports of officers in charge of relief operations. The various agencies now at work within the State and the nature of the relief given are described below.

2. The railway extension at Lambia was visited by me a short time ago and has been described in a separate note. I would merely say here that as yet sanction has been received for the earthwork only. His Highness informed me at a personal interview that he was very anxious for the line to be completed throughout, that is between Baran and Marwar Junction, as soon as possible, but in that case the promised contribution of Rs. 2,35,000 will be greatly exceeded. This excess, I understand, the Durbar is perfectly prepared to meet if progress is maintained *pari passu* along the whole line. The railway is at present employing about 2,500 persons, the great majority of whom belong to villages in the khalsa area.

3. By far the largest number of people now on relief are employed on tanks and miscellaneous work near Deogarh on the borders of Merwara under the orders of Mr. Lillie, the Manager of the Udaipur-Chitor Railway. This is a purely jagir tract and by far the largest proportion of the total on relief belong to either the Bednor or the Deogarh jagir. Hitherto the Durbar has refused residents of the jagir area admission to the State works but was compelled to open those at Deogarh in order to provide for the great numbers of Mewar people who had swarmed into Merwara and Ajmer. Mr. Lillie has now some

50,000 people on his hands and has already begun to experience great difficulty in providing for them. As will be explained below, the Jagirdars have as yet done nothing within the limits of their jurisdiction and, as His Highness is naturally averse to spending revenue derived from khalsa villages on works which will benefit only the Jagirdars, the present arrangements cannot last much longer unless some understanding is speedily arrived at between the Maharana and his nobles. Even if it be assumed that the numbers will not rise and 10-14 persons can be relieved for one imperial rupee per day the expenditure from the 1st February till the end of June will reach nearly six lakhs, or approximately $9\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of Chitori rupees. These figures are sufficient to show the extreme gravity of the situation in Deogarh and Bednor, the approximate revenues of which barely amount to seventeen per cent. of the total assigned to the sixteen leading Jagirdars.

4. The various Hakims in the khalsa area have been furnished with grants amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 (Chitori) for the improvement and construction of wells within their different districts. The largest grants have been made to the plains districts of Sahara, Kapasin, Chitorgarh, and Bhilwara. Should these sums not prove sufficient, additional grants will be made. Already, I am glad to hear, the Durbar has sanctioned a substantial extra grant for Jehazpur where distress is so acute. If all this money reaches the people and is applied to the objects for which it is intended the present trouble will be much alleviated and permanent advantage will also be gained. But there is evidence to show that, owing to a lack of thorough supervision, some of these grants are misapplied and the wise intentions of the Durbar are frustrated. And to make matters worse this misappropriation is carried on in those very districts where the local officers have disregarded the orders of the Maharana suspending the collection of revenue on account of failures. I would strongly urge the deputation of some trustworthy head-quarters officer to inquire into and report upon the expenditure of these advances. More money will be required later on to help the cultivators to purchase seed and cattle, and no time should be lost in remedying the defects of the present system.

5. The bulk of the relief works are under the control of the Public Works Department. Mr. Williams, the State Engineer, was again on tour during my visit and as I was not given an opportunity of examining his returns or consulting his subordinates I was unable to gather much information about the working of this branch of the administration. On the occasion of my previous visit a sum of four lakhs (Chitori) had been sanctioned for special famine relief works and I pointed out that this would prove insufficient. The grant has now been raised to nearly seven lakhs. At present there are, according to a return furnished by Mehta Bhopal Singh, 15 relief works open in 15 different districts. These are all tanks and are said to employ daily an aggregate of 16,004 persons. On the understanding that 10 persons are maintained for one local rupee per day, the relief of 16,004 people will cost Rs. 48,000 per month, or say, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs up to the breaking of the monsoon. This sum is a little more than one third of the total amount sanctioned for sixteen districts. It will be quite possible therefore not only to expand the existing programme but to freely admit residents of Jagir villages on to the works. I have no hesitation in putting forward these suggestions as there is no dearth of useful projects in almost any part of Mewar and those now on the programme will admittedly be remunerative. I am fully aware of the reasons which make the Durbar reluctant to admit any but khalsa people to the works but surely it is not only expedient but economical to take advantage of the temporary facilities for obtaining cheap labour from the Jagir villages for the construction of works which will permanently enhance the revenue-paying capacity of the khalsa lands. The present opportunity will in all probability not occur again in Mewar for many years to come and it should be utilised to the full by gradually drafting the people on the works in Bednor and Deogarh on to those in the khalsa area. The advantages of some such policy are obvious and I would commend them to the earnest consideration of the Durbar. The assets of the khalsa villages will be increased; the State revenues will be expended mainly on the people who have contributed to them; the future adjustment of the claims of the Maharana against the Rawat of Deogarh and

the Thakur of Bednor will be much simplified and the great source of friction between Mewar and the Merwara authorities will be removed.

5. The only work in progress under the Public Works Department which I was able to visit was the Khemli tank. Khemli is a large village 14 miles from Udaipur to the north of the Debari pass. There is an old tank the bed of which has been silted up with a long masonry dam very much out of repair. When the dam was first built the foundations were laid on the ground, no attempt being made to join them to the rock below the surface. Rs. 68,000 (Chitori) have been sanctioned for strengthening the dam and clearing the bed of the tank. The work was opened on the 1st January, 1900. Up to date most of the labour has been employed on laying bare the foundations of the old dam and these are now being continued down to the rock. When this particular section is finished the masonry will be raised several feet and will be protected on both sides by thick sloping banks of earth. The work is divided into two unequal portions, the larger being in charge of Babu Phul Chand and the smaller in charge of Babu Kalu Mal, both overseers of the Public Works Department. They are assisted by the following staff :—

3 Mistris on a monthly salary of	...	...	Rs. 22
8 Clerks	"	"	Rs. 12 to 20
10 Chaukidars	"	"	Rs. 6
10 Mates on a daily salary of	...	...	As. 4
6 Water carriers on daily rates.			
3 Sweepers	"	"	

According to the latest returns 2,353 persons are employed. Of these only 143, or 6 per cent., belong to jagir villages. The others are all residents of the khalsa area. They live in the villages within a radius of about 10 miles round, but some belong to Udaipur itself, and there is a remnant of the large draft of wanderers who were sent up from Neemuch on their way back from Malwa. The majority of these wanderers, however, disappeared after they had been at work for a few days.

6. The workers are divided into ten gangs, which vary in size according to the class of labour exacted from each. I checked the muster rolls of five gangs, and found only two mistakes in the attendance figures and one in the payments. The composition of these gangs, with the daily rates of pay, are shown in the following table :—

Class.	Numbers.	Daily rate of pay in local annas.	Grain equivalent to imperial chittaks.
Skilled labour	24	8	36-00
Special, including Mates ...	77	4	18-00
Men, diggers	294	3	13-50
Women, carriers	375	2	9-00
Children... ..	102	1½	6-75
Total	872	—	—

By far the largest proportion of the workers are women, and only such children as will do a fair day's work are admitted. The figures in the fourth column have been obtained by taking the present selling price of bejhar, the cheapest grain, which is 4½ local seers per local rupee, and assuming that four local seers are equivalent to five imperial seers. At present tasks are not measured, and if the workers are not pressed the wages may remain as they are. But when the foundations are ready the majority of the people will be employed on earthwork pure and simple. It is then, I understand, intended to fix the

diggers' task. If a full task is exacted the wages will have to be raised a little. Payments are now made twice or thrice a week, but new arrivals are paid daily for the first few days until they have established relations with the camp shops.

7. One weak point in the organisation is the system of admission. Only such persons are admitted who are sent with a written order signed by the head of a district, or who are drafted from one of the collecting camps by some responsible authority. The officers in charge have therefore to take the risk of turning away starving applicants, or are forced to disobey their standing orders. On the day of my visit I saw about 25 persons who had been clamouring for admission for three days. They were reduced, but were perfectly able to work. If they are not given employment they will gradually become emaciated, and if they do not die neglected will have to be fed up in the nearest poor-house. I would suggest that the officer in charge of every work be given discretion to employ any applicants who are obviously forced to the works by want.

There is a camp hospital for the treatment of out-patients only. It is in charge of a pensioned Hospital Assistant, with a compounder to help him. The stock of medicines is sufficient, and the arrangements are good. But some system should be organised for sending serious cases to the larger hospitals at Dabok or Udaipur. The supply of food and water is ample, and the latter is not likely to give out even during the hot weather. At first the coin for wages was brought out under a guard from Udaipur, but now the camp banias who belong to the city are glad to give their takings from the people to the officers in charge in return for orders on the treasury.

8. Gratuitous relief is given in two ways on the work. There are about 160 dependants who are said to be relieved in kind at the following rates:—

Man receives 10 imperial chittaks daily.

Woman " 7½ " " "

Children " 5 " " "

But no register is kept of these people and I could find no accounts of the expenditure on grain. A poor-house has been lately opened close to the camp. The following table shows the figures for the first fortnight in February:—

Class.	Admissions during fortnight.	Died.		Drafted on to work.		Total present on 15th February.
		Actual.	Per cent. on inmates.	Actual.	Per cent. on inmates.	
Men	27	5	18.5	10	37.0	12
Women	46	8	17.4	4	8.7	34
Children	95	8	8.4	—	—	87
Total	168	21	12.5	14	8.3	133

The people are fed on cooked food once a day. The rations are calculated on the same scale as that fixed for dependants. The staff consists of two cooks and distributors, one chaukidar, one water carrier, and two sweepers.

All classes are represented on the work. I worked out the percentages of the more numerous castes from the muster rolls of the five gangs which I checked. These are as follows:—

Bhils	form 38 per cent. of the total.
Dangi	" 34 " "
Mina	" 6 " "
Gadri	" 4 " "
Balai	" 4 " "
Rajput	" 3 " "
Miscellaneous	" 11 " "

The tank can easily accommodate another thousand workers, and these should be taken on as soon as possible. In the month of January, a sum of only Rs. 5,000, or seven per cent. of the sanctioned estimate, was spent. It is of the utmost importance to finish the dam before the rains break, and the present overseers seem to be quite capable of managing twice the number of people they have at present. The workers appeared to be in fair condition, and I received no complaints. In all respects the work was a bright contrast to those in progress in the Jehazpur District.

9. In addition to the relief works under their charge the P.W.D. have not reduced the ordinary works which were sanctioned before the famine began. These include the construction and repair of buildings and roads. The budget provision amounts to Rs. 2,99,000 and the projects now in hand are giving employment to over 2,000 people.

10. The gratuitous relief administered by the State is confined to poor-houses. Since my last visit a large poor-house has been opened between the city and the Fateh Sagar. The inmates are divided into three sections, each of which occupies a separate enclosure. The largest section consists of about 2,400 people of both sexes and all ages. These are supposed to be in better condition than the others. Very few live in the poor-house which is a large walled enclosure with a shed running along the west side. The staff is made up of four clerks and a guard of eight sepoy. The sweepers are told off from the municipal establishment, and the water carriers are recruited from among the inmates. Very few people live in the enclosure, and apparently they are all allowed to wander about at pleasure during the day. Admission is by ticket issued by the Superintendent, Madan Mohan Lal, Police Superintendent. Cooked rations of dalia are served out daily about noon. The scale is supposed to be $8\frac{3}{4}$ imperial chittaks for an adult and 6 for a child.

11. The second enclosure is a few hundred yards distant. In this the crippled and infirm are housed and fed. The establishment consists of two clerks and a small guard of sepoy. A compounder with a small stock of medicines lives on the premises. The cooks and water-carriers are recruited from among the inmates and receive extra rations. The authorised scale of rations, which is more generous than that prescribed for the other section, is as follows :—

Adult, $8\frac{3}{4}$ chittaks of bread and $2\frac{1}{2}$ of dalia.
Child, $6\frac{1}{4}$ " " and $2\frac{1}{4}$..

The chupatties are made of wheat and the dalia of maize. Food is served out twice a day, at ten in the morning and four in the afternoon. Rice is issued to urgent cases. I checked the godown register showing the daily consumption of grain with the muster rolls for three days with the following results :—

Date	Inmates.	Consumption in imperial seers of				Average in imperial chittaks per inmate
		Wheat.	Maize.	Rice.	Total.	
1st February	352	125	50	$6\frac{1}{4}$	181 $\frac{1}{4}$	8.2
2nd "	358	143	50	$6\frac{1}{4}$	199 $\frac{1}{4}$	8.9
10th "	546	303	75	$7\frac{1}{2}$	385 $\frac{1}{4}$	11.1

In addition to the food grains salt is issued and a few condiments are mixed with the dalia. The differences in the average amount issued on different days appear to call for some inquiry. Fuel is brought in by the stronger inmates from the jungles on the slopes of the surrounding hills. One corner of the enclosure is occupied by the hospital but the majority of the people are really in want of medical supervision. The chief complaints are diarrhoea and dysentery, but I discovered one case of small-pox which should

not have been allowed to remain. The pneumonia epidemic has almost died out.

12. The third enclosure is used as a segregation hospital. There were 27 patients present during my visit and all of these were suffering from small-pox. Most of them appeared as if they were on the road to recovery. All the patients and their relations in attendance were housed in the rooms attached to the yard.

The levelling of the uneven ground close to the town which I inspected on my previous visit now forms what might be called a supplementary relief work for the poor-house. There are now 177 persons employed. Almost all are men. Ten have been on the work since it was begun and having acquired some proficiency in rock-cutting are paid at contract rates. It is satisfactory to note that nine of these are Bhils. The rest of the workers live in the poor-house and walk to and from the ground every day. They receive extra rations so that they may have two meals a day, and one rupee's worth of tobacco is divided between them daily. Those who act as diggers receive one pice in cash extra. As far as I could gather each worker gets 16½ chittaks of cooked food per day and they all appeared to be in good condition and contented. This work is in charge of Mr. Reilly, an army pensioner, who is entitled to credit for the excellent organisation he has established. He is careful to see that a proper return is obtained for the expenditure and he is liked and respected by the people.

With the exception of the men employed under Mr. Reilly the condition of the inmates of the poor-house is far from satisfactory. The one fact that can be placed to the credit of the management is that the older inmates are not so emaciated as the new arrivals.

13. Another large poor-house has been established close to the village of Dabok twelve miles from Udaipur itself. On the day of my inspection there were no fewer than 4,404 inmates. These are divided into four sections, the residents of the khalsa, jagir and mafi areas being kept apart. The sick are housed in a hospital camp. The following table gives the numbers in each section :—

Residents of khalsa area	1,429
" " jagir " 	2,103
" " mafi " 	778
Foreigners	94
Total,	4,404

The officer in charge is M. Nath Mal, a State Ahlkar, and P. Rattan Lal, Jagirdar, assists in the distribution of food. The establishment is as follows :—

- 1 Chauki Sirdar for distribution.
- 7 Clerks.
- 1 Jamadar.
- 1 Havildar.
- 22 Sepoys.
- 8 Sweepers.

The Sirdar receives Ra. 15 per month and the clerks are paid at varying rates. The military contingent receive their ordinary pay and the sweepers are paid both in cash and kind. The water carriers are selected from the inmates.

The food is brought out from Udaipur. It is supplied from the Palace store-room (Kothar). The water is drawn from a large well which will have to be deepened soon unless new wells are constructed. The adults and all children over 12 years of age are fed once a day between 12 and 2, but the small children

are given a small ration in the evening. No scale of food has been prescribed. When the poor-house was first opened the daily consumption was estimated to be 25 imperial maunds. This was raised in time to 33½ maunds and for the last few days the consumption has been 37½ maunds. This barely amounts to 3½ chittaks per head per day, which is obviously an inadequate allowance, especially as part of the food is given to wanderers who stop at Dabok on their way to the capital. The expenditure on food is no doubt heavy. It amounts approximately to Rs. 142 (British) per day. But it is all unproductive, and if the inmates are properly fed the majority can certainly be drafted on to some relief work in a very few days. At present they arrive in a very reduced condition and have no chance of picking up strength on the food they receive. It would be more economical to double the ration and establish a system of periodical drafting on to remunerative works. The initial expense would be great, but in a few weeks the numbers would be reduced to a mere fraction of the present total.

14. One section is housed in a large double serai on the edge of the high-road to Chitor. Another is encamped in small huts made of matting in two adjoining fields. The third is quartered in and around the large bungalow built by the famous Colonel Tod when he was Resident in Mewar at the beginning of the century. The huts struck me as too small. They are prepared by a gang of 15 men who are paid from 3 to 3½ annas per day. The general hospital contained 71 patients on the day of my visit. The principal diseases were diarrhoea and dysentery. There were 38 persons, chiefly children, in the segregation wards. These were all suffering from small-pox. The stock of medicines is sufficient, but there is an utter absence of light farinaceous food with nourishing qualities and no provision seems to have been made for a supply of milk.

15. There is more than one private agency at work in the distribution of gratuitous relief, the chief of those being the charitable committees organised by the officers of the Mewar Bhil Corps at Kherwara and Kotra.

The Missionaries in Udaipur also have been active in relieving suffering and caring for orphans.

16. In my previous note I referred to the attitude assumed by the majority of the Jagirdars with regard to famine relief and indicated the possible development of a grave crisis should effective measures not be taken throughout both the Jagir area and the Bhumat. This is not the place for a discussion of the internal political relations of the leading nobles with the Durbar, even were I in a position to attempt it. But these relations must be referred to as their present nature is such as to effectually prevent the introduction of adequate relief measures over the greater part of the famine-stricken area of Mewar. No advance seems to have been made during the last three months and the catastrophe which I then ventured to foreshadow has been averted in the hilly tracts solely by the special Government grant. In the rest of the State it was perhaps not so imminent as I feared at the time, but it has been merely postponed in the plains country by the assistance given in Merwara and the subsequent establishment of camps in Deogarh and Bednor. The large number of emigrants now daily returning to their homes from Malwa and the famine-stricken condition of the great majority of the villages cannot be ignored very much longer and everything points to the necessity for an early settlement of the Jagir question. On it actually depends the fate of not an inconsiderable number of human beings.

17. I would take this opportunity of again pointing out the necessity for providing an ample supply of wholesome drinking water for Udaipur itself. I would suggest also that the present poor-house be removed a few miles away from the city, and that a regular system of drafting on to works be established. To make this a success it will be necessary to open a large relief work near the city and close to whatever site may be chosen for the poor-house. The sanitary arrangements of the existing institution are by no means perfect, and as the hot weather advances it will be a standing menace to the health of the town. If no large work is possible near Udaipur, I would again call attention to the proposed branch railway from Mauli to Nathwara.

18. The only other point I would touch on is the want of effective

supervision of relief works at a distance. The Maharana has taken the sufferings of his subjects to heart, and has sanctioned the adoption of schemes of relief which in their extent and aim are without precedent in the history of Mewar. But few of the leading nobles have as yet attempted to follow this generous lead, and there is only too good reason to believe that some of the State officials who have been entrusted with the task of bringing help within reach of the people have neglected their duties through indolence while others have seized the opportunity of enriching themselves at the expense of the poor and needy. The two officers in charge of the special famine bureau have a heavy burden to discharge, but they can do no more necessary or useful work than the detection and punishment of inefficiency and corruption.

Camp, 20th February, 1900.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

KISHANGARH.

1. Through the courtesy of His Highness the Maharaja I have recently been able to visit Kishangarh and inspect some of the relief operations now in progress. I was accompanied throughout by the Diwan, Rao Bahadur Sham Sundar Lal, who is the central authority under the Durbar on all famine matters.

2. There was no famine in Kishangarh during 1896-97, but the rainfall was poor in 1897 and since then the seasons have gradually deteriorated till the distress culminated in the complete stoppage of the monsoon in July, 1899. A very poor rabi harvest was thus followed by the complete failure of the unirrigated kharif crops and a much reduced outturn on well lands. The first sign of general distress was the large emigration that began in August. The following table shows the numbers of human beings and cattle who are recorded as having left the State up to date and the number of those who have returned:—

Period.	Emigrated.		Returned.	
	Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.
August to November ...	21,232	51,295	2,575	3,132
December	183	27	893	310
January	161	760	1,101	322
February	483	18	756	220
Total	22,059	52,100	5,325	3,984

The population of the State was 125,000 in 1891, so that nearly one-fifth left in search of grazing and work and the great majority of these have not yet returned. It is not so easy to ascertain what proportion of the cattle have gone as no census has ever been taken of those in the Jagir villages. But probably one-half of the agricultural stock were removed. About 2,500 were taken to various districts in the North-Western Provinces, and encouraging accounts are received of their condition. But many have been sold by their owners and only three-fourths will return. The remainder went off towards Malwa, and not more than half of these are expected to come back. The best and strongest animals were kept in the villages for work at the wells. About one-sixth of these have died, and probably another 6,000 will not survive the hot weather.

3. The Diwan has devoted considerable attention to the preservation of cattle, and has succeeded to some extent in making the villagers use prickly pear as fodder. The cattle are being fed on dried leaves, jungle sweepings, the dried stalks of the kair bush and on the prickly pear. The pala bush has given out, but another crop of fruit and leaves will be available at the end of April.

Villagers are now taking to the preparation of the stems of prickly pear, which they sell as fodder. They strip the stems of the spikes by holding them over a fire. The stems become half baked and are then chopped up into small pieces. These sell at $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per maund. It has been found that cattle can be worked on a daily allowance of 10 seers of prickly pear mixed with half a seer of bran (*busi* or *tus*). The animals now working in the State *rathkhana* get this allowance, plus about one seer of imported hay and a small dole of green fodder. The experiment has been under trial now for three months, with complete success. The only fear is that the prickly pear will not hold out till the rains.

4. Measures to meet the approaching famine were taken in good time in Kishangarh. Remissions of revenue were freely granted, not only on account of the area under failed crops, but wherever the green standing jowar had to be cut to feed the cattle. The weavers, both of the Julaha and Balai castes, were given advances by the money-lenders in the shape of yarn, the State standing security when necessary. The cultivators were allowed to lop or fell the trees in their fields and sell the timber to the Forest Department if they could not find any other purchaser. The State forests were not opened for this purpose but even so this tree-felling strikes me as the one remedial measure which is likely to have untoward results for some time to come. In an arid country like Kishangarh two trees should be planted for every one that is cut down. I would suggest that tree nurseries be established at the head-quarters of each district as soon as the famine is over, and that the zamindars be encouraged to plant as many trees as they can without injury to their crops.

5. The most important step taken by the Durbar at this time was the encouragement given to the people to sink wells. Last year there were 2,264 wells at work all over the State as compared with 1,941 in 1892-93, the year after the last famine. As early as August the administration let it be known that favourable terms would be given to all who would extend their irrigated area. This encouragement was given in various ways. In some cases cultivators took over land on condition of sinking a well and on the understanding that the State share of the harvest would be only $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the total for the first year, $\frac{1}{3}$ th for the second, and so on in an increasing ratio until the seventh year when the full share of $\frac{1}{3}$ rd would be taken. Such cultivators have borrowed the money for construction from their own money lenders, the State giving security if necessary. The better class of peasants have received agricultural loans direct from the Durbar on small interest. When the capital and interest are all paid up the borrower will have the option of purchasing the proprietary rights in the land. In other cases the State has come forward and built wells on its own account, leasing the land to tenants at will. The following statement gives the number of new wells constructed and those made fit for use in the last six months :—

District.	New wells constructed.			Draused wells repaired.			Grand Total.
	By the State.	By the people.	Total.	By the State.	By the people.	Total.	
Kishangarh	22	7	29	41	24	65	94
Arain	30	21	51	—	24	24	75
Rupnagar... ..	—	—	—	29	34	63	63
Bandar Sendri	20	11	31	2	21	23	54
Sarwar	17	36	53	8	28	36	89
Total	89	75	164	80	131	211	375

The total of wells at work in the State has thus risen by 16 per cent, to 2,639. This forms a great contrast to the last famine year of 1891-92 when the total of wells at work fell by 17 per cent. Money could not have been expended more judiciously. This active policy will probably result in a four anna rabi harvest instead of a two anna one. I inspected some of these wells in the districts of Kishangarh, Bandar Sendri and Rupnagar. Most of them had been sunk close to the edge of a tank if not actually in the bed. The extreme sanctity which is attached to a tank in the south-eastern districts of the Punjab is not observed here, but the people at first objected to cultivating the area which is usually submerged. These prejudices are now fast disappearing. I made a rough estimate of the cost of two wells I inspected and of the probable value of the crops now in the ground. The first well will cost about Rs. 500. It will yield 400 maunds of barley and, about Rs. 100 worth of early jowar for fodder. If prices remain as they are till July next the cultivator will, after paying the revenue and interest, be left with produce worth Rs. 360. The second well will cost Rs. 400. After paying the State share of the crop the owner will have Rs. 288 worth of barley and Rs. 130 worth of green fodder. All persons who undertake the construction or repair of wells by the help of the Durbar are bound to employ relief labour. The men who are employed in digging and rock-cutting get $3\frac{1}{2}$ local annas per day. This is sufficient to procure 21 imperial chittaks of grain. The women who carry away the spoil at the well mouth receive from 11 to 13 imperial chittaks. When the spoil has to be lifted or the water has to be drained by a pair of bullocks the owner is paid about five British annas a day. He has to feed himself and his cattle on that sum. Thanks to the prickly pear and the kair bush he is able to keep both himself and his animals in condition.

6. When it became apparent that famine was inevitable a regular plan of campaign was drawn up. No central famine officer was appointed as the Diwan is in direct charge of all relief operations and takes his orders from the Maharaja. The Hakim of each district is likewise in chief control within his jurisdiction and reports straight to the Diwan. Each has his own separate engineering establishment. Under the Hakims are the Tahsildars who are practically officers-in-charge of whatever works are in progress in the tahsils.

There are no very large Jagirdars in Kishangarh. The majority of this class have been severely hit by the famine but have been helped with loans from the Durbar both for their own maintenance and for the starting of relief works. Their people also are freely admitted to the Khalsa works.

7. The works on the relief programme are divided into three classes, *viz.*, ordinary public works, relief works proper and relief to special trades. The Durbar has wisely expended instead of contracting the schemes coming under the head of ordinary public works. The only difference that has been made is that as many of the labourers as possible are paid at famine-wage rates. These works include the construction of additional buildings in the new Madanganj bazar outside the railway station two miles from the city, the building of a new guest house, the construction of a broad driving road round the Goondolai lake opposite the palace and the laying out of new roads through and round the city. All these works give employment to 967 persons very few of whom are skilled labourers. The garnet quarries at Sarwar still give work to over 400 people.

8. Several artisans who were thrown out of work early in the famine have been given special work by the Durbar. 842 persons are now engaged in weaving, spinning and leather work. Over 200 make a living by selling prickly pear and kair as fodder for the State animals and 150 are engaged by the State tannery to bring in the bark of the *anwal* shrub. The reserved forests have been opened for the collection of broken wood for fuel and leaves and dry grass for fodder. 2,500 people, chiefly women and children, make a living in this way. In recent years there has been a steady development of industries in Kishangarh. The latest stage has been the opening of a carpet factory. This is situated in a rather confined house in the heart of the city. It was only opened in August and already the managers have received orders

from America so that there are now five looms at work. The workers number 50 and are almost all children. Women spin the wool. It appears to be economically managed and as business grows fresh accommodation will have to be provided. I would suggest that the factory be removed to the Madanganj. The present building is overcrowded and not very sanitary. If the factory is established in the Madanganj the workers will have to walk a couple of miles every morning and every evening. This will give them a certain amount of exercise.

9. The purely famine relief works are distributed all over the State. Exclusive of wells there are 44 works on the programme, of which 36 are now in progress giving employment to nearly five thousand people. The majority are irrigation works consisting of the erection of dams and the deepening and extension of tanks. These tanks are intended both to serve as irrigation reservoirs and to increase the supply of water in the wells within their influence. I inspected some of the relief works close to the city and some of those in the Bandar Sendri and Rupnagar districts. These are described below.

10. A new pole ground is being made on the side of the road leading from the city to the railway station with two roads leading to it from different directions. The site is very uneven and rocky so that it will take some time before it is finished. The work is in charge of Thakur Ranjit Singhji, the city magistrate. Over 300 people were employed on the date of my visit. These were recruited from the very poorest classes in the city and from the adjoining poor-house. A few able-bodied men who have to do the heavy rock-cutting are paid at the rate of 3 local annas per day. At current rates this wage is the equivalent of 19½ chittaks of the cheapest grain. The wages of the rest of the workers are distributed on a more elastic system as this work is resumed principally for the weaker women and children. The principle followed is that each woman should receive 10 imperial chittaks and each child 5 chittaks daily. The workers receive from 2½ to 3 rupees per 1,000 cubic feet according to the character of the soil, but the lead is small and the borrowpits rarely exceed six inches in depth. Even then those workers who do not earn the amount required to keep them in health receive the full wage. Cases of contumacy are very rare. Payments are made daily. The staff consists of two mistris and two muster clerks. I checked the attendance and payments of 11 gangs and found no mistakes. The following are the figures for one day:—

Gang No.	Workers.			Chittaks Earned.	Extra Ration Issued.	Average per Head.
	Women.	Children.	Total.			
1	2	2	4	31	14	11½
2	2	0	2	27	...	13½
3	1	1	2	20	...	10
4	1	1	2	14	6	10
5	3	1	4	24	17	10½
6	2	0	2	33	...	16½
7	2	0	2	13	7	10
8	1	1	2	15	...	7½
9	1	1	2	18	...	9
10	3	0	3	36	...	12
11	1	1	2	11	6	8½
Total ...	19	8	27	242	50	10½

It will be seen that, although they did not earn the full wage, gangs 1, 4 and 5 were paid at higher rates than the scale given above entitled them to. In all these cases however the women had one or more children who were too young to work. All the workers I saw except those in a poor-house gang were in good condition and I received no complaints. The stones which are excavated are carried off by special gangs of women and children to a building which Thakur Bara Singhji is erecting some three hundred yards away. These carriers are paid at special rates by the Thakur. For each head-load of stone the woman or child receives a ticket which entitles her to so much grain. They earn more than the workers on the polo ground. Each woman receives on the average nearly 13 chittaks a day and the child's average comes to 9 chittaks.

11. I visited the Bandar Sendri relief work on the 24th February. This consists of a long dam which is being built across a broad depression between the villages of Bandar Sendri and Khera. The Tahsildar is the officer in charge. He is assisted by one mistri and two clerks. The workers are paid at two separate rates. When the diggers are men the wage is $9\frac{1}{2}$ annas for every 240 cubic feet, if they are women the same amount is paid for 180 cubic feet. The soil is medium and the load and lift are below the normal. The infirm gangs who are employed on clod breaking receive 8 chittaks a day. Non-working children get $2\frac{1}{2}$ chittaks. As the record of measurements was not on the work I was unable to ascertain how much the various classes were earning, but I received no complaints of the lowness of the wage. As the work conditions are easy and the contract rate amounts to nearly Rs. 2-13-0 per 1,000 cubic feet the wages are probably sufficient. All the people were in good condition and seemed to be contented. They live in the neighbouring villages and some appear to be able to afford to knock off work for a day or two at a time in order to attend to their domestic affairs.

12. In 1897 a large tank was constructed near the village of Mandoti on the Jaipur border. It is called the Jubilee Sagar. Mandoti is held in jagir, and as the Jagirdar was too poor to pay the cost the work was carried out by a company the directors of which are Jagirdars or leading officials of the State. Half the profits of the irrigation dues are paid to the Jagirdar while the company take the other half. The enterprise has paid well. Even this year when the irrigating capacity of the tank was so largely reduced the dividend was five per cent. When famine was declared it was decided to raise two supplementary dams in order to increase the supply of water. These are nearly finished now. The work is jointly supervised by the Tahsildar and one of the directors of the company. The staff consists of one mistri and one clerk. As the soil is light the gangs are paid at the rate of 280 cubic feet per local rupee, or Rs. 2-1-6 (British currency) per 1,000 cubic feet.

In order to find out the average earnings I checked the preceding day's figures of 20 gangs with the following results: out of 71 persons there were 26 men, 24 women, 8 boys and 13 girls. All these turned out 1,530 cubic feet, an average per unit of $21\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet. The total earnings amounted to Rs. 5-3-6, which is the equivalent of 42 local seers of the cheapest grain. This gives an average of 6.3 British chittaks to each person. But as at Bandar Sendri all the people do not put in a full day's task. The gang which earned most consisted of two men, two women and one girl. They earned $11\frac{1}{2}$ annas, which sum was sufficient to procure each one of them $13\frac{1}{2}$ British chittaks of bejhar. The poorest gang, consisting of two Khatik women whose husbands were employed on their usual trade, did only ten cubic feet and were paid barely one pie each. These two women were apparently in better circumstances than any one else on the work.

13. A long earthen dam is being built close to the Musulman village of Tonkra, which is meant to catch the surplus water from the hills to the east. Rs. 5,000 have been sanctioned for the dam which is to be 865 yards long. Work began three months ago, and on the date of my visit 160 people were employed. The wage rate is 240 cubic feet for one local rupee. As Tonkra is only six miles from Ki-hangurh the grain for payments is all brought out direct from the palace stores. The workers are paid alternately in maize and battla bejhar. I checked the figures of 20 gangs for one day. Out of a total of

55 persons 25 were men, 18 women and 12 children. The total output was 2,515 cubic feet, an average per unit of nearly 46 cubic feet. Their total earnings were shown in the payment sheets as only Rs. 7-10-0, or nearly one-third less of what they ought to have been. The workers made no complaints of under payment, and certainly understood the rate at which remuneration is given, so that the work of the clerks seems to require looking into. The attendance had been correctly recorded. The clod breakers are paid the following fixed amounts of grain :—

Men	...	...	...	...	12 chittaks.
Women	...	...	...	...	9 "
Children above 10	...	...	...	...	5½ "
" below 10	...	...	...	...	2½ "

Both the men and women are old and infirm.

14. I visited the Sursura relief work on the 26th February. This was one of the first works started in Kishangarh. It was opened on the 10th of August and is almost completed. The masonry sluice gates have still to be built. The Tahsildar supervises operations assisted by one clerk and one mistri. The rate of remuneration is 260 cubic feet for $\frac{3}{12}$ annas. The following statement shows the composition of twelve gangs with their outturn and earnings during the week before my visit. The figures in the penultimate column give the wages in local currency and those in the last the number of imperial chittaks of grain.

No. of Gang	Workers.				Outturn in cubic feet.		Earnings.	
	M.	W.	Ch.	Total.	Actual.	Daily average per unit.	Actual.	Daily average per unit.
1	2	1	1	4	928	33	Rs. a. p. 3 6 3	Chittaks. 12-2
2	1	2	0	3	648	31	2 6 0	10-9
3	2	1	1	4	584	21	2 2 6	7-4
4	2	2	2	6	1,656	39	6 1 6	14-0
5	2	1	0	3	552	27	2 0 6	9-3
6	3	2	1	6	768	18	2 13 6	6-6
7	1	2	0	3	648	31	2 6 0	10-9
8	1	2	2	5	904	26	3 5 3	9-2
9	3	1	1	5	1,104	31	4 1 0	11-2
10	5	2	1	8	1,568	28	5 7 6	10-0
11	2	1	1	4	1,080	38	3 15 9	13-6
12	2	1	3	6	1,144	27	4 3 3	9-6
Total ...	26	18	13	57	11,584	29	42 5 0	10-19

* Each person earned on the average a little over ten chittaks a day and if the workers are all reduced to male units the wage earned by each man amounts to 12-6 chittaks a day. The people were all in good condition and seemed contented. The work is being turned out at a rate of about 2-1 imperial rupees per 1,000 cubic feet.

15. Gratuitous relief is administered in more than one way. The Sadabart department of the State is a permanent institution and has been expanded for the benefit of part of the community. There is a branch of the

department at the head-quarters of every district. Cooked food, generally parched gram, is issued once a day to all applicants who are not already in receipt of any other kind of relief. These are usually the professional beggars or wanderers belonging to other States. For the first few weeks the expenditure was very heavy. Even now it is eight times greater than the normal, but the operations are being gradually curtailed. In the city, distribution is restricted to Brahmins, permanent mendicants and any foreigners who halt in the Madanganj for the night.

16. On the 23rd of August a charitable relief fund was opened and a Committee was constituted to administer it. Subscriptions were generously given by the Durbar, the palace officials, the leading Seths and a few English gentlemen. Lists were prepared for every village of all persons in need of assistance who could do no work. The Diwan made an extensive tour for the purpose of checking these lists. The original intention was to relieve only members of the higher castes and *parda-nashin* ladies who were feeling the pinch of hunger, but the subscriptions have been so generous that the Dhar, Mada fund is now able to help all those persons who in British territory receive gratuitous relief at their own homes. These include widows and orphans, the deaf, dumb, idiots and cripples. Payments are made monthly in cash and are calculated to procure for each adult eight imperial chittaks of the cheapest grain. I checked the lists of one *pargannah*. In 17 villages, only 6 of which were *khalsa*, there were 96 persons on the list. The monthly expenditure was Rs. 144. As grain was selling at 10 local seers per rupee, each person received $5\frac{1}{4}$ imperial chittaks per day. The list included several children. The Committee contribute 200 rupees every month to the Darbar fund for the relief of the petty Jagirdars,

17. There is another branch of gratuitous relief which, with the close supervision it receives, is doing very useful work. The Durbar advances certain sums every month to the local revenue officers for the benefit of petty cultivators who only require a small amount of capital to enable them to tide over the famine. The grain dealers all over Kishangarh have also made material additions to the charitable funds which they maintain in ordinary years, but under the advice of the Diwan the money is being kept in deposit until it is actually required. I would suggest that as large a part as possible be given to help needy cultivators to purchase or hire cattle on the arrival of the monsoon.

18. There is one general poor-house for the whole State. This is located in a large serai outside the city. Thakur Ranjit Singji supervises the institution. The officers in actual charge are the Naib Kotwal and a clerk in the city magistrate's office. The establishment consists of one man in charge of the distribution of food, four cooks, two sweepers and eight sepoy. On the day of my visit 432 names were shown on the register. Only 313 of those were actually living in the serai. The others lived in the city or in temporary huts on the works close by. The people are inspected every day and those who are fit for labour are drafted on to the works. The adults are fed on cooked food once a day and the children twice. The scale is 8 chittaks for an adult and from 3 to 4 for a child. I checked the store register for the two days preceding my visit, and found that the average amount of food consumed per head was 9.6 chittaks a day. But about one hundred people on the way back from Malwa or the North-West Provinces are also fed daily in the poor-house. If they are taken into account the average comes to 7.5 chittaks. The food consists of rice and the dal of arhar. There is a small dispensary in the serai in charge of a compounder. Serious cases are sent to the relief hospital in the Madanganj. There is an ample supply of water in the large well outside the gate. The inmates are not allowed to go near the well. Two large casks are kept filled by the city bhishtis and the water is then drawn from these. The serai is clean and fresh earth is thrown down every day in front of the sheds. There is a good supply of permanganate of potash for the disinfection of the water. The only suggestions I have to make are that some work be given to the inmates who are not fit for earthwork and that, if possible, the adults be fed twice a day.

A ration of parched gram might be given in the morning and cooked food in the afternoon.

19. An orphanage was opened in the city by the Durbar on the 28th December. It is now managed entirely by the Ram Krishna Mission of Bengal under the supervision of the Diwan. These missionaries are Vedantists. The head of the mission is Swami Vivekanand, and the two chief centres are in Calcutta and Maiawati near Almora. One of the two missionaries does the clerical work. There is a resident compounder. There are two sweepers and two water carriers. A Brahmin and his wife do all the cooking, and an old woman looks after the girls. There are now in the orphanage 54 boys and 23 girls, who are housed in two separate buildings. They have a meal of *kicheri* in the morning, and of bread and pulse in the evening. They generally get a handful of parched gram in the middle of the day. I checked the store register for three consecutive days and found that each child consumes about 8½ imperial chittaks a day. The children are in excellent condition and appear to receive every attention. They were all very happy. Five boys and five girls work in the cotton mills, and ten boys are employed in the carpet factory. The girls grind all the flour that is used.

20. A large relief hospital was opened in November last in the Madanganj close to the railway station. It is situated in a new serai and the people are comfortably housed. Lala Devi Pershad, Hospital Assistant of the city dispensary, is the officer in charge. The hospital is reserved for the sick from the famine camps. The staff consists of a clerk, two water carriers, two cooks and two sweepers. A compounder with a small stock of medicines lives in the hospital. During the month of February there have been 135 admissions, including 17 persons who were received in January. Ten deaths have occurred in the same period. There were 45 inpatients, and one lunatic present on the date of my visit. The people are fed on special diet, as a rule, twice a day. The hospital is in good order and is kept very clean. The segregation hospital is situated about four hundred yards off on the slope of a small hill. The patients, 13 in number and all suffering from small-pox, are housed in rough huts built with unhewn stones from the quarry close by, and roofed with corrugated iron sheets. The food is cooked by the relatives of the sick children. The only suggestion I have is that the iron roofs should be covered with shrubs or leaves. In a few days the sun will be very strong.

21. Relief was begun in Kishangarh in time, and the measures adopted at each successive stage were both wise and humane. The policy of multiplying wells has been attended with no small degree of success up to the present. It has saved an appreciable proportion of the population from resorting to relief works or charity, and will in time add directly to the resources of the State. The efforts put forth to preserve the agricultural livestock by sending them to tracts where arrangements had previously been made for their reception, and by utilising natural products for the support of those which were left behind have been equally successful. It is evident that the administration are fully alive to the increase of distress which is sure to occur in the next four months. The programme of relief works appears to be sufficient for all the districts, except perhaps Rupnagar, and there is a reserve of money for the assistance of those who are unable to work.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,

Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 1st March 1900.

JAIPUR.

1. Through the courtesy of the Maharaja I have been enabled to spend a week in visiting some of the relief works now in progress in Jaipur, and have also had the opportunity of discussing the general situation with some of the leading Durbar officials at head-quarters. I made a short tour through the Sanganer, Madhorajpur, and Malpura Nizamats, and was thus able to see one of the worst parts of the country. Although Jaipur is distinctly better off than

Marwar and Meywar, and the outlook is more encouraging than in Kishangarh, famine is pronounced in all parts of the State with the exception of the Hindaon and Gangapur Nizamats on the Karauli border. The most severely stricken tracts are Malpura, Sambhar, and the western half of Shekhawati. There the failure of crops and grazing has been as complete as in Jodhpur or Bikanir.

2. Measures to cope with the distress were taken in time, and they were wisely and liberally framed. The periodical monthly reports have contained an account of the remission of the current year's land revenue and of the arrears of the takkavi advances to cultivators and of the efforts made to improve the capacity of wells. In this note only the operations now in hand which I had the opportunity of inspecting will be described. In the last two months the numbers on relief works, exclusive of those employed on the Rewari-Phulera Railway, have risen by over one hundred per cent. to 36,081, and the total in receipt of gratuitous relief has been quadrupled. No central famine officer has been appointed. Rao Bahadur K. C. Mukerji, C.I.E., chief Member of Council, under the orders of His Highness supervises all the branches of the famine administration, and all returns and accounts are submitted direct to him, with the exception of the progress reports of the railway works. Three special officers have been appointed to superintend operations on the spot. These are Pandit Sheo Nath, a pensioned Deputy Collector of the N. W. P., Pandit Jai Nath, Naib Diwan, and Munshi Mohamed Ullah, Customs Superintendent. The various pargannas have been divided between these gentlemen, who make periodical tours through their respective charges. They visit every village in turn, check the issue of gratuitous relief, and inspect the progress of the works carried out by local officers. They have been invested with powers to make takkavi advances, and to initiate any measures which seem to be urgently required, without waiting for the sanction of Council. They submit regular weekly reports. Thirty-six Naib Nazims or circle officers have been appointed solely for famine work. They are directly under the three officers named above.

The relief works now in hand fall under the following heads :—

- (a) Ordinary works under the P.W.D.
- (b) Famine relief works under the P.W.D.
- (c) Rewari-Phulera Railway construction.
- (d) Relief works under the Transport Corps.
- (e) Petty works under district officers.
- (f) Wood-cutting in the khalsa forests.
- (g) Petty works carried out by Jagirdars.

3. The Public Works Department is under Colonel Jacob, C.I.E., who has one Executive Engineer, Mr. C. E. Stotherd. The operations of the Department are very extensive. They consist of construction of new roads and buildings and the repairs of old ones, the carrying out of miscellaneous public improvements, and the development and control of the extensive irrigation system of the State. The Engineers are also in charge of the Cotton Presses, the Waterworks, Gasworks, Public Gardens, and what is known as the Imarut Department, which is concerned solely with the private buildings belonging to the palace. In an ordinary year the expenditure amounts to nearly eight lakhs, and, as the cost of supervision is only ten per cent. cost of the total, all ranks have to work at high pressure. During the famine the Durbar has wisely resolved to expand the ordinary budget, the total of which now exceeds 11½ lakhs, and will probably increase. The principal works to be carried out are the completion of the Madhopur Railway, irrigation tanks, and the renewal of 55 miles of metalled roads. No estimate has been made of the number of persons to whom these schemes will give employment, but probably unskilled labour will absorb two-fifths of the expenditure.

4. The P. W. D. are also in charge of the major relief works scattered all over the State. Up till the 3rd of March 83 works involving an expenditure

of nearly four lakhs had been sanctioned, and Colonel Jacob has now under consideration proposals for nearly as many more. These are principally irrigation projects, the chief one being the construction of a new reservoir at Chand Sen near Malpura. I visited this work with Colonel Jacob on the 28th February. A strong earth dam with a masonry core is being built across the bed of one of the tributaries of the Banas. The catchment area is sixty square miles and the tank will command a culturable area of 3,250 acres in a normal year. As there are $9\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet of earth to be thrown up the project from a relief point of view is a good one. The work was opened about three weeks ago, but owing to the very small establishment it is only now getting into order. The officer in charge, Munshi Sukh Lal, is an overseer, but as he has charge of all the general and irrigation operations over a large part of Jaipur he can devote very little time to looking after the labour on this dam. The last returns show that 1,224 people were on the works. 519 of these were women, half the remainder being men and the other half children. With the exception of sixteen all belonged to the Jaipur State. The system followed is piece work. The rate has been gradually raised from $2\frac{3}{4}$ rupees per 1,000 cubic feet to 4 rupees which are equivalent to three British rupees.

Until Colonel Jacob's arrival the day before my visit there had not been much attempt at classification. This has now been carried out and the gangs are properly arranged. All the able-bodied workers have been set to the work on the bank of the stream furthest from camp. These form three-fourths of the total. They had been at work for only one day, but the average output per unit in medium earth was 19 cubic feet and per male unit 25 cubic feet. This is a very encouraging beginning, especially as they had not time for more than five hours' work. The total sum earned was Rs. 71-14-0 which would give each male unit two annas or fifteen imperial chittaks. The data for forming an opinion about the scale of remuneration are still very slender, but it does not err on the side of severity.

There were three gangs of workers on the right of the stream. These people had represented their inability to perform a full task. Some of them were clearly run down, but at least half were quite capable of doing a steady day's work. They were all paid at fixed rates irrespective of the work turned out. These were 2 annas per man, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per woman and 1 per child. These gangs will now be carefully weeded, and all who are able to work will be sent to the main section on the other side of the stream. If they still persist in shirking a couple of days on penal rations should bring them to their senses. The weak residuum might be employed on light work such as clod breaking and be paid at the present rates until they recover sufficiently to enable them to take their places in the borrowpits.

The majority of the people live in the surrounding villages, but huts are being run up for those who come from a distance. The Hospital is situated in a field close by the store hut, and a segregation ward for contagious cases will be built in a few days a little distance away. Payments are made daily. The coin is brought from the overseer's main camp three miles away. There was at first considerable difficulty about supplying grain, but the Durbar has now made a large permanent advance to the Malpura bannias on condition of their keeping up an ample store of food stuffs. The cheapest grain for sale was barley at 7 seers per rupee or 8 imperial seers per British rupee. The grain I saw was of excellent quality.

I would suggest that a responsible official be put in sole charge of this work. The overseer is entitled to credit for what he has been able to do already, but he is certainly over-worked. I know that the department have no man to spare, and reliable and competent engineer subordinates are very hard to obtain just now. But there must be several officials now serving in other departments of the State who are fit to be put in charge of this work and who can be trusted. One of these might be selected. His services could be placed at the absolute disposal of the P. W. D., and he would be considered an officer of that depart-

ment until the conclusion of the work. The overseer would then be concerned only with the professional details. This system might be adopted on other large works also. It will give much needed relief to the department, while at the same time dual control will be avoided. As the great majority of the P. W. D. works are conducted on either the piecework or the contract system there is an ever present risk of weaklings being neglected. It is simply due to Colonel Jacob's unrivalled experience of Jaipur and administrative ability that this class has been hitherto so well looked after. My proposals for dealing with this risk will be found below.

The only other suggestions that I have to make with regard to this work are in connection with the hospital and hutting arrangements. There is a good stock of ordinary medicines, but there should be a large supply of permanganate of potash for the disinfection of the wells, and if charitable funds available they might be utilised in procuring light farinaceous food for starvation and dysentery cases. Colonel Jacob has adopted the capital expedient of digging the floors of the huts to a depth of two feet. The earth taken out makes the walls so that the huts are over four feet high. The roofs are formed with screens made of cotton stalks and jungle shrubs. But these screens are expensive, as all the cotton stalks have to be purchased, and shrubs are scarce. The Prime Minister showed me at Jaipur two pattern shelter tents of local manufacture. One is made of Malpura felt, which will keep out both rain and sun. It is nine feet by ten and costs with poles and ropes complete, only Rs. 3-11-0. If the tent is returned to the maker within one year in whatever condition, half the purchase money will be refunded. These tents will make admirable roofs and will in the long run be less expensive than screens.

5. I inspected the work of three sections of the new road under construction from Dudu to Malpura. These are all done by contract. The contractors are paid from 2½ to 3 rupees per 1,000 cubic feet. The soil was everywhere light except for a few yards on one section at the edge of a nullah, and the lead never exceeds 20 feet. The contractor's profit is everywhere fixed at six annas per 1,000 feet, and out of this he has to provide baskets and string. The people I examined were all well and cheerful and only one gang complained of the rate being too low. They all know exactly how much they should receive and evidently took care that they were paid in full. The system was everywhere working well, but, as elsewhere, chiefly able-bodied persons were employed. Rammers and dressers are paid at a fixed rate of 2½ annas per day. This is the exact equivalent of one imperial seer of the cheapest grain.

6. According to the latest returns the daily average number of persons on the works under the Public Works Department is 14,265, exclusive of the labour employed in the permanent institutions. This figure gives some idea of the heavy task the officers of the department have to perform. The establishment has not been proportionately increased, chiefly because of the impossibility of getting reliable and capable men. Since the famine began seven sub-overseers, twenty-two clerks and seventeen cashiers have been added to the staff, as the work on the Madhopur railway is gradually completed the services of three more sub-overseers will be available for the relief works. Even so the staff will be inadequate, but it should be always possible to recruit from the other departments of the State as suggested above. If in addition all such persons as have to be fed up before they are put to regular work are removed to the depôts of the Transport Corps the operations of the department will gain in efficiency.

7. The construction of the Rewari-Phulera Chord Line was started as a relief work on the 4th November 1899. The two sections in the Jaipur State are in charge of Lieutenant Garrett, R.E. Up to date over twenty miles of earthwork have been completed. The numbers reached their highest point in December last. On the 30th of that month the attendance amounted to 13,935 persons. The majority of these were Marwaris, most of whom have since

returned to their homes. During the last week of February the daily average was only 6,031. I had no opportunity of inspecting this work which is the only one in Jaipur which is not under the Durbar. The State treasury supplies the funds for construction and a State official supervises the issue of gratuitous relief to non-working children, who receive one anna each daily. This is a generous wage as it enables them to purchase nearly eleven chittaks of the cheapest grain.

8. The services of the Imperial Service Transport Corps have been utilised to the utmost in the general scheme of relief operations. The Superintendent, Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai, C.I.E., Sirdar Bahadur, is a man of great organising capacity and energy, and he has at his command a well-disciplined force. He has opened poor-houses or rather collecting depôts at Jaipur, Chagsu, Malpura, Lalsot, Madhorajpura and Dosah. These are the chief centres. Smaller institutions, called forwarding depôts, have been established at Bhlwā, Gunsi, Newai, Dabandi and Toda Rai Singh. The main depôts will be kept up so long as the famine lasts. The forwarding depôts are smaller and as the name implies the inmates are kept only until they are in a condition to be removed to the larger centres. No applicant of whatever State is refused admission. District officers, Tahsildars and Thanadars have strict orders to tour within their respective charges and send all the starving and destitute people they find to the nearest depôt. The headman of every village has farther been bound over by a personal recognisance of 50 rupees to send all famine-stricken cases and any foreigners who may apply for assistance to one centre or another. Forty-two transport carts specially fitted up as ambulances and 25 hand stretchers have been divided among these depôts. These have saved many lives already. The officers in charge all belong to the Transport Corps. Their duties are to receive all applicants for admission, to feed them up and draft them on to some relief work when they are able for it. Branch hospitals have been attached to all the main depôts except Madhorajpur. These are provided with a qualified Hospital Assistant and a stock of medicines supplied by the Residency Surgeon.

9. I inspected the head depôt at Jaipur on the 2nd and 3rd March. The camp is pitched on an open sandy plain close to the cotton press and the site of the new railway station for the branch line to Madhopur. It is within a quarter of a mile of the transport lines where the Rao Sahib lives. At the end of the camp nearest to the railway there is a large enclosure with the store room and camp office. The clerk lives here. The orphanage is in an adjoining enclosure. The camp is laid out in regular lines with broad streets in between. The different castes are split up between the three sections into which the camp is divided. The huts are $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet square. The floors are dug down to a depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet and the earth is built up as a wall all round, with a door at one end and a ventilation hole at the other. The huts are seven feet high at the lowest point, and have pentroofs made of coarse kana grass. The floors and fronts are plastered with mud and cowdung. The huts were built to accommodate 12 persons, but up till now from 15 to 20 people have been living together chiefly for the sake of warmth. New arrivals have to make their own huts, but the thatching is done by contract. Two men can dig out the floor, build the walls, and have the hut ready for thatching in three days. The average cost of a hut, including the roof and the pay of the builders, is Rs. 6-1-0. I think that one or other of the two light tents of felt or country cloth might be substituted for the thatching. They are cheaper, and will keep out dust and rain more effectually. There are two large latrines about three hundred yards to the south of the camp.

10. The establishment attached to the camp proper consists of one clerk, one duffadar, one havildar, and four sweepers. As the people are out of their huts from early morning till dark no watermen are required. The people are fed twice a day on the work, which is nearly a mile from the camp. The scale for each adult is three chittaks of parched grain in the morning and seven chittaks of barley flour in the evening with a pinch of salt. This amounts to

11½ imperial chittaks per day. The children receive smaller quantities according to age. In order to test what the workers actually receive I worked out the average per head according to the daily issue book and obtained the following results :—

Date.	Workers.			Food rations in seers.				Average No. of chittaks per unit.
	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Gram.	Flour.	Total.	Plus ten per cent.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
February 28 ...	4,419	1,615	6,034	858	1,703	2,561	2,817	7.47
March 1 ...	4,425	1,616	6,041	792	1,692	2,484	2,732	7.23

In making these calculations I have taken the Jaipur seer as one-tenth heavier than the British seer. I have added ten per cent. to the rations because of wastage in cooking the grain and to make the flour up to its weight in gram. In these two days each unit received on the average 7½ imperial chittaks, exclusive of salt, which on the average is given out on a scale of half a tola per head. This is below the sanctioned scale, according to which the adults enumerated above should have received 3,038 seers on the 28th February. At the same time the people who had been on the work for more than a fortnight were in good condition and seemed contented. They were working in light soil, but the yield was good. It comes to just under 90 cubic feet per digger.

11. The people are working in the bed of the Amanishah nullah outside the city. In the scarcity of 1896-97 the reclamation of the bed of the nullah was begun. An artificial lake was constructed with a garden and some houses on its banks, and nearly two acres of land were put under crops. The scheme, while adding to the amenities of Jaipur, has proved a steady source of income to the treasury. It was taken up again last November, and the land is being rapidly reclaimed. The soil is as rich as any in Jaipur, and grows as fine paundah sugarcane as the villages round Peshawar. It is an ideal work from every point of view. The numbers have gradually risen to 6,465, exclusive of sick, and the increase will probably be maintained until the rains break. The workers are sent off to the work in the morning and mustered. Parched gram is then issued and they are set to work. They are allowed two hours rest in the middle of the day. The tasks are measured up in the evening and flour is given out. The people then set about cooking their own food and return to the huts between 8 and 9 o'clock. They are not allowed to enter the camp from the time they leave it in the morning until they return from their evening meal. There is abundance of running water and the workers carry their own water to the huts at night. Discipline is very strict and extends to the enforcement of baths twice a week, and even more stringent methods of ensuring cleanliness, admirable alike in their aim and effect.

12. One day's reserve of grain is kept up in one of the garden houses. Every morning a duffadar takes the indent for the day's requirements to the "Modikhana" at the palace. He receives the necessary bags from the darogha in charge, gives a receipt, and then takes the grain off in the carts to the transport huts, where the consignment is weighed in the presence of a jamadar. He enters the various accounts in a day-book, which is taken to the Superintendent for signature. The grain is then removed to the store-room on the works, where it is again checked by the officer in charge of the work. The rations are received from the store-room by a distributing party consisting of four havildars. The people are seated by gangs and the grain is distributed in wooden measures. The workers are divided into gangs of 50 each. These gangs are arranged by castes, and each has a mate who receives the ordinary adult's wage. The mates are shown the tasks of

their gangs every morning and are provided with a measuring stick to check each individual digger's plot. Short work is met by a curtailment of the period for midday rest or, if necessary, the gang is kept at work while the rations are being served out. The whole work is admirably managed by one jamadar, four havildars and six drivers. There is only one clerk, who is a permanent official of the State. Two ambulance carts are in waiting on the work and two of the workers are told off to a stretcher for the removal of any sudden case of sickness. All the staff receive their ordinary pay, so that the daily expenditure is confined to the food of the workers. The average of the two days preceding my visit came to 240 imperial rupees or 7.63 pies per head. In making this calculation I have taken the current prices of gram at 6 local seers, of flour at 8 local seers and of salt at 12 local seers per local rupee.

13. All cases of non-contagious sickness are removed to the Mayo Hospital in the city, but a camp segregation hospital has been opened near the transport lines. The patients are mainly children suffering from small-pox. The officer in charge is the Hospital Assistant attached to the military hospital close by. The establishment consists of one ward coolie or dresser, one cook, one water carrier and one sweeper. I would suggest that another sweeper be added, so that one man should be always present. Some of the children I saw were very ill. A havildar and six sepoys form the guard. The hospital is regularly visited by the Residency Surgeon and the people are well looked after.

The orphanage attached to this relief is a most useful institution. On the date of my visit there were 21 girls and 31 boys. Most of these have been picked up on the roads or fields of different parts of the districts by Sirdar Dhanpat Rai himself. They have all arrived in a state of emaciation and neglect, but careful feeding soon puts them right. They are well clothed. The duffadar in charge of the camp looks after the boys, and the girls are under a woman who lives in the enclosure. The boys of the better castes are taught to read and write, and the older ones are made to work. I would recommend that regular employment be given to the girls. They might be taught to spin or sew. The children are housed in huts of the same pattern as those in the main camp. As the hot weather is coming on a couple of open sheds might be run up, which would give shelter during the day.

14. The share taken by Sirdar Dhanpat Rai and the men under his command in the famine campaign is a most important one. In addition to the care of nearly ten thousand people collected at different centres they form what may be called the famine police of the State. When the first signs of distress appear among any portion of the community they have to apply the necessary relief. That relief is both promptly and judiciously given, and no better machinery could have been devised for the purpose than this remarkable corps. The results they have achieved justify, I think, a considerable extension of their present duties. Hitherto the only relief work for the employment of the people under their care has been the reclamation of the nullah at the capital, although I understand that a proposal to start another work at Chagsu is now under consideration. I would suggest that, if possible, each chief depot be provided with a relief work of some simple kind which would require little engineering skill. As I have explained above it is most important that the strain on the Public Works Department should be relieved to some extent and that the weaker workers should not be crowded out by the stronger. I would suggest that permission be given to the engineers to draft all their weakling gangs to the nearest transport corps depôt. I consulted Sirdar Dhanpat Rai about this scheme, and he professed himself both able and willing to carry it out. The sick and infirm are amply provided for by the various hospitals and poor-houses, but the weaklings on the works require special measures to prevent them from sinking to a still lower grade of destitution. Such people would be put to light earthwork at the depôts and when after a course of good wholesome food they had recovered their health and spirits, they might be sent back to the large works.

15. The petty works under district officers correspond very much with the class usually carried out in British districts by civil agency. They consist of the sinking of new, and repairing of old, wells, small tanks, and repairs to buildings. Most of these projects are being carried out by the Tahsildars of Newai and Toda Rai Singh, where a small extra staff has been entertained to help them. The works are regularly inspected by the three special famine officers. Since the first December the average monthly amount sanctioned for these petty works has been over 17,000 rupees, exclusive of takkavi advances.

16. As in other parts of Rajputana, the khalsa forests have been freely opened to needy cultivators for grazing and the collection of fuel. As there is a fodder famine over the greater part of Jaipur, this generous policy has done much to check the mortality among cattle. Grazing has been freely resorted to, and large quantities of leaves and small branches of trees have been taken from the forests. This promiscuous grazing and the lopping of the small branches of quick trees has not caused much harm, but I think the wood cutting should be very strictly supervised. I visited part of one forest, and the impressions I gathered were that the agricultural cattle and sheep were harmless, but the goats were playing sad havoc with the young shoots, and there was no discrimination shown in the felling of trees. I would suggest that goats be rigidly excluded from all the forests. There is abundance of other food for them outside, and even if this were not the case the number of these animals in the State might with advantage be materially reduced. The importance of forest conservancy should be freely recognised. If the officials in charge of this department take care that for every tree cut down two new seedlings are planted future loss will be averted.

17. A humane policy has been enjoined by the Durbar upon all the Jagirdars. Those of the petty Thakurs who are themselves in distress have been allowed to withdraw their sowars temporarily from service, and no "Tafawat" fees will be charged so long as the famine lasts. The residents of Jagir villages are freely admitted to all relief works and poorhouses, but the bigger Thakurs have in some instances started projects of their own. When on tour I inspected the arrangements made by the Thakur of Dudu. He has made extensive additions to his own house, and has recently opened work on the Gangasagar tank near the town. This will employ over 600 people till the famine is over. Small irrigation works have also been started in three of his villages, and the moneylenders have been given security for advances of cash and grain to needy cultivators.

18. Gratuitous relief in various forms is issued in the towns and villages. In addition to the operations described above, doles of grain are given to the sick, infirm, and cripples in the various villages. This work is carried out by the local district officers who are helped by the extra Naib Nazims, and it is supervised by the special famine officers. Immigrants are also relieved by the same agency. Posts have been stationed along the main lines of traffic every 16 miles, and free rations are given. In December the relief of immigrants in this way cost over 5,000 rupees, but the number of wanderers has been steadily declining during the last two months. The leading Seths, according to their custom, have been distributing handfuls of grain to all comers in most of the leading towns. This practice, which is to be commended as a generous effort to provide charity, is apt to hamper the Jaipur. In the city, for instance, the small doles flung out on to the street only serve to keep a certain number of destitute people out of the poorhouse or the Amanishah relief camp, where they would be much better cared for, and they usually give rise to unseemly scrambles, in which the weak and the children are roughly handled. Some attempt might be made to induce the bannias to direct their charity into a better channel.

19. A large poorhouse has been opened in the city. The people are gathered in a large enclosure which was formerly a garden at the back of the Mayo Hospital. The site is enclosed on three sides by a wall and on the fourth by the high railing of the Ram Newas Garden. There are three means

of exit which are guarded by Chaukidars. Shelter is provided in long sheds running along the wall and in separate huts. The cook-house and storeroom are in the centre of the yard. There are two large urinals screened off behind one row of huts, and the latrines are confined to a small separate yard, with a high wall in the north corner. This contains also a hut for the sweepers on duty. The huts are long, lofty chappars, made of pani grass by the Department of Public Works. Each shelters 100 persons. The walls are lashed to stout water pipes every 10 yards. These keep the chappars bright, and enable them to stand against a high wind. Each inmate is given a piece of matting, a felt numdah, and a blanket, while those who have no clothes are clothed by the Superintendent.

The poorhouse, which is under the supervision of Major Durrell Pank, is looked after by Pandit Baij Nath. He is assisted by the following staff:—

- One Hospital Assistant on his ordinary pay.
- One Compounder, ditto.
- One Dresser, ditto.
- Six Ward Boys on Rs. 5 per month.
- Four Brahmin Cooks on Rs. 6 per month.
- One Storekeeper on Rs. 10 per month.
- Eight Sweepers on Rs. 4 per month.

There are standpipes in the enclosure, so that one hospital bhusti does all the carrying work that is required. The poorhouse is visited every day by Major Pank. Food is distributed twice a day on the following scale:—

	Class	Morning.		Evening	Daily total in Chittaks
		Crushed Wheat, Chittaks.	Pulse, Chittaks.	Wheat Flour, Chittaks.	
Adult	...	3	1	5	9
Child	...	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

Salt and spices are added in cooking. In the evening the flour is given in the form of cooked chupatties, and in addition the people are served with a savoury thick broth of vegetables. The weight of vegetables is not included in the above table. The food, therefore, is on the same generous scale as the accommodation. I worked out the average cost of the maintenance of each inmate from the issue register, and found that it costs 13.47 pies (British) to feed each adult per day and 8.96 pies to feed each child. There were 882 inmates on the date of my inspection; of whom 283 were children, so that the expenditure on food alone came to Rs. 55-3-8. This does not include the cost of milk given to very small children. Since this institution was opened on the 1st November the daily average number admitted has been 23, and the daily average number discharged, including deaths, has been 15, so that there has been a steady increase. The admissions were highest in February, the daily average for that month being 59. People are received on their own application, but the majority of the inmates are brought in by the ambulance carts of the transport corps. Four of these carts patrol the city and suburbs for some hours in the morning and evening, and pick up any necessitous cases they find. One of the carts is reserved for smallpox patients. One of the long sheds is reserved for orphans, who are in charge of two women. The inmates of the poorhouse are inspected every day by Major Pank and Pandit Baij Nath, and all who are fit to be removed are drafted on to the relief work in the Amanishah nullah. The only work done within the poorhouse is spinning. The organisation and conduct of this institution leave little to be desired.

20. At an early stage of the famine the Durbar made arrangements for the purchase and import of grain, in order to sell it to the poorer classes at a privileged rate. Barley has been selected as being the cheapest food grain available in large quantities. It is purchased at Cawnpore and other commercial centres at current rates, and is retailed to all applicants, whatever their status may be, at a rate of ten local seers per local rupee or 13.7 imperial seers per British rupee. At first people from all the country round were permitted to buy at this rate, but this permission has now been withdrawn. All grain bought at the cheap shops must be consumed within the city. Up till the middle of February the daily sales averaged 6,000 local rupees, and the loss to the Durbar came approximately to twenty per cent. This branch of famine relief has been the subject of no little criticism. It is really an expansion of the cheap shop principle. It is quite in harmony with the traditions of the country, and no measure has done more to strengthen the hold of the Maharaja on the affection and esteem of even those among his subjects whose circumstances have relieved them from the necessity of availing themselves of his generosity.

21. In September an influential movement was set on foot for the relief of the large class of sufferers, both in the city and the villages, who by custom and tradition can neither work nor accept relief conveyed through official channels. A strong Committee was constituted with the Rev. Dr. Macalister as President and eight other members. These comprise two leading Thakurs, one member of the State Council, the Director of Public Instruction, three other officials, and one of the principal bankers of the city. They issued an appeal for subscriptions, which was generously answered. The city has been divided into wards, for each of which one particular member of committee is responsible. Each member is responsible that no persons entitled to relief is overlooked, and that only such as are in real distress are assisted. The members began operations by a house-to-house visitation, and local enquiries into the hundreds of petitions which poured in. They drew up lists of deserving names, which were all checked by the committee as a body. In the course of their investigations they found that there were already no fewer than five different agencies already at work in much the same field, although none were working on such systematic or broad lines. The lists were ready by the end of October, when the issue of relief began. Three graduates who are candidates for State employment were appointed to the direct charge of from three to four circles. These circle superintendents visit all the houses on their lists, and make the payments. They have also to inquire into petitions and report to the circle member. It has been found necessary to restrict relief to Brahmins, Kayasths, Khattris, Mahajans, Rajputs, and the better classes of Musalmans.

The relief is mainly supplemental in character, the general scale being two rupees a month for each adult and one rupee for each child. But each case is treated on its merits. One lady, for instance, who is the widow of a Thakur, receives ten rupees every month. During February the Committee relieved 2,877 persons at a cost of Rs. 4,365. In local currency each person received on the average Rs. 1-8-3, which can purchase at the cheap shops 15½ seers British, or approximately eight chittaks a day. The Committee meets once a week to receive the reports of the superintendents, discuss fresh cases, and transact current business. They submit a monthly report to the State Council.

Relief in the villages is distributed on the same lines through the medium of the local officers. During the month of February 618 persons, or one-fifth of the total, were entered on the village lists. The accounts of the fund are audited by two of the members once a month. The Committee received 750 rupees from two anonymous donors for the purchase of blankets, and with this money they were able to purchase 634 for issue in the city, and 500 for the use of the workers on the Jaipur sections of the railway works. The President of the Committee has been entrusted with the expenditure of another small fund, from which he is able to relieve extreme cases among respectable members of the lower castes.

The only paid establishment consists of four peons. The Committee are fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Macalister, whose long experience of Jaipur and intimate knowledge of the local patois are of no little value. The various members freely give up much of their time to the work of charity, and the heavy duties of the Secretary are performed by Pandit Ganpat Lal without any remuneration. As far as I could judge, the committee are carrying out with a maximum of efficiency and economy a most necessary and most useful work.

22. From the foregoing paragraphs it will be seen that famine relief is administered on thoroughly sound principles, while no expense is spared in carrying these into action. No call is ever made on the Durbar which does not meet with a prompt and generous response. According to the latest returns, the daily average number of persons on relief was 38,243. This total will rise appreciably as soon as the harvesting operations are over, and the distress among the cattle will develop quickly during the next four months. The administration is, however, fully prepared to meet any emergency. They have grasped the situation from the outset, and have shown both skill and common sense in combining the various branches of relief.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 6th March, 1900.

BEHARATPUR.

1. I recently visited Bharatpur, and through the courtesy of the Durbar had an opportunity of meeting the leading officials and of inspecting some of the famine relief operations now in progress. Like the other two States of this Agency, Bharatpur has been much less affected by the present famine than the rest of Rajputana, but distress is felt in the parganas of Deeg, Kama, and Nagar. Widespread famine was anticipated when September and October passed without any rain, but fortunately this fear was not realised. Thanks to the extensive system of irrigation works the failure of crops was limited, and no small area under unirrigated cereals was saved by an early issue of takkavi loans. The Council took very early steps to organise relief. In the beginning relief measures were organised by the Revenue Department, but as their scope enlarged the duty of providing for the bulk of famine labour was entrusted very wisely to the Public Works Department. Mr. Devenish, the officer at the head of this Department, has been some years in the State, and is intimately acquainted with its requirements. For the past five years artificial irrigation from reservoirs has been steadily developed, and advantage has been taken of this famine to extend it still further. In ordinary years the construction and maintenance of dams and watercourses give employment to some four thousand persons. In October Mr. Devenish, with the sanction of the State Council, enlarged the ordinary programme of public works, and has thus been able to utilise his competent trained establishment. This is the same policy as was carried out in 1896-97 with complete success. Skilled artisans receive their usual wage, but the scale of payment for unskilled labour is kept low enough to prevent the works being too attractive, and special protection is given to the weak and infirm. The current year's budget has been increased by one quarter. Half of the money will be spent on roads and buildings and the other half on works which will be permanently remunerative.

2. All applicants for employment are divided into able-bodied and weak. The former class, two-thirds of the total, are paid at contract rates, and the latter on the taskwork system. The contractors are appointed by the Executive Engineer, and are paid monthly at fixed rates for the amount of work done. The rates are based on a calculation of what is sufficient to keep the people in condition and give the contractor a fair profit. On the majority of the works the latter receives eight annas for every 1,000

cubic feet. Out of this he has to supply tools and materials and make his own profit. The rates in almost every case are lower than those obtaining in a normal year. The workers are usually paid once a week. Each contractor is obliged to maintain open accounts, which are periodically inspected.

3. No person who is very young or very old, or who is otherwise incapable of doing a full task, is employed in the contract gangs. This class are given light work, such as clod breaking or the collection of firewood. In many cases the task is nominal. They are paid at the following rates:—

Class.	Wage in annas.		Equivalent in chittaks.	
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
Man	1½	1½	22½	19½
Woman	1½	1½	19½	16½
Boy, 10 to 14 .. .	1½ to 1½	1 to 1½	16½ to 19½	13 to 16½
Girl, 10 to 14	1½	1	16½	13
Children, 8 to 10 .. .	½ to ½	½ to 1	—	6½ to 13
Infants,	—	½	—	3½

The figures in the last two columns have been calculated on the basis of 13 seers to one rupee. This is a generous wage, and might be reduced without much risk. It was fixed when prices were higher than they are at present. It is probable that prices will fall still further as soon as the new grain comes on the market.

4. There is a place for admission on every work and all Revenue officials have instructions as to where they are to draft applicants for labour. These officers keep a register of every application and are provided with forwarding tickets. In the city itself there are two admission centres. The drafting officers are empowered to advance one day's pay to anyone who is actually in want of food. Wages are distributed after audit by a staff of travelling cashiers.

5. Works are in progress all over the State, but the majority are to be found in the south and centre, where there are so many possibilities for developing the local irrigation resources. The largest work of all, however, is in the north. This is capable of employing over two thousand people up till the end of July, but it is not fully attended. The works are generally small. The attendance on the four largest, all irrigation dams, averages only 900. The only unproductive works are those round about the city. The others will all bring in a steady income to the Treasury. Their value may be judged from the history of the Bareta Road dam. This was built in the last famine at a cost of two lakhs. This year it has irrigated over four thousand acres of crops, the value of which will equal the whole of the original cost of construction. The numbers on works of all kinds during the week ending 10th March were as follows:—

Detail.	Paid by Contract.		Paid Departmentally.		Total.		Grand Total
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	Skilled.	Unskilled.	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
North	155	1,855	71	586	226	2,441	2,667
South and Centre	751	5,159	700	3,265	1,451	8,424	9,875
Total	906	7,014	771	3,851	1,677	10,865	12,542

These figures incidentally show that the scarcity is not acute. I have divided the State into two portions according to the degree of distress.

The north includes all the parganas where the failure of crops was most marked. The south and centre contain those which have the greatest proportion of secured area and which possess the greatest facilities for the extension of artificial irrigation. Yet the unskilled labour employed in the north is not quite one-fourth of the total. The numbers will certainly rise when the harvest has been reaped, but the administration is fully prepared to meet it. If the works in the north are crowded the surplus will be drafted further south. At present no class of the community is so severely stricken that they can be induced to accept work at any distance from their homes. In the above table I have distinguished between skilled and unskilled labour, as the former are more or less permanently employed by the Department.

6. I inspected part of the work on the Agan dam. This was erected some time ago, and is being strengthened and improved. New distributing channels are being made for the extension of irrigation. The reservoir ran dry very early in the autumn, and its bed is now covered with several miles of ripening crops. The subsoil moisture has been sufficient to bring these to maturity, in spite of the complete failure of the winter rains. The work is being executed on the lines sketched in the preceding paragraph. The majority of the workers live in the neighbouring villages. Those who camp on the work are principally foreigners. They are housed in large roomy huts made of thatching grass, and are well looked after. They are all in good condition and made no complaints of any kind. I also visited all the petty works now in progress in and around the city. These consist of deepening and improving small tanks, levelling mounds and filling up insanitary depressions. Most of the workers are paid departmentally at the rates given in paragraph 3 above. I think these are too generous for works close to a large centre of population like Bharatpur. They would attract certain classes even in an ordinary year. I put forward this suggestion, however, with some diffidence. I questioned seven different men on different works, and found that, while six of them were married, they had left their wives and small children at home. Again, many of the children on the works had lost their fathers. A reduction in the wage, therefore, might inflict hardship on individuals, but it emphatically requires consideration.

7. There is an admission centre at the Executive Engineer's office where complaints also are received. The other admission centre is in the heart of the town, in the Char Bagh next the hospital. I examined the books of the latter. It was opened on the 1st October last. A clerk is in charge with a small staff of temporary peons to take applicants to the works. This clerk is kept informed of what works are in progress, their capacity, and the latest returns of attendance. He drafts all who apply to one or other and sends the sick and infirm to the poorhouse. In five and a-half months the total number of applicants was 2,943, a daily average of 18. The heaviest rush was in November. During the first fortnight in March the applicants averaged only 7 per day. The clerk has a small imprest from which he is empowered to advance sums not exceeding one day's pay to destitute applicants.

8. Lists have been prepared by villages of all persons who are likely to require relief of some kind or another before the arrival of the monsoon. These include all persons who are in need of assistance at their own homes, either because they are too infirm to work or are precluded by custom from receiving help in public. These two classes number nearly 2,000 persons. The lists have only recently been checked and no scale of relief has yet been fixed. I would suggest that the scale laid down in the North-Western Provinces Code be adopted with the necessary modifications. This scale is arranged so as to give 12 chittaks to each adult and from four to eight to each child. Orders have been recently issued also for the relief of certain classes of women by spinning and weaving. The exact details of the scheme have not yet been settled.

9. There are four poorhouses now open in the State. The central institution was started in Bharatpur on the 22nd October, and the others a few days later in Rama and Deeg to the north, and in Wair on the south-west. I visited the Bharatpur poorhouse on the 13th March. The inmates are housed in the wards of an old hospital about two miles away from the city. Both the locality and buildings are suitable in every way. There is ample accommodation for the people, and there are good rooms for the storehouse and kitchens. The poorhouse has been organised by Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal, Member of Council, under the direction of the Political Agent. It is supported entirely by private subscriptions. Several of the leading officials, contractors, and bankers subscribe regularly every month and the "Sadabarth" supply daily $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of wheat flour. The State and the temples also subscribe. Rai Sohan Lal takes particular interest in this institution and visits it regularly. The Superintendent is Lala Ram Sahai, Superintendent of Customs. He superintends the daily admissions and the distribution of meals. The resident staff is as follows:—

- 1 Clerk.
- 1 Compounder.
- 1 Storekeeper.
- 1 Kahar, representing the Sadabarth.
- 1 Bhishti.
- 2 Sweepers.
- 1 Jemadar.
- 9 Sepoys.

The food is all ground and cooked by the female inmates.

New arrivals are inspected every afternoon by the Superintendent and Medical Officer. Those who are unfit for work are regularly admitted, their names with full particulars being entered in the register. Those who are able to work for themselves are sent off to one or other of the city works, or, if they are foreigners, they are told where they can find employment near their own homes. The latter class receive one meal in the evening for two days. Their names are not taken down, but a separate register is kept up, which shows the daily numbers in this class belonging to different States or British districts. On the date of my visit there were 275 regular inmates. The "casuals" numbered 177. The attendance since the opening of the poorhouse has been as follows:—

Period.	Inmates.		Casuals		Both Classes	
	Total of daily totals	Daily average	Total of daily totals.	Daily average	Total of daily totals.	Daily average.
October, 10 days	114	11	500	50	614	61
November	2,320	77	9,802	326	12,122	404
December	6,897	222	11,721	378	18,618	600
January	9,509	306	14,902	480	24,411	787
February	7,369	263	2,901	103	10,270	366
March, 13 days	3,630	284	900	69	4,590	353

The greatest strain on the poorhouse occurred in December and January. The majority of the applicants for relief in these months were foreigners. The numbers will probably decline slightly until the spring harvest is gathered in, when there will be a steady rise. When the first signs of the monsoon are observed the people of the Western States who are now across

the Jumna will pour through Bharatpur on their way home, and the operations of the poorhouse will have to be expanded. To ascertain the proportion of foreigners relieved I examined the registers for the week ending 10th March. These furnished the following statistics:—

State.	Daily average of inmates	
	Actual.	Per cent. of Total.
Bharatpur	105.	36.58
Jodhpur	93	32.40
Bikanir	2	.75
Jaipur	18	6.27
Alwar	14	4.87
Miscellaneous	55	19.16
Total	287	—

Jodhpur, Jaipur, and Bikanir have already removed several of their subjects.

Food is distributed twice a day, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. The "casuals" attend only the evening distribution. The morning meal consists of four chupatties for each adult and two or three for each child. The same rations are issued in the evening along with some dal and vegetables. The chupatties are made of wheat and gram. About ten chupatties weigh one seer, so that each adult receives $15\frac{1}{2}$ chittaks of cooked food every day, and each child from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 chittaks. This is generous fare. To check this scale I examined the account books for the week ending 10th March, and found that the daily average expenditure on food of all kinds, including milk and khichri for the sick and extra rations for the menial staff, came to Rs. 21-14-2. For this sum 619 meals were distributed, so that each meal cost 6.7 pies. The cost of feeding each regular inmate therefore comes to 13.4 pies per day. Considering the full rations given, this figure indicates economical management.

The medical arrangements are good. The resident compounder appears to know his work, and the hospital is inspected once a day by the hospital assistant attached to the jail. Sanitation is well looked after. The only suggestions I have to make are that washing be strictly insisted upon and that the water supply and drinking vessels be regularly disinfected with permanganate of potash. Pronounced starvation cases are happily rare, but there is every reason to believe their number will increase as the hot weather progresses and the wanderers from the western parts of Rajputana begin to struggle back to their homes. At present the only diet prescribed for the starving or dysentery patients appears to be khichri. I would suggest that a proper starvation diet be prescribed, and that the compounder be given a stock of the necessary ingredients.

This institution is playing a most important part in the general scheme of relief. Its establishment is a striking proof of the generosity of the leaders of the community and of their sympathy with the general distress, while its management reflects credit on all who are directly connected with it.

10. The cattle have not suffered much hitherto. Bharatpur is not far from the Jumna, and was invaded in the earlier months of the famine

by huge droves of cattle from the south and west. But these were gradually removed by their owners across the river. The foreign animals now in the State are chiefly sheep and goats. It is said that there are nearly 40,000 of these. The sheep do little harm, but the goats are very destructive. The foreign cattle consumed much of the grazing in the centre of the State, and as a result there is practically none left in the Biana and Bhusa-war parganas. Fortunately a good store of bhusa will soon be available in these tracts. Up till the end of the year there was a brisk export trade in grass, but this was wisely stopped in the beginning of January. It is estimated that the deaths among the agricultural stock will exceed those in normal years by not more than fifty per cent.

11. On the whole there is little cause for anxiety in Bharatpur. There will be a rise in the numbers on relief when the crops have been harvested, and special arrangements will probably have to be made for the returning wanderers in June and July. It will be necessary also to issue takkavi loans on the first burst of the monsoon for the purchase of seed and, to a less extent, for the purchase or hire of plough bullocks. There is every reason to believe that all these matters are under the consideration of the Durbar. While famine in its worst form has spared the State the Administration are to be congratulated on the generous view they have taken of their responsibilities and on the effective measures they have adopted, not only to alleviate what distress does exist, but to reduce the area exposed to similar calamities in future.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 17th March, 1900.

KOTAH.

1. I have recently visited Kotah and, through the courtesy of His Highness the Maharao, I was able to inspect some of the relief operations and to interview the leading officers. The State is richly endowed by nature and nothing approaching to a famine has occurred within living memory. In 1896-97, when famine visited the neighbouring parts of Central India, there was very little distress in Kotah, and the latest harvests up to and including the rabi of 1899 were all satisfactory. The monsoon of 1899, however, failed in July, and the kharif harvest was only eighteen per cent. of the normal. The maize crop entirely failed, and although the jowar stalks rose to their usual height the drought in August and September caused three-fourths of the grain to shrivel up in the ear. Owing to the entire absence of rain since the end of July no unirrigated area was ploughed for the rabi, and the well area put under spring crops has shrunk to within one-third of the average. The Parbatti canal has quite failed.

2. Perhaps the most serious feature of the situation is the shrinkage of the grazing grounds. Ordinarily Kotah affords very much more grazing and fodder than it requires, and till this year it has been able to support droves of animals of all kinds brought by their owners from foreign territories. If Kotah had stood by itself and had been cut off from communication with other tracts, there would have been very little trouble even this year.

But it formed the first objective point of the unprecedented move of immigration from the Western States, Meywar, Bundi, and the districts of Ajmer and Marwara. Then at the same time as these hordes of men and animals were spreading themselves over the forests and grass lands of the State the local people with any stores at all were exporting grain to less favoured parts. At present there are no statistics available which show the number of wanderers who either temporarily settled down within the borders of Kotah or marched through on their way east.

But it may be assumed that between the end of July and the middle of October the total had risen to 1,25,000. The following table which I have compiled from information kindly furnished by the Diwan shows the figures of the average monthly exports and imports of food grains during the financial year ending 31st July, 1899, and similar figures for the months of the current sambat :—

Period.	Exports.	Imports.	Net Exports.
1898-99 (average per month).	76,745	453	76,292
August, 1899	1,85,919	365	1,85,554
September, 1899	1,15,248	1,079	1,14,169
October, 1899	78,899	628	78,271
November, 1899	35,687	2,719	32,968
December, 1899	20,931	2,755	18,176
January, 1900	5,050	4,330	720
Total 6 months	4,41,734	11,876	3,29,858

These figures show that while the exports were more than double, the average in August, they fell by November to half the average, and in January had declined to only one-sixteenth. Imports, on the other hand, were below the normal in August, but rose with only one check in October to nearly ten times the usual amount in January. The evil results of the combined action of these two great forces of emigration and food export would not have assumed their present proportions had the people been thrifty and self-reliant. But the cultivating classes of Kotah appear to be neither industrious nor provident. They rarely look much to the future, and the present generation have never been taught by adversity to put by stores of grain, either for food or seed. They have now to face a situation for which they are quite unfitted by training and experience, and one, moreover, in which the village bannia, their usual resource in ordinary seasons, can give them little or no help. I gather that just at present a large number are maintaining themselves by the sale of the dry jowar stalks to outsiders. On my march from Nasirabad through Ajmer and Bundi, I passed hundreds of carts loaded with karbi, the majority of which came from Kotah. Had the owners been in possession of any food reserves they would have kept this fodder for the use of their own cattle in the summer months, by which time, I am afraid, there will be little grazing left.

3. The present condition of Kotah is thus quite unlike that of any other part of Rajputana, both in its general features and, I am afraid, also in the rapidity with which the distress has lately developed. In more directions than one there are indications that there will be fairly general distress before the hot weather sets in.

4. Early in September the Administration resolved to make an attempt to preserve some part of the natural fodder available in the rich tracts on the eastern border. A certain amount of grass was cut and stacked, but the operations were too restricted to be of any appreciable use to the general public. The grass which was collected was barely sufficient for the cattle and horses belonging to the State. Private owners received practically nothing. Had the forests been closed and grass collection on a large scale been thoroughly organised much good would have been done. But the situation was novel, and the rush of immigrants was too heavy for the local officers to control, and the amount of labour necessary for the collection of an adequate reserve of fodder was not available. In the meantime the grass jungles have been filled with foreign cattle, and they will soon be exhausted altogether. Numbers of cattle, especially in the towns, are being

fed on the leaves of trees. Fortunately it will take some time to exhaust this source of supply, but leaves are a poor substitute for the usual fodder, and few of the cattle kept alive in this way will be fit for the yoke when ploughing begins.

5. As might have been expected, the exceptional character of the season has given rise to considerable grain speculation, and the prices of all food stuffs have fluctuated enormously. Until the railway reached Baran a few years ago prices were lower in Kotah than in any other part of Rajputana. But when the export trade developed prices gradually rose, and at present the cheapest food grains are dearer than they are in Ajmer, although the grain stocks are still large. Jowar was selling at 11 9-16 seers per rupee on the 21st October. The rate gradually fell to 10 seers in the middle of November, when it began to rise again. At the end of December it was 10 8-16 seers, since when it has rapidly declined, the last quotation being 8 1-16 seers per rupee. The changes in the price of wheat are still more marked. During January the rate has risen by over 28 per cent. The grain trade is evidently in the hands of a small ring, who are operating on a large scale. Proposals have been made that the State authorities should make some attempt to control the movements of grain. Hitherto they have, wisely I think, abstained from doing so. Any such interference would bring worse evils than those it is wished to remove, and the people's hardships would be materially increased.

6. Relief works were begun in Kotah as early as October, partly in order to test the extent of the distress among the inhabitants of the State and partly to provide for foreigners who had come to an end of their resources. Details regarding these earlier works were not available in a convenient form. One work was the construction of a road from the Suraj-pol gate of the city to the chaoni, and another consisted in filling up a large depression near the Agency with materials obtained by the demolition of the old rifle range. Neither of these works was of sufficient capacity to employ anything like the number of people who applied for admission, but they served their purposes so far as to reveal that there was no great demand for labour on the part of the Kotah people themselves and to prove that the condition of a very large number of the immigrants necessitated organised measures for dealing with them.

A programme has now been drawn up, which comprises the following works:—

- a. Earthwork of Baran-Kotah Railway.
- b. Irrigation projects.
- c. Erection of dams for large tanks.
- d. Petty local works.

The first three of these classes are all under the control of Mr. Tickell, the State Engineer, and the Public Works Department. The fourth is managed by the local Nazims under the supervision of the central authorities. The only work of any importance at present in progress is the railway extension. A large camp has been opened at Anta, nearly 30 miles to the east of Kotah. There are 50 miles of railway to be laid, but only one-third of this distance has been aligned; 40,125,000 cubic feet of earthwork have to be built up. Work began on the 1st January, and by the 29th of that month 2,500 were employed. On the 22nd just over 600,000 cubic feet had been raised. This is an average daily progress of 27,300 cubic feet. Labour is paid on the piecework system. The gangs are small and usually work by families. The remuneration is five annas (Kotah) for every 100 cubic feet. The Kotah rupee fluctuates in exchange value with reference to the British rupee. During the latter part of January it was depreciated by eleven per cent. At that time the cheapest available food grain was jowar, which was selling at the rate of eight imperial seers per Kotah rupee. At this rate the grain remuneration for every 100 cubic feet was 2½ seers. I worked out the average output of each male unit, and found it to be 35 cubic feet per day. Therefore each male unit has up

till now been earning every day enough to enable him to purchase 14 imperial chittaks. The average remuneration of the different classes works out as follows:—

Man	...	...	14	chittaks	per	day.
Woman	...	10.5	"	"		
Child	...	7	"	"		

The rate is for medium soil with a normal lead and lift.

I was unable to visit this work and possibly the suggestions put forward below may be neither practicable nor desirable. They are merely offered for the consideration of the State Engineer and the other advisers of the Durbar. So long as the people are paid by piecework and their dependants are ignored, I think that the rate might be raised to Rs. 3-6-0, or even Rs. 3-8-0. Even then the work will be done much more cheaply than in ordinary times. As it is of great importance to finish the embankment before the rains, I would propose that the work be opened on other sections where the plans and estimates are available. I am strongly of opinion also that foreigners should be freely admitted to the railway works. There is only too good reason to believe that hitherto they have been deliberately turned away. In one respect Kotah is differently situated from the Malwa States which have been loud in their complaints of being forced to open relief works for hungry immigrants. The railway must be finished and owing to the demand for labour caused by the scarcity the earthwork can be constructed at much lower rates than in ordinary years when it would be necessary to import professional diggers. The State is therefore now in the position of being able to afford material help to the more sorely stricken parts of Rajputana with distinct profit to themselves.

7. At the same time, if the necessary establishment is forthcoming, I would recommend that supplementary works be started in those tracts which are remote from the railway. There is real distress for instance in the hilly Bhil country on the Jhalawar border; and until the exact alignment of the railway over the Chambal is finally decided some work should be opened close to the city. The delay that has taken place in selecting a site for the bridge has been most unfortunate, and if it is prolonged will entail a heavy loss on the Durbar and seriously hamper relief operations. When famine became inevitable the ordinary works then in progress under the Public Works Department were either closed or largely curtailed in order that as much money as possible might be saved for actual relief works. I would suggest a reconsideration of this policy. These ordinary works gave employment to a large number of artisans who were thus able to support a still larger number of dependants. As time goes on the former will be forced on to the relief camps and the latter will help to swell the gratuitous relief lists.

8. Gratuitous relief is given throughout the State. Each Nazim is furnished with an advance of Rs. 100 every month for the relief of such persons as are unfit to work. During my tour I was able to inspect the work of two of these officials. The procedure seems to be that the nazim and his subordinates make frequent short tours through the villages in their jurisdiction relieving all necessitous cases with cash doles as they go along. The able-bodied are given enough money to last them for one or two days, and are sent off to the nearest work. The sick, aged, and infirm are given enough to procure food until the next visit. This arrangement has the excellent effect of making local officers tour periodically through their charges, but alike in the interests of the Durbar and the people, I would suggest that a little more system be introduced into its working.

9. The only poorhouses now open are in and about the city. The largest of these is known as the Ganesh Pal Camp. This is situated in a grove of trees on the edge of the Bundi road, nearly four miles from the city across the river. There is abundance of shade and water, and roofed accommodation is being rapidly provided. The object of this establishment is to collect all sick and feeble foreigners and maintain them until arrangements can be made for their removal. The camp also serves as an obser-

vation post, as all foreigners returning to their own homes are inspected by the camp superintendent. The camp was opened on the 7th October. It was organised by Babu Birj Lal, Vice-President of the Municipality, who regularly visits it twice a week. The Superintendent is Apji Dhul Singh, who belongs to one of the leading Rajput families in the State. The establishment is as follows:—

- 1 Clerk.
- 1 Hospital Assistant.
- 1 Compounder.
- 1 Darogha.
- 1 Municipal Jamadar.
- 4 Bhishtis.
- 4 Sweepers.

The visitors are Raja Bejai Singh and Babu Brij Lal. The following table shows the daily average attendance since the opening and the number of deaths:—

Month.	Average daily Attendance.	Deaths.	
		Total.	Rate per thousand.
October	1,179	Unknown.	Unknown.
November	592	60	100
December	836	39	58
January	893	44	38
Monthly Average ...	930	48	52

No record was kept of the deaths in October. Of the total deaths, 62 per cent. were attributed to starvation or its after effects, but a considerable number of children died of small-pox. The bulk of the persons treated belonged to Marwar, Maywar, Ajmer, Merwara, and Bundi. A few came from Bikaner, Jaipur, Tonk, and Kishangarh. The following table shows the number of foreigners who were returned to their homes under the escort of officials deputed by the respective Durbars for the purpose:—

Date	Bikanir.	Ajmer.	Marwar	Bundi.	Mewar.	Total
16th October ...	—	—	—	104	—	104
14th November ...	38	84	—	332	—	454
30th December .	—	—	419	—	1,964	2,383
19th January	—	—	—	—	488	488
Total ...	38	84	419	436	2,451	3,459

In addition to the above, numbers especially those belonging to Ajmer and Merwara, left on their own account.

The hospital is in one corner of the enclosure. The Hospital Assistant has an ample stock of drugs and of fresh milk for the children and the new arrivals who are very much reduced. He had, however, no sago or arrow-root, or other light digestible farinaceous food, and his ideas of treating starvation cases did not seem to go beyond a diet of rice and milk. I would suggest that he be furnished with a scale of diet for the starvation cases which keep dropping in, and a stock of the different ingredients. The

segregation hospital is well away from the main camp. At the time of my visit it was filled with small-pox cases. The rations for the healthy are ten chittaks of flour and dal, mixed, for a man, nine for a woman, and from four to six for a child, according to age. I would suggest that grain instead of flour be given, and that the people be required to grind the grain themselves. This will entail a supply of chakkis. If this is done the rations should be raised to eleven for a man and a woman with a child at her breast, ten for a woman, and from four to seven for a child. The people cook their own food as it is. Cooked food is issued only to the orphans and in-patients of the hospital.

10. While the Ganesh Pal institution provided for foreigners the city poor had nowhere to go to. On the 1st January, therefore the existing Gowsala was expanded into a relieving centre for them. This Gowsala is an enclosure in the heart of the city where for some years past the wealthier members of the Jain community have been supporting cattle abandoned by their owners. A store has now been opened there for the free issue of grain to persons on the gratuitous relief list. The city has been divided into seven circles with two responsible visitors for each. These select deserving persons, who receive tickets, which they present once a week at the Gowsala. The distributors attend daily in the morning, and each circle is paid on a different day. There are 218 people now on the lists, of whom 19 are men, 159 are women, and 40 are children. Three-fourths are Hindus and one-fourth Musulmans. They include infirm widows and respectable poor who can neither beg nor work. The rations are 11 chittaks of wheat for an adult of either sex, $5\frac{1}{2}$ chittaks for a child between five and fifteen, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ chittaks for a child under five. Previous to the opening of this institution the Seths had been in the habit of distributing cooked food to the wandering poor in the city, but they have now placed their fund at the service of the Durbar. These wanderers, who belong to all parts of Rajputana, are assembled every afternoon outside the Gowsala and receive a dole of cooked jowar. As in the case of the gratuitous relief, the cost is borne equally by the Durbar and the private fund. I saw about 350 of such persons collected. They belonged chiefly to outlying villages of the State, which fact so far as it goes seems to indicate the necessity for a more systematic organisation of gratuitous village relief and the necessity for relief works in remote tracts. The majority were distinctly in poor condition. It struck me that in time this collection of people might prove dangerous both to the peace and health of the city—there were many Bhils amongst them—and Babu Brij Lal has already displayed so much energy and capacity for organisation that he might be able to collect the majority at some centre where there could be more effective supervision.

11. In commemoration of the transfer of territory from Jhalawar, the Durbar, on the representation of the Municipal Committee, sanctioned the opening of an orphan and cripples' home on the 24th March, 1899. It is situated in an enclosure close to the city tank. For the first few months the attendance was very small, but since August last, when the total varied from three to six, the numbers have risen. The inmates on the date of my visit were as follows:—

Class.	Men.	Women	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind ...	9	7	3	2	21
Cripple ...	11	4	2	2	19
Orphan ...	...	...	63	28	91
Total ...	20	11	68	32	131

The establishment is as follows:—

- 1 Clerk.
- 1 Darogha.
- 4 Cooks.
- 2 Dhais for infant orphans.

The Hospital Assistant attached to the Military Hospital close by is in medical charge. Infectious cases are segregated in the contagious hospital not far off. The inmates receive cooked food twice a day, and the rations are decidedly liberal. They consist of dalia, chupaties, sweetened dal, and vegetables. All classes are well clothed. The majority of the inmates belong to Kotah (37 per cent.), Bundi (24 per cent.), and Meywar (23 per cent.). The whole place is extremely well managed, and I have rarely seen the inmates of a purely charitable relief house so comfortable. The only suggestion I have to make is that the orphans and cripples be put to some useful work. There are a number of sturdy boys who could be taught some suitable trade.

12. Purely private charity has also done much to relieve distress in and about Kotah. Until the middle of January, when the relief of the wandering poor in the city was organised, the representative of the United Presbyterian Mission distributed cooked food once a day to 200 persons, mostly women and children. Some of these had to be clothed. The Rev. Mr. Bonnar has also opened a temporary orphanage, but as he was away from Kotah during my visit I was unable to obtain detailed particulars about either of these branches of relief.

A charitable Seth who lately built a well about five miles to the north of the city on the Kesharao Patan road gives a free issue of grain every day at noon to all who apply. The daily attendance averages 200.

13. While the Kotah State has not been so severely stricken by famine as the greater part of Rajputana, there is still great cause for anxiety in the future, and I trust that the suggestions I have put forward in the preceding paragraphs will be considered in the light of local experience. The only remaining recommendations I have to make are in connection with agriculture. Kotah is capable of great development in this direction. If intelligent efforts were made to induce some of the better classes of foreign cultivators who are now with their cattle in Kotah to remain permanently, the result would be of material advantage to the Durbar. There are large tracts of culturable area still left untilled, and there is every reason to believe that some at least of the emigrants from less favoured regions could be persuaded to settle down upon them. I would also suggest that when rain does come advances for the purchase of seed grain be freely made. These can scarcely be too liberal, and if the monsoon is even normal the money will all be easily recoverable within a few months after issue. There can be no doubt also that in all but a few tracts wells could be multiplied with great advantage to the cultivators and the State. But it is an open question whether the former would care to incur the necessary initial expense or would consider the additional security conferred by artificial irrigation worth the trouble of keeping up the wells, and for some time the Durbar will be forced to keep the expenditure of public funds within the narrowest possible limits.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 5th February, 1900.

JHALAWAR.

1. Major Fagan, Political Agent, kindly allowed me to accompany him on a visit to Jhalawar, and while at the capital I was able, through the courtesy of His Highness, to interview the principal officials, and inspect most of the relief operations now in progress. The Jhalawar State as recently reconstituted consists of the Patan tahsil, half of the old Suket tahsil, and the Chaumahla comprising the tahsils of Pachpahar, Awar, Dag, and Gangdhar. The population and revenue are respectively 150,807 and Rs. 4,70,000. The harvests of 1896-97 were fairly good all over the State, the kharif of 1898 was one of the best on record, and the following rabi was also good. So that up to the failure of the monsoon in July last there was no cause for anxiety, although there was a rush of famine-stricken people from Central India in the beginning of 1897. The area put under cultivation last kharif was slightly above the average, but the sudden stoppage of rains had a most disastrous effect on the unirrigated crops, while the water in the shallow wells shrank to a very low level. Only about half of the irrigated crops came to maturity, and the yield was generally poor. But the grain and straw which were harvested have been sold at exceptionally high rates. These rates tempted the owners to get rid of all their produce, and what stocks are left are in the hands of dealers. On an average 25,000 bighas are put under unirrigated crops in the rabi, but this year the total is only 73. On well lands cultivation has shrunk to less than half the normal, and some of the crops now in the ground will not survive. On the whole it is anticipated that the yield of irrigated staples will be a six anna one. The worst tahsils are Patan and Pachpahar.

2. Jhalawar had not such a liberal supply of fodder as Kotah in the beginning, but it has not been subjected to the same rush of foreign cattle. Grazing is deficient all over the State, and is becoming scarce in the Chaumahla. By the beginning of the hot weather there will be little grazing of any kind left, but the well cattle will have the straw of the spring crops and the others will eke out an existence on leaves. There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle yet, and the officials at headquarters estimate that only one-tenth of the existing live stock will die for want of sufficient nourishment. I think this estimate is below the mark. The people will be fortunate if they lose only one-fifth.

3. Accurate details of the number of foreigners who have passed through the borders of Jhalawar are not forthcoming, but the returns from the observation posts at Patan and the Chaoni give the following totals:—

Month.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
October	4,290	3,676	2,409	10,375
November	1,836	1,616	735	4,187
December	74	23	9	106
January	227	138	74	439
Total	6,427	5,453	3,227	15,107

Great numbers of people and cattle passed the border in August and September, but of these there is no record. The above figures are much below the mark, as they take no account of the large numbers who avoided the capital. Jhalawar forms the junction of two great lines of communication between Western Rajputana and Central India. The one passes across the Piplighat and on through Neemuch; the other crosses Ajmer and Bundi, and defects to the south at Kotah. It follows, therefore, that the recorded statistics are of use only to show the rise and fall of the wave of

immigration. They give no idea of its volume. There are no figures showing the numbers of returning emigrants, but from all accounts very few seem to have passed through Jhalawar on their way home.

4. Up to the week ending 5th August prices were very steady. On that date jowar was selling at a rate of 31 5-16 seers per rupee, and wheat at a rate of 17 seers. Maize was the cheapest grain. The price of all grains steadily rose, with only one slight check at the end of October, until last week, when the rates were maize 9 1-16 seers, jowar 8 11-16 seers, and wheat 8 2-16 seers. These quotations are made in terms of local currency, 116 Jhalawar rupees being equal to 100 British. The history of prices supplied to me by the Diwan does not quite agree with that given in the weekly telegrams received from the Political Agent. For instance, the price of jowar during the last week in January was reported to be 9 1-16 seers per rupee, but the revenue records at Jhalra Patan show it as 10 1-16 seers. There has been a heavy export of grain from the State, but the stocks are still sufficient. These are either in the hands of a few large dealers or under their control, but the attempts hitherto made by the State to fix a fair scale of prices were attended with such disturbing results that it will be wise to avoid interference in the future.

5. The earliest efforts made by the Durbar to relieve the growing distress took the form of advances to cultivators for the sinking of new wells and the deepening of old ones. This was certainly a wise policy, for, although the monsoon rainfall averages 16 inches, the winter rains are hardly worth taking into account, and every additional well would mean so many more acres under rabi crops. The people, however, do not seem to have realised the necessity for such measures, for the Diwan told me that a very large proportion of the money was spent on totally different objects. The distributing officials also were not free from corruption, and some part of the advances never reached the people at all. Altogether the result of these well meant efforts was quite inappreciable. In September a programme of relief works was drawn up. These were divided into two classes. The first and by far the most important class is under the State Engineer. Those belonging to the second class are purely local and are supervised by the district officers. They were the first to be undertaken. The following table gives the three projects now in hand, with the average daily number of persons employed each month up to the 4th February:—

Month.	Average Number employed.			
	On fodder collection	On Godown Tank.	Under Tahsildar Patan	Total
September	372	...	...	372
October	670	...	..	670
November	978	..	...	978
December	975	...	...	975
January	1,486	...	...	1,486
February	689	237	89	1,015

The people employed on fodder collection cut grass and pala, and bring these into the city, where they are paid at varying rates for each head-load. The fodder is issued to the cattle and horses belonging to the Durbar and the mounted troops. The recent decline in the average number of persons relieved in this way shows that the pala bush is beginning to fail. The small gangs under the orders of the Tehsildar at headquarters are put to light work, such as cleaning up the roads and encamping grounds.

6. The Godown Tank work consists in deepening the tank close to the stores of the Public Works Department, and in strengthening the retaining dam. It is in charge of Mir Bunad Ali, Foujdar or Chief Criminal Judge. The staff is made up of three clerks in the permanent employ of the State. On the date of my inspection there were 273 people at work.

The following is the scale of wages :—

Class.	Wages in local pice.	Equivalent in Imperial Chittaks.
Mate	8	17.0
Digger	5	12.7
Man, carrier	5	10.6
Woman, carrier	4	8.5

The work is intended for the employment of persons who are drafted from the poorhouses when they are certified to be fit for light work. No tasks are fixed, and there are no measurements. The average daily output per head cannot be much more than 11 cubic feet, although the lead and lift are short, but the work fulfils its main object of giving some employment to between two and three hundred people, who would otherwise have to be placed on the gratuitous lists. The children and infirm dependants receive from four to eight chittaks of maize flour every evening. At the present rate of progress the work will continue to serve as a useful adjunct to the poorhouse for some months to come.

7. The following works are now open under the direction of Mr. Tickell, the State Engineer :—

Month	Daily average number employed					Total.
	Stratton-sagar tank.	Stone quarries.	Sarah-sakha well.	Durg-pura tank.	Kishen-pura tank.	
October	556	...	..	..	...	556
November	508	66	..	...	..	574
December	260	84	23	..	34	401
January	418	27	27	22	349	843

In addition to the above, the Kemball library is now in course of construction. For the last four months over 600 persons have been employed, but a large number of these are skilled artisans.

8. The largest work of all is the Kishenpura tank. A new tank is being made near the village of Kishenpura, about four miles from the capital on the high road to Kotah. The site of the tank is a marked depression of considerable extent about a mile away from the base of some low hills. This depression is being excavated, and the earth is used to form a large dam nearly a mile long. The work began on the 27th December, and up to the 31st of January 1,55,344 cubic feet of earth had been turned out. The total capacity is 2,500,000 cubic feet, so that unless the number of workers increases very largely there will be no chance of finishing the dam before the rains. Payment is made on the piece-work system at the rate of five local annas for every 100 cubic feet. The outturn is measured up and the workers are paid once a week. On the day of my visit the cheapest grain was jowar.

It was selling on the works at 9 seers per rupee. I was unable to ascertain the average outturn per day of each male unit, but if it be taken as 33 cubic feet the following figures show the amount of grain at current rates earned by each class:—

	Chittaks.
Man	15.00
Woman	11.25
Child	7.50

Judging from the gross outturn up to date, I should think that the above scale is pitched too low. The soil is decidedly hard and the lead in places is considerable. I would suggest that the rate be raised from five to six annas per 100 cubic feet, and be further increased as the lead lengthens and the dam grows higher. I would also recommend that foreigners be freely admitted. On the day I visited the tank, 84 per cent. of the people belonged to Jhalawar and the rest, with the exception of five men to Kotah. It is of the utmost importance that the dam should be ready before the first rain comes, both in order to prevent any injury from floods, and to allow of irrigation for the next harvest.

9. The Stratton-Sagar tank is situated on the road between Chaoni and Patan. One arm of the dam runs along the road and the other borders His Highness's garden to the west. The catchment area is not large, and the irrigating capacity of the tank will be small. Part of the dam is being faced with stone, and this will in time form a promenade for the people of the two towns. The work was originally given out on contract to a Hindu in Patan. The earthwork is almost finished. He pays his skilled labour at an average rate of six annas per man. The diggers, who are all men, receive two annas a day. This is sufficient to procure at current rates 17 chittaks of the cheapest grain. The carriers are paid on the cowrie system. The contractor's rate is four cowries for one full basket carried about 100 feet. As there are 72 cowries to one pice, the remuneration is one pice for 18 baskets. The largest amount ever earned by a woman in one day was four annas. The contractor keeps no records or registers, but by questioning his mates and the workers I gathered that a carrier gains on the average $4\frac{1}{2}$ pice per day, or sufficient to procure 10 6 chittaks of the cheapest grain. About one-fifth of the 200 carriers I saw were children between 6 and 14 years of age. The people all seemed satisfied with their earnings. I was unable to visit the other relief works mentioned above.

10. There are no works of any importance in progress in the Chauhahla, but the construction of a large tank at Hatonia, in the Pachpahar tahsil, has just been sanctioned, and the estimates of other projects are under consideration by the Durbar. As far as I can judge, without having visited this tract, distress is not developing with such rapidity as in Kotah, but there is a great future for Jhalawar if the extension of artificial irrigation is steadily pushed forward. Every tank which is judiciously placed will not only add to the secure area under crops, but will increase the capacity of the wells within its influence, and the present is an exceptional opportunity for obtaining cheap labour.

11. Owing to the large numbers of destitute immigrants and the comparatively severe distress in the towns caused by high prices, the numbers on gratuitous relief have hitherto been much in excess of those on the works. In Chaoni and Patan, which are barely four miles apart, there are no fewer than five charitable institutions at work. There are three at the Chaoni and two at Patan. Gratuitous relief in the beginning took the form of distribution of parched grain in the Chaoni by the State to all who applied for it. This system was started on the 19th September and continued up till the 28th December, when a regular poorhouse was established. This institution is situated in a serai to the east of the town. The following table gives the numbers relieved by both methods up to the 5th of February:—

Method of Relief.	Daily average number relieved in						
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Average
Grain distribution ...	375	531	264	337	...	...	377
Chaoni poor-house ...	...	...	...	51	164	336	183

The large decrease that took place as soon as the poorhouse was opened is a strong proof of the way in which indiscriminate charity is abused. Forty-two persons entered the poorhouse on the 29th December, and the total steadily rose until the 25th January, when the numbers went suddenly up from 263 to 340. On the last day of the month there were 415 inmates. On the following day 118 were made over to a representative of the Kotah Durbar. When I visited the poorhouse there were 376 present. The institution is managed by a committee of three gentlemen who attend day about and supervise the issue of rations. The paid establishment consists of two clerks and four sepoy. The subordinate staff of cooks, bishtis, and sweepers is recruited from the inmates. They receive cooked food and from eight annas to one rupee monthly in addition. The scale of rations is as follows:—

Class	Wheat in Imperial Chittaks.			
	Wheat bread	Pulse.	Wheat dalia.	Total.
Adult	7	2	3	12
Child from 7 to 14	5½	1	1½	8
Child under 7	3½	1	1½	6

If these rations are regularly given, they are all that is necessary. I would only suggest that the dalia be made of maize instead of wheat. The military hospital is close by, and the Hospital Assistant in charge visits the poorhouse once a day. The sick are quartered in some vacant sepoy lines behind the serai. There were 41 in-patients on the day of my visit, suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, and small pox. A compounder lives in the hospital. Drafting is systematically carried out. As soon as any person has been in the poorhouse long enough to pick up strength, he is sent to work on the Godown tank.

12. In January His Highness opened a supplementary poorhouse in Chaoni, all the expenses of which are defrayed from his private purse. The inmates are housed in some old barracks on the west of the town. The officer in charge is Pandit Chinta Mal, who is overseer of the temples in Jhalawar. The establishment consists of four clerks and five sepoy, with a small staff of chaukidars and sweepers recruited from among the people. Uncooked food is distributed every morning on the following scale:—

	Flour.	Pulse.
Adult	11 Chittaks	2 Chittaks
Child over 8	7 "	1 "
" under 8	3½ " only	—

The people cook their own food and apparently collect their own fuel. There were from 250 to 300 inmates on the day of my visit. I saw about ten lepers who were mixed up with the other inmates. The drawback to this institution is that there is no surrounding wall and it is impossible to keep the people from wandering. Some of the inmates undoubtedly do wander about the city and beg during the day, and not a few are given to selling part of their uncooked rations. I would suggest that if possible this poorhouse be amalgamated with the other. This will prevent wandering and the rivalry which is certain to spring up between two institutions in the same place and fulfilling the same purpose but managed on different principles. The lepers also should be segregated.

13. An orphanage has been established in the Chaoni. It was opened in the beginning of January. The children are housed in the buildings attached to Raja Raman's temple. Discipline is maintained by a darogha and two peons. There are at present 22 boys and 8 girls. More than half are Bhils and 19 of the inmates are residents of the Jhalawar State. The others belong to Jaipur, Indore, Gwalior, and Kotah. The children are fed twice a day on chupatties, pulse, and vegetables, and are all clothed by the State. They are evidently well cared for.

14. The Patan poorhouse is situated inside the city on the road to Chaoni. The people are housed in the building known as Girai, which was at one time occupied by the police. It was opened on the 27th December, on which date 486 people were admitted. Up to the 27th January the numbers fluctuated between four and six hundred, but during the last fortnight the total has steadily risen to 828. By far the largest number of the inmates belong to foreign territories. The following table gives the daily average number belonging to different States relieved since the first January:—

Jhalawar	...	...	...	80 persons.
Kotah	..	..	..	63 "
Udaipur	.	...	...	196 "
Jodhpur	...	..	..	17 "
Indore	..	..	..	103 "
Gwalior	..	...	..	18 "
Miscellaneous	...	.	...	77 "
Total	.	...	...	557 "

The poorhouse is managed by a committee composed of the Tehsildar, Hospital Assistant and Kotwal. The burden of the work naturally falls upon the medical officer. The Staff is as follows:—

- 2 Clerks.
- 8 Sepoys.
- 23 Cooks.
- 4 Bhishtis.
- 2 Kahars.
- 5 Sweepers.

When there is a press of work the Kotwal supplies extra sepoy. The cooks, bhishtis, and kahars are all local men, and receive monthly cash wages. The sweepers are all in the permanent employ of the Municipal Committee. I would suggest that the staff of paid cooks be gradually reduced, and that some of the inmates of good caste be put to work in the kitchen. The sanitary arrangements might be improved. The sweepers do not all live on the premises and heartily dislike this addition to their ordinary duties. The best plan would be to appoint one of the best Municipal sweepers as conservancy jemadar, and give him a staff of sweepers recruited from the

inmates. There should be at least two sweepers to every hundred people. It is impossible to keep the enclosure clean with only five men who live outside. I visited the poorhouse twice, and on each occasion there was a corpse lying in one corner of the yard which should have been removed and burned at once, but there were not sufficient sweepers available for the purpose. Cooked food is distributed once a day on the following scale:—

Class.	Weight in Imperial Chittaks			
	Wheat Bread.	Pulse.	Dalils.	Total
Adult	9	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Child, from 7 to 14 ...	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$
Child, under 7	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$

Distribution begins at 2.30 p.m., and lasts for about two hours. The weak and sick are fed in the morning also and receive and special diet that may be prescribed by the medical officer. A small dole of vegetables is issued once every four or five days. Water is brought from the lake close by and is stored in gharras. I would recommend that old kerosine oil tins be substituted and that the supply be regularly disinfected with permanganate of potash. If this is done and the conservancy arrangements are put on a proper footing the risk of an epidemic breaking out when the hot weather comes on will be very much reduced. With the present small staff it is impossible to feed the people twice a day, but the desirability of doing so should be borne in mind.

15. The moneylenders of Patan have raised a fund among themselves for the distribution of cooked food to all applicants. This takes place every afternoon in the serai opposite the poorhouse. The food is cooked in the poorhouse and is distributed by the staff. At present the people who flock to the serai get from one to three chupatties each. These are not very large, and on the average an adult receives only about one-fifth of the amount required to keep him in health. A few foreigners live in the serai, but the great majority of the people merely attend when the food is issued. From 1,800 to 2,000 persons are relieved every day in this way. The accounts show that for the last few days the average weight of grain distributed has been six maunds. This gives a rate of two chittaks to each person. While the charitable motives of the givers are to be commended, I think it would be a wiser plan if they were to combine with the State authorities. This free distribution of small quantities of food only pauperises the bulk of the recipients, while those who are really starving are mocked with a pittance. A large number of the people whom I saw were earning a living in Chaoni or Patan, and there were a few cases of marked emaciation.

16. On the whole Jhalawar is not so badly off as Kotah. The agricultural outlook is brighter, the country has suffered much less from the immigration of outsiders, and although prices are high the food stocks have not been depleted to the same extent. It is not probable, therefore, that distress will develop so very rapidly as it threatens to do in Kotah, or that it will ever be so widespread. But distress already exists. Up till now the efforts of the administration to cope with it appear to have been adequate, and the Durbar is fully impressed with the necessity for expanding the system of relief works as time goes on. It is very fortunate that in almost every part of Jhalawar it is possible to construct irrigation works which will be permanently remunerative and will give effective relief to all who are likely to apply for it.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 12th February, 1900.

ALWAR.

1. I have recently paid a short visit to Alwar, and was kindly permitted by the Political Agent and the State Council to see some of the relief operations at work and to inquire into the present situation. 1895-96 was a poor year, and 1896-97 was even worse, but, although the monsoon rainfall was almost as deficient as in the great famine of 1877-78 distress was confined to narrow limits. The winter rains of 1896-97 were good, and the monsoon fall of 1897 was sufficient and well distributed. 1898-99 was a good year. The rainfall in June, 1899, was the heaviest on record for twenty years, and up till the end of July it was fair. The break began on the 22nd July, and except for a few slight showers in August and September it has lasted till now. In September the Council anticipated that should no rain fall before the end of November the scarcity would attain the proportions of a famine. This anticipation has fortunately not been realised. Had the winter rains not failed again there would have been little cause for anxiety. Even as it is, it cannot be said that famine prevails in Alwar. There is severe distress in what is usually the richest part of the State, the Thana Ghazi tahsil and on the eastern border. Elsewhere the rapid extension of wells has saved the situation.

2. When the drought became pronounced in August the Council took vigorous measures to discount its results. The majority of the State grass reserves were opened up and any who liked were allowed to cut grass on condition that half the amount cut should be handed over to the State. As soon as the grass was removed from any reserve the cultivators were allowed to turn in their cattle to graze. As time went on and the demands for fodder kept pouring in from the most stricken parts of Rajputana, it was found necessary to prohibit the export of fodder of all kinds. Posts were established at every railway station and on the main lines of traffic to carry out this order. If the would-be exporters say that it is necessary to sell the grass for the maintenance of themselves and their families it is bought by the State and stacked. Later on it will be issued to cultivators as takkavi advances. This policy gave rise to considerable dissatisfaction and criticism, but there can be no doubt that it was most justifiable. Grain can be easily imported, but in a short time it will be almost impossible to purchase fodder of any kind. Not a few zamindars have already sold their cattle simply because of the scarcity of fodder.

3. The money-lenders, with a lively recollection of former famines, very soon ceased to give out loans to agriculturists. The Council then took the matter up and informed all village Bohras that if they would freely issue loans these would eventually be recovered by the revenue collecting agency free of charge, and if reasonable instalments were fixed they would take precedence of the State demand. From what I have been able to gather, the moneylenders have not availed themselves of this assurance to any great extent. The most powerful factor in bringing about a generous policy on their part has been the development of the wells. In May last, when the crops were off the ground, the wells were low, and the people were idle, a certain amount of takkavi was given out for wells. But from August to November no less than Rs. 1,75,000 were spent in this way. This put great heart into the people, and as soon as the first barley shoots appeared above the ground their credit was restored. On the 30th November 535 masonry wells had been constructed or repaired, and 4,546 temporary unbricked wells had been freshly sunk. The irrigating capacity of each of these two classes may be assumed to be 15 and 4 bighas respectively, so that this wise policy has added 26,000 bighas, or 16,000 acres, to the area under crops. A substantial addition has thus been made to the resources of the people, who have been enabled to withstand the effects of the scarcity to an extent that was never contemplated when the first forecast was submitted in September. The staples generally sown have been barley, carrots, and country turnips. It is probable that many of the wells will run dry before the rains come, but in the meantime they have saved the State a heavy expenditure on relief operations, and have reduced to a minimum distress and suffering among the agricultural community.

4. In September advances were made to Tahsildars for the starting of petty relief works. These were chiefly village tanks. The first test works proper were opened at the end of October, but they failed to attract many applicants for relief. At the last day of that month the total number of workers was only 656. By the 30th November this total had risen to 2,242, and by the 31st December to 2,822. During January the actual control of the larger works was transferred from the Public Works Department to the Imperial Service Corps. The engineering officials are now concerned merely with professional details. In the last two months there has been a steady rise in the numbers on works, the average daily attendance in February being 7,073. These people were employed on 93 village tanks and eight larger works.

5. I visited two of the large works now in progress. An insanitary tank close to the city has been filled up and a new tank is being dug between the jail and the cavalry lines. This will receive part of the drainage from the city a mile away. The officer in charge is Captain Ram Singh, of the Imperial Service Corps. He is assisted by two non-commissioned officers and eight Sepoys. The other staff is as follows:—

- 5 Muster Clerks.
- 1 Overseer.
- 1 Mistri.
- 16 Mates.
- 10 Bhishtis.
- 4 Sweepers.

The organisation and methods of working are the same as those observed on all the large works. There are one non-commissioned officer and six sepoy or sowars for every thousand workers, and one writer for every three hundred. The troops receive the same batta as if they were on foreign service. The workers are classified and paid as follows:—

Class.	Description.	Sex.	Daily Wage	
			A.	P.
A.	Professional labourers...	Male	1	9
		Female	1	6
B.	Labourers, but not professional.	Male	1	6
		Female	1	3
C.	Adults fit for light work	Both sexes	1	0
		Boys from 13 to 16.	1	0
D.	Children	Girls from 13 to 16.	0	9
		Both sexes from 8 to 12.	0	9

This classification appears to be somewhat elaborate. I think the distinction between professional and other labourers might be given up, especially as individual tasks are not allotted to the diggers. The workers are divided into small gangs of from 7 to 9 persons. Each gang contains a mixture of the various classes. Each is given a separate pit, and the whole gang receives from 3 to 6 annas for every 100 cubic feet excavated and carried a distance of 500 feet. When the lead exceeds 50 feet one pice is paid for every additional 25 feet. The system is a combination of piecework and taskwork. I was told that full tasks are generally performed and that if

short work is done through laziness all the workers are fined. If, on the other hand, the deficiency is caused by the reduced condition of some or all the members of a gang they are paid at full rates. This throws a great deal of extra work and responsibility on the officer in charge. It entails an elaborate arrangement of each small party, and should even one worker be out of condition or be absent for a day the calculation of wages becomes very complicated. To see how the system worked in practice I checked four gangs. The muster rolls showed that each was composed of 1 man A class, 1 man and 2 women B Class, and 3 children on 3 or 4 pice daily. In only one case could the man of A class have been described as a professional digger. And in three instances the children who were on the works were not those whose names were on the muster rolls. I found also three women, a Gujar, Mali, and Teli, who were drawing six pice each, but who could not be described as professional labourers.

Wages are based at present on the price of bejhar, which is selling at $11\frac{1}{4}$ seers per rupee. The cheapest staple, however, is battla, at 13 seers per rupee. The following table gives the wages received by each class and the amounts of both bejhar and battla these will procure at current rates:—

Class.	Daily wage in annas.	Equivalent in chittaks of	
		Bejhar	Battla.
A. Male	$1\frac{1}{2}$	19.68	22.75
B. Male and A. Female	$1\frac{1}{3}$	16.86	19.50
B. Female	$1\frac{1}{4}$	14.06	16.25
C. Both sexes	1	11.25	13.0
Boys from 13 to 16	1	11.25	13.0
All other children	$\frac{3}{4}$	8.43	9.75

This is a liberal scale of remuneration. According to the returns for the last completed week the total of the daily totals of the workers was 3,920, a daily average of 560. The percentages of men, women, and children were respectively 36, 21, and 42. These figures show how very difficult it must have been to arrive at a workable arrangement of the different gangs. The boys from 13 to 16 were paid three pice each instead of one anna. The others were all paid at the fixed rates of their various classes. The total sum due at these rates would be Rs 281-8-0, but the actual sum paid was Rs. 263-13-9, so that the fines levied came to over twelve rupees. I checked the measurement returns for the first four days in March and found the daily outturn per worker was 31.8 cubic feet. This is distinctly satisfactory. In order to obtain some idea of the sums earned by joint families I took down the statements of four different men. Each was the head of a gang. The various amounts earned by each every day were:—

A Chamar with wife and 4 children earned $6\frac{3}{4}$ annas.

A Mali with wife, mother, sister, and 3 children, earned $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

A Gujar with wife and 4 children earned $6\frac{1}{4}$ annas.

A Teli with 2 children earned 4 annas.

These families were therefore earning from seven and a half to fourteen rupees per month.

Measurements and payments are made daily in the case of fresh arrivals. Otherwise they are made twice or even once a week. The gang man receives the pay of the whole gang. The majority of the workers belong to Alwar city. The few hundred who live on the work are mainly foreigners.

Sirkhi huts are now being put up for them. The screens I saw are poor in quality and are expensive. They will not stand long against the hot winds which are beginning already. I would suggest that the resident workers be set to make their own huts. These should be about 12 feet square and dug out to a depth of 2 feet. The earth which is excavated will make the walls. The quickest and cheapest method of roofing is to cover the huts with the tents of Malpura felt, which can be obtained in Jaipur. The staff of professional beldars and chappar makers might then be dispensed with. On the 6th March, the date of my visit, there were 1,522 persons, of whom 21, chiefly old women, were in receipt of gratuitous relief. The work opened on the 1st March with an attendance of 420; 104 persons belonged to other States and 4 came from the Hissar district in the Punjab.

6. On the same day I inspected the tank which has been repaired close to the State stables and military lines. The work was nearly finished. During the third week of February the daily average attendance was 458, but the majority of the workers have been drafted to the other tank. The tank has very high sloping banks and the work had been carefully and neatly done. The return showing the outturn was not on the work, but evidently each gang had performed their full task on each day of the week, as every individual was paid at full rates. I think the experiment might be tried of making this work a contract work pure and simple. Even in an ordinary year it would attract a number of people from the city. I would not recommend the extension of the contract system to the other large relief works away from the capital, but it might be adopted with advantage on this one work.

7. Early in the famine poorhouses were opened at Alwar and three other large centres. These institutions were utilised also as forwarding depots for immigrants. As the number of destitute foreigners in the State had declined to a small total by the end of February, the poorhouses were all closed on the last day of that month. At present, however, over 600 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief at their homes. The lists were prepared by the Tahsildars, who also arrange for the distribution of grain through lambardars and patwaris. The doles amount to half a seer per day for an adult, and a quarter of a seer for a child. They are paid weekly. For the last six weeks there has been no tendency to an increase of the numbers in receipt of this form of assistance.

8. The situation is much more hopeful than there was any reason to expect six weeks ago. The people even of the towns are in good condition, and the cattle are not much reduced. Some of the cultivators in the worst tract on the Gurgaon border have been forced to part with some of their animals. Cattle slaughter was common in November and December, but heavy punishments soon proved an effectual check. It is probable that by the end of the famine the normal total agricultural stock of the State will have been reduced by twenty per cent. A scarcity of drinking water will be felt in some villages, notably in the Thana Ghazi tahsil, but there will be nothing approaching to a water famine. The present satisfactory condition of man and beast, in spite of a disastrous failure of the winter rains, is due chiefly to the unprecedented development of well irrigation, and in a less degree to the order prohibiting the export of fodder. There are still eleven large works on the programme which have not been touched. Some of these will be taken in hand this month, and the programme as it now stands will not last much beyond April. Other schemes, however, are under consideration, and as the hot weather progresses the number of ordinary village tanks under repair will gradually increase.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,

Famine Commissioner

Camp, 10th March, 1900.

KARAUJI.

1. With the permission of His Highness the Maharaja, the Political Agent kindly arranged for me to visit Karauli. The situation has been from the beginning less serious in this State than in almost any other part of Rajputana. There was a good spring harvest in 1899, and no apprehensions were felt as to the south-west monsoon up till the end of July. In August there was a slight but favourable fall of rain in the Machilpur tahsil. With that exception there has been a prolonged drought for seven months. The effect on the autumn harvest was not so disastrous as might have been expected. Wholesale failure of the rain crops was restricted to parts of the Dang or hilly area, and the general result was a ten-anna yield. Distress was thus confined within narrow limits. In the beginning the remissions of revenue, amounting to half a lakh, and the issue of 12,000 rupees in the shape of takkavi advances provided sufficient relief. A programme of relief works was drawn up, and local officers prepared lists of all persons who were likely to be in need of relief in one form or another.

2. The first work to be opened was grass cutting for the State stables. This was begun about the middle of December, and at the end of that month there were seven petty works in progress under the supervision of the Tahsildars. Three more tanks were started in January, but the attendance was very small. Had the State received ordinary winter rains it is more than probable that all the relief works would have been deserted. As it is, the numbers have gradually risen. The works now in progress are:—

Hazur Tahsil.—Three irrigation dams.

Mandrail Tahsil.—Three tanks.

Machilpur Tahsil.—Two tanks.

Utgir Tahsil.—One irrigation dam.

In addition to these eight new masonry wells are being constructed by the State in the large village of Parita and the Jagirdars of Amargarh, Jakhair, and Mainchari have each one large irrigation project in hand.

3. It has not been found necessary to make any change in the administration. Babu Bhola Nath Chatterji, Member of Council, is in special charge of famine matters. The details are left to Tahsildars. They are entrusted with the task of selecting projects and organising labour. When a work is about to be opened, they select all the persons within their jurisdiction who have no employment, and draft them on to the works. The workers are paid on the following scale, which is uniform throughout the State:—

Class.	Daily Wages.		Equivalent in imperial chittaks of barley
	Local annas.	Imperial annas	
Man	25	2-36.	24-3.
Woman	2	1-9	19-6
Child	1-5	1-4	14-4

This scale is very liberal if all applicants are freely admitted. The cheapest grain is barley, which is selling at 10 5/16 seers per rupee.

4. The total on relief works is still under one thousand, and no marked increase is likely to occur until the harvest has been gathered in. Gratuitous relief is distributed to 200 persons all over the State. There is no need for a regular poorhouse, even at the capital. The rabi harvest is expected to be five-eighths of the normal, and the yield of straw will be exceptionally good

for such a dry year. The cattle have not suffered to any extent hitherto, and the majority will have good wholesome fodder until the rains break. They have lost a certain number from disease in the Utgr tahsil, but the epidemic has now been stamped out. Grain is being imported regularly. In the month of February nearly 12,000 maunds of barley were brought into the town. Imports will probably cease when the crops have been threshed. The general outlook is cheerful, but provision must be made for the future. The existing programme of works is too small to provide for all who will require work during the hot weather. It is true that a certain proportion of the residents in the Dang country came down every year for work in the Tareti villages, and larger numbers than usual will leave their homes in April and May. But work must be given to those who remain. I would suggest that a programme of works capable of employing 5,000 people up to the 1st August be drawn up without delay. Most of the works should be in the Dang tract. Further, the charitable depots in Karauli, Kota, Kalla Devi, and Mandrail will require expansion. When the drought draws to a close a large number of foreigners will make for their homes. They will generally be destitute, and will require both food and water on the way. Hitherto the State has escaped lightly, but the strain will come a month hence. The Durbar is fully alive to what may happen in the next few months, and if the local revenue officers are kept up to the mark there will be little cause for anxiety.

J. R. DUNLOP SMITH, Major,
Famine Commissioner.

Camp, 15th March, 1900.

No. 179.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1132 F., dated Camp, 6th March 1900.

I have the honour to forward a copy of the correspondence* regarding the proposal of the Jodhpur Darbar to set aside a maximum sum of Rs. 50,000 from the Government famine loan for experiments in artesian well-sinking.

2. I have provisionally sanctioned the proposal pending reference to Government, and have now the honour to request that, if the arrangements contemplated are approved, my action may be confirmed.

Enclosure 1 in No. 179.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 69 G., dated 30th January 1900.

I have the honour to invite attention to my letter No. 498, dated 27th December 1899, on the subject of artesian well-sinking in Marwar.

2. The Agent to the Governor-General's telegram of the 1st January 1900, recommending that Mr. Santo Crimp should be consulted as a preliminary step reached me unfortunately too late to enable me to communicate with Mr. Santo Crimp at the address given in the telegram.

* 1. From the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 69 G., dated the 30th January 1900. 2. From the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 118 G., dated the 17th February 1900. 3. To the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 1036 F., dated the 25th February 1900. 4. Extract, paragraphs 2 and 3, from letter No. T. 4, dated the 23rd February 1900, from the Director, Geological Survey of India.

3. Some days were. I regret to add, afterwards lost in communicating with the Jodhpur Darbar, and a letter I ultimately wrote to Mr. Crimp in Bombay failed to catch him before his departure to England.

4. The Darbar adheres to its wish to make some experiments in artesian well-sinking with the assistance of the American firm represented in Bombay by Miss Alice B. Condict, and proposes to allot Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 20,000 from Government famine loan for the purpose. If the Agent to the Governor-General sees no objection, I will sanction the proposal, merely stipulating that the sum allotted shall not be exceeded, and that any agreement made with Miss Condict shall be approved by Counsel in Bombay before execution, in order to prevent misunderstanding and trouble hereafter.

5. I have asked Mr. La Touche, Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, to favour me with his opinion as to the particular localities in Marwar where experiments are most likely to be attended with success.

Enclosure 2 in No. 179.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 118 G., dated 17th February 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your office endorsement No. 571 G., dated 8th instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, that a meeting was held at the Residency this morning to discuss the desirability of experimenting for water by sinking artesian wells in the most suitable localities in the Marwar State.

Present : the Resident, Western Rajputana State ; Mr. Griesbach, Director of the Geological Survey of India ; Maharaj Dhiraj Sir Pratab Singh ; Mr. Walter Home, State Engineer ; Pandit Sukhdeo Prashad, Famine Secretary.

2. Although there is no available information to show what measure of success is likely to attend any efforts in this direction, the Darbar is of opinion that Rs. 50,000 might with advantage be set aside for experimental purposes from the famine loan of 30 lakhs to be granted to the State by the Government of India. I have the honour to submit this proposal for the favourable consideration of the Agent to the Governor-General and the Government of India.

3. In the event of sanction being accorded, the Darbar will be guided generally in its undertakings by the advice of Mr. Home.

Enclosure 3 in No. 179.

Letter from the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 1036 F., dated 25th February 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters No. 69 G., dated 30th January 1900, and No. 118 G., dated 17th February 1900, and in reply to say that the Agent to the Governor-General accords provisional sanction to the proposal of the Jodhpur Darbar to set aside a maximum sum of Rs. 50,000 from the Government famine loan for experiments in artesian well-sinking, subject to the approval of the Government of India who will now be addressed on the subject.

2. Should the Darbar obtain the assistance of the American firm referred to in the correspondence, they should take all precautions to protect themselves legally from any liability, pecuniary or otherwise, beyond the precise amount, if any, which, with your advice, they determine at the outset to entrust to the firm for these experiments.

3. An extract* from letter No. T. 1, dated 23rd February 1900, from the Director, Geological Survey of India, upon this subject is enclosed for your information.

Extract from letter from the Director, Geological Survey of India, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. T. 1, dated 23rd February 1900.

In consultation with Colonel Curzon Wyllie and the Darbar officials of Jodhpur, it was decided to make an experimental boring about 10 miles east of Barmer and down to a depth of about 1,000 feet, in order to ascertain, in the first place, whether artesian conditions prevail at that locality, which is considered not improbable. At the same time it is also thought that the Tertiary system, which contains a seam of coal near Bikaner extends also as far south-westwards, in which case we may expect to find coal also in the Jodhpur State. A favourable result in either direction would be of such immense benefit to that part of Rajputana that it was considered to be sufficient justification for the outlay at a time when famine conditions prevail in the country.

When at Bikaner, I advised the Darbar to undertake the search for artesian water in connection with the "proving" of the coal-field at Palana, about 14 miles south-south-west of Bikaner city. It appears that since Mr. T. D. La Touche of my Department submitted his first report on the discovery of this coal, very little has been done towards "proving" the extent, both vertically and horizontally, of the field. Mr. Clarke, the Engineer of the Bikaner State, informs me that he has developed the seam already known, and that now a certain quantity of coal, said to be equal to a 15 years assumed consumption by the Jodhpur-Bikaner line of railway, is within "sight". I also understand that a certain quantity of plant has been acquired, and that the main line of railway will be directed so as to pass near Palana. All this has been done on the assumption that the known seam is also the best which is likely to be found, but so far our knowledge of the coal-field stands precisely where it was in 1898.

No. 180.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1152 F., dated Abu, the 8th March 1900.

In continuation of my telegram of the 7th March 1900, and with reference to the 5th paragraph of Mr. Barnes's letter No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 166, dated the 26th February 1900, from the Resident, Mewar, supporting the application of His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur for a loan of 5 lakhs of rupees from the Government of India for expenditure upon famine relief in the Mewar State. The Darbar offer repayment by half-yearly instalments of Rs. 50,000 each.

2. I have the honour to recommend the grant of the advance, and to express the hope that a sum of at least two lakhs may, if practicable, be paid to the credit of the Darbar during the current financial year, the balance of the loan being given in the month of April. Famine pressure is acute in Mewar, and local resources are inadequate to cope with it.

Enclosure in No. 180.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 166, dated 26th February 1900.

With reference to your telegram No. 1021 F. of the 24th instant, I have the honour to state that His Highness the Maharana has requested me to take

* Paragraphs 2 and 3.

such action as may be necessary to obtain from the Government of India a loan of 5 lakhs of rupees for famine relief in Mewar to be repaid in half-yearly instalments of Rs. 50,000 each.

2. I would recommend the grant of this loan to tide His Highness the Maharana over his difficulties. The Darbar is solvent and there should be no difficulty about the repayment.

No. 181.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1189 F., dated Abu, the 10th March 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1101 F. of the 28th February 1900, forwarding the famine report of the Banswara State for December 1899 and January 1900, I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the Partabgarh and Kushalgarh famine reports for the month of January 1900.

2. I should explain that the four petty States of Dungarpur, Banswara, Partabgarh, and Kushalgarh are all under the immediate political charge of Captain B. Peacock, Assistant Resident, Mewar. The relief operations in the last three are directly superintended by Lieutenant F. C. Nicolas, I.S.C., Special Famine Officer. Those in Dungarpur (for which State separate famine reports are submitted, as it is under management during minority) are in the charge of the Assistant Resident himself.

3. The following table shows the progress of distress in Partabgarh and Kushalgarh. It will be seen that in Partabgarh the numbers on works and gratuitous relief have risen from 1,982 and 35 in December 1899 to 2,248 and 73, respectively, in January 1900. Lieutenant F. C. Nicolas's report, dated 12th February 1900 (copy attached), shows that the Partabgarh Darbar have organised systematic relief operations. Irrigation works have been opened in Ghutarsi, Deolia, and Dalote, which employ about 3,000 persons; the estimated cost is about Rs. 39,000. Besides this the State is about to open a tank work in the Sagtali district on the border of the Bhil country and another tank at Nimod. These will give employment to 2,500 people for 3 months. The works proposed by the Thakurs of Raipur and Dhamotar and by the smaller Jagirdars with the grants for wells, which are being improved or constructed throughout the State, will give employment to between 2,000 and 3,000 more persons.

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
Partabgarh—			
December 1899 ...	1,982	35	2,017
January 1900 ...	2,248	73	2,321
Kushalgarh—			
November 1899 ...	425	300	725
December 1899 ..	400	300	700
January 1900 ..	250	300	550

4. It is reported that His Highness the Maharawat is taking a keen personal interest in the organisation of measures for the relief of his distressed subjects, and inspects the works together with the Special Famine Officer.

5. Famine prevails over the whole area of the State, and, out of a total population of 88,000 persons, 68,000 are said to be seriously affected. It is clear that the measures which the Darbar contemplate are inadequate to meet requirements. The resources of the State are, however, limited, and it is indebted to the extent of Rs. 3,41,019-12-0. I have accordingly recommended in a separate communication the grant of a famine loan of 1 lakh of rupees.

6. There were 73 persons in the poor-house, and grain is distributed by merchants to about 4,000 people in Partabgarh and Arnode. Five deaths are reported to have occurred owing to the negligence of the Hospital Assistant, who has been replaced by a medical subordinate from Deolia. It is said that there were no deaths from starvation.

7. The condition of the little Kushalgarh Chiefship remains unchanged. The number of persons on relief works has fallen from 400 in December 1899 to 250 in January 1900. No reason for this decrease has been assigned. The Assistant Resident has been ordered to visit Kushalgarh immediately. The results of his inspection are awaited.

Enclosure 1 in No. 181.

Famine Statement of the State of Partabgarh for the month ending the 31st January 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on the last day of the month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Partabgarh	1,450	88,000	Seriously affected ... 1,126 Slightly affected ... 324	Seriously affected... 68,000 Slightly affected... 20,000 Total ... 88,000	On the 26th January 1900, 972 on the Partabgarh Tank. 424 on the Deolia Tank. 352 on the Dalote Tank. 500 digging wells. 2,248 Total.	6 in Deolia. 51 „ Partabgarh. 16 „ Dalote. 73 Total.

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement of the State of Partabgarh for the month ending 31st January 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—In the city of Partabgarh and Arnode some Sahukars distribute a handful of parched grain, jowar and makki, and in the districts wells are sunk. About 4,000 persons are relieved in this way.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—A poor-house has been opened near the tanks of Partabgarh, Deolia, and Dalote, which are being deepened. The number of persons getting relief in the poor-house is shown in the attached statement.

3. *General character of relief work.*—Old wells are being repaired and new wells sunk in the districts. In the shape of big relief works tanks at Partabgarh, Deolia, and Dalote are being deepened.

4. *Physical condition of the people.*—Some villagers have been affected with fever and small-pox. General health of the people is fair.

5. *Death (if any) from starvation.*—None from starvation. Five persons died in the beginning in the poor-house on account of want of supervision on the part of the Partabgarh Hospital Assistant. The Deolia Hospital Assistant has been put in charge now. *

6. *Food-stock*.—Not sufficient. Grain is being imported in a sufficient quantity.

7. *Importation of grain*.—Sahukars and shop-keepers import grain. There is no complaint now that grain is not procurable.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area*.—Up to this the condition is good. In some places grain has been sown where there are wells. Grain can easily be obtained. The condition of the cattle is good. Fodder is not sufficient, but is procurable.

9. *Change in rates of wages*.—None.

10. *Emigration or Immigration*.—Emigration none. Some persons from Marwar, Mewar, &c., have come into Partabgarh.

11. *Other matters*.—None.

Enclosure 2 in No. 181.

Famine Statement of the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month ending the 31st January 1900.

Chiefship.	Area.	Population in thousands	Affected area	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of the month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kushalgarh ...	1,232	31,000	1,232	31,000	250	300

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement of the Chiefship of Kushalgarh for the month ending 31st January 1900.

1. *Private relief*.—None.
2. *Village and poor-house relief*.—Cooked food is given in charity to the poor of the district.
3. *General character of relief work*.—Wells are being sunk.
4. *Physical condition of the people*.—Is being slightly affected now.
5. *Death (if any) from starvation*.—A few died of hunger in some places.
6. *Food-stock*.—Not sufficient.
7. *Importation of grain*.—Grain is being imported.
8. *General condition and prospects of affected area*.—General condition and prospects not good, and the same will remain until the coming of the rains.
9. *Changes in rates of wages*.—None.
10. *Emigration or Immigration*.—Both are prohibited, but do take place to some extent.
11. *Other matters*.—None. The whole of the Kushalgarh area is affected.

No. 182.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1209 F., dated Abu, the 13th March 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1100 F., dated the 28th February 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Famine Statement and Monthly Report of the Karauli State for the month of February 1900.

2. From the statement it will be seen that the area of distress is the same as in the preceding month and is practically confined to the *dang* or broken and hilly parts of the State, while the numbers on relief works and those in receipt of gratuitous relief remain at between five and six hundred and two hundred respectively. The following table gives the figures for each month from December inclusive :—

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December 1899 ...	(Approximate.) 300	—	300
January 1900 ...	500 to 600	200	700 to 800
February 1900 ...	500 to 600	200	700 to 800

3. A new work in the shape of the construction of a *bund* has been started at Nibhera, which will give employment to the people inhabiting that portion of broken country.

4. Eleven thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven maunds of grain were imported from Agra and the supply of food-stocks throughout the State appears to be ample.

5. The physical condition of the people remains good, and it is reported that no deaths from starvation have occurred.

6. Major Dunlop-Smith, Famine Commissioner and Secretary, is now in the Karauli State, and I am awaiting his report to assist me in verifying the Darbar's information. I have not been able to visit the State myself this cold weather, but I have no reason to believe that there is severe distress in any part of the country.

Enclosure 1 in No. 182.

Famine Statement for the month of February 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected Area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karauli ...	1,262	One hundred and fifty-six thousand.	Some villages in the dang portion lying within the Tahsils of Udgir and Mandrail.	Over one thousand.	Between five and six hundred.	Nearly two hundred.

Note on Famine Statement.

Private Relief.—Some of the Jagirdars of this State have started relief works in their jagirs where poor people are employed in constructing bunds. Prominent among these are Bhanwar Chiman Singh and Thakur of Amargarh.

Village Relief.—At present the following relief works have been started :—

Huzur Tahsil	Two bunds.
Mandrail	Three tanks and one well.
Machilpur	Two tanks.
Jerota	Two wells.
Utgir	A bund at Nibhera.
Village Parita	Eight wells.

In the charity houses flour is doled out to a large number of poor beggars. Their number will not be less than two hundred every day.

Physical condition of the people is still sound. No death from starvation.

The Baniyas have their granaries well stocked with food-grains.

The food-grains imported during the month of February have been eleven thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven maunds, thereby showing an increase of over five thousand maunds in comparison with the corresponding month of the last year.

No change of rate in the wages. There is apprehension of emigration in the dang portion during the summer months owing to the scarcity of water.

C. HERBERT, Major,
Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana.

Enclosure 2 in No. 182.

Famine Report of Karauli State under Sections 15 and 16, Abstract Famine Code for the month of February 1900.

Crop prospects did not improve during February. The failure of the winter rains will make the outturn of the rabi crop much less than had been hoped for, though the crop is said to be thriving where it exists, the cultivators being busy in irrigating it.

As has been stated in previous reports, some relief works have been opened to help those who are extremely in need of State aid. In addition to the relief works that were commenced in the month of January, a new bund has been ordered to be constructed in the month of February in the Utgir Tahsil at a village called Nibhera. The rocky nature of that part of the territory makes it difficult to relieve the distress of the poor people inhabiting that portion of the country. But the bund about to be constructed at Nibhera will, to some extent, alleviate the sufferings of the people.

With the advent of summer, water question is apprehended to assume a serious aspect in the dang portion. No cause for fear exists in the level portion of Mandrail locally known here as the Tareti. But the dang portion, where hills and rocks abound, baffles the efforts of the people residing in that part either in sinking a well or excavating a tank. Emigration is also apprehended from these outlying parts in the months of May and June. In fact, temporary emigrations do take place in these parts of the country in the summer of every year not to speak of the exceptional severity of the present year.

Food Supply.—As regards the food-supply of the country, it is a matter of satisfaction to declare that there is no danger of supply running short. Importation of food-grains from Agra is briskly going on. The figures of the Octroi Department show that the local Banias are carrying on brisk trade in grain importation and are sending on camel-loads and cart-loads of food-grains to the interior wherever there is the least fear of the supply running short.

During the month of February over eleven thousand maunds of food-grains have been brought down to Karauli from Agra.

Fodder.—The question of fodder is not less severe than the question of water. But there is this redeeming feature that among the rural population there is no immediate danger of cattle dying of starvation. A month, or a month and a half hence, when the rabi had been reaped and harvested, a fresh supply of fodder in the shape of bhus or husks would be available. But though it would not be as abundant as that gathered in at the close of the autumn crop still it would partially meet the want of the people.

C. HERBERT, Major,
Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana.

No. 183.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1211, F., dated Abu, the 13th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1077 F., dated 28th February, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 109 G., dated 3rd March, 1900, from the Resident, Jaipur, and of the Famine Statements of the States of Jaipur and Kishangarh for the month of February, 1900.

2. The following table gives the comparative numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief on the last day of each month beginning from October, 1899. The figures for gratuitous relief in Jaipur include a very large number of persons relieved by private charity, especially in Shekhawati. The Resident reports that he is endeavouring to induce the Seths and landholders, more particularly in the latter tract, to systematize their charity on more useful lines.

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
Jaipur—			
October, 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732
November, 1899	25,400	Not reported.	25,400
December, 1899	33,338	7,017	40,355
January, 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268
February, 1900	41,961	32,212	74,173
Kishangarh—			
October, 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012
November, 1899	6,263	2,000	8,263
December, 1899	6,685	2,233	8,918
January, 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277
February, 1900	5,988	2,979	8,967

The numbers both on relief works and on gratuitous relief in Kishangarh have slightly decreased. The cause has not been explained, but it is probably due to arrangements for gathering in the scanty rabi harvest.

3. Distress is said to be increasing in the Malpura and Sambhar districts and in the western part of Shekhawati. The Darbar considers that it is less acute than before in the north of Shekhawati, but the personal observation of the Resident leads him to different conclusions. Mr. Irwin is taking measures in conjunction with the local landholders and Seths to provide effective relief, and he hopes that an irrigation work on an extensive scale will be shortly commenced. The additional relief operations undertaken by the State during the month under report and the further advances provided show the anxiety of the Darbar to do its utmost to alleviate suffering.

4. The arrangements in the Kishangarh State continue to be satisfactory and demand no special notice.

5. In Jaipur 808 deaths from starvation were reported during the month. The corresponding figure for the preceding month was 1,024. No less than 78 deaths occurred in poor-houses and in other places in Kishangarh.

6. During the past month (February) the Resident has made a very extensive tour through the Jaipur State to satisfy himself regarding the adequacy of the relief measures, especially in the subordinate Chiefships of Shikar and Khetri. His final report has not yet reached me, but I understand that the results of his inspection are on the whole satisfactory. Major Dunlop-Smith has visited both Jaipur and Kishnagarh during February. His notes are awaited, but he informs me that in each State the arrangements are good, thus corroborating the conclusions I formed during my own tour. Mr. Irwin, the Resident, is unsparing of his efforts to ensure success. His influence is visible in every quarter. He has been asked to submit a report regarding the little Lawa Chiefship.

Enclosure 1 in No. 183.

Letter from the Resident, Jaipur, to the Famine Commissioner, Rajputana, No. 109 G., dated the 3rd March, 1900.

I have the honour to submit my remarks on the Jaipur and Kishangarh Darbar Famine Reports for the month of February, which have already been despatched to you, but which, owing to my absence in camp, have only reached me to-day.

2. I have but little to say. The enormous number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief in Jaipur is arrived at by including the thousands of people who receive small daily doles of grain from Seths and big landholders—a practice specially prevalent in Shekhawati, where over 25,090 are said to receive assistance in this shape every day. I am now touring in Shekhawati, and have endeavoured, I hope, with some modicum of success, to induce some of the Seths and landholders to systematize their charity on lines likely to be of more real use.

3. With reference to No. 8 of the Darbar's remarks, I am bound to say that the distress is intensifying very much in the north of Shekhawati, where it may now be called distinctly severe. In concert with the leading landholders and Seths, I am endeavouring to alleviate this as far as the circumstances admit. A poor-house has been practically started at Jhunjuhu and petty relief works will be opened there immediately. Also I am hopeful of being able to effect an agreement between several Sardars which will admit of a big irrigation scheme being taken in hand at an early date at what appears to be the only place in all Shekhawati, where any work on an extensive scale is practicable.

I have also heard bad accounts from the Toda Bhim and Mahwa Tahsils of the Hindaun Nizamat. I believe Pandit Jainathji, the most active of the Special Famine Commissioners, has recently been in the neighbourhood, and I hope to go there myself about the 20th instant.

4. I do not know, but I suspect that the figures given for Marwaris at Darbar remark 10 must be belated. Large numbers have recently gone off our works and returned to their own country, and I should doubt there being as many as 14,000 odd still begging or working in Jaipur territory.

5. The Jaipur Darbar are doing their best to cope with the increasing distress and are spending money freely to that end.

6. I do not think I can usefully comment on the Kishangarh report. The facts are clearly stated, and I see nothing that calls for explanation. Their famine administration is, I think, most creditable.

Enclosure 2 in No. 183.

Famine Statement of the Jaipur State for the month of February, 1900.

State.	Area in square miles	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated Population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on Relief Works on last day of month.	Numbers on Gratuitous Relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaipur State ...	14,527.75	2,826	14,527.75	2,826	36,081, excluding the number on the Rewari-Phalera Railway.	32,212

Remarks.

1. *Private relief.*—7,952 persons are employed on works in villages taken in hand by the zamindars by the help of taccavi advances.

2. *Village relief.*—3,763 persons are receiving relief in grain and cash allowance as noted below :—

2,877 persons; especially pardanashin women, in cash, through the Relief Committee.

743 persons in grain and cash, through the Nizamats and Tahsils.

143 children in cash at the Rewari-Phalera Railway.

3. *Poor-house relief.*—Cooked grain is given to 875 persons in the poor-house attached to the Mayo Hospital. Reports showing the number of inmates in the poor-houses opened during the months of January and February have not yet been received with the only exception of the poor-house at Sawai Madhopur, where there are 300 inmates at present.

4. *General character of relief works.*—Earthworks.

5. *Physical condition of people.*—Generally fair, but in the District of Malpura the people look emaciated.

6. *Deaths, if any, from starvation.*—808 deaths took place, mostly among immigrants.

7. *Food-stocks.*—Not sufficient, and grain is being largely imported into towns and villages from outside.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Malpura, Sambhar, and the western part of Shekhawati are in great distress. The distress is less in the northern and eastern districts. Irrigated lands are expected to yield some produce where there are irrigation wells. Prospects for rabi crops appear to be very discouraging for want of rain and owing to scarcity of water in irrigation wells.

9. *Changes in rates.*—Nil. However, wages have been allowed even to such labourers as are found disabled fully to do their usual daily works.

10. *Immigrants and emigrants.*—14,185 immigrants, mostly from Marwar, still earn their livelihood by labour on relief works or by begging in the Jaipur territory. The Darbar have, at a cost of more than Rs. 2,228, deported nearly 846 Marwaris by special train. The Marwar Darbar have promised to take charge of them; 1,498 Jaipur subjects left their houses for works within or outside of this territory during the month of February 1900.

11. *Other matters connected with famine.*—Fodder is dear and becoming more and more scarce, especially in the Sambhar and Malpura districts. Prices of food-grains are almost stationary, 4 chittaks of parched grain or ata is distributed by mahajans and jagirdars, &c., in villages of different Nizamats.

MEMORANDUM.

1. *Organisation of relief measures.*—The relief measures adopted by the Darbar as noted in the reports for the last two months are in progress.

The following further measures have been taken during the month of February 1900 for alleviating distress :—

- (1) Certain irrigation and road works have recently been opened under the Raj Engineering Department. Three Sub-overseers with three clerks under them have been appointed for their supervision, and four cashiers have been posted to keep their accounts.
- (2) Relief works have been opened under the supervision of the Tahsildars at Newai and Toda Rai Singh, and five clerks have been appointed to keep their accounts.
- (3) Poor-houses have been opened at Sawai Madhopur and Ialsot during the month.
- (4) Orders have lately been issued to supply such persons as are found to be lame and blind in the Tahsil of Khandar with 8 chittaks of ata per head per diem.
- (5) Owing to scarcity of fodder the owners of cattle have been allowed to carry from the Raj forests leaves and small branches of boul and kehra trees to feed their cattle.
- (6) The three Famine Special Officers, referred to in the last month's report, in addition to the powers already vested in them, have also been authorised to advance taccavi to the extent of Rs. 25 per assami for food.
- (7) The following sums have been sanctioned for opening relief works and other purposes as noted below :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(a) For advancing money in taccavi to zamindars and cultivators who are in need	39,000	0	0
(b) For advancing money in taccavi to zamindars and cultivators for the construction of irrigation works	20,794	0	0
(c) For advancing money for seed, &c.	8,877	0	0
(d) For the construction of irrigation and road works as estimated by the Superintending Engineer of the State	69,960	5	9
(e) For relief works opened under the supervision of the Raj Nazims or Tahsildars... ..	7,885	0	0
(f) To meet miscellaneous expenses of poor-houses at various places in the State	9,926	1	0
TOTAL	1,56,142	6	9

- (8) In addition to the poor-house at Chatsu, the poor-houses opened in January last at Panwar, Kherar, Malpura, and Toda Rai Singh, and that opened in February at Lalsot, have also been placed under the supervision of Rao Bahadur Dhanpat Rai, Superintendent, Imperial Service Transport Corps.
- (9) Further advances, amounting to Rs. 30,000, have been made for the earthwork of Rewari-Phalera Railway.
- (10) The Darbar continue to purchase and import barley, which costs about 8 seers a rupee and is sold at 10 seers per rupee in the Jaipur City and within the Municipal limits. The sale of grain, as a relief measure, amounts daily to about Rs. 9,000, and thus it entails on the Darbar a loss of one-fifth of the cost price.
- (11) The relief camp is giving support and shelter to 5,866 people suffering from famine.
2. *The continuance or cessation of emigration.*—As mentioned in the report for January last.
3. *The physique of the people.*—As mentioned in paragraph 5 of the remarks.
4. *Deaths from starvation.*—As mentioned in paragraph 6 of the remarks.
5. *The occurrence of famine, crime, and measures taken to cope with it.*—15 cases were reported, out of which 3 cases were of theft of stocks of grain. The measures taken to cope with famine crimes have been set forth in paragraph 5 of the memorandum for January last. The Gerai and Police Officers are carefully discharging the duties entrusted to them.
6. *The condition of crops.*—The rabi crops are in good condition where water in wells, &c., is sufficient for irrigation, and also the Khathi crops in the dry bed of the Bannas river are in excellent condition. The crops have, in some tahsils, been slightly injured for want of rain.
7. *The condition of cattle.*—As mentioned in the report for January last.
8. *The latest procurable figures of persons employed on relief works or receiving gratuitous relief.*—36,081 persons have been employed on relief works, and 32,212 persons are receiving gratuitous relief as entered in the statement.
9. *The extension of relief operations to districts hitherto untouched should be specially noted.*—As mentioned in the report for January last.

Enclosure 3 in No. 183.

Famine Statement of the Kishangarh State for the month of February 1900.

State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of the month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kishangarh..	863	135	840	115	5,988	2,979

Remarks.

Arrangements are still in force for affording relief at their homes to pardashia and respectable paupers, as also to those who are helpless and infirm, in villages and towns throughout the State, out of funds raised for the purpose by monthly subscriptions.

Raj sadabarts at the head-quarters of parganas, as also those kept up by private individuals and religious endowment funds, continue to give gratuitous relief.

There are kitchens attached to larger relief works for the maintenance of the children and dependents of the workers.

There is also a poor-house at the Sudder which feeds about 900 paupers.

The jagirdars and Rajputs who were in need of help have now all had provision made for their maintenance by guaranteed loans or taccavi advances, or in cases of destitution by donations from the Darbar.

Further advances have been made during the month to nobles and jagirdars for opening relief works in their estates, especially where they are under the Court of Wards.

Irrigation projects in estates under the Court of Wards which were surveyed during the last month have been commenced during the current month by loans from the Darbar.

Steps were taken last month to raise funds for the preservation of cattle—enclosures have since been made at such of the larger towns as have an abundant supply of prickly pears in their hedges, *e.g.*, Naraina, Raghunathpura and Kishangarh, and arrangements have been made for collecting stray and uncared for cattle from village to village and sending them over to such enclosures. Several hundred cows and bullocks are thus being fed on prickly pear and dried kavi twigs.

The measures adopted for providing work to parida and other women at their homes are :—

- (1) Supply of coarse cotton procurable in large quantities from the local cotton-mills for spinning into coarse yarn.
- (2) Weaving,
- (3) Supply of unhusked rice for husking.
- (4) Corn-grinding.

A good many people in the villages still manage to earn their living by selling the sweepings of the jungle and forest lands and the flowers of the khejra tree as fodder, as well as by digging up the various kinds of edible roots abounding in the beds of lakes and in low lands, but their number is fast decreasing.

Sugarcane and hay are being imported from the North-Western Provinces and easternmost districts of Central India for use as fodder.

The markets are well stocked and prices a little easier than in the previous month on account of favourable rains in Northern India.

The earthwork of the irrigation bunds that were under construction in the Rupnagar district is completed, and there are now but few labourers at work on the masonry dams.

The condition of the people is unchanged.

Work on the sinking of wells is in full swing—work on as many as 375 irrigation wells being now in progress.

The ground is being prepared for sowing jowar as a fodder crop.

There is a little increase in crime, but it is confined to petty thefts and cattle slaughter.

The numbers in the orphanage are steadily increasing, there being now 59.

The number in relief and small-pox hospitals is 65.

The number of deaths in hospitals were 11; total deaths from effects of starvation in poor-houses and elsewhere 78, of whom 12 belonged to Kishangarh and rest to Marwar and other places.

The garnet mines continue to be worked on the same principle and as successfully as in the previous month.

The cheap grain shops at the various centres continue to sell coarser grains at cost price, which is generally about 10 per cent. lower than the market retail price.

Good accounts continue to be received of cattle that have emigrated to the North-Western Provinces and eastern parts of Central India. The emigration statistics for the month are as follows :—

Emigration.		Immigration.	
Men.	Cattle.	Men.	Cattle.
483	18	756	220

The relief works were visited by the Famine Commissioner, who pronounced the relief administration to be *humane and efficient*.

No. 184.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 1212 F., dated Abu, the 13th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1098 F., dated the 28th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 153, dated the 3rd March, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, with the accompanying Famine Statement and Report of the Sirohi State for the month of February 1900.

2. The number on relief has increased somewhat rapidly as shown. The increase is said to be due to distress having become more acute and also to improvement in the organization of relief and the opening of another large work at Phera, where upwards of 1,100 persons are now employed.

—		Works.	Grainshops.	Total.
December 1899 ...	...	1,498	6	1,504
January 1900 ...	...	2,883	53	2,936
February 1900 ...	...	5,033	176	5,209

3. A poor-house has been opened at Chandela, and dispensaries have been attached to the Sirohi and Chandela works, where sick persons receive medical attendance. The mortality in these dispensaries during the month was heavy—92 deaths being reported chiefly from fever and diarrhoea: 129 deaths from starvation are also said to have occurred among wandering beggars, but no reliable information is forthcoming as to the actual cause of death among these vagrant wanderers. Probably a large proportion of the deaths was due to pneumonia and other kindred diseases which sufferers weakened by insufficient nourishment were unable to resist.

4. The general health of those on relief works is reported to be fair, and the grain stocks sufficient.

5. The Maharao Sir Kesri Singh takes considerable interest in the relief operations, and readily falls in with advice for their extension or improvement.

Enclosure 1 in No. 184.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 153, dated the 3rd March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 81-G., dated the 5th February, 1900, I have the honour to submit a copy of the Sirohi Darbar's Famine Report for the month of January 1900, together with a skeleton map of the famine-affected area in which there has been no change.

The number of persons employed on relief works has increased from 2,883 to 5,033.

The increase is due to distress being more keenly felt as the season advances and to the better organization of relief.

The works, which are under the supervision of Mr. W. E. Knight, Assistant Engineer, consist of tank-making at Sirohi, Chandela, Rohera and Pindwara. The Rohera tank was begun during the month.

The total sum spent on relief works during the month has not been given, but the Dewan reports that the expenditure on each of the works is about Rs. 150 only.

The health of the labourers is fair. Two dispensaries have been opened on the relief works—one at Chandela and the other at Sirohi.

Captain Grant, I.M.S., reports that during January 59 out-patients and 42 in-patients were under treatment, of whom 5 died of fever and diarrhoea.

In the same month at Chandela 127 out-patients and 36 in-patients received treatment; 2 died of malarial fever and diarrhoea; 92 deaths occurred during February in the same dispensaries.

The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief on the 25th February was 176.

Having heard that much distress prevailed at Abu Road and in its neighbourhood, I directed Lieutenant Menzies to proceed there for the purpose of concerting measures in consultation with the Darbar for its relief. A properly organized poor-house has now been opened, from which the able-bodied are deported to works and the sick and infirm to a hospital. The great cold which prevailed during a part of February caused much suffering.

I regret to say that 129 deaths from starvation are reported among wandering beggars.

There has been no emigration.

Prices of food-grains have been steady.

No rain fell during the month.

The rabi crops are understood to be doing well.

The water-supply is sufficient and grain-stocks are abundant.

The Darbar has spent Rs. 900 in deepening wells.

Enclosure 2 in No. 184.

Letter from Jowar, Chand the Dewan, Sirohi State, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 197, dated Sirohi, the 28th February, 1900.

In compliance with the instructions conveyed in your Letter No. 4,751 dated the 26th December last, I have the honour to enclose the tabular Famine

Statement, with a map showing the affected area, and to submit the following report for the month of February :—

(a) The number of labourers on the famine works on the 25th instant was 5,033, while the number of persons receiving gratuitous relief was only 176.

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Sirohi	400	521	680	1,601
Pindwara	221	301	—	512
Chandela	495	547	698	1,740
Rohera	566	483	121	1,170
				5,033

(b) A poor-house has been opened at Abu Road since the 12th instant, and placed under the charge of the Hospital Assistant there, and the number of inmates on the date specified above was 445. As already reported in the foregoing statement, a poor-house has been similarly opened at Sirohi, and to place it on an organized and systematic working, a new site has been selected behind the Sirohi Hospital, and huts are being made there for the purpose.

(c) Grain-stock is sufficient.

(d) The health of labourers on the works is on the whole fair. There are 91 in-door patients in the Tank Hospital at Sirohi and 6 at Chandela, while the number of deaths were 73 and 19 respectively on both the works during the month under report. The prominent diseases prevalent are diarrhœa, dysentery, fever, bronchitis, small-pox, etc.

(e) There has been no emigration.

(f) There has been also, strictly speaking, no immigration.

(g) Most of the cattle have succumbed, while the few surviving are in an emaciated condition.

(h) One hundred and twenty-nine deaths from starvation are reported among vagrants and beggars from various districts as detailed below :—

Pindwara	56
Rohera	12
Pamera	15
Abu Road	41
Mugra	2
Panchalia	3
	129

(i) There has been no appreciable rise or fall in the prices of staple food-grains.

(j) The Rohera Tank is taken in hand in the beginning of the period under report.

In conclusion, I beg to mention that a further grant of Rs. 900 during the month under report is made towards the sinking, deepening, and repairing of new and old wells in different parganas.

Famine Statement for the month of February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sirohi ...	1,964 square miles.	181,843	Santhpur, Khuni, Pindwara, and Rohera, Parga- nas.	75,809	5,033	176

N.B.—In column 4 the parganas affected to a greater extent than others are mentioned and their population entered in column 5.

• No. 185.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1213 F., dated Abu, the 13th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 932-F., dated the 17th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement, with map of the Mewar State, for the month of February, 1900, together with a copy of the Resident's covering letter No. 187, dated the 5th March, 1900.

2. The following table shows that the numbers on relief continue to rise. The number on relief works in February was 99,201, and on gratuitous relief 22,710; as against 73,092 and 13,527, respectively, in the month of January :—

—	Relief.	Gratuitous.	Total.
October, 1899	10,587	2,534	13,121
November, 1899	15,306	6,242	21,548
December, 1899	23,876	11,112	34,988
January, 1900	73,092	13,527	86,619
February, 1900	99,201	22,710	121,911

The large increase is said to be due chiefly to the fact that the numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the Jagirdar estates (with the exception of those in Bednor and Deogarh) were not included in last month's figures as they were received too late. The actual increase in khalsa lands is 6,054 on works and 5,869 on gratuitous relief.

3. Seven hundred and ninety-one people are said to have emigrated to Kotah, Neemuch, Merwara and Indore. Arrangements are being made to bring them back and provide them with work.

4. Under the head of starvation it is reported by the Darbar that 3,243 people died from famine, cold and disease.

5. The Resident's covering letter is very brief, as it was despatched by Colonel Thornton only four days after he had relieved Colonel Yate. The increase in figures is satisfactory rather than the reverse, indicating, as it does, the expansion of the Darbar's operations. But if these were in any sense complete, the total would be nearer 300,000 than 120,000. Matters are, however, improving under steady pressure, and I am hopeful that, with Colonel

Thornton's influence and exceptional famine experience, a great advance may now be looked for both in regard to the effective character and the extent of the Darbar's relief organization in the khalsa and jagir tracts of Mewar.

6. I have desired that Mr. Pinney (with funds and full authority) shall again visit early the Bhil Tracts described in Colonel Yate's note printed with my report for January to ascertain the effect of Colonel Yate's recommendations and the present circumstances of the people.

Enclosure 1 in No. 185.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 187, dated the 5th March, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the Famine Statement received from the Mewar Darbar for the month of February, 1900, together with the prescribed skeleton map in duplicate.

2. The numbers of persons on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief compare as under with those of last month :—

	February.	January.
On relief works	99,201	73,092
On gratuitous relief	22,710	13,527
Total	121,911	86,619

The large increase of 26,109 persons on relief works and of 9,183 on gratuitous relief is reported to be mainly due to the figures for the Jagirdars' estates (excepting Bednor and Deogarh) not being included last month, as they were received too late. The net increase of persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief in khalsa territory is 6,054 and 5,869, respectively.

3. Rupees 11,386 have been sanctioned by the Darbar during the month for expenditure on relief works in khalsa territory.

Enclosure 2 in No. 185.

Famine Statement for the month of February, 1900.

State	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands in column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar	12,670	1,800	9,518	1,350	Khalsa ... 24,316 Jagir ... 72,797 Deoethan ... 2,088 Total ... 99,201	Khalsa ... 15,094 Jagir ... 4,713 Deoethan ... 2,908 Total ... 22,710

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for February, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—"Chandas" for the local distribution of Ghugary have been established in 24 villages, but records of the numbers relieved by these "Chandas" have not yet been received by this office. In addition to this it is reported that 5,000 people are being daily supported by the charity of rich traders and others throughout the rich cities of Mewar.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Poor-house relief is being distributed to 15,094 by the khalsa. The poor-houses in Udairpur and Dabok, respectively,

contain 4,491 and 6,472, the remainder are distributed in the chief towns of the zillas. The reports from jagirdars and maufidars show that 4,713 are receiving poor-house relief at various centres in their districts. Nearly all the above poor-house relief is distributed in the form of cooked food.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Talao, wells, canals and buildings.

4. *Physical condition of people and death (if any) from starvation.*—Those people affected by the famine are in a thin and weak condition; 3,243 deaths are reported to have occurred from famine, cold and disease.

5. *Food-stock.*—In some places the merchants have stores of grain, especially in the Mugra.

6. *Importation of grain.*—Grain is being brought and imported from outside as required by the State and merchants.

7. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—In Jehazpur, Mandalgarh, Mugra, Kumalgarh, Deogarh and Badnor the famine is very severe.

8. *Changes in rates of wages.*—Nil.

Emigration or immigration and other matters.—Seven hundred and ninety-one Mewar people emigrated to Kotah, Neemuch, Beawar, and Indore, but arrangements were made to bring them back and provide them with relief.

F. PINNEY, Lieutenant.

No. 186.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Camp, No. 1627 I.-A., dated the 14th March, 1900.

1267 I.-A. Your letters, 1066 F., 1078 F., 1079 F., and 1080 F., February 28th. Following loans are sanctioned for current financial year:—To Partabgarh half-a-lakh, to Tonk one lakh, and to Marwar three and-a-half lakhs. Provision has been made during next financial year as follows:—Partabgarh half-a-lakh, Kishangarh half-a-lakh, and Marwar thirteen and-a-half lakhs. Further orders will follow regarding loan to Tonk for next financial year. If half-a-lakh found insufficient for Kishangarh, you should report again hereafter.

No. 187.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 1270 I.-A., dated the 14th March, 1900.

1270 I.-A. Your letter 1152 F., March 8th. Loan of five lakhs to Udaipur sanctioned. Orders for payment of two lakhs immediately have issued.

No. 188.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1222-F., dated Abu, the 15th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1074-F., dated the 28th February, 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for January, 1900, I have now the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 151-G., dated the 3rd March, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the accompanying Famine Report of that State in original for the month of February, 1900.

2. The following table shows the number of persons on relief works and on gratuitous relief from October, 1899 to February 1900. There has been an increase of 177 persons on relief works during the last month, though the total does not yet reach that of December.

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
October, 1899	921	6	927
November, 1899	1,162	14	1,176
December, 1899	1,689	47	1,736
January, 1900	1,407	17	1,424
February, 1900	1,584	17	1,601

3. The total outlay on famine during the month amounted to Rs. 6,293 against Rs. 4,727 expended in January. Rupees 364 were expended on tools and plant. The incidence per head was 1 anna 10 pies as in the previous month. The Resident is addressing the Darbar on the subject of the wage rate.

4. The Bap, Nachna and Nakh parganas are now reported to be free from cholera; 52 deaths from this disease occurred during the month under report. The total number of cases up to the end of February was 709, of which no less than 532 cases proved fatal.

5. Grain stocks are replenished largely from Sind and are reported to be sufficient, but prices have considerably risen as will be seen from the following table:—

—	Wheat.	Bajra.	Jawar.
December	8	8½	10½
January	8	8	9
February	7	7½	8½

6. During the month 1,602 persons with 150 cattle are reported to have emigrated. The corresponding figures for January were 6,062 and 6,875 respectively. The Sind authorities, inspired by the Commissioner, Mr. H. E. M. James, have earned a deep debt of gratitude from Rajputana for their practical help during this calamity.

Enclosure in No. 188.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 151-G., dated 3rd March, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying famine report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of February last, together with a skeleton map showing that there has been no change in the famine-affected area.

2. The number of labourers on relief works has increased from 1,280 to 1,445, and those of non-working children from 127 to 139. This increase, which is comparatively small, is due to deepening distress.

3. Three new works were opened during the month. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 6,293; deducting Rs. 364 spent on tools and plant, the cost per head came to 1 anna 10 pies as in the previous month.

The health of the labourers is said to have been generally good. No death occurred on the famine works. The Bap, Nachna, and Nakh parganas, where cholera prevailed in January, are now free from that disease; 52 deaths from cholera are said to have occurred during the month.

No deaths from starvation are reported. During the month 1,602 persons with 150 cattle emigrated. No emigrants have lately returned.

Grain stocks are replenished largely from Sind, and are sufficient, but prices have risen; Jawar is selling at $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee against 9 seers in January.

Drinking water in sufficient quantities is obtainable in the larger villages and towns.

Rai Bahadur M. Jagjiwan, Diwan of Jaisalmer, distributed 80 suits of clothing at his own cost to poor persons in receipt of relief.

The Darbar has obtained from the Ajmer Treasury Rs. 25,000 of the famine loan of Rs. 50,000 sanctioned by the Government of India.

4. The poorhouse at Jaisalmer maintained 18 persons (of whom 1 died) at a cost of Rs. 43.

No. 189.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General. Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1223-F., dated Abu, the 15th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1073-F., dated the 28th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement and Report of the Bharatpur State for the month of February, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief from November, 1899, to February, 1900. There was an increase of 528 on works in February and a decrease of 389 in the number of those gratuitously relieved:—

—	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
November, 1899 ...	8,000	700	8,700
December, 1899... ..	12,293	973	13,271
January, 1900	10,288	1,332	11,620
February, 1900	10,816	943	11,759

3. The physical condition of the people remains good, and no deaths from starvation are reported. Importation of grain continues and prices have fallen, the result no doubt of the suspension of import duty on food-grains. The relinquishment of this duty renders it difficult to obtain trustworthy returns of the amount of grain imported except by the railway.

4. All civil agency works (except one tank carrying 75 persons) have been stopped as the ordinary Public Works sufficed to provide relief for all applicants, and these have been supplemented by an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to the Public Works Department Budget. Distress in Bharatpur is not acute; the relief organization seems adequate.

Enclosure No. 189.

Famine Statement for the month of February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in the said of column 4.	Total number on relief works on the last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Bharatpur	1947-07	639,000	1461-58	462,971	Civil Agency work ... 75 On Public Works Department ... 10,741 Total .. 10,816	Persons getting gratuity from Kana, Weir Dig and Bharatpur poor-houses. } 948

REMARKS.

1. *Private relief.*—His Highness the Maharaja continued charity from his purse as reported before.

2. *Village and poor-house relief*—

(a.) As reported before, the three poor-houses opened by the contribution of temples at Kainā, Wēī, and Dig are under the supervision of the Superintendent of Revenue; up to the 24th February, 1900, private subscription for these poor-houses amounted to Rs. 386-8, Rs. 43, Rs. 157—(Rs. 586-8) respectively, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 322-4, Rs. 178-0-9, and Rs. 252-14-7 respectively.

(b.) Cooked food is given to the poor persons from these houses; and to the parda women who are widows, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer flour and 1 chitack dal (pulse) per woman is also given at Kana.

(c.) There is no sickness in these poor-houses.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Civil Agency works have been stopped, only in one Tehsil a work of digging a tank is still in progress. The number of persons on the 24th February on this work was 75; wages to these men were given as reported before. The number of unskilled labourers engaged on the Public Works Department works on the 24th February was 10,741.

4. *Physical condition.*—The condition of labourers is generally good.

5. *Death, if any, from starvation.*—No death is reported from starvation.

6. *Food Stock.*—There are no fears of grain being scarce on account of the import of grain from outside. Rates are given below in seers and chitacks per rupee :—

—	Wheat.	Gram.	Barley.	Juar.	Bajra.
End of January	10—4	11—12	12—0	11—4	9—12
End of February	11—0	12 0	12—8	12—8	10—8

In comparison with the last month, rates of the month under report are a little fallen.

7. *Importation of grain.*—As reported before, the sayar duty is suspended on the importation of grain, therefore the exact quantity of grain imported cannot be known.

8. *General conditions and prospects affected area.*—The condition of the cultivated "sairabi" land is the same as reported before. The condition of crop in Biana, Uchein, southern part of the Bharatpur Tehsil, and in other places

where fields were irrigated by *kutchra* or *pucca* wells, is better. The fields irrigated by sweet water are generally in fair condition, but those irrigated by brackish water are in bad condition. Eighty-one villages of the Nagar Tehsil are seriously affected where water is all brackish.

9. *Change in rates of wages.*—No change; rates are the same as reported before

10. *Emigration.*—No report of emigration is received from any village.

11. *Other matters.*—Water in tanks is running short; and some of the tanks are altogether dry now. Fodder is also becoming scarce.

SOHAN LAL, Rai Bahadur,
Member and Secretary,
State Council, Bharatpur.

No. 189a.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1224-F., dated Abu, the 15th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1102-F., dated the 28th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Alwar State for the month of February, 1900, together with a copy of the Political Agent's covering letter No. 800, dated the 9th March, 1900.

2. From the figures entered in the following table it will be seen that the numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief rose from 4,800 and 1,054 in January to 7,801 and 1,524 respectively in February. The petty village works are being gradually closed and the people drafted on to eight large works which have lately been started and are in charge of officers of the Imperial Service Infantry, assisted by Public Works Department subordinates. Officers of the Imperial Service Infantry were despatched by the Council to Bikaner to ascertain the nature of the relief arrangements in that State.

	Works	Gratuitous	Total.
October	2,660	316	2,976
November	2,198	151	2,349
December	3,163	389	3,552
January	4,800	1,054	5,854
February	7,801	1,524	9,325

3. Although the water in the wells is said to be drying up, the prospects of the rabi are fair, and the Council believe a 10-anna crop will be obtained. In the opinion of the Political Agent, who has lately been on tour, this estimate is somewhat sanguine.

4. The State has continued to make liberal taccavi advances with excellent results, and has also afforded considerable assistance by selling fodder to cultivators at low rates.

5. Prices have risen slightly, but no deaths from starvation are reported, and the physical condition of the people remains good.

6. The Political Agent's attention has been directed to certain apparent discrepancies in the figures of these monthly returns.

Enclosure in No. 189a.

From the Political Agent, Alwar, to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 800, dated the 7th March, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 452, dated the 8th February, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement and map (in duplicate) of the Alwar State for February, 1900.

2. The number of persons employed on relief works has increased from 5,235 on the 31st January to 7,801 on the 28th February. Gratuitous relief was granted to 42,669 persons during the month, the average daily number being 1,524 as against 1,054 during the previous month. Of the number relieved 3,884 were immigrants from neighbouring States.

3. As noted in my last report, the petty village relief works are being gradually closed and the labourers sent to the larger relief works, which are each under the supervision of an officer of the Imperial Service troops. The officer in charge is assisted by a subordinate of the Public Works Department and 12 non-commissioned officers and sepoy. There are five of these works in different parts of the State. I inspected the works while on tour last month, and found that on the whole the arrangements made by the officers in charge were excellent. So far the people employed have shown no great inclination to reside in the huts provided for them on the relief works. The majority of labourers return every evening to their homes in the surrounding villages. The condition of the people in general is fair, and no cases of starvation have been reported.

4. The Darbar are of opinion that the average output of the "rabi" will amount to about 10 annas in the rupee. From what I saw on my recent tour I am inclined to believe that this estimate is slightly in excess of the probable output. The crops have suffered lately from high winds, and the failure of many wells has prevented the villagers from giving sufficient water to their fields. There have been no winter rains, and the total area of land under cultivation this year is only 2,15,787 bighas as against 3,15,447 in 1898-99 and 4,15,918 in 1897-98. I enclose a statement showing the area of cultivation of the different classes of soil for the last three years. The "Chahi" land, owing to the large taccavi advances made this year, shows an increase in the area of cultivation; the "Dabri" and "Baraini" show a great decrease.

5. Fodder is becoming very scarce throughout the State, and cattle are suffering in consequence. 26,000 maunds of grass are now being sold at low rates to cultivators by the State to assist them in feeding the cattle till the new crop of "pala" and the straw of the "rabi" is available for fodder.

No. 190.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1225-F., dated the 15th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1131-F., dated the 6th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements with maps of the Hilly Tracts of Kherwara and Kotra for the month of February, 1900.

2. The actual number on relief works entered in the statements are Kherwara 1,361 and Kotra 975, but from a separate list of works supplied* by the Political Superintendent it appears that the numbers employed at Para, Madri, and Thana, the figures for which have not been given in the monthly statement, are approximately 570. The total number then on relief works in

* Letter No. 207-G., dated the 3rd March, 1900. (Copy enclosed.)

these tracts in February was 2,906 and on gratuitous relief 966, as compared with 1,505 and 806 respectively in the month of January (as per table).

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
December	765	567	1,332
January	1,505	806	2,311
February... .. .	2,906	966	3,872

3. One hundred and forty-four deaths are reported in Kherwara and 46 in the kitchen and poor-house at Kotra, chiefly from dysentery and the effects of insufficient nourishment. In addition to these, it is feared that a considerable number of deaths occurred in the districts during February.

4. The chief difficulty remains, the want of sufficient transport, camels being almost unprocurable and the hire of carts prohibitive. Most of the cattle, not only in these tracts, but in the surrounding districts, have died, and, owing to the scarcity of water and dearth of fodder, cartmen will not undertake the journey from Udaipur to Kherwara for less than Rs. 35, the ordinary rate being Rs. 5. Strenuous endeavours were being made to obtain more camels, but only 100 had been engaged when the report was despatched, a number insufficient for transporting to the various and widely separated centres the grain which has already been purchased. The Resident in Mewar is doing his best to procure carriage camels for Kherwara, and I am in communication with him on the subject with special reference to the possibility of obtaining transport from Jaipur, or Jodhpur, or Deoli.

5. I have also asked Colonel Thornton to endeavour to secure the immediate payment of the promised contribution of Rs. 4,000 Udaipuri by the Mewar Darbar referred to in the 3rd paragraph of my letter, No. 558, dated the 30th December, 1899. The Political Superintendent reports that this amount has not yet been received.

Enclosure 1 in No. 190.

Famine Statement for month ending 28th February, 1900. (To be submitted to the Government of India within the first half of the next month.)

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on the last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar Bhumat Hilly Tracts, Kherwara.	800 square miles.	50	The whole	50	Kherwara 189. Jawas 1,067. Para Madri } reports not received. Chani 105. Thana report not received.	486 200

Remarks to accompany the Famine Statement for month ending 28th February, 1900.

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, death if any from starvation, food stocks, importation of grain, general condition and prospects of affected area, changes in rates of wages, emigration or immigration, and other matters which will not delay the despatch of the statement beyond the 15th of the following months.

Private relief.—Kitchen at Kherwara; Mission relief; Relief work at Kherwara.

Darbar relief.—Kitchen at Kherwara.

General character of relief works.—Tanks and wells.

Condition of people.—Very bad.

Cattle.—Nearly all dead.

Deaths.—One hundred and forty-four in Kherwara, very many in the district; estimated number up to date three thousand.

Emigration and Immigration.—Ceased.

Enclosure 2 in No. 190.

Famine Statement for month ending the 28th February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of the month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mewar, Bhumat, Kotra District.	650 square miles.	21	Practically the whole.	21	975	

Remarks on Famine in the Kotra (Mewar) District.

Condition of the people.—Bad, numbers are debilitated.

Deaths.—Forty-six deaths in Kotra from dysentery, the effects of starvation and injurious food.

Thirty deaths have been reported in the district, but this must be far from being the correct numbers.

Grain.—Grain can be imported with difficulty.

Emigration.—There is no emigration.

Cattle.—The cattle are in poor condition, except among the hills, where they are in a fair state.

Relief works.—450 Bhils are employed in Jura.

400 " " " in Panarwa.

120 " " " in Oghna.

Ordinary work.—About 100 Bhils are employed in Kotra.

No. 191.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1226-F., dated Abu, the 15th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1189-F., dated the 10th March, 1900, forwarding the Parbagarh and Kushalgah Famine Reports for January, 1900,

I have now the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements (in original) of the Banswara State and the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of February, 1900, together with a copy of the Assistant Resident's covering letter No. 526, dated 2nd March, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in Banswara and Kushalgarh from November last :—

	Works.	Gratuitous.	TOTAL.
<i>Banswara.</i>			
November, 1899	161	50	211
December, 1899	432	78	510
January, 1900	576	100	676
February, 1900	1,565	237	1,602
<i>Kushalgarh.</i>			
November, 1899	425	300	725
December, 1899	400	300	700
January, 1900	250	300	550
February, 1900	300	250	550

3. In Banswara the total numbers in receipt of relief have more than doubled. This is due to better organisation, but the arrangements are still very defective and several thousands more should be in receipt of relief.

No deaths from starvation were reported in February, but Captain Peacock remarks that want of sufficient nourishment hastened the death of many, even if it were not the direct cause. Importation of grain continues and the rates of wages remained unchanged:

4. In Kushalgarh the figures for relief works show an increase of 50, while there was a corresponding decrease in the numbers on gratuitous relief. The Assistant Resident's report referred to in paragraph 7 of my letter No. 1189-F. of March 10th is awaited. A few deaths from starvation are reported to have occurred, but the exact number has not been given by the Darbar.

5. The Resident, Colonel A. P. Thornton, is visiting Dungarpur immediately to place the relief arrangements in that and the adjoining petty States on a better footing.

No. 192.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1249-F., dated the 16th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1118-F., dated the 3rd March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statements of the States of Tonk and Bundi and of the Chiefship of Shahpura in the month of February, 1900.

2. The following table gives the figures of those on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in these States since November last. The numbers

on works show an increase on those of January of 1,959, 969, and 601, respectively.

	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.
<i>Tonk.</i>			
November, 1899	4,470	2,458	6,928
December, 1899	4,869	1,932	6,801
January, 1900	5,575	2,691	8,266
February	8,370	1,755	10,125
<i>Bundi.</i>			
November, 1899	4,135	250	4,385
December, 1899	5,768	276	6,044
January, 1900	4,886	262	5,148
February, 1900	5,308	845	6,153
<i>Shahpura.</i>			
November, 1899	2,064	210	2,274
December, 1899	2,818	1,288	4,106
January, 1900	1,728	1,023	2,751
February, 1900	2,247	1,105	3,352

3. The importation of grain in very large quantities continues undiminished, but the rates in Bundi are extraordinarily high and form the subject of special enquiry.

4. The number of deaths from starvation reported in February were as follows:—

Bundi	150
Tonk	128
Shahpura	37

These figures, however, are unreliable and are probably far short of the actual totals.

5. A copy of letter No. 94-G., dated the 28th February, 1900, from the Political Agents, Haraoti and Tonk, giving the latest information on the progress of relief operations in these three States, and reports from Mr. Wakefield and Lieutenant Jacob on famine duty in the Haraoti and Tonk Agency, are also attached.

6. These reports show that the Tonk and Shahpura Darbars are alive to the gravity of the situation, and loyally give effect to the advice tendered to them by the Political Agent, although in Tonk the organization still needs considerable expansion. But the Bundi Darbar are slack and apathetic and still quite fail to realise their responsibilities. They regard the mortality as inevitable, the result of a natural visitation which they are unable to encounter. The only form of relief in which the Chief and his advisers betray interest is the new Kotah-Jodhpur Railway, and here unfortunately they are hampered by want of funds, and the fact that the scheme must be treated more or less as a whole, and not with reference to the views of a particular State through which a section of it passes. I am, however, doing

all in my power to push the work on, and I am hopeful that it will soon be possible to commence work on the second Railway scheme from the Jaipur-Madhupur Line to Jehazpur in Mewar, a considerable length of which traverses the Bundi State.

7. Meanwhile I have again desired the Political Agent to insist on a very large expansion of other forms of relief work and of poor-houses for the sick and destitute, which must be started under the management of the famine officers if the Darbar still declines to take adequate measures. All these officers—Messrs. Wakefield, Jacob and Haworth—are doing good work under the Political Agent, Captain F. E. Younghusband, C.I.E., who spares no efforts to improve the standard of relief. Mr. Old, the Railway Officer in charge of the earthwork in Shahpura, is doing admirably, as my personal inspection of his camps satisfied me. He works cheaply and systematically, and the people improve wonderfully in his hands, especially those to whom he can give cooked rations which they cannot sell or part with as they do raw grain and cash.

8. Both the Shahpura and the Tonk Chiefs are responding readily to the suggestions offered in regard to relief. The former personally inspects the poor houses and works. I met the latter with his Wazir, Sir Obsaidullah Khan, K.C.S.I., very recently *en route* for the outlying Nimbehara Purganah, where his visit has proved most useful. He discussed the situation with intelligence and interest. Relief in Jagir land here, as elsewhere, is a thorny question and presents many difficulties.

Enclosure in No. 192.

HARAOTI AND TONK AGENCY.

Famine Statement for month ending 28th February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column (4).	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Number of crimes due to scarcity.	Number of emigrants passing through the State.	Number of persons emigrated from.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tonk ...	2,752	380	1,376	239	8,370	1,755	*	*	*	* Statistics not received.

Famine Statement for month ending 28th February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column (4).	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Number of crimes due to scarcity.	Number of emigrants passing through the State.	Number of persons emigrated from.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bundi ..	2,220	295	2,320	295	5,808	845	20	53	—	—

Famine Statement for month ending 28th February, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area.	Estimated population in thousands of column (4).	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Number of crimes due to scarcity.	Number of emigrants passing through the State.	Number of persons emigrated from.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Shahpura	405	63	405	63	2,247	1,105	*	*	*	* Reports not received.

REMARKS.

The famine is deepening and the distress is now greater than the Darbars of this Agency have the power to deal with. The rabi crop ought in ordinary years to be reaped in March, but the fields lie fallow and only small patches of cultivation round the wells are seen.

Grain continues to be imported without hindrance. The distress is greatest in the capital of each State, for round them collect all the most destitute from the outlying districts.

No. 193.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1252F., dated Abu, the 16th March 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1075F., dated the 28th February 1900, I have the honour to forward, in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Marwar State for the month of February, 1900, together with a copy of the Resident's covering letter No. 154G., dated the 3rd March 1900.

2. The figures given in the following table show the progress of distress since relief operations were commenced on a considerable scale. There was an increase since January of 32,041 persons on relief works and of 5,140 on gratuitous relief. The rise in numbers is attributed to the return of emigrants and the deepening of distress, and also perhaps to a slight extent to the warmer weather which makes life in the famine camps less distasteful. The majority of workers received the equivalent of a grain ration of 12 chittacks. The total expenditure on relief works amounted to nearly two lakhs. The incidence per head was approximately 1 anna $3\frac{1}{2}$ pies. This presumably includes all charges.

	Works	Gratuitous.	Total.
September	10,985	2,263	13,248
October	26,025	4,614	30,639
November	39,207	10,719	49,926
December	78,084	13,790	91,874
January	73,232	18,370	91,602
February	105,264	23,510	128,774

3. Three new famine dispensaries were opened under the management of Captain Grant, I.M.S., during the month, making a total of 16, in which 3,494 persons received treatment. Of these 543 died, chiefly from dysentery and diarrhoea, caused by the exceptionally severe cold and accelerated doubtless by insufficient nourishment before they entered the dispensaries. Twenty deaths from starvation were reported. A separate report, dated 28th February 1900, from Captain Grant, Indian Medical Service, on the physical condition of the people on the works is attached. It contains an interesting and instructive account of the weighing experiments which I suggested should be undertaken under his guidance. Of 50 workers weighed at Pali on the 6th February by the Hospital Assistant and re-weighed by Captain Grant on the 20th February, 2 persons were absent, 2 weighed the same, 22 had increased in weight by an average of 1.29 seers, and 24 had lost an average of 1.33 seers. Captain Grant has now weighed 500 persons at Pali and Balotra. On the whole, it appears that the workers are keeping healthy.

4. Sufficient importation of food grains continues, and the stocks are reported to be ample. Prices have fallen slightly. The mortality amongst cattle has been very heavy, and the Darbar estimates that no less than 1,100,000 head perished up to the end of December. Depôts for the sale of grasses have been established at certain centres, and some 400 head of cattle have been sent to grazing grounds in the Muttra district, North-Western Provinces.

5. Seven hundred and twenty-two emigrants were brought back from Indore and 830 were returned from Jaipur. Arrangements have also been made for the return of about 120 from Bharatpur. Many thousands, no doubt, came back of their own accord, hearing of the relief measures.

6. The relief operations in Marwar have steadily expanded and are being efficiently controlled. Mr. W. Home, C.E., Superintending Engineer of the State, is indefatigable in his efforts to improve the relief organizations. He is ably supported by his assistant. Unfortunately Captain Bremner, R.E., on special famine duty, has lately been prostrated by fever. The relief arrangements I inspected during my visit to Jodhpur in the first week of the current month (March) seemed admirably organized under the personal advice of Colonel Curzon Wyllie, C.I.E., the Resident, and Colonel A. Adams, Indian Medical Service, Administrative Medical Officer for Rajputana.

Enclosure 1 in No. 193.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 144G., dated the 3rd March 1900.

I have the honour to submit a copy of the Darbar's Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of February 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the affected area in which there has been no change.

2. The total number of labourers on relief works during the month was 105,264 as compared with 73,223 at the end of January. The increase of 32,041 persons is attributable partly to the return of emigrants, partly to the setting in of warmer weather (which has made life pleasanter in the famine camps), and partly to deepening distress. The total expenditure during the month was Rs. 1,92,215-8-4—on Mr. Home's works Rs. 1,74,208-9-9, on Civil Agency works Rs. 18,006-14-7.

The incidence per head was 1 anna 3·51 pies.

The majority of the labourers received the equivalent to the medium ration of 12 chittacks, although large numbers failed to earn it.

3. Captain Grant, Indian Medical Service, has again reported favourably of the physical condition of the people on the works. Among returned emigrants about 5 per cent. show signs of privation. Fifty persons were weighed at Pali on the 6th February by the Hospital Assistant and were re-weighed by Captain Grant on the 20th. It was found that 22 persons had gained an average increase in weight of 2·58 lbs., while 24 had similarly lost 2·66 lbs. With reference to this Captain Grant writes :—

“From the above figures no conclusion can be drawn except that the ration (12 chittacks) is not insufficient.” He bases this opinion on the belief that in many cases the whole of the person's pay is not spent in the purchase of food. This view is borne out by the fact that it is not uncommon for persons to leave the works for a few days and to wander off in search of change, hoping for some easier mode of subsistence to turn up. To enable them to do this, they hoard a portion of their daily wage. I met a party on the road the other day returning to their homes from a famine work for the Holi.

4. Two hundred and fifty-nine births and 1,879 deaths occurred on the relief works and in the poor-houses. Twenty deaths from starvation, I regret to say, are reported by the Darbar. The weather during February was abnormally cold and very trying to the sick and weakly. Three new

dispensaries were opened under Captain Grant's supervision, making a total of 16, in which 3,494 persons were treated, of whom 543 died as shown in the Appendix. Although the mortality appears greater than it was in December, the death-rate as compared with the number of labourers on the works is not larger. In this connection Captain Grant writes:—"During January several thousands of famine-stricken returned to the State. The greater number of these were sent to the new work at Bankli. If the mortality for Bankli (120) is deducted, the deaths are 105 more than the previous month. Considering how intensely cold it was during January, the total mortality cannot be considered unduly high. Again, the number of patients treated in the dispensaries increased by over one-third, which shows that the people are gaining confidence in these institutions. In the table referred to I have classified the dispensaries on works under Civil Agency separately from those under the Public Works Department. The former draw their patients principally from beggars and those in receipt of gratuitous relief, while the sick of the latter come from those employed on the works whose approximate numbers are known. Now, with regard to the latter (Public Works) the average for the month must have been about 7,000 persons. To take these as the average 2,359 gives a sickness percentage of 3.35. This is a remarkably low figure, for, when the sick list of a regiment is under 4 per cent., the general health is returned as good. Of course, under strict supervision as in a regiment, there are very many persons who would be returned as sick, *i.e.*, not perfectly fit. But allowing for such, the above figures prove that the general health of the people on the works must be considered very satisfactory. With regard to the deaths, 414 out of 70,000 gives a mortality of 7 per cent. per annum. This would be high for an ordinary year, but when compared with other places, it also is satisfactory. During the last two months, in the town of Ajmer (not the famine-stricken alone) the mortality has been over 10 per cent. per annum.

Prevailing Diseases.—Of the total of 543 deaths, 308, or more than half, were due to dysentery and diarrhoea. The prevalence of these diseases is to be accounted for by the coldness of the season and exposure, and also by the fact that the aged and enfeebled (who chiefly suffer) are many of them opium-eaters, and cannot now afford that luxury. Another factor is the filthy habits of the people, some of whom use even the interiors of their huts as latrines.

Condition of the Workers.—Taken generally, their condition is good. The returning refugees contain a certain number of weak and emaciated, as is seen from the relatively high rate of sickness and mortality at Bankli. But the proportion is much less than formerly.

Blankets and warm clothing were liberally distributed in the famine camps, but the recipients in most instances parted with them immediately for a little ready money to the nearest villager who was ready to buy.

5. Seven hundred and twenty-two persons were deported from Indore at a cost of Rs. 7,436-6-3, and 830 persons who were living on alms in Jaipur City were railed back to Marwar Junction by the Jaipur Darbar.

6. The State afforded gratuitous relief to 23,510 persons (of whom 21,343 were children), as against 18,379 last month, at a cost of Rs. 20,745-12-2, giving an incidence per head of 6.5 pies. The daily average number of persons supported by private charity during the month was 8,373.

7. Drinking water supplies are sufficient and grain stocks are abundant, being well kept up by imports.

Prices of food-grains have generally fallen. The rates were—

	Sears per Rupee.					
Jawar	7	to	9½			
Makki	8½	„	9½			
Barley	9½	„	11½			
Bajra	7½	„	8½			
Coarse rice	8½					

Rice has been imported in considerable quantities, and also a new grain called *Kasari* (a sort of pea) from Bengal, which has been selling at 13 seers per rupee. In some places people have been found to mix with their food a species of finely powdered stone, which is dug up in Jaipur and called "*Peelia Bhata*." A sample is being sent to be analysed.

8. The Darbar calculates that more than 1,100,000 cattle have perished up to the end of December last. Four hundred and sixteen cattle have been collected together and sent to Muttra to graze until the rains. Depôts for the sale of grass have been established by the Darbar at Balotra, Pali, Marwar Junction, and Balmer.

9. Râe Seth Umedmal Lodha, banker of Ajmer, generously sent a famine gift of 421 blankets to be distributed to people in Marwar, Sirahi, and Jaisalmer.

10. The Resident visited three of the principal camps under Mr. Home at Pali, Dholera, and Bankli, and found everything in good working order. The works at Dholera and Bankli, are full. A new work capable of employing upwards of 15,000 people is about to be opened near Marwar Junction.

11. Lieutenant Menzies has been on tour in the south-eastern portion of the State and reports fairly favourably of the Civil Agency works; he met with no distress which was not being relieved.

Enclosure 2 in No. 193.

Famine statement for the month of February, 1900.

State.	Area in square miles in thousands.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles in thousands.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number of labourers employed on relief works on the last day of the month.	Number of persons receiving gratuitous relief.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Marwar...	35	2,526	35	2,526	105,264	22,510

REMARKS.

1. *Private Relief*.—Private gratuitous relief was doled out in 23 places, where cooked *khichra* and parched gram were distributed to the poor. The number of doles distributed by private charity during the month was 234,448.

2. *Village and Poor-house Relief*.—State poor-houses are kept up at the cost of the Darbar at each Hakumat and on departmental relief works for the non-working and the sick. *Chupper* huts have been erected where necessary, and blankets have been distributed among the poor.

3. *Medical Relief*.—Due attention has been paid to medical relief. There are 16 dispensaries maintained by the Darbar, besides a number of compounders, for providing relief to the sick. The conservancy and kitchen and sanitary arrangements are reported to be satisfactory.

4. *General Character of Relief Works*.—Digging, clearing and embanking of tanks, construction of bunds, and sinking wells.

5. *Physical Condition and Death (if any) from Starvation*.—General condition is good. The people who have been on relief works are more healthy than the new refugees. Number of deaths from starvation was 20.

6. *Food Stocks*.—Sufficient.

7. *General Condition and Prospects of Affected Area*.—The water still holds out, though the water level is slightly sinking. The Khokharia water-works scheme continues to supply the demand of the city of Jodhpur.

The standing rabi crop, which is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas in a rupee, is thriving well with the exception of Didwana and Sambhar.

8. *Rate of Wages.*—

	A.	P.	A.	P.
Males from	1	3	1	9
Females from	1	0	1	6
Children over 7 years			1	0
" under 7. "			0	6
" in lap			0	3

9. *Prices of Food Grains.*—

				Minimum.		Maximum.	
				S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
1.	Wheat	...	...	5	0	10	4
2.	Bajri	...	...	7	8	8	12
3.	Gram	...	...	7	8	11	8
4.	Moong	...	...	5	12	10	4
5.	Makki	...	...	8	2	9	12
6.	Jawar	...	...	7	0	9	8
7.	Barley	...	...	9	4	11	4
8.	Oil	...	...	2	0	3	6

10. *Importation of Grain.*—Sufficient food-grains are imported chiefly by camels from the railway station.

11. *Condition of the Cattle.*—The cattle are in an emaciated condition, a large number of whom have died.

12. *Emigration.*—Nil.

Immigration.—Seven hundred and twenty-two persons were brought back from Indore at the cost of Rs. 7,436-6-3. The Jaipur Darbar railed off, at their own expense, 830 Marwari stragglers, who were said to have lived on alms and private charity at Jaipur City. The number of Marwaris in Bhartpur State poor-house has now risen from 84 to 124, and as the Bhartpur Darbar has expressed a desire to remove the number, consequently the sum of Rs. 50, which was contributed towards the institution by the Jodhpur Darbar, will be now utilized in defraying their travelling expenses.

Note.—The number of persons who are fed in rest or collecting-houses waiting employment is 3,062, which gives a grand total of 131,836 on State relief excluding those in hospitals.

JODHPUR,
1st March 1900.

SUKHDEO,
Secretary to the Musahib Ala, Marwar.

No. 194.

Letter from A. Martindale, Esq., I.C.S., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1285-F., dated Abu, the 17th March, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1076-F., dated the 28th February, 1900, forwarding the Famine Report of the Bikaner State for the month of January,

1900, I have the honour to forward the corresponding report of the same State for the month of February, 1900, together with a copy of the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 732, dated the 9th March, 1900.

2. During the month of February the numbers on relief reached the total of 30,043 on works and 8,163 on gratuitous relief. This is the highest record since the opening of relief measures in the State as will be seen from the table beneath :—

Month	Works	Gratuitous.	Total.
October	15,852	3,507	19,359
November	23,007	5,848	28,855
December	27,600	7,263	34,863
January	27,264	7,546	24,810
February	30,043	8,163	38,206

The increase is attributed to people having come on to the works who were waiting in their villages in the hope of winter rain, and also to the warmer weather which makes the villagers less averse to leave their homes and go into the relief camps.

3. Food-grains continue to be imported in sufficient quantity and the stocks are ample. The physical condition of the people is well maintained; no deaths from starvation were reported in February. His Highness the Maharaja personally inspected almost all the relief works in the State during the month under report to assure himself that they were being conducted efficiently. The Political Agent, Captain Bayley, also made a prolonged tour with the same object. A copy of his narrative report for February, dated the 3rd March, 1900, is attached. With regard to the fourth paragraph of my letter of 28th February, quoted above, the Resident, Jaipur, informs me that he has found an excellent famine relief work in North Shekhawati.

4. During my visit to Bikaner early in the current month I had an opportunity of inspecting several thousands of people in receipt of relief. The arrangements appeared to me to be extremely good. The people were adequately huttred, and received a sufficient but not extravagant ration in raw grain, on which their physique is well supported. The Maharaja's interest in the relief measures continues unabated. He is well supported by his Staff, European and Native, more especially by the officers of the Imperial Service Camel Corps. Private contributions for charitable relief now exceed 3 lakhs.

5. The total cost of relief in February is said to have been Rs. 72,192-6-9. The Political Agent has been asked—

- (i.) to differentiate in future the expenditure on relief works and on gratuitous relief;
- (ii.) to enter in the remarks on the back of the statement the scale of rations in chittacks, or, if cash is given, the amount and the grain equivalent;
- (iii.) to show separately workers paid on the contract system, and at rates which are higher than the famine rates.

Enclosure in No. 194.

Letter from the Political Agent, Bikaner, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 732, dated the 9th March, 1900.

(Extract.)

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the Famine Statement, together with a rough map* (in

* Not printed.

duplicate) of the affected areas of the Bikaner State for the month of February, 1900.

Although there is a net increase in the number of persons relieved, of about 4,000 since the end of January, 1900, the famine expenditure for January, as given in my report for that month, appears to have been nearly Rs. 3,700 greater than the expenditure during the month under report. An explanation of this has been called for from the Darbar. The increased number of persons on relief is only what must be expected at the commencement of the hot weather, when people become less averse to leaving their homes and camping out, and when they have no longer any hope of winter rains.

The arrangements for supervising and administering relief at all these works are the same as already described in previous reports. A small temporary relief camp of some 500 persons was started at "Jor," about three miles from Bikaner, on the 23rd February, but will shortly be closed.

There was no rainfall during the month.

The general health of the people on relief works and elsewhere continued good.

His Highness the Maharaja was on tour during a great part of the month and personally inspected all the famine works in the State, except the small works at Sardarshahr and Dalmera which did not come on his line of march.

No. 195.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1480-F., dated Abu, the 27th March, 1900.

With reference to the last paragraph of my letter No. 1211-F., dated the 13th March, 1900, forwarding the famine statements for the month of February, 1900, of the States of Jaipur and Kishangarh; I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of letter No. 134-G., dated the 19th March, 1900, from the Resident at Jaipur, reporting on the relief measures conducted by the Thakur of Lawa.

2. The Thakur appears to be employing to good purpose the loan of Rs. 20,000 which the Government of India were pleased to grant him, and the Resident, who has personally inspected the relief works, reports favourably upon them, and upon the Thakur's arrangements generally for alleviating distress in his estate.

Enclosure in No. 195.

Letter from the Resident, Jaipur, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 1349, dated the 19th March, 1900.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your letter No. 1263-F., dated the 17th instant, I have the honour to state that the Thakur of Lawa has in full swing a big relief work in the shape of a bund which employs some 400 persons of his chiefship. I have inspected this work and was much pleased with the arrangements. The people are well looked after and are in good condition. He has also made advances to his zamindars for grain, fodder, &c., He, in addition, gives gratuitous relief to a large number of people who are unable to support themselves by labour.

I am satisfied that he is spending the money advanced in a proper way.

No 196.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1481-F., dated Abu, the 27th March, 1900.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1007-L.A., dated the 26th February, 1900, on the subject of the agricultural situation in Rajputana during the present famine.

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of that letter, I have the honour to refer to my monthly famine reports for January and February, which give further information regarding the measures of relief adopted in Dungarpur, as well as in the States of Banswara and Partabgarh and the chiefship of Kushalgarh.

3. In the minority State of Dungarpur the construction of four fair-weather roads penetrating the heart of the Bhil country at an approximate cost of Rs. 50,000 Chitori was sanctioned in September, 1899. Proposals have since been submitted and sanctioned for the repair and improvement of three tanks and 50 wells at a cost of Rs. 23,800 Chitori, and estimates are being prepared for the repair of six other tanks and a large number of additional wells. These tanks and wells are situated in different parts of the State, and are calculated to give employment at their doors to many persons who cannot be persuaded to seek relief at a distance from their villages. The Resident, Mewar, has been authorised to have work started at once on any or all of these schemes in addition to those already formally sanctioned, special regard being paid to their probable effect whether by reason of situation, nature of work, or other attraction in inducing the Bhils to settle down and to seek Government relief.

I have, moreover, desired the Resident to arrange that the tasks exacted be comparatively light and the wages liberal. Grain continues to be imported in large quantities into the State, and the stocks of food grains are said to be sufficient.

4. In the Banswara State distress has not yet arrived at the point it has reached Dungarpur. In his letter No. 27, dated the 1st February, 1900, which formed an enclosure to my letter No. 891-F., dated 7th February, 1900, the Resident, Colonel Yate, stated that on his tour he saw no special signs of distress outside the poor-house at the capital, and that the Bhils appeared to find subsistence on the jungle-produce they were able to obtain. Works are gradually being extended in the State under Lieutenant Nicolas' supervision and advice, but the management of relief in Banswara is still very defective.

5. The relief measures adopted by the Partabgarh State were reported in my letter No. 1189-F., dated the 10th March, 1900, and, as mentioned therein, the Maharawal is taking a personal interest in the management of the operations.

The Government of India have lately granted the State a loan of Rs. 50,000, thus providing funds for supplementing the works already in progress. The physical condition of the people and of the cattle is said to be good, and the stocks of food grains to be sufficient and easily obtainable.

6. With reference to paragraph 6 of your letter, I have the honour to submit the following information regarding the measures which have been taken to suppress crime—more particularly in the Bhil tracts of Southern Rajputana:—

“ On receipt of information in September last of an apprehended raid by Bhils on the village of Autri, about 10 miles distant from Dungarpur, a company of the Mewar Bhil Corps was moved from Kherwara cantonment to that town, where it is still located. A second company was subsequently de-patched, and posted in four detachments in different parts of the State to patrol the disturbed tracts and to assist in preserving order. Small parties of the same corps have also been posted at certain points on the principal lines of communication in the hilly tracts of Kherwara for the protection of travellers and prevention of crime. Besides these precautionary measures, the police force of the Dungarpur State

was strengthened towards the close of last year by the temporary enlistment of 99 extra men.

The local police having failed to trace the offenders in the numerous dakaitis which have occurred, I suggested the deputation of a party from the Thagi and Dakaiti Department to assist the State officials in this difficult task. But the Resident, Colonel Yate, deprecated the employment of the departmental agency for the reasons contained in his letter No. 553-G, dated the 28th December, 1899, an extract from which is enclosed. I decided, therefore, to await the result of the tour which Colonel Thornton, who recently succeeded Colonel Yate, has just completed through Dungarpur and the adjacent States, and his report on the sufficiency of the various measures hitherto adopted. He has just telegraphed in support of Colonel Bignell's request that the Mewar Bhil Corps may be reinforced from the Erinpura Irregular Force. Arrangements with this object will be taken forthwith.

7. In Banswara 25 new police posts have been established along the borders of the State to secure order and to prevent raids into adjacent territory.

8. In Partabgarh no special arrangements have hitherto been made beyond increased activity in patrolling and keeping watch. There is less crime in this State than in the States of Dungarpur and Banswara, due partly no doubt to a smaller Bhil population and partly to less acute distress.

9. In the little chiefship of Kushalgarh 12 additional sepoya for the district posts and 10 extra sowars for patrol duty have been engaged, and a special officer has been appointed to superintend the police arrangements on the Jhalod and Jhabua borders. A party consisting of 1 jemadar, 3 naicks, and 20 men of the Mewar Bhil Corps have also been detailed for patrol duty in this estate. Captain Peacock personally made enquiries into the case of the dakaiti committed on the 20th January, 1900, on the borders of Kushalgarh and Jhabua referred to in my letter No. 810-F., dated the 2nd February, 1900, and a copy of the report on the result of his investigations has been forwarded with my letter No. 1405-F., dated the 24th March, 1900.

10. A conference was held by Colonel Yate at Kherwara on the 19th January, 1900, for the purpose of considering the measures to be adopted for the prevention of crime in certain Mewar Khalsa villages in the hilly tracts. It was considered that the best results would be obtained by extending relief works. The Maharana of Udaipur sanctioned grants for this purpose, and both Colonel Yate and Lieutenant Pinney gave special attention to this district, but the good intentions of the Darbar are neutralized by the corruption or incompetence of the local officials, and the relief is still inadequate. I have desired Lieutenant Pinney to make another tour of inspection through these tracts.

11. The protective force in *Bundi* has been increased by 60 sowars and 170 foot police, with the result that there has been no marked increase in crime in this State.

12. The *Jaipur* Darbar have recently been supplied by Government with 1,000 breech-loading smooth-bore carbines and 25,000 rounds of ball ammunition. The camel patrols which were armed with these weapons appear to have been successful in preserving order and security of property.

13. *Padhpur* detachments of the Imperial Service Cavalry are detailed to patrol the border, and have effectually dispersed the gangs which in August, 1899, were reported to have gathered for the commission of dakaiti. At any rate nothing further has been heard of them.

14. In the Merwara district detachments of the Merwara Battalion at Ajmer have been posted near the principal passes between the Merwar district and the Marwar and Mewar States on either side.

15. The outbreak of crime which marked the failure of the rains in September in the Ajmer District ceased so rapidly that it has been possible to withdraw the party of Deoli Irregular force which has been stationed to protect

Kekri, a large grain centre in that district, and to patrol the adjacent roads. The Ajmer Police Force has been strengthened.

16. The foregoing summary contains information on the points specially referred to in the fourth and sixth paragraphs of your letter under reply regarding the relief operations in Dungarpur and the adjoining States, and the police measures adopted to preserve order.

Special arrangements have been made for camel carriage from Deoli and Jodhpur to supply grain to Kherwara and the neighbouring Bhil tracts.

17. Instructions on the remaining points included in your letter have been issued to the officers concerned.

Enclosure in No. 196.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 553-G., dated the 28th December, 1899.

Your letters Nos. 5292 and 5646 of the 16th November and 13th December, 1899, respectively, were sent on by me to the Assistant Resident, and I have now the honour to forward copies of his replies No. 1201 and 1401 of 23rd November and 21st December, 1899.

2. Captain Peacock, it will be seen, recommends the despatch of a small party of the Thagi and Dakaiti Department to Dungarpur, but in this I am unable to agree with him.

3. On looking up the records of this office I find that, when the question of the employment of the Thagi and Dakaiti Departmental Agency in the Bhil country under this Residency was first proposed, the then Resident, Lieutenant-Colonel Curzon Wylie, reported emphatically against it. In his letter No. 108 of 11th March, 1896, Colonel Wylie gave it as his opinion that "so far as the Bhil country is concerned, the Thagi and Dakaiti Inspector and his staff would be helpless and their lives in more or less danger." In this I am entirely in accord with Colonel Wylie.

4. The Bhil is an excitable man, always armed and invariably ready to use his bow and arrows on the slightest provocation. A Bhil Pal consists of a collection of huts stretching sometimes for miles. No two Bhils ever live, as a rule, close together. Each hut is situated on its own hillock, 200 or 300 yards from its nearest neighbour, and in the case of any attack or descent on the Pal the alarm is thus easily given. One hut may be surrounded, but not all; the "Kilki" or Bhil alarm cry is sounded from hill to hill, and in a very short time the attacking party is surrounded by a mob of bowmen, and arrows soon commence to fly. Were a party of the Thagi and Dakaiti Department to attempt any arrests, they would thus find themselves surrounded in no time. Were resistance to be offered by them and a Bhil to be shot, the remaining Bhils of the Pal would become exasperated and excited beyond power of control; the Thagi and Dakaiti men would have to fly for their lives, and would very possibly be shot on the way. This would bring the Bhils into direct collision with the British Government and might end in a general rising which would have to be put down by British troops.

5. In my letter 479 of the 18th November, 1899, I have already pointed out that the Bhil raids are not really dakaitis at all. Technically they come under the definition in the Penal Code owing to five or more men being concerned in them; but, as a matter of fact, they are not offences against society at large. They are purely, as a rule, inter-tribal affrays and do not affect the peace of the neighbouring districts. They are in no way concerned with organized crime, such as that which the Thagi and Dakaiti Department were specially instituted to check, nor are the Bhils a criminal tribe.

6. I myself held the appointment of Assistant Political Agent for Banswara and Partabgarh in 1875-76 and from 1877-1880. My time then was mostly spent in going about from Pal to Pal and settling Bhil feuds by getting

the various parties to meet on neutral ground in my camp, total up and adjust their differences, and finally make friends by drinking opium before me out of each other's hand and burying the hatchet by throwing stones into the river. Bhil feuds I found owed their origin in many cases at some more or less remote period to some quarrel about a woman, and these feuds used to go on for years till the loss of life on both sides assumed large proportions. I was the first British officer appointed to Banswara, and by the settlements then effected by me and subsequently by my successors, the tranquility of the country was restored, and both Banswara and Partabgarh have since, I believe, remained comparatively quiet.

7. Regarding the cases now reported from Dungarpur, although some are admittedly serious, yet none of them, so far as I know, can be said to have been committed by organised bands of dakaits. Of the whole list of 150 cases during the present year all were committed by Bhils of Dungarpur itself, with the exception of 13 said to have been committed by the Mewar Bhils and six by Bhils from Mahikanta and the Bombay side. Fully a third of these cases are concerned with cattle-lifting, and it must be remembered that the Bhils are reported to be largely living on cattle at present.

Another third or more are attacks by Bhils on other Bhils' huts, and these are presumably cases of feud or reprisal actuated by some outstanding grudge.

8. The Bhils, although given to cattle stealing, are not habitual criminals nor is crime a profession amongst them. They do not travel about in organised gangs, such as those which the Thagi and Dakaiti Department are required to deal with, and the Assistant Resident himself remarks in paragraph 2 of his letter No. 1201 that few of the cases then reported are of any significance.

A company of the Mewar Bhil Corps has already been posted at Dungarpur, and a second company has been applied for to patrol the main roads at certain points, and this, I think, is all that appears necessary at present.

9. Captain Peacock in his letter urges the adoption of measures for the arrest and punishment of the Bhils. This is doubtless most desirable when possible, but I would beg to remark that this has long been tried in the neighbouring British district of the Panch Mahals, and yet Bhil raids have by no means been put a stop to there any more than in Dungarpur, and that despite a full staff of civil officers, a local Bhil police corps, a number of police officers and all the machinery of British administration.

In Dungarpur we have none of these, and I cannot help thinking that a sudden attempt to arrest the Bhils on a large scale under present circumstances with the scant resources at our disposal might land us in difficulties.

It is doubtless an anomaly in the eyes of any officer in a British district that, in cases where life has been lost, the accused should be punished only by fine; but, on the other hand, it must not be lost sight of that amongst the Bhils the hanging of a murderer would not necessarily stifle a feud and might even lead to further retaliation. To secure tranquility in the Bhil country, our aim must be to get at the roots of the evil and to stop the feuds rather than to inflict individual punishment.

No. 197.

From the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1556, F., dated Abu, the 2nd April, 1900.

With reference to the second paragraph of my letter No. 1097 F., dated the 28th February, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of

* Enclosure to Resident's No. 401, dated 23rd September, 1896.

the Government of India, 39 printed copies of the Famine Commissioner's notes on the situation and famine relief arrangements in the Dholpur State.

2. The Political Agent, Eastern States, Rajputana, has been furnished with copies of the notes, and he has been requested to draw the attention of the Darbar to the practical suggestions contained in the memorandum.

Enclosure in No. 197.

DHOLPUR.

Memorandum by Major J. R. Dunlop-Smith, Famine Commissioner, dated Camp, 20th March, 1906.

Through the courtesy of the Maharaj Rana, the Political Agent, Eastern States, kindly arranged for me to visit Dholpur, where I met the officers in special charge of famine work. The monsoon rainfall was both heavier and more prolonged in Dholpur than in any other part of Rajputana. By the end of the third week in July the total was slightly in excess of the average registered during the whole of the monsoon period in the last few years. In August the only rain of any consequence was received in the Rajakhera Pargana on the extreme north-east, but during the first fortnight of September the expiring currents gave half an inch on two separate dates to the Dholpur Pargana. Since then only a few weak showers have fallen, and the winter rains may be said to have entirely failed. They had good harvests in 1898-99, which may be taken to be a normal year. The following table contrasts the cultivated areas of that year and of the current one:—

Period.	Area cultivated, in Bighas.					Grand Total.
	Kharif all soils.	Rabi.			Total.	
		Irrigated.	Unirrigated.	Total.		
1898-99	326,144	78,676	27,387	106,063	432,207	
1899-1900	285,881	79,226	16,423	95,649	381,530	
Difference... ..	-40,263	+550	-10,496	-10,414	-50,677	

I have given the details of soils for the rabi harvest in order to show the effect of the taccavi loans. It will be seen that the cultivated area declined by only 12 per cent. in the kharif, and, thanks to a slight increase in the irrigated area in the rabi, the decrease in the whole was barely 10 per cent. The area under both harvests comes to within 12 per cent. of the normal.

2. Dholpur did not escape altogether from the invasion of wanderers from the south and west, but it suffered less than either of the other States in this Agency. The injury to the grazing, however, was so marked as to necessitate the prohibition of fodder export from the State. The order was fortunately passed before the failure of the winter rains was anticipated. The immigrants chiefly belonged to Marwar, and on their first arrival had large droves of very fine animals. There was a considerable demand for these among the Dholpur agriculturists, but their owners refused to part with them, and took them across the Jumna and the Chambal. Some of these men are now on the way back to their homes, and are willing enough to let their cattle go; but the situation has changed, and they receive very few offers. Water is running short in the Dang tract; but this happens every hot weather, and the majority of the cattle will be taken by their owners to the low country on either bank of the Chambal. The local authorities do not anticipate any exceptional mortality among the agricultural stock unless another epidemic breaks out. The want of drinking water will be nowhere severely felt.

3. Certain projects designed to serve as test works were started towards the end of December, but were abandoned, as there was no demand for labour; and as far as I can judge famine conditions obtain in no part of Dholpur at the present time. A brisk import trade in grain sprang up when prices were at their highest, but this was chiefly due to the action of the local grain dealers, who combined to shut down their stores in the hope of forcing up the prices still further. This move was effectively checkmated by the Darbar, who induced outside dealers to bring in grain. The local stores are now open, and once the new spring crops leave the threshing floor imports will be reduced. When the harvest is over the landowners will be able to replenish their stocks, unless prices are high enough to tempt them to export. Whatever course they may take few, if any of them, will need relief. But there will be a certain proportion of artisans, village menials, and agricultural labourers who will require assistance. For the benefit of these classes the schemes described in the next two paragraphs have been drawn up.

4. Mr. A. W. Thorpe, the State Engineer, has been constituted special famine officer. He has prepared a programme of relief works sufficient to employ all who will require assistance during the next four months. The works are of three kinds—wells, roads, and drainage projects. The sum to be spent on each, should necessity arise, is as follows:—

	Rs.
(a.) Wells in the Dang	20,000
" in other tracts...	17,000
(b.) Roads and other construction	17,000
(c.) Drainage channels	6,000
Total	Rs. 60,000

The "Dang" or hilly portion runs from east to west through almost the entire length of the State. It is badly off for wells, owing to the expense and labour involved in sinking operations when carried out by the villagers with their own rough appliances. Mr. Thorpe, who has given some attention to the subject, is of the opinion that if dynamite is used, and the work is supervised by a competent man, the expense will be reduced to an average of Rs. 500 per well, and an ample supply of water will be found at from 30 to 40 feet below the surface. The rest of the money under head (a) will be chiefly spent in the "Beare" tract. This is a strip of ravine country lying between the "Dang" and the Chambal. It contains large stretches of waste, all culturable, which has not been brought under the plough owing to want of artificial irrigation. The sandstone in this part of the country is overlaid with a thick stratum of alluvial deposit. What few wells there are do not go down further than the top surface of the rock, so that none can be relied on for a steady supply of water. Experiments have recently been made which show that, if blasting is carried out to a depth of 15 to 20 feet, a perennial flow is obtained. It is proposed to carry out this construction of new wells and deepening of old ones departmentally in the Dang and Beare tracts, and in parts of the Baseri Pargana. Elsewhere taccavi advances will be given, and the people will do the work themselves, subject only to periodical inspection by the Revenue officials.

5. All the work under head (a) will also be done departmentally. Of the Rs. 17,000 the Bari road will absorb more than half. The remainder will be divided between the roads at Dholpur and the construction of the Bura Kothi garden. The Public Works Department have decided to attempt no large irrigation work this year, as there is so much to be done in the way of draining the low-lying villages between the Parbati and the railway. Considering the great success which has attended the large irrigation system of Bharatpur, I would suggest that the possibility of carrying out a similar scheme be carefully considered. The initial outlay might be prohibitive so long as any portion of the State debt is undischarged, but the scheme should not be lost sight of. If, moreover, a demand for labour necessitates the opening of work on the proposed drainage channels, these should be so aligned as to enable them to be worked into any system of irrigation from tanks which may eventually be carried out.

6. It is not probable that gratuitous relief will be required if the monsoon is normal this year. The Darbar maintains the traditional generosity of Dholpur to the families and descendants of all who have done service to the State in one way or another, and none of the better classes will be allowed to suffer. But I would suggest that the probability of poor-houses being required later on should be kept in mind. One of the main lines of communication between Gwalior and Western Rajputana passes through this State, and by the time that the wanderers begin to return in large numbers they will almost certainly require assistance *en route*. In any case it is as well to be prepared, and arrangements might now be made for establishing a poor-house or some similar institution at Mania and Dholpur for the reception of destitute travellers. It is not probable that the State will be again invaded by such large bands of men and animals as poured through in the closing months of 1899, but the foreigners will be numerous enough to necessitate some kind of official control over their movements, and there is only too good reason to fear the majority will be so reduced that relief will have to be given. This will be a legitimate field for private charity, and I think that pressure might with advantage be brought to bear upon the wealthier members of the commercial classes who have made so much exceptional profit out of their poorer neighbours. I would further recommend that generous advances be given to cultivators for the purchase of seed as soon as the monsoon shows unmistakable signs of its approach, and that the State reserves be freely drawn upon to supply fodder to the Dang villages as *taccavi* loans. The agriculturists in this tract must take their cattle back as soon as rain falls, and they will have a hard struggle to keep them in condition until natural grazing is available.

No. 198.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1775 F., dated Abu, the 12th April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1222 F., dated the 15th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 229 G., dated 5th April, 1900, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, and the accompanying Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of March, 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers of persons relieved on works and gratuitously from October, 1899, up to the close of the month under report. The total number of workers has slightly decreased, but there is a small rise in the dependents. The Resident is of opinion that the decrease proves that some people who were not in urgent need of relief have left the works. This view is scarcely borne out by the detailed figures given in the Famine Statement, from which it appears that, while the number of men on the works rose by 26, the children's total has fallen by 46. The reasons for these fluctuations, small as they are, are not very obvious, but probably emigration is the chief.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous	Total.	Percentage.
October, 1899 ...	921	6	927	·8
November, 1899 ...	1,162	14	1,176	1·01
December, 1899 ...	1,639	47	1,736	1·50
January, 1900 ...	1,407	17	1,424	1·23
February, 1900 ..	1,584	17	1,601	1·37
March, 1900 ..	1,574	19	1,593	1·37

3. No explanation has yet been furnished of the comparatively high incidence of the wage rate. It is still $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per head. The cheapest grain is selling at 8 seers per rupee, so that the average wage is sufficient to purchase 14.6 chittacks, whereas 14.5 chittacks is the maximum male wage. It is possible that the wages of the establishment have been included in the returns.

4. It is satisfactory to note that cholera has entirely disappeared, and as communication with Jodhpur, whence the disease apparently spread, will become increasingly difficult until the rains, it is hoped that the disease will not re-appear. No death from starvation has been reported, but it is more than probable that there were casualties from this cause which were never brought to light. Numbers of the emigrants must have been in a destitute condition. The general health of the people is said to be good, but privation is gradually reducing their condition.

5. The numbers of emigrants have fallen from 1,602 to 664, but these took 620 head of cattle with them as against 150 last month. They have all gone to Sind or to the inundation canals in the south of Bahawalpur. As the snow water will soon begin to come down, these people will be able to struggle on till the rains.

6. Food-stocks are reported to be generally satisfactory, but no allusion is made to the import of grain. There has been a brisk import trade all the cold weather, but travelling will soon become almost impossible even for camels.

Enclosure I in No. 198.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 229 G., dated the 15th April, 1900.

I have the honour to submit the accompanying Famine Report of the Jaisalmer State for the month of March, 1900, together with a skeleton map, showing that there has been no change in the affected area.

2. In spite of 91 new admissions, the number of labourers on relief works has fallen from 1,445 at the end of February to 1,422,* of whom 50 were paid on the contract system at rates higher than those received by the famine workers. The inference is that some people who were otherwise able to maintain themselves left the works.

The number of dependents has risen from 139 to 152.

The total expenditure on famine labour during the month was Rs. 5,184, and the cost per head annas 2 and pie 1, against 1 anna 10 pies in the previous month. The Dewan has been asked to explain the increase. There have been only 19 inmates in the poor-house at Jaisalmer whose maintenance cost Rs. 55. The total sum spent on the poor-house up to date is Rs. 313.

Six works were completed and three new works were opened, making a total of 15 in progress.

The Dewan reports that there are no camps in connection with the relief works, as all the people employed live in the neighbouring villages.

The health of the labourer is said to have been generally good, and the State was fortunately free from cholera and other epidemic diseases.

One death occurred on the relief works and another in the poor-house. No deaths from starvation are reported.

* Men	...	...	...	...	376
Women	...	...	...	...	667
Children	...	...	...	...	379
					<u>1,422</u>

Emigration continues but to a less extent. 664 persons with 620 cattle left during the month chiefly for Sind and the Punjab, as against 1,602 persons and 150 cattle recorded as having gone in the previous month. No emigrants returned during the month. The cattle remaining in the State are in a very poor condition and there is great difficulty in finding food for them.

While wheat and bajra have slightly fallen in price, the price of jowar has somewhat risen as shown below :—

—				Rates in February	Rates in March.
				Seers.	Seers.
Wheat	...	...	...	7	7½
Bajra	...	...	...	7	7½
Jowar	...	...	...	8½	8

Drinking water in sufficient quantities is still to be had in the large villages and towns.

The following ration scale was in force during the month :—

Class.	Maximum.	Medium.	Minimum.	—
Men	14½	12½	10½	} British Indian measure.
Women	12½	10½	8½	
Children	8½	7½	5	
Children in arms	Receive one pice.			

Food-stocks and imports are reported to be sufficient.

Enclosure 2 in No. 198.

Famine Statement for the month of March, 1900.

State.	Area in square miles.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles.	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on the last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jaisalmer ...	16,062	115½	16,062	115½	Working* persons 1,422 Dependents ... 152 <hr/> 1,574	19†

* Males 376
Females 667
Children 379

1,422

† Males 3
Females 12
Children 4

19

J. JAGJIWAN,
Dewan of Jaisalmer.

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for March, 1900.

1. *Private relief.*—Out of the gift of 100 blankets made by Rai Seth Umed Mull Raj Mull of Ajmer, through Western Rajputana States Residency, 65 were distributed to the persons under relief during the month.

2. *Village and poor-house relief.*—Nil.

3. *General character of relief works.*—Excavation of tanks, improving roads, collecting rubblestone and kankar, drawing water from wells and removing sand, suitable for the employment of men, women and children.

4. *Physical condition of people.*—The health of the persons under relief was generally satisfactory. The district was free from cholera or other epidemic diseases.

5. *Deaths (if any) from starvation.*—None.

6. *Food-stocks.*—Generally satisfactory.

7. *Importation of grain.*—Generally satisfactory.

8. *General condition and prospects of affected area.*—Condition distressing. Prospects gloomy. There was no rain over the affected area, nor were any crops standing in it.

9. *Changes of rates in wages.*—The scale of wages paid on the works and the scale of rations which it determines remains unchanged.

The prices also stand the same as in the previous month. They show only a little fall in wheat and bajra as below :—

	Seers.
Wheat from	7 to 7½
Bajra ,,	7 to 7½
Jowar the same or	8

10. *Emigration or Immigration.*—The emigration during the month was 664, making the total of 39,840. None of the emigrants was deported back by the State, nor had any one voluntarily returned during the month.

The number of cattle taken outside in the month was 620, and the total number of cattle removed up to date is 28,721.

The cattle existing in the territory are in great straits.

J. JAGJIWAN,
Diwan of Jaisalmer.

No. 199.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 1807 F., dated Abu, the 14th April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1224 F., dated the 15th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Alwar State for the month of March, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter No. 1259, dated the 6th April 1900.

2. The following table contains the numbers on relief of all kinds, month by month, since October last. There was again an increase in March mainly confined to those on works, but this was not so great as during the previous month. In February the numbers rose by 59 per cent., but during March the rate of increase declined to 26 per cent. There is a slight discrepancy between the numbers given in the Famine Statement and those reported in the weekly telegrams. The Political Agent has been asked for an explanation. Captain Impey accounts for

the rise in numbers by the completion of harvest operations over the greater part of the State.

Months:	Works.	Gratisious.	Total.	Percentage.
October 1899	2,650	316	2,976	·37
November 1899	2,198	151	2,349	·32
December 1899	3,163	389	3,552	·46
January 1900	4,800	1,054	5,854	·77
February 1900	7,801	1,524	9,325	1·22
March 1900	10,208	1,573	11,781	1·55

3. During the month the number of petty works under Civil Agency has been reduced from 77 to 23, and on the last day these gave employment to only 926 people out of 10,208. At the same time the number of large works has risen from five to eleven, of which seven are roads, and four irrigation projects. Three-fifths of the labour employed on these large works live in relief camps. All the large works are administered by officers and men of the Imperial Service Troops, the Public Works Department establishment being concerned only with professional details.

4. A much needed reduction has been made in the liberal wage scale which previously obtained. The following table shows the old and new rates with the grain equivalent of the latter :—

Class.	Old rate.	New rate	Equivalent. Chittacks.
Digger	<i>as. p.</i> 1 9	<i>as. p.</i> 1 6	19½
Carrier	1 6	1 3	16⅔
Child under 7	0 6	0 3	9¼

These rates are still high. The classification of workers has been revised and simplified

5. The numbers on gratuitous relief have risen very slightly. The increase in the totals under this head has been checked by the closing of the four poor-houses. These institutions were attended, with a very few exceptions, only by foreign immigrants, who have now all been drafted to the large relief works.

The only branches of gratuitous relief now in operation are the issue of cash doles to the crippled, infirm and destitute at their own homes by the local Revenue officers, and the payment of one pice each to non-working children on relief works. The latter, however, account for only 15 per cent. of the total expenditure on gratuitous relief. The respectable poor and orphans are still relieved from the charitable fund which has been raised locally. The Committee which controls its operations will probably now be affiliated to the Provincial Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

6. The condition of the people is described as fair, and the State is free from any epidemic disease. But the sudden change in temperature caused by the hailstorm of the 20th March must have been the cause of some suffering in the relief camps. Imports continue to pour into the State, and no apprehensions are felt about the sufficiency of the food-supply. A scarcity of drinking water is reported in certain tracts.

7. A severe hailstorm crossed the centre of the State on the 20th March, when reaping operations had hardly begun. It damaged the standing crops of no less than eighty-seven estates. Further details are not given, but it is not probable that the destruction in any one village was complete. If, however, this was the case in some villages, as the Political Agent's report seems to imply, the damage in the majority must have been confined within narrow limits, The total area on which remissions will be granted is 6,308 acres, which gives an average of 72 acres per village.

8. No estimate has been furnished of the yield on irrigated lands, but all indications point to the fact that the conditions of 1897 will be repeated, and it will be phenomenal. The straw is of course poor, but the grain is both large and heavy. The wise policy of the administration in developing the well system by liberal taccavi advances has been fully justified, and the greater part of the sum of Rs. 1,81,691, which has already been issued as taccavi loans, will be easily recovered. Of this total, Rs. 3,822 were advanced during the month under report chiefly in those villages where the drinking supply is running short. Up to date 695 masonry wells and 7,628 unbricked wells have been constructed or repaired with State aid. The area these have served may be put approximately at 25,000 acres.

Enclosure in No. 199.

Letter from Captain L. Impey, Political Agent, Alwar, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana. No. 1259, dated Alwar, the 6th April, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 800, dated 7th March, 1900, I have the honour to submit the Famine Statement* of the Alwar State for March 1900. I regret that it is not possible to forward the usual map, as the Topographical Survey Department are out of stock of the outline maps of the State. No change has, however, taken place in the areas affected.

2. The number of persons employed on relief works has risen from 7,801 on the 28th February to 10,208 on the 31st March. The harvest has been reaped in most places, and an increase in the numbers seeking relief may be expected. About one-half of the labourers now reside in the relief camps attached to the larger works. Gratuitous relief was granted to 48,754 persons during the month as against 42,669 during February. On the 31st March 1,857 persons received gratuitous relief.

3. In the second paragraph of the statement will be found a list of the principal works now open. The Bhura Sidh road and Bhaiba-ka-bhat Johar are, however, practically completed, and the few labourers now employed are engaged in finishing the slopes of the banks. The Macheri-Moujipore and Khairthal-Bansur roads and the Baghor Bund were commenced in March.

4. There has been a considerable fall in the price of barley during the month. The rates of wages on the Alwar and Lachmangarh Relief Works have been lowered in consequence, and the following payments are now made:—

	Pice.
Diggers	6
Carriers	5
Working children	3

This represents the equivalent in grain of 19 $\frac{7}{8}$, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ chittacks, respectively, for the three classes noted above.

Major Dunlop-Smith, Famine Commissioner, visited the State during the month, and, in accordance with his recommendation, the classification of workers has been simplified.

* Not printed.

5. A severe hailstorm passed from west to east over the central portion of the State on the afternoon of the 20th March. The crops of eighty-seven villages that lay in the track of the storm were severely damaged. In some villages the hail almost completely destroyed the ripe fields of wheat and barley. Fodder is still scarce, but the straw of the "rabi" crops is now available for the plough bullocks, who are in fairly good condition.

6. No deaths from starvation have taken place. I regret to report that an increase in the number of petty thefts has been noticeable of late, and several cases of cattle theft and house-breaking have occurred.

A report has been received lately from all districts in the State on the supply of drinking water. In places where difficulty is anticipated, steps are being taken to deepen and clean out existing wells, both with a view to improve the supply of potable water and to lessen the danger from cholera, a disease which is usually prevalent when famine visits the land.

No. 200.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.—No. 1808 F., dated Abu, the 14th April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1252 F., dated the 16th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward in original, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement of the Marwar State for the month of March 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter, No. 227 C., dated the 5th April, 1900.

2. The numbers relieved on works and gratuitously during the last seven months are brought together in the following table. There appears to be some confusion about the exact numbers on State relief of all kinds. The grand total of workers and dependents on the works conducted by both the Public Works Department and Civil Agency is, according to the statements appended to the Famine Relief Statement, 121,723. In the table with which the Famine Relief Statement opens, the numbers of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief are given as 28,237, so that the total of persons directly dependent on the State really amounts to 149,960. A reference has been made on this point to the Resident. If the figures are correct and the numbers relieved by private charity be added, there would appear to be at present 159,090 persons dependent on outside aid in Marwar.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous	Total	Percentage.
September 1899	10,985	2,263	13,248	5
October 1899	26,025	4,614	30,639	121
November 1899	39,207	10,719	49,926	137
December 1899	78,084	13,790	91,814	362
January 1900	73,232	18,370	91,602	362
February 1900	105,264	23,510	128,774	509
March 1900	106,699	28,237	134,936	534

3. Ninety-one per cent. of the workers are employed on thirteen large relief works conducted by Mr. Home, the State Engineer, and of these all, except 1,042 persons, are on famine wages. Two new works have been opened during the month. The Resident reports an unusual mortality in the Dhawlers Camp, but gives no particulars. His special report is awaited.

4. Some interesting details are given regarding the condition of the famine workers. The majority of the able-bodied employed on task work were found to have improved, but half of the old and infirm, who are engaged on what is known as "daily labour," had deteriorated. Thirty-two persons are reported to have died of hunger. All of these except 5 appear to have been wandering, as they died on the high roads. No starvation case is returned from any of the camps or poor houses. The cholera epidemic in Nagore increased in virulence during the month and spread to the large collecting centre at Marwar Junction and the relief work camp five miles off. Captains Bremner and Grant, however, are on the spot, and there is reason to believe that the disease is now under control. The extracts given from Lieutenant Menzies' report show the standard of efficiency which has been reached.

5. Full details have not been given of the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief. The total is said to be 28,237: 7,113 of these are maintained in the different poor-houses, the administration of which, the Resident states, has distinctly improved. The rest presumably are relieved at their homes or in the collecting depôts. Private charity is also active, and Lieutenant Menzies testifies to its efficacy. The Darbar continue to support a large number of poor *pardah nashin* women, but the very nature of this branch of relief prevents exact details being known. Two new orphanages have been organised during the month.

6. The Darbar report that the mortality among the cattle continues. The export trade in hides increased by 24 per cent., but probably the bulk of the consignments had been lying for weeks waiting carriage. So many of the cattle have been swept away in the earlier stage that now the actual number of deaths is diminishing every week. A new home for starving cattle has been opened in the Godwar Nizamat, which has suffered less than any other part of the State.

7. The supply of food is sufficient and imports have declined by 10 per cent. since February. As elsewhere, the prices show a tendency to fall. The great range of prices given in paragraph 9 of the Famine Statement shows the inaccessibility of parts of the State and the difficulties of transport. The price of barley, which is the cheapest grain, varies from 8½ to 7 seers per rupee.

8. Drinking water is giving out in some tracts, but the city supply has at least been secured.

9. The few standing crops in the north-east, with the exception of those in Sanchore and Bhimmal, are expected to give a normal yield.

10. A copy of Dr. Grant's report No. 936, dated 30th March, 1900, describing the difficulty of dealing with the new arrivals at the camps and the impossibility of providing them with suitable diet, is annexed.

Enclosure 1 in No. 200.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana.—No. 227 C., dated Jodhpur, the 5th April, 1900.

I have the honour to submit a copy of the Famine Report of the Marwar State for the month of March 1900, together with a skeleton map showing the famine affected area.

2. The total number of labourers on 13 relief works under Mr. Home on the 25th March was 96,614, as compared with 95,771 employed on 11 works during the preceding month, showing a slight increase of 843. The expenditure on these works during the month was Rs. 2,48,983-9-6, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 4 pies per diem.

Fourteen thousand six hundred and sixty-nine dependents were also maintained on the above works at a cost of Rs. 11,263-11-0, or an average per head of 4-3 pies.

Thirty-two Civil Agency works afforded employment to 10,440 persons at a cost of Rs. 28,204-3-1, giving an incidence per head of 1 anna 2-7 pies.

Their dependents numbering 365 were maintained at a cost of Rs. 300-7-0. As compared with the previous month, there was an increase of 947 persons on these works.

The vast majority of the labourers on all the works continued to earn only the minimum ration, *viz.*, men 12 chittacks, women 10 chittacks.

Of the total number of labourers 1,042* persons were employed on contract work on ordinary wage rates.

3. Three thousand six hundred and sixty-seven deaths occurred in famine camps, hospitals, and poor-houses, and at Dhaulera I regret to say that the mortality has been very heavy, 1,719 persons out of some 30,000 congregated round the works having died between the 23rd February and the 25th March. This will form the subject of a separate special report.

To test the sufficiency of the famine ration, Captain Grant weighed nearly 300 persons at Pali on the 22nd March. It was found that of 189 employed on task work, 14 weighed the same as in February, 52 had lost on an average 2.02 lb. and 104 had gained on an average 2.86 lb. : 19 persons previously weighed could not be found.

Of 98 persons employed on daily labour, 8 showed no change in weight, 50 had lost on an average 2.10 lb. and 26 had gained on an average 2.52 lb. : fourteen previously weighed could not be found.

Twenty-two men, 8 women,† and two children are reported to have died of starvation, of whom 7 were immigrants. Five of these deaths occurred in villages and the rest on high roads.

4. Lieutenant Menzies, who was on tour in the districts from 17th February to the 27th March, reports favourably of the conduct of the local officials.

In his letter of the 28th March he writes as follows :—

“During my tour I have visited six relief works employing 5,820 people, and 13 poor-houses and private relief kitchens in which 3,859 people are fed gratuitously.

“The management of the relief works and poor-houses in all, except one case, reflects credit on the officers in charge.

“A large measure of praise is also due to the public spirit of the mahajans, who are feeding a large number of people gratuitously.

“Considering the fact that the local officers have had no guidance, except such as is contained in their written instructions, it is in my opinion cause for wonder and congratulation that the errors in the management of relief works and poor-houses should have been so few and unimportant.

“I am glad to be able to report that, though I have witnessed distress, in no case was it unrelieved, and it gives me further great pleasure to be able to testify to the praiseworthy energy of the local officers in forwarding applicants for work to the large relief works round Pali, and, in arranging for their rations on the march, a matter of some difficulty in a country where distances are so great.”

5. About the middle of February cholera appeared in the town of Nagore, causing 33 deaths that month and 571 deaths in March. From Nagore the disease spread to the large collecting camp at Marwar Junction, and to the recently opened relief work at Jagrawas about five miles distant.

Captain Bremner, R.E., and Captain Grant, I.M.S., are doing everything in their power to check the epidemic and to restore confidence.

* Mr. Home's works, 973 ; Civil Agency works, 69.

† 1 Rajput. 1 Jat. 1 Bhambi. Castes of the others unknown. No further particulars are supplied.

Up to the 3rd April at Marwar Junction, there had been 74 attacks and 15 deaths, and at Jagrawas 269 attacks and 108 deaths.

A site for a new collecting camp has been selected near Anwa on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, and the people at Jagrawas will be moved in due course to a new work.

6. The State afforded gratuitous relief to 7,113 persons at a cost of Rs. 12,001-15-4, and distributed Rs. 3,789-10-0 among poor *pardah nashin* women.

The Arya Samaj has opened an orphanage for boys under Pandit Bhaskaranand's management which is doing well, and the Darbar is starting an orphanage for girls a few miles from Jodhpur city under Maharaj Sir Partap Singh's auspices. Private charity has also supported 9,130 persons in different parts of the State. At Ghanerao in Godwar a home for starving cattle has been opened.

I visited the poor-houses at Nadolai and Balmer during the month, and was glad to find a great improvement in the general management.

7. No emigration took place during the month. Three thousand six hundred and ninety-one persons were brought back from the Ajmer-Merwara district at a cost of Rs. 1,170-3-6, and 2,001 persons managed to make their own way back.

No distress from want of drinking water is reported. Jodhpur city is supplied with 160,000 gallons a day pumped from 16 wells near Mundor at a cost of about Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

Grain-stocks are abundant: 310,043½ maunds were imported during the month as compared with 345,084½ maunds imported in February.

Prices of food-grains show a tendency to fall. Barley is selling at rates ranging from 12 to 8½ seers per rupee. The sale of kasari has been prohibited in famine camps owing to its unwholesome qualities.

During the month 8,436½ maunds of hides were exported from Marwar against 6,766½ maunds exported in February: 10 hides have been taken as weighing a maund.

8. The total famine expenditure during the month has been—

Relief Works.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Departmental	2,48,983	9	6
Civil Agency	28,204	3	1
Dependents	11,564	2	0
	<hr/>		
	2,88,751	14	7

Gratuitous Relief.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Poor-houses	12,001	15	0
Collecting camps... ..	11,365	12	3
Dispensaries	7,915	9	9
Pardah nashin women	3,789	10	0
	<hr/>		
	35,072	15	0
	<hr/>		
Grand Total	3,23,824	13	7

9. Considering the distress which prevails and the large area affected thereby, there has, I am glad to say, been comparatively little serious crime.

10. Abnormally cool, but unhealthy weather prevails with winds from the north-east instead of the south-west.

There is a good deal of small-pox in Jodhpur city.

Enclosure 2 in No. 200.

(Extracts.)

Famine Relief Statement for the month of March, 1900.

State.	Area in square miles in thousands.	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles in thousands.	Estimated population in thousands of thousands of	Total No. of labourers employed on relief works on the last day of the month.	No. of persons receiving gratuitous relief (including the inmates of the collecting houses).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Marwar ...	35	2,526	35	2,526	106,699	28,237

REMARKS.

Private relief.—Private gratuitous relief was doled out in 32 places, where cooked khichra and parched gram were distributed to the poor. The daily average of persons fed on private charity was 9,130.

Village and poor-house relief.—State poor-houses are kept up at the cost of the Darbar at each Hukumat and on departmental relief works for the non-working and the sick, the number of persons gratuitously fed in 43 poor-houses on the 25th March was :—

Men	1,297
Women	4,009
Children... ..	1,807
Total	<u>7,113</u>

Medical relief.—Due attention has been paid to medical relief, the hospital, kitchen, and conservancy arrangements are declared satisfactory.

General character of relief works.—Digging, clearing, and embanking of tanks, renewing roads, construction of bunds and sinking wells.

Physical condition and deaths from starvation.—The majority of the persons are in good condition. Cholera broke out in Nagore about the middle of February, and attacked the famine-stricken. Wells were disinfected, and medical and sanitary arrangements made. It has now broken out at Marwar Junction and Jagrawas relief work. Precautionary measures are being adopted to arrest its spread. Thirty-two* persons died of starvation : five of these died in villages, and the rest on the high-road. One of them was Rajput, one Jat, one Bambhi, and the caste of others is unknown. Seven of them were emigrants.

Food-stocks.—Sufficient.

General condition and prospects of affected area.—The water is holding out. The city water-supply arrangements have proved a success.

* Men 22, women 8, and children 2.

No. 201.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1809 F., dated Abu, the 14th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1211 F., dated the 13th March 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, letter* No. 162 G., dated the 4th April 1900, from the Resident, Jaipur, and the accompanying Famine Statement of the Jaipur and Kishangarh States for the month of March.

2. The following table contains the numbers of persons on relief in Jaipur month by month since October last :—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage of Population.
October 1899	7,000	48,732	55,732	3.0
November „	25,400	Not reported.	25,400	...
December „	33,338	7,017	40,355	2.3
January 1900	35,340	24,928	60,268	3.4
February „	41,961	32,212	74,173	4.2
March „	42,700	37,432	80,132	4.6

Numbers have gone steadily up since December. The total number on relief in March is 7 per cent. higher than in February, but the Resident reports that the figures by no means include everyone in receipt of relief. As an instance, he states that in two districts (Shekhawati and Torawati) of the State from 12,000 to 13,000 people are being maintained on some kind of work or another by Seths and landlords. The employment given does not quite come under the definition of famine relief work, but it is safe to assume that the persons relieved in this way would have been following their customary pursuits if it had not been for the prevailing scarcity.

3. The numbers on the works under the Public Works Department do not show any large rise, probably because so many of the lower castes have been engaged in harvest operations. There is certain to be an increased demand for labour during April, and the Darbar have anticipated this by expanding their programme and making substantial additions to the subordinate staff. From the list of appointments it would seem that they have practically constituted a new sub-division. The operations under local District Officers have also been extended in some of the most distressed parganas. Among other advances a sum of nearly Rs. 18,000 has been sanctioned for the purchase of seed. This is meant to secure the largest possible crop of early bajra and jawar. These crops will be raised by help of well irrigation.

4. No estimate of the probable outturn of the rabi harvest has been furnished, but Mr. Irwin reports that the grain has suffered from the high winds. There is reason to believe, however, that the yield of barley and wheat will be exceptionally good, though the straw will be poor and barely sufficient to support the plough and well cattle until ordinary fodder is available.

5. The figures of foreigners on the Rewari-Phalera Railway work given in paragraph 10 of the remarks accompanying the report are evidently inaccurate as pointed out by the Resident.

6. The accounts given of the numbers relieved gratuitously in one way or another are a proof of the comprehensive nature of the general organisation. The only total which has declined during the month is that of the persons who are in receipt of grain or cash doles at their homes. No explanation of the change has been given, but it is probably the result of a closer scrutiny of the

* Not printed.

original lists and a sign of improved administration. The poor-house system has been gradually developed, the numbers in the main institution at Jaipur having nearly doubled during the month.

7. The comparative numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in the Kishangarh State on the last day of each month since October 1899 are brought together below :—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous	Total.	Percentage on Population
October 1899	5,412	1,600	7,012	6.6
November „	6,263	2,000	8,263	7.8
December „	6,685	2,233	8,918	8.4
January 1900	6,240	3,037	9,277	8.8
February „	5,988	2,979	8,967	8.5
March „	6,598	3,615	10,211	9.7

While the numbers on works have risen by only 10 per cent., those on gratuitous relief have increased by 21 per cent. These figures apparently do not include the persons who are directly relieved by the Thakurs and Jagirdars by the help of cash advances from the Darbar. The different branches of relief described in previous reports are still in operation, and their scope is being gradually expanded to meet the growing distress.

8. Special attention has been paid in Kishangarh from the beginning to the preservation of agricultural stock. In addition to feeding the Raj animals and assisting zamindars and others to keep their cattle alive, the Darbar have now arranged to collect all stray bullocks and cows. These are sent to cattle sheds at selected centres. Many of these are probably not worth the saving, but a certain proportion will be valuable for farm or stud purposes later on. The Darbar have already begun to purchase fresh stock in Gwalior and Agra, but it is not stated where these animals will be kept until the monsoon. In the earliest stages of the famine very large numbers of Kishangarh cattle were sent to grazing grounds in Alwar and the North-Western Provinces in a systematic and carefully considered manner.

9. It is interesting to note that arrangements have been made to establish waterposts both for men and cattle. This is the first measure of its kind which has been reported from any part of Rajputana. As the heat increases, and the wells gradually dry up, these posts will do much not only to mitigate suffering, but to prevent actual loss of life.

10. The report is silent as to the expected result of the rabi harvest. Early autumn crops are already being sown, and the sinking of new wells is being continued.

11. The administration both in Jaipur and in Kishangarh are fully alive to the present situation, and are prepared to meet the increasing strain of the next three months.

The measures hitherto adopted have been adequate and successful.

No. 202.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1828 F., dated Abu, the 17th April, 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram No. 1714-F., dated the 9th instant, I have the honour to refer to your telegram

No. 141 I.A., dated the 8th January, 1900, in which sanction was conveyed to a loan Rs. 50,000 for relief in the Hilly Tracts, Mewar, and it was stated that the loan would be increased later, if necessary.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Bignell has lately completed a tour through both the Kherwara and Kotra Districts, and the general situation has been discussed in great detail at a conference held by Colonel A. P. Thornton, the Resident, Mewar, at Kherwara. Kotra has now entered the phase which Kherwara passed through last November, while in the latter district even the ordinarily well-to-do classes have reached the stage of destitution. The existing measures of relief will apparently require little expansion in Kotra, but the situation is so acute in Kherwara that aid on a larger scale than that hitherto adopted is urgently called for. Grain-stores are exhausted, and the water-supply has generally failed. Very few cattle survive, crime is abnormal, and the great majority of even the better classes have come to an end of their resources.

3. In my letter No. 594 F., dated 1st January, 1900, I explained that the Mewar Darbar had failed to offer the Bhumat Chieftains adequate loans on reasonable terms. Since then the situation has not improved. In paragraph 6 of that letter, I mentioned that the Darbar had apparently advanced a sum of Rs. 12,000 (Udiapuri) to the Political Superintendent, and recommended that a further sum of Government Rs. 58,700 should be advanced by Government on certain terms. In paragraph 9 I explained that this amount would probably suffice for the official year then drawing to a close. It appears from recent correspondence that only a part of the promised advance of Rs. 12,000 was actually paid by the Darbar.

4. The Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, now applies for the balance of Rs. 8,700. This sum will also be recoverable from the Chiefs on whatever terms may be finally settled for the repayment of the advance of half-a-lakh originally sanctioned. His application is strongly supported by the Resident, and I have no hesitation in endorsing that support. The Political Superintendent and Resident make further applications for other sums, but I have been obliged to ask for further information regarding their character and the objects to which they are to be applied before recommending them for sanction.

5. In addition to the balance of Rs. 8,700 for the Bhumat Chieftains, the Political Superintendent asks for a grant from Imperial funds of Rs. 5,000 for the support of the distressed population of the cantonments of Kherwara and Kotra. Two hundred out of the 600 permanent non-military residents of Kherwara and 80 out of 200 in Kotra are said to be in a state of destitution. Both cantonments are, moreover, thronged by wanderers from distant parts. These immigrants include orphans and abandoned children, who cannot or will not even tell the name of their village. Hitherto the officers of the Mewar Bhil Corps have been making heroic efforts to relieve these starving hordes from a private fund raised among themselves and their friends. Colonel Bignell reports that this fund is still able to support the 140 orphans whose names are borne on their lists, to help wanderers on their return to their homes, and to restore to health those who have lost their strength in the famine and have just succeeded in struggling to the poor-house. But private resources cannot do more, and the Political Superintendent now asks for this grant to enable him to provide work and food for the poor among the regimental followers and the cultivating classes within cantonment limits. This would appear to be a legitimate object for the expenditure of Imperial funds, and the necessity is real. I commend the application for Rs. 5,000 to the favourable consideration of the Government of India in addition to the Rs. 8,700 for the Bhumat loans, and the sum of Rs. 70,000 for grain which will be recovered in October.

6. As the Political Superintendent's resources are almost exhausted, I have the honour to request the favour of early orders by telegram. It would be most convenient if the sum of Rs. 13,700 were placed in the Ajmer Treasury to the credit of the Resident, Mewar.

7. A copy of Colonel Thornton's Report No. 272, dated 5th April, 1900, and of its enclosure on the subject of this letter, is annexed. ‡

Enclosure 1 in No. 202.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 272, dated the 5th April, 1900.

In continuation of my telegram of the 29th ultimo, in which it was asked that early sanction might be obtained for a further grant of Rs. 12,300 to complete the estimated sum of Rs. 62,300 (including a sum of Rs. 4,500 now applied for by the Panurwa Chief) required for famine relief loans to the Bhumia Chiefs of the Kherwara and Kotra Districts, and for the advance from Imperial funds of a sum of Rs. 70,000 to be applied by Colonel Bignell in his capacity as Famine Officer, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, for the purchase and import of food-grain for resale by local grain-dealers in both districts, and repayable in October next, I have now the honour to submit a copy of the Famine Officer's report on which my telegram above quoted was based.

2. It will be seen that, in addition to the sums mentioned in my telegram, Colonel Bignell asks for a grant-in-aid of Rs. 30,000 to provide for the estimated cost of famine relief works and gratuitous relief in the Bhumia Chiefs' estates from the present time up to the commencement of the rains, and of a similar grant of Rs. 5,000 for the same objects in the cantonments of Kherwara and Kotra.

3. As regards the items of Rs. 12,300 and Rs. 70,000, I have already in my telegram strongly supported Colonel Bignell's application. The first sum is required to complete the estimated amount of loans to be given to the Bhumia Chiefs, for which the sum of Rs. 50,000 has already been advanced under the sanction conveyed in your letter No. 678 F. C. of the 13th January last, in paragraph 7 of which sanction for the additional amount now asked for has been in general terms accorded.

The application for the temporary advance of a sum of Rs. 70,000 for the purchase and import of food-grain has my strongest support. The soundness of the opinion expressed in the Famine Officer's Report that the scarcity of food-grain in the open market is at the root of the distress from which the bulk of the population is suffering and is one of the primary causes of the crime which is now so prevalent cannot, I consider, be disputed. The matter has during the past two months or more received the close attention of the Famine Officer and latterly of myself. The initial difficulties of providing transport have now been overcome, and a large number of camels have been hired by the month through the Officer Commanding at Deoli, in addition to 25 of the Deoli Irregular Force Movable Column carriage animals, which have been temporarily placed at our disposal. This organised transport train has been supplemented from local sources, and is now working regularly between Udaipur and Kherwara. Not less than 5,000 maunds of grain have already been transported and sold through local dealers in Kherwara and the surrounding districts after the requirements of the famine relief works and poor-houses had been met. The chief difficulty now is the capital required to continue, and, if possible, extend the valuable measure.

Hitherto Colonel Bignell has utilised the Government grant to the Bhumia Chiefs, in addition to a small loan of Udaipuri Rs. 10,000 obtained from the Mewar Darbar for the purpose, but owing to the expenditure on relief works the Government grant is no longer available, whilst the Darbar loan is too small to be of much service. If the advance of Rs. 70,000 is sanctioned, Rs. 20,000 will be allotted to the Kotra district, where similar arrangements have been successfully carried out for some time past by Major Dawson. As the grain is disposed of to local dealers for cash payment only, no risk of loss is incurred.

In order to keep the force of transport camels fully employed, and thus prevent loss in transport charges, it is requested that telegraphic sanction for the advance above referred to may be given.

4. The remaining items of Rs. 30,000, being the estimated cost of famine relief measures in the Bhumia estates during the current financial year, and of Rs. 5,000 to provide relief for regimental followers and cultivators of land in cantonments with other bazar residents, require consideration. In your telegram No. 1,521 of the 31st March 1900, it is stated that a further grant for loans to the Bhumia Chiefs is under consideration. In this connection Colonel Bignell urges in the report under reference that, owing to losses of revenue, both present and prospective, incurred by these Chiefs, through the effects of the famine, they would be unable to meet any increase in their obligations to the Government of India already incurred, and would, except under extreme pressure, be unwilling to accept the responsibility for any further loans. The question is one into which I have fully gone with Colonel Bignell during my recent visit to Kherwara *en route* to Dungarpur, and the opinion I formed was that, although some of the Chiefs might possibly be able to increase their debt to Government without much risk of actual inability to pay the instalments as they fell due, still it would be politically inadvisable to cripple their resources for so many years to come if this could be avoided, and especially so in the case of those Chiefs who are already involved in debt.

I may also point out that in several instances the loans already granted amount to the whole, or even more, of the annual revenue derived by the Chief from his estate, and in the remainder approximates $\frac{2}{3}$ th of the annual revenue. The only suggestion I can think of is that it might be possible to substitute petty village works for the larger irregular works now under construction as relief works, and to carry these out by taccavi advances to village communities on the security of their headmen, as has been suggested for Dungarpur, but the difficulty of effective supervision of such works would be greater in Kherwara, whilst the effectual recovery of the advances given would be less certain.

5. The grant of Rs. 5,000 asked for by Colonel Bignell for relief expenditure in the cantonments of Kherwara and Kotra should, I consider, be met from Imperial funds. These are practically British Cantonments, and the persons needing relief are British subjects. Such relief, as has already been given, has been met by very considerable sacrifices on the part of the British officers of the regiment, and this burden should, I consider, be reduced and sufficient funds provided to meet the reasonable requirements of the case. The sums asked for are trifling.

Enclosure 2 in No. 202.

Letter from the Political Superintendent, Hilly Tracts, Mewar, to the Resident, Mewar. No. 305 G., dated the 26th March 1900.

In accordance with the telegraphic instructions received from the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana, I have the honour to submit an estimate of famine requirements for the year 1900-1901.

2. It may be taken that the requirements of the two districts, Kherwara and Kotra, are very different, as the severity of the famine in the two places varies greatly in intensity.

3. I have lately been through the Kotra district, and am glad to say that, though famine certainly exists, it has not yet assumed a severe type. I should say that Kotra now is going through the phase which Kherwara passed through last November, that is, the thriftless and habitually destitute part of the population are coming to the poor-houses, and to a certain extent dying. Kherwara has long passed that stage, and the respectable portion of the inhabitants are dying in large numbers.

With a small supplementary grant, I think Kotra will fare well enough, but the want in Kherwara has assumed such dimensions that aid on a large scale is required.

I will compare the two districts—

Kherwara.	Kotra.
Crops—practically <i>nil</i> .	Numerous on banks of many rivers which water the district.
Water—hardly any.	Fairly plentiful.
Cattle—all dead.	Moderate condition to poor.
Fodder— <i>nil</i> .	Moderately plentiful.
Grain reserves— <i>nil</i> .	A little.
People—the thriftless class are dead. The people with small means have got to the end of their resources and are either on works or dying.	The Thriftless class are dying or are on works. People with small means are going on works : the rest still able to struggle along, but not for long.
Crime as indicating—abnormally.	Very little.
Severity of suffering—prevalent.	Above usual.

5. For Kherwara and Kotra combined I originally applied for 58,700 Imperial rupees, stating that up to that limit the Chiefs could repay the loan, plus such interest as the Government thought necessary. Of this sum Rs. 50,000 was advanced, and I would ask that the remaining Rs. 8,700 may be given. The Kherwara Chiefs can borrow no more with the remotest chance of repayment. The heavy loss in human life and cattle has reduced them to such a state of poverty that it would be absurd on my part to press them to apply for more.

6. The Kotra Chiefs are better off, and I endorse Major Dawson's opinion, as expressed in his letter No. 121 of 19th March 1900, that the Panurwa Rana should be advanced a further sum of Rs. 4,500.

7. My attention has been drawn by the Resident, Mewar, to the unusually large amount of crime prevailing. The offenders, I would point out, are almost without exception Khalsa Bhihs under the jurisdiction of the Magra Hakim, notably those of Vabcha, Patia, Dhankawara, Kotra, Bolawan, Bilak and Pipli, and the reason for the outbreak is simply hunger and nothing else. Punitive measures are not of much use as long as the original cause remains untouched.

8. In reply to many remonstrances, I have been several times officially informed that the Darbar had granted munificent sums for the relief of these Pals and the Som Pargana, and it was hoped that this would have a quieting effect. I am in a position to state that none of these sums have reached the Bhihs, who under great stress of hunger are undoubtedly committing many crimes.

9. As a remedy for this state of affairs, grain is by far better than police or military action, and, as pointed out in many previous communications, there are no grain-stocks in the country. I propose that an open shop should be instituted at Rakabnath by the Darbar, and others at Kherwara and Kotra by the Government.

10. Paying Bhihs a money wage, were it done, would be no use when there is no grain to buy. I have tried desperately to keep the Kherwara bazar open to all, but, as I have only Rs. 6,000 lent me by the Merwar Darbar, all told, to purchase grain, I have miserably failed, and hundreds come to me daily for permission to buy and have to be refused. This is an evil afflicting all ranks and conditions of the population. I would, therefore, express an opinion that open shops kept at Rakabnath and Palasia by the Darbar, and at Kherwara and Kotra by the Government, would have a splendid effect in repressing crime by doing away with the great incentive, *viz.*, inability to purchase grain.

11. I have no banias or mahajans at either Kherwara or Kotra, who have sufficient means to purchase more than a hundred or so rupees worth of grain at a time, and the camel difficulty is too great for men of straw to overcome. I would, therefore, suggest that Government place a sum of Rs. 50,000 to my credit for the Kherwara shop and Rs. 20,000 for the Kotra shop, to be repaid when the next crop ripens, and bearing such interest as the Government may deem reasonable. It should be understood that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent simply provide banias with grain, &c., for cash, and do not interfere beyond that with trade. This sum of money will not only enable me to keep the Kherwara and Kotra bazars open to all, but will enable me to accumulate sufficient grain, ghi, &c., for the rainy season during which, owing to only camel carriage being available, imports must cease.

12. As a support for the absolutely destitute when the loans to Bhumia Chiefs have been expended, a sum of Rs. 30,000 is required, but I cannot designate the source from which it should be expected. Were it borrowed by the Chiefs it could never be repaid, and I doubt the Darbar being willing to expend money on which no return can be expected.

12. The truth is that at present the poor of Kherwara and Kotra, wanderers often from far distant States, orphans and abandoned children, who cannot even tell us the village they came from, are entirely supported by the charity of Kherwara and Kotra. This is not right that Government work should be entirely done by private individuals. The population of Kherwara is roughly 600, excluding troops, and of Kotra 200. Out of these 200 of the former and 70 to 80 of the latter are in a state of destitution, and Kherwara feeds 100 orphans and Kotra 40. Food to wanderers and gifts to hungry sufferers whose strength has given way when they reach cantonments is not grudged, but the up-keep of all the contentment is poor.

13. At present 190 are given relief work out of private subscriptions in Kherwara and 40 in Kotra. I do not think this is right, and I would suggest that, while the kitchens may well be left to private enterprise, the orphans to the central relief fund, the poor of the stations should look to Government for relief. It does not look well to be perpetually dinning into the ears of the Chiefs that it is their duty to feed their starving people, while Government does nothing for theirs. I would, therefore, suggest that Government should make a grant for this purpose of Rs. 4,000 for Kherwara and Rs. 1,000 for Kotra.

Kherwara is at the present moment supporting the following :—

	Gratuitous relief.	Relief works.
Kitchen	350	—
Orphanage	107	—
Dispensary	40	—
Infectious Hospital	5	—
Roads, &c.	—	190
Total	502	190

I append a precis of what I consider necessary for the relief of the starving population, the repression of crime, and to meet the wants of the two stations of Kherwara and Kotra—

Rs.

(a) Balance of original application for loan to
Bhumia Chiefs 8,700*

- (b) Grant for open shops (to be repaid) at Kherwara and Kotra 76,000
- (c) Open shops to be kept at Rakabnath and Palasia by Darbar... .. —
- (d) Grant to district source undesignated ... 30,000
- (e) Grant from Government for station poor ... 5,000
- (f) Loan to the Panurwa Rana 4,500

14. If Government are anxious that crime should assume its normal dimensions in those districts, the above arrangements should be made with as little delay as possible. I have at present about 400 camels engaged to bring in grain, but the moment they have brought in what I have, I must dismiss them, and indubitably it will be impossible to collect them again were they once dismissed.

15. The markets are also favourable, so I would request that the amounts asked for should be quickly granted and paid to the Cawnpur Treasury to my credit and information given me by telegraph, so that I may make purchases in time before the camels have to be dismissed.

No. 203.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1827 F., dated Abu, the 17th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1209 F., dated the 13th March 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying Famine Statement* and Monthly Report* of the Karauli State for the month of March 1900.

2. The following table gives the numbers on relief each month since December last. The numbers have risen since February owing to the opening of a new irrigation work in the Dang. The Nibhera Dam in the Utgur Tahsil where there is most distress, employs the largest number of workers. The professional beggars are chiefly responsible for the rise in the total of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief:—

Months.	Works	Gratuitous	Total.	Percentage.
December 1899	300	—	300	·19
January 1900	500 to 600	200	800	·56
February „	500 to 600	200	800	·56
March „	1,135	250	1,385	·88

3. The people are still in good condition, and the State seems to have escaped the epidemic which broke out among the cattle in Dholpur. There has been ample employment for all the villagers in connection with the harvest, so much so that, even in the worst tract, the famine wage has not proved attractive.

4. The report states that the rabi harvest is expected to be poor, and puts the outturn at slightly over five eighths of the normal. This is approximately correct for the crops on all classes of soil, but the average yield of grain per acre

is certain to be distinctly above the average on well-irrigated lands. That the prospects are far from unfavourable is clear from the decline of 37 per cent. in imports during the month. The quantity imported is only one-third larger than during the corresponding month of last year. The food-stocks throughout the State are reported to be sufficient, and there are no complaints of a shrinkage in the water-supply, even in the "Dang" tract.

5. A copy of Major Dunlop-Smith's memorandum, embodying the results of the Karauli tour, to which I alluded in my report for February, was forwarded to Government with my letter No. 1502 F., dated the 29th March 1900.

No. 204.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1826-F., dated Abu, the 17th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1251-F., dated the 16th March 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement and Report* of the Dholpur State for the month of March 1900.

2. There has been little change in the condition of the people or the cattle during the past month. No relief works have yet been opened, and there seems little probability of the necessity arising for a general scheme of gratuitous relief before the coming monsoon. The outbreak of cattle disease which was reported last month has not yet been finally stamped out. It is not explained what steps were taken with that object, but the mortality from the epidemic was diminishing towards the close of the month.

3. Nothing is said as to the prospects of the harvest now being reaped, but, except where the recent hailstorm has ruined the standing crops, the outturn of grain is sure to be good. The straw also is likely to be heavier in bulk than in any part of the province. This is important in view of the remark in the Darbar's report that fodder is scarce. The excellent rabi prospects probably account for the stoppage of the import trade. Last month this was described as brisk. The downward tendency of prices noticed in February has been maintained.

4. It will be noticed that it has been decided to open work in the "Dang" or hilly tract as soon as threshing operations are over. This will take the form of well sinking, and will probably supply all the relief that is required until the arrival of the rains. Briefly, therefore, there has been no distress up to date, and any that might occur during the next three months has been effectually discounted by the measures about to be taken in hand.

5. A copy of the Famine Commissioner's report on Dholpur, referred to in my letter cited above was forwarded to your address with my letter No. 1556 F., dated the 2nd April 1900.

No. 205.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1856 F., dated Abu, the 18th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1223 F., dated the 15th March 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement and the Report* of the Bharatpur State for the month of March 1900.

* Not printed.

2. The following table shows the numbers on relief works and in receipt of gratuitous relief for each month since November last. There has been a marked fall of 21% in the numbers on relief works this month. The fact is not commented upon in the enclosures to this letter, but no doubt the great majority of those who have left the works have been employed on harvesting operations. The current month will probably show a marked increase. Three-quarters of the workers are paid at contract rates. These vary, but are everywhere lower than those paid in an ordinary year, and the fall in numbers is a clear proof of the superior attractiveness of the harvest wages.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November 1899	8,000	700	8,700	1.36
December ,,	12,298	973	13,271	2.07
January 1900	10,288	1,332	11,620	1.81
February ,,	10,816	943	11,759	1.64
March ,,	8,546	1,019	9,565	1.50

The scale of wages given in paragraph 3 of the remarks appended to the statement is obviously that on which the 2,224 persons are paid who are employed on merely nominal tasks, such as clod-breaking. These are the weakling gangs. This scale, generous as it is, appears to have been reduced during the month. There are now no petty works in progress.

3. The harvest now being reaped has had no effect on the condition of the infirm and helpless poor. The numbers of this class in receipt of gratuitous relief have slightly risen. No details of the numbers receiving assistance from the separate branches have been given, so that it is impossible to use the figures showing the expenditure as a check on the average daily ration. According to the last sentence of paragraph 2 (a) of the remarks, the daily cost of feeding each inmate in the three State poor-houses is 5.6 pies, but there is nothing to show whether the numbers on the last day of the month are at all representative of the monthly average. The report that there is no sickness in the poor-house should not be taken literally.

4. The prices of all the staples for which quotations are given have fallen except in the case of jowar. Wheat, gram, and barley have fallen by 7 per cent., 4 per cent., and 19 per cent. respectively, and are not likely to rise again for some few weeks.

5. The accounts given of the rabi harvest are not very full, but it may be assumed that the general result will be a ten-anna crop compared with that of a normal year. It will vary from six annas in some of the northern villages to 14 annas in the villages to the south. The harvest will be a better one than in Alwar, though not so good as in Dholpur. The hailstorm of the 20th March entered from the west and struck across the State to the north of Dig. As Bharatpur is not so broad as Alwar, the area affected was fortunately smaller, but about 55 villages seem to have suffered damage.

Unfortunately the tract visited was the one least able to afford any diminution of their harvest.

No. 206.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1836 F., dated Abu, the 18th April 1900.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with Captain Daly's letter No. 1004 I.-A., dated the 24th February 1900, I have the honour to enclose a

copy of a letter,* which contains an application from the Kotah Darbar for a loan from the Government of India at 4 per cent. interest amounting to Rs.15,25,000, in addition to the advance of 1½ lakhs already sanctioned.

2. In the Deputy Secretary's letter quoted above, it was stated that the facts before the Government of India did not warrant the anticipation that the total expenditure on famine relief operations would exceed Rs.1,75,000. The correspondence now forwarded shows that the total expenditure caused by the famine has risen to Rs.2,57,582 on the 31st March. Thus by that date the advance granted by the Government of India for the whole period of the famine had already been exceeded by nearly one-half, while at the same time relief operations were steadily expanding.

3. The State of Kotah is peculiarly situated. Until this year famine has been practically unknown to it in modern times. When the failure of the monsoon of 1899 reduced the yield of the kharif harvest by approximately five-sixths, and the distress in Western Rajputana flooded the forest and grass lands of the State with an unprecedented number of people and cattle, neither the administration nor the people were equal to the emergency. The latter have never acquired the habit of husbanding either grain or fodder.

4. What stores of grain existed in the country appear to have been held by few large capitalists, who were quick to take advantage of the high prices by exporting all that they could command. In the month of August the net exports were nearly treble, and in September nearly double the monthly average in ordinary years. To such an extent were local stocks depleted by these operations that, in the month of January last, exports had fallen to one hundredth of the normal, while the imports ten times the average. When the Famine Commissioner visited Kotah in February, he found that the agriculturists were left without any reserve of grain, that the village banias were either unable or disinclined to help them, and that numbers had been reduced to selling to outsiders the dry jowar stalks which should have been kept for their own cattle. It was evident that distress had developed with unusual rapidity, and would be fairly general by the beginning of the hot weather.

5. The following table shows the expansion of relief operations since these were first begun in October 1899 :—

Month.	Numbers on relief.	Increase.		Percentage on total population.
		Actual.	Per cent	
November, 1899	2,500	—	—	·3
December, „	6,648	4,148	165	·9
January, 1900	17,794	11,146	167	2·1
February, „	25,284	7,490	40	3·5
March, „	31,324	6,070	23	4·3

In drawing deductions from these figures, it must be remembered that from the beginning of November the authorities have been regularly collecting destitute immigrants and drafting them to their parent States. From one collecting depot alone, 2,383 persons were returned to their homes in December. In addition to this process of deportation the authorities, until my visit to Kotah with the Famine Commissioner in February last, had steadily discouraged the admission of foreigners to their works. As pointed out in Major Fagan's letter the Darbar have freely responded to the suggestion to adopt a more generous policy, and large numbers of destitute residents of the Western States are now relieved on the Kotah works and in the Kotah poor-houses. Some of these would have tried to struggle back to the west, many dying on the road,

and others would have swelled the numbers on relief in Ajmer-Merwara. Kotah is the only State in which I noticed a large poor-house divided into separate wards for the subjects of the different States, each ward having a label with the name of the State whose subjects it held.

6. It is not easy to frame an accurate forecast of the extent of the demand for help in Kotah until the close of the famine, especially as large numbers of the lower castes have till lately been maintaining themselves and their families by work in the fields.

But the harvest is now practically gathered, and there is certain to be a brisk rise in the numbers requiring relief in April and the beginning of May. Returning wanderers from other States will contribute to this increase, and will require special treatment when the rains arrive. In a previous report from the Political Agent (forwarded to you under cover of my letter No. 895 F., dated 8th February) the cost of relief was based on the estimate that each person on relief works received 16 chittacks per day and each person on gratuitous relief 10, the price of grain being taken as ten seers per rupee. Assuming the numbers on works to be double those on other relief, twelve persons are relieved daily for one rupee. This does not include the cost of extra establishment, and, according to the latest quotations from Kotah, the selling rate of the cheapest grain was $8\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee. Even, however, if the Political Agent's estimate be accepted, Rs.3,20,250 would be required to feed 31,500 persons (the total of March) till the end of July. The average number demanding relief will, however, assuredly be much higher, and may be estimated at 50,000. Their support for the same period will cost over five lakhs of rupees. This does not include the cost of extra establishment, tools, &c.

7. Hitherto the mortality among the cattle has been comparatively slight, but the grazing is exhausted over the larger part of the country, and there will be increasing distress among the cattle during the hot weather. There will also be a universal demand for money to purchase seed-grain. It may be assumed that the State, if they accept their responsibilities, should issue at least one lakh of rupees in taccavi loans to agriculturists. This item of expenditure has not been alluded to by the Political Agent.

8. Under the circumstances, therefore, I am of opinion that, if the Darbar is to carry out relief measures at all commensurate with the extent and nature of distress prevailing and anticipated, they will require a loan of at least six lakhs in addition to the advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs already drawn. They could no doubt raise this sum in the open market, but the rate of interest charged would be exorbitant, and to avoid this the Darbar would probably contract its relief operations too closely for humanity or safety. I trust, therefore, that the Government of India will see fit to advance the amount, in which case I believe that it will not be necessary to make any further application for Kotah.

9. A statement of the advances so far sanctioned by Government is appended, in continuation of that forwarded with my letter No. 895 F., dated 8th February 1900. It will be seen that the total is Rs.49,18,666-10-8, excluding the grant of 6 lakhs now applied for, as against the sum of fifty lakhs of rupees indicated in Mr. Barnes's letter No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October 1899, as a preliminary estimate of allotments under this head to the province of Rajputana.

10. I would observe, in conclusion, the numbers actually being relieved at any particular time in a Native State is by no means a safe test of the numbers requiring or demanding relief at that time.

There is no doubt that many Native States both in Rajputana and elsewhere limit the relief they afford by the funds actually at their disposal; and in Bundi, Tonk, Mewar, and Kotah the numbers would be far larger than those returned, were more ample funds available. The provision of funds in the opinion of the Darbar should precede relief as it does in British India. If they are not forthcoming from one source or another, relief operations are restricted accordingly, and the numbers assisted are unduly low. A useful guide in this respect (even allowing for emigration) is afforded by the British

district of Ajmer-Merwara, where 21.6 per cent. of the population is being relieved, although distress is probably not more severe than in some of the adjacent Native States where the percentage varies from 2 to 10.

Loans to Native States.

State or District.	Application.	Recommended by the Agent to the Governor General.	Sanctioned by the Government of India.	Remarks.
	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	
Marwar	36,00,000	30,00,000	30,00,000	
Sirohi	2,00,000	2,00,000	2,00,000	
Jaisalmer	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Dungarpur	1,00,000	1,00,000	50,000	Balance under consideration of Government.
Lawa	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Tonk	15,00,000	8 to 10 lakhs	3,00,000	Ditto.
Bundi	4,00,000	4,00,000	2,43,666-10-8	Ditto.
Kotah	17,00,000	3,50,000	1,75,000	
Shahpura	1,50,000	1,50,000	50,000	Ditto.
Bharatpur	9,00,000	Not recommended.		
Mewar	5,00,000	5,00,000	5,00,000	
Hilly Tracts	1,28,700	1,28,700	1,20,000	
Partabgarh	2,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	
Kishangarh	1,50,000	1,50,000	1,10,000	Ditto.
	95,98,700	59,48,700 to 61,48,700	49,18,666-10-8	

No. 207.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1871 F, dated Abu, the 19th April 1900.

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter No. 1808 F., dated the 14th April 1900, I have the honour to forward, for information of the Government of India, a copy of the letters* (with enclosures, in original) received from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, on the subject of the heavy mortality which has recently occurred in the famine camps at Dhanlera and Bankli in the Marwar State.

2. Colonel Wyllie's letter, No. 239 G., of 7th April 1900, reports the enquiries made to ascertain the cause of the high death-rate prevailing in the camps. It seems clear that the mortality is confined chiefly to the recent arrivals, and among them to those past the prime of life.

These people suffer much privation in their wanderings, and when they* come at length for relief they have no reserve energy to withstand even the first attack of illness.

* No. 239 G., dated 7th April 1900; No. 249 G., dated 11th April 1900.

3. Captain J. W. Grant, I.M.S., who has personally inspected the famine camps, testifies to the sufficiency of the rations which, although lower than the scale obtaining on British provinces, appear to be adequate.

4. In his second letter the Resident describes the measures which have been adopted to prevent the spread of cholera which has appeared in several places in Marwar. These arrangements, undertaken in consultation with the Administrative Medical Officer, appear to meet immediate requirements. The services of more Hospital Assistants are, however, imperatively necessary for medical supervision, and, with reference to your telegram No. 1474 I.-A., dated 2nd April 1900, I have the honour to express the hope that it may be possible to send some at least at an early date.

Enclosure 1 in No. 207.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 239 G., dated the 7th April 1900.

With reference to paragraph 3 of my Famine Report on the Marwar State for March last, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of the correspondence which has passed on the subject of the heavy mortality which has recently occurred in the famine camps at Dhanlera and Bankli, where relief works are in progress under the direction of Mr. W. Home, the State Engineer.

2. I also append an interesting note on the subject by Rao Bahadur Pandit Sukhdeo Parshad, whose statements in regard to the famine wage and the expenditure of the famine labourers are based on information collected on the spot, and the general accuracy of which I see no reason to question.

Lastly, a return is submitted from the figures, latest to hand, showing the numbers of people in the famine camps at Dhanlera and Bankli on the 25th March, the numbers of new admissions between the 13th February and the end of March, the numbers of departures and the death-rate per diem.

3. The first question, which naturally arose in connection with the high death-rate, was the sufficiency of the famine ration which has been fixed at a lower scale than that in force in Bombay, the Punjab, the North-West and Central Provinces.

I, therefore, particularly directed medical attention to this point, and Captain Grant's report, I think, conclusively shows that the food ration is not in fault.

The water supply, of which I also had my doubts, is likewise cleared from suspicion.

If Captain Grant's views are correct (and he has spared no pains in making his enquiries), the large death-rate is chiefly due to starvation the sufferers have endured before coming on the relief works, and for which there is unfortunately now no remedy.

4. In order, as far as possible, to protect the old and infirm who, in some instances Captain Grant thinks, may be the victims of the greed of their relatives, kitchens will be established to provide them with cooked food, and they will be kept in a separate camp.

Experience, however, shows that the breaking up of families is accepted with the strongest reluctance, even by those for whose benefit it is intended. It is possible, therefore, that the experiment, with an untrained staff and a wholly inadequate number of Hospital Assistants, may not answer.

It is much to be regretted that more medical subordinates are not to be obtained, and especially so, now that cholera has appeared at four or five places in Marwar, but Colonel Adams tell me that his applications to Calcutta and other places have met with no success.

5. Pandit Sukhdeo Parshad's statement shows that the labourers on the works at Dhanlera and Bankli contrive to save money out of their scanty pitance, a fact which I had previously heard from Captain Bremner, R.E.

Enclosure 2 in No. 207.

Letter from the Manager, Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. W.-14-11816, dated Jodhpur, the 27th March 1900.

I have the honour to inform you that it is reported to me that sickness is increasing to an alarming extent at Dhanlera, where the daily number of deaths is now about 60 in a total population of about 30,000. I understand that the deaths occur mostly among the late arrivals who are weak and emaciated, but as similar people are joining other works without apparently so high a mortality, it would seem that there must be some special reason for the sickness at Dhanlera.

I have stopped sending away more people there, and, as we can find room, will remove some of the present workers. The overseer in charge of the work says that many deaths occur from neglect, improper food, and want of medicine in the case of people living in their huts, who do not go to hospital owing to prejudice or objection to leaving their relatives. The Hospital Assistant has, of course, no time to go about the works, and the overseer suggests that it might be advisable to post a second Hospital Assistant at Dhanlera to go about among the people, find out, treat and give advice to cases that do not go to hospital.

The proposal seems to me to be sound, and two Hospital Assistants to an unhealthy population of 30,000 persons does not seem an unreasonably large establishment.

Enclosure 3 in No. 207.

Letter from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Residency Surgeon, Western Rajputana States, No. 1583, dated the 28th March 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for your information (and favour of return), a letter of the 27th March 1900, from the Manager, Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, reporting that sickness to an alarming extent prevails on the relief works at Dhanlera, and suggesting that, if possible, a second Hospital Assistant should be sent there.

2. I trust that the suggestion, which commends itself to me, may meet with your approval, and that you may be able to give effect to it at once.

3. It appears to me at the same time very desirable that the cause of the sickness should be ascertained and, if possible, removed.

The two points specially calling for inquiry are the sufficiency of the famine ration and the quality of the drinking water.

Presumably the Hospital Assistant in charge of the Hospital at Dhanlera visits the bazar, examines from time to time the grain sold by the banias, and sees that it is not unwholesome.

4. I shall be glad to hear, as soon as may be, your own and Captain Grant's views in the matter.

Enclosure 4 in No. 207.

Letter from the Residency Surgeon, Western Rajputana States, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 896, dated the 29th March, 1900.

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, I have the honour to inform you that Hospital Assistants have been ordered to take charge of the famine camps at Rohera and Chandela.

Endorsement No. 1478, dated the 23rd March, 1900.
 Letter No. 1583, dated the 28th March, 1900, with an enclosure, which is returned herewith.
 Letter No. 1586, dated the 28th March, 1900.

It is impossible to get the number of Hospital Assistants required, and I am now endeavouring to obtain Assistant Surgeons on Rs. 200 a month for the large camps.

One medical subordinate should be sufficient for any camp if the sick were collected by the executive and placed in hospital for treatment, and without some organization of this sort, the much over-taxed Medical Department will not be able to cope with the extraordinary calls on it.

Enclosure 5 in No. 207.

Letter, from the Resident, Western Rajputana States, to the Medical Officer on Famine Duty, Marwar, No. 1744, dated the 4th April, 1900.

I have the honour to enclose, for your perusal, copy of a letter I lately addressed to the Residency Surgeon, regarding the heavy mortality among famine-stricken people at Dhanlera, and which I regret to add is now apparent at Bankli.

2. In his letter No. 896 of the 29th March, acknowledging the receipt of my letter, Colonel Adams has not answered the questions to which I invited attention, and, as you have recently visited Dholera and enquired into the causes of the prevailing sickness, I shall be much obliged if you will be good enough to report fully on the subject.

3. From the Darbar returns the health of the people at Dhanlera was good up to the 14th February. Since then the mortality appears to have been never under 30 a day and to have risen as high as 77.

The total number of deaths between the 23rd February and the 25th March was 1,719.

These figures are so high as certainly to attract the attention of the Government of India and the Agent to the Governor-General, and it is necessary that some explanation should be given.

4. The health at Bankli was good up to the 27th March, when the death-rate suddenly rose to 30 and 40 a day, and I believe has not yet diminished.

I cannot help thinking that there may be preventable causes which it is our duty to ascertain and remedy.

5. I take this opportunity of thanking you for your untiring efforts during the last few days to check the outbreaks of cholera at Marwar Junction and Jagrawas.

It is satisfactory to understand that they have been attended with success.

Enclosure 6.in No. 207.

Letter from Captain J. W. Grant, I.M.S., on Famine Duty, Marwar, to the Resident, Western Rajputana States, No. 22 C., dated the 4th April, 1900.

In reply to your No. 1744, dated the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have just returned from Dholera, where I carefully investigated the high death-rate which prevails on that work.

The great majority (I should say five-sixths) of the deaths occurs among persons who have come recently on to the works, and of them chiefly in people past the prime of life. I gave particular attention to the food and water-supply, and am fully satisfied that to neither of these is the high mortality attributable.

The water-supply is obtained from wells near the bund. Some are quite sweet. One large well said to be the most brackish is close to the village. I have tasted its water, and find it not nearly so salt as what I have seen used elsewhere with no bad result. Besides, most of the people who use this well have been on the work for months, and such people are fit and healthy on all the works.

Now, as regards the food-supply, the quality is good. The banias' shops are inspected by the Hospital Assistant, and by me at my visits. The quantity of the ration (12 chittacks) is more than sufficient to maintain unimpaired the physique of those among whom the great majority of the fatalities occurs. "Nother and Firth" (the Standard English work on Public Health) gives 18.13 ounces, the equivalent of 9.06 chittacks of water-free solids, as the quantity of food required for an old man—a European, who is used to a less abstemious diet than the people of this State. Deducting one-seventh for water, twelve chittacks leave 10.28 of water-free solids; that is, each man is paid sufficient to buy himself 1.22 chittacks (water-free) over and above the amount required for the maintenance of his health. Again, if the ration were insufficient, it would show itself first among adults, who require a larger amount of food. But as I have pointed out to you in my monthly reports, these are fit and healthy and their physique good, except in the case of wanderers who have not been long on the works.

Now, as to the causes of this high mortality, it prevails only on two works—Bankli and Dholera. On the Bara Railway work at Kharla, Balotra, Janiana, and at Pali, where the pay is the same, the people are fit and the death-rate is small. At Pali about two-thirds of these on task work, whom I weigh monthly, have gone up in weight. The cause of the better health at these places is to be found in the fact that the works were filled up about the end of December, and the refugees, who returned from Central India in January and February, were sent to Bankli and Dholera. Many of these refugees, who have wandered about for months, have got into a state of malnutrition from which there is no recovery, no matter how they are dieted. Large numbers are to be seen with swollen feet. They are weak and debilitated, but suffer from no acute illness. Some receive their pay at night, eat a full meal, and die from heart failure before morning; others are carried off by the onset of an acute attack of diarrhoea, dysentery, or fever. They have no reserve energy to withstand acute illness. Little can be done for such people. They will not go to hospital, and their relatives do not wish that they should. The able-bodied members of a family do not show much filial devotion to their aged relatives, and, as the latter are paid more than sufficient to buy the amount of food that they eat, they are a source of gain.

To put it briefly, the high mortality at the two above-named places occurs among old persons, who have suffered much privation, been wandering about for months, and have got into such a state of malnutrition (fatty degeneration of the lining membrane of the intestinal tract), that they are unable to absorb nutriment from the food which they eat. Death results from a process of slow starvation, usually accelerated at the last by some acute attack of diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, or even dyspepsia.

Enclosure 7 in No. 207.

Note by Pandit Sukhdeo Parshad.

When the death-rates begin to rise, the sufficiency of the rations is naturally the first point worthy of consideration.

In the beginning, wages were fixed when grain was dearer than it is now, and allowed to run even after prices fell. The attention of the Darbar was drawn to the expediency of reducing them.

The wages were reduced, and the ration they purchased fell short of the Code rations.

This fact was noticed by the higher authorities, and if assurances were not sought, at least watchfulness was enjoined to insure their adequacy.

The scale of rations, according to our revised rates, did not deviate more than 25 per cent.—a range which is left by the Famine Commission to the discretion of the local authorities.

The present serious mortality renders it imperative, under the circumstances, to gauge the soundness of our rates.

If the people on the works are utilising all the money they get, and were still dying in considerable numbers, one of the natural inferences would be that the wages were not enough to procure sufficient grain to sustain them. But when it is found that nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the wages are pocketed, the scale cannot, in fairness, be assailed.

No of days	Name of work.	Amount disbursed in wages.	Amount spent in purchasing grain.	Savings effected.	Percentage of savings.	Average minimum weight of grain each man is entitled to under the ration scale.	Average wage earned in grain by each.	Average weight of grain actually purchased for consumption by each.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Chittacks	Chittacks	Chittacks.
15	Dholera	38,090	21,553	16,547	43.3	9.8	11.75	5.3
24	Bankli .. .	36,175	27,005	9,873	26.8	9.7	11	6.2
21	Bara-Marwar Railway	13,447	9,485	3,962	29.4	10.2	10.8	5.8

These figures for March show that the people* on famine labour do save a considerable portion of their earnings—a course to which they would not have resorted if there was no margin in the wages.

At Bankli, the people have least evinced this saving tendency, and still the death rate has gone up—a circumstance which leads one to believe that under-feeding is not the cause, and this view is further strengthened by the fact that at Bara, where people have been feeding themselves on a lower scale, the death-rate has not risen.

Periodical weighments made by Dr. Grant also show that in some cases the people's weight has increased, and it was mostly in those cases in which improvement was hopeless that the weight has diminished.

When we view all these facts side by side with the general appearance of the relief workers, the sufficiency of the wages does not appear to be questionable.

* Including men, women, and children actually labouring (not dependents).

Name of work.	Number of days for which data are available.	Percentage of grain bought.						Average wage earned per head.
		Wheat.	Grain.	Jowar.	Makki.	Rice.	Others.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dhanlera ...	15	47.3	16.3	—	—	9.6	26.8	11.75
Bankli ...	24	49.5	—	8.5	15.5	—	26.5	11.0
Baran ...	21	36.8	—	13.1	15.2	—	34.9	10.8
Janiana ...	3	15.3	—	42.6	23.8	—	18.3	9.6

Although data are not available for a full month, still the above gives a fair idea of the grains consumed.

Wheat, though dearer, is chiefly in demand, next comes makki and jowar.

The death-rate is lower at Baran, and there the variety in diet is more marked, as the percentage of other grains consumed is 34.9 against 26 and 18 on other works.

A glance at column 9 will show that, at Janiana, the average per head being nearly 2, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ pies less than at Dholera and Bankli; wheat is sparingly used because it is dearer. This shows that, when wages are ample, better grain is bought. On Bara, the average wage received per head is 1 anna 1 pie, and less wheat is consumed there than that at Dholera and Bankli.

No.	Name of work.	Average wage earned per head.		Average minimum weight of grain each labourer is entitled to under the ration scale.	Excess of column 4 over 5
		in annas	in grain.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Dholera ...	1.3.7	Chittacks. 11.75	Chittacks. 9.8	1.95
2	Bankli ...	1.2.5	11	9.7	1.3
3	Baran ...	1.1	10.8	10.2	.6

Sometimes it may strike casual observers that on our relief works the lowest wage rates are mostly paid, and that a tendency to do harder work is checked by no higher wages being obtainable on account of the severe standard of the task imposed; a glance at the figures will show that such is not the case, as the people have earned on an average more than their subsistence wages, although it is to be regretted that they have not taken advantage of this extra money in supplementing their diet.

[Statements not printed.]

NOTE BY RESIDENT.—The scale of task work is everywhere extremely light, and the medium wages could be earned without difficulty. (Sd.) W. H. C. WYLLIE,
Lieut.-Col., Resident.

No. 208.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1882 F., dated Abu, the 22nd April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1285 F., dated the 17th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Report, with map, of the Bikaner State for the month of March 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 1094, dated 14th April, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief during the last six months. The workers have fallen off since February by 10 per cent., and those on gratuitous relief by over one-quarter, so that the total numbers on relief have declined by over 14 per cent. The cause of these fluctuations is said to be the emigration of large numbers of people to the canal-irrigated tracts across the Punjab border, where they find employment on the rabi harvest. This is no doubt true with regard to the workers. The three works which show a marked decrease are the Palana Railway, and the tanks at Sohawa and Churu. From the figures given in paragraph 2 of the Political Agent's letter, it seems likely that 4,000 of the 5,000 who left the railway have been drafted on to the new work at Chhapar, the majority of the remainder having joined the railway camp at Mahajan. In the remarks appended to the statement, it is said that, when the Sohawa and Churu camps were closed, the people were transferred to other works. But these two places are within measurable distance of the rich tracts round Hansi which are watered by the Western Jamna canal, and it is probable that most of the people have migrated in that direction.

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
October 1899... ..	15,852	3,507	19,359	2.32
November 1899	23,007	5,848	28,855	3.46
December 1899	27,600	7,263	34,863	4.19
January 1900	27,264	7,546	34,810	4.18
February 1900	30,043	8,163	38,206	4.59
March 1900	62,843	9,561	32,804	3.94

3. The reduction of 2,200 people on the gratuitous lists cannot be explained so easily. It is not likely that many of the able-bodied people took their dependents with them. A more probable explanation is that large numbers left within a very few days of each other just before the close of the month, thus disorganising the classification and ganging, and when the new lists were prepared the numbers of workers and dependents became confused.

4. The reasons for the increase in expenditure are given in paragraph 3 of the Political Agent's letter. I would add that March contains three more days than February, and that as the statistics show only the numbers on relief on the last day of each month, and the exodus probably took place during the closing week of the month, it is quite possible that the daily average attendance was higher in March than in February.

5. The general health of the people is reported to be good, but there is an unusual amount of sickness on the Palana Railway works. Fortunately these camps are within easy reach of medical aid. Cholera does not seem to have invaded the State as yet. The scale of rations is low compared with that of the grain equivalents of cash wages in British territory, but no falling off in condition is reported. Importation of food-grains goes on freely, and prices

are falling. It is said that increased prices are demanded for water-supply, which is evidently contracting in the various famine camps as the heat intensifies.

6. The Darbar and the State officials have subscribed liberally from their private resources to the charitable fund. The relief administration remains both adequate and efficient.

No. 209.

Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1883-F., dated Abu, 22nd April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 12 3-F., dated the 13th March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statement of the Mewar State for the month of March 1900, together with the Resident's covering letter, No. 297, dated 13th April, 1900, and a map of the State.

2. The following table gives the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief during the last six months. There has been a distinct falling off under both heads since February, and the grand total shows a decrease of 10½ per cent. The remarks attached to the statement contain no explanation. The Resident states that, in the absence of detailed figures under the different heads, he is unable to assign any particular reason for these fluctuations. He suggests that one cause may be the compulsory transfer from the Khalsa works of residents of Jagir villages to their own homes. This is probably correct, but the recent harvest operations in some parts of the State and the ripening of the Mohwa blossoms have also doubtless exercised some effect on the general situation. The Resident, moreover, attributes the decrease which has taken place in the numbers on relief in the Khalsa hilly tracts of Mewar to the poor scale of wages and the actual deficiency of grain :—

Months.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Per cent.
October 1899	10,587	2,534	13,121	·72
November 1899	15,306	6,242	21,548	1·19
December 1899	23,876	11,112	34,988	1·94
January 1900	73,092	13,527	86,619	4·81
February 1900	99,201	22,710	1,21,911	6·77
March 1900	90,588	18,290	1,08,878	6·04

3. Colonel Thornton has given an interesting account of the present situation in Mewar, and the existing relief organization, and the measures which either have been or should be introduced for its improvement. His letter forms the first comprehensive Famine Report which has been furnished from the Residency office since the monsoon of 1899 failed. For the purposes of his examination he has divided the more severely affected areas of the State into three main tracts, viz. :—

- (1) The Deogarh, Bednore and other Jagirs in the north-west.
- (2) The Khalsa districts in the east, centre and south, including the Khalsa Bhil tracts.
- (3) The Jagir estates of Salumbar and others in the south-east.

As regards the remaining portions of the State, it may be assumed, pending the receipt of an estimate of the rabi harvest and of the probable requirements in the way of loans for the purchase of seed and cattle which I have asked Resident to notice in the next monthly report, that they will be able to dispense with any expansion of the existing relief measures. These are chiefly confined to poor-houses and petty village works.

4. The first division of the famine area comprises the Deogarh and Bednore Thakurates and the other small Jagir estates to the north and north-west of Mewar. It will be remembered that the invasion of Merwara by destitute Mewaris assumed such proportions at the end of last year that the Darbar reluctantly yielded to the strong pressure which was brought to bear upon it, and opened works at its own cost in this area, despite the fact that no terms had been settled for the recovery of the money so expended. The works, which carried nearly 50,000 persons, were put in charge of the Manager of the local railway line, but ill-health has recently forced Mr. Lillie to take furlough. The Darbar declined to allow his successor, Mr. Baines, to take his place in regard to the relief operations, and it is not stated to whom their care has been entrusted. Probably, however, it is Mr. Williams, the head of the State Public Works Department, who was formerly associated with Mr. Lillie in their management; and Lieutenant Pinney, I.S.C., has been directed to pay them periodical visits of inspection. The relief hitherto given appears to have been more or less effective, as there has been no second attempt on a large scale to cross the border into British territory. The Resident therefore reports that this tract is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

5. The second, or Khalsa, division includes five districts in the east and centre of the State, one district in the north-west, and the Khalsa part of the hilly tracts in the south known as the Magra. These six districts are mostly in the plains. The accounts of their condition are less hopeful. Hura and Bhilwara receive a substantial measure of relief from the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway earthworks which stretch east and west from the main camp at Lambia. The Resident considers that in Sairan and Kumalgarh the chance of any sudden crisis being developed is minimised by the regular trade in wood and charcoal which, supplemented by the sanctioned irrigation works, supports large numbers of the poorer classes. There are, however, indications that the Kumalgarh people at least are seeking employment on the Ajmer works. Mandalgarh and Jehazpur in the extreme north-east of the State certainly call for further attention. Not only is the famine in these two districts of a pronounced type, but the latter is one of the objective points for Mewari wanderers on their return from Central India. In Jehazpur also the local officials, trusting no doubt to the distance of the district from the capital, have proved wanting. The Resident has urged the Darbar to start work on the two additional railway projects which have been sanctioned in this direction, viz., the link between Kekri and Jehazpur, and the Udaipur section of the Tonk-Jehazpur line. But they have so far declined on the ground that these lines are not likely to prove remunerative, and the people of these parts are therefore protected only by the work on the Jehazpur section of the Kotah-Marwar Junction line. The Darbar have expressed their willingness to open more irrigation works if found necessary. Colonel Thornton points out the advisability of securing the opinion of a competent engineer on these projects, but there can be little question that the condition of the country would be permanently improved by a wise development of the capabilities which it appears to possess in this direction.

6. The Resident takes a more hopeful view of the situation in the Magra Bhil tract in the south than previous reports have warranted. He considers that the main requisite now is to provide for a steady and sufficient supply of food grains. Famine wages have been raised recently, and Lieutenant Pinney is now on tour in this tract with a view to improving the organization as noted in the last paragraph of my report for February. Colonel Thornton is doubtless correct in his belief that the efforts of the Darbar to alleviate distress in the Magra have been honest, and that the failure has been chiefly due to the

inefficient staff. But I fear there can be little question that this tract is severely afflicted. The failure of the monsoon has been as complete and the consequent injury to agriculture and the resources of the country as disastrous as in almost any part of Rajpūtāna; while the character and habits of the people make them at once less submissive to misfortune and less amenable to discipline than the other castes and tribes in Mewar.

7. The third and last division is made up of the large Jagir estates in the south-east. The traditional relations between the Darbar and its leading Thakurs have in no way been improved by the complications arising from the present famine. Hitherto all efforts have failed to bring about a common understanding as to the character and scale of relief measures in the Jagir area, and the terms for obtaining the loans without which effective action is impossible. The result has been that with hardly an exception the Jagirdars have confined their relief arrangements to the time-honoured practice of distributing grain doles. The Resident has been able to give no estimate of the extent of distress in this part of Mewar, but the suffering among the lower classes of the community is unquestionably acute. The Darbar now proposes to give the Jagirdars the pecuniary assistance they require in one of two ways. They will either guarantee the repayment of any loans that the Jagirdars may raise in the market for famine purposes, or will advance money direct. In the former case the Darbar will have the power of taking over certain villages should the Darbar become liable owing to default on the part of the Jagirdar. In the latter the Darbar will itself advance the required funds, and will, before doing so, take over a village or villages as security for repayment.

8. The Darbar has always held out for these terms, but the Jagirdars have refused to surrender any village as a guarantee at the outset, although they profess themselves willing to do so as soon as they fail to repay by a specified date any of the fixed instalments. The Resident supports the Maharana in this matter, and considers that pressure should be brought upon the Jagirdars to make them accept the terms. I agree with him in the opinion that, having regard to past experience, the terms are not unreasonable. Allowing, however, all weight to the admitted tendency of the Mewar Thakurs to dissociate themselves from the central authority of the State, the traditional conditions attaching to loan transactions of this kind in the east, and the necessity for a more comprehensive and better organised system of relief in these Jagir tracts, I am not prepared to recommend that the Government of India should authorise the Resident to intervene more actively in regard to these arrangements than by strongly advising the Jagirdars to accept the conditions preferred.

It appears to me of the first importance to resist the tendency of an incidental occurrence, such as the present famine, to interrupt our fixed policy towards the larger native states like Mewar, or to disturb more than is inevitable the relations which we have steadily endeavoured to cultivate with them from any wish to assimilate their famine arrangements to those which are thought proper, and can be effectually carried out in a British district. Whatever pressure, therefore, is required should, in my opinion, be brought by the Maharana himself, who has authorised Lieutenant Pinney, accompanied by another Darbar officer, to visit the headquarters of the different Thakurates, and to make the necessary arrangements for as effective a system of relief as circumstances and the lack of a competent establishment will allow.

9. In the seventh paragraph of his letter the Resident refers to the absence of effective supervision in remote tracts, and his abortive attempts to induce the Darbar to accept the services of another European officer. The necessity for such an addition to the supervising agency is undoubted, especially since Mr. Lillie's departure on furlough has left practically only one officer for the work of active supervision. I will again impress upon the Darbar the desirability of strengthening his famine administration in this direction.

10. The Resident draws fresh attention to the difficulties that exist in bringing steady supplies of grain to the more remote corners of the State. He

attributes the partial paralysis of the import trade to the action pursued by the State of late years in prohibiting grain exports. The effect of this ill-advised policy has been accentuated by the undue inflation of local stores, which have held out much longer than they could otherwise have done. Another cause of the slackness of private trade is attributable to the large quantities of grain imported by the Darbar itself when prices first rose to a high level in the beginning of the cold weather of 1899-1900. This grain was retailed at practically cost price to all who chose to purchase. The local grain dealers thereupon closed their shops until a depreciated currency and a limited capital compelled the State to relinquish the competition. They soon recovered the monopoly of supply, and in self-defence, forced up the rates to a pitch unwarranted by the condition of the markets, thus affording another warning of the imprudence of State intervention in grain import unless coupled with the co-operation of the commercial classes, and unless the resale is strictly confined to the dealers.

11. Colonel Thornton has again enjoined upon the Darbar the necessity for organising transport trains in the less accessible parts of the country. The advantages of improving communications and enlisting available transport in the shape of camels and pack-bullocks were brought to the notice of the administration by the Famine Commissioner as far back as November, but no effective action was taken. A train of 550 camels has been started for conveying grain from the railway at Udaipur to the Dungarpur and Kherwara Bhil tracts.

12. The concluding portion of the Resident's letter is chiefly devoted to a discussion of the extent to which the recognised British Indian measures of relief can be carried out in the present condition of Mewar. He shows that the Darbar have neither the funds, experience, or machinery to enable them to introduce such a system as obtains in a regulation British district. He therefore concludes that except where railway and irrigation projects have been prepared by competent hands and have been effectively financed, gratuitous relief must for the present form the basis of the arrangements supplemented by assistance to the landowning and cultivating classes in the shape of loans for agricultural objects and the construction of wells and other petty works. Regarded from the advanced standpoint of famine administration in British Provinces, such conclusions appear at first sight retrogressive. But when it is remembered that Udaipur is at the Alpha of its famine relief experience; that its previous attempts to alleviate distress have been limited to a remission of the revenue demand, the prohibition of grain export, and the distribution here and there of raw grain in the market; that it is one of the poorest and most backward of all the States in India, with neither resources or executive to enable it, without courting insolvency, to establish an organisation upon Imperial lines as illustrated by the adjoining district of Ajmer-Merwara; and lastly, that the largest and richest part of its area is held by semi-independent obstructive chieftains, among whom the Maharana is still little more than *primus inter pares*, I am inclined to think that Colonel Thornton's view of the situation is on the whole correct, and that we must wait for a more advanced policy until the inevitable progress of another generation has placed Mewar in a better position to introduce Imperial famine methods. Unless, indeed, the sad experiences of the present famine have unfortunately destroyed the independence of the Mewaris and of their confrères in other Rajput States, they will revert contentedly at the next scarcity to their traditional practice of seeking asylum (now for the first time closed to them) in more favourable provinces, where their services are not unwelcome, and their cattle find ample sustenance till the time of stress is over. No greater misfortune could happen to Rajputana than that the sturdy spirit of self-help and independence handed down to its people by the hard experience of centuries should be enfeebled by any premature introduction of systems or methods, whether famine, settlement, or other, for which the country is neither desirous nor prepared.

Enclosure in No. 209.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, No. 297, dated Udaipur, the 13th April, 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the famine statement received from the Mewar Darbar for the month of March, 1900, together with the prescribed skeleton map in duplicate.

2. The numbers of persons on relief works, and of those in receipt of gratuitous relief, given in the above statement, when compared with the figures for the preceding month, indicate that there has been a falling off of 8,613 and 4,420 respectively. In the absence of details as to the distribution of the decreases, I am unable to criticise, with any degree of certainty, the explanations offered by the Darbar, but it is known that most of the 4,491 persons shown in the last return as being in receipt of gratuitous relief at the Fattah Sagar poor-house have now been either drafted to a relief work at Thur, some six miles from the capital, or have been made over to Jagirdars for transfer to relief works on the estates to which they belong. It is also proposed to take similar action with regard to the large number (shown at 6,472 in the last return) of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief at Daboke.

The above measures, though strongly recommended by me in view of the standing menace to the health of the city of Udaipur from the almost inevitable outbreak of epidemic disease, as the hot weather comes on, in these large insufficiently organized camps in its immediate vicinity, require careful and continued supervision, and the exercise of discretion on the part of the famine officials of the Darbar, in order to secure that substantial relief is given by the Jagirdars to the persons transferred to them from the Khalsa management. Special officers have been appointed by the Darbar to make local enquiries and apply due pressure on the Jagirdars with the above object, but the supervision of a superior official, if possible, an European, will be very necessary.

3. The falling off in the numbers on relief works in the Khalsa hilly tracts is large, and I am not prepared to accept the explanation offered that this is due to the attractions of the Mohwa crop as well founded. I believe that the true causes are to be found in the insufficient rate of wage actually paid with relation to its grain equivalent at the high prices ruling in this remote area, and to the want of sufficient arrangements to secure a permanent supply of food grain on or near the relief works, either for issue as a famine wage, or for purchase with the money wage, when payment is made in coin. This important matter has been pressed by me on the notice of the Darbar, and Lieutenant Pinney who is now on tour in this Khalsa hilly tract has been specially instructed to enquire closely into the facts of the case, and has been empowered to apply such remedies as may be immediately practicable. He will report fully to the Darbar in all cases where special action is required, or where expenditure in excess of the sanctioned allotments is involved. I may add that the total cost of the relief works in the Khalsa hilly tracts alone, and exclusive of gratuitous relief, the estimates of which have been sanctioned, amounts to rather over one lakh of rupees with an unexpended balance of some Rs. 76,000. The Hakim of the Magra, who is the officer held responsible by the Darbar for famine relief administration in his district, has further been directed to accompany Lieutenant Pinney throughout his tour, and to comply with his orders subject to the above restrictions.

3. (a.) The information given in the remarks which accompany the famine statement under review is so scanty that any useful criticism of the contents is difficult; the principal points, however, in connection with famine relief administration in Mewar to which my attention has been directed during the past month are:—

- (1.) The relative distribution of the incidence of famine pressure in the various administrative divisions of the State, and the reasonable sufficiency or otherwise of the relief actually provided and applied in each.

- (2.) Any other causes besides actual destitution which have tended to aggravate distress in individual districts and the remedies, partial or otherwise, which it is practically possible to apply.
- (3.) The improvement and extension of the system of famine relief as at present being carried out by the Darbar so as to obtain the best results possible without attempting to introduce reforms based on the more elaborate and rigid system successfully applied in British districts, but which a Native Government similar to the Mewar Darbar have neither the means to organise nor the educated perception to appreciate.
4. In order to assist me in arriving at a conclusion on the first of the above points, the Darbar have furnished me with a detailed statement accompanied by a skeleton map of the State, giving me the latest information available on the following points :—
- (a.) The exact amount sanctioned for each relief work (as shown in the programme of works and entered in the skeleton map which accompanies the monthly famine statement), the amount expended up to date, and the number of persons employed on each.
- (b.) The amount sanctioned for takavi advances for well sinking and similar petty works in each administrative division or several villages of such division. The amount actually disbursed up to date, and the estimated number of persons to whom substantial relief has been afforded by such advances.

I have also been furnished by Mr. Lillie, Manager (now on leave) of the State Railway, and in charge of the famine relief operations in the Deogarh and Bednore Jagir estates and their neighbourhood, with approximate figures of the amounts expended to date and balance on estimates of all relief works in his charge.

I have also the approximate figures of the estimate of cost and expenditure to date on the Mewar section of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway under Mr. Billings, Executive Engineer.

The statement furnished by the Darbar, I find on examination, includes a large number of ordinary works, some of which have been under construction by the State Public Works Department for a long time past, and on which the work, although carried on departmentally, has not been directly utilised or expanded for famine relief purposes. This is specially the case with works in progress in the City and Girwa (the suddar division). After excluding such of these items as appear to me to require it, I find that, in round numbers, a sum of nine lakhs of rupees in the local currency has been sanctioned for expenditure on relief works of all kinds (exclusive of gratuitous relief, the figures of which I have as yet been unable to obtain) in the Khalsa portion of the State and through direct Darbar agency, of which four lakhs have been expended to date, leaving five lakhs available for future requirements.

In the Deogarh and Bednore estates about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs local currency have been actually expended on famine relief works from funds advanced by the Darbar out of an estimated total cost of $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, leaving 2 lakhs available. Whilst on the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway construction relief works under the British Public Works Department 1 lakh of Government rupees, or approximately Rs. 1,64,000 in local currency, out of an estimated cost of Rs. 2,42,000 in Government, or Rs. 3,96,880 in local currency, have been expended, leaving Government Rs. 1,42,000 or Udaipuri Rs. 2,32,880 still available.

5. So far as my information goes, the areas in which the pressure of famine has been most severely felt are :

- (1.) The Deogarh and Bednore Jagirs, with other small estates under the same tenure in the neighbourhood, situate in the extreme north of the State.

- (2.) The Khalsa districts of Hura, Bhilwara, Jehazpur Mandalgarh, and Sairan in the east and centre, Kumalgarh in the north-west, and the Magra or Khalsa Bhil tract in the south.
- (3.) The Jagir estates of Salambar, Bhinder, Sadri Kanor, and Korabar in the south-east.

The present position as regards the above areas is, judging from such information as I have been able to obtain, as follows:—

- (a.) Deogarh and Bednore, with their neighbourhood, are in a fairly satisfactory condition, but require inspection by an European officer, since, owing to Mr. Lillie's break-down in health, he was unable to pay any visits of inspection during February and March. It is proposed that Mr. Pinney should visit these works on the conclusion of his present tour.
- (b.) Hura and Bhilwara have received very substantial relief from the railway construction works at Lambia. The large and steadily increasing numbers on these works indicate the great value of this project as a famine measure. With a view to extend its sphere of usefulness, I have asked that the remaining sections of the line, in the Jehazpur direction especially, may, if possible, be opened as soon as the establishment required can be organized.

In Sairan Udaipuri Rs. 24,061 have been sanctioned for irrigation works and takavi advances, of which amount Rs. 6,256 have been expended to date. This pargana, as also that of Kumalgarh (for the relief of which Udaipuri Rs. 58,627 have been sanctioned and Udaipuri Rs. 19,454 expended to date), being within a moderate distance of Udaipur, have benefitted by the trade in wood, charcoal, and leaf fodder for the city, and may be considered fairly safe against any sudden increase of distress.

The remote parganas of Jehazpur and Mandalgarh require early attention, and should be visited by a reliable famine officer as soon as possible.

The incidence of famine in this portion of the State has admittedly been very severe. The amount sanctioned by the Darbar for famine relief works in the two districts is Udaipuri Rs. 1,00,557, of which Udaipuri Rs. 63,010 have been expended to date. In order to provide further relief it has been proposed to carry out the earthwork of two railway projects, one to connect the Jaipur line with the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar project at Jehazpur, and the other an extension of the Nasirabad-Kekri line to the same project in the neighbourhood of Jehazpur. The Mewar Darbar are, however, at present unwilling to provide funds for these projects on the grounds that they are unlikely to be remunerative, and have asked that the earthwork on the Jehazpur section of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway under construction should be put in hand. They have also expressed their willingness to increase their allotments for irrigation works in these districts if found necessary. Until this portion of the State has been inspected and reported on by a competent officer I am unable to say how far the relief given, and proposed, by the Darbar will prove adequate. The executive Engineer, Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway Division at Lambia, has been addressed on the subject of the commencement of earthwork on the Jehazpur section of the line.

6. The case of the Magra, or Khalsa hilly tracts, is in some respects different to that of other parts of Mewar. It is the only portion of the State on which I can report from personal inspection, having traversed some 40 miles of it during my recent journey to Kherwara and Dungarpur. In transit I stopped and visited some of the relief works and poor-houses maintained by the Darbar in the vicinity of the road at various points. Although reported upon by my predecessor as very severely affected and inadequately provided for in the matter of relief by the Darbar, I am personally of opinion that the defects and difficulties which have to be overcome in connection with the effective relief administration of this portion of the State have arisen not so much from any wide-spread destitution arising out of famine as from the failure, through various causes, of a sufficient supply of food grain to meet the immediate requirements of the

population, either by sale in the open market, or for the purposes of the famine relief works and poor-houses which have been opened in considerable numbers by the Darbar. So far as the latter are concerned, I am assured that the Darbar have already taken action to provide for a sufficient and constant supply of food grain, either for issue as famine wages on relief works, or for sale, where payment is made in coin, either on or in the immediate neighbourhood of each work. The scale of famine wages, where paid in coin, has further been revised and raised to meet the high price of grain in this district.

These important matters, as also the allied question of the best means of meeting the distress arising from a deficient grain supply in the open market, have been entrusted to Lieutenant Pinney who is now on tour in this district, for full enquiry and such immediate remedial action as may be found possible. His report on the larger measures required to relieve the pressure on the general population arising from any ascertained deficiency in the food supply, or in matters where any unsanctioned expenditure is involved, is awaited by the Darbar.

The opinion at which I have arrived from my observation of the relief measures in progress in the portion of the Khalsa hilly tract traversed by me is that the efforts made by the Darbar to cope with the distress, which is undoubtedly severe, but which in its worst aspects of famine destitution and consequent loss of life has so far been confined to a small section of the poorer classes of the Bhil population, are honest and not markedly insufficient. It cannot be denied that better results would have been obtained had trained establishments been available for the management and execution of relief measures, or if greater business aptitude and method had been shown by the State officials entrusted with the local initiation and supervision of such measures, but these are a matter of education which the Mewar Darbar cannot at present command.

The actual aggregate amounts of the estimated expenditure on relief works of all kinds (exclusive of gratuitous relief) as sanctioned by the Darbar for the Magra and expended to date are Udaipuri Rs. 1,08,932 and Udaipuri Rs. 33,748, respectively.

7. The condition of the Jagir estates of Salumbar, Bhinder, Sadri, Kanor and Korabar, as regards distress and the relief measures applied to them, remains to be considered.

With the exception perhaps of the first named, it is doubtful whether any steps other than the distribution of gratuitous relief have been taken in any of these estates to provide for the distressed population. The great difficulty has been the settlement of the terms on which the Darbar would lend the money required to meet the expenditure involved, or guarantee the repayment of a loan raised by the Jagirdar for the same object in the open market. The terms now offered by the Darbar, which appear to me to be reasonable, and to accept which pressure should be placed on such Jagirdars as are unable to raise money on their own credit, are :—

- (1.) The Darbar will give "khatri" (*i.e.*, stand surety) for all loans raised by a Jagirdar for famine relief expenditure, in the open market, on the condition that in the event of the failure of the borrower to comply with the terms agreed upon by himself with the money-lender for the repayment of the debt, and the consequent enforcement of the Darbar's liability as surety, certain named villages in the Jagirdar's estate will be surrendered to, or may be taken possession of, by the Darbar, and retained under management until the debt is liquidated.
- (2.) In the case of those Jagirdars who are unable to borrow money even under the guarantee of the Darbar, such sums as may be absolutely necessary for relief purposes will be advanced by the State, but security for its repayment will be first taken by the attachment of one or two villages, and their management by the Darbar until the debt is liquidated.

In order to give effect to the above proposals, Lieutenant Pinney will visit the Jagirs above-named in continuation of his tour in the Khalsa Magra, and has been empowered by authority in writing from the Darbar to offer the terms above noted, and to accept applications for loans from Jagirdars and ratify arrangements entered into by them with their Sahukars for subsequent completion by the Darbar. In the event of any Jagirdar neglecting to open relief works, or to apply for a loan, in either of the ways described, Lieutenant Pinney is empowered to assess the amount required for the relief of distress in the estate and to commence, if possible, any suitable works in anticipation of the Darbar's confirmation of his action as reported, and the advance by them of the funds required.

On the successful completion of the duties now imposed on Lieutenant Pinney I trust that the defects and difficulties in the famine administration of the Mewar State, which call for immediate attention, will have been fairly grasped and their ultimate removal secured.

The weakest points in the famine organization of the State are undoubtedly the absence of effective supervision of its relief measures in the Khalsa districts more remote from the capital, and the insufficiency of the relief provided in many of the Jagir estates.

I have pressed repeatedly on the Darbar the advisability of applying for the services of at least one more European officer to assist them in supplying the above defects, but although my advice has been orally accepted, no official communication on the subject has yet reached me.

8. The causes, other than destitution, which have tended to aggravate distress in individual districts are chiefly connected with the failure of the food grain supply, which has resulted in producing very serious distress amongst those classes who are not destitute of means but are dependent on small local dealers for their supplies. Such distress has been most marked in the remote hilly districts in the south and on the eastern border of the State. As an indication of the existence and pressure of this grain scarcity, I may mention the great increase in violent crime especially amongst the Bhil population of the Khalsa Magra, and of adjoining Jagir estates. From the evidence I have been able to collect it cannot be doubted that these raids and robberies originated from the actual hardships suffered by the Bhils owing to the closure of the small grain dealers' shops throughout these hilly tracts, from which they had habitually drawn their supplies, on credit or otherwise. It is also equally evident that the primary reason for the action taken by the grain dealers was the failure of the rains and consequent loss of the harvest on which they depended to replenish their stocks, to save which from exhaustion they were obliged to contract, or even discontinue their sales, until the import of grain in sufficient quantities from outside the State had become established. I attribute the delay which occurred in the establishment of an import grain trade into Mewar to the apprehensions aroused by the ill-advised action taken by the Darbar in recent years in prohibiting exports of food grain which forms a large item in the export trade of the State. The trade having been destroyed by such action it took time before the requisite financial arrangements, and the confidence of the wholesale dealers, could be restored.

These conditions have now being attained, and owing in great measure to the construction of the Udaipur-Chitogarh Railway, grain in large quantities is being imported into the State, but the difficulties in the way of the rapid distribution of these supplies over the districts remote from the line of rail are very great owing to scarcity of transport.

The mortality amongst draught cattle in all parts of Rajputana, and especially so in Marwar and Mewar, has been so great that bullock cart transport has become practically unprocureable, whilst camel transport is scarce and the rates of hire asked almost prohibitive.

In order to combat these difficulties I have urged the Darbar to facilitate the transport of grain to those localities where the pressure is greatest by all the

means at their command—*inter alia* by taking special precautions for the protection of grain consignments from robbery on all the principal trade routes, by organizing camel transport trains with animals procured from other States, and if necessary by purchasing and importing grain for resale through petty dealers in those localities where no wholesome trade exists.

The Darbar had already taken partial action on the first of the above suggestions and are considering the others. Lieutenant Pinney has instructions to report on the grain requirements of the districts visited by him, and his proposals for meeting the necessities of the case are awaited.

9. The improvement and extension of the system of famine relief, as at present applied by the Darbar, has received careful consideration. I have arrived at the conclusion that any attempt to introduce the elaborate system of famine relief work organization and its utilization as the backbone of relief administration, as applied in British territory, would fail under existing conditions in Mewar.

The State has neither the practical experience nor the trained executive machinery required for the proper application of the safeguards against the indiscriminate or wasteful expenditure of public money, which would accompany the acceptance and enforcement of the principle that work must be found for every able bodied person whose ordinary means of subsistence have failed. It has been found by experience that the antipathy to employment on State managed relief works, which furnished so useful a test of actual destitution in previous famines, has now to a great extent failed even under the strict conditions of the British famine relief system. It is therefore to be apprehended that under the lax supervision and discipline of a Native Government still greater difficulty would be experienced in keeping the numbers on relief works within reasonable bounds, whilst the expenditure involved would far exceed the extreme limit of the financial resources of the State.

10. The basis and backbone therefore of the famine relief system in a native State, except perhaps in those rare instances where large railway or irrigation projects have been already prepared and financed, and can be carried out under skilled professional guidance, must be the *Mohtaj Khana*, or poor-house, where relief should be given to all who apply for it, as is generally speaking the case. Any abuse of this form of relief is rendered extremely unlikely by the smallness of the daily dole of cooked food, which is barely sufficient to support life, and by the odium which attaches to the receipt of charitable aid. As a matter of fact, it is only the labouring, poverty-stricken, and mendicant classes who have availed themselves in any numbers of the relief thus offered.

From a return just furnished to me by the Darbar I find that the numbers, according to the latest returns, of persons relieved daily in 47 poor-houses scattered over the Khalsa and Jagir areas amount to 19,366. These figures are, I think, probably fairly accurate as far as the Khalsa poor-houses are concerned, but I am doubtful about the Jagir returns.

The famine policy adopted by the Darbar towards their land-holding and cultivating classes in the Khalsa area consists of the grant of *takavi* advances for digging and deepening wells and the construction of village irrigation works in considerable numbers wherever it is fairly certain that an increase of revenue will be obtained either by contract with village communities or indirectly by increase of produce of land where rents are taken by partition.

The above policy has not been illiberally applied where the security is good, or where remunerative projects have been proposed. A number of additional trained overseers have been engaged and other establishments strengthened, to enable the projects approved being carried out quickly and efficiently. Still although very substantial relief to the upper cultivating classes has been afforded by these measures, the works opened are not strictly speaking relief works at all. Only able-bodied labour is employed on them and only a low rate of wage (approximately the equivalent of 12 chittaks of grain) given. No system of task work or payment by results has been attempted. Nor indeed could such even, if applied, be in practice enforced.

In a few other ways, such for instance as the purchase of charcoal from Bhil villagers in quantities for future State purposes and by the establishment of State paid Bhil posts to guard certain trade frequented roads, attempts have been made by the Darbar to provide relief for special classes, but practically speaking the only relief furnished by them for the respectable cultivating classes is as described above.

The policy of restricting famine relief to the above classes so as to compel them to exhaust every means of self-support at their command may appear to be a harsh one, but I can only say that during the present great period of tension the number of persons of these classes to be found in the poor-houses is exceedingly small, whilst in the Khalsa area, at all events, no mortality from destitution amongst them has been reported, or has, so far as I can ascertain, occurred.

In the Jagir area the circumstances are different. Owing to the extreme apathy of the landlords there can be no doubt that wide-spread destitution and demoralisation of all classes have resulted from the stress of famine.

In the Deogarh and Bednore estates and their neighbourhood the more pressing requirements of the case have, through the intervention of the Darbar, been met by a scheme of relief works carried out on similar lines to those adopted in British territory, whilst substantial assistance has also been given by the commencement of the construction of the Mewar section of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway project.

In other Jagir estates much still remains to be done before a satisfactory degree of famine relief organization will have been reached, but this question has, as above stated, already been taken in hand by the Darbar, and some improvement at least should shortly be reported.

11. One other subject to which my attention has been closely directed is the improvement of the system of management of the State poor-houses in matters of primary sanitation, the provision of a relatively pure water supply, and of proper accommodation and treatment for the sick. After much discussion (it being apparently thought that by increasing the attractions of these institutions they might become too popular) the Darbar have now agreed to place the Residency Surgeon in medical and sanitary charge of all State poor-houses, and I trust that very shortly considerable improvement in these important subjects will be achieved.

The organization just completed of a district committee for the furtherance of the objects of the Indian Charitable Relief Famine Fund in the Mewar State will aid the above reforms to a material extent.

No. 210.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1893-F., dated Abu, the 23rd April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,387-F., dated the 22nd March, 1900, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statements of the Kotah and Jhalawar States for the month of March, 1900, together with the Political Agent's covering letter, No. 955, dated the 14th April, 1900.

2. The following table shows the numbers on works and on gratuitous relief in the Kotah State during the last five months. The numbers on works have risen by $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The majority of these are employed on irrigation dams and wells. 4,352 persons are now in one or other of the three railway camps. The marked increase in the number of workers in spite of the demand

there must have been for harvest labour is a remarkable proof or now rapidly distress has developed of late in Kotah. Before the end of the current month the crops will all be gathered and threshed, so that the next report will probably show a great rise. The remark appended to the statement that the ordinary labour wages are lower than those paid on the works is not understood. Relief labour is employed at contract rates.

Kotah	Works	Gratuitous.	Total	Percentage on population.
November, 1899	1,500	1,000	2,500	34
December, 1899	4,370	2,278	6,648	77
January, 1900	13,462	4,332	17,794	247
February, 1900	20,207	5,077	25,284	351
March, 1900	21,569	9,827	31,396	436

3. The most striking feature of this month's report is the increase of nearly 100 per cent. in the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief. No full explanation of this has been furnished. The details regarding this branch of famine operations given in the reports for February and March are brought together below :—

Serial No	Agency	Numbers relieved in	
		February.	March.
1	Village relief	3,327	2,938
2	Poor-house, Kotah	250	515
3	„ Ghatoli	—	600
4	„ Mandana		
5	„ Baran	—	537
6	Sadabarts of jagirdars, &c.	—	2,640
7	Relief camp, Kotah	—	1,597
8	Destitutes	1,500	—
	Total	5,077	9,827

The only changes reported this month are the three new poor-houses. It is probable that "Relief camp" and "Destitutes" at Kotah mean one and the same thing. The numbers relieved by the jagirdars and other charitably-disposed persons have been given this month, but this form of relief has been going on for many weeks now. It would seem, therefore, that the increase this month is more apparent than real. The Political Agent's attention has been called to the matter, as well as to the rate of wages.

4. The condition of the people is said for the first time to be unsatisfactory, but there is no emigration. There appears to be no epidemic of sickness. The measures taken to increase the hospital resources should check mortality and suffering. The figures giving the deaths from starvation are by no means reliable. Both the administration and the people betray anxiety about the general situation, but now that the vexed question of railway alignment has been settled

the strain should to some extent relax, especially if Government sanction the additional loan for which a separate recommendation has been submitted.

5. No attempt has been made to forecast the yield of the rabi harvest, but the decline of 25 per cent. in imports is a favourable sign.

6. The following table shows the fluctuations in the totals on relief in Jhalawar since November last. The January figures were incorrectly given in the report for that month.

—			Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November	...	...	400	250	650	40
December	...	...	700	800	1 500	1 00
January	...	...	1,155	769	1,924	1 28
February	...	...	2,351	2,127	4,478	2 98
March	...	...	2,583	1,692	4,275	2 85

The rate of increase on works, 9 per cent., is even higher than in Kotah. The same four works reported on in the previous month were still in progress, but the numbers had risen only on the Mandhakheri tank. The petty works under civil officers gave employment to only 243 persons.

7. The totals in receipt of gratuitous relief have fallen by 20 per cent. This has not been explained, but a comparison of the poor-house figures shows that, while in February the total attendance of the three poor-houses in Chaoni and Patan was 1,451, it was only 818 in March.

The Political Agent says 400 persons were selected from these institutions and put to light work, but there is nothing to show what became of the remaining 233. Presumably they were foreigners who have been sent home. The indiscriminate distribution of small doles of grain by the Seths has been checked by the Darbar.

8. The condition of the people appears to be better than in Kotah; but it is significant that the water famine, which was first foretold in the statement for January, has begun in parts of the State. The fodder-supply is failing more rapidly than was anticipated a month ago. It is hard to reconcile the account given of the rabi crop with that contained in last month's report. There is every reason to believe that where crops have come to maturity the grain will be heavy. There are no unirrigated crops, and a certain proportion of the irrigated staples has failed. On the whole, however, the total yield on irrigated lands should be about three-eighths of that of the outturn in a normal year.

Enclosure 1 in No. 210.

Letter from Major C. G. F. Fagan, Political Agent, Kotah, to the Famine Commissioner in Rajputana, Abu, No. 955, dated Jhalrapatan, the 14th April 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Agent to the Governor-General, the monthly famine reports furnished by the Kotah and Jhalawar Darbars for the month of March, 1900.

KOTAH.

The total number of persons in Kotah on relief works and on gratuitous relief during the month was said, respectively, to be 21,569 and 9,827 against 20,207 and 5,077 reported in February last.

The earthwork on the Baran-Kotah Railway has been pushed on and the number of labourers on this work on 31st March was 4,352. It is likely that the number on the railway earthwork will increase rapidly during April, as the alignment of the railway is now definitely settled and earthwork commenced at the Kotah end of the line.

The Engineer-in-Chief, Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway, visited Kotah during the month.

On the suggestion of the Agency Surgeon, Kotah and Jhalawar, the dieting and contingent charges have been doubled in all district dispensaries to meet the requirements of persons suffering from illness brought on by starvation.

The number of deaths from starvation is reported to be 975 as against 821 in February last. The majority of the deaths occurred among immigrants.

The physique of the people is below normal.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place with the exception of a few people from Tahsil Upreti in the Shahabad district, who have crossed over into the adjacent Gwalior territory in search of water.

JHALAWAR.

The number of persons in Jhalawar on relief works and on gratuitous relief is reported to be 2,583 and 1,692, respectively, as against 2,351 and 2,127 reported in February, 1900.

About 400 persons who have become strong enough to work have been removed from the poor-houses and sent to work on light work, cooked food being given to them instead of cash payment.

Scarcity of fodder is being felt in all the tahsils, and cattle suffer in consequence.

In some places people are suffering for want of water for drinking purposes. The deaths from starvation are reported to be 286, among local residents 98 and 188 among immigrants.

Enclosure 2 in No. 210.

Famine Statement for month ending 31st March, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population.	Affected area.	Estimated population.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.
	Sq. miles.		Sq. miles.			
Kotah	5,673	719,061	5,673	719,061	21,569	9,827

Remarks to accompany Famine Statement for month ending 31st March, 1900.

Private relief.—The number of relief seekers, especially of parda-women in the poor-house at Kotah, has risen from 250 in the last month to 515 in the current. This expenditure is shared equally by the State and the Municipality. In several large towns and villages in the district jagidars and the charitably-disposed person have started sadabarts and the grain doles and rotis are given to 2,640 persons.

Village and poor-house relief.—As reported last month, condition of the people in Ghatoli Nizammat required special attention and two poor-houses on a

small scale were opened at Ghatoli and Mandana. They are giving relief to 600 persons. Another poor-house has been opened at Baran on the 26th of the month where cooked food to 537 persons is now daily given. It began with 248 persons, but this number by the end of the month rose to 537 as stated above. The grants for gratuitous relief made to the pargana officials of Rs. 4,000 per mensem were maintained during the month, and 3,938 persons relieved. In addition to the above, 1,597 persons were relieved at the relief camp at Kotah.

In the poor-houses inmates are given rations on the following scales:—

	Adult.		Children.		
	Male.	Female.	Between ages.		Under 7 years.
			10 to 14	7 to 10	
	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.	Ch.
Ata	9	8	8	6	3
Dal	1	1	1	1	1
Oil	1	1	1	—	—

On the representation of the Agency Surgeon, the dieting and other contingent charges have been doubled (from 30 to 60 rupees per mensem) in all district dispensaries and an increase of Rs. 30 and 25 granted in the two head-quarter hospitals.

General character of relief works.—Advances made to cultivators to improve and sink wells, and repairs and construction of irrigation works in different parts of the State are employing 17,217 of the village population. Earthwork of the Baran-Kotah Railway was well pushed on and the number of the workers on it on the 31st March was 4,352. Mr. Tickell reports the rate of 5 annas per 100 cubic feet is still maintained, 7 annas per 100 cubic feet from 10 to 20 feet deep, and 9 annas for cuttings from 20 to 30 feet deep. The Engineer-in-Chief of the Baran-Ajmer-Marwar Railway Survey visited Katah during the month.

Physique of the people is below normal, general suffering having increased during the month.

975 deaths from starvation are reported among immigrants as well as local inhabitants, majority of them being among the former.

Food stock is sufficient.

Grain is imported freely, but the quantity brought in during the month has fallen to 33,896 maunds from 51,923 maunds of the last month.

General condition is bad and outlook full of anxiety.

Rates of labour wages prevailing in the market are lower than those paid at relief works.

No emigration among the people of the country has taken place except a few people from Tahsil Upreti, who have crossed over the neighbouring Gwalior territory in search of water.

Rabi crops are being harvested and some of the labourers on relief works have left to earn their bread on this their favourite and ordinary pursuit. It is likely that the number on the railway earthwork will increase rapidly during April, as the alignment of the railway is definitely settled and earthwork commenced at Kotah end of the line.

RAGHUNATH DAS,

Diwan, Kotah State.

Enclosure 3 in No. 210.

Famine Statement for month ending 31st March, 1900.

State.	Area.	Population in thousands.	Affected area	Estimated population in thousands of column 4.	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Number on gratuitous relief.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jhalawar ..	793,846 square miles.	150,000	339 square miles.	43,000	2,583.	1,692	...

Affected area—

1. Tahsil of Patan (excluding the City of Patan and the Chaoni)	150 square miles.
2. Portion of Suket	58 " "
3. Pachpahar Tahsil	131 " "
TOTAL	339 " "

Population of the affected area—

1. Tahsil of Patan (excluding the Chaoni and the City of Patan)	17,000
2. Portion of Suket	8,000
3. Pachpahar Tahsil	18,000
TOTAL	43,000

Private Relief.—The sahukars of the Chaoni and of the City of Patan used to distribute parched and boiled grain to the poor; but the way in which this charity was doled out indiscriminately to all assembled did more harm than good. So the Seths have told that in future the present system of distribution should be put a stop to, and that any charity they may wish to make should be made through the State.

The State poor-houses continue as before. There is one poor-house at Patan, in which the number of inmates amounts to 571, and the other at the Chaoni, which contains 191 persons. There is also an orphanage, containing altogether 144 children. His Highness's poorhouse at the Chaoni contains 56 persons. Large numbers of persons receive charities in the tahsils.

Relief Works.—The following works are open under the supervision of the State Engineer :—

1. Stratton Sagar (Khandya tank), in the Patan Tahsil, which employs 285 persons.
2. Kishanpura tank, in the Patan Tahsil, where 715 persons are employed daily.
3. Mundliakheri tank, in the Tahsil of Patan, where at present only 1,050 persons are employed; but the number will, it is expected, be greatly increased in a few days.
4. Hatunia tank, in the Pachpahar Tahsil, which employs 290 persons daily. Besides the above regular relief works under the Engineering Department, there are many miscellaneous works under the tahsildars and other officials.

The condition of the people, considering how widespread the present famine is throughout India, is not bad. Out of the five tahsils in the State, the people of Patan and Pachpahar suffer from the prevailing scarcity in a somewhat greater degree than those of the remaining three tahsils, viz., Awar, Dag, and Gangdhar.

Scarcity of fodder is being felt almost alike in all the tahsils, and cattle suffer in consequence. Here and there the people suffer from want of water for drinking purposes. The State is doing all it can to relieve this sort of distress by giving grants for digging or deepening wells.

The rabi crop is being harvested. The outturn will be but scanty; but still it will do some good to the people, and it is hoped that the prices of the food grains may fall though not to any great extent.

At present grain is being imported here from the North-Western Provinces.

PARMANAND CHATURVEDI,

Diwan of Jhalawar State.

No. 211.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 1,928-F., dated Abu, the 25th April, 1900.

(Extract.)

In continuation of my letters, Nos. 1226-F. and 1286-F., dated respectively the 15th and 17th March, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the famine statements of the Banswara and Partabgarh States and of the Kushalgarh Chiefship for the month of March, 1900, together with the covering letters* of Colonel Thornton, the Resident in Mewar, and of the Assistant Resident, Captain H. B. Peacock.

I.—BANSWARA.

The following table shows the numbers on works and in receipt of gratuitous relief in Banswara since November 1899 :—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
November 1899	191	50	241	·09
December 1899	432	78	510	·24
January 1900	576	100	676	·31
February 1900	1,565	237	1,802	·75
March 1900	3,764	410	4,174	1·97

The total number on relief has increased by no less than 160 per cent. during the month under report, but the Resident considers that it would not be safe to accept these figures without reserve, as no attempt to check them appears to have been made by the Assistant Resident. The figure of 1,565 relief workers shown in a separate report for March by Captain Peacock was obviously taken from the February returns. The Assistant Resident reports that the large increase is solely due to the expansion of irrigation works, not apparently as evidence of extending distress and consequent demand for employment.

The statistics of gratuitous relief are not commented upon, but probably they include only such persons as are relieved in the poor-house at the capital.

* Not printed.

The people, with the exception of the Bhils, are said to be in good physical condition. This description differs so widely from that for February that it cannot be accepted as correct. The description of the cattle is equally open to suspicion. Although the remarks appended to the famine statement would show that there are some grain stocks and that importation is going on, the Resident considers that the reserves are unduly low and that the organisation for an adequate supply of food-stuffs is defective.

II.—PARTABGARH.

The numbers on both kinds of relief in the Partabgarh State during the last four months are brought together below :—

Month	Works.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Percentage.
December 1899	1,982	35	2,017	2.29
January 1900	2,248	73	2,321	2.63
February 1900	1,815	108	1,923	2.24
March 1900	2,188	159	2,347	2.71

During February the numbers on the works were fewer than they had been since relief was begun in December last. They have risen again during the month under review, but have not yet reached the January total. The Assistant Resident attributes the change to the completion of harvesting operations, but he apparently considers that the numbers would have been larger had a proper scheme of works been available. He anticipates a further rise during April, as the recent Government loan has enabled the Darbar to expand their programme. The works comprise four irrigation tanks and a number of wells. Wages are paid in grain, but the scale has not been given. The rise of 50 per cent. in the total of persons on the gratuitous list has been caused by additions to the *poor-houses*. Both kinds of relief are confined apparently to the *khalsa* area.

The condition of the people is described as very fair, but as 57 deaths are ascribed as due, directly or indirectly, to want of food, the statement must be received with caution. Although the account of the rabi harvest is very meagre, the yield is expected to add appreciably to the existing stocks. The import trade in gram continues and the Resident does not anticipate that any special measures will be necessary in this State to maintain an adequate supply. The cattle are said to be in a fair condition, but no allusion is made to the amount and quality of fodder available.

III.—KUSHALGARH.

The numbers on relief in the Chiefship of Kushalgarh are as below :—

Month.	Works.	Gratuitous	Total	Percentage.
November 1899	425	300	725	2.33
December 1899	400	300	700	2.25
January 1900	250	300	550	1.77
February 1900	300	250	550	1.77
March 1900	275	270	545	1.75

The numbers on works have fallen off and the numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief have risen in an equal ratio. The Assistant Resident remarks that the figures call for little notice. It is true that the fluctuations have little significance, but the totals on relief since November last are, it is feared, an indication of the inadequacy of the efforts made to alleviate distress. The account given by Captain Peacock in paragraph 5 of his covering letter is more favourable than the previous reports given of the country and the people. In January the condition of the people was said to be slightly affected and the prospects were not good. These remarks were repeated verbatim in the reports for February and March, while for the last four months deaths from starvation have been returned. The criminal statistics also indicate that the trade in wood and grass is insufficient to check crime. The rabi harvest is evidently of little account, and although the cattle are still described as fair, no estimate has been made of the effect the heavy exports of jungle products will have on the fodder supply of the Chiefship.

The Assistant Resident's opinion that the worst stage of the famine is past in this part of Rajputana is not endorsed by the Resident, and is, in my opinion, open to question. The mohwa crop will undoubtedly help to lighten the strain, but it can be regarded only as a temporary and supplementary resource. It would be unsafe to rely upon the mohwa as the main food supply, and experience has shown that in hilly tracts inhabited by aboriginal tribes distress is generally most acute between the breaking of the monsoon and the ripening of the earliest kharif staples. A prolonged diet of jungle products without a proper admixture of cereals has the most lowering results, and no abundance of forest fruits can be allowed to justify the restriction of relief operations or any slackening in the import of food-grains.

It is evident from Colonel Thornton's report that the three matters discussed in paragraph 4 of his letter attached, namely, relief measures in jagir estates, circulation of food supplies, and special arrangements for relieving the Bhils, require closer attention. Their importance will be impressed upon Captain Peacock's successor, Lieutenant Drummond, and such measures as may be required will be introduced as early as practicable.

In the sixth paragraph of his letter Colonel Thornton rejects Captain Peacock's conclusion that nothing short of the return of plenty will avail to check the present access of crime. Colonel Thornton's own opinion is that if relief measures are largely and promptly extended in Banswara, Partabgarh and Kushalgarh; and if a special British officer is temporarily appointed to reside at Banswara to superintend them, supported by a selected officer of the Thagi and Dakaiti Department, with a small body of the departmental force, there is no reason why the restoration of order and security should not be effected by the Darbars concerned.

I agree with Colonel Thornton in the view that Lieutenant Drummond must remain for the present at his own head-quarters, Dungarpur, and that a second officer should confine his attention to the other States named. But before applying for the services of a special Political Officer for the latter duty, I should be inclined to try whether Lieutenant Nicolas, who has been on famine duty in those parts for the last five months, if given detailed instructions, and fully supported by the Resident at Udaipur, could not induce the Darbars to undertake all the operations required whether for relief or police.

No. 212.

Letter from C. S. Bayley, Esq., Officiating Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 4,573 G., dated Indore, the 25th April, 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 2,990 G., dated the 17th March, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the Famine Statement furnished by the Resident at Gwalior for the month of March, 1900, together with a map of the affected area.

Enclosure in No. 212.

Famine Statement of the Gwalior State including Gwalior, Isagarh, and Malwa for the month of March, 1900.

Names of State.	Area in square miles	Population in thousands.	Affected area in square miles	Estimated population in thousands of column 4	Total number on relief works on last day of month.	Numbers on gratuitous relief
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Prants—						
Gwalior ...	5 053	989	1,935	229	1,658	—
Isagarh ...	8,434	954	591	92	545	—
Malwa ...	5,576	789	3,073	412	6,410	6,298

NOTES.

Relief works in progress consist of construction of, and repairs to, kachha-pucca roads, wells, tanks, canals, bunds, baories, &c. Test works have been freely opened almost everywhere in the State, in order to determine the extent to which relief may be needed by the people. Gwalior to Sabalgarh and Sipri to Sheopur, two railway lines are at present under survey, and abundant labour of all sorts will be available on the same as soon as sanction is given to start work. Immigrants from adjoining States, and from Marwar and Mewar in particular, still continue to resort to this State, where works provide free and unrestricted labour to all persons affected by famine. Poor-houses already exist at Neemuch, Agar, and Amjhera, the latter being amalgamated with that at Sardarpur under the supervision of the Political Agent. District Mandasaur has been reported to be much affected by famine, and there is a proposal under the consideration of the Darbar for opening a poor-house there. More relief works have been opened in Neemuch, Agar, Amjhera, and Mandasaur districts as famine has progressed in severity. Emigration on any noticeable scale has not yet set in. The condition of the people and cattle in Neemuch and a part of Mandasaur, Agar, Amjhera is bad, but no death from starvation of any State subjects has yet been reported.

The number of immigrants registered in various works on last day of the month is as under :—

Jodhpur.	Jhabua.	Udaipur	Patan.	Bikaner	Dhar.
356	74	20	94	18	52

No. 213.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 1934 F., dated Abu, the 25th April 1900.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram No. 3812 I.-A., dated the 20th December 1899, I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No. 283, dated 6th April 1900, from the Resident, Mewar, who urges the early payment of the balance of the loan of one lakh of rupees, which the Government of India were desired to advance to the Dungarpur State for famine relief purposes.

2. In my letter No. 330 F., dated 10th December 1899, I supported the Resident's application for a loan of Rs. 50,000 in December 1899 and the balance of Rs. 50,000 in April 1900. In your telegram No. 3812 I. A. of 20th December 1899 quoted in paragraph 1, sanction was conveyed to the immediate advance of Rs. 50,000 of Dungarpur, and it was stated that Government would be prepared to supplement the loan after 31st March 1900.

3. The Assistant Resident now reported on the 4th April that, out of the advance of Rs. 50,000 made in December last, Rs. 39,000 had been expended. Colonel A. P. Thornton, I.S.C., Resident, Mewar, recently visited Dungarpur, and personally inspected the relief arrangements there. He has reported at length on the present situation at Dungarpur, and the measures now required for the relief of distress and the suppression of the disorder arising from the existing famine. A copy of his report on the subject will be submitted to Government under a separate communication. Meantime I have the honour to request that the Ajmer treasury may be authorised by telegram, if possible, to honour the Resident's drafts up to a further sum of Rs. 50,000 to admit of the requisite expansion of the relief operations.

Enclosure in No. 213.

Letter from the Resident, Mewar, to the First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 283, dated the 6th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 263 of the 31st ultimo to your address, reporting on relief arrangements and suggestions for the repression of violent crime in the Dungarpur State, I have the honour to forward, for the information and approval of the Agent to the Governor-General, a copy of the instructions issued by me to the Assistant Resident in Mewar with a view to giving effect, as early as possible, to such of the measures contained in my report as did not appear to require formal confirmation before their introduction.

2. There are, however, three points which require further reference and on which I would ask that early action may be taken or the necessary sanction granted. These are—

(1) The provision of a further sum of Rs. 50,000 by loan from the Government of India to meet expenditure on the famine relief measures detailed in my report during the current official year. A reference to previous correspondence ending with your office letter No. 333 F. of 10th December 1899 will show that the original estimate of the cost of famine relief operations in Dungarpur up to the commencement of the rains and consequent closure of the works was framed for one lakh of rupees. On this amount a sum of Rs. 50,000 was sanctioned as a loan to the Dungarpur State by the Government of India by telegram, of which a copy was forwarded under your office endorsement No. 699 F.C. of the 15th January. The Assistant Resident now reports that some Rs. 39,000 of the above grant has already been appropriated, and asks for a further grant of the same amount and on the same conditions. This application I have the honour to support as strongly as possible.

(2) The next point has reference to the instructions conveyed in paragraph 3 of my letter to the Assistant Resident for the immediate re-establishment of the Bhil Chowki system on certain of the principal roads in the State for the protection of travellers and merchandise, and especially of convoys of food-grain between the border and the city of Dungarpur. In order to meet the expenditure involved in this measure, I propose to abolish the special police force which was entertained in October last under the sanction conveyed in your letter No. 4658 of 10th October 1899 for a period of six months as a tentative measure. That period will shortly expire, and as both the Assistant Resident and the executive authorities of the State have reported that the experiment has been a failure, I am not prepared to apply for further sanction for the expense involved, which is very considerable, amounting to no less than Rs. 648 per mensem.

(3) Lastly, as regards the reorganisation of the State Public Works Department in matters connected with famine relief works of all kinds. The recent appointment of Babu Mutsaddi Lal as State Assistant Engineer will undoubtedly be of value in securing the reforms which are required, but, in view of the grave irregularities which came to light during the brief inspection of the registers and books of account of famine works made by me when at Dungarpur, it seems advisable that the work of reorganising this important branch of the administration should be supervised and directed by a trained departmental officer of the regular service. I understand that such an officer, by name Mr. Ram Sarup, is now posted at Kherwara on temporary duty of a not very heavy character in connection with the cantonment water supply. It might, therefore, be possible for this officer to be deputed to examine and report on all the departmental accounts in connection with famine works carried out in Dungarpur up to date, and to assist and advise the State Assistant Engineer in organising a proper and efficient establishment for the future execution of such works. This task might possibly be performed by him without interruption to the duties on which he is now engaged. The Dungarpur State would pay whatever deputation allowance or other remuneration that might be fixed for the above services.

No. 214.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Abu, No. 1818 I.-A., dated the 27th April, 1900.

Your telegram 1892 F., April 23rd. Further loan of Rs. 50,000 for Dungarpur sanctioned, and orders for payment at Ajmer Treasury issued.

No. 215.

Letter from A. H. T. Martindale, Esq., Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, to the Secretary to the Governor of India, Foreign-Department, No. 1974 F., dated Abu, the 30th April, 1900.

In continuation of my report No. 1481 F., dated the 27th March, 1900, and in connection with the remarks made in the fifth sentence of paragraph 4 of your letter No. 1007 I.-A., dated the 26th February last, I have the honour to inform you that I am now satisfied that, since the arrival of Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton at Udaipur, all necessary measures have been introduced for improving the famine and police arrangements in the Dungarpur State.

2. These may be briefly summarised as follows :—

The interference of the administration with the grain market has been confined within the narrowest limits, but, on the other hand, an effective stimulus has been applied to private trade by the provision of increased facilities for the transport of grain and by arrangements for its safe conduct while in transit. The special police force which proved inefficient has been replaced by Bhil convoy guards organised in accordance with the customs of the country.

Advances in both cash and grain are being more extensively made to the various Bhil communities for the execution of petty works in the vicinity of their villages. The programme of famine works has been revised and the Public Works Department has been reorganised. The Mewar Bhil Corps has been reinforced by one company of the Irregular Force from Erinpura and one company of the Merwara Battalion from Ajmer, and the two companies of the Mewar Bhil Corps temporarily stationed in the Dungarpur State have now, subject to the approval of the Government of India, been placed under the immediate orders of their Commandant Colonel Bignell acting in co-operation with the Assistant Resident Mr. Drummond, in order to ensure more harmonious and effective action than has obtained hitherto.

3. My letter No. 1928 F., dated the 25th April, 1900, forwarding the Monthly Famine Statements of Bauswara, Partabgarh and Kushalgarh, includes the latest procurable information regarding the relief operations now in progress in the two States and the little Chiefship of Kushalgarh. If due effect is given to the recommendations therein made, they should, in my opinion, meet all requirements for the relief of distress in that part of the country until cultivation operations are recommenced.

No. 216.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. Loch, Resident in Nepal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 1-2301, dated Nepal, the 27th April 1900.

Sir Bir Shamsher has expressed a wish to supply gratis ten thousand to twelve thousand maunds of paddy in aid of the famine-stricken in Rajputana, paying all the expenses of carriage to destination. His only stipulation is that the food is intended for those in receipt of gratuitous relief and who are barred by age or weakness from earning a famine wage.

2. I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform me what reply I am to give to Sir Bir Shamsher.

No. 217.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, Mount Abu. No. 1948 I.-A., dated the 4th May 1900.

Sir Bir Shamsher, Minister of Nepal, offers ten to twelve thousand maunds of paddy for famine-stricken in Rajputana. He will pay all carriage charges. The paddy is intended for those who are barred by age or weakness from earning famine wage. I have desired Loch to inform the Minister that Viceroy has great pleasure in accepting this generous offer. Please settle all details in direct communication with Loch and let me know that you are doing so.

No. 218.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident in Nepal, through Segowlie. No 1949 I.-A., dated the 4th May 1900.

Please inform Sir Bir Shamsher that Viceroy has great pleasure in accepting his generous offer of paddy for Rajputana. I have informed the Agent to the Governor-General by telegram, and have desired him to settle all details in direct communication with you.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

HYDERABAD AND BERAR.

No. 219.

Letter from Sir Trevor Chichele-Plowden, K.C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 95-C., dated Camp Mulkapur, the 5th December, 1899.

In continuation of this office No. 342 of 22nd September last, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the correspondence,* which has passed between the Minister and myself on the subject of the measures of famine relief to be undertaken in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions.

Enclosure 1 in No. 219.

Letter from the First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, No. 2596, dated the 11th November, 1899.

I am desired to refer to your letter No. 1394, dated the 19th September, 1899, forwarding the weather report for His Highness's dominions up to the 15th September, 1899, received from the Board of Revenue.

2. I am to invite your attention to paragraph 5 of the report in question, wherein it is stated that, "if there is a moderate rainfall at suitable periods, there is no reason why there should not be an excellent rabi harvest which would save the country from any signs of distress." With reference to this statement, I am to request that you will be so good as to furnish the Resident, at your very early convenience, with information showing what is the present condition of the kharif crops throughout His Highness's territories, what the prospects are of the rabi and tabi crops, and whether it is contemplated to adopt any special measures in any localities in the shape of relief works.

Enclosure 2 in No. 219.

Letter from the First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, No. 2730, dated the 22nd November, 1899.

I am desired to invite your attention to my letter No. 2596, dated the 11th November, 1899, regarding the present condition of the kharif crops and the prospects of the rabi and tabi crops throughout His Highness's territories, and to say that the Resident would be glad if you would kindly furnish him with the required information at your very early convenience.

2. Sir Trevor Chichele-Plowden, I am to say, would also be glad to be informed whether it is contemplated to adopt any special measures in any localities in the Hyderabad State in the shape of relief works.

* To His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 2596, dated 11th November, 1899. To His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 2730, dated 22nd November, 1899. From His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 1803, dated 27th November, 1899, with enclosure. To His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 94 C., dated 5th December, 1899.

Enclosure 3 in No. 219.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, to the First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, No. 1803, dated the 27th November, 1899.

Kindly refer to correspondence ending with your letter No. 2730, dated 22nd November, 1899, regarding the present condition of the kharif crops and prospects of the rabi and tabi crops throughout His Highness's territories.

2. I now beg to forward herewith five copies of Mr. Dunlop's Famine Note No. 1, which contains the required information.

Enclosure 4 in No. 219.

Famine Note No. 1, by Mr A. J. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner, to H.M. the Nizam's Dominions, dated Aurangabad, 16th November, 1899.

As day after day passes without rain, the prospects of the season are becoming gloomier. There are still hopes of rain, engendered perhaps mainly by the recollection that in 1896, when the state of things was somewhat the same as at present, rain fell on the 19th and 20th November, and not only saved the standing jawari crops, but produced an extraordinarily heavy crop wherever there had been timely sowings. If rain falls within the next week or so, the standing crops will be saved, and although in some districts there are large areas unsown, which can now bear nothing, the situation would be saved to a considerable extent.

PROSPECTS OF SEASON.

2. The last weekly report on each district is appended for ready reference. The present position may be summed up as follows.

In the Lingsugur, Raichur, and in parts of the Gulbargah and Warangal districts the crops are fairly good, and as we have more reason to hope for rain in these southern districts, I do not at present include them in the affected area, although it may be necessary to do so hereafter if the rain holds off.

In the other districts the kharif crop has been very poor: the early (abi) rice crop has almost universally failed; the late (tabi) rice crop will not be sown at all, except a comparatively small area under wells and channels, and the rabi crop will in almost all parts be a failure unless it is saved by rain within the next week or so.

The prospects are therefore very serious, and as we cannot count on more rain, the Government have to prepare themselves for combating a famine worse probably than any that has occurred within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. It will be worse than any previous famine in recent times, because in the first place it follows so soon on the scarcity of 1896 (1306 Fasli) from which the people have not yet wholly recovered, and secondly, because it is so widespread over the dominions, the only parts at present not seriously affected being, as I have said, the Raichur and Lingsugur districts, and parts of the Gulbargah and Warangal districts. In the latter district the talukas of Madhra and Khammam have had fair rain, and the rabi crops there may come to maturity with a few more showers, or nights of heavy dew, but for all other parts we must accept the fact that the rabi crops are likely to be a failure. I shall be very pleased if circumstances arise which will justify my modifying this estimate, but in the meantime it is my duty to place before Government a scheme for affording relief, more or less in all districts, to a large number of people.

GRAIN SUPPLY.

3. There is a sufficient supply of grain in the country, notwithstanding enormous exports to Bombay in the last two months, which have now, however, ceased to a great extent. The real difficulty will be the water supply. From

all sides come complaints of wells drying up, and unless District Officers bestir themselves to take active *practical* steps to clear out and improve village wells, there are hundreds of villages that will have to be deserted because of want of water.

TELANGANA DISTRICTS.

4. In organizing relief works I propose dividing the country into two distinct parts, viz., the Telangana and the Mahratwara.

In the Telangana districts, seven in number,* I wish to confine the operations almost entirely to irrigation schemes, which, if started on a large scale, without any delay, may be carried out on the ordinary contract system. In most cases these works will afford sufficient employment to the people to prevent their falling into a state of distress. At the same time the condition of the people will have to be carefully watched by the Revenue and Public Works Department officers, and when signs of distress are apparent a part of the work must be treated as famine relief works, and given out on the piece-work system, according to the Code.

5. The great and immediate necessity is a grant of funds to enable irrigation works to be started at once. The system of deferred revenue payments, known as my "new scheme" for carrying out irrigation works, is not suited for a year of distress like the present. The people who would ordinarily take up contracts of this kind are themselves perhaps in difficulties about money owing to the failure of the crops, and at any rate they cannot at once produce sufficient capital for our requirements. The works must therefore be paid for in cash. I have already separately submitted a scheme for doing this, especially in connection with the Manjira project, and which was adopted by the Committee that assembled in the Financial Office for the consideration of the Public Works Department budget for the ensuing year. The scheme is to raise an irrigation loan by issuing Government Promissory notes to the extent of twenty lakhs, bearing interest at six per cent. per annum. The bonds may be made repayable in ten years, or any longer period, and the capital with interest will eventually be repaid from the revenue derived from the irrigation works. It was contemplated to pay the contractors in Treasury bonds, from time to time, according to the amount of work they do. This may still be possible in the case of large contractors, but in a bad year like the present the contractors on smaller works may not have opportunities for immediately disposing of their bonds, and therefore a certain number of bonds should be placed on the market from time to time, the cash realized by them being held at the credit of the Irrigation Department. There is at present a considerable demand for such bonds, current bonds being saleable at a premium of six per cent., and no difficulty is anticipated in gradually placing the new bonds to the extent specified. The arrangements for carrying out this transaction could be worked out in detail by the Financial Department.

6. It is so important to start irrigation works in the Telangana districts, before the people fall into a weakly condition, that I trust early sanction may be given to this, or any other arrangement that may be decided on for supplying funds, and in the meantime I would beg that a special credit of two lakhs may be given for irrigation purposes, with which the Chief Engineer may at once commence operations, on the understanding that further funds will be supplied later. The expenditure in the year ought not to be less than ten lakhs, and more may be required.

7. The largest work to be taken in hand is the Manjira irrigation project, plans and estimates for which have been prepared, and, according to the latest information afforded to me, are awaiting sanction with the Muin-ul-Maham. The estimated cost of this work is between nine and ten lakhs. It is a work eminently suited for famine relief, and should provide employment for a very large number of labourers belonging to the Medak district and parts of the Bidar and Indur districts. I beg that sanction may be accorded to the immediate commencement of this work.

* Indur, Medak, Mahbub Nagar, Warangal, Nalgundah, Elgandal, Sirpur Tandur.

8. In every district there are plans and estimates either sanctioned, or awaiting sanction, and in other instances under check in the Chief Engineer's office. In all these cases the Famine Commissioner should be given a free hand in authorizing the commencement of work in communication with the Talukdars and the Chief Engineer. If this is done, and Local Funds judiciously expended in improving wells and on other petty works, I do not anticipate that it will be necessary to expend Government money (at least to any large extent) on other works in the Telingana districts. The famine grant in this part of the country will thus be mostly expended on highly reproductive works which it has been contemplated to undertake in the ordinary course, and all that is now proposed is to accelerate the execution of the works.

9. In his letter No. 3223, dated the 4th instant, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has submitted a tender for the execution of seven irrigation works in the Warangal district, the estimated cost of which aggregates Rs. 1,60,750. The terms are the same as those referred to above, and I hope that the Chief Engineer may be authorized to grant contracts for all or some of these works as a part of the general scheme for carrying out irrigation works. In dealing with a tender of this nature it will be necessary to stipulate that a minimum quantity of earthwork shall be done in the current season so as to provide sufficient employment for the people, and also perhaps to reserve the right of doing a portion of the work as famine relief, but this is a detail which could be settled between the Chief Engineer and myself.

10. The powers vested in the Famine Commissioner in 1306 Fasli, and which have been revived in the current year, include powers to sanction irrigation works under the new scheme (*i.e.*, deferred payments from the revenue of the tank), but in the current year these powers are not likely to be availed of, and in order to expedite the commencement of works I would suggest that I be authorized to sanction the commencement of works costing Rs. 10,000, or under, in cases in which the estimates have been approved by the Chief Engineer, and also that I may be authorized to sanction, on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, the commencement of earthwork in other cases, in anticipation of the preparation of complete estimates.

MAHRATWARA DISTRICTS.

11. In the Mahratwara districts there are no, or at least very few, irrigation tanks to repair, but reproductive works can to some extent be found in the earthwork for light railways.

Since I have been in Aurangabad His Excellency the Minister has sanctioned the survey of about twelve miles of light railways from Jalna to the Berar frontier to link up the proposed line from Khangaon in Berar, *via* Chickli, to Jalna. The survey of this line will be made by the Engineer deputed by the Government of India, to whom instructions have been given by the Resident, and as soon as I am furnished with a plan of the alignment arrangements will be made for employing famine labour on it.

Another most useful work will be the line of railway from Lassoona, or any other point of the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway, to Hingoli and from thence to the Berar frontier towards Bassim. The survey of this line has already been sanctioned by His Highness's Government and I understand is in progress. I suggest that steps be taken to complete this survey at the earliest possible date and that I be authorized to do the earthwork. Several thousand coolies could probably be given employment on this work (if water for them is available), and a large proportion of the expenditure could be subsequently recovered from the Railway Company when the construction of the line is sanctioned. If hereafter any difficulty or delay arises in sanctioning the project, a good cart road could be in any case constructed in place of a railway and would be a useful feeder to the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway.

Another famine work of importance is the road from Bir to Jalna, a distance of 62 miles. A small portion of this road was constructed in 1306 Fasli

as a relief work, and I might now suggest the completion of it in accordance with the plans and estimates that are ready. But Bir is a town of 20,000 inhabitants, and it seems most desirable that in making this road we should keep in view the possibility of a light railway being eventually laid along it. As a road it will be a valuable feeder to the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway, diverting traffic that now goes to Barsi or Ahmednagar, but as a light railway it would be of still greater value.

I strongly recommend therefore that a new survey be made of this road with a view to its being adapted to a light railway. Early orders are solicited on this point, because I cannot delay opening a large relief work in the Bir district, and if my suggestion for a new survey is not approved, I must commence work on the present line, the gradients of which are in some parts unsuited for a light railway.

12. In the foregoing three works, comprising about 110 miles of railway, there will be found employment for a large number of famine relief labourers, and, at a minimum cost to Government (because much of the expenditure will be recoverable hereafter), it will be possible to provide for people in the Aurangabad, Bir and a part of the Parbhani districts.

13. Since I arrived at Aurangabad I have started a test work outside of the City of Aurangabad in deepening the tank at the Delhi gate. The attendance at the present time is 573, and would be more but for the difficulty of procuring tools which I have had to order from Bombay.

14. I have also sanctioned road-metal breaking on the first 16 miles of the Ajanta Road, the estimate for which is Rs. 38,269 out of a total estimate of Rs. 1,53,083, and road-metal breaking on the Aurangabad-Toka Road (estimate Rs. 14,347 out of total of Rs. 88,037). Complaints have been received from the Resident of some 700 persons having gone to the Ahmednagar district in search of work. The work now opened on the Toka Road will provide employment for persons in that neighbourhood, and there will no longer be any excuse for their going into British territory.

15. Out of the grant of Rs. 50,000 given to me for emergent works I have so far sanctioned the following :—

	Rs.
(1) Tank at the Delhi-gate, Aurangabad City	2,000
(2) Metal-breaking, Ajanta Road	4,000
(3) Ditto Aurangabad-Toka Road	4,000

16. The Subadar wishes some work opened at Raoza, and suggests the repairing of certain tanks. I think also it might be advisable to take this opportunity of improving the ghat road up to Raoza. I have called for estimates for these works and will shortly go to Raoza myself to form my own opinion on the advisability of carrying them out as famine works.

The works for the Aurangabad district including the above are as follows :—

Metal-breaking, Ajanta Road.

Ditto Toka Road.

Ditto Pattan Road.

Jalna Cantonment Road.

Jalna-Khamgaon Railway.

Jalna-Bir Road.

Hingoli to Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway.

17. In the Bir district there are other minor works, the estimates for which have been called for.

18. The requirements of the Parbhani district will be largely met by the earthwork on the branch line to Hingoli, but there are other railway feeder roads which can be constructed. The works now in progress in the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway are giving employment to a large number of persons.

19. The Nander district can also be provided for by collecting metal for the railway feeder roads. Some months ago a scheme was discussed by a Committee over which His Excellency the Minister presided, and it was arranged that work on these feeder roads should be commenced. In pursuance of this Mr. Montgomery, lately reduced from the Survey Settlement Department, was selected for appointment to the road surveys. But nothing has yet been done, and Mr. Montgomery is still awaiting orders. All that I require is that the arrangements already agreed to for survey establishment should be sanctioned and put in train, leaving it to me to select the roads to be taken in hand this year.

20. I am in communication with the Talukdar of Naldurg for works in that district, and will submit a scheme later.

21. I wish as far as possible to confine relief works to breaking metal or digging earth, either for banks or in deepening tanks. Some proposals have reached me for the construction of roads at an expenditure of a few hundred rupees per mile, but I am strongly opposed to this system of work. A road cannot be constructed in a dry season when water is not available, and money so spent is a waste of Government funds. Metal may be broken and stacked, approaches to rivers and *nalas* may be improved, and the gradients of ghat roads may be made easier. But whatever is done must be done in a permanent manner, and there must be something tangible to show at the end of the famine for the expenditure.

22. A large sum will have to be expended in the purchase of tools. No famine cooly can be utilised unless he or she has either a pick-axe, *powera*, hammer, or basket, and with the exception of the professional workers, who are few in number, none of the coolies possess these articles.

23. In 1306 Fashi many of the works were carried out on the petty contract system, but the distress at that time was not so severe as it threatens to be this year. On the present occasion contract work should be strictly forbidden. The small works I have now commenced are on the piece-work system, the people forming themselves into gangs of their own and receiving payment by results. This is the only system which can be carried on here with any success, but it involves the purchase of tools, and if we have, as it is quite possible there may be, 1,00,000 persons on the works, the expenditure under this head will be considerable.

LOCAL FUNDS.

24. I have not been able to ascertain what Local Funds are available for expenditure this year on famine works. There is far too much circumlocution in the management of Local Funds, and with all the different grades of officers, each having a voice one way or the other in the expenditure, there is no fund that is more mismanaged.

Every single available rupee of Local Funds should be expended this year on famine relief works. By this I mean that, after providing for fixed establishments, every rupee remaining over should be expended on some work which will not only be useful to the people, but at the same time provide employment for the poorer classes.

In most districts Local Fund expenditure is *unsatisfactory*. In Aurangabad, a few days ago, the Local Fund Committee sanctioned Rs. 2,000 for the repair of the Ajanta Road with the view of giving employment to poor persons. The Subadar and I drove over the road a few days later and found the contractor spreading six inches of moorum on the top of a metalled road that was in a perfectly good condition, having been constructed as a famine work in

1306 Fasli. The road further on is unmade, and if he had spread moorum there it would not have been so bad, but to spread moorum at all at this season, when it cannot be rolled, is a waste and ought not to be allowed for a moment. The moorum which the Subadar and I found on the road has since been taken off, and the road restored to its previous good condition. I have not yet had time to ascertain what is going to be done about the contract that was given for this work.

If Local Funds are to be utilised for famine works, as of course they ought to be, the Famine Commissioner should be given power to veto any expenditure sanctioned by the Local Boards or Talukdars, and he should be empowered to sanction any estimates for Local Funds up to Rs. 10,000.

Local Fund works should be placed under the District Engineers, the Local Fund Superintendents or Supervisors being made subordinate to the District Engineer, who in his turn is subordinate to the First Talukdar. This is a matter which has already been discussed and approved by a Committee, and only awaits final issue of orders.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF.

25. The staff of officers in the Public Works Department is quite inadequate for carrying on famine works on the scale that will be necessary this year. Mr. Roscoe Allen has already, in his letter No. 3219, dated 4th November 1899, pointed out how short-handed he is for carrying on the ordinary irrigation works in the Telingana districts, and if the works are to be largely increased he will probably require a much larger staff. But it is in the General Branch, in which all works are going to be done departmentally on the piece-work system, that more officers are most urgently required, if the famine works are to be carried out with any measure of success.

In the famine of 1877 the strength of the Public Works Department was much greater than it is in the present day. There was Mr. Wilkinson at the head of the department, assisted by Messrs. Hascoll, Palmer, Heenan, C. B. Dunlop, and others, who were able in their several capacities to overlook the work. In the present day, Superintending Engineers and Divisional or Inspecting Engineers have all been abolished, and the department is left with a Chief Engineer, and one Engineer for each district, some of whom are only of the rank of Supervisors.

26. From a list the Chief Engineer has supplied me with, I find there are altogether fourteen District Engineers, two of whom draw Rs. 400 per mensem, four Rs. 300, two Rs. 250, five Rs. 200, and one Rs. 50. The officer on Rs. 50 is in charge of two large districts (Nander and Parbhani), and it is of course impossible to expect him to carry on the famine works.

27. Mr. Buchanan, the Chief Engineer, is with me in Aurangabad at present, and is rendering much assistance in organising relief works, etc., but it will be impossible to rely on the orders being properly carried out unless there is a Superintending or Inspecting Engineer appointed to this division. What we require are three or four experienced Engineers, retired men, or borrowed from the Government of India, or Railways, who can be entrusted with the supervision of famine works in defined areas.

28. The immediate requirements in this respect are—

- (1) An Engineer competent to carry out the work on the Hingoli branch line of railway.
- (2) An Engineer competent to align the road from Jalna to Bir with a view to its being adapted to a light railway and to take charge of the works on this line as well as on the line from Jalna to the Berar frontier.
- (3) An Engineer to take charge of the Parbhani district.
- (4) A Superintending Engineer who will be in charge of all works in the Aurangabad, Bir, Parbhani, Nander, and Naldurg districts.

- (5) A large number of subordinates will also have to be employed, it being necessary that each famine camp should be in charge of a Supervisor

I cannot say at present what the establishment is likely to cost, but sanction should be accorded for enquiries being made for suitable men to fill the above posts, and as the works extend we shall probably require more men.

29. All appointments would be temporary, ceasing when the famine works are closed, and I would suggest that, under these circumstances, His Highness should be solicited to waive the conditions for the appointment of European officers, so that there may be no delay in making the appointments as soon as suitable men can be found.

30. It is impossible to commence work on either of the three railway schemes until the services of Engineers are procured, and as from all directions I am receiving requests to open famine relief works, I beg that orders may be issued as early as possible.

31. The powers of the Famine Commissioner, in the matter of sanctioning works to be executed by the General Branch of the Public Works Department should also be clearly defined. I would suggest that I be authorized to sanction up to Rs. 10,000 on each work.

APPENDIX TO FAMINE NOTE NO. 1.

District Weekly Reports for Week Ending 11th November 1899.

1. *Atrafi-Baldah*.—What little remained of the kharif crop has already been harvested. The standing rabi and autumn rice crops are much damaged by the prevailing heavy drought, and rain is most urgently needed in all talukas of this district. Tanks and kuntas are almost dry, and no grass is available for cattle. Fever prevails in two talukas. Prices of grain almost steady: wheat 7½ seers, rice 7½ seers, and jawari 10½ seers.

2. *Aurangabad*.—Standing kharif has dried up in most places; rabi already sown is parched up, and in consequence rabi sowing is at a standstill for want of rain. Wells, kuntas, and *nalas* contain very little water in them. Rain is most urgently needed throughout the district. Cattle get pasture and fodder with much difficulty. Grain is being largely exported from taluka Ambar to the adjoining British district. Fever prevails in two talukas. Prices of grain almost steady: wheat 6½ seers, rice 5½ seers, and jawari 7½ seers.

3. *Bir*.—Of the kharif crop, bajra is harvested, its yield being very poor. Standing kharif has dried up; of the rabi crop, linseed is parched up, and jawari, wheat, and gram will suffer much if rain does not fall within a week or so; standing rabi wants rain very badly. Water and pasture very scarce for cattle in the jungle. The heat is very severe for the time of the year, and the water supply is fast decreasing. Agricultural prospects are very gloomy. Prices of grain have risen slightly: wheat 7 seers, rice 5 seers, and jawari 8½ seers.

4. *Parbhani*.—The heavy drought still continues. Kharif has almost dried up, and is not likely to give more than a two-anna crop; rabi is not yet sown in parts, and wherever it is sown the young shoots have withered up, and rain is most urgently wanted to save the rabi already sown. Pasture and water are available with great difficulty for cattle. Agricultural prospects are very gloomy. Prices of grain slightly rising: wheat 6 seers, rice 5 seers, and jawari 9 seers.

5. *Nander*.—On account of the continued absence of rain, and on account of severe heat, the standing kharif has almost dried up in parts; rabi young shoots are withering, and wheat, jawari, gram, and linseed are beginning to dry up; rabi sowings are suspended, as rain is very badly wanted in each taluka of this district. Tanks and kuntas have very little water left in them.

Fever and cough prevail in one taluka. Grain prices have fallen on account of large imports in taluka Diglur. Prices of grain : wheat $7\frac{3}{8}$ seers, rice 5 seers, and jawari $11\frac{1}{2}$ seers.

6. *Gulburgah*.—During the week under report there was no rain in any taluka of this district. Kharif has been harvested in parts, the yield being very poor; young shoots of rabi already sown are drying up in the absence of rain, which is most urgently wanted throughout the district. Tanks and kuntas are running short of water; in taluka Andola, the water will last for not more than a fortnight. Cattle get pasture with much difficulty. Fever and cold prevail in one taluka. Prices of grain slightly rising : wheat $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, rice $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and jawari 9 seers.

7. *Raichur*.—Kharif harvest has commenced in parts, the yield varying from 2 to 4 annas; *toor* is drying up for want of rain; cotton and jawari sown, but they stand very badly, in need of rain; standing rabi in fair state hitherto, but should the rains hold off for another week or so, it will be seriously injured. Drinking water is scarce, and cattle are badly off for want of pasture. Water in tanks and kuntas is daily decreasing. Prices of grain going up : wheat 6 seers, rice $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and jawari $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers.

8. *Lingsuqar*.—Of the kharif crop, jawari and hajra are being harvested; in parts kharif has dried up for want of rain; standing rabi is badly in need of rain, and if rain does not fall in the near future, rabi will be badly damaged. Cattle get pasture with difficulty. Tanks and kuntas are drying up. Bubonic fever prevails in parts. Prices of grain are going up; wheat $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers, rice 7 seers, and jawari $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers.

9. *Naldurg*.—Standing kharif is much affected by the heavy drought, and young shoots of rabi are drying up for want of rain; should the rain hold off for another week or so, standing rabi will be destroyed. Grass is not available for cattle. *Karbi* sells very dear. Wells and *nalas* do not contain water even for drinking purposes. Grain is still being largely exported into British territory from taluka Tuljapur. Prices of grain have risen : wheat $7\frac{1}{4}$ seers, rice 6 seers, and jawari $7\frac{3}{8}$ seers.

10. *Bular*.—Young shoots of rabi stand very badly in need of rain, and are drying up; kharif harvest going on, the yield being very poor. No water exists in wells and kuntas, and cattle get grass with much difficulty. Rain is most urgently wanted. Prices of grain fairly stationary : wheat $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers, rice $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and jawari 10 seers.

11. *Indur*.—What little remains of kharif is being harvested; autumn rice crop has almost parched up; rabi is being sown, but wherever the sowings have already taken place, they stand very much in need of rain; jawari, linseed, and cotton are withering. The present water supply is not likely to last for more than a few days, and there is very little hope for winter rice cultivation this year, though in taluka Bemgal preparations for the same are being made. Tanks and kuntas have also dried up. Fever prevails in three talukas and cattle disease in two. Price of grain fairly stationary : wheat $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, rice $6\frac{3}{4}$ seers, and jawari $11\frac{1}{4}$ seers.

12. *Mahab Nagar*.—Standing kharif is harvested and stacked, the average yield being from 2 to 8 annas; autumn rice crop sown under wells is in a comparatively fair state, but that sown under tanks has dried up; rabi wherever sown is drying and stands very much in need of immediate rain. There is no water in tanks and there is no hope of winter rice cultivation; water evaporating in tanks on account of severe heat. Fever and small-pox prevail in one taluka and measles in one. Cattle suffer much from short pasture. Price of grain steady : wheat $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers, rice $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers, and jawari $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers.

13. *Medal*.—In the continued absence of rain, standing rabi shoots have dried up. Kharif harvest is progressing with a very poor yield, and the autumn rice crop has withered. No water in tanks and kuntas, and cattle get pasture with much difficulty. Agricultural distress is increasing and prices of grain are rising : wheat 7 seers, rice $7\frac{1}{4}$ seers, and jawari $10\frac{3}{4}$ seers.

14. *Sirpur Tandur*.—Standing crops are drying up on account of the heavy drought, and rabi, jawari, and wheat are drying up. Very little water is left in tanks and kuntas. Pasture is obtained with much difficulty. Rain is most anxiously awaited. Prices of grain steady: wheat 6½ seers, rice 6½ seers, and jawari 14½ seers.

15. *Warangal*.—What little remains of kharif is being harvested; rabi sowings are suspended for want of rain, but rabi wherever sown is withering, and stands very badly in need of rain; autumn rice crop is not in good condition. Grass and water are very scarce for cattle; water supply is daily decreasing, and there is hardly any water left in tanks and kuntas to carry on the winter rice cultivation. Small-pox prevails in parts of one taluka. Prices of grain are rising: wheat 5½ seers, rice 8 seers, and jawari 11½ seers.

16. *Elgandal*.—Harvesting of kharif continues; *makai, til, and moony* have dried up; the autumn rice crop was sown this year on a very limited area, but that too has dried up; rabi sowings are suspended for want of rain, and rabi wherever sown is very badly in need of rain. Water in tanks and kuntas is evaporating on account of excessive heat, and the winter rice crop cannot be sown. Grass has totally dried up in parts and the condition of cattle is far from satisfactory; cattle disease prevails in one taluka. Prices of grain have risen slightly: wheat 6½ seers, rice 7½ seers, and jawari 13½ seers.

17. *Nalgundah*.—Harvesting of kharif is almost at an end; autumn rice crop has dried up in parts, and what little remains of it is being harvested; rabi already sown is not in good state and stands very badly in need of rain; there is no hope of sowing the winter rice crop this year, and even rabi sowings are discontinued. Cattle-disease exists in two talukas and small-pox in one; cattle are badly off for pasture. Prices of grain almost stationary: wheat 5½ seers, rice 8½ seers, and jawari 15½ seers.

No. 220.

Letter from Sir Trevor Chichele-Plowden, K.C.S.I., Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 37, dated Hyderabad, the 24th January 1900.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter No. 109, dated the 21st January 1900, from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, forwarding a copy of a letter, dated the 13th January 1900, and of the memorandum therein referred to from Mr. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner to His Highness the Nizam's Government, on the agricultural condition of the Hyderabad State.

Enclosure in No. 220.

Memorandum by Mr. A. T. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner to His Highness the Nizam's Government, dated Aurangabad, 13th January 1900.

Except in the districts of Gulburgah, Raichur, and Lingsugar, there has been no rain since the week ending 21st September, and in most parts the rabi crop is a failure.

In the three districts named, the autumn rainfall was very light and from parts of Gulburgah and Lingsugar there are complaints of distress.

The land revenue is likely to fall from 220 to 140 lakhs.

The distress is most intense in the following districts:

District.	Area in sq. miles.	Population.
Aurangabad...	5,863	777,101
Parbhani	4,649	724,481
Bir	4,130	599,997
Nander	3,337	630,310
Naldrug	2,475	378,706
Total	20,454	3,110,595

Except Lingsugar and Raichur, which I do not recognise at present as affected districts, although there is, of course, the distress that is always brought about by high prices, every district is more or less affected.

In the Telingana district as below, the distress is, however, not at present of such a nature as to necessitate relief works on a large scale:

District	Area in sq. miles.	Population.
Indur	4,882	639,598
Mahbubnagar	6,444	670,339
Medak	2,008	359,987
Sirpur Tandur	5,029	231,754
Warangal	9,727	843,022
Elgandal	7,095	1,074,406
Nalgundah	4,118	622,130
Total	39,243	4,441,236

It has been arranged for the present to vigorously push on the repairs of tanks by the usual contract system, and in the Medak district, the Manjira Irrigation Project, Rs. 10,00,000, comprising an irrigation channel 27 miles in length, has been started, and ought to afford employment to a large number of labourers, the expenditure on it this year being estimated at 3 lakhs.

I have altogether arranged up to date with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for the carrying out of irrigation works in the Telingana districts during the current season to the extent of 9 lakhs. In addition to these, if it is anywhere found that distressed people are not able to work, or even if able are not taken on the works, special relief works will be opened for them.

In the Aurangabad Division and in the Naldrug district of the Gulburgah Division, relief works have been already opened, and, according to the latest returns received, the total number employed is—

Workers	20,829
Dependents	6,964
Total	<u>27,793</u>
Gratuitously relieved	7,956
Grand total	<u>35,749</u>

Compared with the numbers in the adjacent districts of the Bombay Presidency, the attendance on relief works is small and less than was anticipated.

In the Naldrug district, works were started on the 23rd and 27th December 1899, respectively, and the number of workers and dependents has already amounted to 13,909 and is increasing daily. In a short time I expect there will be about 30,000 on these works.

In the Aurangabad district, where work was started on the 6th November, the number does not exceed 12,553, and I am not at all satisfied with the way in which these works have been carried on. I have now returned to Aurangabad, and am enquiring into the matter myself.

Work on the Hingoli Railway (Parbhani district) has just been started, and returns have not been received of the workers. Having regard to the distress that prevails, I anticipate that the number on relief works in the five districts of Aurangabad, Bir, Parbhani, Nander and Naldrug will shortly rise to 100,000, and more than this number will have to be provided for.

The supply of grain in the country is everywhere reported to be sufficient, and as strict measures have been adopted for preventing local officials interfering with bazaar prices, there are no, or at least very few and trifling, complaints of a difficulty in obtaining supplies.

The average price of jowari at the present time compared with the corresponding period in 1897 is—

Division.	1897.	1900.
Aurangabad	Seers. 12½	Seers. 8
Gulburgah	12	9½
Bidar	13½	10½
Warangal	15	13
Average for Dominions ...	13½	10

It is this sudden rise in prices which has deepened the distress more suddenly than was anticipated.

The exports of grain towards Bombay were abnormal in the months of September and October, the quantity exported being—

	Maunds.
September	508,000
October	452,000

Since then exports have been generally checked by the rise in local prices. The quantity exported in November fell to 227,000 maunds, and although the returns for December are not yet complete, it is known that the exports have been even less in that month.

On the other hand the imports have largely increased. In November they amounted to 286,000 maunds, and in the first week of December to 100,000 maunds.

The stock of grain in the country is, it is believed, sufficient to last until the next harvest. But should it fail, it will be easier on this occasion to supply the interior districts, as the new Godavery Valley Railway is now open for a length of 154 miles, from Munmar in the Nasik district, Bombay Presidency, to Sailu in the Parbhani district; and, if necessity arose, grain could be conveyed by the unopened length of line from Hyderabad to Godavery, a distance of about 125 miles.

Complaints are received from every quarter of a scarcity of fodder; but as last year's jowari crop was a good one, there must be a considerable supply of *Karbi*, which is being reserved for the agricultural cattle. At the same time, there will be enormous distress among the cattle, and it is practically impossible to adopt measures on any large scale to save them. Thousands of cattle have been driven to the forest reserves, where they are being grazed.

The water-supply in wells is already failing, and villages are being deserted on account of the difficulty of obtaining water. In every district measures have been adopted by the Local Fund Department for the improvement of wells so far as possible.

No. 221.

Letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India Foreign Department, to the Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad. No. 520I.-A., dated Fort William, the 27th January 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 10, dated the 17th January 1900, regarding expenditure on famine relief in Berar.

2. Sanction is accorded to expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 25 lakhs during the current official year, instead of up to Rs. 10½ lakhs only as previously authorised.

No. 222.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan, No. 703I.-A., dated the 7th February 1900.

No. 703 I.-A. Your letter No. 37, January 24th. Dunlop does not say whether relief arrangements in Hyderabad are adequate, though his memorandum suggests that demand for relief is great. Please furnish your opinion. Government of India would also like information as to general condition of the people.

No. 223.

Letter from the Resident at Hyderabad to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 85, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 22nd February, 1900.

In continuation of my telegram No. 67, dated the 12th February, 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 326, dated the 13th February, 1900, addressed to His Highness the Nizam's Minister on the subject of famine arrangements in the Hyderabad State.

2. I have spoken with the Minister on the subject of famine arrangements in Hyderabad, and impressed on him the necessity of giving the subject full and prompt attention. Sir Vikar informed me that he intends to go to Aurangabad, so as to inform himself of local conditions on the spot.

3. The Minister's reply to the letter under transmission, which has been referred to Mr. Dunlop for report, will be communicated to the Government of India as soon as possible after receipt.

Enclosure in No. 223.

Letter from the First Assistant to the Resident at Hyderabad to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, No. 326, dated the 13th February, 1900.

I am directed to refer to Mr. Dunlop's memorandum, dated 13th January, inclosed in your No. 109 of 21st January, on the subject of famine arrangements in the Hyderabad State, and to say that the Resident would be obliged for further information on certain points.

2. Sir Trevor would like to know, in the first place, whether the conditions of the seven Telangana districts named in the memorandum are still as therein described, or whether the condition of all or any of them has deteriorated, so as to render necessary the provision of relief works on a scale in excess of the measures described in the memorandum. Mr. Dunlop states that he has arranged with the Chief Engineer for projects costing nine lakhs of rupees, and

that if these are not sufficient, special relief works will be opened. It has not, however, been shown whether these accepted projects are distributed in an adequate way over all the districts affected, or for how many relief workers and for what length of time they will provide employment. Nor is it said whether any programme of special relief works actually exists, and whether there is good reason to believe that it is sufficient. It appears to the Resident that arrangements for combating the rapid development of severe and extensive famine in the Mahratwari districts will so fully occupy Mr. Dunlop's time that he will be unable to attend also to the Telingana districts in the event of famine supervening in them, and he suggests the expediency of relieving Mr. Dunlop of the famine work of the Telingana districts and of appointing Mr. Roscoe Allen as Famine Commissioner for them in addition to his own duties.

3. With regard to the Mahratwari districts the Resident wishes to know whether His Highness's Government are satisfied with the sufficiency of the arrangements proposed by Mr. Dunlop, and in particular that the relief works are adequate both in number and in their distribution over the affected area and as to their capability of employing all the workers who may be expected to seek employment on them. From the list which accompanied your No. 183 of 8th February, it appears that seven works have been started in the Aurangabad district, on which relief is given to a daily total of 20,087 workers and dependents, and three works in the Parbhani district, on which the daily total is 13,573 workers and dependents. Sir Trevor believes that the plans for thirteen miles of light railway between Jalna and the Berar frontier have recently been made over to Mr. Dunlop, and that there is a further length of railway from Lassona to Hingoli and from Hingoli to the Berar frontier, aggregating about sixty miles. The Resident does not know for how many workers it has been estimated that these two railway works will provide, but taking the number at 30,000 persons a day for six months, it is evident that additional works will have to be provided. What the Resident wishes to know is whether His Highness's Government have additional projects ready and for what number of persons.

4. Mr. Dunlop estimates that 100,000 persons will require employment on relief works in the five Mahratwari districts, which is equal to only about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of their population.* The Resident entertains grave doubts as to the adequacy of this estimate, for he believes that the condition of these districts is just as bad as the condition of Berar, and in the Akola district alone, which is not the worst district in Berar, the present number of persons on relief works is about 70,000. Sir Trevor thinks that the programme of works for the five districts should provide for 10 per cent. of their total population at the least. Two other matters on which Mr. Dunlop's memorandum does not furnish information are, first, the general condition of the people, and next, the arrangements that have been made for gratuitous relief in villages which, to be efficiently carried out, requires detailed and timely organisation. The Resident advises, therefore, that Mr. Dunlop be requested to prepare and submit a further memorandum which shall deal with the above points and which shall specify the number of works sanctioned for each of the five districts, and state explicitly whether they are believed to be adequate in all respects for the purposes in view.

5. Finally, the Resident will be glad to receive from His Highness's Government at your very earliest convenience a definite statement of ways and means showing as precisely as circumstances admit the estimated expenditure on famine relief up to the 1st August next, and the arrangements which have been made or which are in process of being made to meet it. In paragraph 3 of his letter to you, No. 94 C. of 5th December, 1899, the Resident expressed the opinion that the sum of 16 lakhs, which you had told him had been set aside for famine relief, would suffice only for the Mahratwari districts, Sir Trevor feels sure that, if the condition of these districts is anything like as bad as the condition of Berar, the sum will prove wholly insufficient for those districts, without taking the Telingana districts into account at all.

* 3,110,595 for the five districts.

No. 224.

Letter from E. H. Blakesley, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 54, dated Hyderabad, the 6th February, 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Department letter No. 520 I.-A., dated the 27th January, 1900, sanctioning the Public Works Department budget estimate of famine expenditure in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, amounting to 25 lakhs, during the current official year.

2. I am now to submit, for the sanction of the Government of India, the accompanying civil budget providing for expenditure of Rs. 5,95,749 on account of famine relief in Berar for the same period.

Enclosure 1 in No. 224.

Budget Estimate showing Famine Expenditure in the Hyderabad Assigned Districts for the year 1899-1900.

Heads of Expenditure	Akola.	Am- rood.	Basim	Sul- dana.	Ellichpur.		Wun.	Total.	Remarks
					Plain taluka.	Mel- ghat.			
1. (a) Salaries and Establishment	Rs. 9,675	Rs. 7,548	Rs. 8,715	Rs. 17,308	Rs. 5,040	Rs. 1,820	Rs. 630	Rs. 50,838	
(b) Salaries and Establishment (local)	2,000	—	120	—	100	—	240	2,460	
2. (a) Relief Works in charge of Civil officers—									
(a) Communications	—	—	—	—	—	15,080	—	15,080	
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	—	—	—	—	—	28,700	—	28,700	
(c) Tools and Plant	—	—	—	—	—	3,500	—	3,500	
	—	—	—	—	—	47,280	—	47,280	
(b) Relief Works in charge of Civil officers (local)—									
(a) Communications	11,000	8,000	8,780	2,500	11,000	—	3,978	44,938	
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	8,500	10,900	3,780	3,519	4,600	—	615	31,214	
(c) Tools and Plant	—	1,100	2,120	250	2,700	—	100	6,270	
	19,500	20,000	14,680	6,269	17,700	—	4,291	82,420	
3. (a) Relief Works in charge of Public Works Department officers—									
(a) Communications	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(c) Tools and Plant	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) Relief Works in charge of Public Works Department officers (local)—									
(a) Communications	—	—	—	—	6,000	—	—	6,000	
(b) Miscellaneous Public Improve- ments	—	—	—	—	1,200	—	—	1,200	
(c) Tools and Plant	—	—	—	—	7,200	—	—	7,200	
4. (a) Relief to people employed otherwise than on Relief Works (e.g. relief to artisans and weavers, &c.)	48,177	3,000	—	—	10,000	2,800	—	63,977	
(b) Relief to people employed otherwise than on Relief Works (local).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5. (a) Gratuitous Relief—									
(a) Given in Government institu- tions (poor-houses or kitchens)	7,583	8,000	9,800	13,000	—	2,000	5,000	45,383	
(b) Given at the houses of the people (relieve relief)	1,20,364	8,000	11,700	53,000	22,000	10,000	1,000	2,38,064	
(c) Given in other ways (by Police or Famine officer on tour).	300	1,000	—	—	500	6,000	1,000	8,800	
	1,28,247	17,000	21,500	66,000	22,500	18,000	7,000	3,82,347	
(b) Gratuitous Relief (local)—									
(a) Given in Government institu- tions (poor-houses or kitchens).	4,000	6,000	5,220	—	3,000	—	400	18,620	
(b) Given at the houses of the people (relieve relief).	—	4,000	—	—	—	—	200	4,200	
(c) Given in other ways	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	4,000	10,000	5,220	—	3,000	—	600	23,820	
6. (a) Miscellaneous	—	3,000	1,000	103	2,150	30,000	1,000	36,253	
(b) Miscellaneous (local)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	2,11,399	69,548	51,216	91,680	87,690	1,00,000	13,767	5,95,749	

A sum of 25 lakhs has already been sanctioned by the Government of India, Foreign Department, in their letter No. 520 I.-A., dated the 27th January 1900.

* Commissioner's office establishment.

† To be given to the District Board.

No. 225.

Telegram from the Resident at Hyderabad to the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, No. 76, dated the 19th February, 1900.

Your telegram 873 I.-A. I have had matters of immigration from Hyderabad into Berar and Bombay under consideration for some time, and am endeavouring to make suitable arrangements—see paragraph eleven, my Berar Secretary's No. 73 of 14th February to Revenue.

No. 226.

Letter from The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department to The Resident at Hyderabad, No. 912 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 21st February, 1900.

In reply to your Secretary's letter No. 54, dated the 6th February, 1900, I am directed to convey sanction to an additional grant of Rs. 5,96,000 to meet expenditure on famine relief in Berar during the current official year.

No. 227.

Telegram from The Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to The Resident at Hyderabad (Deccan), No. 1349 I.-A. dated 20th March, 1900.

Bombay Government complain of enormous influx of Hyderabad subjects on to relief works in Sholapur, especially taluka of Barsi, also into Ahmednagar. Works suitable for famine relief in Sholapur district are becoming rapidly exhausted and situation is one of extreme gravity. Please press on Nizam's Government the need of establishing sufficient relief works in Hyderabad territory, and report to me what works are open within 20 miles of the frontier and the number employed on them. Also whether wage given on Hyderabad relief works approximates that given on works in British territory near the Hyderabad border.

No. 228.

Letter from the Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 140, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 26th March 1900.

I have the honour to refer to Foreign Department telegram No. 1349 I.A., dated the 20th March 1900, regarding the influx of persons from the Hyderabad State on to relief works in Sholapur, Barsi and Ahmednagar. (See letter from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India, No. 1440, dated 13th March 1900, printed among the papers relating to Bombay.)

2. A similar complaint reached me from the Government of Bombay, on receipt of which I immediately caused His Highness's Minister to be addressed. I now enclose, for the information of the Government of India, a copy* of my First Assistant's letter and of the Minister's reply† thereto with copies of its enclosures, showing the steps taken by His Highness's Government to provide work for those of His Highness's subjects brought back from Barsi. I have furnished the Government of Bombay with a copy of the Minister's letter and of its enclosures referred to above.

3. In February last His Highness's Minister was, at the instance of the Commissioner, Central Division, Bombay Presidency, requested to furnish

* No. 466, dated 3rd March 1900.

† No. 423, dated 17th March 1900.

information giving the names and localities in which relief works had been opened by His Highness's Government on this side of the frontier in His Highness's territory to enable the Collectors concerned to transfer to the nearest famine camps in His Highness's territory those of His Highness's subjects who had found their way into the Khandesh, Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur districts. I have not yet received this information, but His Highness's Minister has sent me a copy of his letter to Mr. Dunlop on the subject and has promised me a further communication on receipt of his reply. I have again addressed the Minister in the matter including the additional information now called for and will forward his reply on receipt.

Enclosure 1 in No. 228.

Letter from the First Assistant to the Resident, Hyderabad, to His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, No. 466, dated the 3rd March 1900.

I am desired to forward, for the information of His Highness's Government, the enclosed copy of a telegram of the 3rd February from the Famine Commissioner, Bombay, on the subject of the inrush of His Highness's subjects on to relief works in the Barsi taluka.

I am to ask that adequate arrangements for the relief of distress in that and other portions of His Highness's dominions where it exists may be promptly made, and that you will be good enough to favour the Resident with your assurance that this has been done at the earliest possible moment.

I am to request that some competent official with plenary powers should be sent at once to Barsi to assist in reclaiming and making proper arrangements for the relief of all subjects of His Highness now on relief institutions in British territory.

Enclosure 2 in No. 228.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, to the First Assistant to the Resident, Hyderabad, No. 423, dated the 17th March 1900.

With reference to your letter No. 466, dated 3rd March 1900, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Famine Commissioner, Bombay, on the subject of the inrush of His Highness's subjects into relief works in the Barsi taluka, I forward for your information copies of letters No. 3002, dated 6th March 1900, and No. 14-E., dated 12th March 1900, from the Famine Commissioner, His Highness's Government, to the Inspecting Engineer, Famine Relief Works, Gulburgah Division, which will show what action has been taken by His Highness's Government to provide work for those people who are brought back from Barsi.

Enclosure 3 in No. 228.

Letter from A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner, His Highness the Nizam's Government, Aurangabad, to the Inspecting Engineer, Famine Relief Works, No. 3002, dated the 6th March 1900.

I enclose copy of telegram received to day from the Private Secretary regarding 10,000 persons being on the Barsi works.

These people ought to have come to our works, but apparently they will not do so.

Under these circumstances, I have decided to open works in the Parendah taluka and have ordered a special supply of tools, which the receiving agent

will send to the Tahsildar of Parendah, from whom the District Engineer will get them.

There are two works to do—

- (1) deepen the Kunta at Parendah ;
- (2) break metal for the Parendah-Barsi road.

A supervisor should be obtained for this work. But if you cannot get one immediately send some who can start metal breaking by letting each family or group break a brass at the famine rate and pay them in addition for dependant.

This will be a contract system with each family.

The tank work could be done, if necessary, under the Tehsildar's supervision.

At any rate have both works started as early as possible as best you can.

Endorsed by the Famine Commissioner, No. 3003, dated the 6th March 1900.

Copy to the District Engineer for immediate action.

Enclosure 4 in No. 228.

Letter from A. J. Dunlop, Esq., Famine Commissioner, His Highness the Nizam's Government, Hyderabad, to the Inspecting Engineer, Famine Relief Works, Gulburgah Division, No. 14 E., dated the 12th March 1900.

I enclose copies of correspondence received with the Private Secretary's letter No. 1146, dated 4th instant, and to request that you will depute an officer to bring the people referred to back from Barsi.

The people may be employed either on the Parendah road (the work on which I have separately sanctioned) or on the Mominabad-Kallam road or any other sanctioned work you may consider desirable.

I do not tie your hands as to the locality at which the people should be employed, but it is essentially necessary that you should take practical steps (1) for removing the cause of the complaint made by the Famine Commissioner of Bombay ; (2) that the people brought back from Barsi should be fed and maintained, being given a minimum wage until all those who are fit for work are employed.

The sick and infirm can be taken to the nearest poor-house.

No. 229.

Letter from E. H. Blakesley, Esq., Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 146, dated Hyderabad, the 6th April 1900.

With a view to meet expenditure on famine relief operations in the Hyderabad Contingent Stations, the Resident has already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 53,672 from the Abkari Funds of those stations for 1899-1900 and 1900-1901, leaving an estimated balance of only Rs. 7,318 to the credit of those funds at the end of 1900-1901, in spite of the fact that the minimum estimated closing balance of those funds should not be less than Rs. 20,000.

2. In addition to the sum already sanctioned, applications for further expenditure on famine relief works in the Hyderabad Contingent Stations have been received, amounting in all to Rs. 26,700, to meet which there are no funds at the disposal of the Resident in the Military Department except the amount of Rs. 7,318 mentioned above. Moreover, similar applications may possibly be received in the course of a few weeks more. The Resident, therefore, estimates that on the whole a sum of Rs. 50,000 will be required to meet the present and future demands of famine relief works in the Hyderabad Contingent Stations.

3. As this money cannot be made available from the sources at the disposal of the Resident in the Military Department, I am to request, with reference to the provisions of Article 116 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I., that the Government of India may be pleased to sanction the grant of an advance or loan to the Akbari Funds of the Hyderabad Contingent Stations of Rs. 50,000 from the Berar Provincial revenues or from the allotment for "gratuitous relief" in the Berar Famine Budget.

I am to add that, as funds are urgently required, orders on this letter may be communicated to the Resident by wire.

No. 230.

Telegram from the Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan, to the Foreign Secretary, Simla, No. 1219, dated the 9th April 1900.

Nizam's Government have applied for services of six officers, Hyderabad Contingent, for famine duty, offering Rs. 300 Staff and travelling allowances. General Officer Commanding, Hyderabad Contingent, reports officers are available only if rules laid down in your letter quoted above are held applicable to enable officers remaining with head-quarters of regiments to draw Staff pay of absentees on famine duty. Pleasé wire whether this is approved. Matter is urgent. Repeated to Foreign, Viceroy's Camp.

No. 231.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. K. Barr, C.S.I., Officiating Resident at Hyderabad, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 165, dated Hyderabad Residency, the 11th April 1900.

In continuation of my letter No. 140, dated the 26th March 1900, I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter No. 489, dated the 4th April 1900, from His Highness the Nizam's Minister together with its enclosures* concerning famine relief works opened by His Highness's Government on the Khandesh, Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur frontiers.

2. From paragraph 4 of the Minister's letter it would seem that the numbers of immigrants into works in the Barsi taluka—even allowing for the alleged practice of giving false addresses by such persons—may have been somewhat exaggerated.

3. The map enclosed shows the position of relief works in His Highness's dominions, and Mr. Dunlop's letter, No. 1833, shows to which works immigrants into Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Nasik and, Khandesh districts can be sent back. A copy of the Minister's letter with its enclosures is being forwarded to the Famine Department of the Bombay Government for information. Mr. Dunlop's report is of some time back, and it may be noted that the total numbers on relief in His Highness's dominions are reported to have risen from 71,970 on 3rd February to 275,365 on the 4th April 1900. The Minister has not given the names of works within 20 miles of the border, as requested in your telegram No. 1349 of the 20th March 1900, but it is hoped that the map and statements will give a general idea of the geographical distribution of relief works. Similarly the Minister is unable to compare the rates given in His Highness's dominions with those in adjoining districts of the Bombay Presidency, but he encloses a table of the former based on the recommendations of the Famine Commissioner which, if duly paid as reported, would seem to be sufficiently liberal, especially in view of the probability that, owing to lack of efficient subordinate controlling staff, tasks are less rigidly exacted than on

* Mr Dunlop's note only printed

relief works in British India. This want will, it is hoped, be shortly supplied. Among other measures His Highness's Government have recently applied for the services of six British officers from the Hyderabad Contingent to assist Mr. Dunlop in the supervision of famine relief operations and I hope to be able to comply shortly with this request.

Enclosure 1 in No. 231.

Letter from His Highness the Nizam's Minister, Hyderabad, to the Resident at Hyderabad, No. 429, dated the 4th April 1900.

Kindly refer to correspondence ending with your letter No. 704, dated the 26th March 1900, regarding information required concerning famine relief works opened by His Highness's Government on the Khandesh, Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur frontiers.

2. I regret to find that by an oversight the information asked for in your letter No. 242, dated the 2nd February 1900, had not been sent to you, and I therefore hasten to send you a copy of the Famine Commissioner's letter No. 1833, dated the 12th February 1900, together with a copy of its enclosure, showing the relief works which were in progress at the time with the total attendance up to the 3rd February 1900.

3. His Highness's Government have up to date sanctioned every proposal put before them for famine relief, and are incurring a very heavy expenditure, the numbers on relief to-day being 275,365, with the prospect of the figures rising to half a million or more. The Famine Commissioner does not enter into any explanation as to why the rise in the figures has occurred so late in the season, as compared with the neighbouring districts, but when the time comes for reviewing the whole position he thinks that he will be able to show that there was no occasion, and that it was impracticable for His Highness's Government to incur expenditure in the early part of the season on the same scale as was adopted in the adjoining districts of Bombay and Berar. This is said to have been the cause of many persons going into British districts, but it has been mentioned to Mr. Dunlop by the Commissioner of Berar and the Collector of Ahmednagar that the opening of certain works on our frontier relieved the situation, many persons having returned from the British districts. Although there are still subjects of His Highness in British districts, Mr. Dunlop believes that the number has much decreased.

4. Concerning the complaint contained in the telegram from the Famine Commissioner, Bombay, received under cover of your letter No. 466, dated the 3rd March 1900, that 10,000 of His Highness's subjects were on relief works in Barsi, Mr. Dunlop has ascertained by personal enquiries of the officers of the district that the estimate is a rough one, as put forward by subordinates, and believes that it is exaggerated. However, he has taken all possible steps to bring the people back, and as can be seen from the accompanying copy of letter No. 570, dated the 23rd March 1900, from the Inspecting Engineer, 439 persons have been brought back from Barsi town, 15 persons from Ghari Puri Camp, and 509 other persons are in process of being brought back, there only being one more camp to inspect, viz., the Pathri tank work. Barsi is a large and populous town where native merchants give a good deal of gratuitous relief, and as the Parendah taluka is within 2 or 3 miles of the town, it is not surprising that our people wander into it in the hope of getting relief in some shape or other. The number of people discovered, is, however very small, as compared with the estimate of 10,000.

The Famine Commissioner to His Highness's Government believes that so long as the frontier remains in the present unsatisfactory state there will be trouble in times of distress, regarding the migration of the people. In the famine of 1877, the Bombay people crowded into His Highness's territory. This year the flow is in the other direction, though a large number of British subjects have come from the Bijapur direction to the Gulburgah division in search of work.

5. With reference to the further information asked for in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), (paragraph 3) of your letter under reply, I enclose a statement of all relief works with an accompanying sketch map. The Famine Commissioner cannot, without reference to the local officers, show what works are within 20 miles of the frontier, because, in the first instance, the frontier is most irregular, as a glance at the map will show, and, secondly, some camps stretch out for a distance of 10 miles. This information will, however, be furnished later on.

As regards sub-paragraph (c), I enclose a statement showing the scale of famine wages paid up to date. Mr. Dunlop is unable to show how these rates compare with the rates in the adjoining British districts, and would therefore be glad to have information of these rates so that he may assimilate his to them. Having lately met some Bombay officers, Mr. Dunlop ascertained from them that a reduction had been made in the scale of minimum wages, and he is now making a move in the same direction, and has asked the Commissioner of the Berars to let him have the details of the Berar rates. Meanwhile the table of rates now submitted shows what has been paid up to date.

6. I send you herewith four copies of Mr. Dunlop's Famine Note No. 2. The printing of the appendices to this note have, I am sorry to say, somewhat delayed its issue, but these are of comparatively small importance.

Enclosure 2 in No. 231.

Famine Note No. II., by Mr. A. J. Dunlop, Famine Commissioner to His Highness the Nizam's Government, dated Camp Aurangabad, 6th March 1900.

General.—In this note I propose reviewing the present position of the famine in His Highness's territory and the measures adopted for combating it.

SERIOUSLY AFFECTED DISTRICTS.

2. *Seriously affected area with population.*—The total area of the seriously affected part of the country is 23,007 miles with a population of 3,573,651 as shown below.

Districts	Talukae.	Area in square miles.	Population
Aurangabad	All ..	6,176	828,975
Bir	All ..	4,460	642,722
Parbhani	All ..	5,087	805,335
Nander	Bhysa ...	1,345	67,899
	Hudgaon		86,590
	Part of Nander.		100,000
Naldrug	All ..	4,010	649,272
Gulburgah	Mahagaon	400	63,438
Bidar	Rajura ..	1,529	148,805
	Oodgir ...		121,467
	Nilangal ...		59,148
	Total ..	23,007	3,573,651

Aurangabad, Bir and Parbhani.—The Aurangabad, Bir and Parbhani districts, with the exception of a tract of country near the Godaveri river, are suffering from a complete failure of rabi crops. I have lately travelled a very considerable distance and have not during this tour seen one single crop, except here and there, under wells. There is only this much to be said, *viz.*, (1) last year's crop was a large one and there is an ample supply of grain in the country; and (2) in the Kanar taluka of Aurangabad district, as also in some other places, the kharif crop was not wholly bad and in some parts even fair. Again, in a group of villages north of Hingoli (Parbhani district) the ryots reaped a good crop of fodder (*karbi*) which they have been able to sell, or are now selling, at the prevailing famine rates. In this part of the country, owing to the failure of the latter rains, the jawari plants failed to throw out heads of grain, but the plants were tall and have yielded a good supply of fodder.

Nander.—In the Nander district two and-a-half talukas are bad and the rest of the district is in a fair state. In the southern part of the Nander district (Biloli) the crops have been quite fair, and it is reported that people in considerable numbers, even from British districts, have gone there and to the adjoining Indur district for harvest operations.

Naldrug.—The Naldrug district has suffered very severely. In the part which I have personally seen, on the Latur-Yetsi road, there were some crops of jawari, and in this respect the country was not so bare as is the case in Aurangabad, but the outturn at the best will be only two or three annas in the rupee. The people in the Naldrug district are in a worse condition than those of other districts, which is attributable to repeated failures of crops experienced in late years.

Bidar.—The Bidar district has suffered in the talukas of Udgir, Rajura, and Nilanga. The other parts of this district are in fairly good condition, and there is, for the present at least, no necessity for relief works in them.

PARTIALLY-AFFECTED DISTRICTS.

3. *Partially-affected districts.*—The partially-affected districts may be taken to be more or less the remaining portion of the territory with the exception of the Indur district, some talukas in the Warangal and Elgandal districts, and a part of Bidar. For the Elgandal district I have received a report from Mr. Roscoe Allen showing that so far the district is right, but as the season wears on there is likely to be some distress among the labouring class. The survey officers' reports show that in some talukas of this district the crops have been good. For Sirpur Tandur I have had reports from both Mr. Biscoe, the Conservator of Forests, and Mr. Roscoe Allen, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, showing that the crops there have been fairly good, but distress is existent, because of the large number of persons from other districts who have overrun Sirpur.

The same is the experience in other parts also. Wherever the crops have been fairly good, or there is a chance of obtaining grazing for cattle, a rush is made in that direction, the result of which is likely to be distress after the harvest is over. So that for practical purposes I take it that the whole of the remaining portion of the country is to some extent affected.

I append copies from Mr. Roscoe Allen's reports (Appendix A). Mr. Biscoe's report, which was demi-official, has already been sent to the Private Secretary, in connection with the question of shooting parties in the Elgandal and Sirpur districts.

The reports now being received from Gulburgah, Lingsugur, Raichur, and Mahbubnagar show that matters are becoming worse in these districts, and when the harvest is over, as it soon will be, there will be a considerable number of persons in search of work.

The latest report of Gulburgah shows that the rabi crop has largely failed and especially in the Mahagaon taluka, where the people are reported to be in distress. But yet a test work of road metal breaking open on the Homunabad

road has not attracted many people. When the Inspecting Engineer opened this work himself on the 8th February 1900 the number of workers and dependants was only 564, and he reported that most of the people had gone to the neighbouring talukas for harvest operations. Since then the number rose to 1,132 on the 23rd February, but has again fallen to 691 on the 2nd March, but this is so small that it indicates there is not much distress at present, though it will increase as the season goes on.

From Raichur the latest report is that in the Yadgir taluka relief works are necessary. The other talukas do not require relief works at present, but some ordinary works would be of advantage.

In the Lingsugur district the Kushtagi taluka requires works opened. So far there is nothing to show from the reports received up to date that anything more than ordinary works are necessary in this part of the country, although we must be ready at any time to open them as relief works.

The Mahbubnagar district reports are becoming rather worse.

In the Warangal and Elgandal districts some talukas are quite in a good condition, but in the adjoining ones there has been failure of crops, and after the harvest is over it is expected the people will require to be provided with work.

The slightly affected area is therefore estimated as follows :—

Districts.	Talukas.	Area in square miles.	Population.
Nahder	All talukas except Bhysa, Hudgaon, and part of Nander.	1,998	378,040
Gulburgah	All talukas except Mahagaon...	3,664	585,821
Lingsugur	All	4,907	620,014
Raichur	All	3,661	512,455
Bidar	All except Rajura, Udgir and Nilanga.	2,651	572,564
Mahbubnagar	All	6,497	674,649
Medak... ..	All	2,017	364,735
Sirpur Tandur	All	5,029	231,754
Warangal	All	9,779	853,129
Elgandal	All	7,207	1,094,601
Nulgundah	All	4,131	624,617
	Total	51,541	6,512,379

RELIEF MEASURES IN THE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED DISTRICTS.

4. The following statement shows the works in progress or ordered to be started either at once or in rotation, with the present attendance on the open works :

[List of works not reproduced.]

In many instances it has been found impossible, owing to the insufficiency of establishment, to prepare estimates for works, so that a total estimate for the famine programme cannot be prepared, but as regards roads it is known that each mile of road requires 31,680 cubic feet of metal, and that in breaking this quantity of metal 1,000 workers (males 40 per cent., females 50 per cent., and children 10 per cent.) will be employed for 6·82 days.

In the case of new roads there is also the formation of the road to be done, as well as moorum to be stacked, and in this case the estimate is that 1,000 persons will be employed for a minimum period of 14 days per mile. If leads and lifts are long, the period will be extended. Last of all, if it is found that the work is not sufficient to keep the people employed, until the famine is over, it is always possible to break metal in excess of the estimated quantity for use in future years. This is already being done on the Toka road, where it is desirable to maintain a camp on account of its close vicinity to the British frontier.

The programme for the Aurangabad district is a full one. There are altogether 266 miles of road, including 12 miles of the Jalna-Khamgaon light railway. Four camps, with a total attendance of 44,167, are now at work, and other camps are just about to be opened. The Jalna-Khamgaon light railway will be started this week. It is being commenced from the Berar frontier end with the object of employing on it Hyderabad subjects who had migrated to Berar in search of work. The quantity of work to be done on this line has not been calculated, and I fear it will not give employment for very long; but I have also arranged to break ballast, and in this way it should be possible to provide for 12,000 people for a considerable time, and afterwards, when the work is completed, they can be drafted on to the Bir-Jalna road.

The Parbhani district is sufficiently well off for works, having the earthwork of the Hingoli extension railway, a distance of about 66 miles.

There has already been trouble and loss about this line, as the alignment was changed when some 12,000 people were working north of Hingoli, and the camp had to be transferred 10 miles south of Hingoli. I hope the question of alignment will be settled soon, as otherwise there will be a difficulty in finding employment for the people. No estimate has yet been framed of the total amount of work on this line, but I can see from the plans that there is not very much, and I have, therefore, had ballast breaking commenced in addition to the earthwork and bank cuttings.

The railway feeder roads in Parbhani will afford sufficient employment for the people, and if the number already on the list is insufficient they can be extended.

I am thinking of making a road from Mominabad to a point on the new railway, probably Koalla, which would form an excellent famine work, and be a useful road. It is not entered in the list, as details of the route have not yet been received from the Talukdar.

In the Bir district the works are very backward, and no district causes me more anxiety than this. In the first place, a quantity of tools consigned to Barsi intended for Bir and Naldrug were delivered to the Executive Engineer, Sholapur district, and there has been great delay in recovering them.

A change of district engineers was effected in the hope that the new officer would be more active, but so far there is no sign of this. At my request Mr. Kindersley, the Superintendent Engineer, lately went to Bir, but no report has yet been submitted by him on this district.*

There is no difficulty in finding work in Bir. The main roads in the district leading to Ahmednagar and Barsi all require doing up, and there is abundant scope for breaking metal on them. Again, the second section of the Bir-Jalna road has to be constructed. There has been a difficulty about the survey of this road with a view to its afterwards being made a railway, but Mr. Gregory has now arrived, and I hope that in the course of a few days it will be possible to start a camp on the first mile or two. I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the state of Bir; one of the reasons alleged for not starting more works is the want of tools, but the District Engineer failed to keep representing his requirements in this respect, and, while tools have been lying at Barsi town, the Bir district has been without them, and even up to the date of writing I have not been able

* Since received, being printed as an appendix.

to get a clear account of what tools the District Engineer has received and now requires. A few days ago I received his requisition for the current month, endorsed by Mr. Kindersley, the Superintending Engineer, giving his cash requirements for the month for all works at Rs. 30,000. The smallness of these figures shows that neither the Superintending Engineer nor the District Engineer has grasped the necessities of the case. My estimate for the Bir district for the current month is one lakh of expenditure, and this could easily be exceeded if I could get my orders carried out, and I have strongly impressed the importance of more activity on the Talukdar and District Engineer.

What I really require for Bir is an active, competent engineer, and a civil officer to assist the Talukdar, men who will take a grasp of things. The difficulty is to find them.

Nander district has not until lately required works, because the Hyderabad-Godaveri Valley Railway employed a large number and, as separately pointed out, a large portion of the district is in a fair state. Works are now, however, necessary. The Lat-Nander road was opened as a relief work on the 27th January, and the Hudgaon-Nander road is being surveyed and has been ordered to be started as a relief work. Mr. Roscoe Allen has a survey party at work in the southern part of the Nander district preparing estimates for tanks, and in this way I do not anticipate any difficulty in keeping the people of Nander employed. The difficulty is to find subordinates and officers to manage the camps.

The Naldrug district arrangements are fairly complete, and the works will be continued there by breaking excess metal, if the first estimates become exhausted.

The greatest difficulty in this district is to manage the Parenda taluka, which is to the west of Barsi, with a long strip of British territory intervening between it and the other parts of the Naldrug district. I made arrangements with the Tahsildar to draft all the people from Parenda to the Dharaseo-Sholapur or Latur-Yetsi roads, which was practically not taking them much further than they are alleged to have gone into British territory in search of work. But the people mostly refuse to go. Altogether over 900 were sent in batches, being paid for the journey, but from a report since received it appears that most of them have refused to remain on the works, and returned to their villages.

As I write I have received a telegram saying that the Resident has had complaints of 10,000 of His Highness's subjects being on works at Barsi, and requesting me to arrange for them. The numbers now on relief works in the Naldrug district are 50,104, and they are still increasing. If the people referred to had come to our works they would have been employed. Probably many of them belong to Parenda. In order to give effect to the wishes expressed by Government in the matter, I am now issuing orders to start metal breaking on the Parenda-Barsi road. Metal is not really required at this place, but I am issuing the order reluctantly, on the principle that as the famine cooly will not come to us we must go to him.

Where the boundary between the two territories is so irregular as it is on the western side of His Highness's territory, there will always be trouble about the interchange of people.

In the Bidar districts the necessity for works is now becoming somewhat pressing in the Udgir, Rajura and Nilanga talukas. I have authorised the Talukdar to push on with the Rajura road and the Udgir tank, both of which are good works, and can provide relief for large numbers. I also contemplate making a road from Udgir to Lat (Usmanagar) in the Nander district, so that this part of the country may be joined to the new railway,

5. *Attendance on relief Works.*—The attendance on famine relief works has risen week by week as below, but is still far behind the numbers employed in British India, and does not nearly reach the 15 per cent. of the population which is generally reckoned on in a famine.

Date for which attendance is shown.	Workers.	Dependants.	Gratuitously relieved.	Total
31st December, 1899	12,372	4,507	1,455	18,334
7th January, 1900	15,348	5,288	6,061	26,697
14th " "	28,053	6,964	8,593	43,610
20th " "	33,667	9,011	7,921	50,599
27th " "	36,075	14,771	8,573	59,419
3rd February "	48,994	22,976	5,770	77,740
10th " "	57,392	31,729	7,011	96,132
17th " "	70,097	36,130	7,756	113,983
24th " "	86,299	46,946	10,342	143,587
3rd March "	96,150	49,567	15,101	160,818

The causes of the comparatively small numbers* are threefold, viz., (1) many persons have gone off to the Tellingana districts where the crops have been better, grain is cheaper, and grazing has been obtainable. They have also gone to adjoining British territory.

(2.) Many persons objected to the rates being paid (which were those fixed by the Famine Commission), and others were willing to do earthwork, but objected to breaking metal. There is no doubt on this latter point, because I have come across many instances of it myself.

(3.) The famine operations had to be inaugurated at a time when there were no officers and no tools. The General Branch of the Public Works Department on which I should have been able to rely for every assistance failed me, its organisation being unable to bear the strain put on it. In fact many of the men in this department (as I have separately shown) shirked the famine work, and I have had great difficulty in retaining some of them at their posts. It became apparent at the very outset that I would have to get officers largely from outside, to which of course is attached the disadvantage of their not knowing the districts.

Again, as regards tools, I was able lately to compare notes with a Collector of an adjoining district on this point, who commenced the famine operations in his one district with a stock of 80,000 tools; while with five districts to provide for I had only a stock of 5,539, and there was such a demand for tools in India generally, that, notwithstanding I have been buying in Bombay, Karachi, Madras, and Calcutta, it is with much difficulty and unavoidable delay I have been able to get together a sufficient supply.

The total number of tools purchased up to date is 149,950, and more are still coming.

As regards officers, I have secured from outside, and mainly from the Hyderabad-Godaveri Valley Railway, the services of five officers in the higher grade, who are all in charge of district or special works.

I have retained, or promoted from lower grades, three officers of the Public Works Department, General Branch, for the charge of districts, and have appointed as Inspecting Engineer for the Naldurg and adjoining districts Mr. Sufadar Husain, whose permanent post is that of District Engineer, General Branch. These officers are working entirely under my orders, and are doing good service. In addition to 20 subordinates received from the General Branch, I have engaged 41 men, and more are still required.

All these arrangements have taken time and been most difficult to carry out, and they have undoubtedly retarded the extension of relief works, especially

* While this report is in the press the numbers on relief works have risen to 186,700.

in the Bir and Nander districts, which lag behind the others in an unsatisfactory manner.

I recently submitted to the Financial Secretary an estimate in which I have shown that, taking 15 per cent. of the population as likely to come on works, we may expect ultimately a total attendance of 590,000. My estimate for each month is as follows :—

Month, and number of days.	Average Attendance.	Rate.	Amount.
Ardibihist, 31 days (5th March to 4th April)	250,000 @	Rs. 125 per cent.	Rs. 9,68,000
Khurdad, 32 days (5th April to 6th May)	400,000	do.	16,00,000
Thir, 31 days (7th May to 6th June) ..	550,000	do.	21,31,000
Amerdad, 31 days (7th June to 7th July)	300,000	do.	11,62,000
Sharwar, 3 weeks (21 days), average up to 1st August.	150,000	do.	3,93,000
Total ... ..	...	...	62,54,000
Add for Surf-i-khas talukhas in Naldrug for 146 days.	30,000	do.	5,47,000
Grand Total ... ..	...	...	68,01,000

So far as the provision of work is concerned, I see no difficulty in working up to this total; and if famine works are to be carried on, on the same liberal system as is provided for in British India, and which system I have adopted here (as can be seen from the various circulars which I have issued), there is no doubt that we must work up to this estimate. But the difficulty is to get the requisite and efficient establishment to do so. The great difficulty I experience, and which is also experienced by a few officers under me who are really working at high pressure, is to get subordinate officers in charge of the works, or of gratuitous relief operations, to take an intelligent and active interest in the work allotted to them.

6. *Gratuitous relief.*—The general condition of the people is so far not unsatisfactory. It is exceptional to see emaciated people. There are such of course more in the Naldrug district than anywhere else. But if one wanders over a famine camp not much emaciation is to be seen. The large proportion of the workers are in their usual health. The emaciated come to the towns or large villages to beg, and are to be seen in the poor-houses.

Another feature is that people come to the poor-houses who are quite fit to work and will not do so. This has been experienced very specially in Aurangabad, where able-bodied persons have been sent out to the famine works and persistently refuse to work, and they have to be taken back into the poor-house on account of their children.

The orders for gratuitous relief are contained in circulars Nos. XII. and XVII. These orders provide for the establishment of poor-houses at the headquarters of every tahsil town in the affected districts. Village relief is not attempted, but patels are authorised to forward all emaciated or distressed persons to the nearest poor-house, giving them subsistence allowance for the journey, which will be recouped subsequently. The rules for the management of poor-houses are practically the same as are contained in the Bombay Famine Code. No restriction is placed on the number of persons to be admitted to the poor-house, except that they must come under the classes specified as deserving of gratuitous relief. Some officers wished to restrict the amount of money to be

expended each day, but this is distinctly forbidden, and Tahsildars are held responsible for seeing that no one deserving of relief is refused it. Notwithstanding this, I find that the numbers in our poor-houses are very much less than what one would expect. In Pattan, for instance, there are 155 persons receiving gratuitous relief, while in the poor-house on the British border the number is 2,000, and the Collector complains of our people coming over. This is a case in which the Talukdar has been called on to make enquiries, but it is only one of several. It seems to me that until some Tahsildar or other officer is summarily dismissed for neglect of duty of this kind, for which there can be no excuse (such as tools not available, or overseer not arrived), there is little hope of having the orders for relief properly carried out.

The numbers obtaining relief in poor-houses are shown below :—

District.	No.	District.	No.
<i>Aurangabad.</i>		<i>Parbhani.</i>	
Aurangabad	1,475	Hingoli	721
Ambar... ..	167	Parbhani	293
Gangapur	205	Jintur	327
Pattan	155	Kalumnuri	485
Vijapur	345	Basmath	140
Kannar	313	Pathri	44
Bhokardan	62	Harsi	621
Jalna	669		2,631
	3,391	<i>Naldrug.</i>	
		Tuljapur	576
		Naldrug	47
<i>Mahbubnagar.</i>		Ousa	1,069
Koilkundah	35	Dharashiv	378
Ibrahimpatam	61	Dhoki	524
	96	Kallum	396
		Wasi	284
<i>Bir.</i>		Parondah	200
Bir Town	1,071		3,474
Manjalgaon	88	<i>Nander.</i>	
Ashti	155	Hadgaon	40
Parli	2,264	Kandahar	27
Amba Jogai	19	Nander	1,477
Kej	48	Makad Kandhar	203
Gewrai	108		1,747
	3,761	Grand Total...	15,101

7. *Health.*—The health of the relief camps is uniformly good except at Jalna, where cholera has broken out. The latest report is that one of the overseers on the Jalna survey has died of cholera.

MEASURES IN SLIGHTLY AFFECTED DISTRICTS.

9. *Measures in slightly affected districts.*—The relief measures for the slightly affected districts which are all in the Telingana are confined to irrigation works carried out under the provisions of my circular No. V., dated 12th December, 1899, which lays down the following conditions :—

“ 1. Irrigation works are to be started at once in all Telingana districts, in order to afford employment to the people in this time of distress.

“ 2. The works will be carried on in two ways, viz., as

“ (1.) Ordinary works and

“ (2.) Relief works.

“ Ordinary works will be carried on by contract, a provision being made that the earthwork must be completed within a specified time, so as to ensure that a considerable number of able-bodied labourers will be employed.

“ These works will prevent the labouring classes employed on them falling into a state of starvation.

“ Relief works will be started under the Famine Code, wherever there is necessity for giving employment to weakly persons. It is possible also that by the work on a particular tank or channel may be of both kinds, *i.e.*, a portion contract and a portion of the work under the code. This is a detail which will be settled in communication with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.”

9. *Programme of irrigation works.*—In pursuance of this scheme, the Chief Engineer and myself have drawn up in consultation a programme which provides practically for a possible expenditure of Rs. 31,27,000. I do not anticipate that anything like this sum will be spent, or will be necessary ; but the materials are ready and if matters become worse, the expenditure can be increased. The tanks are scattered conveniently over the country so as to afford relief to people not too far from their homes. All works at present in this part of the country are being carried out on the contract system.

In the contract agreement-bonds clauses have been inserted (1) for guaranteeing a minimum monthly expenditure and (2) providing for sick and weakly persons, by doing a part of the work as a departmental relief work.

As a general rule, the tanks are being repaired under the revenue payment system, or what is called the new scheme, but having regard to the famine the system has been modified by sanctioning half payments in cash. In a few cases and especially in Sirpur Tandur Amaldari, where the new scheme is unworkable, I have sanctioned full cash payments.

Appendix B. gives the details by districts of the estimates dealt with, of which the following is an abstract :—

Details.	Number of tanks.	Amount of estimate.	Famine grant.
Sanctioned by Famine Commissioner	65	Rs 8,96,178	Rs. 4,29,688
Applied for by Chief Engineer	56	9,24,385	—
Included in programme, but not applied for by Chief Engineer.	23	2,87,362	—
Estimates ready	26	3,17,582	—
Manjura project	1	3,00,000	3,00,000
Total	171	27,25,507	7,29,688
Balance of estimates on works in progress under New Scheme	50	4,02,129	—
Grand Total	221	31,27,336	7,29,688

10. *Attendance on irrigation works.*—I must say that up to this time I have been dissatisfied with the way in which the contract work is progressing. Each subordinate in charge of a work is required to send to my office a weekly return of the attendance, and judging from the number of returns received, I find that out of 166 in progress or sanctioned works, returns have not been received in 80 cases, from which I conclude the work is not going on. In 84 cases the attendance is only 13,030 (Appendix C.) which is very small compared to the grants given.

On the Manjira project, for which 3 lakhs are provided this year, the attendance, according to the latest information afforded me, is only 363, and as this is a work on which I rely for affording employment to a large number of people from the Medak and Bidar districts, I have requested the Chief Engineer to have the work undertaken as a special relief work. The demand for employment will increase in the Telingana districts, as the season wears on, but, we have ample provision in the irrigation estimates for meeting it, and as I have shown above, we can at any time convert a contract work into a special relief work.

The requirements of the Raichur, Lingsugur and Gulburchah districts will also be met by the Irrigation Department, and I have issued instructions for several tanks to be started in consultation with the Talukdar. I had hoped that the Bennoor Irrigation Project would have afforded employment to a large number of persons in this part of the country, but unfortunately the Madras Government have taken exception to it, and, until the questions now pending are settled, no progress can be made.

11. *Gratuitous relief in Mahbubnagar.*—Except in the Mahbubnagar district, no gratuitous relief is given, in the Telingana districts, at the expense of either Government or local funds. But the Talukdars have been distinctly told in Circular No. XII. that if gratuitous relief becomes necessary they should at once apply to the Famine Commissioner through the Subadar for sanction.

12. *Conclusion.*—If the famine relief operations fail to be fully effective it cannot be attributed to any want of liberality or forethought on the part of Government, because the powers given to me are so extensive and my requisitions are all, without any exception, so promptly sanctioned, that I can safely say that there is really nothing left undone by Government which could be done. As regards the Famine Commissioner's office, my daily reports and circulars speak for themselves. The weakness in the chain lies in the executive, and if we fail it will be because of this.

The system of paying through Tahsildars, or their karkuns, is good in theory; but I am constantly receiving complaints of delays in payments, and in some cases this has been the cause of persons not joining or leaving the camps. It may be necessary I think to modify the rule in cases where the engineers on large works, like the Hingoli railway, are of a certain standing and can make payments themselves. What I require, however, is a much stronger inspecting staff.

No. 232:

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan, No. 1729 I.-A., dated the 21st April 1900.

Your telegram 1219, April 9th. I understand the proposal is that the six officers for famine duty should draw pay of rank, but not staff pay, receiving in lieu of staff pay famine allowance of Government rupees three hundred, and travelling allowance under Civil Service Regulations from Nizam's Government, also that these officers will not be replaced. On above understanding the pay of rank of these officers will be charged to Berar revenues as at present, and officers acting for them in regimental appointments may draw acting staff pay under usual rules. Famine allowance of any officer under five years' service should be Rs. 200 a month only.

No. 233.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan. No. 1757 I.-A., dated the 23rd April 1900.

Your letter 146, April 6th. Please explain on what grounds you propose that Berar revenues should assist in meeting cost of relief in Hyderabad Contingent Stations. Berar revenues are not in a position at present to lend money to the Nizam. With the exception of Ellichpur those stations are in Hyderabad proper, and it is not apparent why Nizam's Government should not arrange for necessary relief or at any rate give such assistance as is necessary to supplement relief from Abkari Funds.

No. 234.

Telegram from the Secretary for Berar to the Resident at Hyderabad to the Foreign Secretary, Simla. No. 172, dated the 27th April 1900.

Your 1757 I.-A of 23rd April. The grounds on which Resident proposes that Berar revenues should assist in meeting cost of relief in Hyderabad Contingent Stations are :—*First*, that these stations, though in Hyderabad territory, have assigned cantonment limits with magisterial and police jurisdiction separate from Nizam's Government and collect their own fiscal revenue. *Second*, that Hyderabad famine relief in neighbourhood of these stations is inadequate and insufficiently supervised. *Third*, that in any case expenditure falls on Nizam's Government by reduction of Berar surplus, and the only question is as to the particular fund which is supplemented by advance now applied for. It should be understood that the famine relief referred to is conducted within the several station limits and is extended to persons living within those limits. Further, the relief is controlled by competent English officers, namely, Commandant, Magistrate, and Doctor of each station.

No. 235.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla to the Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan, No. 1893 I.-A., dated the 1st May, 1900.

1893 I.-A. Your telegram 172, April 27th. You may make advances up to Rs. 50,000 to Abkari Funds of Hyderabad Contingent Stations. Advances should be charged under 33—Famine Relief in Berar accounts.

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

OTHER STATES.

No. 236.

Letter from M. W. Fox-Strangways, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 9204, dated Nagpur, the 17th November, 1899.

I am directed to forward herewith, for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of a letter from the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No. C.-275, dated the 3rd instant, and of its enclosure, being a report by the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, on the present condition of the Sakti Feudatory State.

In view of the circumstances therein stated, the Political Agent and Commissioner recommend that a loan of Rs. 25,000 be made to the Raja, repayable by instalments within a period of ten years, to enable him to incur such expenditure as is absolutely necessary for the relief of his people.

2. I am to say that the Chief Commissioner strongly supports the application. If it were possible to sell the villages belonging to the Raja in the Bilaspur district at anything like their real value, the Chief Commissioner would not think of asking the Government of India for help. But landed property is not saleable just now, save at an enormous sacrifice, and the sale, if forced upon the Raja, would by no means obviate the necessity for a loan.

3. The Chief Commissioner will be glad if the rate of interest is fixed as low as is considered possible. The Raja of Sakti has always been conspicuous for capable and efficient management; in the last famine he did well by his people, and he is in all respects deserving of assistance and encouragement.

Enclosure 1 in No. 236.

Letter from the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces, No. C.-275, dated the 3rd November, 1899.

In forwarding copy of a letter No. 10476, dated the 28th October, 1899, from the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, reporting on the present condition of the Sakti State, I have the honour to support that officer's recommendation that Government will be pleased to grant a loan to the Raja of Sakti to enable him to incur such expenditure as is absolutely necessary for the relief of his people.

2. I recently observed a newspaper report of a speech in the Legislative Council by His Excellency the Viceroy, which is, doubtless, in course of publication in the *Gazette of India*, from which I gather that the Government is prepared to consider favourably applications for this purpose from Native States whose own resources are inadequate for efficient famine relief; and this

has encouraged me to support the present application with more confidence than I could, perhaps, have otherwise felt.

3. The Sakti State is a small and poor one, and it is through no fault of the Raja's that he has been reduced to the position of applying to Government for help. The vigorous and judicious efforts made by him, with very limited resources, to cope with distress in 1897 met with special recognition from the Chief Commissioner in his Resolution on the Administration Reports for that year. But, in the face of this second calamity, the Raja finds himself powerless. His normal revenue from all sources is rather under than over Rs. 30,000 per annum, while the actual revenue collected in the two years, 1899 and 1900, will, according to the most recent careful estimates, probably aggregate considerably less than Rs. 40,000. After cutting down expenditure to the utmost, and without allowing a single rupee for famine relief, the most satisfactory budget which can be framed for him is one that will leave him by the end of 1900 with Rs. 11,000 to the bad, over and above his present small debt of Rs. 4,000, the greater portion of which represents the balance of a loan of Rs. 5,000 raised by him from the Bastar State for famine relief in 1897.

4. In his present strait the Raja has nobody but Government to turn to for assistance. Other Chhattisgarh States are at the present time distressed, and there is not one of them which is in a position to lock up capital. The ordinary money market is closed to a Native Chief unless a Government guarantee is forthcoming; and, even if Government were prepared to guarantee a loan advanced by a private individual (which I venture to doubt), it could only be obtained at high interest.

5. There is indeed a source from which the Raja might possibly be able to raise some money, though under present conditions probably not a very large sum, and as to which I informed the Political Agent that I thought his report should not be altogether silent, though I would agree with him in putting it out of the question. I refer to the possible sale by the Raja of the ten villages, of which he is the proprietor in the Bilaspur district. These villages were acquired by his father, the late Chief, at a period prior to the issue of the present standing orders on the subject. In the present state of the land market, it would be impossible to sell them except at an enormous sacrifice; and I am respectfully of opinion that it would be cruel and injudicious to insist on immediate sale. On the other hand, the Raja's interest in these villages is opposed to the declared policy of Government; and it occurs to me as possible that Government may think fit to attach to any loan which they may sanction a condition that the villages should be disposed of at the first convenient opportunity. I do not desire to be understood as in any way recommending such a condition; but I have thought it right that the facts should be fully represented.

6. It seems unnecessary to discuss in further detail Mr. Sly's report, which has been drawn up after consultation with me and with the whole of which I concur. I accept with the fullest confidence his estimate of the agricultural situation and of the state of the people, based as it is on personal inspection by an exceptionally careful and experienced observer, and confirmed by all my information regarding the immediately adjoining areas. I no less fully accept his financial estimates, which I have carefully examined in the light of my personal knowledge of the State in past years. The Political Agent may be trusted to see that any sum which may be advanced is judiciously spent on the objects for which it is intended. He has already assisted the Raja in the preparation of a suitable famine programme, and may be trusted to keep a specially watchful eye on the carrying out of that programme.

7. The Political Agent has recommended that the loan of Rs. 25,000, if sanctioned, should be repayable within 10 years. In this recommendation I concur. It may be possible to repay it earlier, but I would prefer that a shorter term should not be prescribed. The finances in a normal year can easily bear the setting aside of a moderate sum as instalment of debt, and the worst that need be apprehended is the postponement of works of public utility which might otherwise have been carried out. The Political Agent makes no

proposals in regard to interest. If Government can see their way to granting the loan without interest, it will be an immense boon to a deserving and loyal chief, who is bravely struggling against a succession of unparalleled misfortunes. But if this is not possible, then I would ask that it may be granted on the most favourable terms that can be conceded.

8. The security for the proposed loan is undeniable. The finances of the State are at present controlled by Government, in so far as the Chief is expected each year to submit his budget for the Political Agent's approval and criticism. The continuance of this practice, which at present is understood to rest on something less than positive obligation, might, I think, with advantage be expressly stipulated for so long as any portion of the Government debt remains unpaid. And I need scarcely add that any tendency to extravagance or improvidence could at any moment be restrained by an order of Government increasing the amount of control to whatever extent might be deemed desirable. Over some of the other Chhattisgarh Chiefs, such as Patna and Rairakhal, our financial control is at the present moment practically absolute.

9. With these remarks I beg to submit the proposal for the most favourable possible consideration. It is very difficult to make accurate financial forecasts under circumstances which are in fact unprecedented; and it seems possible that the sum now asked for may not fully suffice to meet the requirements of the situation. In that event a further application may prove necessary. In the meanwhile I think the Political Agent has done rightly in reducing his estimate to the lowest sum which there appears any reasonable hope of being found sufficient. If this sum can be granted in the first instance, all possible means will be used to see that it is economically, as well as judiciously, expended.

Enclosure 2 in No. 236.

Letter from F. G. Sly, Esq., Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, to the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, Raipur. No. 10476, dated the 28th October, 1899.

I have the honour to state that on the receipt of a letter from the Feudatory Chief, reporting that a famine was impending in the Sakti State, and that there were no funds for expenditure, I proceeded on tour to the State on the 17th instant, to make an inquiry into the agricultural conditions, and to arrange with the Feudatory Chief what measures of relief might be necessary.

2. The Sakti State is a small state under the management of the Feudatory Chief, situated in the eastern portion of the Bilaspur district. It covers an area of 138 square miles, and contains a population of 24,374 souls. No regular reports are received by me in the ordinary course as to the agricultural prospects of this State, and no special report was received prior to that contained in the letter referred to in the preceding paragraph. But at least a partial failure of the kharif harvest was anticipated by me from my knowledge of the circumstances of the surrounding area, and the fact was reported in paragraph 3 of my letter No. 9167, dated the 17th September last. The more detailed information now obtained by me shows that the opinion there given was unduly sanguine, and the last prolonged break in the rains has caused a very serious deterioration in the condition of the crops.

3. Although a small land records staff is maintained by the State, regular annual returns are not properly prepared, and it is therefore not possible to give accurate agricultural statistics of the State. The State consists of an open plain for the most part fairly fully cultivated, but the extreme northern portion is somewhat hilly and contains some forest. Sakti is essentially a rice-producing tract, and I estimate that at least 80 per cent. of the cropping is rice, other crops being grown in very small proportions, and the rabi area being extremely small indeed. The State is entirely an agricultural one, and its prosperity therefore depends almost wholly upon the rice crop.

4. The rainfall throughout this monsoon has been unfavourable and much below the average. The weekly falls have been as follows :—

Week ending	3rd June	...	...	...	...	0
"	10th "	...	...	...	...	0
"	17th "	...	...	...	...	2.44
"	24th "	...	...	...	...	3.20
"	1st July	...	...	...	...	1.06
"	8th "	...	...	...	...	3.29
"	15th "	...	...	...	...	2.44
"	22nd "	...	...	...	...	0
"	29th "	...	...	...	...	0.26
"	5th August	...	...	...	...	5.17
"	12th "	...	...	...	...	5.14
"	19th "	...	...	...	...	1.57
"	26th "	...	...	...	...	2.90
"	2nd September	...	...	...	...	1.68
"	9th "	...	...	...	...	0
"	16th "	...	...	...	...	1.31
"	23rd "	...	...	...	...	0
"	30th "	...	...	...	...	0
"	7th October	...	...	...	...	0
"	14th "	...	...	...	...	0.21

The early falls were light, and this impeded sowing ; but although somewhat delayed, the full area was sown during the heavy rain in the early part of July. There was then a prolonged break, lasting over a fortnight, which caused considerable damage, but the crop was saved by the rain in August, which was fairly sufficient throughout the month, and it was then hoped that a crop not much below the average would be reaped. A break again occurred in the early part of September, which was partly relieved by a light fall on the 14th and 15th of that month. Since then there has been practically no rain whatever, and this last break has completed the failure which threatened.

5. A little early rice has been reaped, but the crop was an exceedingly poor one. The main crop of late rice has completely withered on all high-lying fields, and also on the ordinary level fields. The low-lying fields and the small area irrigated from tanks may give some yield, but it will be small. The rice crop may then be considered almost a total failure, and there is no other crop to take its place. Even the small area sown with millet, oil-seeds, and pulses has also failed.

6. The State also suffered severely in the famine of 1896-97, and this second failure has come before the people have fully recovered from its effects. The soil of the State does not seem to be particularly fertile, and there is a considerable dearth of tanks and other means of irrigation. The agricultural classes are not a very substantial, well-to-do body, and they suffered severely in the last famine. The crop last year was fairly good and allowed them to partially recover some of their losses, but this recovery is distinctly only partial, and the people have thus but little staying power to withstand another failure.

7. This present failure, coming upon a somewhat depressed people, must undoubtedly cause a somewhat severe famine, and the conditions are, I imagine, almost similar to those prevailing in the eastern portion of the Janggir Tahsil of the Bilaspur district. I found that distress was already beginning to make itself felt, and that there was a considerable body of labourers already seeking

for employment. There has been no rise yet in the death-rate, but during the past month grain thefts have commenced to increase. Prices have rapidly risen, and coarse rice is now selling at 10½ seers per rupee. The Raja has already given some relief in the shape of advances to cultivators, but regular relief works are now required, and the Raja has arranged to open some without delay. Distress is bound to increase rapidly, and be severe until the next rains. It may then diminish, but will not probably altogether disappear until August next with favourable rains. The details of the relief measures have all been arranged by me in personal consultation with the Chief, copies of all the famine circulars have been furnished to him, and he is anxious to make his relief measures as efficient as possible. Much relief was efficiently given in the last famine, and the Raja has the interests of his subjects at heart, and is anxious to do the best for them that is possible with the means at his disposal.

8. Unfortunately the Raja has no funds wherewith to meet the cost of the famine, and it is with special regard to the necessity for the provision of funds that this report is submitted. The state is a small one with a small income, which is adequate to the expenses of administration in ordinary years, but which is not sufficient to cover an extraordinary outlay such as is necessary in a time of famine. The financial position of the state was carefully gone into by me with the following result. The revised estimate of the current calendar year, and the budget estimate of next year, which were framed without reference to the possibility of failure of the harvest, were as follows :—

	Revised Estimate, 1899.	Budget Estimate, 1900.
Opening balance	Rs. 2,500	Rs. 2,409
Real receipts	27,800	30,085
Total	30,361	32,494
Real expenditure... ..	27,952	27,671
Closing balance	2,409	4,823

The present unfavourable circumstances will affect these estimates both during the present and ensuing year. Liberal suspensions of land revenue will be necessary, and the receipts from excise, forests and other heads will also be seriously affected. I have gone through these estimates in detail with the Chief, and have revised them with reference to the actuals of the past nine months and to the probable effect upon the finances of the present famine as compared with the actual effect of the past famine. At the same time the Raja has fully agreed to exercise every economy that is possible and cut down expenditure to the lowest possible limits. The effect of such revision is to amend the estimates as follows :

	Revised estimate, 1899.	Budget estimate, 1900
Opening balance	Rs. 2,500	Rs. -3,247
Real receipts	23,120	15,430
Total	25,620	12,183
Real expenditure	28,867	23,261
Closing balance	-3,247	-11,078

A sum of Rs. 10,900 is required to meet the effect of the famine upon the ordinary income and expenditure of the State.

9. In addition the State has to meet the direct expenditure upon famine relief, which it is difficult to estimate with much accuracy. Assuming that the famine will last for a period of eight months, it may be estimated that not less than an average of 5 per cent. of the population will be daily on relief during this period. At an estimated rate of prices at 10 seers per rupee, the cost may be put at Rs. 80 per thousand units. This gives an estimated amount of Rs. 23,000 required for direct expenditure upon famine relief. According to these estimates then, a total sum of Rs. 34,000 is required to place the State finances in a position to meet the strain of the famine.

10. I have carefully considered how it is possible to arrange for this sum. The Raja has no accumulated balances, the small amount available having been expended in the previous famine. At that time the Raja had also to raise a loan of Rs. 5,000 from the Bastar State. Since then the finances have continued to feel the effects of this famine and the State has repaid a sum of Rs. 2,562-8 only, still leaving a debt of Rs. 2,437-8. Besides this, the Raja has a small debt of Rs. 1,500 incurred in his private capacity, but beyond this amount the State is not indebted.

11. The only source from which it is possible for the Raja himself to provide funds is by the sale of ten villages owned by him in ordinary proprietary right in the district of Bilaspur, which were for the most part acquired some thirty or more years ago. The Raja is very unwilling to dispose of these villages for various reasons. He does not wish to dispose of property acquired by his father which forms a considerable asset; most of his own cultivation from which his personal expenditure is met is situated in these villages, and the loss of them would seriously cripple his resources. Again, with famine in the Bilaspur district, it is a most unfavourable time to sell, and I have ascertained that at present it would be very difficult to sell them, and that they could only be sold at an enormous sacrifice. For these reasons I am of opinion that it is not advisable to press the Raja to sell. The land revenue of these villages is Rs. 1,717, and in an ordinary time I estimate that their selling value would be some Rs. 20,000.

12. I have ascertained that it is impossible for the Raja to raise a loan in the open market, and some bankers consulted by me state that, even with a regular Government guarantee, they would not be prepared to make loans to Native States at a rate of interest less than 9 per cent. There are no surplus funds in other States from which a loan could be made, the present balances of the Bastar State being required to meet possible famine expenditure in that State. Under these circumstances there seems no alternative but for Government to assist the State by a loan, if the Raja is to adequately meet the famine. I have estimated above that Rs. 34,000 is required, but it may be that these estimates are somewhat high, and I do not recommend that Government should at present make a loan of this full amount. But some funds are urgently required, and I beg to earnestly plead that Government should make a loan of Rs. 25,000 to the Sakti State, and any further help that circumstances may hereafter show to be necessary can be considered hereafter.

13. It seems unnecessary for me to give any further information as regards the normal financial condition of the State and the security which the State can offer for the repayment of such a loan. The financial condition of past years has been regularly set out in the annual administration reports, and there can be no doubt that the State can repay such a loan, in addition to its present debt. With average seasons in the future and economy in the management, the State should easily be in a position to repay a sum of Rs. 4,000 a year, and I would, therefore, recommend that the loan should be made repayable within a maximum term of 10 years. The Raja is already under an obligation to submit his budget for the consideration of the Political Agent, and also an annual Administration Report. These furnish ample information as to the manner in which the finances of the State are administered, as they thus come under examination upon two occasions in each year. And of course in the event of any maladministration, Government has always the remedy to fall back upon of assuming direct management. There then seems no necessity to at present impose any further restraints upon the Raja. The Political Agent will

be in a position to see that the loan is properly expended in famine relief, and to see that in future years due provision is made for its repayment. Finally, I beg them to strongly recommend to the favourable consideration of Government the proposal that Government should make a loan to the Sakti State for expenditure upon famine of Rs. 25,000 repayable in instalments within a period of ten years.

No. 237.

Telegram from Foreign Secretary Calcutta, to the Chief Commissioner of Central Provinces, Nagpur, No. 3570 I.-A., dated the 4th December, 1899

Your letter 9204, November 17th. Loan of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned for Sakti State to meet expenditure directly due to famine or scarcity. Interest will be four per cent., and loan repayable by instalments in ten years.

No. 238.

Letter from the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department. No. 534, dated Nagpur, the 18th January, 1900.

I am directed to forward herewith, for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India, a copy of a letter from the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, No. 415, dated the 15th instant, and of its enclosure, containing a report by the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, upon the financial condition of the Nandgaon State.

2. In view of the circumstances therein stated, and in order to provide funds for urgently necessary expenditure on famine relief, the Commissioner recommends—

- (a.) That a loan of Rs. 1,20,000 from Government may be made to the Nandgaon State on the same terms as regards interest, viz., 4 per cent., as in the case of the loan sanctioned for the Sakti State in Foreign Department telegram No. 570 I.-A., dated the 4th December, 1899, the amount being repayable by instalments within a period of six years; and
- (b.) That the instalment of nazarana, amounting to Rs. 60,506, and the regular annual tribute of Rs. 70,000, both payable during the current year, may be suspended.

3. The Officiating Chief Commissioner strongly supports the proposals, and I am to recommend them for the sanction of the Government of India.

4. As the matter is urgent, I am to ask that a reply to this letter may be communicated by wire.

Enclosure in No. 238.

Letter from the Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Division, to the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces. No. 415, dated the 15th January, 1900.

In forwarding a copy of letter* No. C.-43, dated January, 1900, from the Political Agent, Chhattisgarh Feudatories, I have the honour to support that officer's application for an immediate loan from Government to the Nandgaon State of Rs. 1,20,000, in addition to the postponement of certain payments which will shortly be falling due to Government.

* Not printed.

Mr. Sly has recently submitted direct to the Secretariat a detailed report on the famine condition of this State. His present report clearly reviews the financial situation, and I am in a position to endorse his remarks without reserve. I think it will be found that the conclusion at which he has arrived was very closely foreshadowed by me in the note on this State which I submitted to the Chief Commissioner in November last for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy. The office copy of that note is now with the Political Agent in Camp, and I am unable to refer to it more precisely.

3. The immediate object of the present application is, as already observed a loan of Rs. 1,20,000, to provide funds for urgently necessary expenditure on famine relief. But it would be necessary to apply for a much larger loan were it not hoped that consideration may at the same time be extended in the suspension of (a) the instalment of nazarana, amounting to Rs. 60,506, and (b) the regular annual tribute of Rs. 70,000. These further proposals may, therefore, be briefly discussed at the same time.

4. As regards (a), though it is of course not a concession which could be asked for without the strongest grounds, it is perhaps the easiest of all possible forms of financial concession for Government to make. The nazarana is not a regular source of income on which Government depends, but is due solely to the fortuitous circumstance of the late Chief having died without leaving an heir of his body. The payment of a whole year's revenue is a very heavy call on the resources of a State like Nandgaon; and this has been already recognised by Government in allowing the payment to be spread over a period of four years. What is now asked for is merely a further extension of the same principle, in view of the unprecedented calamities which have suddenly overtaken the State.

5. An application for suspension of tribute requires perhaps an even stronger case to justify it. But as to this it is perhaps sufficient to point out the absolute impossibility, as demonstrated by the figures given in the Political Agent's report, of the State paying any tribute during 1900 except by borrowing money for the purpose. It cannot borrow otherwise than from Government; and it seems simpler, and in every way preferable, that Government should be asked to suspend the payment, than that it should be asked to grant a special loan for the purpose of meeting it.

6. I trust that these proposals for suspension will receive the most favourable consideration. But, in the event of time being needed for their consideration, I would ask that this may not be allowed to delay disposal of the application for an immediate loan of Rs. 1,20,000 which is urgently needed to replenish an empty treasury, on which the exigencies of regular famine relief are making daily demands. The suspension asked for will enable the State to tide over the serious loss of revenue in every department resulting from the famine. But the whole amount of the loan, and more, is needed for actual direct expenditure on relief, and will, if sanctioned, be scrupulously devoted to this purpose.

7. I would recommend that the loan be granted on the same terms, as regards interest, as that recently sanctioned in the case of Sakti (Secretariat endorsement No. 9952, dated 9th December, 1899). And I join in the Political Agent's request that sanction may be communicated by wire at the earliest possible date.

No. 239,

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, Nagpur, No. 517 I.-A., dated the 26th January 1900.

Your letter 534, January 18th. Famine loan of Rs. 2,50,506 to Nandgaon State sanctioned. Rs. 1,20,000 will be placed at your disposal, and remainder of loan may be made up by deferring payment of nazarana of Rs. 60,506 and

tribute of Rs. 70 00. Whole loan of Rs. 2,50,506 will bear interest at 4 per cent., and will be repayable by instalments spread over a period not exceeding ten years.

No. 240.

Letter from Captain H. Daly, C.I.E., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, No. 601 I.-A., dated Fort William, the 31st January 1900.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter No. 582, dated the 19th January 1900, making certain enquiries in connection with the loan of Rs. 25,000 which were sanctioned for the Sakti State.

2. I am to forward, for your information, a copy of the communications,* which indicate the policy of the Government of India in respect to loans required by Native States to enable them to meet extra expenditure due to famine or scarcity. There is no objection to part of the loan granted to the Sakti State being applied to administrative expenditure indirectly necessitated by famine.

3. A formal letter of acceptance of the terms of the loan will be sufficient acknowledgment.

No. 241.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, to the Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, Nagpur, No. 1702 I.-A., dated the 19th April 1900.

Loan not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 to Khairagarh, to be made up of cash payment of Rs. 50,000 and credit of Rs. 70,000 tribute, is sanctioned. Tribute of Rs. 9,000 due from Sonpur during current year may be suspended. Interest in both cases will be 4 per cent., and repayment will be by instalments which may be spread over five years.

No. 242.

Letter from H. S. Barnes, Esq., I.C.S., C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 11 C., dated the 8th February, 1900.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the papers† on the subject of the scarcity, which prevails in this Agency owing to the deficient rainfall of the last three years.

2. The Commissioner's letter of 16th November was left for my consideration by Major-General Wylie and, after careful enquiry, I am of opinion that the gloomy account which is given in it of the general poverty and privation caused by deficient crops, high prices, and the loss of sheep and cattle is in no way exaggerated. The accounts from Kalat and Las Bela and from the Marri and Bugti Hills are equally discouraging, and the deficiency of the rainfall has been so long continued and so general that the nomadic flock owners, who of

* Extract, paragraph 5, of letter to the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, No. 2909 I.-A., dated the 9th October 1899.

† Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 8640, dated the 19th December 1899 with enclosures.

Letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 460 I.-A., dated the 24th January 1900 (All printed above.)

† No. 3331, dated the 16th November 1899, with enclosures.

all classes have suffered perhaps the most severely from the drought, have not been able to obtain the usual relief by moving from one part of the Agency to another. Nevertheless, except in a few villages in the neighbourhood of Sibi, which are dependent entirely on rainfall for their crops, there is so far nothing approaching to famine in the administered districts of the Agency. I have taken every opportunity during the last month of enquiring into the circumstances of the rural population, and in a few cases where distress was said to be acute, their condition has been tested by the offer of work on a low wage. But in no case, except in Sibi, has the offer been accepted. The truth is the population of this country is of a very sturdy and independent character: they do not expect relief. Clannish feeling and the custom of hospitality lead them to help each other. They are accustomed to years of scarcity and they are in the habit, in hard times, of migrating to India and Afghanistan in search of work. In the present year there has, no doubt, been an exceptional exodus, particularly in the direction of Afghanistan, but this was, I think, inevitable under the circumstances and, with the return of prosperity to the country, it is fairly certain that many of those who have gone away will come back.

3. The present condition of affairs is this. About Rs. 400 a month is being spent in Sibi in gratuitous relief to the old and infirm in the rain crop villages near Sibi, which have suffered most severely from the drought. In addition to this between 600 and 700 men have been employed for the last two months at a low rate of wages on the roads between Sibi and Thalli, and Sibi and Mall. These roads have been completed, and the men have now been moved to the Sibi-Rindli Road, towards the construction of which the Civil authorities have agreed to contribute Rs. 5,000. Nowhere else in the Agency has any gratuitous relief been found necessary, nor has anything in the shape of relief works been started. In Shorarud and Peshin the people of Mohamed Khel are being employed on a small irrigation work, which will benefit the lands of the village, but (again excepting Sibi) this is the only work which has been undertaken outside the ordinary public works programme. The construction of the Toiwar bund in Zhob, referred to by the Commissioner, has, under my orders, been abandoned, as the cost of the work had not been properly estimated, and the people showed no inclination to work at anything below the ordinary rate of wages. The irrigation bunds proposed by the Political Agent, Quetta and Peshin, have also been given up for similar reasons. In the mean time, so far as the country above the passes is concerned, the prospects of the coming year have considerably brightened owing to the recent fall of rain and snow throughout the Quetta-Peshin and Zhob Districts and in the Shahrih Tahsil of Thal-Chotali. This is the first considerable fall of snow which has occurred in the Agency since the winter of 1892-93, and the benefit to the country on the plateau of Baluchistan will be very great. Not only will springs and karezes be replenished, but the supply of grass in the coming year is fairly well assured. Unfortunately, the fall has come too late to permit of any large extension of rain crop cultivation as no sowing for the rabi harvest is possible after the 15th February, and much of the country is still under snow. But all crops already sown, whether on unirrigated or irrigated lands, should benefit considerably, and so far as can be seen at present the spring harvest should be up to the average.

4. At the same time it is undoubtedly the case that, until the harvest is reaped next June, the pressure of scarcity will be severely felt, even in the two districts named, while in Sibi and in the Marri and Bugti Hills, where there has been practically no rain, the outlook is much more serious. The case of the Marri and Bugti tribes, who are not within our administered districts, is somewhat special and I am dealing with it in a separate letter. In Sibi there will be no rabi crop at all in the villages in the Thalli and Mall Divisions, which depend entirely on the rainfall, and it will probably be necessary to continue for some months the present system of gratuitous relief to the aged and infirm, and it will also be necessary to find work for the able bodied men in these villages; at any rate until they can find employment in harvesting the crops of their more fortunate neighbours, and more probably until the summer rains (if there are any) enable them to again cultivate their own lands.

5. There are thus two sets of circumstances with which we have to deal, viz. (i) a state of affairs approaching closely to famine in a few villages in Sibi, and (ii) the general state of scarcity and privation elsewhere. As regards (i) we have already spent Rs. 9,000 in making fair weather roads to Thalli and Mall. These have been finished and we have now transferred the labourers to the Sibi-Rindli road—a military road—to which Civil Funds contribute Rs. 5,000. I am, however, informed by the Political Agent that this Rs. 5,000 will only provide employment for another three weeks, and, unfortunately, the Military Works Department, who were to provide the rest of the money, have decided to make no grant for this road this year. This, no doubt has been done in consequence of the necessity forced on the Government of India of reducing all unavoidable expenditure, and in ignorance of the need for assistance in this Agency. It is, however, imperative that work should be provided for the Sibi people, and there are no other local works on which they can so usefully be employed. The first thing, therefore, which I would suggest is that the Military Works Department may be asked to allot funds at once for this road, so that the required employment may be provided. It is important this should be done at once, and it will be economical to spend the money now, as the men to be employed will readily work at rates below the usual market rate. At present they are being paid by the task, and the majority earn between 3 and 4 annas a day, the market rate being 8 annas. The grant which the Military Works Department originally intended to give in the current year was, I believe, Rs. 8,000. I would ask that this sum may at any rate be given. I would also suggest that an additional grant should be sanctioned by the Military Works Department for metalling this road. The road will always be an important line of communication as it joins Sibi to the Military road through the Bolan, and if it is ever to be more than a fair-weather road, it is desirable it should be metalled. If a grant can be given for completing both the earthwork and for metalling, I think sufficient employment will be found for the Sibi people for two or three months to come, and the money will be usefully spent as the road must be valuable in the event of mobilisation on the border.

6. As regards the rest of our administered districts, it is too late in the year to assist the people with advances for seed grain to a larger extent than has been done already by the Political Agents out of the takavi grants allotted to them. But much help can be given by advances for the purchase of plough cattle (this also applies to Sibi) and, if funds were forthcoming, by the provision of employment for the many persons seeking work by means of a liberal programme of ordinary public works. Unfortunately the same causes, which have brought about the scarcity, have also largely reduced the Provincial revenues, and it is my duty to bring to the notice of Government that, without assistance, I am unable to find the funds to give the help which is suggested. I attach to this letter three statements showing the Provincial revenue and expenditure during the currency of the present contract. It will be seen that, according to the revised estimates, the current year will close with a debit balance of Rs. 6,182, and as I have now under consideration several applications for the remission or suspension of revenue which, I am afraid, I shall have no choice but to sanction, it is probable that this estimated debit balance will in fact be considerably increased and may be as much as Rs. 31,000. I think a very brief examination of the figures given will show that this is owing to no extravagance or improvidence in the management of the revenues; but that it is due solely to the falling off of revenue owing to drought and the consequent impoverishment of the people. The standard figures of revenue and expenditure on which the contract were based were:—

						Rs.
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	9,89,000
Special Allotment	...	...	...	...	...	12,45,000
					Total	<u>22,34,000</u>

the expenditure being calculated at the same figure. In the first year of the contract, 1897-98, the revenue was Rs. 10,15,282, which, with the Special Assignment of Rs. 12,45,000 gave a total income of Rs. 22,60,282. The

expenditure, owing to the reduction in the Public Works grants in consequence of the famine, was only Rs. 20,33,124. In 1898-99, the second year of scarcity, the revenue was Rs. 9,28,668, or with the Special Assignment Rs. 21,73,668.* The expenditure, owing to the sanctioned restoration of the reductions in police and levies and a large Public Works programme, rose to Rs. 23,62,519. But the average income† and expenditure of the two years were: income Rs. 22,16,975 and expenditure Rs. 21,97,821, totals which, it will be seen, were in both cases below the standard figures. In the current year we estimated for an income of Rs. 22,18,020‡ and an expenditure of Rs. 22,90,120; but, excluding the Rs. 40,000 since added to both sides of the account for the Nushki quit-rent and the Seistan Road, the latest revised estimates show an income§ of only Rs. 21,07,024 against an expenditure of Rs. 22,92,050. The deficit swallows up the opening balance of the year and leaves us with a balance of over Rs. 31,000|| on the wrong side. If the details are examined, it will be seen that under Land Revenue and Irrigation Revenue the losses as compared with the standard figures and the figures for 1897-98 are as follows:—

	Standard figures.	1897-98.	1899-1900.	Loss compared with 2.	Loss compared with 3.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land Revenue	6,19,000	6,63,000	5,28,000	91,000	1,35,000
Irrigation	35,000	56,000	18,500	16,500	37,500
Total	6,54,000	7,19,000	5,46,500	1,07,500	1,72,500

The only other serious variation from the standard figures which need be considered is the fall which has occurred of some Rs. 30,000 in stamp revenue ever since the contract began. This is partly owing, no doubt, to the pressure of hard times and to waning prosperity, but chiefly to the fact that the commencement of the contract synchronised with the opening of the Bolan Railway and the cessation of the civil and criminal suits connected with the large population on the Railway construction works. Taking this reduction into account we are worse off than the standard figures by Rs. 1,37,500, while compared with 1897-98 the revenue this year shows a reduction of over 2 lakhs. Had we obtained this year the revenue of 1897-98, we should have a closing balance at our disposal this year of over 1½ lakhs on which to draw for expenditure in relief of scarcity. It is obvious, therefore, that our present position is entirely owing to the falling off in Land and Irrigation revenue caused by the drought. In the coming year, 1900-1901 (omitting again the Rs. 40,000 for Nushki and the Seistan Road), we have estimated for an income of Rs. 22,20,560¶ and an expenditure of Rs. 21,53,378. The latter figure has only been arrived at by reducing the Public Works grant to an extent that leaves us only Rs. 54,000 throughout the Agency for original Civil works. The whole of this is required

*Revenue	Rs. 9,28,668	§Revenue	Rs. 8,62,024
Special Assignment	12,45,000	Special Assignment	12,45,000
Total	21,73,668	Total	21,07,024
†Revenue	Rs. 9,71,975	¶Excess expenditure	Rs. 1,85,026
Special Assignment	12,45,000	Opening balance	1,53,188
Total	22,16,975		31,838
‡Revenue	Rs. 9,75,020	¶Revenue	Rs. 9,75,560
Special Assignment	12,43,000	Special Assignment	12,45,000
Total	22,18,020	Total	22,20,560

for buildings which are urgently needed, so that after 1st April we shall have no money to spend on roads, which is the only class of work on which the people of the country can be employed. If, therefore, the Government of India agree with me in thinking that something should be done to help the people by providing employment in their present condition of distress, an additional assignment in aid of Provincial Revenues is essential.

7. I attach to this letter (Appendix D.) a list of important roads—all useful and much needed—for which estimates exist, and which could be put in hand at once if funds were provided. They are fairly distributed throughout the Agency, and the total costs come to Rs. 1,66,000. If the bridal paths contemplated in Nos. 2 and 3 on the list were expanded into cart roads, the expenditure could be increased by another lakh. Nos. 2 to 9 are all districts roads. No. 1 is the main road from Loralai to Fort Sandeman, which is only a fair-weather road, and of the condition of which in bad weather the Military authorities are continually complaining. The estimate now given of Rs. 88,000 is for metalling it. Provincial Revenues can never afford to carry out this work even in the most favourable of years, nor is a metalled road required for the ordinary country traffic. But on military grounds, and to perfect the communication between the Cantonnments of Loralai and Fort Sandeman the metalling is much needed. I may explain that all the main metalled roads in Baluchistan have been constructed from Military Funds, and I would suggest that the metalling of the Fort Sandeman road should be carried out in the same way, a grant of Rs. 88,000 being given for the purpose from the Military Works Budget. The work will provide immediate and useful employment for the people through the heart of Zhob. The remaining Rs. 78,000 for the other roads in the list might be provided for by a special grant from Imperial Funds in aid of Provincial Revenues. In addition to this, I estimate that an additional grant of Rs. 20,000 will be needed to provide advances for the purchase of cattle in those villages where the losses of plough cattle have been most severe.

8. To sum up: the proposals which I would recommend to the Government of India are as follows:—

- (i) That the Military Department should be asked at once to reconsider their decision to spend no money this year on the Sibi-Rindli road. This is an urgent matter, as the Rs. 5,000 allotted from Provincial Funds will be spent within three weeks. It is suggested that Rs. 8,000 or 10,000 should be given by the Military Works Department at once, and that if further funds can be provided for metalling the road (which will give useful employment in carrying and breaking stones), they should also be granted.
- (ii) That a sum of Rs. 1,66,000 should be granted, if possible, to construct the roads mentioned in list D. It is suggested that Rs. 88,000 of this sum might be provided from the Military Works grant for metalling the Loralai Fort Sandeman road, the largest and most useful work in the list, which some day is fairly certain to be carried out, and which could not be put in hand at a more opportune time than the present. I may add that, if the Government of India do not see their way to provide the whole of this sum, the most useful works on the list are Nos. 1, 7, 8 and 9. No. 1 will provide work in Zhob and No. 8 in Sibi, while Nos. 7 and 9 will give work in Thal-Chotiali and Quetta. The total cost of these four works is Rs. 1,17,000.
- (iii) That Rs. 20,000 should be granted on account of advances for replacing plough cattle by an addition of that sum to the takavi grant for next year.

Of these suggestions No. (i) is urgent and is required at once. No. (iii) is not required until after 1st April. As regards No. (ii) it is not easy to say how much could be spent this year. Probably Rs. 50,00 could be spent before

31st March if orders are given early. If Government are willing to give the assistance asked for, I would suggest that Rs. 50,000 should be given this year, and the balance in 1900-1901.

Enclosure 1 in No. 242.

Letter from E. G. Colvin, Esq., I.C.S., Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, Quetta, No. 3331, dated 16th November 1899.

I have the honour to address you regarding the present condition of the agricultural and grazier classes in Baluchistan.

2. The present year is the third in which the rainfall has been short, and the country is suffering greatly from drought. The want of rain has caused a contraction of the "abi" or irrigated cultivation, owing to the springs and karezes diminishing in volume, but far more serious sources of distress have been the entire failure in most districts of the dry crop or "Khushkaba" cultivation, and the failure of the grass and fodder supplies.

Though actual famine has not been reported from anywhere, there is no doubt that in many places the people have suffered from scarcity, and have been obliged to move from their own homes to places where the conditions are more favourable, an operation which their nomadic habits render easy.

3. The pinch has naturally been most felt in those tracts which are inhabited by agricultural populations depending for their livelihood on dry-crop cultivation. Thus the inhabitants of the "Khushkaba" villages in Sibi and of the waterless plain of Shorarud are reported to have suffered most. The condition of things in Central Zhob and in parts of the Lower Zhob Tahsil is also very unsatisfactory, owing to the fodder famine coupled with the failure of the dry-crop harvest. The inhabitants of Central and Lower Zhob depend greatly on their sheep and cattle, and are accustomed to move with their flocks to wherever the prospects of pasturage are best. But portions of each tribe generally remain for the cultivation of the tribal lands. Such a general exodus as has taken place this year from Central Zhob is almost unknown in the past; and owing to the unusual difficulty of finding pasture within reasonable distance, great numbers of the sheep and cattle have died.

4. I now attach copies of letters* I have received from the Political Agents of Quetta-Peshiu, Thal-Chotiali and Zhob, with enclosures, in each case in original. It will be seen from these that the state of the case in each district is as follows:—

Quetta-Peshiu.—There is no actual famine, nor any apprehension of actual famine, inasmuch as we have a safety-valve in the possibility of emigration to Kandahar, where prices of food-grains, compared with Quetta prices, are remarkably low, and where His Highness the Amir holds out various alluring promises to emigrants from this side. How far it is wise and politic to make use of this safety-valve is a question which I propose to refer to again presently.

Thal-Chotiala.—The Duki Sub-Division has enjoyed a moderate rainfall, and Barkhan in particular has been fortunate in escaping the general drought. In the Duki and Kohlu Tahsils, it is thought that a judicious distribution of takavi advances for the purpose of buying seed and replacing lost cattle will enable the people to pull through. In the Sibi Sub-Division, the irrigated villages are safe, but in the "Khushkaba" villages, *i.e.*, the villages which depend entirely on the floods from the Thalli hill torrents for their cultivation, there is actual distress. Many of the inhabitants have gone, and those who remain would, but for the measures taken, have shortly been starving. The number of these, is, however, insignificant.

Zhob.—As I have said before, all those people who depend for their subsistence on dry-crop cultivation are this year in great difficulties, except the

* No. 5877, dated the 9th November, 1899. No. 7436, dated the 4th November, 1899. No. 633-C., dated the 9th November, 1899.

cultivators at Ghorazai and Mekhtar, and in a few favoured places in the Musakhel tahsil, where a little rain has fallen. Similarly, those who depend largely on their flock are also in great trouble, owing to the difficulty of finding sufficient grazing. The large "Khushkaba" areas in Central Zhob, inhabited by the Daulatzais, Batozais, &c., are the most affected, and it will be seen that from here the people have migrated almost entirely,—some going to Bori, others to Peshin and Kandahar, and others, who depend on their flocks, proceeding to the Musakhel and Sherani countries. It appears that some parts of the Lower Zhob and Musakhel tahsils are also seriously affected. The reports from Bori, Hindubagh and Killa Saifulla are, I am glad to say, not unfavourable. These tracts are for the most parts secured by irrigation from karezes, and although the area under crop this year has been small, the high prices obtained for their produce will compensate the cultivators.

5. I attach (Annexure A) a statement of prices prevailing in the principal market of each district as compared with previous years. It will be seen that the price of wheat, the staple food-grain of the people in this country, is not yet so high as it was in 1897, and in 1897 there was certainly no famine. Since then, however, the rainfall has been consistently deficient, and the people who depend on rain-crops and on pasture have undoubtedly deteriorated in condition, and are not now by any means as capable of resisting the pinch of high prices as they were two years ago. It seems certain that the price of wheat will now continue to rise, until the "rabi" harvest of 1900 is assured, i.e., till May next. For the present many of the inhabitants of "Khushkaba" villages are employed in the "kharif" harvest operations of the more fortunate owners of irrigated lands, but this can only be expected to occupy them until about the middle of next month, in some parts not so long. I apprehend that these people will then either proceed in great numbers to Kandahar, or they will be dependent on our support. I further apprehend that the mortality among cattle and flocks will also increase during the winter and until such time as new pasturage can grow. Thus a great number of those who depend on their flocks for their living are also likely to be thrown on our hands, unless they also proceed over the border.

6. Two alternatives are thus possible: We may with truth say there is no famine, and sit with folded hands while our people stream over the border to seek a cheaper living in Afghanistan, or we may make such endeavours as are reasonable and possible to retain in our own territory at least those of our own zamindars and shepherds who are reluctant to go. It will be seen from the statement given in the first paragraph of the letter from the Political Agent, Quetta-Peshin, that the temptation to proceed to Kandahar must be enormous. The prices of wheat, barley and maize are about a third of the prices for the same articles on our side. This result is due, no doubt, to the fact that His Highness the Amir has for some years imposed strict prohibition on the export of grain, while prices in Baluchistan conform of course to those current generally in Sind and British India. To attempt to prevent all emigration from our side would, under the circumstances, be absurd and impossible, but to make unlimited use of the safety-valve thus afforded to us also seems to me impolitic. Already numbers of people have left the Quetta and Peshin districts. When I was on tour in Shorard recently, the people of Mohamed Khel, a village with only "Khushkaba" cultivation, came to me to say that they did not wish to leave our territory, but unless we could supply them with some means of living for the present, they would be obliged to do so. There must be many others in similar cases. I ventured on the strength of the Mohamed Khel instance to write to the Political Agent, Quetta-Peshin, at once to point out the desirability of starting some work without delay for the employment of such people, and it will be seen that his proposals are entirely on these lines. The importance of keeping our own zamindars and of showing them that we are prepared to assist them, if they genuinely desire to remain in our territory, outweighs, in my opinion, the financial considerations involved. The expense after all should not be very enormous, especially if the public works programme for the year be modified so as to meet the new necessities which have arisen.

7. I may now point out what measures, with your sanction, have already been taken in this direction, and I will then allude briefly to what further measures may be necessary in the future.

8. *Quetta-Peshin*.—The Political Agent's proposal to open works at ordinary rates of wages has been approved. The Political Agent asks for Rs. 20,000 for this purpose, but it has only been found possible to allot him from provincial revenues Rs. 9,000. These works are to be opened at suitable places in "Khushkaba" tracts, and it is to be understood that they are not to be open to all comers, but to residents of Baluchistan only. It is undoubtedly the case that, if only famine wages were offered on such works, the people simply would not come, but would prefer to emigrate. Hence the works are to be managed on ordinary public works lines.

I may in this connection strongly support the Political Agent's selection of the nature of works to be undertaken. In Baluchistan large areas of dry crop lands are brought under cultivation by means of what is known as "lathbundi"—that is, small bunds are built across the direction of the general slope of the land, and thus the rain water is held up in numerous small fields, which are cultivated as soon as the water collected in each dries up. The Political Agent proposes to carry out the same idea on a large scale. Although no Government officer has attempted it before, I think there is every reason why it should be successful, and no better opportunity than the present is ever likely to occur. If a very large quantity of water should be held up by the bund it can be run out at the proper season, and the land both above and below the "bund" will come under cultivation. Two or three sites that appear most suitable for the experiment have already been selected, and by now I trust that work has begun. Full details of the scheme, with plans and estimate of cost, will in each case be duly submitted.

9. I cannot support the Political Agent's proposal to prohibit the export of grain from the district. I believe that such a measure would no doubt tend to ease prices, and would be more efficacious than any other to check the tide of emigration, but such an interference with the legitimate course of trade is not likely to recommend itself to those who are responsible for dealing with famine in India. It could only be defended on political grounds more urgent than those which exist.

10. *Thal Chotiali*.—It will be seen from the Political Agent's report that actual distress exists among a small class, viz., those inhabitants of the "Khushkaba" villages in Sibi who are unable to work for themselves. For these it has been necessary to sanction relief in the form of grain doles. It is also proposed to begin at once the embankment of the roads from Sibi to Thalli and Mall, and to employ on these works only the people belonging to the "Khushkaba" villages in question, giving them wages at ordinary public works rates. The reasons which make this necessary in Quetta-Peshin apply also in Sibi.

The Political Agent has asked altogether for Rs. 11,000 to meet the cost—Rs. 9,000 for the road work, and Rs. 2,000 for the relief of the aged and infirm, and this amount is to be placed at his disposal by re-appropriation.

11. *Zhob*.—Proposals for the construction of a large "bund" at Toiwar to catch the flood waters of the Toi were submitted in my letter No. 2793, dated the 27th September, 1899. Toiwar is situated in the Central Zhob Plain, and the work would be in all respects an excellent one for the relief of the inhabitants of that part of the district; but, unfortunately, I have recently learned that the perennial flow of water in the Toi has just ceased, and that, until rain comes, there will be great difficulty in starting this work owing to the want of drinking water for the labourers. In regard to other possible works the Political Agent writes as follows:—

"Another useful work would be the road from Bori to the Zhob Valley. I have entered it in next year's budget. The precise route the road is to follow is not yet settled, but I have no doubt myself that the Torkhezai-Churmi-Toi line is the best all round. Beyond the Churmi-Toi, or some 16 miles from Loralai, is an open plain from which paths radiate to various points, one going towards Killa Suifulla, *viâ* Nishpa, another to Chashan Alozai, and a third to Kalu Killa. I would recommend the central, *viâ* Alozai, and from Alozai

I would carry the road on to Toiwar. In this way the tribes in Central Zhob most in need of assistance would have work brought to their very doors.

"For the Abdullazais and Kibzais, in Lower Zhob (both of which tribes have suffered), I think a road from Fort Sandeman to Lakabund would prove useful. This is the short cut between the two places, the present made road round by Babar being some five or six miles longer. The route is a great deal used, and a good road along it would be a great advantage; and it would go right through the country of the two tribes I have mentioned. The length of the road would be 26 or 27 miles."

"In the Musakhel tahsil nothing need be done—in the first place because the people there are not so badly off as elsewhere, and because three roads are to be constructed, there this year, viz., (1) Dhana Sir to Toi, 29 miles, (2) Musakhel to Kot Khan Mohamed, and (3) Musakhel to Murgha Kibzai. It will only be necessary to get the Public Works Department to lose no time in starting work. Nor do I think anything is urgently called for in Upper Zhob and the Western Circle of Bori; but if such should become necessary the Hindubagh Chinjan road would be just the work for the neighbourhood, as the people on both sides could be employed."

The direct road from Bori to the Zhob Valley is not, in my opinion, required as a civil road, but it has been mentioned as a necessary military road, and if it is decided to take it up as such, I think in view of the present necessity of providing work in this part of the country that provincial revenues might well contribute whatever sum can be afforded this year, provided, of course, that the work can be commenced without any delay. Otherwise, I should strongly recommend the construction of one or two bunds in "Khushkaba" lands similar to those which are proposed in Peshin. The Fort Sandeman-Lakabund road might also be taken up.

The Political Agent asks for an additional grant of Rs. 15,000. This is in addition to some Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 which was to be provided for the Toiwar Scheme out of money allotted for improving the Shiliazza channel. The Political Agent has also had his ordinary takavi allotment of Rs. 10,000 increased this year by Rs. 6,000. It is not possible, and I am as yet doubtful, whether it is necessary to provide Rs. 15,000 in addition to the sums mentioned above, and for the present only Rs. 6,000 has been allotted to the Zhob District.

12. To meet these various demands, the Public Works programme for the year has been modified as follows:—

The following works have been altogether postponed till another year:—

	Rs.
Political Bungalow at Sibi	7,000
Buildings at Duki	8,500
Bungalow at Khan Mahomed Kot... ..	5,000
Total	20,500

A sum of Rs. 3,500 is available by savings under Land Revenue Settlement and Rs. 2,000 can be provided by the Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, as shown in his letter. The total of Rs. 26,000 thus made available from provincial revenues has been distributed as mentioned below:—

	Rs.
Quetta-Peshin	9,000
Thal-Chotiali	11,000
Zhob... ..	6,000

and the latter district will also have a sum of Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 which was to have been allotted to the Toiwar bund, but which, if that work has to be postponed, will be available for other works.

* Rs. 1,000 was spent on improving this route last year.

13. I am not without hope that these measures will suffice to tide us over the present bad season ; but the opposite contingency is also quite possible. The winter rains may fail, the fodder difficulties may be prolonged, and the number of local people demanding work may, in the course of the next two or three months, increase much more than is anticipated. In the more favourable event provincial revenues will be greatly exhausted ; in the other case, they will be quite unequal to the strain. The "hard times" we have experienced have had the usual accompaniments of low receipts and high expenditure ; and the assumption of administration in Nushki has thrown fresh responsibilities on us, which have only partially been met by the grant of Rs. 10,000 kindly sanctioned by the Government of India.* A careful scrutiny of the financial position has forced me to the conclusion that even if no fresh demands arise, the closing balance of Rs. 1,12,700 provided for in the sanctioned estimates of this year will nearly, if not entirely, vanish, and that the year will close with a very small surplus indeed, if not an actual deficit. This will inevitably cramp all development next year. I am of opinion that the unexpected and unavoidable misfortunes which have befallen the province this year, owing to unfavourable seasons, would justify the grant of a special additional allotment from the Government of India. As it is, the demands of district officers have only partially been met, and yet provincial revenues have been strained to breaking point. In view of the necessity for assistance, which may shortly arise, I recommend that the circumstances be reported for the information of the Government of India and in view of the severe check which must in any case be imposed upon all progress and development during the coming year, it is possible that Government will be moved to sanction an immediate additional allotment to the special revenues of the current year.

Enclosure 2 in No. 242.

Letter from the Political Agent, Quetta-Peshin, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, No. 5877, dated the 9th November, 1899.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the very serious rise in prices that has taken place within the last few months. In para. six of his preliminary report on the cash assessment to be fixed in the Quetta Tahsil, Mr. Crawford gave a list of the average price of wheat, barley and bhusa for fourteen years in the Quetta Bazar. The average prices for the fourteen years from 1882 to 1895 inclusive was as below :—

—	Seers.	Ch.
Wheat	13	1 per rupee.
Barley	16	14 Ditto.
Bhooza	13	annas 7 pies a maund.

As the forecast of the probable average prices for the following ten years and as a basis for fixing cash rates, Mr. Crawford estimated that *in the villages of the Quetta Tahsil* the average price would be :—

—	Seers.	Ch.
Wheat	16	13 per rupee.
Barley	26	11 Ditto.
Maize	26	11 Ditto.
Bhooza	6	annas a maund.

* Para. 6 of Foreign Department letter No. 2652-F., dated 6th October 1899.

The statement given below shows the prices ruling in the Quetta Bazar during the first week of October during the last six years, as well as the prices ruling in the Kandadar Bazar in the middle of September this year; the latter have been received from the News-writer in Kandahar.

—	1894.			1895.			1896.			1897.			1898.			1899.			Prices in Kandahar on 15th September, 1899, as reported by News-writer.
	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	Md.	Sr.	Ch.	
Wheat ...	0 17 0	0 14 8		0 8 10	0 9 8		0 13 8	0 9 0		0 9 0	0 11 8		0 28 0	0 26 0		per rupee			
Barley ...	0 28 0	0 17 0		0 13 0	0 12 1½		0 16 0	0 11 8		0 11 8			0 30 0			Ditto.			
Maize ...	0 24 0	0 20 0		0 12 0	0 12 1½		0 20 0	0 11 0		0 11 0			0 28 0			Ditto			
Bhoosa ...	Rs. a. p. 0 8 0	Rs. a. p. 0 14 0		Rs. a. p. 0 15 0	Rs. a. p. 0 13 0		Rs. a. p. 0 12 0	Rs. a. p. 0 16 0		Rs. a. p. 0 16 0			Not given per maund						

At present prices are higher than the average of any of the preceding seventeen years and the three past years have been years of unusually high prices.

2. For the purpose of this report the population of the district may be divided into two sections, landholders and labourers. I do not think that there is any reason to think that the landholders, as a body, are in any need of unusual assistance. Owing to the settlement having been only recently concluded in the Peshin Tahsil, no "girdawari" has been done, and therefore figures cannot be given for that Tahsil. There is, however, as far as I am aware, no reason to suppose that the Zamindars in Peshin are worse off than their neighbours in the Quetta Tahsil. The figures given below show that the usual area of "Abi" land has been brought under cultivation this year. I have no experience of crops in Baluchistan, but as far as I could judge the irrigated crops were mostly fairly good, and I believe this to be the opinion of those who are in a better position to form an opinion. If this is correct, the Zamindars have gained by high prices while they have not suffered from a short harvest.

QUETTA TAHASIL.

—			Rabi.		Kharif	
			Abi.	Khushkaba.	Abi.	Khushkaba
			1897-98 ...	12,170	3,343	4,673	361
1898-99 ...	12,500	663	4,766	19		
1899-1900 ...	12,238	889	4,601	488		

Regarding the labouring classes of the population the case is somewhat different. Those who are agricultural labourers and who are paid by taking a portion of the crop, may have gained something from the rise in prices, but the probability is that they sold before the rise took place and, in any case, they or some members of their family, probably look to earning something by labour. Those who earn their daily bread by daily labour in return for cash wages must have suffered severely on account of high prices.

3. The first result of high prices has shown itself in a marked tendency to emigrate to Afghanistan, where, as has been shown above, extraordinary low rates prevail for food grains. Exact figures are not yet available; but from the information that has already reached me, I estimate that between the 1st August and 15th October not less than 200 men, 100 women, and 140 children have crossed the border and many men have since crossed. I have asked numbers of officials, maliks and others, the reason for this, and on every occasion I have received the same answer, that the people are leaving the district because they cannot continue to live in it. I cannot ascertain that any have gone on account of grievances. I have already reported to the Agent to the

Governor-General that His Highness the Amir is making great efforts to induce people to emigrate from Baluchistan. His Highness promises them land and advances, and the hope of receiving these coupled with the certainty of low prices seem to offer such a strong inducement that it is strange that more people do not emigrate.

4. The very high prices now ruling in this district are due to the prohibition against exporting grain from Afghanistan, and the freedom to export grain to India from Baluchistan. His Highness the Amir is not likely to alter his policy to suit the needs of Baluchistan, and consequently it seems to me highly desirable, as a political measure, to stop the export of grain from Baluchistan. I may say that numbers of the leading men of the district from Chaman to Quetta have urged me to represent the need for a prohibition on the export of grain. I am aware that the Government of India is opposed to any restriction on trade, and especially will they be opposed to any interference with the flow of grain to other distressed districts in a year like the present. At the same time the condition of a frontier district is peculiar. The people are not docile like the Indians, and unrest caused by scarcity might have very serious results. According to local opinion the banias who trade here under the protection of the British Government are artificially raising prices, not by holding back grains which would be available to meet future needs, but by sending it out of the country. This the people consider a grievance, and no argument will persuade them that they are wrong. This being the case when scarcity reaches a certain pitch, and who can say when it will reach that pitch, the people will feel that they have a grievance against the Government, and it is quite unnecessary for me to give a detailed description of what that might mean. I do not anticipate that anything we can do will stop the tide of emigration which has set in towards Afghanistan. The inducements held out by His Highness the Amir are too attractive to be counterbalanced by anything we can offer. I think, however, that it is important to do what we can to minimise the hardships of those who elect to remain under our rule. If the export of grain could be prohibited, it would have a good political effect, and it would not appreciably affect the course of trade. I have no exact figures which I can quote, but I have reasons to believe that the total export of food grains from Baluchistan during the last four months has only amounted to about two thousand maunds.

There is no famine in this district, and therefore it would be useless to open famine works or test works on a scale of wages that would be consistent with the recommendation of the famine code, but I think that the pressure of high prices is sufficiently great to make it desirable to open some work at the ordinary rate of wages. The work might be given on daily labour or in small contracts at the usual rates. As regards the nature of the work, I am strongly in favour of making "bands" or dams to temporarily hold up the rain-water. These works do not seem to have been tried on any large scale in Quetta; but I am informed that the small bands that exist are a great success, in fact Mr. Crawford, in Appendix C, page 9 of his report above referred to, described land under bands as inferior irrigated land. The advantage of these works is that they cost little or nothing in tools and plants, as they only require spades and baskets, they require no skilled supervision once levels have been taken, and they ensure a large area at a small cost against untimely rainfall, that is to say, land under band cultivation is fairly secure provided rain comes at any time before it is too late to sow; if rain comes early and then stops, there is no danger of the land drying up before it can be cultivated, for it will dry up by degrees.

6. If my proposals meet with approval I will at once select sites for bands. I think some work ought to be opened in the Quetta Taluq, some towards Segi or Mohamad Khel, and some at the foot of the hills below Barshore. I have already selected a site at Segi which will, I hope, prove a good site when it has been surveyed, and the Zamindars have told me that, in the event of a band being made, they will willingly pay revenue on the land inundated at the rate of one-third of the produce, instead of, as at present, at the rate of one-sixth. If other Zamindars can be got to agree to the same terms, I have no doubt that the works would eventually prove highly remunerative.

7. I am of opinion that the plan above proposed would be the most profitable if it could be carried out, but there may be difficulties in the way. For example, if the suitable site cannot be found near a number of villages, a number of small works would be better than a few large works, for the climate here is so severe that it might be difficult to arrange temporary shelters for a large number of people.

8. To sum up, my report is that the crops have been fairly good on the whole, and that there has been no very unusual decrease in the area under "abi" cultivation, but that owing partly to high prices arising from bad seasons in India and succession of failures of the local "Khushkaba" harvest and partly to the inducements held out by the Amir, a large number of people have left and are leaving the district. I, therefore, suggest that earthworks should be started with a view to providing employment at the usual rate of wages, and also with a view to improving the Khushkaba cultivation, which is at present very risky. I suggest that at first Rs. 20,000 should be provided for this purpose, to be spent on the most profitable sites that can be found, unless the difficulty of housing the people near those sites is so great that it would be better to select other sites.

Enclosure 3 in No. 242.

Letter from the Political Agent, Thal Chotiali, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, No. 7436, dated the 4th November 1899.

I have the honour to submit the report prescribed by section 22, Provisional Famine Code, on the subject of the scarcity existing in a portion of the Sibi Tahsil.

2. (a).—*Grounds for believing scarcity to exist.*—On my taking over charge of this district, on 11th October, it was reported to me that the people of the villages situated along the eastern border of the Sibi Tahsil, which are entirely dependent for their crops on flood irrigation from the Thalli torrent, were in great straits, having had neither rabi nor kharif crops this year, owing to want of rain, and having lost the greater part of their cattle for want of fodder to keep them on. I accordingly directed the Tahsilदार, Sind, to prepare at once a list showing the persons likely to require gratuitous relief (section 3), and also a list of able-bodied men unable to find work whom it might prove necessary to employ on relief or other works. On these lists being received I proceeded myself, accompanied by the Extra Assistant Commissioner, to visit all the villages affected and carefully check the lists, examining personally all the people shown on the gratuitous relief list, as well as a few others who on hearing of my visit had returned to their villages from begging expeditions to Sibi and elsewhere.

3. I found ample evidence of scarcity approaching to famine, more especially in the northern part of the affected tract. The grain-bins in nearly all the many houses visited were quite empty; there were hardly any household utensils left, nearly all having been sold in order to buy food; and a number of the people were living on a sort of gruel or paste made of wheat flour, which, I was assured, most of them could only afford to touch every second day. There was no grass whatever on the plain or on the hills, and only a few stalks of arbi in one or two of the villages. The few cattle I saw were much emaciated, and I saw only one flock of goats throughout my tour. In the villages where there were banias' shops, these were either deserted altogether or had little or nothing in them, there being, the banias said, no custom. There were comparatively few able-bodied men in the villages, the bulk of them having gone to Sind, to Kachi, or to the Sibi irrigated villages for work. Some of the children and a good many of the old and infirm people were obviously suffering from severe hunger.

4. (b).—*Area and population affected.*—As far as can be seen at present, no severe scarcity is to be apprehended in this Tahsil except in the villages above referred to, of which a list is attached (marked A), with a rough estimate of the population of each as it stood before the exodus caused by the present

scarcity, and as it stands now. The villages of the western part of the Tahsil are all protected by irrigation from the Nari River; their standing kharif crops promise fairly well, and there is no reason to anticipate a failure of the rabi. Of the villages affected those lying to the north-east are feeling the pinch most severely. A reference to the attached rough sketch will show that they are further from the irrigated villages, so that it is more difficult for their men to obtain work and their cattle grazing. The people too are either Pathans (as the Silanchis of Thalli) or mere cultivators, with no lands of their own (e.g., Machis, Hambis, etc.), and no other resources than their crops. The south-westerly villages, on the other hand, are nearer the irrigated lands, and many of them are peopled by Baluchis (Gishkoris, Gwahranzais of Mal, Gurgej, etc.), who have connections with the tribes of Kachhi, and more especially with the Domkis of Lehri, where, very fortunately, there is a fine autumn crop this year. Those of the Mal people who have not gone to Sind and elsewhere have moved in a body to Kabar on the Sibi-Mal Road, near which some of them have a share in Safi cultivation, the Safis having brought their perennial water on to Gwahranzai Khushkaba land. Again Walthari Khan Margzani, who with other Margzanis owns a large share of the Nari water, has brought a large part of the Margzani water this year on to the Khushkaba lands, close to Basti Walthari, and has now 100 yoke of oxen at work ploughing for the rabi crops, with every prospect of excellent results, the lands being practically virgin soil. All this tends to lighten the pressure on these villages, though it does not altogether remove it, for many of the Gwahranzais and their cultivators have no share in the rabi crops; and the same applies to the Margzanis and their dependents.

5. (c) *Communications*.—The communications throughout the area affected are excellent so long as the dry weather lasts. There are only two main roads—the Sibi-Thalli and Sibi-Mal roads—and these for the greater part of length are at present mere tracks on the plain. But except in wet weather there is nothing to prevent carts being driven in any direction over the plain, and even in wet weather it would be possible to approach most of the villages by cart. Camel and bullock carriage is also easily procurable.

6. (d.) and (e.) *Condition of grain stocks and sources of supply*.—There are ample grain stocks at Sibi, and also at Kurk and Khajuk, which are respectively 16, 12 and 10 and 14, 10 and 12 miles from Thalli and Mal. The prices of grain vary with those current in Sind and the Punjab, and they will no doubt rule high in the coming winter. Those of principal food-grains are at present as shown below:—

Wheat, 1st sort	...	...	...	11½ seers per rupee.
„ 2nd „	...	...	...	11½ „ „
Barley	...	...	...	12½ „ „
Jowari	...	...	...	11¾ „ „

7. (f.) *Proposed Relief Measures*.—My proposals for meeting the distress in these villages include (I.) gratuitous relief to persons of the classes enumerated in section 3 of the Famine Code, who have no other means of support, and (II.) the provision of relief works for the able-bodied men and boys who may not be able to obtain work elsewhere.

(I.) In my telegram No. 307, dated 1st November, 1899, I solicited sanction to distribution of grain doles to a total of 50 men, 88 women and 154 children in the 14 villages affected at a cost not exceeding Rs.400 a month; and this was sanctioned by your telegram No. 252, dated 2nd November, 1899. The majority of these people are unfit to work through age or youth, or through blindness (which is painfully common) or other physical infirmity. In ordinary times these people would be supported by the charity of the community, but as no one in the village now has more than is barely sufficient for his own needs, I think it necessary that we should look after these helpless ones till better times come. In one or two cases I have allotted doles to women whose husbands have gone off to Sind or elsewhere and have not been heard of for months, leaving the wives with young children to support. In all such cases I am having enquiries made as to the whereabouts of the husband. Where in a family

there are several members unfit for work and one or more fit for work but unable to obtain it, the cases will be reconsidered as soon as work can be provided. In every case, except in those of two or three "parda nishin" women, I myself saw all the persons to whom relief was granted, and in all cases satisfied myself that it was really necessary. A detailed list has been prepared showing all the persons to whom the relief will be given and their circumstances in detail. If desired, I will forward a copy of this for your information. The daily rates fixed were 12 chattaks of jowari per man or woman, 8 chattaks per child above eight, and 4 chattaks per child of eight and under, nothing being allowed for unweaned children. It may possibly be necessary to reconsider these rates hereafter in the light of experience, but I trust that they will prove to be sufficient without being extravagant.

(II.) The list attached (marked B) gives the numbers of able-bodied men in these villages who now want work and the probable numbers who will want work after the Kharif harvest and the rabi sowings are over—say at the end of December. The totals are 129 for the present and 236 more after the harvest. The most suitable work which I can suggest, after consulting the Garrison Engineer, is ~~embanking the Thalli and Mal roads where they pass over low and swampy ground.~~ Captain Dealy informs me that he is prepared to start this work as soon as he can obtain the necessary tools. I propose that only men and boys from the villages affected should be received on these works, and that they should be paid at the ordinary Public Works rates for piece-work. Any women who may present themselves from these villages might also be given work, but I do not think there will be any of these. Captain Dealy informs me that a strong man by doing a hard day's work can at earn Public Works, Department rates 6 annas a day, but that it is very rarely that men earn at such work more than 5, and he does not anticipate that these men would average more than 4⁰ annas a day apiece. Assuming the price of jowari to rise to 10 seers† a rupee, 4 annas would purchase 2½ seers, which should suffice to keep any ordinary family, as the wife can generally supplement it by grinding corn or doing other work. On the other hand, I do not consider the rates given will make the works too attractive, for as long as these people can make three or even two annas a day at the field work they are used to, they will much prefer that to earning four annas at "basket work" as they call it. In fact, nothing short of absolute famine would induce the Zamindars of the Baluch villages to do such work, the men who have come forward in these villages being all Jat cultivators.

It will, in my opinion, be preferable to start these works on the above footing, at any rate to begin with, rather than to begin them as ordinary famine "test" works with minimum rates for men, women and children. Such works are very wasteful in regard to the quantity of work obtained for the money; they are also expensive and difficult to supervise. Moreover, if open to all comers, as they would apparently have to be, they might easily attract a mass of Brahui, Pathan, and other outsiders, who would eat up our grain stocks, and would soon exhaust both the work to be done and the money available for doing it. If started on the lines I have proposed, the works may possibly draw a few outsiders to begin with; but as soon as it becomes known that employment on them is strictly limited to *bona fide* inhabitants of our "Khushkaba" villages, the influx will stop. Further, the people employed will be able to make their own arrangements for food and lodging, and the inconvenience and danger of collecting large numbers of labourers in one place will be avoided.

3. I have carefully considered the question of utilizing part of the Takavi grant in tiding over the distress, but regret that, for the present, I can devise no means of employing it with advantage. The Khushkaba lands not having been flooded last autumn, no rabi grain crop is possible. The winter rains rarely, if ever, bring down the torrents in flood, so that even if good rain were to fall unusually early, say the end of December or beginning of January, it would be of little use to these villages except in so far as it might cause the grass to spring. If heavy rain came abnormally early, it might be worth while to make a few

* The current rate of wages in Sibi for unskilled labour is from 5 to 6 annas a day.

† It is at present 11½ seers per rupee.

advances to enable the people to sow fodder crops ; but the amount that could be usefully employed in this way would not be large. Next year, if the rainfall conditions are favourable, it will be desirable to make liberal Takavi advances to these villages to enable them to take advantage of the autumn floods, which we must hope will not fail again. For this year, as stated in my letter No. 7357, dated 31st October, 1899, I propose to keep a sum of Rs. 1,900 in hand to meet unforeseen calls, but I do not anticipate that it will be practicable to employ much of it on these Khushkaba lands.

9. (g) *Estimate of extra expenditure and sources from which it can be met.*
—It is very difficult to make any accurate forecast of the expenditure which these measures will involve. You have sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 400 a month on gratuitous relief, but I hope to be able to do with somewhat less, if the price of grain does not rise unexpectedly high. If good winter rains should come, it may be possible to reduce the list considerably, for some of the people have still a bullock or a cow or two which have been sent to the irrigated lands to keep them alive, and which as soon as the grass began to spring, they could bring back to assist them in earning a livelihood. Further it might then be possible to make some Takavi advances for fodder crops. At the worst, however, I trust that acute distress will not last beyond April next, when a considerable amount of work should be obtainable in harvesting the irrigated crops, and preparing for the next Kharif. Assuming that it is necessary to continue the gratuitous relief for five months, the total cost would amount to Rs. 2,000, but I hope to be able to do with less than this.

Taking four annas a day as the average wage that will be earned on the proposed works, and assuming that the numbers given by the headmen of men requiring work are accurate, the expenditure on the works would be at the rate of about Rs. 900 a month up to the end of December, and thereafter a little under Rs. 2,800 a month. I regard these works, however, as purely tentative. I believe the numbers given as requiring work immediately will probably be worked up to, but as regards the numbers to be provided for after the harvest, much depends on the weather and other conditions which it is impossible to foresee. If we find the works too popular, it may be necessary to reduce the wage, or a saving may be effected by employing some of the men on municipal or other works for which funds are already provided. Even assuming that we are obliged to continue the works for five months, which I hope will not be the case, the total expenditure should not, in my opinion, exceed Rs. 9,000.

10. To meet this possible expenditure there is—

- (1) Rs. 1,000 which Captain Dealy informs me he can provide from the ordinary Public Works grant for the work on the Thalli and Mal roads ;
- (2) Rs. 1,000 which I find I can save from my Contingent grant by cutting down expenditure to the lowest point.

Further, you have suggested that the Political Inspection bungalow, which was to have been built this year, should be held over for the present, the amount of Rs. 8,000 sanctioned for it being utilized for relief purposes. It would be pity to defer the building of this house, which is very much needed, but if funds cannot be provided otherwise, it would seem to be unavoidable.

But I trust, however, that if it be decided to apply for a special grant for the whole agency a portion of it may be allotted to Sibi, so as to avoid the necessity of postponing the ordinary requirements of the district.

Enclosure 4 in No. 242.

Letter from the Political Agent, Zhob, to the Revenue Commissioner in Baluchistan, No. 633-C., dated the 9th November 1899.

I have the honour to address you on the subject of the present drought in this district with a view to Government being moved to grant pecuniary

assistance to the people of the affected areas, and thus in some measure relieve distress they are experiencing.

2. As you are aware the seasons during the past two or three years have all been below the average, and the present crisis accordingly finds the people unprepared to meet the strain put upon their resources.

3. This year, except in a few local areas such as along the Punjab border, there has practically been no rainfall in the district. There has been an occasional sprinkling here and there, but rain that would replenish the springs and karezes, be of use for "Khushkaba" cultivation, or cause new grass to crop up, has been denied us.

4. Fortunately a great many of the tribes have some perennial water at their disposal for irrigation purposes, and although the absence of rain may cause the streams to run low and the crops both in extent and quality may be much below the average, the distress and inconveniences caused thereby are not likely to reach an acute stage. There are certain tribes, however, like those of Central Zhob who are dependent wholly on "Khushkaba" or rain crops or whose numbers are out of all proportion to any small area of irrigated land they may possess. To such the absence of rain is a serious matter.

5. And there is, besides, the question of pasturage. This is deficient in nearly every part of the district, and the cattle and flocks of most of the tribes have suffered in consequence. The blow hits all alike irrespective of irrigation, falling heaviest of course on those who have sufficient in their crops as well.

6. It will thus be seen that there are three ways in which the drought is affecting the tribes of Zhob:—

- (I.) By the failure of the Rabi and Kharif Khushkaba harvests.
- (II.) By causing a decrease in the perennial water-supply with the result that irrigation crops are of poorer quality and less extent than usual.
- (III.) By the absence of pasturage whereby many animals have died of starvation, while the market value of those that remain has depreciated.

7. It will be convenient to deal with these three heads separately:—

I.—KHUSHKABA.

The great Khushkaba tracts of this district are (a) Central Zhob, (b) parts of the Kibzai country round Murgha, (c) nearly all the Musakhel Tahsil, and (d) Mekhtar and Kingri. Of these Central Zhob has suffered most, the tribes affected being the Doulatzais, Batozais, Ghibzais, Sibzais, Akhtarzais, Alozais, Alikhels, Haidarzais, Ismailzais, Safarzais, Salakzais, Rustamzais and Abdullazais. With the exception of the Ghibzais and Sibzais, these are all large tribes containing several several hundreds of families apiece. Following on a Rabi harvest much below the average, Kharif has been either totally wanting or at best a harvest only in name. A few comparative figures will at once make the position clear.

Akhtarzai.—The lands of three Maliks were assessed last year at 223 maunds wheat in all. This year (Rabi) these lands only paid 7½ maunds wheat. Kharif there is none.

Alozais.—Last year 150 maunds Rabi assessment. This year 25 maunds and 25 seers. Kharif this year nil.

Alikhel.—Last year Rabi assessment 820 maunds. This year Rabi assessment 360 maunds. Kharif this year 15 maunds, while in 1897-98 it was 300 maunds.

In connection with Central Zhob, I would invite your attention to the attached report drawn by Munshi Ahmad Khan, Sarishtedar of my office, who, having been lately and on various other occasions Naib Tahsildar Killa Saifulla, has a very intimate acquaintance with the country.

(b) and (c). *Kibzai and Musakhel*.—The tribes here have not suffered to the same extent as those in Central Zhob. They have had some though not sufficient rain. The accompanying statement shows as regards certain villages the difference between this and last year's rabi. Full reports of the conditions of the Kharif have not yet been received from the Sub-Divisions, but they may be expected to be nearly in every case unfavourable.

There are two conspicuous exceptions, one in the case of the Ghorazai lands in Central Zhob and the other at Mekhtar [*vide* clause (d) above]. Both tracts are Khushkaba and both have produced a Kharif harvest up to, if not above, the average. The attached copy of a letter addressed to me by Kazi Muzaffir Khan, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Lower Zhob, gives a general description of the condition of affairs in Lower Zhob.

II.—IRRIGATION.

Not much requires to be said on this subject, but it is a fact that a great many springs and karezes, especially those of small volume, have fallen off from the effects of the drought. As instances I would cite the stream at Kazha near Killa Saifalla which has quite dried up and the Karezes at Zama near Hindu Bagh and at Gurmi, Chinjan and Sirki Jangal in the Western circle of the Bori Tahsil where the supply of water is certainly much below normal. As already mentioned, no great degree of distress is likely to arise from this cause by itself, but taken in conjunction with the general unfavourableness of the season, high prices, and the scarcity of grazing, it becomes a factor that cannot be neglected in a general estimate of the situation.

III.—GRAZING.

The absence of sufficient grazing constitutes perhaps the most serious effect of the drought. The people of this district depend largely on their flocks for their support. It is not too much to say that were there plenty of grazing and the condition of the flocks prosperous, the failure of a harvest or two would not seriously affect the people. By the sale of their animals and the produce (wool, sheep, skins, and ghee) derived from them they can always obtain the means wherewith to purchase food for themselves and seed grain for the next harvest. But now cattle and flocks are nearly everywhere in poor condition, while many animals have actually died of starvation and weakness. Thus the income derivable from the source is much less than usual, and when the falling off is combined with a failure of the harvests, the condition of the persons concerned is bound to be precarious. Grazing is deficient nearly all over the Upper Zhob Sub-Division and in the Abdullazai and Kibzai country and parts of the Musakhel Tahsil in the Lower Zhob Sub-Division. Some portions of the Musakhel Tahsil and of the Sherani and Mando Khel country are better off, and thither many people with their flocks have proceeded from other parts of the district; other people have gone into the Thal Chotiali district, and others again to Kandahar or Peshin, either in search of grazing for their flocks, or to support themselves by labour. I append two statements (marked D and E) showing losses among the cattle and flocks in Lower Zhob during the last 18 months.

8. It will be considered, I fear, that report is somewhat superficial, but full information has been called for from the Sub-Divisions, and on its receipt further particulars can be supplied to you. I trust, however, that I have said enough to show that the people of the districts are passing through a period of unusual difficulty, and that they stand in need of helping hand. I do not wish to overdraw the picture. It is not a case of famine, and I don't suppose that any of the people except perhaps a few individual labourers thrown out of employment have actually been in want of food. This pinch of the situation is perhaps felt throughout the district, but as regards the condition of the great bulk of the people there need be no anxiety. It is only for certain local areas that have been confronted with an accumulation of misfortunes that I think something should be done.

9. The case would be best met in my opinion by a special grant of, say, Rs. 15,000, being placed at my disposal, this is to be disbursed for the most part

as free gifts for the purchase of seed grain and plough cattle or to meet other urgent needs. In some cases the amounts advanced could be subsequently recovered, but as a rule it would be as well not to hamper the grantees with a debt to Government. As it is, it will be some time before they can recover the ground they have lost.

10. I may mention that no part of my Takavi allotment is available for special relief purposes. The amount sanctioned for the district is Rs. 10,000, to which has recently been added another Rs. 6,000. Against this sum of Rs. 16,000, I have already (when but half of the year is over) received applications for Takavi loans or advances for the purchase of seed grain amounting to Rs. 21,335.* This will probably be doubled before the year is out, and I trust, therefore, that the additional grant of Rs. 15,000 asked for will not be considered excessive.

No. 243.

Letter from H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 270 C., dated Camp Sibi, the 23rd February 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 11 C., dated the 8th February, 1900, regarding the scarcity in this Agency, I have the honour, as promised in that report, to submit a separate account of the position in the Marri and Bugti Hills.

2. I enclose a copy of a letter† from the Political Agent, Captain Archer, which explains the present state of affairs. During my visit to Sibi for the annual jirgas and horse show, I have had the opportunity of meeting and discussing the situation with the Bugti Chief and the son of the Marri Nawab, and from the enquiries which I have made I have satisfied myself that the description given in the Political Agent's letter is not exaggerated. As in the rest of the Agency, there has been a scanty rainfall in the Marri and Bugti country for some years. There was a great mortality in cattle and sheep in 1897, and although in that year we received a grant of Rs. 20,000 from the Famine Relief Fund to help those most pressingly in need, the money was distributed chiefly among our own people in the administered districts of Duki, Barkhan, and Sibi, and there was not enough to admit of any allotment to the Marri and Bugti tribesmen. In the current year these tribesmen have suffered more severely than any, and, as rain still holds off, their condition in the spring will give cause for very serious anxiety. Although during the past month there has been heavy rain and snow in Quetta, Kalat, Pishin, and Upper Zhob, not a drop has fallen in Kutchi, Sibi, or the Marri and Bugti Hills. The people of Sibi are being provided for, as described in my last report, by petty relief works and doles of grain. The people of Kutchi, though badly off, are not in great straits, as they obtained something of an autumn crop from the Nari and Bolan irrigation, and those of them who are Brahuis possess lands in Khorasan (i.e., above the passes), the crops of which are assured by the recent rains. The Marris and Bugtis, on the other hand, had no autumn crops, and, except in the small irrigated areas in Quat Mundai and Badra, they will have no spring crops, while there is a total absence of grass in the hills, and their flocks have perished in hundreds. At the present moment the majority of both tribes have scattered into Sind and the Punjab, picking up for their remaining flocks what subsistence they can find in the jungles and along the canals. As they are hillmen and unaccustomed to great heat, they will, many of them, return when the hot weather begins, but unless there is rain between this and April, there will be no spring grass in the hills, and their condition will inevitably be very pitiable. The poorer members of the tribes are even now wandering from village to village begging from their

* Takavi, Rs. 18,490: Seed grain, Rs. 2,845
† No. 18, dated the 28th January 1900.

richer fellows, and the Political Agent has received a letter from Nawab Sir Imam Bakhsh Khan, Mazari, of Dera Ghazi Khan, asking to be relieved of 60 Marri families, who have thrown themselves on his bounty and whom he has been feeding.

3. I have discussed the matter very fully with the Political Agent and with the Marri and Bugti headmen, and I fear there is serious risk that cases of starvation will occur, unless something can be done to help the tribesmen during the next two or three months. The road from Kuriak to Pur, to which the Political Agent refers in his letter, is a very small work, costing only Rs. 3,000 or 4,000, and it cannot be of much use in providing employment. But in the programme of public works forwarded with my report, dated the 8th February, 1900, there are two roads through the Marri country, viz., No 4* from Babar Kuch to Gumbaz, and No 8* from Thalli to Kahan, which, if sanctioned at once, will afford some employment for those members of the tribe who can be induced to work. I would ask that these at any rate may be sanctioned, and the necessary funds provided without delay, and every effort will be made to induce the tribesmen to come and accept employment. I agree, however, with the Political Agent that the provision of work will not be sufficient. There are many of the tribesmen who will not labour, and in any case their women would not be allowed to work on the roads. Loans to the Chiefs will be recoverable with very great difficulty, and would probably in the end have to be written off. I think, therefore, with the Political Agent, that the best and most satisfactory method of relief will be a free grant of grain in the manner which he recommends, and I would ask that I may be allotted a sum of Rs. 25,000 for this purpose. Of this sum Rs. 17 or 18,000 would be spent at once in providing the dole of 5,000 maunds of grain which the Political Agent asks for. The balance will be kept in reserve for the present, and if necessary will be spent hereafter, either in a further dole of grain or in assisting the more deserving to replace cattle and sheep which have been lost. I agree with the Political Agent that the political effect of such a grant will be very great. The total sum asked for is not very large, and there is no doubt that with proper arrangements the dole will reach the most needy members of the tribe. The poorer of them are already living on those who are better off, and the habit of tribal charity and mutual support is so strong that, if the grain is sufficiently widely distributed among the headmen, all who are needy will share in the benefit of it.

4. I would recommend this proposal very earnestly for the consideration of the Government. Unless something of the kind can be done, there is the risk, not only of deaths from starvation, but there is also the risk (no slight one considering the character of these tribesmen and the difficulty of their country) that, when the tribesmen return to their hills in the spring, they may be forced by want to commit lawless outrages in the richer plain country around them. The circumstances are so special that some special remedy is needed. If, nevertheless, the Government consider that the grant of the free dole of grain asked for is contrary to the principles which govern the grant of State relief, I would ask whether the not very large assistance asked for could not be given from the Charitable Famine Relief Fund now being subscribed for in India and England. That fund, I believe, already amounts to several lakhs of rupees, and, as I have stated in 1897 a grant of Rs. 20,000 was given from the similar fund then existing to help those who, in other parts of the Agency, suffered from the severe scarcity in that year. An allotment of Rs. 25,000 for the relief of the Marri and Bugti tribes in the manner proposed would not be a large share to give to this Agency, and the money would certainly be well spent.

* No. 4, estimated cost	...	...	Rs. 10 000
" 8, " "	...	...	22,000
Total	..	..	<u>32,000</u>

Enclosure in No. 243.

Letter from Captain C. Archer, Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, No. 18, dated the 28th January, 1900.

I have the honour to bring to your notice the state of distress to which the long continued drought and scarcity in Baluchistan has reduced the Marri and Bugti tribes, and the great desirability of our affording them some assistance to tide over their difficulties.

2. I have received several petitions from the Marri and Bugti Nawabs and their headmen, representing the extreme destitution to which large numbers of their tribesmen have been reduced, and asking for loans of money and grain to enable them to feed those whom the failure of their crops and the loss of their cattle have left totally without resources. Though I have been unable to visit the country of the two tribes (mainly because supplies are absolutely unprocureable this year in their hills), and though it has been somewhat difficult to obtain accurate information, I have satisfied myself that the distress in the tribes is really widespread and very acute.

3. The Marri tribe may be estimated at approximately 6,000 fighting men, or a total of 18,000 souls. Their only important irrigated lands are those at Quat Mundai and Badra, though there is a small amount of perennial water at Kahan and in Kohlu. Their Khushkaba* cultivation has been very poor for several years past, and this year it has totally failed, with the exception of a small amount in Kohlu. In the best of years the produce of their lands is not nearly sufficient to maintain the tribe, and they depend largely for support on the sale of their flocks and herds and of the produce from them. This resource has almost totally failed them this year. As long ago as September last, when Captain Cubitt visited Barkhan, he found that a large number of the Marri sheep and cattle had died, and that they were disposing of numbers of those that were left for anything they would fetch rather than have them die on their hands. Thus a sheep which would ordinarily have cost Rs. 4 or 5 was obtainable for Re. 1 or 1-8-0. Since then things have become much worse. All the tribesmen who have any animals left have deserted their country and scattered into Sind, the Punjab Hills, Barkhan, Musa Khel, Shahrig, wherever, in short, they may hope to find a little grazing or fodder. Those who have no animals left and who have no share in the tribal service are subsisting at home on charity and the hospitality of neighbours only one degree less destitute than themselves, while their women and children are too often starving. I am satisfied that, at a moderate computation, at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tribe, or 4,500 souls, must be in serious distress.

4. The Bugtis number something over 4,000 fighting men, or, say, 13,000 souls. Their irrigated lands in the hills are even less in extent than those of the Marris, but a few of them have acquired lands and more or less settled on the Sind Canals. They, too, have had hardly any crops on their rain-fed lands for years past, and none at all this year, and they, too, have lost very large numbers, probably the greater part, of their flocks and herds. The number of their people in severe distress is no doubt less than that of the Marris, but it includes many of the headmen, who have not been so liberally treated in the way of service as have the Marri Mukkadams. Many headmen of numerous and powerful sections are now in a state of extreme destitution, for the voluntary contributions from their tribesmen, on which they largely depend, have necessarily altogether ceased. Large numbers of this tribe, too, have scattered in search of grazing or fodder to try and save their remaining animals, but the remainder, who have none left, are in severe distress. I calculate that over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tribe, or in all probability 3,500 souls, are seriously affected.

* Rain crop.

5. I am not in favour of lending money to the Chiefs and headmen to assist them in meeting this distress. To be of any use such loans would have to be of very considerable amount, and though they would be eagerly accepted in the present stress, the repayment would be a heavy burden on the tribe, in fact, it might very likely be necessary to recover in the end from the levy pay, which is politically an objectionable expedient. Moreover, it would be almost impossible to ensure that the money should be properly applied.

6. The alternative of starting relief works on a large scale has been carefully considered, but I fear that it would be of little use in relieving the better class of tribesmen, as many of them are quite unused even to agricultural labour, and nearly all of them would certainly starve rather than work on roads or such other coolies' work as could be provided for them. A much-needed road* in the outskirts of the Marri country is now being put in hand, and I hope that some of the lower classes, such as Mirasis, Ghulams, and men of mixed race, will find employment on it and so relieve the tribe of the cost of their support. But the relief so afforded will not reach the pure-bred Baluchis, who, having something of a position to keep up, feel the pinch most severely.

7. The only satisfactory way of meeting the case, it appears to me, is by giving each tribe a free grant of grain to be distributed under tribal arrangements among those who need it most. Such a grant, even if it were only sufficient to last those in acute need for a month or a month and a half, would be a very great boon to the tribe and would probably save a considerable number of lives. By the time it was exhausted the worst pinch would, it may be hoped, be over. If rain should fall some grass would have sprung up in the hills, and in any case the spring harvest would be ready in the plains, and some work which they could do, or at the worst alms from their more fortunate brethren, would be obtainable by the most needy. By arranging the distribution through representative tribal jirgas, it would be comparatively easy to ensure that the relief reached those for whom it was intended. The measure, as will be seen, would not cost any very large sum, and it would, I am sure, leave a political effect, which, in time of difficulty, would be of the very greatest value, and would then probably save much larger sums of money.

8. In order to be of any value the dole should, I consider, be sufficient to maintain those in the greatest need of help for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ months. Taking the number of Marris in acute distress at 4,500 souls, and allowing only $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of grain per day per head, $1\frac{1}{2}$ months' consumption would amount to over 2,500 maunds. An equal amount would be required for the Bugtis, as, though the numbers to be relieved are somewhat smaller, a good many of them are headmen of considerable importance, who should receive more liberal doles than the ordinary tribesmen. The total amount of grain required would thus be 5,000 maunds. We could not hope to obtain this amount, even of jowari, the cheapest grain in the market, at less than Rs 3-8-0 a maund, and the cost would, therefore, be Rs. 17,500, or, say, Rs 18,000.

9. I earnestly hope that you will give this application your favourable consideration and support. I can think of no other effective method of relieving the distress among these tribes. It will, I think, have a decidedly bad effect if we allow any considerable number of the tribesmen to starve, as I fear there is no doubt that some of them at least will do unless we aid them. On the other hand, the political effect, should Government be pleased to come generously to their assistance, will, I am convinced, be on a small scale no less happy than has been the effect on the Indian people of the help given them by the people of England during the last famine.

* Kuriak to Pur.

No. 244.

Letter from H. S. Barnes, Esq., C.S.I., Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 312 C., dated Camp Sibi, the 27th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 270 C., dated the 23rd February, 1900, regarding the distress among the Marri and Bugti tribes, I have the honour to forward copy of a further letter* from the Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, on the subject.

2. It will be seen that petty thefts and robberies by the Marri tribesmen have of late been of frequent occurrence, and unless rain falls the number of such cases is likely to increase when the tribesmen return to the hills in the spring. I am making further enquiries from the Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan, as to the number of families who are being relieved by Nawab Sir Imam Bakhsh Khan, Mazari, within the Punjab frontier.

3. I trust the Government of India will be able to authorise the commencement of work on the roads in the Marri country, the construction of which was recommended in my previous report, and that the dole of grain asked for will also be sanctioned. It will then be possible to direct the Marri Nawab to relieve Sir Imam Bakhsh Khan of the burden which he has so generously undertaken.

 Enclosure 1 in No. 244.

Letter from Captain C. Archer, Political Agent, Thal-Chotiali, to the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan. No. 1488, dated the 24th February 1900.

In continuation of my letter, No. 18 C, dated 23th January, 1900, on the subject of the necessity for helping the Marris and Bugtis to tide over the severe distress which exists among them, I have the honour to report that cases of robbery by Marris in the Duki Subdivision have become unusually frequent during the last few months owing to the straits to which the tribe is reduced.

2. I append a list of such cases which have recently been reported.† It will be seen that in none of the cases have the offenders as yet been brought to justice, though every effort has been made to trace them. It is, in fact, a matter of extreme difficulty to cope with an outbreak of crime of this nature on an extensive and scantily populated border, with the very small number of Marri levies at our disposal, for while the levies are engaged in tracking one set of offenders, another, or more than one other, offence may be occurring fifty miles off. The only way of preventing the occurrence of such offences, or of ensuring that they shall be punished when they do occur, is to enforce the responsibility of the Chiefs and the headmen of sections, but in most of these cases it has been impossible so far to ascertain to what sections the offenders belong. Moreover, the pressure of hunger appears to be now overcoming the habits of tribal discipline, so that it will be hard, though doubtless necessary, to hold the headmen responsible for the acts of their followers. I shall proceed to Duki and the Marri frontier as soon as I can leave Sibi, but the maintenance of order on that and the Sibi border when the heat has forced the tribesmen to return to the hills (where there has been no rain, and will consequently be no grazing) will, I fear, be a matter of great difficulty.

3. I attach copy of an extract from a letter I have just received from

* No. 1488, dated the 24th February, 1900, and enclosures.

† Not printed.

the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan on the subject of the Marris who are now living with the Mazari Nawab. It is certainly hard on Sir Imam Bakhsh Khan that he should be compelled by Baluch custom to support a horde of outsiders at such a time as this; but, on the other hand, I do not see how we can order them back to their hills, where nothing better than starvation awaits them.

Enclosure 2 in No. 244.

Letter from M. W. Penton, Esq., Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khan, to the Deputy Commissioner, Thal-Chotiali, dated the 16th February 1900.

(Extract.)

The Nawab of Rojhan has not yet asked me to cause the Marris to be recalled, though I know he would be extremely grateful if we would relieve him of the burden. He is feeding them at his own expense. I hope that you, Baluchistan people, will some time or another grant to the Nawab some recognition in the form of an inam or otherwise of what he is doing for the Marris. It is very hard that he should have to incur this expense at a time when his own people are suffering from long-continued scarcity.

No. 245.

Letter from W. R. H. Merk, Esq., C.S.I., Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab and its Dependencies, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 213, dated Lahore, 6th February 1900.

In continuation of paragraph 8 of my letter, No. 104,* dated 13th January, 1900, and of my telegram, dated 3rd February, 1900 (copy enclosed), I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter, No. 3 P, dated 2nd January, 1900, from the Commissioner of the Delhi Division, recommending the grant of a loan of Rs. 1,50,000 to the Chiefs of the States of Pataudi, Loharu, and Dujana, to enable them to meet the strain on their finances due to the present scarcity.

2. I am to say that there is no provision in the provincial budget under the head "Loans to Notabilities," to meet the portion of the loan required during the present financial year, and as His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is strongly of opinion that assistance should be given by Government to the Chiefs under circumstances like the present, I am to ask that the sanction of the Government of India may be conveyed to his re-appropriating for the purpose of the loan to the three Chiefs a sum of Rs. 50,000 from undistributed portions of allotments provided for other classes of loans.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor approves of the conditions on which the Commissioner proposes to make the loans, and will instruct him to propose them to the Chiefs in event of the loans being made.

4. A copy of this letter and enclosures has been forwarded to the Finance and Commerce Department.

* Printed above, as a reply to the inquiry of the Government of India

Enclosure in No. 245.

Telegram from Revenue Department, Punjab, to Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, dated 3rd February 1900.

No. 17 (Scarcity). Please see paragraph 8 of my No. 104, dated 13th Janua y. Lieutenant-Governor solicits sanction under section 128, Civil Account Code, to re-appropriate half a lakh from other loan heads to loans to notabilities during current financial year, Letter issuing.

No. 246.

Telegram from the Foreign Secretary, Calcutta, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, Lahore, No. 867-I.-A., dated the 17th February, 1900.

867 I.-A. Your letter 213, February 6th. Proposed re-appropriation of half a lakh for loans to notabilities is sanctioned.

No. 247.

Letter from the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 675, dated Lahore, the 2nd May 1900.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of my letter No. 673 of to-day's date to the Motamid of the Patiala State, pointing out the necessity of more vigorous action in the carrying out of famine relief measures in the Narnaul and Kanaudh tracts of Patiala territory. A copy of letter No. 240, dated 24th April 1900, from the Commissioner of the Delhi Division, is also forwarded for reference.

Enclosure in No. 247.

Letter from the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab to the Motamid of the Patiala State in attendance on His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, No. 673 date 1 Lahore, the 2nd May 1900.

I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to address you as follows on the subject of famine relief in the Patiala State.

2. As His Highness the Maharaja is aware, the Lieutenant-Governor has been watching with much anxiety the progress of the famine in those parts of Patiala territory which are principally affected by it, *viz.*, the parganas of Narnaul and Kanaudh to the South of the Panjab districts, where the famine is worst and where the Government has had to put forth all its available resources to combat it.

3. Owing to intelligence received that numbers of Patiala people were flocking on to the Kaithal relief works, the Darbar was asked in the letter from this office, No. 135, dated the 25th October 1899, what it proposed to do in the way of famine relief works. Apparently no programme had up to that time been prepared, for, though a reminder was sent on the 11th November, a reply was received bearing date the 18th November that land revenue was being suspended in Narnaul and parts of Karmgarh and Anahadgarh, and that relief works were *shortly* to be started. Subsequently in letter 417, dated the 9th of December 1899, you were asked for the names of the places where the works would be started. To this letter no reply was received till your No. 24,

dated the 12th of February 1900. With reference to this letter I am to observe—

Firstly.—That your letter mentions a work connected with the extension of irrigation, but no name is given to that work. The Famine Statement of 5th March gives the name of the Ladbanjara Rajbaha. But there is nothing to show whether this is the work referred to or not.

Secondly.—That the utilisation of the Rewari-Phalera Railway work for famine relief was not, as you state, due to the Darbar's sanction, but to the Punjab Government having moved in the matter and got it started, and then got the State to agree to the work being carried on under the control of the British authorities.

Thirdly.—That the promise made to furnish details in regard to—

- (a) the irrigation work,
- (b) the Rewari-Phalera Railway work,
- (c) the kachha road from Patiala to Ablowal,
- (d) the famine works in the Baha and Sardulgarh ilakas,

has not been kept. This report was, moreover, not sufficient to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to form any opinion on the sufficiency of the arrangements being made in the Patiala State to meet the distress in the famine tracts.

4. Accordingly you were asked in Punjab Government letter No 825, dated the 23rd of February 1900, to submit Monthly Famine Reports as prescribed in the Abstract Famine Code communicated to you with this office No. 73, dated 11th April 1896. On the 5th of March a statement was forwarded. It contained no detailed information of any value for the purpose of gauging the sufficiency of the arrangements made.

5. Subsequently a report was received from the Commissioner of the Delhi Division that a considerable number of Patiala subjects continued to flock to the relief works in British territory, and that the people from the Kanaudh and Narnaul tracts were in a very miserable condition; and in Punjab Government letter No. 378, dated the 9th of March 1900, the Darbar was again asked whether there were any works in progress in the State to which the immigrants to British territory (other than those employed on the Rewari-Phalera Railway) could be removed, and, if so, in what places and on what dates the Darbar would be prepared to receive them. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor expressed a wish to be informed at an early date of the arrangements made for famine relief, as the continued immigration of Patiala subjects seemed to show that the famine problem had not been seriously faced in the Patiala State.

6. To this communication you replied in your No. 54, dated the 28th March 1900; but as the reply was unsatisfactory and indefinite, you were asked in the letter from this office No. 565, dated the 12th of April 1900, to give an explicit answer to the enquiries previously made—

- (1) whether there was any work in progress in the State to which Patiala subjects in British territory could be removed; and, if so,
- (2) at what places and on what dates the Darbar would be prepared to receive them.

At the same time you were asked to state the number of British subjects who were in your letter alleged to be on relief works in the Patiala State with a view to arrangements being made for deporting them to British territory.

7. No reply has yet been received to this communication. In the meantime the Lieutenant-Governor has received a report from the Commissioner of the Delhi Division, who has become acquainted with the condition of the people about Narnaul in consequence of the Rewari-Phalera Railway work being placed under the control of the local officers of the Gurgaon district. It is reported on authority, which the Honourable Mr. Fanshawe accepts as reliable, that the people at Narnaul and in the surrounding villages are in a starving condition;

that many of them are mere living skeletons ; that numbers are flocking to the relief work from every side, but that the State is affording no relief whatever by means of poor-houses and other modes of gratuitous relief, which alone will meet the circumstances of people so reduced by famine as to be unable to work. For the present the officer on the railway relief work has been ordered to relieve these sufferers, but it is for the State authorities to supplement the relief works by the other forms of famine relief which, under such circumstances, are imperatively required.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor observes from the statement furnished by the State for March that a poor-house is said to have been started during the week ending 13th April, but, if so, he fears that it can be of little use, and the state of affairs is now so serious that Sir Mackworth Young can no longer content himself with receiving the meagre and vague reports which have been furnished by the Darbar. His Highness the Maharaja must be aware that the British Government is not less regardful of the lives of the subjects of the Patiala State than of its own, and the time has evidently come (if it is not already too late) for a vigorous system of relief to be started in the Narnaul and Kanaudh Parganas with a view to averting serious mortality.

9. With a view to organising such a system, the Lieutenant-Governor is prepared to depute an officer who has had experience of the famine relief work now in progress in the Delhi Division, to act under the orders of the Commissioner of Delhi and to advise the local Patiala officials as to the steps which are necessary at the present crisis. I am to request that it may be ascertained and reported at once by telegram if His Highness the Maharaja accepts this offer, as the case admits of no delay.

Famine Statistics of Native States directly under the Government of India.
(Corrected up to 10th January, 1900.)

	Area in square miles.	Population (census of 1891)	Affected.		Numbers under relief.			Remarks
			Area.	Population.	Date.	Workers.	Gratuities.	
RAJPUTANA.								
Bikaner	23,178	831,948*	The whole State		10 Jan. 1900	27,800	7,268	* The Darbar estimate that 50,000 people will need relief, of whom 50,000 will be put on works the remainder being fed by Sardars, &c.
Western Rajputana Residency —								
Jaisalmer	16,062	115,701†	Ditto		30 Dec 1899	1,689	47	
Marwar	34,968	2,528,170‡	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	83,248	15,312	† The Dewan estimates that 2,000 people will need relief for nine months
Sirohi	1,964	190,839§	—	—	—	—	—	‡ The Dewan estimate that 32,800 people will require relief
Mewar Residency —								§ Relief works not yet opened.
Mewar	12,758	1,763,136	—	—	10 Jan. 1900	23,876	11,112	¶ 739 people are gratuitously relieved by Seths and Landlords
Banewara	1,946	311,641	—	—	—	—	—	¶ On test works
Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	100	—	30 Nov 1899	1,488	—	** These figures are given against "Indore".
Parlalgadh	880	87,975	—	—	—	—	—	†† Kitchen relief. Besides this, about 180 travellers are fed outside the city of Mahhar.
Jaipur Residency —								‡‡ On test works.
Jaipur	15,579	2,823,868	10,828	2,028,000	30 Nov. 1899	25,400	—	§§ On test works.
Kishangarh	688	125,518	The whole State		30 Nov. 1899	3,283	2,000	¶¶ Stated to be the <i>area</i> number
Lawa	18	3,860	—	—	—	—	—	¶¶ On test works.
Harasind Tonk Agency—								¶¶ On test works.
Bundi	2,220	895,875	The whole State		10 Jan. 1900	5,589	—	¶¶ Stated to be the <i>area</i> number
Shahpura	400	65,645	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	4,377	—	
Tonk	2,552	880,069	1,578	239,740	10 Jan 1900	4,642	—	
Alwar	3,144	787,788	One-third of the State.		10 Jan 1900	3,744	643	
Eastern Rajputana Agency —								
Bharatpur	1,982	640,303	—	—	10 Jan. 1900	11,842	1761	
Dholpur	1,154	279,890	688	145,500	30 Nov. 1899	232	—	
Karauli	1,242	156,587	No real distress.		—	—	—	Totals for week ending 10th January, 1900.
Kotah Agency:—								
Kotah	3,784	528,287	—	—	30 Nov 1899	2,500†	—	
Jhalawar	2,722	949,601	—	—	30 Nov 1899	400	250	
CENTRAL INDIA								
Bhopawar Agency —								
Dhar	1,739-88	167,504	The whole State		10 Jan. 1900	2,776	—	
Jhabua	1,500	120,000	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	778	1,381	
Barwani	1,362-25	80,268	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	6,090	—	
Ah Rajpur	838-03	70,061	100	10,000	10 Jan. 1900	4,099	40	
Indore Districts	—	513,514	—	—	10 Jan 1900	5,024**	6,379	
Jobat	132	15,000	The whole State		10 Jan. 1900	1,879	—	
Malwa Agency —								
Jaora	606	117,650	The whole State		10 Jan. 1900	6,789	215	
Rutlam	729	86,100	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	2,303	1,583	
Sitamau	550	33,307	Ditto		10 Jan. 1900	500	40	
Saliana	309	31,512	Ditto		10 Jan 1900	967	121	
Indore Districts	—	396,588	—	—	—	—	—	
Tonk	—	40,808	—	—	—	—	—	
Dewas (both States) Districts.	—	44,180	—	—	—	—	—	
Piploda	80	15,000	45	10,000	10 Jan. 1900	323	18	
Baghelkhand Agency —								
Bewa	13,000	1,503,176	4,000	520,000	30 Nov 1899	686	55	
Nagode	501	84,083	390	42,000	10 Jan. 1900	3,955	119	
Mathar	400	77,488	—	—	6 Jan. 1900	1,684	57	
Gwalior State —								
Gwalior Prant	5,053	989,000	1,935	229,000	13 Dec. 1899	8,657	657:1	
Etawah Prant	8,454	954,000	—	—	30 Nov 1899	8654†	—	
Malwar Prant	5,578	798,000	1,633	253,000	30 Nov 1899	5,943	1,428	
BARODA.								
Baroda State as a whole	8,569	2,415,396	6,438	2,069,000	30 Dec 1899	53,781‡	9,590	

Famine Statistics of Native States directly under the Government of India.
(Corrected up to 15th November, 1899.)

	Area in square miles	Population (census of 1891).	Affected.		Numbers under relief.			Remarks.
			Area.	Population.	Date.	Workers.	Gratuitous.	
RAJPUTANA.								
Bikaner	28,178	631,948*	The greater portion of the State.		15 Nov. 1899	16,448	3,301	* The Darbar estimate that 50,000 people will need relief, of whom 30,000 will be put on works, the remainder being fed by Sardars, &c.
Western Rajputana Residency— Jaisalmer	16,022	116,701†	Ditto		15 Nov. 1899	1,064	8	
Marwar	94,969	3,529,176‡	The whole State		15 Nov. 1899	29,176	3,059	† The Dewan estimates that 2,000 people will need relief for nine months.
Strohi	1,904	190,838	—		No information	—	—	
Mewar Residency— Mewar	12,768	1,563,126	—		15 Nov. 1899	10,537	2,534	‡ The Darbar estimate that 32,500 people will require relief.
Banswara	1,949	211,641	—		—	—	—	
Dungarpur	1,447	165,400	—		—	—	—	§ These figures are given against 'Indore.'
Partabgarh	886	87,976	—		—	—	—	
Jasipur Residency— Jasipur	15,679	2,223,966	—		No information.	—	—	
Kishangarh	858	126,516	—		—	—	—	
Lawa	18	3,360	—		—	—	—	
Totals for week ending 15th November, 1899.								
Haroti and Tonk Agency— Bundi	2,220	296,976	—		—	2,764	—	Relief Works. Gratiuitous Relief. Total.
Shahpura	400	63,645	—		15 Nov. 1899	3,225	—	
Tonk	2,558	399,939	—		—	2,737	—	
Alwar	3,144	787,736	—		15 Nov. 1899	783	—	
Eastern Rajputana Agency— Bharatpur								
Dholpur	1,983	640,399	—		15 Nov. 1899	260	37	
Karauli	1,248	166,537	—		No information.	—	—	
Kotah Agency— Kotah								
Jhalawar	2,723	943,601	—		No information.	—	—	
CENTRAL INDIA.								
Bhopawar Agency— Dhar								
Jhabua	1,739-98	187,594	—		—	—	—	
Barwani	1,396-48	119,737	—		—	—	—	
Al Rajpur	1,863-25	80,296	—		9 Nov. 1899	3,359	—	
Indore Districts	830-00	70,691	—		—	—	—	
Various, including portions of Dewas and the Manipur Pargana which is British territory.	—	318,544	—		15 Nov. 1899	7,049	4,901	
Malwa Agency— Jaora								
Rutlam	698	117,850	The whole State		31 Oct. 1899	2,000	—	No relief works opened up to 31st October, 1899.
Sitamau	729	86,100	—		—	NIL	NIL	
Silana	850	33,307	The whole State		31 Oct. 1899	NIL	NIL	No relief works opened up to 31st October, 1899.
Indore Districts	808	31,513	Ditto		31 Oct. 1899	NIL	125	
Tonk	—	396,598	—		—	—	—	
Dewas (both States) Districts.	—	40,806	—		—	—	—	
Various	—	44,160	—		—	—	—	
Various	—	33,307	—		—	—	—	
Baghelkhand Agency— Bewa								
Nagoda	13,000	1,503,176	—		—	—	—	
Maihar	450	84,633	8,650 600,000		13 Oct. 1899	No information.	—	
Maihar	400	77,438	—		—	—	—	
Gwalior State— Gwalior Prant								
Essargarh Prant	5,653	699,000	1,935 229,000		31 Oct. 1899	7,443	NIL	
Malwa Prant	8,434	964,000	No information.		—	—	—	
Malwa Prant	5,576	739,000	1,953 252,000		31 Oct. 1899	14,998	2,659	
BARODA.								
Okha-mandal District	280	32,298	—		30 Sept. 1899	6,004	NIL	
Baroda State as a whole	8,599	3,415,396	4,436 2,069,000		1 Nov. 1899	19,221	—	

Statement of Famine Loans to Native States sanctioned by the Government of India from October, 1899, to the end of May, 1900.

I.—Loans by the Government of India.

Province.	State.	Amount.	Remarks.
BENGAL	Tributary States of Orissa.	£ 1,333	
BOMBAY :—			
Guzrat Agency	Thana Circles ...	10,000	
	Bajana ...	3,333	
	Bhavnagar ...	10,000	
Kathiawar Agency	Savla ...	3,334	
	Wadhwan ...	5,000	
	Distributed by the Government of Bombay	152,333	
Mahi Kantha Agency.	Idar ...	13,333	
Palanpur Superintendency.	Palanpur ...	13,331	
Other States ...	Distributed by the Government of Bombay	33,333	
	Khairagarh ...	(a) 3,000	(a) Includes £4,666 suspension of tribute.
	Nandgaon ...	(b) 6,700	(b) Includes suspension of (1) tribute, £4,666 and (2) Nazarana, £4,034.
CENTRAL PROVINCES	Sau ...	1,667	
	Sonpur ...	(c) 600	(c) Suspension of tributes.
PUNJAB	Dubai ...		
	Delwara ...	10,000	
	Palnada ...		
	Bundi ...	(d) 16,244	(d) Includes suspension of tribute £11,244.
	Dunargarh ...	66,677	
	Jaisalmer ...	8,333	
	Kishengarh ...	6,667	
	Kotah ...	21,667	
RAJPUTANA	Lawa ...	1,331	
	Marwar ...	156,666	
	Mewar ...	33,333	
	Mewar Hilly (Bhil) Tracts.	8,580	
	Pertabgarh ...	6,667	
	Shahpura ...	3,334	

Province.	State.	Amount.	Remarks.
RAJPUTANA	Sirohi	£ 13,333	
	Tonk	20,000	
	Total I.	581,125	

II.—Loans by H.H. the Maharaja Sindhia.

CENTRAL INDIA	Dewas (Junior)	13,333	<p>The general terms on which these loans have been sanctioned are:—</p> <p>(1) That the borrowing State should be guided in all matters of famine relief, and in other matters connected with the expenditure of the money, by the advice of the Political Agent.</p> <p>(2) That in the event of the loan not being repaid within the time stipulated, the State should be liable to be taken under Government management until the loan is repaid.</p>
	Dewas (Senior)	13,333	
	Dhar	33,334	
	Jayra	21,667	
	Jhabua	6,667	
	Joba	1,666	
	Karandia	333	
	Nagode	4,000	
	Pathari	134	
	Riploda	3,333	
	Sailana	3,533	
	Bitaman	3,333	
	Sohawal	467	
	Total	104,933	

III.—To be borrowed in the open market under the guarantee of the Government of India.

BOMBAY	Akalkot	5,000	
	Bhavnagar	200,000	
	Cambay	20,000	
HYDERABAD	Nizam	(e) 400,000	<p>(e) The Government of India have promised to grant H.H. the Nizam a loan of £1½ millions in instalments from June to November of the current year. The temporary loan of £400,000 will be repaid in November next from the larger loan promised.</p>
	Total III.	625,000	
	GRAND TOTAL of loans granted or guaranteed...	£1,311,058	

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