

LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION REPORT,

PART II,

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY INCLUDING SIND,

FOR THE YEAR 1905-1906.

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A. PRESIDENCY PROPER.

1. Economic Condition and Prospects.

NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The monsoon was by no means favourable though it proved to be better than that of the previous year, which it in some respects resembled. In the districts north of Surat light rain in June and July was followed at the end of the latter month by a short but extraordinarily heavy downpour. A long inconvenient break, extending almost up to the middle of September, then ensued and was followed by only a small quantity of rain. This rain, however, was most beneficial to the standing crops and formed the redeeming feature in a year which might otherwise have been disastrous in these districts. The rainy season appears to have opened well in Surat and Thána, a fair amount of rain having fallen in June and July. But August was a dry month in both these areas, and the rainfall in September and October was, to say the least, scanty.

In consequence of the abnormally heavy fall of rain in July, the rice crop in the northern districts suffered considerably. Seeds and seedlings were washed away and sowing in some parts had practically to commence again. The second sowings might have done well, were it not for the entire absence of rain in August, which destroyed the new seedlings and completed the failure of the rice crop. In Ahmedabad the wheat crop was fairly good and the yield from cotton here as well as in Kaira was good. The tobacco crop was also a fair one in Kaira. Both kharif and rabi crops were below normal in the Panch Maháls, while in Broach the crops, with the exception of cotton, turned out more or less below normal. In the latter district and in Surat as well, the cotton crop was exceedingly good, and as the demand for cotton ran high, the outturn from this crop was most remunerative and compensated largely for loss in the other crops. On account of the deficient rainfall in Surat and Thána at the time seedlings were to be transplanted, the rice crop on which a large portion of the inhabitants of these districts depend, especially in the coast villages, proved a failure. The inland villages seem to have been better off generally and the late rice crop was fairly good. On the coast the rain was capricious, some villages getting rain while others did not. In reviewing the situation it may be said that, with the exception of the cotton areas in which the yield was beyond expectation, the crops in all the districts suffered more or less, though not to the same extent as in the preceding year.

Notwithstanding the seasonal conditions, which were far from encouraging and which followed close upon a year distinctly unfavourable, the condition of the people nowhere deteriorated into one of hardship. Among the causes which contributed towards this result were the high prices realized in the Broach and Surat Districts for their abundant cotton crop. The outturn from cotton was not so large in the neighbouring districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira and the Panch Maháls, but the economic forces which were at work in raising prices in Broach and Surat influenced, there is reason to believe, the prices obtained in the former districts as well. The increasing demand for cotton—so noticeable a feature in 1903-04 also, when there was as good a cotton crop—is due to the rapid expansion of the mill industry in Ahmedabad, Broach and Surat. Industrial enterprize therefore appears, in the Gujarát Districts at least, to be indirectly

affecting the well-being of the agricultural classes. This fact is evinced by the comparative ease with which they withstood the loss arising from failure in their crops other than cotton. Where there were no cotton crops to fall back upon and other crops were bad, the liberal grant of remissions and suspensions in a great measure helped the people to meet their difficulties. Suspensions and remissions were given liberally in rice tracts where rice was a staple or sole crop. There was no scarcity of fodder as in the previous year and the cultivating classes were relieved of the anxiety of maintaining their cattle through a year of partial failure. In spite of the unpromising character of the seasons for the past two years there appears to have been no active decline in agricultural prosperity. The efforts of the people in Ahmedabad District to replenish their agricultural stock, as also the extension of the area under cultivation, seem to be indications of a permanent return to prosperity, and in Kaira, Broach and Surat the remarks of the District Officers give the impression that though no substantial progress was made by the people in adding to their means during the year, still there was, on the other hand, no falling off from the condition of comparative affluence, attained since the last famine. The better classes of the Thána District may have felt some narrowing of their resources, but on the failure of their crops they are said to have found other means of employment, while the backward classes of this district and the Panch Maháls, probably on account of their more limited wants, exhibited no signs of stress.

Cwing to the heavy rain in July, the water-supply in the northern districts proved sufficient, but the scanty fall in Surat and Thána caused a great deficiency in the drinking supply, which, if it did not actually give rise to the cholera epidemic, which broke out in these districts, at all events probably played an active part in spreading the scourge. As compared with the previous year, there was, taking the Division as a whole, a marked improvement in the public health. With the exception of the Panch Maháls, plague did not take a grave form in any of the districts. In the Panch Maháls it prevailed in a more or less severe form, but the people as usual readily took to evacuation. The disease appeared only in four talukás of Ahmedabad, the rest of the district being almost free, and though it broke out in Kaira District, and also in Surat, which suffered so severely in the previous year, its course was milder. Plague, cholera, and small-pox appeared in Broach District, but none of these diseases assumed serious proportions and the health of the people did not suffer to any great extent. Small-pox broke out in parts of Ahmedabad and Surat but only a few sporadic cases occurred. There were no cases of plague to speak of in Thána, but cholera spread over the greater portion of the district, as also over parts of Surat, where it claimed about 200 victims in the Chorási and Jalálpore Talukás alone. The precautionary measures taken against the disease both in Surat and Thána, especially the disinfection of wells as far as possible with permanganate of potash, apparently minimized the ravages of the epidemic in these districts.

Speaking generally, the prices of food-grains rose throughout the Division, but no marked variations occurred in the rate of wages. The prices of food rose to some extent perhaps on account of the poor crops, but mainly owing to the exportation of grain northwards. As was to be expected, the cultivators benefited by the better prices realized. Where cotton picking was in progress in Ahmedabad, Surat and Broach, wages rose temporarily and agricultural labour benefited to that extent. In most districts, the labouring classes found other means of occupation which supplemented their earnings from field labour and alleviated the strain caused by high prices. I may mention in passing that field labour cannot easily be had in Broach and Surat Districts on account of the exodus of the labouring classes to Bombay and other industrial centres. No inconvenience however is said to arise, as labourers from Kaira District emigrate temporarily into Broach, and labourers from Káthiáwár and Márwár annually find their way to Surat. In Ahmedabad District, especially in Daskroi Taluka, labour is always at a premium and difficult to procure.

The industrial classes of labourers did not in any way suffer as the demand for labour in the mills and ginning factories in the larger centres as well as building operation to some extent maintained wages at a fairly high level.

The accounts in the District reports regarding emigration do not vary in interest from those of the previous year. Emigration from the Broach and Surat Districts to South Africa and Burma continued, with this exception perhaps, that the restrictive legislation of the South African Government has put a check upon the movement among the lower orders. The benefits of emigration are nevertheless still open to the more enlightened classes—especially traders—and the amount of money remitted by these people to their families is increasing annually. Almost 2½ lakhs were received during the year in Surat District alone. It is of vital importance in this Division to encourage free communication, including emigration to South Africa.

New schools were opened in most districts and the number of pupils in general showed an increase. In the Panch Maháls, Broach and Thána Districts there was a decided improvement in attendance. In some parts of the Ahmedabad District, the cultivators cannot be induced to send their children regularly to school on the plea that they require them for work in their fields. The suggestion made by Mr. Doderet in the previous year's report and repeated in his notes this year to the effect that school hours should be fixed to suit the convenience of the cultivators appears, in the circumstances, worth consideration. There was an appreciable advance in education in the Kaira District. It is gratifying to note that the attendance in the schools for aboriginals rose by about 600 pupils, while the increase from 50 to 151 girls in the Mahomedan schools is remarkable, and is due, it is hoped, to no temporary causes. A real difficulty in Broach District with regard to female education is the want of trained head mistresses. If girls' schools could in every case be conducted by female teachers, there is hope that the attendance of girls, especially of the Borah community, would increase. The schools for wild tribes in Thána District show signs of progress and are gaining in popularity, but the Collector does not lose sight of the need, which is still felt, for suitable teachers. Much progress was made in education in Surat District, the cause being the abatement of plague and the additional grants placed at the disposal of the district by Government. The attendance in primary schools rose from 28,585 to 32,679 and the number of such schools increased from 416 to 437. Much difficulty was found in securing suitable teachers for the new schools. The total attendance was pretty well distributed among all races, even among the children of the aboriginal classes, whose number rose by 316 boys. The school for wild tribes at Godsumba near Mándvi is an institution especially well conducted, and the boys trained there form a nucleus from which useful servants of Government may be drawn on for all departments, especially the Forest and Police. In the Local Board schools, the number of girls amounted to 1,995, while the attendance in 61 girls' schools of all denominations rose from 3,880 to 3,942. I have dealt separately with the subject of education in this district as the Collector has not referred to it in his report.

In this Division the state of public feeling is generally satisfactory, though in Broach District and to some extent in the north of Surat there is a tendency to organized obstruction.

On account of the partial failure of the crops, remissions and suspensions of the revenue demand were liberally granted. The ryot in consequence was better able to pay up Government dues and, excepting Broach District, no difficulty was experienced in recovering the amounts set down for collection. Beyond the issue of notices, coercive measures in most districts were employed only in a few cases. In Broach the people were as usual contumacious. Mr. Bagnell and sub-divisional officers have dwelt at much length on the difficulty of realising the demand. They appear to have given the actual work of collection a good deal of their personal attention, and though the state of feeling was far from satisfactory, it is reassuring to note that the spirit of contumacy was not carried to such lengths as in the year previous. Twenty-eight warrants of arrest were issued against twenty in the previous year, but all the defaulters excepting three paid up the demand as soon as they heard that warrants had issued. The three defaulters who suffered arrest and were sent to the taluka kutchery paid up what was due from them before the expiry of ten days. Contumacy was not, therefore, carried so far as to necessitate the removal of any person to the civil jail as was done last year. The spirit of resistance was per-

haps the most difficult to deal with in Jambusar Táluka and is said to be due partly to the influence of a branch, established in this táluka, of the society called "The Ryots' Defence Association" of Broach. The Bhágdári tenure which has hitherto helped defaulters to evade the payment of Government dues has been dissolved in 30 villages and the result has been described as beneficial both to Government and to the ryot. All things considered, the district officers have shown commendable activity and firmness in dealing with the large number of defaulters in this district, and the effect of their action will not, it is hoped, be altogether lost on the people when next year's collections are in progress. On account of the good season that has ushered in the year 1906-07, an opinion is expressed in more than one district that a large part of the arrears of previous years and of amounts suspended will be collected after the next Jamábandi. After the close of this year it may be advisable to reconsider the balances due to Government with a view to wipe off arrears still remaining of land revenue. The Collectors are against any remission of tagái and I am disposed to concur with them. As the subject of tagái advances is dealt with under Part I of the Administration Report it was hitherto held unnecessary to include it under Part II of the Report. The review of Government on the reports for 1904-05, directing the inclusion of the subject under Part II in future reports, was but recently received, and I could therefore obtain only the bare figures of tagái advances from the Collectors for the present report. Rs. 2,45,980 were advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and Rs. 56,038 under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the amounts outstanding at the beginning of the year under each Act being Rs. 25,56,558 and Rs. 4,14,109 respectively. Altogether Rs. 9,10,436 were recovered during the period of report under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, and Rs. 1,56,500 under the Land Improvement Loans Act, the balance for collection under both Acts at the end of the year being Rs. 22,03,704. Of this amount Rs. 7,14,624 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and Rs. 1,85,762 under the Land Improvement Loans Act represent arrears of instalments due in previous years. The amounts advanced under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were fairly large and show that, though the cultivators were able, in spite of the unfavourable nature of past seasons, to maintain themselves without hardship, yet they were forced to depend in a great measure upon State aid in order to meet the expenses of cultivation. The need for help in this respect was to all intents and purposes accentuated by the operation of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act and the extension of the restricted tenure, which tended to lower the cultivator's credit with the local bania. One sub-divisional officer in Ahmedabad District, one in Broach, and one in Surát District bring to notice the misapplication, in a few cases, of advances under the Land Improvement Loans Act, but as a rule I think the Mámlatdárs' establishments guard sufficiently against malversation on the part of recipients of such loans. But there is undoubtedly a danger that tagái will be given too indiscriminately under Act XII of 1884 when the amounts are large and as a corollary the season is bad.

#### Extracts.

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

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

Ahmedabad City continues to grow and to attract labourers from the rural parts. Wages for skilled labour are high, as there is a great deal of building work going on.

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

The rise of prices has told heavily upon skilled and unskilled labour. Wages have not risen in proportion. In Prántij and Modása the rates have remained unaltered at 8 annas for skilled and 2 annas for unskilled labour. In Daskroi there has been no change in the rate obtainable by skilled labour, which remains steady at 12 annas. Unskilled labour, however, commands a slightly better price, having risen from 3 annas to 3 annas and 6 pies. On the whole the year has been more favourable for the cultivator than for the artisan.

R. G. Gordon, Esq., Assistant Collector.

It is difficult to understand exactly the position of the labouring classes. I am informed by officers of the Salt and Police Departments that they find it impossible to get recruits at Rs. 8 per month. Mr. Nariman Sheth told me that he was offering 6 annas a day for labour at grass binding and was unable to get it. The Táluka Local Boards have had to put up their scale of wages for labour : while 4 annas a maund was being paid for cotton picking at Bawla, all of which would seem to indicate a general rise in wage in the labour market, yet in the villages I could seldom find that more than 2 annas was paid for a day's labour. The only accountable reason is the intolerable apathy of the people as typified by the Hasannagar Kolis who, when I asked them why they did not go to Bawla and get 4 annas instead of 2 annas in their own village, replied "yes, but it is three miles away:" while the Mukhi reproached me for taking people away from the village of their birth. It seems probable, therefore, that those who are paid a money wage have come off rather badly, in this season of high prices, though I cannot say that I have heard of any actual distress. They have at any rate been actively engaged and really do not seem to care to get 4 annas, so long as 2 annas lie within easy reach.

Edulji Behramsha Hodiwalla, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Nowhere in the sub-division is there any tendency towards a permanent rise in the wages of agricultural labour. The normal rate of wages is the same in all tálukás, viz., Re. 0-3-0, Re. 0-3-0, and Re. 0-2-6, respectively, in the Viramgaum, Dhandhuka and Gogha Tálukás. In Viramgaum Táluka, which is a cotton growing tract and where there are spinning and weaving mills, cotton presses and ginning factories, the wage rose temporarily this year to Re. 0-5-0 during the cotton picking season, during which time the cotton presses and ginning factories are also working.

The wages of artizan labour have been stationary in Dhandhuka and Goghá. But in Viramgaum it has risen from Re. 0-10-0 to Re. 1-0-0, owing to the progressing extension of the Whittle Mill. It was also due to the well-to-do people constructing new buildings in the suburbs and outlying parts to be used for shelter on the appearance of plague in the town.

#### KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. L. M. Wood, Esq., Collector.

The wages of labour underwent no noticeable changes, but unskilled labour is now returned at 2 to 4 annas instead of 2 to 3, the former being nearer the truth in any year, while 5 annas even is not the maximum at times of pressure. Skilled labour is returned as usual at 4 to 12 annas.

Labourers are fewer now and begin to demand exorbitant wages at seasons of pressure. This is teaching the ordinary Patidár family to work again : while those who have managed, through all these years of diminished outturn, to maintain their accustomed attitude of comfortable superintendence, begin to find other employments more profitable than the land. They are competing more and more in trade, professions and service, and gradually acquiring some enterprize in organized industry. So engaged, they are abandoning the attempt to till their lands by hired labour, and letting them out for what they will fetch. This is generally less than it used to be, and gives a fresh chance to the better sort of Dharala to settle down to steady work.

#### BROACH DISTRICT.

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

The wages of skilled and unskilled labour were as stated below :—

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart-hire per diem.	Pair of bullocks per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1904-05	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 4 0	1 0 0
1905-06	0 8 0	0 4 0	1 4 0	1 0 0

They remain unchanged but are high as there is a great demand for labour both in the fields and in the mills and it has to be largely supplied from outside the district, and in the busiest season employers have to compete to obtain field hands whilst watchmen are engaged in parties of 3 and 4 for a considerable sum for the whole harvest season.

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

In this district the actual "coolie" or labouring population subsisting solely on wages is extremely small. There are a certain number of bhils and talavias in every village, but many of these are in Government service as Vartanias and hold service lands. The majority of labour is imported from the Kaira District each season. As many as 12,000 labourers are said to be imported annually into Wágra Táluka alone. The average price of labour is annas 3 to 4 per day for a man, 2 to 2½ annas for a woman, and 1½ anna for a boy. The price of labour was not raised on account of the rise of the price of food-grains. Still I never heard of any suffering being caused thereby, and though I personally questioned some of the inferior village servants when visiting the villages, no complaints on the score of hardship were made to me.

SURAT DISTRICT.

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

There were no signs of scarcity of employment for labour anywhere in the district throughout the year. A few showers of rain in September dispelled the fears of actual distress, but the meagre rainfall at first gave cause to anticipate scarcity of employment for the labouring classes and the Executive Engineer was asked to take the opportunity to apply for an extra allotment of funds to carry out some of the very numerous irrigation tank projects on hand during the year. Owing to the good cotton crop, however, and the large demand for labour in Bombay, no scarcity of employment in fact existed, and the Collector, on the contrary, received a complaint from the Public Works Department regarding paucity of labourers available for the ordinary Local Board works under execution. The rates of wages remained at 3 annas a day for a field labourer and 4 annas for ordinary coolie labourer in the district, but much higher wages have at times to be paid to attract hands, and 7 annas a day is stated to have been paid on occasions for ordinary field labourers.

It is the custom of the men of the coast villages especially to proceed to Bombay, Burmah, South Africa and other places where they get better employment and more liberal wages, and this is one of the reasons contributing to the prevailing scarcity of labour in this district. In fact, were it not for the Káthiáwári and Márwári immigrants the labour question would ere this have assumed a rather serious aspect in this district.

The prices of labour in the City of Surat rose to some extent and were as below :—

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1904-05	0 12 0 to 1 0 0	0 3 0 to 0 5 0	} " Re. 1 to Rs. 2.
1905-06	0 14 0 to 1 0 0	0 5 0 to 0 7 0	

The rise in wages is due to the heavy demand for labour in the City.

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

Labour is never plentiful, especially in and around the city, where the demand is far greater than the supply. The mills are obliged to make constant efforts to recruit a sufficient number of workers; and the Railway, Public

Works Department and the Government Farm give employment to many. In fact, no "unemployed problem" is likely to arise in the near future. The usual rate of wage for a day-labourer is 4 annas, but in the busiest seasons as much as 7 annas is asked.

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

There was a great efflux of carts and labourers to the timber cutting in the jungles inland. Much labour, too, moved temporarily to Thána and Bombay. As to wages, there was no marked change; the daily wage of the artisan in different parts varied from 8 annas to 1 rupee and of the labourers from 2 annas 6 pies to 5 annas and the rate of carts was from 6 annas to 1 rupee.

N. L. Desai, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The wages of labourers and artisans remained unchanged. However, labour is getting dearer owing to several reasons chief of which are (a) deaths from plague, (b) emigration and extension of cultivation, the labourers, too, turning into cultivators owing to the free grant of land on the restricted tenure as also to tagávi.

(b) *Migration.*

BROACH DISTRICT.

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

Borahs are the most progressive and intelligent class of cultivators and their fields show what care the holders bestow on them; and their oxen, too, are generally the best in the district. A number of them have gone to South Africa and the profits made there are generally availed of for the purchase of more lands. They are physically stronger than Hindus and their females render great help in cultivation and breed large families as well.

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

The Vohras are the most progressive and enterprising of all the inhabitants of the sub-division. They are just as careful cultivators as the Patidárs and, as far as intelligence goes, are undoubtedly their superiors. They have also more enterprise in them, as is seen by the fact of their frequent emigration to Natal, whence they return with a smattering of English and a pocketful of rupees.

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

There has been no immigration into this district. The emigration has been chiefly restricted to the Bohra community of the Broach and Ankleshvar Tálukás who go to South Africa and return from that place after a stay of from three to six years. They are capable of following any occupation and return after amassing fairly large fortunes, which enable them to marry their children and purchase lands and houses.

SURAT DISTRICT.

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

About 1,636 persons are estimated to have emigrated to Burmah and South Africa, from this district. The emigrants comprised Anavla Brahmíns, Kolís, Mochies (shoe-makers), Barbers, Potters, Washermen, Carpenters, Blacksmiths, Dheds and Mahomedans. The educated Anavlas follow some trade or serve as Gumastas, the artizan class generally follow their own professions, and others are commonly employed as labourers and hawkers. The amount of remittances made by these emigrants to their relatives is estimated at about Rs. 2,45,900 during the year. No fresh immigration to any appreciable extent appears to have occurred during the year under report. Numerous Káthiáwári and Márwári immigrants, especially the former, made their appearance in this district during the harvest time, but they are to be welcomed as relieving the otherwise imminent labour difficulty in the district.

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

There was, as usual, a steady flow of emigrants to South Africa, Mauritius, Rangoon and Aden during the year. No accurate figures are available, but



from local inquiries it appears that 700 people went abroad from Chorási and 275 from Jalápor. The restrictions now placed on immigration have diminished the numbers going to South Africa. Strictly only those who have established business or who know a European language can now enter that country; but it is said that official vigilance is not seldom evaded and that passes are transferred from one member of a family to another, or from one partner to another. The peculiar prosperity of this sub-division is to a very great extent dependent on the influx of money remitted by these emigrants to their families and is necessarily diminished by any narrowing of the field of emigration. Mauritius and Rangoon are the resorts chiefly of the richer traders; South Africa attracted rich and poor alike, affording good openings for mechanics, barbers, and small shop-keepers as well as for large merchants. A noteworthy phenomenon in Jalápor, and to a less extent in Chorási, is the gradual rise to prosperity of the Dheds. They now very commonly make their way to Bombay and take service either in hotels or with private individuals. They return to their homes with accumulated savings and stand forth both intellectually and financially on a higher level than the old village aristocracy. But they are still regarded as outcastes from the community. It will be interesting to observe whether, in years to come, social prejudice will be able to maintain a barrier against worldly success.

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

The Bohras of Degam, Alipor, Harangam, and several other villages of Chikhli Táluka and Mahomedans of Bulsár Town are an enterprising race. They go to foreign countries and have succeeded in bettering their condition by means of trade or mercantile service. They possess splendid houses in Degam, Alipor and Bulsár. The Bohras of Alipor and Degam are diligent agriculturists and earn a decent livelihood. During the year under report the number of emigrants was 321; the largest figure is among the Bohras of Chikhli Táluka. Hindus of various castes, specially the Dhobis, Darjis, Barbers, Shoe-makers, Carpenters and such other classes also emigrate but they do not earn so much as Bohras.

N. L. Desái, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Emigration is gradually increasing 358, 32 and 50 persons from Bárdoli, Mándvi and Olpád, respectively, aggregating to 440 against 178, 65 and 150 (in all 393 in the previous year) emigrated to foreign countries to seek fortune. They, no doubt, return with money with some of which they liquidate their debts and they squander some as easily as they got it and again contracting debt, some of these persons again go there. Many more would emigrate but for the recent restrictions placed in their way.

#### THA'NA DISTRICT.

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

There was practically no emigration or influx of people from abroad and there was sufficient labour available in each táluka.

#### (c) Education.

#### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

Sixty-six schools were visited and the attendance, speaking generally, shows signs of improvement after the bad years through which we have recently passed. The efforts of the Educational Department should be directed rather towards the provision of masters for new schools than towards providing accommodation for existing schools by erecting *pucca* school-houses. In most villages, a decent, fairly well-ventilated house can be found without going to the expense of putting up an expensive chunam and brick structure. I would again invite attention to the remarks made in the previous year's administration report anent the fixing of school-hours more suitable to the convenience of the agricultural classes.

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

The progress of education continues steady, if slow. Signs of acceleration among the lower classes are hard to detect, despite the remission of school fees and the allurements of scholarships. If the Department could be persuaded to throw itself into the co-operative movement, it would probably do more to educate the villagers in five years than it has been able to accomplish by purely scholastic methods in the last half century.

R. G. Gordon, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Education is still backward, especially amongst the Koli-villages in West Sánand, every single one of which refused, when I offered to provide any one of them with a school, which I had at my disposal. The number of Dheds and Bhangis again is very disappointing: they refuse to come, even in a Mahomedan village like Kanka, where I got the master and Mukhi specially to try and persuade them to present themselves. Worst of all perhaps is the case of Godhavi, in which there are 400 houses of Girashias and only one Girashia boy attending the school. It is, however, extraordinary even amongst the comparatively well educated classes what little practical use they make of their education. This year, for instance, nearly every village had suspensions and remissions of land revenue on account of Kyári land; yet although a list was invariably hung up in the Chora containing all the details of such suspensions and remissions under each man's name, in no single instance did I discover a man who had read the list or knew what suspensions or remissions were due to him, even though he knew perfectly well what the list was about. I am glad, however, to state that there is a general demand for schools all over the sub-division, especially from those villages which lost them in famine. I wish, I could say that the demand has or will be shortly satisfied, but the Educational Department has apparently no funds for the purpose. It is pleasant to record the efforts of Mr. Virchund Dipohund, C.I.E., who has done excellent work in Godhavi by his efforts to aid the cause of education, more especially by giving scholarships for girls and thus attracting the daughters of the Girashias.

Edalji Behramsha Hodiwala, Esq., Deputy Collector.

During the year owing to increased provincial grants the boys' schools teaching up to the VIIth Standard increased by 4 in Viramgam and by 2 in Dhandhuka Taluka. There was an increase of 2 rural schools in each taluka. A gratifying feature as regards girls' schools was that, as compared with the preceding year, there was an increase of about 127 girls, daughters of Talukdárs.

#### KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. L. M. Wood, Esq., Collector.

Secondary schools show a decrease of 2, but the number of Primary schools has further grown from 236 to 305 and attendance has improved. There was a further advance in the number of Mahomedan pupils, but the increase in that of the Mahomedan girls is especially noteworthy (from 50 to 151). Pupils belonging to "aboriginal tribes" again increased considerably from 2,049 to 2,600. Six of these appeared at the last Public Service Certificate Examination (Vernacular) and 2 passed.

This year the erection of one school-house is to be chronicled. My predecessor deplored the fewness of village school buildings, but before undertaking a programme of such works it seems to me very desirable to reconsider the accepted ideas on the subject. The school-houses we build nowadays are too elaborate and too packa. For the sum which each of them costs we would build 2 school-houses of simpler design and cheaper workmanship, and if we did so the money would be better spent.

J. C. E. Husbands, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Mátar, Mehmadaabad, Kaloli, Sansoli, Vasnamargia, Kapsadranj, Badalpara, Nadiad, Akhadol, Dumral, Piprag, Dabhan, Chaklasi and Alira. Girls' schools.

The enhanced grant enabled us to open new schools in the villages mentioned in the margin. The attendance of Dharalas is unsatisfactory, but I expect no improvement till the district has entirely recovered from the famine.

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

The general progress of education would seem to have been very satisfactory. Thirteen new schools have been opened in the three talukas, with a total increase of (388) in the number of boys. The increase in the number of the students of the agricultural and Dharala population is remarkable all over, except in A'nand, in the number of Dharala boys. The increase in the number of girls in schools is also very satisfactory.

There is a slight improvement in attendance in the Municipal areas, except at A'nand, among the agricultural and Dharala population. The number of Dharala boys has increased in a small proportion at Dákor and decreased elsewhere.

PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

The number of primary schools was 128, attended by 6,249 pupils against 5,425 in the preceding year and showing an increase of 20 schools over the preceding year. Of this number 115 are maintained by the Local Boards and 13 by the Municipalities. Besides these there are 3 mission schools, and 2 indigenous schools, (1) for boys and (1) for girls, were opened by the Mahomedans of Godhra. All these schools are registered for grant-in-aid under the Code. They are well attended and give instruction to the children [of the poor illiterate classes.

BROACH DISTRICT.

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

Education is making fair progress. During the year under report there is an increase of 17 in the number of schools, the total number of primary schools being 311 against 294 of the previous year. Of the new schools opened 12 are for girls and the remaining for boys. The greater number of schools are held in hired buildings, and these are often very defective from the sanitary point of view for the houses are built with very little attention to light and air. New school-houses are being built year by year, but yet much remains to be done. The number of students in the secondary schools shows a slight decrease, but that in the primary schools an increase of over 1,200. This is satisfactory and is shared by all classes of the community. The numbers in Mahomedan schools are fairly large, and I am glad to note the progress which they are making. Depressed classes and aborigines also take proper advantage of the schools and the numerous applications which the Deputy Inspector has received show that the people have now learnt the use of education.

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

The advance of education among the people generally is slow, but, for all that, advance is, I think, being made. The sub-division is most liberally supplied with schools. In some cases schools have been opened in villages, where they were really hardly needed and where they could never be expected to prosper. One or two changes have been made this year. All these changes tend to further efficiency. The Deputy Educational Inspector and his subordinates have shown most laudable zeal in endeavouring to spread education among the people. With better times, I think we may expect a corresponding change for the better in the educational statistics. In Patidar villages the absence of boys of a school-going age is a drawback, which cannot at present be removed. In Vohora villages, as a rule, the schools are well attended and prosperous, and soon it should be the exception to come across a Vohora who cannot read and write. The Deputy Educational Inspector is meeting the wishes of this class as far as he can by opening Urdu schools in Vohora villages with very encouraging results. His efforts also to spread education among the girls are meeting with great success. The chief drawback to the extension of female education is the difficulty of obtaining trained head mistresses for the schools. In one or two villages schools could be opened now, while others would flourish more than they do at present, if head mistresses could be supplied instead of masters.

This is a want, which is probably felt everywhere and can only be remedied as the supply of qualified mistresses increases. Among the lower castes also some advance in education is being made. In most schools a few Dheds and Bhangis are to be found, while in Jambusar special schools have been built for them. But all the lower caste children attend very irregularly, as is but natural, considering that their parents promptly send them to work if there is any labour available, while there is a difficulty felt in their case also in obtaining capable masters to teach them in their special schools. The advances, which have been made so far in the district, are due more to the efforts of Government officers than to be initiative of the people, who are, I think, with the exception of the Vohoras, more or less apathetic on the subject.

#### SURAT DISTRICT.

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

There is among the Anavlas of Párdi Táluka an interesting movement on foot to provide an English school, which the táluka at present lacks. According to my latest information some Rs. 2,000 have been collected as subscriptions. But the scheme is an ambitious one, and it is desired to multiply this amount several times by means of contributions from Anavlas and other communities in Bombay and elsewhere. There is a talk of a large site on which a boarding school will be erected. From Portuguese Territory a large gift of wood has been promised, provided the school is erected near Daman Road Station.

#### THA'NA DISTRICT.

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

There has been marked progress in the matter of education during the year; eleven new schools were opened with the aid of the additional Government grant, and the number of school-going children has increased by 600. The wild tribe schools in Mokháda and elsewhere are generally flourishing. Scarcity of qualified teachers and want of proper accommodation are the two great difficulties to be contended with here.

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

The majority of the people are illiterate, being worse educated than our illiterate patels, who may be taken as a good example of the Kunbi-Marathás. Education seems to be progressing, though slightly. It is noticed that in some villages the patels and their bháubands take keen interest in the education of their boys for a short time, set up a private schools, and trying their best to get it registered and then in a short time their energy dwindles away and the school has to be closed. The three wild tribes' schools are all in the Sháhápur Táluka: most of the pupils are Thákurs, some are Mhárs; they are very liberally helped by the Educational Department, and the Mámlatdár and the Deputy Educational Inspector both take great interest in them. Another wild tribes' school will, thanks to the energy of the Sháhápur Mámalatdár, Mr. Kale, I hope, be shortly opened at Shirol in the Sháhápur Táluka. There is one private English school in the táluka, viz. at Kalyán, imparting education to 8½ pupils upto the Vth standard. The total number of students getting education is 1·2 per cent. of the population (viz. 223,537 souls).

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

Not less than 14 wild tribe schools have been opened in the Mokháda Petha. Several temptations are held out to attract the youth and their guardians. An attendance scholarship of 4 annas is paid to each boy of a wild tribe school, who attends 80 per cent. of the working days of the school. Money rewards and clothes are distributed after the annual examination and scholarships are given to train teachers for wild tribe schools. The attendance in these schools rose this year from 700 to more than 800 and the general progress is very satisfactory. All this is due to the exertions of the teachers and of the Mahálkari of Mokháda.

*(d) Contumacy.*

AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

In Dhandhuka some 30 cases of proved contumacy in payment were dealt with by the issue of forfeiture notices.

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

The high percentage of notices of forfeiture in Dhandhuka Táluka (10 per cent.) appears to be attributable less to genuine contumaciousness than to misdirected speculation on the part of the Banias and Borahs of the Dhandhuka Town. They have persuaded themselves that Fabian tactics increase the chance of ultimate remission, and so though well able to pay they consider it sound business to hold till the last possible moment a tendency which needs to be, and has been, firmly checked.

Edalji Behramsha Hodiwala, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The current year's revenue as well as that of past years set down for collection was collected with ease. No compulsory processes were resorted to except in 230 cases in Dhandhuka Town in which some Banias and Boharas exhibited a spirit of recalcitrancy and refused to pay the revenue set down for collection on account of the past year. With regard to them notices of forfeiture under section 153 of the Land Revenue Code were issued.

KAIRA DISTRICT.

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

The collections have been managed without resort to coercive measures except in cases of persistent recalcitrancy which were insignificantly few. There were hardly any such cases in Thásra. In Borsad there were some but in A'nand, Umreth was found to be the centre of agitation for withholding payments for lands held either in Thásra or A'nand Táluka. Other villages seemed to have caught the contagion from there and played some mischief which had ultimately to be handled with a firm hand.

BROACH DISTRICT.

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

There were numerous well-to-do persons, especially in the Jambusar Táluka who had contumaciously defaulted in paying their revenue in 1902-03 which was a fair year and in 1903-04 when the price of cotton was double the normal, and liberal suspensions had been given for damage by locusts in the 'bara' villages of the Vágira and Jambusar Tálukas. When once the amount of revenue to be collected has been fixed, every effort is justified to collect it in subsequent years from well-to-do persons who could have paid at any time and ought to have paid up in the year when it was due. In granting suspensions and remissions Government do not look to what the average cultivator would be able to pay without difficulty but to the crop of the village as a whole and they treat the average cultivator, the Bania landlord or mortgagee, the Bráhmín and Parsee capitalist and land speculator and the poorest Bhil and Talavia alike. There are of course no orders not to collect arrears from persons who have been given suspensions and remissions but it would be absurd to fail to collect arrears (which could have been easily paid in past years) from well-to-do persons who can pay at any time, and in collecting such arrears distinction is and must be made between the well-to-do and the man with a few acres who has had a poor crop. It was from well-to-do persons that arrears and some tagái were ordered to be collected. Most of the arrears of 1902-03 and 1903-04 in all the tálukas except Jambusar have been collected or cleared.

The Bhágdári tenure has been in this district of great assistance to contumacious defaulters. In consequence of its peculiar terms it has not been possible to forfeit Bhágdári land without breaking up the tenure. Bhágdárs generally thwart the attempts of the authorities to attach their moveable property, and forfeiture of land being a difficult matter in their case, whilst the Bhágs remained intact, they have evaded payment and in past years were able

to secure postponements and remissions beyond what was allowed to holders of rayatwári land. This concession only made these defaulters more contumacious. In 30 villages, therefore, the bhágdári tenure has been dissolved. The land has, however, been returned to the holders on the full survey rayatwári tenure in cases where they have paid up their dues, whilst in the case of defaulters land proportionate to the arrears has been forfeited, the rest being continued on the full survey tenure with the old holders. The result has been on the whole beneficial both to Government and the rayats. The security against forfeiture afforded by the bhágdári tenure has been removed and with this may vanish the temptation to evade payment. The rayats on the other hand are freed from their liability to pay for the bad lands which were included in their old holdings and which they could not resign. Now they can resign the bad lands and retain only those which in their opinion yield good profit. The number of compulsory processes is rather large, but this district has already made a name for itself for contumacy, and a greater part of the revenue would have remained in arrears had not these compulsory processes been resorted to. In Amod the people showed no signs of contumacy and very little pressure has been used in that taluka. Even the number of notices is small. No doubt the use of pressure varies to a certain extent with the capacities and tact of the Mámldárs and village officers, but when people take up a stubborn attitude the resort to compulsory processes becomes unavoidable. It must be mentioned that though 28 warrants were issued nobody was sent this year to the Surat Civil Jail, and in almost all cases the amount of the arrears was promptly paid up as soon as the defaulters learnt of the issue of the warrant. It was only in 3 cases that the defaulters were detained in the *chora* or the Mámldár's kacheri; and even in their case the amounts were paid long before the ten days' period of detention previous to confinement in the Civil Jail.

#### THANA DISTRICT.

F. G. H. Anderson, Esq., Collector.

In Bhiwndi again we had contumacious default in the matter of land revenue payments and when warrants for the arrest of the defaulters were issued they usually paid promptly. We have not pressed severely in cases where it seemed that the default was really due to the deficient seasonal outturn.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

The year was tolerably prosperous in one district only, Khándesh; in Násik there was scarcity; in the remaining 4 districts famine was declared though in fact it was acute scarcity. The cause of the famine was of course a more or less total failure of the monsoon; the rainfall was irregular, ill distributed, and unseasonable in 5 out of the 6 districts. The result in these 5 districts was the almost entire failure of both the kharíf and rabi crops, except in insignificant portions of them. Even in Khándesh the rainfall was not entirely satisfactory; beginning late, it interfered with the kharíf sowings, and it was not sufficient for the rabi. Most of the crops consequently suffered to some extent, and the outturn of cotton was somewhat below the normal. Locusts appeared in parts of Khándesh, but fortunately did no damage. Cattle suffered considerably in the affected districts, both for want of fodder as well as from rinderpest; fodder rose enormously in price, and agriculturists had to sell off their less valuable cattle. Government grass depôts were opened in the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sholápur Districts. In the last mentioned district surplus stocks of kadbi of previous years hoarded up stood in good stead and there was little demand for Government grass. In Khándesh, too, although the supply of fodder was sufficient, its price went up. The rise was probably due to the proximity of the famine districts. But it may also be due to the gradual increase in the area sown with cotton. Another natural result of the failure of rain was that the water-supply, both for drinking and irrigation

purposes, ran short; as much as could be done with the special grants was done. The prices of food-grains rose enormously in the 5 districts and considerably in the Khándesh District. The admirable spirit of self-help among the people, who at an early stage emigrated in numbers to Khándesh, the Berárs and the Nizam's territory and Bombay, prevented the scarcity ever deepening into a famine. The fact that work to absorb the large numbers was found in these places may be partly at least accounted for by the reduction of the labouring population from plague, partly to industrial development (gins in Khándesh, for instance, have lately increased in number). One result of the emigration was that wages tended to maintain the level of the preceding year; in Khándesh the demand for labour was so great that in spite of the unprecedented immigration into it the wages of unskilled labour rose by half. A second result was that it checked to some extent the rise in the price of food, by lessening the number of mouths to be fed. A third result was that the able-bodied having mostly left in search for work, those depending on them had to be relieved by State help, thereby making the number of persons on gratuitous relief out of proportion to the number on relief works.

Plague and cholera prevailed in all the districts, but the plague epidemic was of a milder type everywhere than in previous years. Small-pox is reported from Khándesh, Násik and Sholápur, in the last of which district there were also outbreaks of measles and virulent fever.

Although the cotton crop was below normal in Khándesh, this deficiency was made up for by the high prices realised. Owing to the famine in other districts the grain trade was very brisk in this district. The cotton industry in Sholápur is also reported to be in a prosperous condition. The spirit of swadeshism is said to be responsible for a mill or so here and there and to have given a temporary fillip in a few places to indigenous industries, such as hand-loom weaving. Primary education made a considerable step forward in Khándesh, where 71 new schools were opened and the number of pupils increased by 2,637. The year under report was not one in which any general improvement in the primary education of the masses could be looked for. Technical education is in its infancy; the institutions of the American Mission at Nagar and Sirur, however, give ground for hope that it may have a future before it. Mr. Orr's advocacy of Koli masters for Koli children has much to recommend it. It might be wished that Máhárs were not practically prohibited from becoming educated, except where (as in many places in Ahmednagar, where the Missions have 127 schools) the Missions provide schools.

The land revenue collections were most successful in Khándesh, nearly the whole of the demand being collected and the outstandings amounting to Rs. 8,143 only. In the affected districts suspensions and remissions had to be granted on a large scale. In Násik Rs. 7,81,200 were suspended and Rs. 2,34,800 were remitted out of a total demand of Rs. 10,22,400; the unauthorised outstandings amounted to Rs. 36,000. In Poona the suspensions amounted to Rs. 6,43,500 and the remissions to Rs. 43,300. In Sholápur the amount suspended was Rs. 9,45,828 out of a total demand of Rs. 12,06,126. Figures have not been given in the Ahmednagar and Sátára reports. Mr. Orr reports that the land revenue arrears in his district amount to Rs. 21,29,000, but these obviously are inclusive of authorised suspensions.

Owing to the scarcity considerable amounts of money had to be disbursed as tagái in the afflicted districts. The disbursements in Khándesh and Násik amounted to Rs. 74,450 and Rs. 1,10,958 respectively. No figures have been given in the reports of the other districts where the disbursements are much larger; but the omission is not very material, as complete figures will, it is believed, be given by the Accountant-General in connection with the famine reports. Mr. Orr notices the existence of many cases of misappropriation of tagái in his district, and the fact of many wells constructed by means of tagái grants in the preceding famine remaining unused. The joint bond system is noticed only in one report, that of the District Deputy Collector, Sholápur, in whose charge it was tried in all the talukás, apparently with satisfactory results.

## Extracts.

(a) *Labour and Wages.*

KHANDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

*Prices of labour.*

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

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart and pair of bullocks per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
1904-05 ... ..	0 10 0	0 3 0	1 0 0
1905-06 ... ..	0 10 0	0 4 6	0 14 0

The above rates are the official quotations; they certainly are not above the actual average rates and were frequently exceeded. For example, at the height of the season, unskilled labourers in the ginning factories could get from eight to ten annas a day. Women could sometimes earn as much as eight annas a day. These rates were paid in spite of the unusually large immigration from the Deccan which might have been expected to cause a fall in wages.

Agricultural operations sometimes suffer from want of labour and it is frequently difficult to get labour on the Local Fund works. The rate for a cart and a pair of bullocks was above the average owing to the high prices commanded by fodder. There is every year some influx of labourers from the Deccan and the Nizam's dominions into Khândesh at the harvesting and cotton season, and these labourers always find sufficient employment in fields and ginning factories. This year the influx was unprecedented owing to the prevalence of famine conditions in the other Deccan Districts. This tended in a great measure to keep down the rate of wages which otherwise would have gone up considerably.

B. D. Bell, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The rise in food prices did not materially affect the agriculturist who grows cotton whenever and wherever he can. With the labouring classes it was counterbalanced by a corresponding rise in the price of labour despite immigration from famine districts. There is always a steady demand for labour for the gins and presses, and the demand was strengthened this year by the works undertaken at Jalgaon in connection with the establishment of the new Collectorate. The gradual and continued rise in the price of labour since the first years of famine and plague is probably the most striking feature of the last decade, and tempts comparison with the social revolution in England after the Black Death. Ten years ago, I am told, the labourer's standard wage was 4 annas a day. Now he can earn 6 annas a day without much difficulty, 8 annas is quite common, and during the height of the cotton picking season even women can earn more than this. It is difficult to say how far this permanent rise has been accompanied by such an increase in efficiency as to cheapen the cost of production so that the land-holder benefits equally with the labourer. I am inclined to think, however, that this is the tendency. At all events, one hears no serious grumbling about the increased cost of cultivation. It must be remembered, too, that some of the agencies which have helped to contribute to the increased cost of labour—*e. g.*, the Railway Workshops at Bhusával, and the spinning and weaving mill at Jalgaon—have undoubtedly improved the efficiency of the labourer as well, and that, while there is a tendency to spend some of the increase on liquor, most of it has gone to improve the condition of the labourer and therewith his efficiency.



Digambar Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

*Prices of labour.*

Year.	Wages per diem.		Carts and pair of bullocks per diem.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
1904-05 ... ..	0 10 0	0 3 0	1 0 0
1905-06 ... ..	0 10 0	0 3 0	0 12 0

Labouring classes from the Deccan betake themselves to the Khándesh as they do to Bombay, Poona and other places where wages can be had in fair weather. But during the year under report the influx of the Deccan labourers into the Khándesh was unprecedented. The rate of wages fell considerably below the normal, and after employing the full number of hands in their mills and ginning factories the managers always found numbers waiting at the gate from day to day seeking to be employed.

J. E. Sahasrabudhe, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The condition of the labouring classes was quite satisfactory. The standard of wages was not very high for field labour this year because many labourers came into this division on account of scarcity in the Deccan Districts. It ranged from three to four annas a day. The number of labourers in this district is fewer than the demand for them. Although many persons immigrated from the famine-stricken districts yet all found sufficient work in picking of cotton and harvesting of crops. The factories in this district in the working season raise the wages to a considerable extent, each adult male getting four to six annas a day. The labourers from the famine-stricken districts flocked in the cotton season and at the time of harvesting. Labourers in Jamner secured exceptionally good wages on account of their employment on cutting grass in the kurans which is also a good source of employment in other parts of the district. The earnings of the labourers are sufficient to last them through the whole of the year, although they are said to live from hand to mouth. Many of the Local Fund works have to be given up sometimes for the prevalence of higher wages in the harvesting and cotton season, which evidently shows that there is great demand for labourers.

## NASIK DISTRICT.

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

	1905-06.				1904-05.			
	Sinnar.	Igatpuri.	Niphád.	Yeola.	Sinnar.	Igatpuri.	Niphád.	Yeola.
Skilled ...	0 8 0	1 0 0	0 8 0	0 12 9	0 8 0	1 0 0	0 8 0	0 12 0
Unskilled ...	0 3 0	0 3 0	0 2 9	0 4 10	0 2 0	0 3 0	0 2 6	0 4 0

The marginal table gives the wages of labour. These do not show any appreciable fluctuations,

## POONA DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

Year.	Wages per diem.		Cart-hire.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.	
1904-05 ...	0 10 0	0 3 0	0 14 0
1905-06 ...	0 10 0	0 3 0	1 0 0

The marginal table which represents the average wages of skilled and unskilled labour throughout the district shows no variation except in the case of cart-hire as compared with the rates prevailing the preceding year. The variation is due to fodder being very dear and a large number of bullocks being sold. The rate of unskilled wages did not go down owing to a large number of labouring classes having emigrated to more prosperous tracts outside the district.

## SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.

A. R. Bonus, Esq., Collector.

Wages remained comparatively high during the season. The maintenance of the rate of wages was due partly to extensive migration on the part of the locally unemployed, partly to the existence of centres of employment, such as the three famine works, the Bársi Light Railway extensions, and (in a lesser degree) the Wadshivna Tank Canals.

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

Wages did not go so low as might have been expected, and indeed in some cases were higher than usual, the principal causes that contributed towards this result being (i) extensive migration, (ii) work in connection with the Pandharpur extension of the Bársi Light Railway, and (iii) numerous tagái works in progress. A peculiar state of things was thus in existence. Famine was in the land—relief works were in progress—and yet a fairly high rate of wages prevailed in areas not far from the centres of these works.

*(b) Migration.*

## KHANDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

Emigration from Khándesh is practically unknown. Recently, I believe, a few of the Mavchis and Bhils in Nawápur have been tempted into the Gáikwár's dominions across the Tápti by the liberal terms offered to settlers there. As regards immigration, a small number of people come from the Nizam's dominions, Nagar and other neighbouring districts from year to year when the cotton factories are working, but they generally return to their homes before the rains. This year, however, their influx was unprecedented owing to the prevalence of famine conditions in the other Deccan Districts and all found employment in factories in the cotton season and at harvest time and returned to their homes before the rains as usual.

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

Temporary immigration for the purpose of employment in the gins and presses appears to be on the increase. Famine conditions in other districts, especially Ahmednagar, increased the number of immigrants this year. All were heartily welcome, however, in a division where labour is scarce and dear. Large numbers obtained employment at the new Civil Station at Jalgaon. Prices of labour remained high nevertheless. There was no emigration.

Digambar Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The people of the Khándesh District are so much bound down to their soil and their climate that they never as a rule emigrate. Through famine, and through plague, they have stuck to their country. The idea never occurs to them to go elsewhere in search of food or safety. All their migrations are confined to movements from one village to another. This is due partly to the richness of the soil and partly to the sparseness of the population. Last year's famine in the Deccan drove hundreds of families to the Khándesh. They heard that there was corn in Khándesh and that there was work to be had. Some of the Deccan immigrants had to wait for a few days at the gates of the ginning factories, but I do not know that any of them had either to go back or to go elsewhere in search of food and employment.

J. E. Sahasrabudhe, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There was absolutely no emigration, the season being a good one on the whole; but there was noticeable immigration from the districts of the Deccan, which were affected by famine, in search of employment. The immigrants came in December and remained until the cotton season and the harvesting was over. The ginning factories and the field work were then in full swing and there was no difficulty for the immigrants to find employment. Some people come every year from other districts in harvest time, but the immigration this year was much more than usual and lasted for a long time.

## NÁSÍK DISTRICT.

R. A. L. Mocre, Esq., Collector.

The situation was further relieved by the large emigration of able-bodied men, chiefly to work as carters and coolies in Bombay. This emigration takes place yearly from the south of the district which is near the railway line, but greatly exceeded normal dimensions in the year under report. Immigration was noticeable in the Násik Táluka where the immigrants came from the Niphád and Sinnar Tálukás of this district and the Sangamner, Kopargaon and Ráhuri Tálukás of the Ahmednagar District, owing to the rabi crop having been generally good throughout the western part of the Násik Táluka; and at the Chánkápúr Tank in the Kalwan Táluka where many workers, chiefly Máhárs, came from the Ahmednagar District. Emigration mainly of labourers took place from the Yeola, Sinnar and Niphád Tálukás to Bombay and the Konkan on the one hand, and to Khándesh and Berár on the other. Nearly 5,000 persons emigrated from the eastern part of the Igatpuri Táluka between March and May to Bombay and to the Thána Districts where grass cutting operations were in progress. As usual a fair number of people temporarily emigrated from East Kalwan, mostly to Bombay, but some also to the Khándesh cotton mills.

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

There has been no considerable permanent movement amongst the inhabitants of this sub-division during the year under report. There is one important seasonal movement of labourers and cartmen from the Násik Táluka down to Bombay. They go soon after the harvest of one year is over and return in time for the preparation of lands for the coming cultivating season. In some few cases in Peint cultivators have thrown up their lands and migrated to the adjacent Native States of Dharampur and Surgana. The year was notable for a very large influx into the Násik Táluka of labourers from the nearer tálukás of Nagar and the adjacent tálukás of this district. As the rabi crops in the western half of the táluka were fairly good there was an abundance of labour for them. This movement is, I believe, not usual and was the result of the scarcity in the Nagar District.

## AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The most remarkable feature to be noticed was the émigration. This year the famine was not severe. The prices never rose very high, specially compared to other famine years; yet the exodus was unprecedented. The number of emigrants for Sangamner Táluka alone was over ten thousand. Even Akola sent out nearly 3,000 people. Still another peculiarity to be noticed is that many of the emigrants have not yet returned; ordinarily they return with the first shower of rain, but this year, in spite of heavy rainfall and universal sowing, many of the emigrants, I learn, will not be returning till it is full harvesting time. Over 500 people even from Akola have yet stayed away, and till now the hill people of Akola have been the most difficult to persuade to leave their villages. The successive years of famine have gradually broken down the prejudices of the people. An indirect effect of this large exodus was to keep the price of wages normal. As many of the ordinary labouring classes left the district, those who remained could still rely on getting fair wages. I would also point out that in the Musalwádi relief camp, out of 2,800 workers 900 were from other and distant tálukás. This also goes to show how people are learning to go elsewhere in search of work instead of sticking to their villages. It is to be noted that this exodus was in spite of the fact that the famine was not very severe, and leads us to hope that in case of severe scarcity the emigration would be much greater, and the former necessity for providing local works for the entire labouring classes will no longer be necessary.

## POONA DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

Some 25,000 people from Dhond Peta, 15,000 from Indápur, 7,000 from Sirur, 4,000 from Bhimthadi, 4,000 from Sáswad, in all about 55,000 people from the Eastern Division, emigrated to Berár, Khándesh, Bombay and other places; so also about 600 people from Haveli Táluka, 1,000 from Mulshi Peta, 300 from Ambegaon Peta and nearly a quarter of the population of Khed and Junnar Tálukás emigrated for work to Bombay and other places owing to the prevalence of famine. Almost all the emigrants have now returned to resuming agricultural operations. Bhimthadi and Indápur Tálukás provide work for labourers on the sugar-cane plantations on the Nira Canal, and some 6,000 people from outside villages immigrated into the irrigated villages of these tálukás for work. In Máwal Táluka the work of doubling the railway line was in progress and some 2 or 3 thousand labourers were employed by the railway contractors on the said work.

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

The remedial measures taken by Government were to a large extent seconded by the efforts of the people themselves. For it is now obvious that the Deccani cultivators have at length learnt a few lessons in the bitter school of experience. Having come to consider famine as something in the ordinary course of affairs, they begin to realise the need of self-reliance and self-help. Thus a most notable feature in the situation was the readiness with which a large part of the population emigrated to Bombay in the closing months of 1905. It is estimated that a third of the inhabitants of the affected villages in Junnar and Khed removed to the capital, taking with them their carts and bullocks. Few of these emigrants returned until June, so that presumably all found profitable employment in the mills, docks, and other centres of metropolitan industry. During the hot weather the work of doubling the railway line between Poona and Lonávli attracted many persons from Haveli and other tálukás. This enormous exodus is a very striking fact, and finds no parallel in recent seasons.

J. P. Brander, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Emigration occurred on a very large scale. The labouring class mostly emigrated to the Berárs, Khándesh and to Bombay. The Berárs with their recent great agricultural, and Bombay with its industrial, development are serving the part of relief works for the Deccan. In fact the small cultivator who could not leave his cattle or fields was worse off than the labourer who could emigrate. It was to relieve the small cultivators that the village works in Sirur were opened.

## SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.

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

The most striking feature of the year was the extent of emigration from the villages. I should not be surprised if half the the population of Karmála Táluka emigrated (to return again) without apparently very serious results to themselves.

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

The quickening of the rayats' migratory instinct was accelerated by the character of the last season and migration indeed was very freely resorted to without waiting for relief works to be opened. While this extensive migration lightened our labours in one direction it added not a little to our difficulties in another. On the relief works on which, judging from past famines, at least 30,000 people might have been expected to be relieved, only about 4,000 appeared. But the emigrants had left behind their incapable relatives and dependants to the mercy of village or State charity, and as the former contracted they began to clamour for the latter. Even as early as December, before any famine or test works were opened, destitutes were to be seen applying for gratuitous relief in

the worse villages of Sangola. Emergent cases out of these were relieved with the special grant Government were pleased to allot to the district. A majority of the emigrants have now returned and our dole lists also are being contracted.

SATARA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

The people have in my opinion shown great resisting power and a laudable determination to help themselves. This is evidenced by the fact that, while the loss of crop was complete over an area comprising more than half the district, the people, instead of either waiting to die in their villages or swarming on the relief works, emigrated in crowds to Bombay and other labour centres to earn their living and tide over the period of distress. From my experience of previous famines in the Deccan I should have expected this year to see at least 30,000 people on relief works, instead of which the numbers at no time reached a tithe of that figure. This unprecedented emigration stands out as the prominent feature of the recent as compared with previous periods of distress. The principal causes of this extensive emigration are annual virulent plague epidemics and a series of bad seasons. Sátára District has suffered very severely from plague. Taking recorded figures only, no less than 1/7th of the population have died of it in the last few years. With such a sword of Damocles hanging each year over their heads, it is not unnatural that the people have sought means of support away from home. At the same time, the death-rate from plague among labourers in industrial centres has undoubtedly created an increased demand for labour. Thus there has been the incentive of good wages to be earned in Bombay and elsewhere to add stimulus to a natural desire to escape from villages barren of crops and infected with plague. These causes have co-existed for years past and a famine year has only accentuated the movement.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In the current year from the distressed areas numbers reaching one-half or even two-thirds of the population of each village have sought and found employment in Bombay, in the Berárs, in the gardens of Bárámati, or in the dominions of His Highness the Nizam. And necessarily the vast majority of those emigrants—driven not by fears for their subsistence but by the law of supply and demand—were the able-bodied inhabitants.

A. Montgomerie, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Last year's famine had already sent a large number of people out of the district. Many of these delayed their return till they were assured that it was worth their while to come back. When it was plain that the season was likely to prove a failure these made up their minds to stay away. They were joined by many others with the result that the emigration mentioned in last year's report reached its normal figures this year. On a rough estimate, some 15 per cent. of the population in the affected part of the charge must have emigrated. In some villages of the Khánápur Táluka, such as Hanmantwádiye, practically the whole able-bodied population left, and in the poorer more easterly villages of the same táluka 50 per cent. was no uncommon figure. It is undoubtedly due to this emigration that there was so little acute distress in the district under conditions which must anywhere else have spelled famine. Instead of remaining to die in their villages, or going to swell the numbers on the relief works, the peasants took up their fortunes in their hands and went out to seek new walks in life. It is, however, only the extent to which this was done that is new. Emigration has become a feature of life in Sátára. This is mainly due to the proximity of the railway. The people remain in their villages for the sowing and harvest and in the agricultural slack time go to Bombay. Some, I have heard, have gone from Khánápur to Karáchi, no doubt because they have friends there who have informed them of the demand for labour. The movement seems to be most general among the Máhárs and the other low castes who in every bad season at once seek the cities. The effects of this movement are various. In famine years the advantages are most obvious, for people who

would have to be provided for by Government are taken out of the way and the emigrants may find themselves in a position to help those who are left behind. This year, though I have not any figures, I have been informed that a very large amount of money has been received in the charge in the shape of money orders. This must have contributed materially to the relief of distress. Even in good years the result of the emigration to Bombay is to bring money into the country. The emigrants remit money to their families, and some earn enough to pay their Government dues or to reduce the debt of the saokár.

(c) *Education.*

KHÁ'NDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

The year under report has been marked by considerable progress in primary education. The number of primary schools has been increased by 71 and the number of pupils by 2,637 and new school buildings numbering 11 were completed during the year under review.

The District Local Board have appointed a special committee to supervise the Technical School at Dhulia and the school appears to give promise of a useful future as the expansion of its scope and utility by the addition of a workshop is under the consideration of the Board. At present the development of the school is somewhat hampered by the fact that it is technically under the control of the Educational Department. This arrangement causes difficulty and delay in dealing with the funds without any corresponding advantage. It has been proposed that the school should be under the complete control of the Committee and I hope the proposal will be accepted. The Local Training College here has been enlarged by the addition of residential quarters. The Bhil school at Natawad in Nandurbár Táluka is one of the most flourishing primary schools in the district. This is mainly due to the keen personal interest taken in it by the leading men of the village. The Bhil boarding school at Nandurbár is also flourishing.

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

Education is undoubtedly spreading among the agricultural classes. How far the cultivator is thereby more fully equipped to maintain himself in the pursuit of agriculture or to fit himself for entering on new fields of industry it is impossible for me, without more experience, to say. The effort about to be made to improve Mahomedan education all over East Khándesh by the establishment of a Training School with hostel at Nasirabad may be mentioned here.

E. H. Waterfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The schools in municipalities and other large towns are flourishing, but there is a great deal to be desired in the condition of those in the villages. The schools at Brahmanwel, a large village in the Pimpalner Táluka, has had to be closed owing to smallness of attendance; the numbers in other schools are far from encouraging. No doubt this is chiefly due to the prevalence of the lower class of cultivators who do not realize the advantages of education when it prevents their children from helping them in the fields, and only allow them to obtain a mere smattering. The Bhil boarding school at Nandurbár is flourishing, and its satisfactory condition is due in a great measure to the energy of Mr. Chandorkar, the late Mámlatdár. Here again I find that parents are inclined to remove their sons before the course is completed, and I have tried to check this by making them sign an agreement, before the boy is admitted, that they will not take him away without the consent of the School Committee.

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

The year under report is distinctly marked with a considerable progress in education. In the whole district 71 more primary schools were opened and the number of students increased by 2,629. Three secondary schools were

closed, but notwithstanding this the total number of students increased. The percentage of school-going children, though slightly improved over the previous year, is still very low, being only 2·4 of the entire population, whereas in some districts it has gone, if I remember right, as high as five. The municipalities in my charge carried out all the suggestions made by Educational authorities by better equipping their schools with the addition of more hands, some of them trained. The model farm at Dhulia, though in its infancy, is doing good work and is calculated to prove very useful in diffusing practical agricultural knowledge among the cultivators. The local technical school was recently taken by the District Local Board under its direct supervision and gives promise of a useful future as the expansion of its scope by the addition of a workshop is under contemplation.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

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

New schools were opened during the year under review in the Nandgaon, Baglan and Dindori Talukas of this district and the number of pupils of the cultivating classes is on the increase. Such pupils, however, do not push their education far. The opening of a boarding school at Peint for children of the hill tribes has been considered and will be discussed at the next meeting of the District Local Board.

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

The Dindori Mámldár especially has taken a great interest in the schools in his taluka and has made several recommendations for the establishment of schools in villages where they would be very useful. He points out with mournful accuracy the lack of interest shown by the agricultural classes as proved by the fact that out of a population of over 66,000 only 1,227 children attend school and of these 260 are the children of agriculturists. He advocates the establishment of more schools in the Dangri parts of the taluka. Chandor and Násik remain much as they were and neither of the Mámldárs have much progress to record. Education in Peint is a difficult problem, but it is satisfactory to know that it is receiving the attention which it needs. A step forward has been taken in the provision of educational facilities for the depressed classes. The Mahár communities in several of the larger villages in the subdivision have agreed to provide the necessary buildings for schools for their own children and it is hoped that ere long the Educational Department will be able to provide them with masters.

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

The masses are still rolling in ignorance and the recent liberal grants by Government have not been sufficient to bring the rudiments of the three R's within the reach of the unlettered lower classes. The hill tribes of Igatpuri and many villages inhabited by backward classes are without a school, and I am respectfully of opinion that Government cannot do better than establish as many free schools as it possibly can. A cultivator will be better able to take care of himself and to keep the saokár at an honourable distance if he is educated enough to know what leads him to ruin and how he is deprived of his property, through ignorance, by his crafty creditors.

W. Plunkett, Esq., Deputy Collector.

A few extra schools have been opened for the better classes, and it is in contemplation to increase the number of free schools for the lower classes. But so far they have not been successful. The Mahár prefers to send his children to labour, while the Bhil and Koli have no inclination whatever in this direction. They prefer their open-door free life and take things as they come.

The ordinary agriculturist begins to train his boy in agriculture from about the age of 14. Before that he is sent out to graze cattle. His argument for not sending his boy to school is that afterwards he becomes unfit for, or averse to, field labour and agriculture. If, however, he does send his boy to school, the training he receives is insufficient for an independent calling.

It is pleasing to note the advance in female education, and a most refreshing sight is that of a well attended Mahomedan girls' school in the city of Málegaon. Such schools would be more successful and advancement would be rapid if women teachers were obtainable; but unfortunately such are rare and difficult to be had. Excepting perhaps schools in municipal areas, it cannot be said that rural education is making any advance worth noting. Village *panchas* continue to exhibit that apathy which has often been referred to.

ARMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

J. P. Orr, Esq., Collector.

A six weeks' tour in the Akola Dangs has convinced me that the Mokháda plan of multiplying schools for study of the three R's on the principle "Koli masters for Koli children" with small monthly prizes for regular attendance is likely to be just as successful in Akola as it has proved in Mokháda. The people are as keen as mustard about it and I have already got applications from several Kolis who have learnt up to the 6th standard for employment as masters in Koli villages. All over the district there is a great demand for new schools, though we are better off than most districts in having so many (127) Missionary schools. Probably the benefit that low caste people have derived from those schools has instigated the higher castes, who will not attend them, to ask for schools for themselves.

J. Ghosal, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In former years of scarcity the attendance of the schools fell rapidly. But this year the attendance has increased. In Akola, for instance, the most backward of the talukas, in 1902-03 there were only 11 schools and the number of the rolls was 634; in 1905-06 many new schools were opened and the number on the rolls at the 19 schools rose to 1,082, and the people are still clamouring for the opening of new schools.

SHOLA'PUR DISTRICT.

A. R. Bonus, Esq., Collector.

I do not think that the village school could be utilised as an instrument of agricultural education; if it could be, I do not think we could teach the cultivator anything which it would be worth his while to know; and I have reason to believe that even the better class of cultivators are almost completely indifferent to the well-meant endeavours of the local promoters of agricultural lectures and the like. Of the lower stratum, the cultivators who are annual tenants, *i.e.*, serfs of the saokár class, still less can be expected, and it is hard to see in what direction there is any scope of technical education.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Educational conditions in the charge are by no means all that might be desired. The number of non-Brahmins going to school is in proportion to their numbers lamentably small; female education is remarkably ill supported and the lower castes hardly take any advantage at all of the Government schools. A most unpleasant fact—unfortunately too often noticeable—is the tendency on the part of some Brahmins to boycott Mahrattas who have their children educated, although others, on account of recent movements, are favourable to their progress. Even of Brahmins a large number remains illiterate, especially in the backward taluka of Mán. After Gujarát I was especially struck by the fact that the majority of the village headmen is illiterate. On the other hand, the Educational Department is showing activity and several of the schools merit all praise.

(d) *Contumacy.*

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

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

There is no doubt that a contumacious tendency has been fostered by a decade of bad years among the more intelligent classes of the community and will



probably continue till experience teaches the cultivator that if he is to get suspensions or remissions in any given year he will learn of them before the date of the first instalment (as he did in the current year in this district) and that delay in meeting the demand announced will never result in his obtaining any further suspension or remission. This disposition to trust to something turning up instead of paying promptly has spread from the more intelligent deshi and plain cultivators to certain of the hill tribes, who hitherto have looked upon prompt payment of Government dues almost as a religious duty.

W. Plunkett, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Again a tendency to hold back payments in hopes of remissions was noticeable, especially among some well-to-do landholders, and also a spirit of contumacy. But a little firmness with the assistance of the Land Revenue Code will, no doubt, bring about a reversion to the former attitude.

POONA DISTRICT.

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

There is evidence to show that attempts are frequently made to take undue advantage of the mild policy of Government. This was especially observable in some of the larger villages lying near the famine tracts. Rich Brahmins and Wanis, who could thoroughly afford to pay their revenue, made organized efforts with a view to avoiding a discharge of their lawful dues. Their attitude, perhaps, can be little cause for wonder, as the concessions extended to their near neighbours might naturally have a somewhat tantalising effect. The villages of Narayangaon and Khed were conspicuous for their refractory spirit. But the infliction of one-fourth fine on the ringleaders quickly brought the defaulters to their senses.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

*Season.*—The rainfall was very much below the average throughout the district. The monsoon commenced well except in parts of Athni, Gokák and Parasgad, but the September break determined the character of the season. The rice-tract except Chándgad Petha suffered, the outturn being 5 to 6 annas, that of kharif jowari in Athni was 4 annas and elsewhere 6 to 7 annas, and bajri 6½ annas. Sugarcane alone yielded anything like a moderate crop, the outturn varying from 6 to 9 annas. The rabi crops failed everywhere except in Sampgaon and the west of Gokák. Locusts appeared but left in June without causing any appreciable damage. Suspensions and remissions were granted wherever necessary on a liberal scale. There were no cases of contumacy in payment of land revenue by well-to-do holders, but well-to-do middle class persons, and especially sharers in Patilki and Kulkarniki watans, were the slowest to pay. Notices fell from 1,221 to 1,021 and there were no cases of attachment and sale of property.

The monsoon opened feebly. The result was a retardation of kharif sowings and withering of the kharif crops where they had come up owing to insufficient moisture. Better rain fell in August, but its good results were nullified by a very scanty fall in September. The October fall was capricious and insufficient and there was no rain afterwards. Consequently large areas of rabi land remained unsown. The total rainfall was much in defect of normal and altogether insufficient. Both kharif and rabi as well as cotton failed. A whole year's income from agriculture was lost. Locusts appeared in June and before disappearing did some damage to gardens in three talukas. Thus the season had dismal effects and gave rise to a famine of staple grains, water and fodder. The grant of liberal suspension and remissions is reflected in the figures of notices issued and of penalty imposed under Section 148 of the Land Revenue Code, which were practically

the same as those of 1904-05, while cases of distraints fell by 35. Cases of contumacy on the part of well-to-do landlords were noticed in all talukas and village officers were the last to pay.

In Bijápúr Mr. Alcock remarks: "Suspensions were given according to the new and less liberal rules. It may be doubted whether the effect of the greater strictness in the remission rules will not be merely to spread wider the net for recovering suspensions; while its meshes remain broad enough to let such deserving cases as result (in a rainless district) from successive droughts slip through still."

Mr. Bomanji agrees and states: "The rules as they stand at present require modifications in some ways."

I am unable to agree in these opinions. The Collector does not state in what ways the rules require modification. They are sufficiently elastic. Though indeed in granting remissions the district officers are required to take some trouble in making the needful inquiries, they amply provide for dealing fairly with all kinds of deserving cases.

The rainfall was unseasonable and deficient except in Ron and Hubli where kharif jowári was 8 to 9 annas and cotton 6 to 7 annas respectively. The district as a whole had a 4-anna crop, and as a consequence about 13 lákhs, *i.e.*, 50 per cent. of the total demand, had to be suspended. Rice having failed, remissions of the water-portion of the assessment to the extent of one lách, *i.e.*, 4 per cent. of the demand, were granted. Water-supply was generally deficient everywhere except in Hubli. The town of Dhárwár was in sore straits. In the black soil tracts several villages were deserted in November for want of water and fodder. Considering the rise in the prices of grain and fodder, the rayats in Ron and Hubli must have done much better than if they had had a 1½-anna crop in the midst of plenty in the tracts adjoining. There were no cases of contumacy. The Hubli and Ron rayats tempted by the suspensions all round held off payment for some time and had eventually to yield to the firmness of Revenue Officers.

The average rainfall of the district was 79 inches—29 inches in defect of that of the last year. It was much below the normal, but luckily, except in Haliyál and Mundgod and Supa, the district suffered little in consequence. The outturn in Supa came to 6 annas and that in Haliyál and Mundgod was only 4 annas. In their case, although regular relief works were not necessary, relief in other forms, *e.g.*, tagai-loans, suspensions (Land Revenue Rs. 59,477 and Local Funds Rs. 3,050) and remissions (Land Revenue Rs. 1,519 and Local Funds Rs. 95), grants for improvement of water-supply, &c., was given, and these steps put heart into the people. Temporary wells in fields and pits in moist nala beds were sunk from the Provincial grant. Locusts visited parts of Haliyál and Supa, but there were no standing crops then. The Land Revenue was easily collected from the well-to-do and other rayats except in cases in which there were disputes between co-sharers or between landlords and tenants. Notices rose from 2,935 to 3,702. Moveable property was sold in 10 cases, and in 85 cases forfeiture of land was resorted to. In a forest district like Kánara forfeiture cases are not unusual on account of (1) bad climate, (2) want of agricultural labour and (3) ravages of wild beasts.

This was the only district in the Division where the season was even a moderately good one. The rainfall was, however, much below the average during the year. The monsoon began well but was insufficient at transplantation time. The outturn of crops varied from one-half to two-thirds of the normal. Land Revenue collection did not cause much trouble. Notices fell from 7,766 to 6,039, of which 1,889 were in Mahad alone. Moveable property was sold only in seven cases and forfeiture was resorted to in only one case.

The rainfall was inadequate everywhere. The southern half got barely half the normal. The season was therefore unfortunate and gave rise to scarcity. No swarms of

locusts visited the district. Formal suspensions to the amount of Rs. 52,081 were granted and at the end of the year a sum of Rs. 27,482 was outstanding. On account of the poor harvest, notices rose from 1,348 to 1,944 and distrains from 210 to 350. In only some 25 cases was sale of property found necessary. In Chiplun only a small penalty under Section 148 of the Land Revenue Code was inflicted in three instances. The Land Revenue was, on the whole, collected with ease. The Collector points out that this is not indication of the people being well off, and observes: "The long succession of indifferent and bad seasons for the last ten years must have hit them very hard and caused great destruction of capital. Were it not for the extraordinary external resources that they possess, their plight would have been pitiful indeed." About the granting of suspensions, Mr. Garrett observes that the people do not appreciate them and says that the principle should be either remission or collection, which might be in whole or in part. Mr. Maconochie concurs in this. I do not agree. The Revenue assessment has been fixed with full considerations for good and bad seasons, and suspensions and remissions cannot be claimed as a matter of right, but they are allowed as a matter of favour. The grant of suspensions in a time of general failure of crops is a great measure of relief to the landholder. He is not compelled to raise loans on the amount suspended, and interest is saved.

2. *Prices of Food and Labour.*—Throughout the Karnatic prices of staple food-grains rose to twice the normal. Those in the Konkan rose (although not so high) and reduced the quantity purchasable per rupee to between 15 to 30 per cent. below normal. Labour, skilled and unskilled, did not suffer any appreciable reduction in rates except in Bijápur. In Dhárwár there was a scarcity of labour and even Kod, which did not get particularly good crops, was able to keep 500 outsiders occupied. It appears that the industrial centres of Hubli and Gadag attract all the labour in the district. Mr. Graham anticipates an ultimate rise in the price of labour in Gadag on account of the high wages paid at the mines—as even now the coolie demands and gets 4 annas a day in that táluka. The proximity to Bombay, the cheap rates of steamer fares owing to the coming of a rival company into the field and the bad harvest combined in Kolába and Ratnágiri to stimulate an exodus of labourers to the large industrial market of Bombay, and but for this fact the labour rates there would have fallen greatly. Field labour in Bijápur was very cheap throughout the year till the beginning of kharif sowing of 1906-07. A large area was then sown and at the end of the year the price of labour was restored to its normal level. At the Pen Salt Works the labourers struck for an advance of pay and the struggle was maintained until June. It then broke down.

3. *Material Prosperity.*—Owing to a succession of bad seasons the condition of the eastern part of the Belgaum District was somewhat unhappy. But the tract is one that can recuperate rapidly with bumper harvests for a year or two. The same may be said of Bijápur. Mr. Hudson adduces the evidence of birth and death figures to prove an increase of material prosperity. Naturally enough the ravages of the plague have enriched the landed classes by diminishing the number to be supported, and raised the wages of the labouring classes by increasing the demand for their services. The Thakurs and Katkaris of Kolába are gradually developing into general and agricultural labourers. They obtain ample work in forest coupes and in the removal of trees in Malki land. In Ratnágiri the Collector observes that owing to the bad season the level of material prosperity declined. Kolába stands in a very advantageous position since a fair proportion of its population is supported by trade, fisheries, liquor and salt manufacture, and forest work, while its surplus labour has always a market across the harbour in Bombay. Its southern portion is a little handicapped in this respect owing to its not being well served with roads. The district has potentialities of still greater developments with improved communications with Bombay, which is so near it. I am glad that Mr. Macmillan has taken up the question of new roads required. The District Board has funds and it will be well if it gives a large amount to the Public Works Department to construct them, settling the order in which they are required, and completing one before beginning another.

4. *Public Health*.—Plague prevailed in a mild form in all the districts. Málvan and Vengurla, which had remained immune all these years, had an outbreak of it at the end of the year. As was to be expected in a year of scanty rainfall, cholera appeared in a somewhat severe form in Belgaum and Bijápur and carried off 2,532 and 2,877 victims against 1,728 and 1,752, respectively, in the previous year. Dhárwár, fortunately, had very little of it, although it had, what the Collector calls, a record year for shortness of water-supply, and the Collector rightly thinks this was due to the wide distribution, in good time, of permanganate of potash for the disinfection of wells at the expense of the Local Board. Mr. Hudson deserves credit for his forethought and prompt action in this respect. Malaria in Kanára carried off as many as 5,000 persons. It was checked somewhat by the Travelling Dispensaries in the most malarious parts—Supa and Yellápur. In other respects the public health was good. Small-pox prevailed in Bijápur, Belgaum and Kanára. Its ravages were much reduced in Kanára by the large number of vaccinations with the aid of the Lanoline lymph. The distribution of quinine through the existing agencies—School-masters and Post-masters—has done some good in Kanára. The other reports are silent as to the use made of this system and also of the Lanoline lymph. The annual recurrence of plague has taught the people to seek refuge in evacuation, which they consider better than any other remedy.

5. *Fodder and Cattle*.—The supply of fodder was very scarce throughout the Karnatic Districts. Forest grass was supplied and sold at fixed or reduced prices or in lieu of tagai, and in Bijápur and Dhárwár kadbi was also imported from the Nizam's Territory and Mysore. The rayats in Belgaum were at first unwilling to buy forest grass, but when all other resources came to an end, all the forest grass was eagerly bought. In Bijápur out of 25 lakhs imported 11 lakhs of grass was sold, the demand not having been properly gauged. In Dhárwár all the grass imported was consumed. Besides this, forest and waste lands were thrown open everywhere. The black soil cattle are not used to forest grass, which accounts for the small sales in Bijápur and Dhárwár. In Dhárwár and Belgaum green leaves of nimb and other trees were used as fodder.

Not only were the surplus and unserviceable cattle in Belgaum sold for nominal prices owing to the inability of the rayats to feed them, but even useful cattle were parted with. In Bijápur a large number was also sent off to the Moglai for grazing. The want of agricultural cattle was felt when the sowing season began, and the hire of a plough with a pair of oxen rose to three times the normal rate of 8 to 12 annas a day. Provision was made to replenish losses by grants of tagai. Mr. Hudson observes that 10 per cent. of the plough cattle have disappeared in the last five years, but that the total cultivated area has contracted owing to losses by plague, and that therefore no heroic efforts seem necessary to restore the balance.

*Cattle Disease*.—There was no cattle disease in Belgaum. In Bijápur some rinderpest appeared in March; and, in Hubli it was checked by inoculation. There was a serious outbreak of rinderpest in Panvel, Karjat and Khálápur and there were in all 966 deaths.

6. *Emigration and Immigration*.—Hard times have made the rayat less home-loving and more enterprising, and he now, at the first sight of distress, betakes himself to tracts more favoured than his own. The Bijápur rayat thus goes so far afield as distant Khándesh and Berars and the Belgaum rayat seeks the Moglai. The emigration in Bijápur rose to the figure of 15,000 and is ascribed more to the fodder famine than to high prices of grain. There was a large emigration from the eastern tracts of Dhárwár to the neighbouring parts of the Nizam's country, Madras and Mysore, where the crops were fair. The stringency of the South African Immigration Act has somewhat thwarted the emigration of the enterprising Mahomedans of Kolába and Ratnágiri in that direction, and owing to reduced gains and artificial restrictions some of the old emigrants have wound up their business in Africa and returned to India. An exceptionally large exodus (312,200) of labourers took place from Ratnágiri to

Bombay, where there was an unusually large demand for labour. Immigration occurred only in Dhárwár and to some extent in Kánara from the adjoining famine-affected tracts.

7. *Industrial Enterprise and Trade.*—The Gokák mills continued to do good business. The cotton crop having failed, the factories in Athni were generally not working during the year, and this was the case everywhere else. The improved hand-loom in Bijápur was in several places popular. The three dairies are reported to be doing a fair trade. The Southern Maratha Spinning Mills in Hubli had a slack time. A factory for extracting aloe fibre has been started in Gadag. Three different Companies have Kerosine Oil Installations in Dhárwár, Hubli, Gadag and Byádgi. The important industries in Kánara are agriculture and exploitation of forest produce. The former remains in its primitive state and land is here and there being thrown up. The latter is being extended and affords an increasing supply of work to those who need it. At the same time, the Kunbi Marattas and other poorer classes are taking more to regular cultivation. A saw-mill worked by steam power has been established in Yellápur by a local banker. Factories on a small scale of gulál and cocoanut oil are working. The extension of the Madras Railway to Mangalore has opened a new market for timber. The Supa coffee plantation has turned out a failure and the proprietor, Mr. Morey, now wishes to try a mango plantation. The land has been given for a coffee plantation only, and according to the conditions of the original grant the mango plantation is not permissible, except on a fresh application to and the sanction of Government. In Ratnágiri and Kolába there is nothing to report under this head except perhaps the quarrying at Elephanta and Alibág, Elephanta alone employing 3,000 to 4,000 workers. The prospects of agricultural expansion being limited in Ratnágiri and there being a large demand for skilled labour in Bombay, there is a great opportunity for technical schools, of which there are already three in the District.

*Mining.*—Manganese mining has been commenced on a small scale in Belgaum and Dhárwár; it is understood that its prospects are good and that it will be extended. Several applications are under consideration. Gold mining in Dhárwár is proceeding apace; the area leased for the purpose during the year was 1,617 acres and 5 gunthas, the total now amounting to 4,170 acres and 33 gunthas. The area under prospecting licenses (gold) rose from 12,538 to 12,691 acres, one new license having been given during the year and 9 renewed. Mr. Graham notes that the gold mines in Gadag, though reported to be full of promise, are still in their infancy and that one of the Companies is to start crushing in January 1907 and after that we shall have a clearer idea of what is likely to happen. The Swadeshi movement is said to have benefited hand-loom weavers in Belgaum and Bijápur and to have rendered relief by Government to weavers in Bijápur unnecessary. Its effect in Belgaum on foreign sugar was marked. Everywhere it does not seem to have done any appreciable good and has not yet gone beyond the stage of talk.

8. *Education.*—New primary schools were opened in all the Districts with the additional grants allowed by Government. The prevalence of famine and the outbreak of plague retarded progress in Belgaum. In Bijápur, notwithstanding a large emigration, the number of schools and their attendance rose owing to absence of plague. Cultivators are still backward in education and female education has not made sufficient headway. Mr. Painter says that the cultivators in his charge, in consequence of a large proportion of them being able to read and write, are less at the mercy of the Sawkar and the village accountant than elsewhere. This is a result devoutly to be wished for, but something more than ability to read and write is required. This may prevent him being grossly imposed upon, but it will not enable him to get a loan on better terms than the security he can give will justify. It may enable him to know when a Village Officer is making illegal demands, but it does not give him the strength of mind to refuse them. When education teaches the people to exercise more forethought and self-restraint, then it will improve their position. Mr. Yennemadi complains of the absence of teaching right conduct in primary schools, which he thinks cannot be secured without raising the status and pay of the teachers. Mr. Moghe complains of the neglect of physical education. Mahommedan education is backward everywhere. It is hoped

the Anjuman-e-Islam started by Mr. Koreishi at Alibág will give an impetus to education among Mahommedans in that District. Nothing has been said about the similar institutions started at Bijápur at the time of His Majesty's Coronation. Two Katkari schools were opened in Khálápur; but they cannot be kept up without doles of rice. The private evening school opened at Neral is attended by about 20 or 30 pupils of all castes and is a hopeful sign. The presence of some Katkari children in the upper standards in some schools is a satisfactory feature. Mr. Koreishi would have Maratha instead of Brahmin teachers to increase attendance at schools. The School of Industry at Ratnágiri is doing good work, and there are also two minor technical schools in the District. Mr. Mensinkai advocates free education, but this would have the immediate effect of reducing the number of masters, and therefore probably of closing some schools, and, as very poor children are already admitted free, this would seem neither to be practicable nor specially called for. The suggestion of Mr. Kalghatgi to open agricultural and industrial schools and to give free education up to certain standards in primary schools would seem to be more feasible. It may be found that parents could be induced thus to send their children to school, and keep them after they rose to the classes for which they would have to pay fees. A complaint comes from Belgaum and Dhárwár that the price of the new vernacular series of readers and Longman's copy books which pupils are compelled to use is too high and that popular feeling towards them is not very favourable.

9. *Tagai*.—Owing to an unfavourable year tagai was advanced freely. As was to be expected, substantial cultivators came forward more eagerly to take advantage of the cheap labour rates; while at the same time, their less fortunate brethren had to be helped with money for seed, cattle and subsistence. The heaviest disbursements were in Dhárwár, where Rs. 2,37,655 were advanced. This afforded considerable relief and obviated the necessity of opening relief works. In Bijápur and Belgaum the grants amounted to Rs. 1,74,475 and Rs. 79,102 respectively. In the Coast Districts where the system is not so popular, and the need was not great, the transactions were limited, except in Kánara where Rs. 42,472 were disbursed against Rs. 20,717 last year, owing to failure of crops in Haliyál and Mundgod. In these Districts the amounts advanced have not been large and recoveries are made with ease. In the above-ghát Districts, where the system is yearly gaining in popularity, the collection of outstandings is being constantly retarded by bad years; and large arrears are accumulating. During the year under report, there were Rs. 1,71,163 postponed for recovery in Belgaum, Rs. 8,62,213 (inclusive of arrears) in Bijápur, and Rs. 91,044 in Dhárwár. On 1st August 1906 the total outstandings (inclusive of suspensions) were:—

		Land Improve- ment Loans,	Agriculturists' Loans.	Total
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Belgaum	...	6,87,518	1,61,192	8,48,710
Bijápur	...	*	*	9,15,134
Dhárwár	...	1,27,714	43,990	1,71,704

\* These details are not available.

These are exclusive of the recoveries (Belgaum Rs. 24,792, Bijápur Rs. 1,65,733, Dhárwár Rs. 61,230) made during the year. In spite of unfavourable conditions to contend against, the Collector of Bijápur was able to recover a large amount. In view of the still very large outstandings, however, he has proposed a remission of Rs. 2,00,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the proposal is now before Government. Similarly in Belgaum, the Collector has submitted proposals for a remission of Rs. 1,00,845 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act; but they have been referred back to him for further information. It is to be hoped that with the return of better times, such as the present season augurs, there will be no necessity for any further remissions.

In a year of famine, with large advances of tagai, it is difficult to prevent altogether misapplication of the funds; but the Collectors, except Mr. Hudson, are satisfied that, on the whole, they were fairly well utilized. Mr. Hudson states misapplication of tagai was common; but he took prompt steps to check it. Mr. Graham states such cases were rare: Mr. Painter says they were frequent:

and Mr. Moghe found 13 cases. Land Improvement Loans required more checking, and every effort should in their case be made to reduce the misapplication to a minimum: and this, with the strengthened Circle Inspectors' staff, the Mámlatdárs and the Sub-Divisional Officers should not find difficult to do.

In one táluka of Bijápur, the tagai borrowers carried out the works themselves, treating the loan as wages. So long as the stipulated work is duly carried out and the wages do not, as observed by Mr. Bomanji, exceed the normal rates, there need be no objection to such a course.

10. *Famine Relief.*—The nature of the season as it affected each District has already been described above. Broadly speaking, the monsoon was both insufficient and unseasonable. As a consequence, both the kharif and rabi suffered. Famine conditions obtained only in East Belgaum and the whole of Bijápur. Though Dhárwár and north-east of Kánara had a bad year, conditions did not reach a famine point. Here and elsewhere people were able to pull through with the very liberal grants of suspensions and remissions, and tagai loans, and by emigration to distant parts in search of labour. In Dhárwár repairs to 2nd class irrigation tanks, which, at the instance of the Collector, were more freely taken up, coupled with the ordinary Local Board works in progress as well as the very large number of tagai works carried out in the District, provided almost all the work required. In March a test work was opened in the more affected area of Nargund, but as it did not fill—the able-bodied having largely emigrated—there was no necessity for converting it into a relief work; and it was closed in the last week of June. Gratuitous relief had to be granted, though on a small scale. The recipients never numbered more than 68 under section 146 and 102 under section 158 of the Famine Code. In Belgaum and Bijápur, test works were opened early in December, and when found to fill, were either converted into, or replaced by, regular relief works in January and February. Gratuitous relief under sections 146 and 158 was already being given (the past year 1904-05 was one of scarcity) and had now to be extended. The largest number of works at any time open during the year was 8 in Bijápur and 4 in Belgaum. The maximum daily average attendance thereon (including dependents) was 12,648 in June in the former and 10,922 in July in the latter. The recipients of gratuitous relief reached their highest numbers (8,512—5,030) in the two Districts in June and April respectively.

	Suspensions.	Remissions.	
Belgaum ...	5,54,879	38,092	Relief in the shape of very liberal sus-
Bijápur ...	9,74,000	1,60,000	pensions and remissions of Land Revenue
Dhárwár ...	13,18,375	1,04,101	was granted throughout the Division,
Kánara ...	59,477	1,519	Kolába excepted, as shown in the margin.
Ratnágiri ...	52,081	Nil.	With a scanty rainfall, the water-supply

suffered, especially in Bijápur, Belgaum and Dhárwár and the Haliyál Táluka and Mundgod Petha of Kánara. Special grants were made by Government for its improvement in Bijápur (Rs. 16,100) and Kanára (Rs. 1,100), while in Belgaum and Dhárwár the District Boards did the needful. The scarcity of fodder has already been dwelt upon under "Cattle". A special detailed report on the administration of famine will be submitted in due course. Suffice to say that the relief operations since closed have been generally successful. Unlike its predecessor, the present season has been a propitious one and a good, if not a bumper, harvest is expected, except perhaps in the rice tracts in Dhárwár.

#### Extracts]

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

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

#### *Wages.*

Labour.	Skilled.			Ordinary.			Field.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
From July to December 1905 ...	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	3	0
From January to July 1906 ...	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	2	6

There were no variations in the rates of wages both skilled and unskilled (8 annas skilled and 4 annas ordinary and 3 annas field labour). The field labourers got on very well, and rates of famine wages on test works being low, did not attract any ordinary labourers, except the Gokak Canal Extension work which was started under special rates.

BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

The following table shows the average prices of labour in this district:—

Year.	Wages per day.		Cart per day.	Pack bullock per day.
	Skilled.	Unskilled.		
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1904-05 ... ..	0 13 3	0 4 4	0 14 0	0 4 3
1905-06 ... ..	0 13 3	0 4 6	0 13 6	0 4 3
More ... ..	.....	0 0 2	.....	.....
Less ... ..	.....	.....	0 0 6	.....

The fluctuations do not call for any remarks. The information which is usually supplied by the Mámlatdárs for wages is for labour of 1st sort, 2nd sort and 3rd sort under each of the two heads "skilled" and "unskilled", and the figures given above represent the average of the rates for labour of 1st sort for the several Tálukas. The average rates for unskilled labour of 2nd and 3rd sorts during the year were Re. 0-3-2 and Re. 0-2-0 as compared with Re. 0-3-4 and Re. 0-2-4 respectively in 1904-05. The reduction in wages was due to famine. Labour was very cheap till April and May when the usual preparations prior to kharif sowing have to be put through. The early rainfall in June proved seasonable for sowing. A larger area than usual has been put under the kharif crops so as to get grain in hand early in the season. These causes have tended to raise the price of labour to its normal level at the end of the year.

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

The condition of the able-bodied day labourers continued fair throughout the famine. From a wage of 3½ annas before the famine they continued to earn 2 annas per day to the end of the famine on certain private works, by working half a day and doing full a full day's task. The Southern Mahratta Railway helped us much in importing food-grains from the Moglai and other parts and grass from abroad.

K. G. Kalghatgi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Owing to famine the wages for field labour were considerably reduced and the well-to-do people took advantage of it and employed many labourers in eradicating weeds from fields, and in throwing dams along the boundaries of their fields.

DHARWAR DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Unskilled labour continued to secure the same money wages as usual, *i. e.*, three (sometimes four), two and one annas for a man, woman, and child, but of course their purchasing power was less, while the demand for agricultural labour was small.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

At present about one thousand coolies are working in the mines. Some labour is supplied locally, but the majority of the underground labourers are imported, and more Tamil is to be heard than Canarese. Good wages are paid and the coolie who is willing to do his eight hours underground can earn from eight to twelve annas per day. At present this high rate of wages has not



much affected the agricultural coolie of the surrounding villages, but ultimately there is no doubt that the rayat will find the price of labour seriously increased, and the enhanced cost of cultivation will not bring any corresponding advantage to him. Even now, the rate of wages is higher than in other talukás, but I attribute this fact to the opportunities for obtaining work at good wages in the Gadag factories. On ordinary field works the coolie demands and gets four annas a day.

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Prices of labour fell in the rural parts. But in the towns wages remained almost normal, the supply being more than sufficient to meet the demand. Except in the Hubli Taluka, agricultural labour had little demand at harvest time. But it was largely employed on improvement of lands made at the cost of private capital and tagai. In the Malnad, however, labour was employed chiefly on grass cutting and other forest operations, as well as on the irrigation works at practically normal rates.

KANARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

There was no marked change in the wages paid for skilled and unskilled labour. Skilled labour consists of carpentry, masonry and the like. Even in these branches it cannot be said that local men possess any remarkable skill, carpenters from Goa and masons from Ratnágiri being largely employed in the construction of buildings.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

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

*Prices for labour.*

	Skilled labour.			Unskilled labour.			Field labour.			Cart hire.			Machawa rent.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Pen ... ..	0	14	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	12	0	5	0	0
Panvel ... ..	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	12	0	5	0	0
Karjat ... ..	0	12	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	12	0	.....		
Nágothna ... ..	0	12	0	4 to 5 annas			0	3	0	0	12	0	4	0	0
Uran ... ..	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	8	0
Khálápur ... ..	0	8	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	12	0	.....		

I question the figures supplied by Mámlatdárs and Mahálkaris. I find that it is the common practice to pay agricultural labourers by giving them food and half an anna or an anna in cash. This means about two and a half annas for men and two annas for women. I believe the normal cash wage is three annas rising in busy seasons to four annas.

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

There has been no appreciable rise in the wages. Skilled labour continued to earn ten annas to a rupee per day, though the latter rate was rare. Unskilled labour obtained four, and field labour three annas a day. Field labourers had a brisk market during the transplantation season. As this temporary rise was only an adjustment of demand and supply, it was not accompanied by any increase of efficiency in the labour. One notable feature in the matter of field labour is the mutual co-operation with which cultivators proper help each other at the time of transplantation without any payment whatever.

RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

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

Wages were about normal or slightly above it. It is probably due to the large exodus from the District to Bombay that a great fall in wages did not occur. The rise does not betoken increased efficiency. It merely increases the cost of cultivation.

*(b) Migration.*

## BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

A number of persons from Native States came on to the relief works at Murgod and Shedbal and people from affected parts of Athni, Gokak, Parasgad, etc., emigrated to the Nizam's Dominions and neighbouring districts where they got employment at the rabi harvest. Most have now returned.

G. H. Cowan, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Coolies from the south of Parasgad have emigrated in considerable numbers to the Hubli and Ron Talukas of the Dhárwár District. In Hubli they got work mainly in the Railway works and mills: in Ron the work available was agricultural. This emigration is a little remarkable as the crops had failed in a large intervening area of the Dhárwár District and would seem to indicate that in a normal year the demand for labour must be considerably in excess of the supply.

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

There was no immigration in this Sub-division. About 10 or 11 per cent. of the population in Gokák Taluka emigrated to other places, such as Hubli, Haveri and other places in the Dhárwár District and to some places in the Mysore Territory with a view to earn their livelihood. About 6,000 emigrants, that is half the number, have returned to their homes to resume their field operations on the setting in of the south-west monsoon.

## BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

Owing to the periodical droughts to which this District is liable, people here are accustomed to go long distances for harvesting even in ordinary seasons. The surrounding Moglai Territory and even distant Khándesh and the Berars are the usual places to which they resort. The past monsoon, therefore, which witnessed a failure of crops almost complete, sent earlier in the season, and in much larger numbers than usual, crowds of people into the Moglai and other places for harvesting. A very important factor directing the movement was the facility of finding fodder for cattle in those tracts, which seems to have had a greater influence than the high price of grain. In fact the fodder famine was much more acute than the grain famine. The number of such emigrants was reported to be roughly 15,000 by the Mámlatdárs up to December 1905. There was not much immigration into the District except of people on their way to the Moglai and beyond. A small number from some of the surrounding Native States had come to the relief works opened in this District, and though work was promised them in their own States, they preferred to remain here and were allowed to do so; their number at no time exceeded 300.

W. O. Alecek, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The yearly emigration for labour is one of the characteristics of the economic condition of this District; but in the past season a large part of the male population went away, almost all to the Moglai. This was specially marked in the kharif areas: especially in Bádámi which is very largely kharif.

In parts of the District where rabi crops are mainly grown, the labourers are probably used to waiting longer (for the February harvest). Either for this reason or because the black or dark soils are known to lend themselves to weeding, digging by pickaxe, and embanking improvements, the labouring class did not emigrate so freely from the talukas where black soil preponderates.

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

There was no immigration. The emigration was however larger than in any of the previous years of scarcity. Roughly speaking, about two thousand people emigrated to the Moglai in search of food and labour. Most of them have returned now on account of good rains.

## DHARWAR DISTRICT.

C. W. M. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

The Gold Mines to a large extent have to fall back on imported labour for underground work: their supply is obtained chiefly from the Kolar Gold fields. There was a large temporary emigration from the eastern tracts to the neighbouring parts of the Nizam's country, Madras and Mysore, where the crops were fair. Bijápur sent us needy labourers where our crops were good. 500 of these penetrated so far south as Kod. I calculated that 8,000 people, nearly one-third the population, left the Nargund Petha: many of these found work in Ron, Navalgund south and Hubli. An occasional Bijápur family may settle here, but nearly all will go back just as nearly all our emigrants will return.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Neither immigration nor emigration was noticeable, unless we consider as emigrants agriculturists who went to Mysore or Kánara to graze their cattle, and about 500 Vaddars, always more or less peripatetic people, who went from Kod to Mysore.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Migration is no new feature in Nargund, though this year's emigration proceeded to a larger extent. It was difficult to get correct figures of emigrants; but we finally agreed that taking the Petha as a whole 35 per cent. of the population had emigrated. Excluding Nurgund Town, where there is an industrial population, and the river side villages on the Malaprabha from which there was practically no emigration, it is no exaggeration to state that the emigration figures for the rest of the Petha must have been nearly 60 per cent. By far the greater part of the emigrants went to Ron, some to Annigeri, and some to Hubli. The emigrations in Nargund are to be attributed perhaps more to the failure of the water-supply than of the crops.

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There was some emigration as usual in the rice harvesting season from the black soil tract to the Malnad. It continued later on also, in the hot weather when cattle had to be driven into forests for grazing and watering. People did not altogether leave the district; but they went for work to lands at short distances away from homes. There was no aimless wandering. There was no increase in the number of beggars. The emigrants returned to their homes in fair health by the first fall of rain in June.

## KANARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

Emigration there is none. The annual exodus of the below-ghat labourers to the spice gardens of the Ghat Talukas continues, but this is only for a few months in the year. Immigration likewise consists of labourers from Goa, South Kánara and the neighbouring Mysore territory.

P. B. Haigh, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There was no emigration. The immigration of labourers from below-ghats and South Kánara, to Sirsi and Siddápur, who return to their homes at the end of the fair season, took place as usual. There was a large influx of indigent persons from Dhárwár, Bijápur and the Deccan into Honáwar and the coast generally. The Mámlatdár of Honáwar estimates the number of these persons at 2,000.

## KOLABA DISTRICT.

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

This year there was a greater number of immigrant labourers early in the year owing to scarcity above ghats, and a smaller number latterly at the beginning of the rains owing to cholera here. The number of wandering people with no visible means of subsistence, ostensibly hawkers of small wares, fakirs, sadhus, beggars, cattle dealers, was greater than usual.

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

The more enterprising population who leave their homes for distant lands in South Africa in search of fortune are the Musalmans of the district. The Immigration Act has tended to set a limit to the number of such immigrants, and no appreciable increase in their number as well as their remittances has been reported during the year under report. On account of reduced gains and artificial restrictions, some of them have wound up their business and finally returned to India. Fifty-two new emigrants are reported to have gone out from the District and the total remittances do not seem to have exceeded Rs. 30,000 during the year. This flow of South African wealth has, to a certain extent, tended to add to the general prosperity of the community, to raise the standard of living amongst them and also to enhance the prices of land in their vicinity.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

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

In addition to those who sought work in Bombay, some few emigrated to South Africa. However, owing to the stringent regulations about immigration into South Africa, this field for expansion is now of diminishing importance.

N. B. Divatia, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Actual figures of emigration and immigration are not available, still it would not be inaccurate to say that the emigration during the year under report, in addition to the usual migration, was more extensive as compared with the previous year.

(c) *Education.*

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

During the year under report some new primary schools were opened in the district with the additional grants allotted by Government, but the prevalence of famine and the outbreak of plague retarded the progress of education in many places. Taking the District as a whole, there was some improvement in the matter of attendance and teaching. The agricultural population do not yet take much interest in education except in the largest and richest villages. There are complaints of the high price of the new series of Canarese and Maráthi Books which have been introduced into the primary schools.

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

During the year under report famine retarded the progress in education of the poor in the Athni Taluka and the eastern half of the Chikodi Taluka. Plague also was in some measure responsible therefor. The schools in Athni Town were not examined by the Educational Department during the year under report on account of plague. I examined 43 schools during my tour and found the work generally satisfactory. But I have to put forth that, as stated by me last year, the cultivating classes in this division do not evince any appreciable taste for education and some remedy to obviate this difficulty is quite expedient and, as a feasible measure, I would advocate free education.

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

Out of the additional grant allotted for primary education ten new schools were opened in this sub-division, one of which, the girls' private school at Hire Bágewádi, taluka Belgaum, which had been already in existence, was converted into a Government school. During the touring season I heard a general complaint against the dearness of prices of the new series of the Canarese and Maráthi reading books.

I inspected in all 76 schools including 8 private schools and was present at the examination of one school by one of the Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors. In almost all the schools I visited I found an improvement both in point of attendance and instruction or teaching. Much attention is paid now to the object lessons, Kindergarten system, and action songs, as well as drilling.

## BIJA'PUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

The famine which prevailed in the district during the year was responsible for large numbers of people emigrating to the Moglai and neighbouring British districts taking their children with them. In spite of this however there was marked progress in primary education owing chiefly to the comparative immunity from plague enjoyed by the district during the year. The number of schools increased from 295 to 387 and the attendance from 10,503 to 18,241, giving a percentage of nearly 2·5 to the total population against 1·5 of last year.

K. G. Kalghatgi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Being constantly visited by famines and scarcity, the agricultural population is generally in a depressed condition, and cannot afford to educate their children of school-going age without detriment to their occupation. Moreover it is not of any practical use to give them higher education. The belief of the majority of the agricultural population seems to be that education is only required for securing Government service. Government will simply be helpless if everybody tries to educate himself for getting Government employment. Education is required not only for Government service but for the better development of all other professions. To inculcate the principle in the minds of the ignorant mass, it seems desirable that Government should be pleased to open agricultural schools (one at least in every taluka) where the lower classes of people might send their children for being trained in their own craft. Elementary education (upto Vernacular Standard III) may be given them freely in the primary as well as in the Art Schools, and the scale of present fees may be raised for Vernacular Standard IV and onward in the case of those aspiring after higher education. The present scale of fees may be retained in the case of children of non-agricultural occupations.

## DHA'RWA'R DISTRICT.

C. W. M. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

It seems hardly likely that the present-day cultivator will go to the village school master for advice on agricultural matters, but his son may, and it may be the means of his using, say, artificial manures (bought perhaps with money borrowed from a Co-operative Credit Society) and adopting intensive methods of cultivation.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

I find the average villager here more literate than in any other district where I have served : whether this is a recent improvement or not I am unable to say. One of my Mámldárs says the ryot does not consider the present system of education suitable, but he fails to explain why ; another ascribes to our educational system the abuse of writing anonymous petitions, though I failed to see the justice of this quaint charge. I believe that the cultivators of these parts are, in consequence of a large proportion of them being able to read and write, less at the mercy of the Sáwkár and the village accountant than their less accomplished brethren in other districts, and this alone is a gain to them. There is as yet no call for technical education in this essentially rural area.

L. Graham, Esq., Assistant Collector.

During the touring season I visited 41 schools. The difference between schools supposed to be of the same grade was very striking. In some schools, notably at Abbigeri in Ron Taluka and Hulkoti and Mulgund in Gadag Taluka, the teaching was excellent and the work really good, while in the majority of schools the teaching seemed to be at fault and the performance of the boys was mere mimicry of their masters and rehearsal by rote of the prescribed books. Of specific education in Agriculture I saw practically nothing ; nor could I see any need of it. The boys who rise to the higher standards, in which alone specialistic education could be given, are not destined for agricultural pursuits. Though they may be land-holders they will not cultivate their lands themselves. On inquiry I found that the summit of the average schoolboy's ambition is to be a Sáwkár,

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The masses are uneducated and the effect of instruction given in schools on the general well-being of the rayat is still inappreciable. There are yet many who cannot even read the entries in their receipt books. Mr. Moghe visited a number of primary schools in the sub-division and he found the popular feelings in towns towards the new Vernacular Series not very favourable. Female education and that of the backward classes is receiving more attention. Bad housing of schools in villages and neglect of physical education are the prominent defects which cannot escape notice. In Dhárwar Town extensive buildings are being erected for the Male and Female Training Colleges, the Lingayat Hall, and the Karnatic Vidya Vardhaka Sangha.

KÁ'NARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

The number of primary schools has increased by 28 during the year, there being 229 this year against 201 of the last year. The number of boys in attendance increased from 9,838 to 10,188 and of girls from 1,321 to 1,395. There is thus a slight improvement; but looking to the population of the District much more is still to be desired. Houses in Kánara are not contiguous; each family lives on its own lands. The establishment of convenient schools except in towns is not therefore possible. This explains the comparatively small attendance. Female education is still backward. In spite of extra grants from Government to Municipalities, in spite of my personal advice and interest, in spite of the exertions of the Educational authorities, the condition of the girls' schools is not what it should be. I inspected a large number of schools when on tour, and specially advised influential persons of the locality to take interest in matters educational. The school *panch* were made to understand their duties and masters encouraged. There are no agricultural classes in rural schools.

P. B. Haigh, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Above gháts the attitude of the people towards education is apathetic. The girls' school at Kumta is well managed and well attended.

V. D. Yennemadi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The education which the cultivating classes have long been receiving does not appear to have contributed much towards the amelioration of their condition. Those among the literate who have failed to secure any kind of employment in the service of Government are more inclined to be engaged in fostering and managing litigation than in taking better care of their hereditary professions. I have come across many literate villagers who are better versed in legal quibbles than in agriculture or other useful industry. Intelligence is no doubt growing steadily among all classes, but it seems to flow in a wrong direction. The necessity for effective arrangements for impressing on young minds the principles of right conduct in primary schools cannot be overrated. This cannot be done unless the status of the school masters is raised and services of better men utilized. No good results can be expected from low paid school masters. Better scale of pay seems absolutely necessary to make the primary education a real success.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

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

Rural education is in rather a backward state at present. The villagers are poor, and the poorest of them cannot afford to keep their children at school when they might be assisting in field work or tending cattle. In all the larger villages I visited which were without schools the villagers appeared to be anxious to have them started, but were seldom willing to provide a substantial building. Considering their condition, I think it would be well to establish schools, even where the people can only provide a temporary building, where they are anxious for it. During the year 16 new schools were opened—5 in Panwel, 3 each in Khálápur, Pen and Karjat and 2 in Nagothna. Mahomedan

education is very backward, largely on account of the lack of properly trained teachers, partly on account of factions and partly on account of the inherent difficulties of the question. This is true even of the large towns. It is to be hoped that the establishment of the Anjuman-e-Islam will arouse a more vigorous and practical interest in education among the Musalmans of the large villages and towns. Two Katkari schools were started in Khálipur Mahál. A fairly large number came, but cannot be kept unless doles of rice are given for their subsistence. Anglo-Vernacular education in Pen is very good. There is a five-standard Municipal school with about 150 pupils, and the Pen Educational Society runs a VI and VII standard school with about 60 or 70 pupils. There is a proposal being discussed just now that a VII standard high school should be established there. In Panwel the Anglo-Vernacular School is in a very bad condition. The staff is being reorganised and partially replaced.

In Uran and Karjat there are private schools, and in Neral I was greatly interested to find an evening private school conducted in a private house with about 20 or 30 boys of all castes, apparently learning eagerly and quickly. The school is conducted by a teacher from Thána or Kalyan two hours a night. I think it would be well if Government Anglo-Vernacular schools were established at Uran and Karjat.

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

There are three Municipal and Local Board village schools in the sub-division. The agricultural population is not alive to the advantage of these schools, and if the condition of the agricultural classes is to be improved educationally, a change in their treatment seems imperative. Last year I made a suggestion that a Marátha instead of a Bráhmin or a Prabhu teacher in a village school may do more good and, perhaps, successfully help forward the cause of education amongst his own fellow-men. I am submitting a separate report on the practicability of obtaining more Marátha teachers for the village schools by extending to them small concessions which are, I believe, granted to them in other parts of the Presidency.

The Musalmans are still as bad as ever in point of education. The Urdu schools are more or less in a hopeless condition and I hope early steps would be taken to improve them. The presence of some Katkari and Mahár children in the upper standards in some schools was a satisfactory feature in the history of education amongst the most backward classes in rural areas.

#### RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Maconochie, Esq., Collector.

The increased grant made by Government has enabled the District Local Board to open several new schools. It is a great pity that the head-masters of high schools are not Englishmen. If this were so the effect on the rising generation would be excellent, and feelings of mutual sympathy and respect between the two races would be engendered which would bear good fruit in the future. This is one of the best means of a "rapprochement".

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

During the year under report satisfactory progress has been made in educational matters. The additional grant made by Government enabled several new schools to be opened. Others could have been started, but the Educational Department reported that no more masters were available. The cultivating classes do not show much interest in education. They need their children during the monsoon, and even after the cultivating season is over they are indifferent about sending their children to school.

There are two technical schools in the Dápoli táluka. The average attendance at these schools was as follows:—

			1904-05.	1905-06.
Wákaoli	...	...	... 36.8	31.7
Dápoli	...	...	... 4.5	6.5

There has been no progress this year. The district is well suited to technical education, but advance is slow.

This year owing to the increased grant from Government new schools were opened in two villages in the sub-division. The agricultural classes as a rule do not yet show much desire for education. They do not send their children to school at all during the cultivating season as they are wanted to work. I see no prospect of inducing those classes to send their children to school except by gradually increasing the number of schools and extending the system of free education in the lower standards.

Mention must be made of the School of Industry, Ratnágiri. This school is of importance as the chief means in the district of spreading technical education. The prospects of agricultural expansion are so limited that this district affords great scope for technical education.

N. B. Divatia, Esq., Assistant Collector.

This district is specially favoured in point of education, possessing a larger number of schools than many other districts. The backward classes get a fair share of the boon of education, but female education is sadly behind-hand in the race. A large majority of local cess payers being Bráhmín land-holders, the test based on this ground will be fallacious as regards spread of education amongst cultivating classes. However, the average Kunbi, Bhandári and the like is better equipped with the rudiments of education here than in other districts. In primary schools the great want is the improvement of the teaching staff in qualification and number.

(d) *Contumacy.*

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

No cases of contumacy with regard to the payment of land-revenue by well-to-do holders were reported during the year under report, but it is my experience that well-to-do middle-class persons, and especially sharers in the Pátíki and Kulkarniki Watans, are the slowest to pay their dues.

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

Contumacy as regards the payment of Government dues is not noticeable in this sub-division to any material extent. It is the Pandharpeshas who do not sometimes pay their dues promptly.

BLA'EUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

In spite of liberal suspension and remissions instances of contumacy on the part of prosperous landlords were noticed in almost all tálukas. In some villages a penalty under Section 148 of the Land Revenue Code was levied from the village officers for not paying the amounts due from them in time and in some they had to be roused by departmental action. As usual they are the last to pay regardless of the yield they get.

RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

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

In certain coast villages such as Ladghar, Murud, Velas and Kelshi great difficulty was found in collecting the land-revenue. The inhabitants had suffered loss to their bagáyat crops and hoped for general suspension. The refractory people were mostly Bráhmíns, Bhandáris, Wánis, etc. They were well able to pay but made the loss to their gardens a pretext for withholding payment. In Kelshi and Velas notices and attachment of property had the desired effect; but in Murud and Ladghar the matter is not yet settled. The people were not generally contumacious in payment of land-revenue.



## II.—Inspection.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The tours of District Officers were well arranged, but the circumstances of the season were such that method had to give way to the exigencies of the moment. Second and third visits to villages out of the line of tour had to be made to ensure efficiency of revenue recovery and in connection with the Record-of-Rights work. Mr. Brown, Collector of the Panch Maháls, who joined the district on the 15th November, was not able unfortunately to begin touring till half-way through December: his kit did not arrive from Belgaum, and a tour through the Rewa Kántha Agency prevented his tour in the Panch Maháls District from being fuller.

The Jamábandi Settlement was completed in all tálukas by the prescribed date (15th March) except in Bassein, which the Collector of Thána did not complete till the 9th April for reasons explained by Mr. Anderson. Except in the Valod Mahál in Surat District, at which it was performed at two camps, it was done everywhere from three or more camps.

The details of crops and boundary-mark inspection are not given by all reporting officers, and those who have furnished details have not done so in a uniform way. I have however in my office the statements appended to the monthly diaries submitted to me. Under both heads Mr. Tupper's record in Ahmedabad is high; it is beaten in the matter of boundary-marks only by Mr. N. L. Desai, District Deputy Collector of Surat. Mr. Wiles, I. C. S., Assistant Collector, Panch Maháls, has the lowest outturn. Wherever the Record-of-Rights was in progress, the boundary-marks inspection was suspended, and officers who were in charge of such tálukas are not without excuse, but it is significant that Mr. Tupper, who had the record of the large and important táluka of Daskroi to supervise, and his supervision was thorough, was able to do as much as he did. Mr. Cama, Assistant Collector, Thána, gives an instance of slack work—a Survey Number within sight of the Sháhápúr Táluka Kacheri entirely built over by substantial building years ago but still shown as cultivated with a rice crop. It is hoped that the practice to which he refers of entire reliance on the Sud register for the compilation of the Crop Register is not as common as he infers, and that, if it is, the Collector and his sub-divisional officers will take strong measures to repress the habit.

As regards the condition of boundary-marks, Messrs. Gordon (Ahmedabad), Turner (Broach) and Cama (Thána) make disparaging remarks. The subject has already attracted attention and it is hoped neglect of these marks will no longer continue and any one whose duty it is to see that they are maintained will be suitably dealt with for neglect of the duty. The energy with which boundary-mark inspection and replacement was undertaken in the Surat District is praiseworthy. The contract system adopted in this district has apparently worked very satisfactorily and, as reflecting to the credit of the cultivators, the information is given by Mr. Kissan that cultivators readily buy stones and khunts from the contractor and place them in themselves. Mr. Kissan's remarks are also pertinent that the number of boundary-marks is excessive. In this opinion he has been anticipated. What is brought out by the commenting officers is that the time has come for a complete revulsion of feeling towards this duty on the part of all concerned, from the highest to the lowest.

*Destruction of useless records.*—Useless revenue papers have been destroyed up to the year 1902-03 in all the tálukas of the Division except Kápadvanj, in which táluka they were destroyed upto 1901-02. But the same uniformity is not to be found in the destruction of the useless Magisterial papers, for in Ahmedabad and in certain tálukas of the Surat District records upto 1904 have been destroyed while in other Sub-divisional offices they have been destroyed up to 1903 and in some cases up to the year 1902 only. No explanation has been given by the Sub-divisional officers, nor has Mr. Wiles offered any reason for the omission in Godhra. The attention of the Collectors concerned will be

drawn to the matter and the sub-divisional officers will be asked to destroy Magisterial papers upto 1905 in the year 1906-07 with instructions to explain the reason where they have not been able to carry out the suggestion. What is of still more importance is careful supervision when papers are destroyed. I regret to observe that I found in the Kaira District that papers emphatically not to be destroyed had been destroyed. The worst cases were in the Mehmedabad Táluka. It was before Mr. Husbands, Assistant Collector, had charge.

*Indexing of records.*—The only officers who have reported at length in obedience to the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 72, dated 8th January 1906, Financial Department, are Messrs. Doderet, Tupper, Gordon, Hodiwala, Master, Cama, and Westropp. Generally in Collectors' offices the work, both as regards the English and Vernacular records, is attended to, though in Surat the clerk sanctioned for the indexing of records has been otherwise employed in recent years and the work has fallen into arrears. The Collector has separately represented the matter and Government will be addressed. In Sub-divisional Offices and in the offices of Mamlatdárs both the English and Vernacular records are in a state the reverse of satisfactory so far as indexing is concerned.

All the tálukas and maháls of the Districts were visited and the examination of the táluka accounts was effected in accordance with the instructions given at pages 119 and 120 of the Manual of Revenue Accounts. Nothing of importance was found. Mr. Husbands reports that the Mehmedabad Kacheri, however, was much in arrears with its correspondence.

All the Huzur Account Offices except Kaira were examined by Collectors during the year. Mr. Wood has not explained the omission in Kaira.

The Chief Constable's and Sub-registry Offices were examined by all the officers, except Mr. Wiles, who did not examine the latter.

Mr. Cama is the only officer who had taken up two rent suits in relief of Mamlatdárs. Mr. Hodiwala and Mr. Turner had taken up cases but the cases had to be returned for the convenience of the parties.

Messrs. Gordon, Bagnell, Turner and Cama respectively took up 20 per cent., 3, 1 and 12 criminal cases. In addition Mr. Bagnell tried numerous cases of Bhils under Regulation XII of 1827. This Regulation has hitherto been of very great help in placing a check upon people addicted to crop-stealing and crop-burning.

*Circle Books.*—In Ahmedabad the work of filling up circle-books is well advanced in the tálukas of Daskroi, Prántij, Viramgám, Dhandhuka and Modása Mahál, while it is behind-hand in Sánand and Dholka Tálukas and Gogha Mahál. In Surat they were compiled up to 1903-04 except in Chorási and Mandvi where they were completely filled in upto 1904-05. The arrears of one year's entries in 6 tálukas were due to the táluka papers having been sent to the Huzúr for audit purposes. In Kalyán, Sháhápúr, and Murbád Tálukas the work is done up to 1903-04 and is reported to have been satisfactory.

Famine and successive bad years kept the hands of Circle Inspectors otherwise full, but as normal times have returned it is expected that the work of compiling the circle-books will be carried on with full vigour and brought up to date.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

The usual details as to amount of inspection performed are not in all cases given. In some cases it cannot be gathered from the reports whether a second inspection of each Mamlatdár's kacheri was made. In the scarcity districts other work had necessarily to be subordinated to famine work. Subject to these remarks the tours performed by the Collectors and their Assistants and Deputies and the routine inspection performed were sufficient except in one or two instances where the cause of insufficiency is satisfactorily explained. No information as to the progress made in the destruction of useless records and in

the sorting and indexing of records has been given for the Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára Districts. The work of destruction appears to have progressed fairly in the Khándesh District and the work of sorting and indexing received the special attention of 4 out of the 5 Sub-Divisional officers in this district. The amount of work done by the temporary clerk entertained in the Khándesh Collector's office was also fairly good. In Násik the only arrears in the work of destruction noticed by Mr. Moore were the Magisterial records of the Peint Táluka, but the various gaps in the statement submitted by him would seem to show that there are arrears elsewhere also. In Sholápur the work of sorting and indexing is progressing under the special establishment sanctioned by Government. The District Deputy Collector also took prompt steps for the arrangement of the records in the Táluka offices in his charge, though much could not be achieved on account of pressure of famine work.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

*Huzúr Account Offices.*—The accounts of all the treasuries in the Division were examined by the Collectors during the year and no serious irregularities were found.

*General Inspection.*—The inspection work done by the Collectors and the Sub-Divisional Officers was, looking to the exceptional circumstances of the year, on the whole, sufficient, and satisfactory.

In Bijápur, a systematic tour was not practicable on account of famine which also limited the inspection mostly to matters connected with famine relief administration. Mr. Graham in Dhárwár could not inspect the Mahál office of Mundargi a second time, his programme having been dislocated by the scarcity in Nargund. In Kánara, Mr. Haigh failed to make a second inspection of the Bhatkal Mahál office for which no explanation is forthcoming.

In Kolába, the Collector was wholly unable to make anything like an organized tour, and spent little of his time in the southern parts. He had to spend a long time at Mátherán to start the new Municipality and relieve the Karjat Mámlatdár of magisterial work, to set him free for the Record-of-Rights work. Mr. MacMillan has worked very well and intelligently, and if his routine inspection is not very large it is because he had other important work to do. I do not agree with his remarks as to rayats' receipt books; the knowledge that the Kul Rujvat takes place is useful. In Ratnágiri, the Collector reports that he was not able to visit any of the four southern tálukas, or any of the Petha offices, owing to Mr. Kabraji's illness in November and December 1905 and change of Collectors in March 1906.

Mundangad remained unvisited a second time by Mr. Garrett for want of time. His tour began late as he attended the Survey and Agricultural course at Poona during the year. The attention of the Collectors and the Sub-Divisional Officers will be invited to the orders contained in Government letter No. 1455 of 20th February 1905 on the subject.

The Collectors have recorded the following remarks about the inspection work of the Sub-Divisional Officers. In Belgaum, Mr. Mensinkai moved actively. Mr. Cowan took much interest in measures of famine relief and carefully inspected the works in his charge. The Collector does not offer any remarks on Mr. Artal's inspection work. In Bijápur, Mr. Bhide did a very creditable amount of inspection and moved actively throughout his charge. Mr. Kalghatgi had the most affected táluka and his inspection of famine works was careful and judicious. Mr. Alcock did a very creditable amount of inspection, visiting all parts of his charge, several villages twice and even oftener.

*In Dhárwár.*—Mr. Graham's work was very satisfactory. Mr. Moghe disposed of 1,950 heirship inquiries in relief of Mámlatdárs. Mr. Hudson writes: "Mr. Moghe's plan of doing heirship cases at Jamábandi is one that might be more generally followed. He has been active in his movements and has worked assiduously and very well." The Collector does not comment on Mr. Painter's inspection work.

*In Kánara.*—The Collector was satisfied with the work of Mr. Haigh who is said to have shown commendable energy and activity. R. B. Yennimadi has travelled actively and has performed a very creditable amount of inspection work.

*In Kolába.*—Mr. MacMillan was out in camp for a very long time altogether. Mr. Koreishi has been active and has done a great amount of routine inspection.

*In Ratnágiri.*—Mr. Garrett had a busy tour and hard work and has taken pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances of his Sub-Division. Messrs. Divatia and Patwardhan were out in camp for 200 days altogether and performed a sufficient amount of inspection.

*Destruction of Vernacular Revenue Records.*—The work has been brought up to 1904-05 in seven offices of the Ratnágiri District and up to 1903-04 in two offices of the same, and four of Kánara District. In the other districts the work appears to be a little behindhand. The destruction of Magisterial Records is also much in arrears, especially in Kánara. No information is given as to destruction of records in the Mátherán Superintendent's office.

The Collectors concerned are apparently taking the needful steps to have the work brought up to date. Complete village records do not yet seem to have been received in taluka offices in some cases. Fair progress in the matter of sorting of records appears to have been made in all offices except in that of the Superintendent of Mátherán. The matter is engaging the Collector's attention.

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

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

Mámlatdárs' kacheries and other buildings are reported to be in good order with a very few exceptions. The question of building a Mámlatdár's kacheri at Dholka in the Ahmedabad District and of extending the record-rooms there and at Parántij are under the Collector's consideration. The accommodation in the Dohad Mámlatdár's kacheri is insufficient, and the building of a new kacheri is suggested by the Collector. However, additions and alterations (for which plans and estimates have been sanctioned by Government) to the old Jail factory and other buildings in Dohad fort, in order to convert them into a Mámlatdár's kacheri, have been entered in my major works list for 1906-07. A proposal from the Collector for increased accommodation in the Godhra Mámlatdár's kacheri has similarly been entered. At Mándvi in Surat District a separate record is urgently required as also additions and alterations to the old kacheri. Both these works have been included according to relative urgency in the above list.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

The progress made under this head during the year was satisfactory. During the past year the Jalgaon buildings made satisfactory progress. The Head-Quarter Revenue buildings at Násik were almost completed,\* and so also was the new kacheri for the Mámlatdár of Khed in the Poona District. In the Ahmednagar District the construction of the new offices for the Mámlatdárs of Párner and Shevgaon was completed. As regards more urgent needs, new kacheries are reported to be badly wanted for the Mámlatdárs of Amalner, Dindori, Báglán, Málogaon, Sátára and Mádha, and for the Maháلكaris of Edlabad, Parola and Paud. All these, with the exception of the kacheri at Amalner, were entered in the list of Major Works submitted to Government in

\* Since the close of the year they have been completed and handed over to the Revenue Department for occupation.

September last; and a sum of Rs. 10,000 each has recently been provided by Government, Public Works Department, for expenditure during the current financial year on the kacheries at Edlabad and Málegaon. Mr. Rothfeld, Assistant Collector, Sátára, draws attention to the extremely defective nature of the accommodation in the present offices of the Assistant Collectors at Sátára; the Collector, Mr. Arthur, agrees with him and will no doubt move in the matter.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

New kacheries for Mámlatdárs are being built at Hirekerur and Navalgund. The following works are awaiting funds :—

1. Additions and alterations to Mámlatdárs' kacheries at Athni, Parasgad and Hungund.
2. Shed for witnesses and stores and refreshment-room in Collector's office at Kárwár.
3. Quarters for Revenue peons and establishment at Mángaon.
4. Converting the Pension Pay Master's bungalow into a District bungalow at Dápoli.

Sanction of Government has been applied for to prepare detailed plans and estimates for the following works :—

1. New Mámlatdárs' kacheri at Dhárwár, Honávar and Khed.
2. Additions and alterations to the Collector's offices at Belgaum and Kárwár.
3. New buildings for Assistant Collector's Office, Kárwár.
4. Do. do. Collector's house, Ratnágiri.
- Do. do. B Survey Record Room, Ratnágiri.
- Do. do. District bungalow at Ankola and Roha.

The following additional works have been proposed by Collectors as necessary :—

1. New Mámlatdárs' kacheri at Haliyal, Kárwár and Yellápur.
2. Additions and alterations to Mámlatdárs' kacheries at Belgaum, Gokák and Karjat.
3. New District bungalow at Karjat and Travellers' bungalow at Alibág.

The additions and alterations to the Mámlatdárs' kacheris are to secure sufficient accommodation for Circle Inspectors, Special Head Kárkúns, Court Houses for Mámlatdárs, Record-rooms for Chief Constables; steps will be taken to provide the accommodation wherever needed.

The record-rooms in Belgaum have a sufficient and suitable accommodation. The records at Panvel and Mángaon are badly housed and the Collector's detailed proposals are awaited.

### IV.—Revenue Establishments.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The Mámlatdárs as a body are well spoken of. No cases of grave misconduct occurred. The Collectors and Sub-Divisional officers have for the most part touched upon the character and work of the Mámlatdárs individually and their remarks do not reveal any matter calling for special comment.

Only the Collector of Broach has given an opinion upon the work of the District Agricultural Inspector in his district. He is of opinion that the strict supervision exercised by this officer raised the standard of work of the Circle Inspectors and Talátis. This appears also to have been the case in Surat, where the District Agricultural Inspector performed this part of his duties well. In the other districts, though none of the District Inspectors is said to have neglected his duties, the supervision exercised by them has been found by Mr. Jukes not to have been strict enough.

In Ahmedabad District the work of the Circle Inspectors was fair, though one Sub-Divisional officer, Mr. Gordon, does not think they worked or supervised the talátis as efficiently as they could have. He found that they were unable to keep notes about crops, etc., on account of the tendency of work to increase, especially at the time remissions and suspensions were granted, and that constant changes greatly affected their efficiency. Their work in the Panch Maháls, Broach and Surat Districts is described as satisfactory. Mr. Wales in Thána states that their number is too small to cope with the constantly increasing work and he thinks there is room for improvement in their crop and boundary mark inspection. The belief that the new Circle Inspectors as a class avoid field work and prefer routine work in the kacheri is not unfounded, but the tendency will be discouraged now that the attention of the Collectors has been drawn to it.

The number of village accountants in each district, who have undergone survey training, is given below:—

				No. of talátis in district.	No. who have passed in Survey.
Ahmedabad	...	...	...	249	184
Kaira	...	...	...	326	209
Panch Maháls	...	...	...	129	67
Broach	...	...	...	227	193
Surat	...	...	...	399	274
Thána	...	...	...	316	256
				<hr/> 1,646	<hr/> 1,183

The percentage of trained men in the Division is, therefore, 71.87. Survey classes were held during the year in some districts, but the information given on the subject in the District Reports is fragmentary. As far as can be gathered from the reports of the Collectors, it seems a class was opened at Ámod in Broach District with 20 talátis, and two classes were opened at Godhra and Dohad in the Panch Maháls with 17 and 15 talátis respectively. In Broach 14 men passed the preliminary and 12 the final test, while in the Panch Maháls 28 passed the preliminary and 24 the final test. In all 339 talátis and 119 patels were fined, while 11 talátis and 27 patels were degraded, suspended or dismissed. The talátis and patels have worked well in most districts; but in parts of Surat and Thána absenteeism on the part of talátis is complained of, and in the Sánand and Dholka Talukas of the Ahmedabad District they are censured for their habitual disobedience to orders. No opinion can be formed upon the district reports as to the amount of fine inflicted in each district. So far as can be judged from the Broach reports, the amounts of fine in that district have in some cases been excessive. The unsatisfactory work and often dishonesty of the village accountants and patels in Broach District is now well known, and it is not surprising that the cases of punishment were numerous. Eighty-eight talátis and twenty-two patels were fined chiefly for failure to collect revenue. Mr. Turner, Sub-Divisional officer in charge of Vágra, Ámod and Jambusar, states that as fines of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 had no effect on the men, he raised the amount of fine to Rs. 10. He reports that this measure, together with the reduction of several men, brought about an improvement in work. The fact, however, remains that the infliction of heavy fines on lowly paid Government servants places the temptation in their way of making up the deficit by dishonest means. As there are yet no signs of a permanent improvement among the village accountants in this district, I think the gradual introduction of men of a better stamp and from outside Broach District as suggested

by me last year, may now be tried. As to the general charge of absenteeism on the part of talátis, I fear that the fault is not wholly that of the talátis. The talúka staff is only too anxious to avail themselves of any pretext to bring in the talátis to head-quarters from their charges and this tendency requires to be constantly guarded against and repressed.

### CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

The work of Mámlatdárs and District Inspectors of Land Records and Agriculture has been generally well reported on. Their famine duties, no doubt, threw a considerable additional burden on the Mámlatdárs, but the burden appears to have been well sustained. The District Agricultural Inspectors' duties in connection with the record-of-rights, the survey classes and examination of kulkarnis makes a great drain on their time and, no doubt, to a certain extent interferes with their own routine work. During the past year one Mámlatdár was temporarily suspended pending inquiry into his conduct, and, being found guilty of negligence and breach of duty in investigating a Police torture case, was reduced to the bottom of his grade and transferred to Peint, the most undesirable talúka in this Division, as a penal measure. He has, however, been working well there and is one of the Mámlatdárs who are commended for their good work by Mr. Moore.

As regards the subordinate Revenue establishments, Mr. Shepherd complains of the total inefficiency of the junior kárkúns in his district as a class. Other officers appear fairly satisfied with the clerical staff and complain more generally of the Circle Inspectors. Here again, however, opinions are not unanimous, for, while most officers express especial dissatisfaction with the graduate Circle Inspector, one, Mr. Barlee, expresses a directly contrary opinion. The fact is that the Circle Inspector staff is at present in a stage when the greatest efficiency is hardly to be looked for, the constant changes due to the newly appointed men being sent to learn survey interfering with its efficiency. It is probable that there will continue to be some difficulty in making the graduate Circle Inspector (who looks on a Circle Inspector's place as a mere stepping stone to a better appointment) into an efficient field man, but we must wait and see how things work out when fewer temporary changes in staff are needed and more normal conditions have returned with better seasons. The modern prominence given to athletics in high schools and colleges may gradually effect a change for the better in the physical proclivities of young men of education.

Statistics as to the number of village officers punished during the last year are available only for Khándesh, Násik and Sholápur; 5 per cent. of the patils and 28 per cent. of the kulkarnis in Khándesh and 3 per cent. of the patils and 13 per cent. of the kulkarnis in Násik, and 10 per cent. of the patils and 30 per cent. of the kulkarnis in Sholápur were either fined, suspended or dismissed. In the Sátára District Mr. Arthur reports that an unusually large number of kulkarnis had to be prosecuted on charges of embezzling Government money. The percentage of kulkarnis fined in the 3 talúkas in charge of the District Deputy Collector, Sholápur, was as high as 52 and indicates unusual severity, the fines being imposed in the majority of cases, apparently for want of punctuality in the submission of periodical returns. It is difficult to criticise the action of responsible officers on mere statistics, but I cannot refrain from an expression of regret that the fining of patils has figured so largely in the punishment returns. In one report it is stated that the fact is due to the vital statistics work. It is open to question whether it is not better to have incorrect vital statistics, important as these are, than to lower the prestige of the head of a village for neglect of petty clerical duties.

As regards the kulkarni, some officers appear to think that we can only mend by ending him. Personally I am inclined to think that the gain in efficiency which might result, would not be worth the discontent the measure would cause, and I would look rather to insisting more and more on competence on the part of the watandár or his deputy and to increase in his

remuneration, if necessary, than to any more sweeping measures. The patil is on the whole more favourably reported on than the kulkarni. Classes for the training of kulkarnis in survey were held in all districts. The total number who attended was 1,145, of whom 884 passed the preliminary and 646 the final test.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

I have continued complaints as to the inadequacy of the establishments of Collectors, Sub-Divisional Officers and Mámlatdárs, some of which are repeated in these reports. The loudest, I think, are from the Sub-Divisional Officers, but except in Belgaum, Bijápúr and one or two tálukas of Dhárwár, where the continued famines have given rise to a lot of extra work in connection with suspensions and tagái, I do not think, as far as I have seen at present, that they have much more work than they had 20 years ago. It is true that several new duties have been imposed on them during this period, such as :—

Inspection of offices of Chief Constables and Head Constables in charge of Police Stations,

Inspection of Range Forest Offices,

Inspection of Registration Offices,

Inspection of A'bkári Offices,

The receipt and disposal of Nasabit Police Reports,

and that no work has been definitely taken from them, and their establishments, which are usually one clerk per táluka, have not been increased for even a longer period. But apart from the effects of famine the revenue work tends to become more of a routine, and the irregularities to become less, with the improvement of the administration. Duties which used to devolve entirely on the Collector and his Assistants are now performed by other Departments. No doubt these departments often call for the assistance of the Revenue authorities, and increase correspondence, and in many offices the registers show that the numbers of letters passing through it have considerably increased, but many of these are more or less formal and give little trouble beyond their registration. I notice that there is a tendency, too, on the part of many Sub-Divisional Officers to exact work from their clerks, which they ought to do themselves. The Sheristedárs used to bring up, read and explain all Vernacular papers personally to the Assistant, who used to make his own notes as they were read. Now I find that some Assistants expect an English précis to be made in the office of any complicated case. For this his establishment is not expected to be adequate. The criminal work of most Sub-Divisional Officers is not heavy. Some have not more than one case a week on the average. Nor do I find their appellate revenue work in assistance and other cases of a formal character heavy. A good deal of extra work is often caused by inquiries being deputed to subordinates, which could be more quickly and conveniently held by the Sub-Divisional Officer himself on the spot. Whatever irregularities are found or suspected at a visit of inspection should be promptly investigated at the village or the officer's camp at once and sent to the Mámlatdár to inquire into. The delay of even a day leads to the manufacture of evidence and the over-burdening of the record. The same may be said of complaints brought to an officer at his camp. A little inquiry will often show that they have been settled before, or that they should have been taken to the Mámlatdár. And a definite order can often be passed. I see that Mr. Painter complains that the discontinuance of the practice of sending replies to petitions received by post service bearing has led to an increase of frivolous and unnecessary complaints. The remedy is in his own hands. Unless a petition is an appeal from a Mámlatdár's order or a complaint that he will not entertain a complaint, or that the petitioner cannot get an answer from him, or one that should be dealt with by the Assistant Collector in the first place, it should be returned with a direction that it should be presented to the Mámlatdár. Anyhow I think that before a complaint is referred to a Mámlat-



dár for report, especially if it is received by post, the Assistant Collector should satisfy himself that there is some *prima facie* reason to suppose that a direct petition would not be attended to. In the case of revenue appeals, as in criminal, papers should not be called for unless the appeal gives good grounds for supposing that the decision is wrong. Anonymous and pseudonymous petitions should never be sent to Mámíatdárs. If there is any doubt as to a petition being pseudonymous, which there seldom is, its authenticity can be easily tested by writing to the name given asking the petitioner to appear personally. The Mámíatdár's work does tend to increase, and I doubt whether it can be lightened much more, except in some special cases, as the tagái accounts, by increasing his establishment, for he must keep a sharp eye on every man under him. The appointment of the Special Head Kárkúns has been a great relief, and it is curious to see complaints that their usefulness is impaired because they have not Special Kárkúns and peons under them. The Mámíatdár can assign him one of his peons, and a clerk, on such special occasions as he requires one, but ordinarily he should not require one any more than a Circle Inspector does. It is so important that a Mámíatdár should keep his work up to date, and it is so hard for him to overtake it when once he is in arrears, that everything should be done by the Sub-Divisional Officer to prevent extra work being thrown on him.

Mr. Bhide's remarks as to the want of kárkúns for Local Board work in his talukas is not understood, and he is being asked for explanation. The Account Office of the Collector of Kolába has been strengthened by the addition of one clerk on Rs. 40. Proposals were sent by the Collector for an extra clerk in his English office also, but this I considered unnecessary, until at any rate the effects have been seen of a strict adherence to the standing orders prohibiting correspondence between the Treasury Officer and the Collector, which I found were disregarded in every district of the Division, and to correct which I have issued detailed instructions.

The work of Circle Inspectors was generally fair and their conduct good.

Among the village officers, the talátis worked best. The Japtidárs in Ratnágiri are said to be new and inexperienced, but why is not apparent, as there are now fewer villages under attachment than there were a few years ago.

The work of the Watandár Kulkarnis has not improved. In Bijápur they are especially found fault with, and several have succumbed to the special temptations that famine time affords. Investigations into charges against them have been very protracted, and usually ended in failure to prove anything. Though appointed for short periods and having other means of livelihood, and therefore less to lose by dismissal than the taláti, who gets a small pension after long service, they cannot be dismissed like them without the sanction of Government, and I am afraid that the delay that must necessarily take place between any offence and its punishment, and perhaps also a greater likelihood of escaping the punishment of dismissal, makes it less of a deterrent than it would be, if followed more swiftly on the offence. In bright contrast with the Watandárs are the stipendiary Village Accountants (Talátis and Shanbhogs). These men are willing workers, can be transferred from place to place to obviate their being fixtures and possible sources of mischief in one place and their strength and status having been recently improved in the new scheme of re-organization, their prospects have been to some extent bettered.

The Watandár Pátils in the Karnátic Districts have, owing to lack of education, lost ground gradually and are, in practice, more in the hands of the Kulkarni who, though their assistant, in theory, is practically the chief. There are of course some exceptions to this, here and there, in villages where the Pátils can read and write, and there are factions in the village: in such cases the Pátil is more than a match to the Kulkarni. As education advances things are bound to improve. Mr. Painter remarks that the Pátils in his charge are more intelligent and literate than the average Pátil of the Deccan and Gujarát. The stipendiary Pátils on the coast are a pitiable lot. Owing to ignorance and miserable remuneration (as little in places as Rs. 3 a year) and having no village staff at his back, they do not command respect. In the up-ghát

districts, owing to the watan system, the Pátíl is a force to be reckoned with : but below-ghát he is a nonentity. Proposals, in response to Government Resolution No. 5920 of 21st July 1905, calculated to improve the Pátíls' position in all districts are under consideration.

The survey training of Village Accountants does not yet command sufficient confidence. It is said they cannot yet be entrusted with measurement cases independently, which have still to go to Circle Inspectors. Mr. Artal states that the diaries of Kulkarnis are in many instances cooked, and that in view of a ruling at Indian Law Report 6 Allahabad, page 42, they cannot be punished under section 218 of the Indian Penal Code, but I do not know why one should want to prosecute them criminally for a departmental offence of this sort. The natural punishment would be dismissal, as he suggests in grave, and fine or suspension in other, cases instead of abolishing the diaries altogether.

The sub-joined statement exhibits the punishments inflicted on Pátíls and Kulkarnis :—

No.	Details of punishment.	Belgaum.		Bijápúr.		Dhárwár.		Kávarn.		Kolába.		Ratnágiri.		Remarks.
		Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	Pátíls.	Kulkarnis.	
	Total No. employed ..	1,123	819	1,255	887	1,359	1,037	904	307	1,717	227	1,312	319	
1	Dismissed. { No. ...	5	11	...	4	4	9	4	2	...	1	1	4	
	{ Percentage ..	·4	1·8	...	·40	·2	·8	·44	·65	...	·44	·075	1·2	
2	Suspended. { No. ...	9	10	35	57	47	25	12	8	10	3	4	3	
	{ Percentage ..	·8	1·2	2·7	6·5	3·4	2·4	1·3	2·6	·53	1·3	·3	·94	
3	Fined ... { No. ...	54	123	95	202	58	124	49	40 and 1 reduced.	116	46	111	51	
	{ Percentage ..	4·8	15·	7·5	23·2	4·2	12·0	5·4	13·0	·93	20·	8·4	15·9	

## V.—Special Matters.

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

1. *Record-of-Rights*.—The Record, which in the previous year was announced in the Parántij and Dholka Tálukas and Modása Mahál of the Ahmedabad District, was during the year completed and announced in the Daskroi, Sánand and Virangám Tálukas; while in Kaira it was announced in the Thásra and Mátar Tálukas, the Mehmedabad and Kapadvanj Tálukas having been brought under it last year. It was also completed and announced in Godhra Táluka of the Panch Maháls District and Ámod Táluka of the Broach District, whereas in the previous year it was promulgated in the Kálol Táluka of the former district and the Broach and Vágra Tálukas of the latter district. In Surat it was completed in the Chorási, Bulsár and Bárdoli Tálukas in the preceding year, but its formal announcement was not made in these tálukas till January last, while in the year ending 31st July 1906 it was carried through and announced in the Párdi and Mándvi Tálukas. In Thána District the Record, which was previously announced in Sálsette and Sháhpur Tálukas, was during the year under reference undertaken and compiled in the Murbád, Máhim and Bassein Tálukas, but its promulgation in Murbád was deferred till the close of September and in Máhim and Bassein till the close of October 1906. Difficulty was experienced in several districts, especially in Thána, on account of the dilatoriness of the people in coming forward to declare their rights, but the work in all districts is reported to have been completed satisfactorily. The people, as a rule, are now beginning to appreciate the value of the Record.

2. *Act VI of 1901*.—The amount of land held in the Division on the restricted tenure was at the beginning of the year 238,090 acres and at the close 289,777 acres, the figures for each district being as follows:—

	<i>At the beginning of the year.</i>	<i>At close of year.</i>
	Acrea.	Acrea.
Ahmedabad ...	74,810	85,017
Kaira ...	45,765	66,131
Panch Maháls...	86,234	94,769
Broach ...	10,849	15,825
Surat ...	18,157	25,385
Thána ...	2,275	2,560

It is apparent that the tenure has made most headway in the Panch Maháls, and least in Thána District. The abnormal rise of about 20,000 acres in the Kaira District is due, as explained by the Collector, to the fact that most of the occupants, who unauthorizedly took possession of land during the famine, have now elected to retain such land on the new tenure rather than relinquish possession. The tenure seems to be popular in this district. Good progress has been made in Ahmedabad District according to the figures, but the tenure is said to be unpopular among the Pátidárs and better classes of cultivators. Fear of social ostracism may perhaps prevent a section of the Pátidárs and Rajputs of Broach District from accepting land on the new conditions, as alleged, but this is of small import, for most of the land, hitherto given out, is held by the poor and improvident classes, nor is the tenure meant for intelligent and well-to-do persons. In the Panch Maháls the bulk of the land given out is held by the poorest classes and the tenure is not only in favour among them but it does not, it appears, appreciably affect agricultural credit. Fair progress has been made in extending the provisions of the tenure in this district and in Surat. In the latter district special encouragement was given to induce the aboriginal races to take up land under it. Mr. Wales has expressed no opinion on the working of the system in Thána, but Mr. Anderson, judging from his note on the working of the Act as also his note on the condition of the people, does not appear to be in favour of the tenure.

3. *Remittance by Money Order*.—As was the case in the preceding year the people of the Thána District alone took advantage of the system of remitting revenue by Money Order. In this district Rs. 3,500 were so remitted. The practice does not seem to be gaining ground in the other districts, where the revenue-payers remitted only trifling amounts, if any. Of course in Thána business-men of Bombay prefer it.

4. *Special Assignments*.—No important assignments of land were made except in Ahmedabad and Thána. About 28 acres were given out in the former district for the use of the village potters and 55 acres in the latter district chiefly in connection with Local Board roads.

5. *Land Acquisition*.—Large pieces of land were acquired in the following instances: In Ahmedabad over 150 acres were acquired for the Ahmedabad Sewage Farm. In the Panch Maháls 216 acres and 58 acres were acquired for the Muwália Tank and the Government Farm respectively at Dohad, and in Surat about 87 acres were acquired for the Athwa Agricultural Farm. Land was in addition acquired in Ahmedabad District for railway purposes, and for the Male Training College in Ahmedabad City. In Thána District there were 31 cases of acquisition, 21 of which were in Sálsette Táluka alone.

6. *Introduction of Special Acts*.—The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has now in part been applied to all the districts in the Division, but it has not been long enough in working to admit of any definite opinion as to its results, which will in the course of time no doubt prove of much interest. The immediate effect of the application of its provisions has been a general disturbance in the aplomb with which the money-lender has hitherto carried on business with the ryot. Distrust on the part of the savkár has led to a noticeable contraction in agricultural credit, which in turn, in one district, if not in more, has caused an increase in the number of applications under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. The number of fictitious sales also showed a

tendency to rise in some talukas. In bringing the Act into operation in the Ahmedabad District some difficulty was experienced, especially in the outlying talukas, in finding suitable persons to act as Village Munsiffs and Conciliators. The Mhowra Act has been introduced into Broach District, and so far it has had a wholesome effect in checking illicit distillation.

7. *The Regulation and Assessment of Building Sites.*—None of the Collectors has touched upon this subject except the Collector of Thána. The erection of buildings continues unabated in Sálsette Taluka and the assessment imposed upon building sites does not appear so high as to check expansion in building. The Collector, however, thinks a special reduction is necessary to encourage the building of quarters on sanitary principles for the housing of the labouring classes.

8. *Inception and Working of Co-operative Credit Societies.*—No less than eight Co-operative Societies were started in Parántij Taluka of the Ahmedabad District. This is due to the personal and active interest shown in the subject by the Mámldár, Mr. Bulakhidas Bapuji. In Sánand Taluka the Bakrol-Vísalpur bank was also at last established. The people now seem to understand the principles on which the banks are to be run and the societies formed should prosper. Five societies exist in Kaira District, but their progress is evidently slow. The Uttarsanda bank is, from the account given, making no advance, chiefly because the rate of interest charged was higher than the local rate. The defect, however, has been remedied and the society should now do better. A co-operative bank has been registered at Degam in the Chikhli Taluka of the Surat District and another at Tarsada in the Mándvi Taluka of the same district. Both institutions bid fair to be a success, for their members are interested in the undertaking. Attempts to establish societies at Ránder and Kumbhavia in the Chorasi Taluka have been a failure, but banks are likely to come into existence very shortly at Sukhes and Párdi in the Párdi Taluka, for applications for their registration have already been submitted to the Registrar. It has not been found possible to form any societies in the Broach District, though efforts were made in the several villages to set them on foot. Hopes are expressed that a start will be made in the near future. The people in this district should well be able to manage these banks, for they, especially the Vohorás, are intelligent and have an aptitude for business. But they do not appear to have grasped the object or utility of co-operative effort in raising rural credit, and the distrust, which pervades their dealings with Government officials, and which perhaps is fostered by the savkárs and well-to-do agriculturists, who have taken to money-lending, is also a drawback. No progress has been reported from the Panch Maháls District.

9. *Operations of the Agricultural Department.*—Little reference is made in the reports to the working of the Agricultural Department. According to Mr. Bagnell, the good done by it in his district is not of a practical turn as it consists only of the collection of statistics. Broach is not a district where there is much scope for the Agricultural Department; what is most needed is to preserve Broach cotton seed from becoming mixed with inferior seed. The same is the case in Surat. Some cultivators attended the Ahmedabad Exhibition, but the Collector thinks no real benefit will arise from their visit unless they can witness the working of the improved methods in their actual field-work. Twenty agriculturists were sent to the above Exhibition from Surat District also. The erection of buildings for a model Government Farm on Muwalia Tank, Dohad, is now in progress. The cultivators of Kaira take much interest in agricultural shows and in the Nadiád Model Farm, but they will not follow suit unless success is assured.

10. *Veterinary Department.*—The working of the officers of this Department has been mentioned incidentally in connection with the outbreaks of cattle disease in the Surat and Thána Districts. In Surat there was an outbreak of Hæmorrhagic Sæpticæmia which was effectually dealt with by the Veterinary staff. The Sub-Divisional officer in charge of Olpád Sub-Division states that the people find the Itinerant Veterinary Dispensary useful. In Thána rinderpest broke out in several talukas and caused much loss among cattle. But inoculation was carried on by the Veterinary Graduate and the Itinerating Veterinary

Assistant aided by two extra graduates, and the disease was at length brought under control. The people readily took advantage of the protective measures afforded by the Veterinary Department.

#### Extracts.

#### *Working of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*

AHMEDABAD.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act cannot be said to be yet in active operation. The greatest difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable Conciliators and Village Munsiffs. Proposals are at length complete in all talukas and the present year will see the measure in full action. Some results have already been observed, notably a diminution in agricultural cases, a tendency in capital to a less exclusive devotion to agricultural investment, and in some parts a slight rise in the rate of interest demanded on agricultural loans.

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

More money is going into industrial enterprises and capital is showing signs of shaking off the mesmeric influence of agricultural investments. The introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has assisted the tendency. It is not yet in full operation but the money-lender has taken the hint. The continued propaganda of Co-operative Credit is not without effect in the same direction.

R. G. Gordon, Esq., Assistant Collector.

*The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act* has only been in operation a few months, so it is difficult to gauge its total effect. The Dholka pleaders, however, told me that it had already decreased the number of agricultural cases, which they obtain by nearly 50 per cent., while at the big village of Bawla, the *sávkárs* were evidently much discomposed by it. It has however been found exceedingly difficult to find even Village Munsiffs in an illiterate taluka like Sánand and very few in Dholka.

PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have been extended to this district during the year. The effect so far as can be noticed has been to diminish the credit of the cultivators with the local Bania. There has in consequence been a much larger demand at the end of the year for takávi for bullocks and seed.

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

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act has been made applicable to this district since the year 1905. The results are doubtful. It has undoubtedly led to a very great contraction of credit amongst the land-owning classes. The *sávkárs* are very chary of lending money on security of land, which possibly may have its effect in leading to a deterioration in agriculture in the future. Large landowners, such as are commonly met with here, must necessarily borrow money on occasion, and it is dangerous to contract their opportunities of doing so. On the other hand those who were formerly at the mercy of their *sávkárs* have been able to recover their position to some extent. One very objectionable result has been seen in the effort made by certain unscrupulous Vakils to cajole borrowers into bringing suits when the debts were of quite recent origin, and there was really no question of unconscionable rates of interest being charged. The people will probably learn from the fruitless results of such suits that the advice given by these men should not be followed in future.

SURAT DISTRICT.

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

The relation between the money-lending landlord and his tenants seems to be undergoing a change since the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists'

Relief Act. The provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act are being tested. But much of its usefulness is lost so long as the Courts are not prepared to examine into the conditions underlying the customary 'conditional' sale-deed. Suits are now being filed in the Civil Courts against non-agriculturists—

- (1) for the submission of the account of the money paid by them ;
- (2) for the fore-closure or for the possession of mortgaged property ;
- (3) for the redemption of mortgaged property.

I hope next year to be able to furnish some interesting statistics on the subject. For the present the influence of the Act is very salutary, but the multiplication of sale-deeds is a matter to be feared.

#### Extracts.

#### *Act VI of 1901.*

##### KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. L. M. Wood, Esq., Collector.

I have as yet seen no sign of any general reluctance to accept land on the new tenure, or of its causing an undue restriction of credit. But the *sávkárs* have had a lesson against refusing credit, and the cultivators against reckless borrowing, so that there is in fact little going on in the agricultural money-market now-a-days. The long-expected return of prosperity may obscure these lessons, and bring out more clearly the distinction between the old tenure and the new. The cultivator who wants to add a number to his holding is still a rarity, and he is pleased to get it cheap: it does not concern him at present whether he can mortgage it hereafter. As yet, therefore, evasions of the tenure are not to be expected.

##### PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

No inconvenience in the way of borrowing or otherwise seems to be caused by the new tenure and as far as can be judged as yet it is popular.

##### BROACH DISTRICT.

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

The new tenure is not yet popular and the people who hold land only on such tenure have no credit with *sávkárs* and this keeps them out of debt and they cannot afford to spend large amounts as before on social ceremonies. Some of the more sensitive of the Patidars and Rajputs are afraid that by accepting land on this tenure they will undergo social degradation which will prevent them securing suitable bridegrooms for their daughters. But until now nothing has happened to justify such fears. The generality of the agriculturists of this district are better educated than the same class in the Deccan, and speaking broadly the agriculturist is a fair match for the *sávkár*. The Act has been recently introduced, and it is yet too early to say what its ultimate effects will be. The immediate results are a contraction of credit of the land-owning classes, for the *sávkárs* refuse to lend money on mere mortgage, and it is feared that the number of fictitious sales will increase. That the agriculturist class is not slow to take advantage of the Act will be seen from the number of redemption suits, which has much increased, especially in the Broach Taluka.

##### THA'NA DISTRICT.

F. G. H. Anderson, Esq., Collector.

Neither the people nor we have yet discovered the full inconvenience of the new tenure on restricted power of alienation. Consequently we are able to get considerable areas taken up on these terms. One zealous way of applying the orders of Government had to be discontinued: I found that the land standing in the name of a *khátedár* who had lost all but a nominal interest in the land and who would have disappeared from the revenue records under any other system of registration than ours, was sometimes declared forfeited on the

mere service of notice on the nominal khátodár and when forfeited was then regranted into his actual possession on the restricted tenure even before the actual owner of the land had any intimation of what was going on. This at any rate seems to have been done in some cases and is hardly distinguishable from spoliation in the name of legal forms.

#### CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

(1) *Record of rights.*—In Khándesh the record was promulgated in the 5 tálukas in which it had been commenced in the preceding year; work was undertaken in 6 tálukas during the year under report and the fair copy nearly completed; in all except two of these, the work was being done for the second time, the work done at first being altogether unreliable. In Násik the record was introduced in 3 tálukas, but it remained to be announced in one of them. Both Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Moore profess to be satisfied with the nature of the work done during the year. The work suffered in the remaining four districts owing to the nature of the season. In Ahmednagar the only step forward made appears to be the announcement of the record in 3 tálukas; in Poona its completion and announcement in one. In Sátára the work though commenced in 1901 is still dragging on; it was however tested and announced during the year in 2 tálukas. Of the 2 tálukas in Sholápur in which the work was undertaken it had to be postponed in one on account of the considerable migrations caused by the scarcity and in the other it remained incomplete chiefly through want of effective supervision. I do not think the Assistant Collector can be blamed for this as he was probably fully occupied in work in connection with the scarcity. As regards the attitude of the people towards the record, the Collectors of Khándesh and Násik state that the people are beginning to appreciate its object and advantages and put no difficulties in the way of the collection of the requisite information; whereas the Collector of Sátára writes that the greatest difficulty is felt in getting the people together and drawing out from them the details required. The work of the mapping of sub-occupancies was well pushed on throughout Khándesh; elsewhere no beginning appears yet to have been made. The magnitude of the work in the more populous and highly cultivated places is well illustrated by the figures for the village of Khed in Poona in which with some 900 survey numbers there are stated to be 24,000 sub-divisions.

(2) *Remittance of land revenue by money order.*—In Khándesh the land revenue proper received through the agency of the Post Office is reported to be very inconsiderable, although the Mámlatdár of Pimpalner received Rs. 5,356 on account of forest produce from Range Forest Officers. In Sátára, too, the practice is rarely followed. The sums paid in through this medium in Násik, Poona and Sholápur amounted to Rs. 1,305, Rs. 2,882 and Rs. 320 respectively. Mr. Bolus, Assistant Collector, Poona, notices the case of certain village Mahárs, who remitted their consignments of land revenue by money order to save themselves the journey to the Táluka head-quarters.

(3) *Special grants or assignments.*—Grants of land on the restricted tenure were made to 6 Bhils in the Khándesh District free of initial charges and revenue free for life for valuable services rendered against notorious dacoits. In the case of three of them the land was valued at Rs. 100 and in the case of the remaining 3 at Rs. 45. In the Sátára District also the family of a Patel who was murdered in an expedition against dacoits was recompensed by a similar special grant. Attempts are being made in the Sholápur District to induce reclaimed Kaikadis to settle down to the peaceful occupation of cultivation by special assignments out of forest land.

(4) *Land acquisition.*—According to the recent orders the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act are to be applied to all lands required for public purposes. In Khándesh all land so required was acquired under the Act. Land acquisition work appears to have been very heavy in the Poona District during the year under report. The most important cases of acquisition were those of lands required in connection with the Chunkapur Tank and Kalvan

Deola Road in Násik, the extension of the Bársi Light Railway in Sholápur, and in Poona the extension of the Sassoon General Hospital, doubling the railway line between Lonávla and Poona, the Agricultural College and Government Farm at Bhamburda, and the quarters for the professors of the College of Science.

(5) *The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*—Considerable portions of the Act containing the most important provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act were extended during the year to all the districts of the Presidency proper. But so far as this Division is concerned, the only districts affected by this step are those of Khándesh and Násik, the remaining four districts having been under the whole Act from the very beginning. As both Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Moore remark, it is too early yet to judge of results. Mr. Shepherd, however, notes an increase in the number of sale-deeds. It may be hoped that the check on the ryots' borrowing operations will serve indirectly as a check on his extravagance in marriage and other "unproductive" expenses. The power of the Courts to get behind the bond in nominal sale-deeds which it was feared was jeopardized by a previous ruling has recently been upheld by later rulings of the High Court. I have recently been told that a large number of redemption suits are being filed by cultivators against sávkárs as a result of the Act.

(6) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*—Two co-operative credit societies were started in the Khándesh District under the auspices of Mr. Bhangaonkar, a retired Deputy Collector and Honorary Organiser, one at Velda in the Nandurbár Táluka and the other at Bodwad in the Bhusával Táluka, the latter of which is said to be doing well. Mr. Moore remarks on the existence of two villages in the Násik District where agriculturists lend money to each other. These villages no doubt are favourable fields for the establishment of co-operative credit societies and it is hoped that early steps will be taken to start them at these places. The only other established societies mentioned in the present reports are the one at Tadwala in the Bársi Táluka, which promises to do well owing to the recent Tadwala extension of the Bársi Light Railway, and a society at Bársi Town. What Mr. Shepherd says in respect of his own district, *viz.*, that the existence of rival factions and the opposition of the sávkárs render the establishment of such societies very difficult, apparently applies everywhere. Moreover, the character of the past season was entirely unfavourable to the advancement of the scheme of co-operation.

(7) *Operations of the Agricultural Department.*—Experiments in cotton, jowári, til and wheat were conducted at the new Model Farm at Dhulia, which promises to prove of great practical utility. Experiments with Broach cotton were also made in Khándesh, Násik and Sholápur, but they appear to have failed in all cases. Bengal cotton is said to be finding favour with the Khándesh cultivators. Cotton cultivation has spread this year (1906-07) in the Deccan, as a result, it is believed, of the emigration to, and subsequent return from, the cotton districts of Khándesh and the Berars. Whether it will be a success remains to be seen.

(8) *Operations of the Veterinary Department.*—The District Local Board, Khándesh, has resolved to make permanent the Veterinary Dispensary experimentally opened at Nandurbár; there will thus be 4 such dispensaries in this district; steps are also being taken to popularise scientific treatment of cattle disease by making the Veterinary Graduate visit villages periodically. The year was marked by rather severe out-breaks of rinderpest in the Násik and Ahmednagar Districts and in the Bársi and Pandharpur Tálukas of the Sholápur District. In Násik one and in Ahmednagar two graduates had to be engaged temporarily by the Local Boards to cope with the disease; and an officer was deputed by the Civil Veterinary Department to the Bársi Táluka. A dispensary will shortly be opened at Sholápur. Inoculation with the rinderpest serum is reported to be finding favour with the cultivators in the Násik District.

(9) *Restricted tenure.*—Practically no land was given out on this tenure in Sátára, there being little cultivable waste in that district. During the past year however a considerable area could have been resumed for non-payment of land revenue and regranted on the new tenure; but Mr. Arthur very rightly refrained from doing so, fearing that the cultivators, rather than suffer for-



feiture and take up the land again on the restricted tenure, would borrow from the *sávkárs* at any cost to pay off the dues. The areas given out during the year and the total area held on the new tenure in the remaining 5 districts are as follows :—

District.			Area given out during the year.	Total area held on the new tenure.
			Acres.	Acres.
Khándesh	...	...	51,723	229,223
Násik	...	...	8,575	27,675
Ahmednagar	...	...	269	1,806
Poona	...	...	124	404
Sholápur	...	...	296	9,353

The greater portion of the area in Sholápur pertains to the lapsed *Desh-mukhi Watan* of Akluj and Dahigaon, which under the recent orders of Government will have to be restored, and consequently the area under the new tenure in this district will be reduced to a little over 2,000 acres. The tenure does not appear to be very popular anywhere except among the poorer cultivators in Khándesh and Násik; the high prices paid for occupancies under the restricted tenure in Khándesh are worthy of notice. Evasion of the rule forbidding sub-letting appears to be common in Khándesh, and detection of this evasion has invariably been visited with the penalty of forfeiture. The effect of the tenure is no doubt to restrict credit but not to the extent of impeding agricultural operations at least in the Khándesh District; the question whether it has the same effect in the other districts is not important at present, as the areas in them held on this tenure are very small.

#### Extracts.

#### *The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*

##### KHÁ'NDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

Sections 11 to 21 (both inclusive), section 23, Chapter V, Chapter VI, Chapter VII and section 71-A of the Act were extended to all the districts in the Presidency by Government Notification in the Judicial Department No. 4144 of 15th August 1905. It is yet too early to judge of the effects of the application of the sections to Khándesh. The inevitable increase in the number of sale-deeds has begun. It may however reasonably be expected that in course of time the cultivator, instead of passing sale-deeds, will cease to borrow so extensively as he has been in the habit of doing. In the greater part of the district, the land is of high quality and very lightly assessed and there ought to be as a rule no necessity for the cultivator to borrow money. The effect of decreasing his borrowing powers will be to cause a reduction of expenditure at marriages and other festivals a result which will be in every way beneficial. At present the expenses incurred by *Bhils* on marriage festivals frequently amount to about a year's income. I came across one sub-caste of *Gujars* in Taloda in which there is a rule that payments in connection with marriages must not amount to less than Rs. 2,000.

The usual practice in the district is to sell land by auction on the restricted tenure to *boná-fide* cultivators. The prices realized are frequently very high and show, I think, that the prejudice against the restricted tenure is decreasing. It is not easy to estimate the effect of the tenure on credit. Of course credit under the non-alienable tenure is restricted, but it does not seem to have affected agricultural operations. The fact, I fear, is that the rule prohibiting leases is evaded and that in a very large number of cases cultivators who are described by the owners of the land as labourers are really tenants. It is not easy to detect cases of breach of the conditions of the tenure and very few were reported except from the western sub-division in which 133 cases came to light. In every one of them the land was forfeited.

In the western part of the district a man holding on the restricted tenure is, as a rule, not appreciably better off than if he were a hired labourer. His *sávkár* usually provides him with cattle and seed and in return receives the whole produce of the land. The *sávkár* pays the assessment and provides the nominal owner of the land with enough to live upon.

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

The provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act as regards Village Munsiffs and Conciliators have been in force in Khándesh since 1903. This year all the remaining sections of importance were extended to this as well as other districts. The inevitable replacement of mortgages by sales has already begun. The agriculturist knows perfectly well that the Court can inquire beyond the written sale-deed and declare it to be a mere mortgage, and he does not hesitate to pass the sale-deed. He tells one so frankly in the *chávdí* and blesses the *Sirkár* for it all. The *sávkárs* do not like the new sections, but their feelings are natural and probably will soon pass away. They object to the facility with which the ryot can get his debt fixed and made payable by instalments. Some object to the instalment system on principle; others with more reason urge that when the instalments are fixed they are often losing legitimate interest when they themselves have had to borrow at interest the money which they gave out on loan. However, some of the best and biggest *sávkárs* here have always used and insisted on the *Haptebandi* or instalment system. It is a benefit to the ryot and, I think, also to the business-like *sávkár*, for he has a quicker turn-over, he keeps his capital in constant circulation, and he has fewer irrecoverable debts on his books.

The credit of persons holding on the restricted tenure is undoubtedly less than that of those holding on the ordinary survey tenure, and naturally so: cultivators on restricted tenure can only obtain loans on the value of the standing crops. I do not think that this weakened credit has tended to check agricultural operations, for the check has been made on unnecessary and not on necessary borrowing, and has been beneficial rather than otherwise.

The restricted tenure is, naturally enough, viewed with favour neither by the *sávkár* nor by the average occupant. Generally speaking, it is not suited to the fertile tract of East Khándesh, but in certain parts and with certain classes it is really a boon, and these classes, for the most part, regard it as such, knowing that their lands are safe from the *sávkár*.

E. H. Waterfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act was extended only lately to this district, and it is too soon to give a decided opinion as to its effects. The general effect has however become perceptible. The *sávkárs* now do not lend money to the cultivators without the security of land and preferably on the supposed sale of it—*supposed*, because there is a mutual understanding that the land will be returned when the money is paid up with interest. Its introduction has lowered the credit of the agriculturist to some extent, but on the other hand he derives benefit from it, because he knows for certain that his creditor cannot get more than what is reasonable.

The new tenure is generally preferred by the poorer classes as they have to pay less occupancy price, and I do not think their credit is really much diminished, because the state of things is much as it was before the passing of the Land Revenue Code Amendment Act of 1901, though nominally different. Cultivators are as much as ever only tenants of their *sávkár*; he finances them and pays the assessment for them, and in return takes the whole of the crop, just giving them enough to live on. He cannot of course enforce his claim to the crop by a civil suit, but if his tenant fails to pay, he can stop further advances, with the result that the land is soon forfeited for non-payment of the assessment, and he then puts up another tenant to take the place of the defaulter.

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

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act gave its beneficial protection to the agriculturists, but, as in other districts, caused an increase in the number of

sales of lands. In Shirpur and Sindkheda 430 and 749 sale-deeds were registered against 185 and 367 respectively during the previous year. The increase cannot wholly be attributed to the working of the Act. It is partly due to the strong desire of moneyed men to purchase from falling landowners as much land as possible on the old unrestricted tenure. A full knowledge of the beneficial provisions of the Act has not yet reached the lower strata of the community and advantage is not taken as yet to the fullest extent.

Digamber Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act was introduced but recently. It is too early to judge of the effects upon the credit of the people. One obvious effect would be to lower the credit of cultivators in the money-market. I have had cases in which sale-deeds, pure and simple, had to be passed with oral agreements depending only on the faith of the vendee to restore the lands on payment of the loans. The sale of his lands is the one thing that a cultivator will not do, if he can, by any means, tide over his monetary difficulties. If the introduction of the Relief Act has one salutary effect more than another it is to keep the thriftless cultivator within bounds in the matter of expenses. He has now to see that he must have money in hand and that he cannot borrow largely except on the security of his crops; he knows also that no money will be lent to him till the crops are in a fair way of being plentiful. He cannot expect to borrow on the security of his land; the money-lender refuses to advance him money unless a deed of sale is executed. If the season is fair he is not driven to the necessity of borrowing largely, but when the crop fails, or when there is danger of its failing, the condition of the cultivator can be imagined better than described.

J. E. Sahasrabudhe, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Since some sections of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act are made applicable to this district the number of sale-deeds has increased than mortgages, because the *sávkárs* are not disposed to lend money on mortgages. The lands thus purchased are let out to the real occupiers on rent-notes, the amount of rent charged being the interest shown in the deed of conveyance. The *sávkárs* make oral agreements to restore the land on repayment of money with interest; but they cannot be enforced legally in a Court of Law if the *sávkárs* break their promises. This state of things is mainly due to the growing distrust between the *sávkárs* and the cultivators and partly to the application of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. It cannot be said at present what good effect the Deccan Agriculturists' Act would bring about in future, as the *sávkárs* are aware of its introduction and are taking all steps in their power to ensure their money transactions by binding the cultivators on paper; but it is clear that as the *sávkárs* do not lend money except on sale-deeds the poor cultivators have to submit to their hard terms to secure money when they are in need of it, and there is the greatest necessity of establishment of Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies.

The restricted tenure is not popular with the agriculturists in general, but is appreciated and accepted by the poor. There were no instances of violations of the terms of the new tenure in Jámner and Páchora Tálukas. But in Chálisgaon there were three instances in which the conditions were violated, but under Collector's orders the lands measuring acres 5 and gunthas 39 was allowed to remain with the violators.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

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

This tenure is not popular. The poorer classes including the hill tribes apply for waste lands and accept them on the restricted tenure, but the Kunbi class is averse to it and it is only defaulters who petition for cultivation after their fields have been forfeited for non-payment of Government dues and are informed that land will not be given to them except on the new tenure, who submit to it. Even among them I have often met with refusals.

It may be noted that the restricted tenure in this district is mostly found in the west where lands are poor and *sávkárs* were never willing to advance

much on their security. This is especially the case in Dindori where frequent fallows are necessary and where the hill men, when the period of fallows arrives, throw up their lands and apply for fresh land on the restricted tenure. This they often get, as waste land is plentiful.

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

The restricted tenure continues to make progress in the wilder and poorer parts of the sub-division where land never yet had any value as a security against money lent. In the Deshi tracts it is still unpopular and will remain so as long as the habit of borrowing sums amounting to several years' income for expenditure in display on some special occasion continues. For people of this kind some safe and liquid security is a necessity and land held on the old tenure fulfilled those conditions while that held on the new does not. After a succession of good seasons, when the demand for land is keen, the value of the same piece of land held on the new tenure must become practically equal to its value when held on the old, for, even to the *sávkár*, its value cannot be much more than the capitalised value of the annual profits, and such profits are independent of the tenure. When held on the old tenure, land had perhaps a slightly higher value to the *sávkár* as security than is represented by such a capitalised value, since the attachment of the cultivator to his lands impels him to get it back without any reference to its real value as estimated by its annual outturn and profits and also because land at the present time is the nearest and most profitable investment for accumulated funds. I firmly believe therefore that the success of the new tenure even in the wealthier parts of the district is only a question of time—a long time perhaps—but none the less certain. In the meanwhile it is doing its work among the more ignorant and backward classes for whom it was specially intended.

#### SHOLÁPUR DISTRICT.

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

The restricted tenure has made little progress during the year under report. The principle of unconditional remissions and suspensions under the rules having once been recognised, it follows that the scope for this tenure becomes very restricted. There is no disguising the fact that this tenure is not generally looked upon with favour; and even if forfeiture and re-grant on the restricted tenure be made a condition precedent to the grant of remissions, there are little chances of the desired end being attained. Remissions on these terms will rarely be availed of. If the land is incumbered, the *sávkár* will step in and pay off the arrears rather than lose all the money he has already advanced on the security of the land; while if the land be free from incumbrances, the occupant will be driven to borrow and pay off the arrears, for naturally he would not like to part with the means of raising money (at least 10 times the assessment) in time of need for the sake of a couple of years' land revenue.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

(1) *Record of rights*.—The advantages of the records are being recognised and it is being assimilated with the revenue system.

(2) *Restricted tenure*.—Some headway has been made in the Kánarese districts as the following figures will show:—

	Grant during the year.		Total Grant.
		Acres.	Acres.
Bijápur	...	1,216	6,080
Kánara	...	569	2,424
Dhárwár	...	1,116	1,816
Belgaum	...	435	621

Most of the grants in Bijápur have been made to Chaparbands whose condition they must greatly improve. A total area of only 10 acres has been given out in Kolába but it may be observed that the extensive grants of land to

Thakurs and Katkaris have not been included. No land has yet been granted on this tenure in Ratnágiri.

(3) *Remittance of Revenue by Money Order.*—In the Desh this mode of payment is not much in vogue. It is resorted to when (1) the payer lives outside the district; (2) the village officers refuse to receive payment in person or (3) when there is a dispute about the payment. Mr. Painter reports the case of a man who went 12 miles to a Post Office to send his assessment by money order to the village officers of his own village in order to entrap them into embezzling it. On the coast the figures for Kánara, Kolába and Ratnágiri were Rs. 2,804, 5,894 and Rs. 4,259 respectively. The Collector of Ratnágiri remarks that this mode of remittance appears to be more popular among the payers of A'bkári Revenue.

(4) *Special Grants or Assignments.*—In the Belgaum District Mr. A. B. Desai, late Administrator, Sánгли, was given, for his meritorious services, lands measuring 112 acres and 19 gunthás, assessed at Rs. 165 in the Belgaum and Chikodi Tálukás.

In Kánara Rao Bahadur Yennemadi was entrusted with the work of assignments of forest lands to Kunbi Maráthás of Bhatkal and these are now complete. Final figures are not yet to hand but the Collector reports that the assignments have been made over to, and cultivated by, the people. In the matter of the assignment of betas to garden cultivators, demarcated pieces were, during the year, actually handed over to the gardeners for use. In Sirsi and Yellápur this work has almost been finished and that in Siddápur is expected to be complete next year.

(5) *Land Acquisition Work.*—Except in Kolába and Dhárwár there is not much to record on this point. In the former the work of granting compensation for land acquired for the Neral-Mátherán Light Tramway is still in progress. In the latter, in addition to the lands required for the Public Works Department, Irrigation and Railway Departments lands had to be acquired for the Mining Companies also.

(6) *The Introduction or Extension of any Act or Rules. Court of Wards Act.*—Except in Belgaum not much advantage appears to have been taken of the provisions of this Act. In that district several estates have been taken up for management and owing to the increased work and to secure uniformity of treatment the Collector has been given the services of a Mámlatdár to do duty as a Special Assistant for this branch of his work.

*Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.*—Most of the reports point out that the introduction of this Act has resulted in a reduction in the number of mortgages and a rise in the number of sales. The indulgence with which the Act treats the agriculturist deters the sávkár from receiving any mortgages and makes him give the transaction the form of a legal sale. It is not a sale out and out and is in the nature of a *vishwás kharádi* (sale in trust) which is virtually a mortgage. It is likely that the apparent contraction of the agriculturists' credit will, as stated by Mr. Haigh, result in making the rayat resort readily to tagái and look more favourably on Co-operative Credit Societies. Steps have been taken in the Belgaum District with a view to appoint Conciliators and Village Munsiffs. The other Collectors are being requested to make similar proposals as regards their districts.

(7) *Building Sites.*—There is nothing of importance to be added to the remarks made last year in this connection. To encourage Bombay people to take up building sites in healthy localities within a few hours' journey from Bombay, proposals from the Collector of Kolába to apply Land Revenue Code Rule 56, III and IV to certain areas on the coast line and on the G. I. P. Railway line are under consideration. In Ratnágiri there is a keen demand not for building sites but for agricultural land and only land of inferior description is converted into building sites.

Owing to plague there has been a keen demand for building sites in Dhárwár and Hubli. The Sálsette rules have already been extended to Hubli with a view to relieve the town of its congestion and to enable the residents to go

and live outside the town. The district reports do not supply information as to the extent to which advantage has been taken of the concessions so far. Proposals were submitted to Government to apply the same rules to Dhárwár. But they were since sent back to the Collector for further information. This has been received and is being submitted to Government.

(8) *Co-operative Credit Societies.*—In Belgaum four societies have been established and three of these have made progress in the matter of collecting subscription from members. The Belgaum Society has been given a loan of Rs. 2,000 from Government. In Bijápúr a society was started at Muddebihal and an application for one at Bágalkot is under the Registrar's consideration. The progress in Dhárwár in this direction is particularly satisfactory, the Rural Societies numbering 10 (against 8 last year) and there are Urban Societies at Dhárwár, Hubli and Bettigeri (Gadag). In the Gadag Táluka Mr. Graham states there will be 6 more Rural Societies. This district has been the pioneer of this institution and the success is mostly due to the personal efforts of the Registrar and of the local officers. The Collector believes that many are doing really good work and states that in the Gadag Táluka they were able to make loans for the purchase of fodder. The Sirsi Society was registered in 1905 but is reported to have done nothing, so far, and the capital has not yet been subscribed. It is intended chiefly for the benefit of the *Wakkalus* and other lower caste cultivators. The Kolába District remains as yet without any society, as the Pandharpesha money-lenders who hold many of the lands are not ready to accept the scheme. A society was established at Kankavli in Deogad Táluka in March last, chiefly for the benefit of weavers. The members subscribed a sum of Rs. 1,150 and Government having advanced an equal amount, the body is thus beginning its operations.

(9) *Effect of the operations of the Agricultural Department on the prosperity of Agriculturists.*—A demonstration farm for giving practical object lessons will shortly be established at Arbhavi in the Belgaum District. Action is being taken with a view to secure for the purpose of agricultural improvements the large fund raised in the Chikodi Táluka, some years ago in memory of the Indian tour of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor.

In Dhárwár the Government Experimental Farm and the Training College Farm, and the Agricultural Association are doing useful work. It is true that some of the most prominent members of the Agricultural Association do not depend mainly on agriculture for their income. A fair number of its members have, however, undertaken experiments and, with a good season, like the one at present, it is hoped, the results will be encouraging. The Association has been exerting itself in popularizing ploughs of the improved pattern, and kadbi cutters, and by spreading by leaflets information about manures, good seed and improved methods of cultivation. Mr. McNeill distributed select plants of a few kinds of fruit trees for experimental plantation round about Dhárwár and made a few experiments on potato cultivation on small plots treated with chemical manures; but on account of the unfavourable rains the experiments were not successful.

The Village Officers of selected villages in each district in the Division were supplied in May last at Government expense with copies of the Vernacular paper named "*Shet, Shetki and Shetkari.*" The Collectors have been asked to report in May 1907 whether the results obtained justify the continuance of the supply.

Mr. MacMillan refers to interesting well-to-do capitalists in growing superior crops. Experiments of the sort mentioned should be encouraged. In Belgaum there has been a great deal of talk about the encouragement of native industries, agricultural and otherwise, but when money was wanted for an experiment in cotton it was supplied by a Company formed in Bombay from European capitalists.

(10) *Effects of the operations of the Civil Veterinary Department on Cattle.*—The existing veterinary dispensaries are reported to be doing useful work so far. Cattle owners seldom resort to these until all country remedies have failed. The Veterinary Graduate in Belgaum is now going to be asked to

attend at important villages on the weekly market days and demonstrate to the assembled villagers the value of Veterinary assistance. This is as it should be. The Veterinary Assistants should try to get a knowledge of the local remedies used and show by demonstration the comparative results of the Native and English systems of treatment. This measure will attract the attention of the average agriculturist who is not easily induced to change his belief in crude ways and antiquated remedies. If on the other hand the Veterinary Assistant finds on actual trial any specific for a particular disease more efficacious than the one he possesses, he will be able to report on it to his professional superiors for orders. This exchange of ideas will encourage confidence. A new Veterinary dispensary was opened in Bijápur in April 1906. The Collector reports that it is growing popular, the number of cases treated being 50 to 60, on an average, per day. A special Veterinary Assistant was appointed at Panvel.

### Extracts.

#### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

The provisions of sections 2, 3, 7, 11 to 21 both inclusive, Chapters V, VI and VII and section 73-A of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act No. 17 of 1879 have been extended to this district and it is yet premature to give any definite opinion as to the benefits which the measure might confer on the agriculturists. However, so far as my private inquiries go, it appears to me that the effects have not been so beneficial as they ought to have been. The savkars, instead of taking the lands in mortgage with possession, have now resorted to the practice of buying the lands on which money is advanced. For instance, A, a rayat wants a loan of Rs. 100 and he has land the market value of which is Rs. 400. What the savkar does is that he advances Rs. 100 to the rayat and takes a nominal deed of sale duly registered for Rs. 400 and then leases the land to the vendor on annual or other tenancy, privately agreeing to resell the land to the rayat on his repaying the principal amount together with the interest. The savkar, also, with a view to prevent any losses in the event of a dispute arising, takes a money bond from the rayat for double the amount he actually lends. For instance, the savkar lends Rs. 50 actually to a rayat. Here what he does is that he takes a bond for Rs. 100 agreeing privately to return it to the rayat on his repaying the original loan together with the interest. Sometimes it may happen that the rayat who cannot borrow money on a mortgage deed will be compelled to sell his land for a sum far less than its market value. In case a disagreement arises between the debtor and the creditor it is the former

Year.	Number of mortgage deeds.	Number of sale deeds.
1904 ...	455	423
1905 ...	442	488
1906 from January to 13th August ...	272	422

that is liable to ruin. A comparison of the marginally noted figures which relate to Belgaum Táluka proper only will show that the number of sale deeds for the first 7½ months of 1906 alone approximately

equals that of each of the preceding two years. The number of sale deeds for the whole year of 1906 at this rate (that is 56 per month) comes to approximately 675; whereas the number of mortgage deeds for the whole year (1906) comes to 432, that is to say, there has been a considerable increase in the case of sale deeds and a decrease in that of mortgage deeds. These statistics go to show that the information given to me is correct.

#### BIJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

The introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act into the district has resulted in a higher percentage of sales being executed. Savkars are unwilling to accept mortgages on lands and people are driven to part with their lands for good when they are pressed for money. In one táluka for which I have figures, namely Bágalkot, up to the end of July last, there were 469 sales and only 99 mortgages against 692 and 552 respectively, registered during the year 1905. It is generally felt as a hardship that evidence of oral agreements

as regards sales is by law inadmissible. Very often sales are to all intents and purposes mortgages only, but when the time for redemption comes, the Civil Courts are unable to afford relief. It is worth considering if section 91 of the Evidence Act should not be made inapplicable to all transactions under the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.

DHA'RWA'R DISTRICT.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act was introduced into this sub-division during the year. The effect, if any so far, has been to make savkars suspicious that Government wishes to do its own money-lending (*e. g.*, as tagai, which is to some extent a novelty here) and to make them reluctant to lend; later on, no doubt, they will resort to the Deccan expedient of getting their clients to pass sale deeds with a verbal promise of redemption. The savkars of these parts are, however, of a comparatively benevolent type, and I have seen no Marvadis except at Byádgi.

V. N. Sathaye, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act being newly introduced, the savkar would not advance money except on sale of land. Nevertheless the relations of mutual trust and confidence between the rayat and the savkar were, on the whole, satisfactory. The rates of interest still continue high. The credit of the rayats, though somewhat impaired, stands good. The money-lender cannot close his business so long as the rayat wants money: so both join in finding out expedients to avoid the evil effects of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act.

KA'NARA DISTRICT.

P. B. Haigh, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Sections 11 to 21 of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have been applied to this district. I have called for reports from all Mámlatdárs. The Act has afforded much relief to existing debtors; but there is a general complaint from cultivators that it is more difficult to get loans than before. Savkars insist on a down-right sale of lands or on receiving a bond for a larger amount than that actually paid. The Act is unpopular with the more improvident class of cultivators, especially in Sirsi and Siddápur where money is dear. They prefer to borrow at high rates and postpone the payment of interest. The Act must inevitably restrict reckless borrowing, and the savkars cannot ultimately withhold their money, as the practice of lending to cultivators is almost their sole available means of investment. In the meantime, the probable effect of the Act will be to make borrowers resort readily to tagai, and may make them look more favourably on Co-operative Credit Societies.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

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

Some sections of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act have been made applicable to this district in August 1905.

The objects and scope of the Act are, in some instances, not properly understood by the illiterate Maráthás, some of whom are understood to have taken the law into their own hands, and forcibly ejected the savkars for which *Chaiu Vahivat* suits have been pending. One immediate result of this extension of portions of the Act has been a sudden rise in the number of sale-deeds in favour of savkars in preference to mortgage-deeds with possession. The savkars have, to a certain extent, ceased advancing money unless sale-deeds are passed in their favour. This is evidenced by the fact that the figures of sale have risen enormously during the year under report. 5,848 acres of land assessed at Rs. 9,677 were permanently transferred by agriculturists to non-agriculturists during the year against 2,189 acres assessed at Rs. 4,435 during the last year. Similarly mortgages without possession have gone down from 3,646 acres last year to 1,941 during the year under report. There is little doubt, however, that the Act will, eventually, be a great relief to the indebtedness of the rayat, and the present slight disturbance in the rayats' relations with the savkars would appear to be temporary. In the first place, the savkars were not pre-



pared for this unexpected extension of the Act, and so they can only gradually adapt themselves to the altered circumstances. Secondly, as neither can do without the other, things must, in course of time, again assume their normal level.

*Act VI of 1901.*

BHJA'PUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

In my opinion the new tenure of land will in course of time greatly improve the condition of the class for which it is intended and will help to raise agricultural labourers and tenants to the status of petty holders of land who really are the essence of the Land Revenue system. Its scope, however, is limited as the area of waste is small and waiting for forfeitures is like waiting for dead men's shoes. It is unfortunate that the change was not made years ago.

R. B. Bhide, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The new tenure is gradually becoming more and more popular. A poor day labourer on getting land and spending a small amount in the way of paying assessment and cultivating it, is at once raised to the level of an ordinary agriculturist. Many applications have been received for having waste lands under the new tenure. This manifests the light in which the grant is viewed by the poorer classes. This system would have been more popular if the holders of such lands were granted tagai on certain special conditions for their improvement, as they are mostly very poor in quality.

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**VI.—Assistance to Inamdars and Superior Holders.**

NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

The Inámdárs in Ahmedabad District filed 101 suits against their tenants, but 95 of these were received at the close of the year and were therefore not decided. Only 2 suits were disposed of. In Kaira District 358 suits were filed, assistance being granted in 305 cases. Of the total number of suits 224 in Nadiád Táluka for Rs. 3,064 were filed at the end of the previous year. These were taken up and disposed of in 1905-06, with the exception of the suits brought by the Inámdár of Sastapur. The Inámdárs and superior holders in the Panch Maháls District resorted to the Revenue Courts in 114 cases and assistance was accorded them in 66 instances. Only 9 suits were filed in Broach District but the dues to be collected amounted to Rs. 8,432. The suits were all entertained, but only about a fourth of the amount was recovered. Of the 127 suits preferred by Inamdars in Surat District 84 were in Chikhli Táluka. Forty-two of these 84 were taken up by the Revenue Courts but the amount recovered was inappreciable. The explanation why more has not been recovered is generally that most of the suits were received at the close of the year. In Thána District 107 suits for Rs. 16,179 were filed. Sixty-nine of these were admitted and disposed of, while 12 were withdrawn and 7 compounded. Some of the suits were received late and were pending when the year closed. Only two new commissions under section 88 of the Land Revenue Code appear to have been issued one in the Viramgám Táluka of the Ahmedabad District and the other in the Ankleshvar Táluka of the Broach District. From a general point of view the Inámdárs and superior holders exercised due discretion in dealing with their tenants and the village officers on the other hand appear in all districts to have acted with sufficient promptitude in rendering assistance and to have left the Inámdárs no room for complaint.

## Extracts.

## AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

No village officer was warned or fined during the year for neglect in the collection of the revenue of alienated villages.

## PANCH MAHALS DISTRICT.

R. C. Brown, Esq., Collector.

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

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

As a rule Inámdárs have little trouble in collecting their dues, except perhaps in Kálol where rent suits have been more numerous than elsewhere, probably on account of the unusually bad year.

## BROACH DISTRICT.

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

The relation between landlords and tenants is on the whole good. The number of rent suits in Wágra and A'mod is very small indeed. In Jambusar they are more numerous, as the tenants of private landlords in that táluka are no less contumacious in non-payment of rent than they are in non-payment of Government assessment. The landlord class as a whole has suffered more than any other in the district owing to the past bad years. The greatest difficulty was encountered in recovering their dues from some of the large land-owners living in Broach. This was really as much due to their inability to pay as to contumaciousness among them. Many of them are really land speculators. They invested heavily in land in good seasons, paying a large occupancy price. When bad years came, the land was a white elephant to them and a drug in the market. They have collected their rents with difficulty, and consequently have fallen into arrears with their assessment. In many cases they have more land than they can manage, and as all their capital is locked up in it, they have no outside resources. Their credit has suffered owing to the bad times, and the extension of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act to the district has made the savkar very wary in lending money on security of land, so that they in common with the rayats generally have found their credit much contracted.

## SUBAT DISTRICT.

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

There were no complaints from Inámdárs about difficulty in collecting their rent and no village officer had to be punished for not rendering assistance to the Inámdárs.

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

No Taláti has been warned or fined during the year for neglect in the collection of the revenue of alienated villages.

## THANA DISTRICT.

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

*Recovery of Inámdárs' revenue.*—This matter is not one of much importance in this district where the Inámdárs are for the most part able to recover their revenues without having recourse to the Revenue Courts.

## CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

The number of Inámdárs is not very large in Khándesh and Sholápur, and the question of recovery of their dues is not very important in these two districts. In Sholápur not much was done in this direction on account of the prevailing scarcity. In Khándesh assistance suits are very rare, the collection being easy and arrears hardly existing. Information is complete for the Násik and Poona Districts; and there are interesting passages in the reports of the Collector of Sátára and two of his assistants devoted to a general discussion of the relations between the Inámdárs and their tenants, but no complete statistics as to the number of assistance suits and the amount of outstandings. As regards Ahmednagar the matter is glanced at only in the notes of Mr. Greer, who remarks that the Inámdárs in his charge have shown themselves rather reasonable in their demands during the past year. Attempts made in the Sátára District to induce Inámdárs to make concessions similar to those in British villages in seasons of scarcity, such as remissions and suspensions, do not appear to have met with much success. The assistance work in this district must be very heavy, seeing that the Mámlatdár of one táluka alone (Pátan) is stated to have disposed of 625 old assistance suits during the year, and the number of such suits in the Sátára Táluka is reported to be 1,000. The collections in Mr. Barlee's charge amounted to Rs. 25,143, reducing the outstanding balance from Rs. 28,836 to Rs. 10,557. In Násik Rs. 1,81,000 were collected during the year out of a total demand of Rs. 4,10,158, the net outstandings at the end of the year being Rs. 1,70,870. 195 suits only in respect of demands to the extent of Rs. 10,600 were filed in this district, the recoveries effected amounting to Rs. 2,432 only. The number of suits filed in Poona was 124 in respect of Rs. 92,018; assistance was decreed in respect of Rs. 21,208 and recoveries effected to the extent of Rs. 6,729. The sum recovered on account of previous year's application amounted to Rs. 36,143. I would draw attention to the numerous difficulties in the way of recovering Inámdárs' dues depicted in the Násik and Sátára reports.

The Inámdárs of this Presidency fall into 2 main classes—

(1) The real squires of the country who live in their villages and take an interest in their estates and their tenants.

(2) The absentee rent receivers who do not care a straw for the welfare of their tenants and who, though they may value the dignity of their position as Inámdárs, look upon their estates as an investment pure and simple.

An Inámdár of the latter class frequently has a large number of co-sharers and the sharers quarrel among themselves. Men of the former class are unfortunately very rare in the Deccan; where they are found they usually have no difficulties with their tenants.

Succession in 13 villages in the Násik and 6 villages in the Poona District was recognized during the year. Nazarána levied in the Násik District amounted to Rs. 446-2-0, where also inám land measuring 3 acres 24 gunthás lapsed to Government. The village of Vela in the Násik Táluka was returned to the heir of the deceased Jahágirdár; the Saranjám villages in the Násik District held by the late Sardar Vithalrao Krishna Vinchurkar were restored to his brother Sardar Ramrao Krishna. In Poona the Saranjám village of Rahtni was temporarily resumed by Government pending heirship inquiries.

## Extracts.

KHA'NDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

The number of Inámdárs in this district is very limited and cases in which assistance from Revenue officers is sought by them are rare. Forced collection of quit-rents by Revenue officers is unknown as the Inámdárs pay them regularly. The collections of Inámdárs' dues were generally satisfactory and hardly

any accumulations of outstanding balances are reported except in Torkheda in their Sháháda Táluka where the arrears chiefly relate to the Famine years. The minor Jáhírdár of the village has lately attained majority and steps are being taken by the Prant to give remissions where possible as in Government villages with the approval of the Jáhírdár.

In this district no tendency is observed on the part of Inámdárs to evade the provisions of section 85 of the Land Revenue Code or to raise rents in violation of the customary rights of tenants in unsurveyed villages. In only 3 cases were village officers warned for neglect in the collection of revenue of alienated villages.

G. P. Thakár, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There are very few Inámdárs in this sub-division and dues were collected with considerable promptitude. No village officers of Inám villages were punished for negligence.

NA'SIK DISTRICT.

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

The outstandings may be attributed to the following reasons: (a) the delay on the part of the Inámdárs in applying for assistance. There were only 195 applications from Dumáldárs in the district and they related to the recovery of about Rs. 10,600 only; of this Rs. 2,432 have been recovered within the year; (b) the lack of interest shown by the Dumáldárs in their tenants; (c) the illfeeling existing between the share-holders which rendered the task of collecting revenue difficult inasmuch as the village officers often side with one share-holder against another and thus fail to perform their duties towards the chief holder of the village; (d) the Dumáldárs are always averse to grant any concessions in consideration of the bad crops, thus making their tenants even more recalcitrant than they otherwise would be. This year I issued special orders regarding the settlement of dues in inám villages which was to be made by the officer doing the Jamábandi of the táluka in consultation with the Dumáldárs and the village officers, after taking into consideration the anna valuation of the crops and on the lines laid down by Government for Government villages. In many cases the Inámdárs failed even to be present at the Jamábandi, though given due notice, and only 9 Dumáldárs could be persuaded to grant remissions of long standing arrears in their villages. Some Dumáldárs, however, granted suspensions of revenue.

It is a fact that the village officers of Dumála villages are often negligent in their duties, but it remains with the Dumáldárs to improve them by reporting against them to the Mámlatdárs and Pránt officers in due time. It is only in one sub-division of this district that the village officers of three Dumála villages have been taken to task. The tendency on the part of the Inámdárs to evade the provisions of section 85, Land Revenue Code, and to raise rents in violation of the customary rights of tenants is noticeable in the Bhil and Koli Inám villages of the Kalvan and Báglán tálukas. But it is difficult to stop this practice though warnings have been given in villages where the practice was detected. These Bhil and Koli Inámdárs have their own ways of dealing with the villagers and they stand almost on the same level with their tenants. The relations between them are friendly and there are rarely complaints from the ryots.

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

The state of Dumála villages in the Násik Táluka is very bad indeed and I have already submitted to you a report on the arrears in these villages. The chief cause is undoubtedly the quarrels amongst the share-holders themselves. They will take no concerted action and seem most of their time in trying to over-reach each other. Further, they are almost entirely lacking in sympathy with the ryots and, in spite of advice given to them, very few are willing to give any remission of past arrears to their tenants.

The tenants of the majority of these Inám villages complain bitterly of the severity of their owners, for so Inámdárs seem to regard themselves, and contrast their condition with that of the adjoining Khálsa villages. On the other side, however, it often occurs that press as he will, the Inámdár is unable to collect his dues from his tenants.

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.

W. Greer, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Inámdárs generally have refrained from exorbitant demands this year, and in some cases have granted remission for arrears long outstanding.

POONA DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

A large sum regarding which assistance has been ordered to be given has remained in arrears in all the tálukas for several years, owing principally to successive bad seasons. Some Inámdárs have granted remissions to a certain extent but the tenants withhold payment and claim further remissions which the Inámdárs are not prepared to grant. The year under report being a famine year was not a favourable one in which to collect the Inámdárs' arrears by resort to extreme measures. Moreover, there is a large outstanding balance which has been found to be irrecoverable and the Inámdárs have many times been requested to write off such sums, but to little purpose. Every year the balances are accumulating and one bad year following another, it has become impossible in some cases for the tenants to pay them off. In most Inám villages there is a growing feeling of bitterness between the Inámdárs, generally absentees, and the ryots. The former complain that they get little or nothing from their estates and the latter that they get no sympathetic treatment from the Inámdárs and are debarred from the privileges which their neighbours in Government villages get.

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

Many of the Inámdárs live at Poona, and seldom visit their Ináms, or display any interest in them beyond a keen desire to exact the maximum of revenue with the minimum of trouble. This absentee landlordism is much to be deplored. The attitude of the Inámdárs estranges their tenants who, too often, conspire, with the connivance of the village officers, to withhold payment of rent. The situation is aggravated by the constant refusal of certain superior holders to strike off the irrecoverable arrears. Some even refused remission of water assessment, although the pats were dry. Frequently, also, the Inámdár postpones his application for assistance until the eleventh hour, when the natural time for collection has passed, and in other ways fails to co-operate with the Mámlatdár. No doubt there are a few Inámdárs, whose treatment of their tenants is nearly all that could be desired, but these belong to the exception rather than the rule.

J. P. Brander, Esq., Assistant Collector.

In the famine tract the Inámdárs have either agreed to give suspension or, where they have not signified their assent, collections have not been made owing to the impossibility of making them.

SA'TA'RA DISTRICT.

S. R. Arthur, Esq., Collector.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the work of recovering Inámdárs' dues has been unsatisfactory. Various causes are at work. In the first place the relations both of Inámdárs and of superior holders generally with their tenants are far from cordial. The fault lies on both sides. Since the year 1896 the country has passed through a very critical period. Famine after famine has visited the country and drained the resources of the people. In Government villages the people have been helped by liberal grants of tagái and also by

suspensions and remissions of revenue. The Inámdár, who is generally an absentee landlord, cares nothing for his tenants and is only interested in exacting from them the uttermost farthing without any regard to the circumstances of the year. Arrears accumulate year after year until the tenant feels his position hopeless, a position all the more galling that he sees his neighbour in Government villages receiving liberal treatment. He retaliates and with the assistance and connivance of the village officers evades payment, even when he is quite able to pay, until compelled by compulsory process. It may be noted here with some satisfaction that a few of the Inámdárs in the affected tracts of the district have, during the year under report, granted remissions and suspensions to their ryots according to the scale laid down by Government, receiving corresponding remissions and suspensions of judi. The majority of the Inámdárs and superior holders, however, have point blank refused to grant any concessions, even though much of their dues is found to be irrecoverable. The position is already sufficiently difficult and it is being made still more so by the relation subsisting between the Inámdár and the village officers, especially the accountant. Generally, there is jealousy and ill-felling between them and the Inámdár. The latter, seldom, if ever, resides in his Inám village and so long as this is the case he cannot expect that the village officers will take his part against the villagers among whom they have to live. He visits the village rarely, and never examines its accounts. The kulkarni takes advantage of the Inámdár's supineness and shows himself by no means active in his interests.

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

In this charge the Inám villages owned by large Inámdárs are mostly in Pátan. This year an effort was made to reduce in Pátan the large outstanding arrears. The Inámdárs were approached and were shown that unless they would compromise with the ryots they would lose, as the ryots were quite unable to pay on one harvest arrears equal to in some cases 6 or 7 years' revenue. Some Inámdárs eventually agreed to compromise and, after being promised remissions varying from 4 to 8 annas, the people paid up.

There have been in the past faults on both sides. The tenants grumble because the Inámdárs will not accept the survey and because some Inámdárs try to cheat them by not giving receipts and by trying to collect twice over. Inámdárs on the hand have cause for complaint, as tenants seldom pay at the proper time. However, it is to be hoped that in the future there will be less trouble. The essential thing is to show Inámdárs that they cannot gain by ruining their tenants and once a bargain has been made, to hold each side rigidly to it.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations of Inámdárs and tenants continue to be anything but satisfactory. The state of deadlock in which they are shackled can be explained but cannot be excused. Each side has committed so many faults that neither can altogether command sympathy. At the most, the faults of the tenants can be more easily condoned in as much as they are the less active agents, but the result is one that ultimately reflects discredit upon the administration and therefore requires administrative remedy. The landlord is an assignee of revenue with no legitimate power to collect his income. For this collection he is dependent upon a hereditary village accountant, owing no allegiance to the landlord, often his rival in business, appointed by Government and lazy and corrupt to an extent almost incredible. The tenant again has hereditary and permanent rights of which he can be deprived only by order of the administration and not by his landlord. On the one hand, therefore, we have a collecting agency which considers its own interests, especially its money-lending interests, as of infinitely greater importance than the duty of collection for a distant landlord; on the other, a tenantry, in most cases alienated by the widening gulf between Brahmans and Maráthas, conscious of its own secure position, but entangled in the net of obscure monetary transactions. If the collecting agency in Government villages were comparatively reliable and if the press of judicial work were not so burdensome, the Mámaldár might by close and constant supervision mitigate, if he could not abolish, these insistent evils.

But, as things are, the time devoted by the superior officers of Government does and must remain wholly incommensurate to the Herculean labour involved. Nor, on the other hand, do the Inámdárs afford that assistance which, even with a view to their own self-interest, might confidently be expected. Divided against one another by the complex system of Hindu law, they devote to litigation the energy and talents which were meant for the management of their estates. To Government their attitude is one of the subdued hostility conditioned partly by political movements, partly by their determination to resist personal responsibility for quit-rents on income often not received at all, never at least received till after long delays and not in considerable annoyance. For their villages they do absolutely nothing and even a duty such as standing surety for their tenants to secure their takávi loans, is to them wholly repugnant. Even that most limited concession, the suspension of revenue in a famine year in exchange for parallel suspensions of quit-rent, has this year been granted only after much persuasion. It has finally been assented to by 14 Inámdárs in the whole charge, although only to have so far signed a stamped agreement. Moreover, there are several Inámdárs who turn the present confusion and imperfect administration to their advantage by a dishonest system of money-lending in which arrears of rent and balances of debt are mixed up in one inextricable demand.

K. J. Agashe, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Since the year 1896 the number of suits as well as decrees began steadily to rise till it has reached the present number which is over 1,000. The reason is two-fold. In the first place, successive droughts have told on the resources of the people, many of whom find it beyond their power to pay off the rent, which in some cases is rather heavy. Secondly, the superior holders are far too exacting and insist on their dues being recovered up to the last farthing, quite unmindful of the circumstances under which the ryot are labouring. The cry of the superior holder or, in other words, the Inámdár that the revenue authorities are apathetic or indifferent to his interests has, I humbly submit, no real foundation. Everything that is possible to guard his interests is done and will be done by the revenue authorities and if anybody is to be blamed for his supposed grievances it is he himself. For the last ten years, famine is raging in the country with greater or less severity every year. Government have, on several occasions, come forward and relieved the distress of their tenants by liberal grants of tagái and remissions and suspensions of their dues in Government villages. But has the Inámdár done anything to relieve his tenant or come to his help? I personally am not aware of any instance. With all the leniency the Government themselves have found it very difficult to collect their own dues. There are in Sátára Táluka about 43 Inám villages, in almost each and every one of which there were large arrears due and for which decrees of Assistance Courts were obtained. Much of these arrears is now cleared and nearly 20 villages are now in a position to present a clean bill.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

The previous year's arrears of Inámdárs' dues in Belgaum were reduced from Rs. 5,03,141 to Rs. 4,69,971. The really irrecoverable amounts have not yet been ascertained and deducted from the figures of arrears. Out of a demand of Rs. 2,47,584 for the year under report, Rs. 1,34,580 or 54 per cent. were collected. This does not compare unfavourably with the collection of Government revenue which was 58 per cent. No figures have been given for Bijápur and Dhárwár. But much could not be collected in Bijápur owing to famine. In Dhárwár, collections were generally suspended by the Inámdárs, they having themselves obtained suspensions of judi due from them. There are no Inámdárs in Kánara, while in Kolába and Ratnágiri most of the Inámdárs collect their dues direct, as there are no hereditary village officers. The large arrears of Inámdárs' dues are the results of disputes among sharers and a tendency on the part of Inámdárs to keep on their books irrecoverable sums without making any allowance for bad seasons and such like calamities. The generality of

village officers are no doubt slack in this part of their duty but one Sub-Divisional Officer observes that the Inámdárs on their part do not file assistance suits. Mr. Hudson very properly doubts whether the village officers of villages where survey settlement has not been introduced are bound to collect the rents of Inámdárs which vary from two to four times the assessment.

Some Kulkarnis in Belgaum were punished by warning for remissness and one was fined and four suspended in Bijápur. In Dhárwár, one Kulkarni was dismissed for neglect in collection of the revenue of the Jághirdár of Gajendragad. In some cases in Belgaum, payment of remuneration was stopped. One Inámdár was proceeded with under section 85 of the Land Revenue Code for direct levy of his dues and in the case of another estate of a minor, the non-Inámdár alienees have been asked to show cause why steps should not be taken against them under that section. The number of assistance suits is generally small in Belgaum, Bijápur and Dhárwár compared with that in the coast districts. There was a small increase in Kánara and Ratnágiri, the figures being 1,313 and 815 against 1,266 and 728 respectively of the last year. The number is heaviest in Kolába. Including a balance of 1,624 cases from the past year, there were for disposal 4,698 cases of which 2,200 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 2,498. The large number is ascribed to the hard season. Two Inám lands, measuring about 45 acres and assessed at Rs. 20, lapsed to Government in Bijápur, one for failure of heirs, while the other was a life-holding. There were five cases of succession in Kolába.

### Extracts.

#### BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

Much of the Inámdárs' revenue remains uncollected owing to disputes among shareis, successive years of scarcity, etc.; but there is undoubtedly much slackness on the part of village officers. One Inámdár in Parasgad Sub-Division was reported to be levying his dues direct and action was taken against him according to law. Most of the lands in the Inám village of Hudli have gone into the possession of non-inámdar mortgagees, purchasers, etc., and they are recovering their dues direct from their tenants, consequently the Sub-Divisional Officer has called upon them to show cause why proceedings should not be taken against them under section 85 of the Land Revenue Code. The relations between Inámdárs and their tenants except in such cases as this are generally satisfactory. In order that the Inámdárs should not levy exorbitant demands from their rayats, steps are being taken to induce them to apply for extension of survey operations to their villages. There were no lapses of Ináms in this district during the year. In some cases Kulkarnis, who did not recover the Inámdárs' dues promptly, were punished by warning, etc.

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

Much of the Inámdárs' revenues remains uncollected owing to the prevailing scarcity. The relations of tenants with the Inámdárs, so far as I can see, are satisfactory, except in the village of Rajgoli Khurd in Belgaum Táluka where they are on bitter terms.

#### BIJÁPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

Only a few Inámdárs have consented to give suspensions and remissions to their tenants. Most of them are not willing to do so.

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

Owing to successive bad years, the condition of Inámdárs in my charge is not quite satisfactory. Most of them are heavily indebted. There are large arrears of their dues. Most of the arrears are irrecoverable and time-barred. Indeed the village officers do not pay proper attention for the collection of their dues. The Inámdárs, too, do not file assistance suits against their tenants.



K. G. Kalghatgi, Esq., Deputy Collector.

No satisfactory progress has been made in the recovery of one Inámdárs' dues during the current year. Owing to famine many of the tenants were unable to pay. No village officers were fined for the same reason for having not collected the Inámdárs' dues. Only the Inámdárs of 3 villages in Hungund availed themselves of the concessions of suspensions and remissions granted in Government Resolution No. 2994, dated the 24th March 1906. The Mámálatdár of Hungund remarks that he found it much more difficult to recover the dues from the Inámdárs than the Government landholders. There are many Inámdárs in the Sub-Division who seem to have been overwhelmed with debts. This and the famine will account for the difficulty in the way of recovery of judi from the Inámdárs.

DHA'BA'ÁR DISTRICT.

C. W. M. Hudson, Esq., Collector.

The number of assistance suits in all talukas is small. This however does not mean that in an occasional village the arrears are not large. In such, however, the tenants have gradually lost their rights as mirásdárs and are being converted into mere tenants-at-will. The rents levied in such villages probably vary between 2 and 4 times the Government assessment, which is what such tenants pay in Government villages. It seems doubtful whether the village officers are bound to collect such rents. A few Inám villages are surveyed, but in them also customary rents are levied. Such being the case, the general body of Inámdárs are naturally not anxious to have their villages surveyed and settled.

H. L. Painter, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Inámdárs seem to preserve satisfactory relations with their tenants. In the great majority of cases however (the only exceptions being half a dozen in Hángal) they declined point-blank to guarantee corresponding suspensions or remissions to the latter, and consequently were not granted any such concessions themselves; all those who did agree were given them. I observe that Inámdárs do not like the idea of mere suspensions: they say they have to give their tenants remissions outright, and this may to a large extent account for their reluctance, as suspensions only were, in most cases, available.

KOLA'BA DISTRICT.

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

In Pen, Uran and certain villages in Panvel the relation of Inámdárs and their tenants are not satisfactory, the grounds of complaints being:—

- (1) Inámdárs treat Mirási tenants as tenants-at-will.
- (2) They enhance rents arbitrarily.
- (3) They do not allot warkas lands among the tenants but, in defiance of custom, treat them as private property and levy high assessment.

This has led to disputes in the Civil Courts as to the right to quarry stone and earth in occupied lands and the right to injaili trees in occupied Khoti varkas lands.

- (4) They do not receive Rájinámás and kabuláyats and leave khatas permanently unchanged.
- (5) They levy exorbitant fees in connection with gureharan lands and the bringing of tahal and fuel from forest.
- (6) In some cases proper receipts are not given.
- (7) (In Wáhal) The Inámdár takes full assessment but does not repair khar bándhs as he is bound to.

## RATNA'GIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Macdonochie, Esq., Collector.

The majority of the Inám villages in this district are held on the *khofí* tenure and have no village officers. The Inámdárs mostly recover their revenue direct and without much difficulty. The number of cases in which they had to ask for assistance under section 86 of the Land Revenue Code was insignificant.

They are not usually known to use stringent measures of coercion for the recovery of their revenue. Encroachments on the customary rights of the tenants, characterised by enhancement of rents, eviction or other indications of maltreatment, have not come to light. Though they recover their dues direct, they do not treat their tenants as mere tenants-at-will, but allow them some fixity of status.

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

### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

In Ahmedabad District the relations between landlords and tenants were satisfactory. The number of rent suits brought by landlords fell slightly from 537 in the preceding year to 485, the fall being due probably to a better season. A decline in the number of rent suits in the Kaira District is also noticeable. In this district 1,468 acres of land were sold by agriculturists to non-agriculturists, compared with 532 acres sold by non-agriculturists to agriculturists. Altogether 2,398 acres were sold between agriculturists. In cases of mortgage with possession no less than 2,290 acres were transferred to the non-agriculturists over and above the amount that came into the possession of agriculturists. These results may be in part ascribed to the good prices obtained for cotton and tobacco which encouraged speculators to deal in land. The fall, noticed by the Collector, in the number of ejectment suits as compared with the previous year and the year preceding that, evidently indicates a more satisfactory basis of understanding between the landlords and tenants. There were in Broach District 1,123 private sales of land, in which about 8,225 acres changed hands. The bulk of this land was interchanged among agriculturists. Of the remainder, 2,200 acres were obtained by non-agriculturists from agriculturists and 1,250 acres were obtained by agriculturists from non-agriculturists. The net result of these sales consequently was that about 950 acres of land passed into the possession of non-agriculturists. This, there are good grounds to suppose, was similarly the effect of the high prices in cotton, which induced capitalists to invest money in land. It is common also in this district for emigrants on their return to lay out their savings in the purchase of land. The amount of land which was mortgaged with possession to agriculturists almost equalled the amount so mortgaged to non-agriculturists. The Collector and the Assistant Collector draw attention to the extent of the holdings in possession of some persons. Owing to deaths from plague, heirs have in many cases come into possession of more land than they can conveniently manage. Speculators in land, too, have acquired large holdings, to which they cannot devote much attention and which they make over to tenants. These circumstances necessarily tend to lower efficiency in cultivation, and in combination with the fact that labour is at times scarce, affect the value of land adversely. The small holder is a better cultivator than the large holder or the speculator. The Bhágdári tenure was dissolved in 30 villages in which the tenure obtained, but the dissolution does not seem to have reduced the area under cultivation. The land was returned to the holders on either full or restricted tenure, the occupants becoming responsible instead of nominal Bhágdárs, often with no interest in the village. Land in Surat District to the extent of 17,517 acres changed ownership in 3,489 cases, 11,953 acres being dealt with in transactions solely between agriculturists. The amount of land which passed from con-agricul-

turists to agriculturists was 1,750 acres and that which passed from agriculturists to non-agriculturists was 4,214 acres. In all, therefore, 2,464 acres of land were taken up by non-agriculturists in excess of the amount which went to agriculturists. As in Broach District, the high profits from cotton and the desire of emigrants on their return to the district to take up land most likely caused the excess. Rent suits in this district decreased from 817 in the previous year to 457. The good cotton crops that helped revenue payers to meet the Government demand with ease, helped the tenants to pay the rents due from them more readily than in the preceding year. The relations between landlords and tenants in Thána District are stated to be harmonious, but the number of rent suits increased to 1,419, or to almost double the number in the previous year. However, I agree with the Collector that the total number of suits was not large for a district such as Thána, where the rent system prevails so largely. While on this subject, it may be as well to note the growing influence of the woodland scheme over rents. Landlords have already begun to reduce their rents in order to secure tenants, who are now afforded an opportunity of obtaining land on easy terms under the woodland tenure. Against this, is the fact that landlords often find difficulty in cultivating their rice lands on the coast, as their wonted tenants or labourers avail themselves of woodland holdings to earn a rude but independent livelihood in the jungles.

#### Extracts.

##### AHMEDABAD DISTRICT.

W. Doderet, Esq., Collector.

The relations between the revenue and rent paying classes and landlords and tenants were generally amicable. Rent suits were brought against 485 inferior holders as compared with 537 in 1904-05.

##### KAIRA DISTRICT.

A. L. M. Wood, Esq., Collector.

Kanbis, commonly called Pátidárs, are the revenue-paying class in this district, along with some Baniyas, Bráhmíns Rajputs, Dharala Kolis, Mahomedans, &c. Most of the Baniyas and many of the Brahmins hold their lands as mortgagees in possession, and they, as well as the richer Pátidárs, do not usually cultivate it themselves. Their tenants are mostly Dharalas, Mahomedans and Kanbis of small means or large families. Before the recent famine years, rents were more commonly paid in cash, and varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 or more per acre, the tenant paying the assessment in addition. Owing to successive bad years, cash rents have decreased by 10 to 50 per cent., and the share system (always in vogue as an alternative) is now becoming the more common. Half the gross produce remains the usual rent in kind, but now one-third is also heard of, and in any case this system is subject to some give and take as regards who pays the assessment, who finds the manure, cattle implements, &c.

##### PANCH MAHA'LS DISTRICT.

G. Wiles, Esq., Assistant Collector.

No improvement has been noticed in the relations between sávkár and client. In parts of the Godhra Táluka I have been struck during the inspection of the Record of Rights, with the large amount of land which has been in the possession of Baniyas as mortgagees in some cases for many years. The sum for which the land is mortgaged is sometimes absurdly small: the usual rent exacted from the mortgagee who cultivates being  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the produce, the tenant paying the assessment. A few cases have come to light during the preparation of the Record of Rights of attempts on the part of Baniyas to trade on the ignorance of the ordinary cultivators by false entries in their books, to get this entered in the Record. Besides this kind of rent, which is in reality interest on debt, there are some few cases of real rent in the better villages. Such rents vary from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the produce according as tenant or landlord pays the assessment.

## BROACH DISTRICT.

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

The so-called Thákors are the only big landlords in the district, and though most of them reside in the villages where they hold lands they do not cultivate any lands in person, nor are they observed to take much interest in the improvement of agriculture. They sometimes advance loans to their tenants and stand guarantee for repayments of Government takávi when they are unable to advance loans themselves and money is required for the cultivation of their lands. Though the tenants of Thákors have no fixity of tenure, they generally inherit lands from father to son. The relations between the Thákors and their tenants are generally satisfactory and no complaints about rack-renting or forcible evictions are heard. The tenants have no right of complaint if they are rack-rented or evicted, and even if complaints are made to the Collector they cannot be remedied. Most of the Thákors are deep in debt, and applications are often made to the Tálukdári Settlement Officer for the estates being taken in his management.

## THANA DISTRICT.

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

The natural result of the woodland scheme is to create a class of petty revenue-payers and to diminish *pro tanto* the number of rent-payers; as time goes on, this may have important economic effects and lead to a reduction of rents by the landlords to attract tenants. A tendency to this result has already set in.

The relations between landlord and tenants are as a rule harmonious; the number of assistance cases (1,419) was nearly twice as large as in the previous year, but this number cannot be considered a large one for a district of the size of Thána in which so great a proportion of the cultivating class consists of tenants. The number of ejection suits (294) was also small.

R. E. A. Elliott, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Sálsette has a number of khoti villages in all of which (except one) the relations of the tenants and landlords are friendly.

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

The relations between the landlords and tenants are satisfactory, though owing to the unfavourable character of the season a fairly large number of rent-suits was lodged in the Sháhpur Táluka.

## CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

Khándesh was the only district in the division in which the position of the revenue-payer was at all easy; that the year was on the whole a prosperous one for this district is witnessed by the fact that nearly cent. per cent. of the land revenue could be collected and that too with very little pressure. In the other districts the position of the revenue-payer was rendered difficult on account of the prevailing distress. But their hardships were to a considerable extent alleviated by State help in all possible directions—suspensions and remissions, grants of tagái, relief works and grass depôts.

The condition of the tenants of the inámdárs was aggravated by the difficulty of obtaining from the inámdárs suspensions and remissions of revenue and grants of tagái. The relations between landlords and tenants could therefore hardly be expected to be satisfactory anywhere except Khándesh. The tenant's discontent is enhanced by comparison of his own hard lot with the easier one of his brethren in the Government villages. Things are made worse by the absenteeism of the landlord and recovery of rent more difficult by the village officer's tendency to join issues with tenants among whom he has to live.

## Extracts.

KHANDESH DISTRICT.

W. C. Shepherd, Esq., Collector.

The relations between the landlords and tenants are generally harmonious and assistance cases are filed in cases only where the payments are delayed and the claims are in danger of being time-barred. The most common form of lease is that on the *batai* principle. After paying Government dues from the crops the balance is equally divided between the cultivator and the landlord.

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

Relations between landlords and tenants are generally friendly. Landlordism is, nominally at least, on the increase, but many sales are really mortgages, the buyer making an oral promise, sometimes before a *panch*, to restore the land when the loan is repayed. In these cases the rent paid is really interest for the money advanced. Where the tenant has been the original occupant and the landlord is his *sávkár* disputes are more frequent than where the tenant has no such relations with his landlord. Rent is generally paid in money and varies from an amount equal to the assessment (which is also paid by the tenant) to five or six times the assessment. A very common lease, however, is that where the landlord takes half the crop. Sales appear to be on the increase. In Bhusával Táluka they numbered 865 this year against 494 last year. This does not necessarily indicate that land is passing into the hands of the non-agricultural classes. The ryot is not so helpless against the *sávkár* as he is often represented to be in the Deccan. On the contrary, the Kunbis deal with their *sávkárs* on by no means unequal terms and many prosperous *sávkárs* are drawn from the ranks of the Kunbis themselves. The Márwádi is not a byeword as he is in the Deccan where he is sometimes represented as arriving from Márwár with nothing but his dhotar, to return again when his money bags are full. Many Márwádi *sávkárs* have been settled here for two or three generations. There are extremes, of course, but it is not a far-fetched generalisation to describe East Khándesh, despite its debts, as peopled by a prosperous peasantry. The moneyed classes find land a good investment and purchases are eagerly sought after, but the moneyed classes are by no means the non-agricultural classes.

E. H. Waterfield, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The relations between landlords and tenants are on the whole quite friendly.

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

The relation between landlords and tenants continues to be satisfactory.

Digambar Dalaya, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The relations between landlords and tenants have not been to my knowledge strained. The people have subsisted for generations in a sort of vassalage to their landlords, superior holders, or *sávkárs*, and they never feel that they are being hardly dealt with. The usual terms on which lands are let are half the produce. Money payments are not uncommon.

J. E. Sahasrabudhe, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The relations between the landlords and their tenants are smooth and the superior holders seldom go to a Civil Court for the recovery of the rents from the inferior holders. Even in cases where the lands are leased out by the *sávkárs* to their tenants there is no difficulty in recovering the rent dues. The *inámdárs* are generally averse to applying for assistance. All cases are disposed of amicably and the number of assistance cases is therefore very small. No tendency on the part of the *inámdárs* is seen to evade the provisions of section 85 of the Land Revenue Code or to raise rents in violation of the

## NASIK DISTRICT.

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

The relations between the landlords and their tenants are becoming strained, partly because of the recent bad years and partly because of the help given to the cultivators by Government in the shape of tagái which makes the cultivator somewhat less dependent on the sávkárs. Moreover, the gradual spread of education is making the cultivators better able to take care of themselves and more ready to resent the attempts by sávkárs to entangle them.

The record of rights has thrown considerable light on the situation of the cultivating classes. Rates of rent have not appreciably changed of late. It appears that for the time being, owing to the introduction of the Agriculturists' Relief Act and the restricted tenure, the cultivator is losing his credit with his sávkár; but his situation will, in all probability, be ultimately improved if he can obtain cash for his urgent needs from other sources, such as co-operative credit societies.

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

In cases of simple tenancy there is seldom any friction in the western part of the sub-division between the tenant and the landlord. The rent is practically fixed by custom and there is usually no difficulty in obtaining it from the tenant, although there is a tenancy that way in the eastern part of the sub-division. Simple tenancy, however, is the exception rather than the rule. In the majority of cases the land which has been mortgaged to a sávkár is cultivated by its real owner as a tenant, and as all the sávkárs' exertions are directed towards screwing as much out of the unfortunate cultivator as possible, it would be surprising if relations were in any way cordial. In cases of simple tenancy the maximum rent is about twice the assessment; but a very usual condition is the payment of half the proceeds of cultivation, the assessment being paid by the landlord. Where the landlord is the sávkár mortgagee, the rent so-called may be practically anything varying from 1 to 8 times the assessment. In Peint, lands which the owner cannot cultivate himself are usually let to another on condition of paying the assessment only.

## POONA DISTRICT.

A. H. A. Simcox, Esq., Collector.

A majority of landholders in Poona do not live in their inám villages which they look upon only as a source of income. Scarcely an inámdár can be found in his inám village during famine or plague time to help the people. The relations between the inámdárs and the tenants under these circumstances are not very cordial, and whereas the inámdár wishes to recover every rupee of assessment due, the tenant resists the claim so long as possible, viz., until extreme measures are resorted to. Owing to divisions among the recipients of inám revenue, the share of each sharer has in many cases dwindled down to a small sum, which in a considerable number of cases constitutes the sole source of livelihood of the sharer. The rayats on the other hand expect to be accorded the same treatment in seasons of short crop which the rayats of the unalienated villages receive at the hands of Government. Matters have reached such a crisis that it will, I am led to think, be necessary at no distant date to readjust the administration of inám villages which at present entails heavy and thankless work on the Mámlátdár and the higher Revenue Officers of the district.

No instances have been noticed of tenants relinquishing their occupancies merely on the ground of harsh treatment by inámdárs.

Nazarána is not levied by inámdárs in this district at the time of recording rájinámás and kabuláyats. In alienated village an amount in excess of the survey and mamul assessment is not generally levied from tenants in respect of lands the occupancy of which vests in the tenant. The rents payable by lease-holders on private lands in alienated as also Government villages are usually much in excess of the survey assessment and broadly speaking may be said to reach the proportions noted below:—

*Jiráyat land.*—Double the survey assessment.

*Bágdit land irrigated by well water.*—From double to four times the survey assessment.

*Bágdit land irrigated by canal.*—From five to ten times the assessment.

This is to some extent justifiable, as the amount of rent so charged represents the survey assessment, Local Fund cess and also interest on the funds invested by the superior holders in land purchase.

Mortgagees are often found to charge the rent which includes interest on outstanding loans and frequently seek to enforce their claims through the medium of assistance suits. Care is taken not to grant assistance in such cases.

No instances were noticed of improper or irregular recovery of land revenue. The practice of recovering land revenue in kind is still in force only in villages of the Mával Táluka and in the Mulshi Petha, and the custom of receiving rents in kind from inferior holders in Government as well as in alienated villages to the extent of half the gross produce obtains to a considerable extent in this district.

#### SATARA DISTRICT.

O. Rothfeld, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Where the tenants have no permanent rights secured by law, rack-renting invariably prevails. Rents in such cases are commonly between 3 or 4 times the assessment, and besides this every advantage of legal chicanery or involuntary delay in payment by the tenant is taken to turn out the tenant and again to sell the tenant-right. Plague and famine, however, by diminishing the excessive pressure on land, and the parallel tendency to migration to industrial centres have to some extent lessened the evil of rack-renting.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

The general position under this head in all the districts except Dhárwár has been described in last year's report. The largest rent paying class in Dhárwár is the Lingáyats and there are a few Jains in the West. Some Bráhmaṇ landlords are large cultivators. Desáis are particularly numerous in Hangal and their condition is none too good on account of family disputes. Owing to the unfavourable season the condition of the revenue and rent paying classes must have been very trying during the year, more especially in the case of inám villages. The rayat there is a mere tenant-at-will, gets no tagái either from Government or the inámdár, and has at times few hopes of obtaining suspensions or remissions from the latter. The Collector of Bijápúr observes that repeatedly uncertain seasons have tended to limit leases to one or two years and the tenants have thus no incentive to improve their lands. The Collector of Belgaum reports that owing to the effects of plague the supply of land is greater than the demand in many places, so that rents have fallen, but that the rent of the best irrigated land is still very high and out of all proportion to the assessment. A few inámdárs came forward to claim suspensions and remissions on condition of giving the same to the tenants; but the majority are unwilling to avail themselves of the concession. Those who availed themselves of it must have done so because of the impossibility of making any collections when the rayats of the neighbouring Government villages got suspensions. In Mr. Painter's charge the inámdárs refused pointblank to guarantee suspensions to the tenants.

Mr. MacMillan notices that the relations between inámdárs and their tenants in his charge are strained, because the former treat the latter as mere tenants-at-will, enhance rents arbitrarily, do not allot warkas lands among tenants, and levy exorbitant fees for gurucharan and on tahal and fuel from forest. The question will no doubt receive consideration during the current year. This complaint is not so acute in the other sub-division of Kolába,

while in the neighbouring district of Ratnágiri the relations of khots and their tenants were peaceful, except in Chiplun where the tenants complain of the appraisal system. There was an organized strike in a village in the Madan-gad Petha with a view to withhold payment to the khot.

Extracts.

BELGAUM DISTRICT.

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

The rents usually levied by landlords from their tenants vary greatly in various localities. Owing to the effects of plague the supply of land is in many places greater than the demand, so that rents have fallen. But the rent of the best irrigated lands is still very high and out of all proportion to the assessment.

BLJAPUR DISTRICT.

K. R. Bomanji, Esq., Collector.

Owing to the uncertain character of the season in this district people are not willing to enter into leases of longer duration than a year or at the most two, and one result of this tendency is that there is no incentive to the tenant to make any improvements in the lands. Rents are rarely in cash, the usual thing being for the lessor and the lessee to share the produce in generally equal proportions, the owner of the land paying the assessment and the tenant finding the money for the purchase of seed and the oxen for ploughing the land. The letting value of land in the case of cash rents has also very much gone down as the chances so frequent here of a failure of rain have to be taken into account. The relations between the landlord and tenant are usually good, except in individual instances where they become strained owing to the avarice of the landlord or disputes as to rents payable in a bad year when the tenant has reaped no crop.

KANARA DISTRICT.

G. D. Panse, Esq., Collector.

The condition of the revenue and rent paying classes was not as good as last year, the main reason being that rainfall being deficient the produce of fields was smaller.

KOLABA DISTRICT.

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

The lands held by Pandharpeshas are generally cultivated by tenants such as Maráthás, Agris, Kunbis, etc. The rent they pay to the owners of the lands varies from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the normal produce. Somewhere it is 10 maunds per acre. The relations between the landlords and their tenants are not on the whole strained.

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

Most of the land (probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  at least) in khálsa villages is owned by Pandharpeshas and cultivated by tenants.

The usual rents run about  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  produce, the owner paying revenue and the tenant incurring all other expenses.

In the khár lands the practice is frequently for the tenant to pay ardheli (half produce) generally where the outturn is uncertain. At Neral, in connection with the land acquisition work, it was found that the average "makta" came to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  maunds (*i. e.*, about Rs. 4) per rupee of assessment.

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

Bráhmans, Prabhus, Gujars, Márwádis, Shimpis, Mussalmáns and a few Agris are the revenue paying classes in my charge. Except by the Agris, land



is regarded as a sort of investment by them, and they rarely cultivate it themselves. Most of them obtain rents in kind from their tenants and these vary from half a khandi to one khandi per acre. Usually, the rents amount to about three times the assessment, though it is not unusual to find previous year's arrears being added to new kabuláyats or rent-notes. Sub-letting of lands by tenants is not common in the sub-division. Maráthás, Kunbis, Agris, Mális, Máhárs and Mussalmáns are the chief rent paying classes of the sub-division.

#### RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

A. F. Maconochie, Esq., Collector.

The chief classes of cultivators are Kunbis, Maráthás, Bhandáris, Mussalmáns, Máhárs and Bráhmans. Very few Bráhmans are actual cultivators; they are mostly only landlords. The prevailing tenure of the district is khoti. The relations between the khots and their tenants were generally peaceful. The former treated the latter, in many cases, with marked forbearance. In many cases they remitted or suspended part of the rent due from the tenants. As regards, however, the village of Borghar in Madangad Petha and Chiplun Táluka generally, Mr. Garrett remarks as follows :—

“In the Madangad Petha at Borghar there was an organized strike among the tenants; by mutual agreement they have successfully withheld payment from the khot.

“In the Chiplun Táluka there is discontent among the tenants. They complain everywhere against the appraisalment system.”

The number of sales of land was a little larger, while that of mortgages decreased to a small extent—results very probably due to the fact that since the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act sávkárs do not care to take lands in mortgage.

### VIII.—General Remarks.

#### NORTHERN DIVISION.

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

*Ahmedabad.*—Industrial enterprise in Ahmedabad City continued and activity in the building of mills is on the increase. The rapid growth of mill industry has lately added greatly to the population of the city, and the question of increasing the efficiency of the Police force and of strengthening it numerically is one of the vital importance. Proposals are on foot to raise the pay of the Police so as to bring it on a level with the high labour rates prevailing in the city. This step should secure a better class of recruit, but the thorough overhauling of the force is necessary and must be undertaken when the general scheme for reorganisation is carried through.

Owing to the large consumption of wood fuel in the mills the price of wood has gone up considerably. In order to meet in some degree the demand for fuel the Acting Collector had introduced measures for the systematic conservation of young 'bábul' in Government waste land. The supply of wood under this system will, after a few years, certainly prove useful; but there can be no question that eventually the mills will have to burn coal.

The only other matter of interest is the decline in prosperity of the ports of Gogho and Dholera. As long as these ports remain unconnected with lines of railway they must yield in importance to Bhávnagar.

*Kaira.*—The rising wood trade of the district is the outcome of the large demand for wood in the Ahmedabad mills. Mr. Wood, the Collector, points out the danger to which hedge-row trees will be exposed if the rayat is tempted by

the high prices held out, and he has turned his attention to the encouragement of bábul plantations. The impetus given by the new roads of the district to the traffic in wood will in all likelihood greatly benefit some towns, as, for instance, Mehmádad. Sanads were issued in the district for the planting of 110 fruit trees.

*Panch Maháls.*—Several ginning factories have been set up and others are in the course of erection in Kálol and Hálol, where cotton cultivation is extending with rapidity. A manganese mine is being worked near Shivrájpur, and there is promise that other minerals will shortly be exploited in this neighbourhood. I do not think Mr. Brown's suggestion about forcing on the prosperity of Godhra Town is a practicable or useful suggestion. The growth of this town must entirely depend upon the development of the natural resources of the district. Expansion of towns on the one hand and general prosperity of the district on the other must necessarily be reciprocal, and what is most needed is the opening up of the district by good roads and the application of capital with a resourceful agricultural population. The special grants now assigned by Government to the District Local Boards for the construction and repair of roads can be put to good account in this district.

*Broach.*—There is nothing of note except the construction of a road from Broach to Jambusar with the aid of the special grants from Provincial funds. This road will open up the heart of the district and considerably help on the trade in cotton, which at present centres around Broach, Ankleshvar and Pálej on the railway line. An increase in the number of flour mills, as also the setting up of a pencil factory at Broach, and the addition of a ginning factory to the number at Ankleshvar, are other points of progress in the district.

*Surat.*—The experiments in sericulture in Vyara referred to by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Olpád, should be watched, but I am not disposed to encourage them in the Mándvi Táluka without careful consideration with the Agricultural Department.

*Thána.*—The woodlands scheme is now in actual working, about 40,000 acres having been given out under it. Mr. Anderson deprecates the tenure as one that will encourage the backward classes in idleness and alienate the loyalty of the landlord. The system, I think, must be in working a few years before its effects in raising the status of the poorer cultivators can be judged. I am not in favour of its extension till we have more experience. The benefits arising from the encouragement of tree-growth, if this is attained, cannot be denied, while indirectly the tenure promises to furnish a safeguard against rack-renting. A deterioration in toddy trees, owing to the practice of leaf-cutting, caused the sale of toddy to become unprofitable and as a consequence a tendency to substitute spirits for toddy set in. The Collector immediately gave the matter his attention, and the plan adopted by him of reserving trees, solely for the purpose of tapping, should check the evil. The measures laid down against the indiscriminate cutting of tahal were on the whole fairly well observed. I concur with Mr. Anderson that efforts should be made to gradually wean the Thána cultivators from their present destructive methods of cultivation by wood-ash manure. Something in this direction might well be taken in hand by the Agricultural Department. The experiments in Lánowli were too distant and on too small a scale to attract attention. Two destructive fires broke out at Padgha and Bhiwndi respectively in Bhiwndi Táluka. At Padgha about 40 houses were burnt and damage to the extent of about Rs. 50,000 was caused. The people who suffered were helped by public subscription as well as by free grants of timber and remission of assessment. At Bhiwndi, property to the value of Rs. 20,000 was destroyed. Another untoward occurrence was the loss, due to a boat foundering in Kalyán creek, of about 20 lives.

The District Officers have as usual administered their respective charges well, and in conclusion I must record my appreciation of the interest and zeal shown by them.

## CENTRAL DIVISION.

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

Government have been loyally served throughout the year by the Collectors of the Central Division, and the Assistant and Deputy Collectors have almost all worked well. As our administration progresses the work of all officers necessarily increases. The tendency is inevitable, but it may perhaps be worth remarking that in the case both of the Collector and his Assistants it is very desirable that there should be leisure for talk with all comers in camp and village, and in case of the Assistants and Deputies it will be a great pity if the amount of their revenue work becomes so great that the bulk of the magisterial first class work has to devolve on the Mámíatdárs. Apart from the fact that the Sub-Divisional Officer is probably a better Magistrate than his subordinate, the Mámíatdár, magisterial work affords a training to the young officer which can hardly be got in any other way.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

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

(1) *Boundary Marks*.—In the Karnátic Districts the boundary marks continued to be in an unsatisfactory state, as sufficient attention could not be paid to their improvement on account of the bad season. In the Dhárwár District, however, special attention was paid in parts of the Dhárwár and Hubli Tálukás to the matter and bands were got completely repaired by villagers. In Belgaum Mr. Artal would prevent rayats from doing their field work unless they agree to repair their bands. Such a measure is out of the question.

In the Konkan Districts below the ghats the stone marks are especially in a neglected condition. Under the orders of Government contained in Government Resolution No. 10147 of 13th December 1905 a special experiment of a complete boundary marks inspection and repairs of all incomplete marks and restoration of all missing marks was attempted in selected villages. The cost was defrayed by Government in the first instance. The results were satisfactory in Ratnágiri, Southern Division, Kolába, and Kánara, but not in the Northern Division of Kolába.

Tagai accounts have been brought up to date everywhere. The question of simplifying these is now before Government, as the final report of the Commissioners has been lately submitted to them for orders. There is a general complaint that the present system of accounts throws a heavy work on village officers. This complaint has good grounds. Very few of the vatandár kulkarnis can be trusted to write them correctly. The majority of the Collectors are in favour of relieving the Village Accountant of this work, and think that they should be kept mainly at the Táluka Office. The administrative forms prescribed with a view to enable District Officers to check the misapplication of loans do not seem to have been regularly kept or filled up. Mr. Painter does not seem to know even that such forms are in existence.

(2) *Restoration of improperly alienated Service and Watan Lands*.—In two sub-divisions of Belgaum watan lands were restored in 84 cases and sanadi lands in 123. No figures have been given for the 3rd sub-division. Nothing was done in Bijápur owing to famine. Mr. Bomanji repeats his suggestion of last year to appoint a special officer for it. One thousand eight hundred and six acres assessed at Rs. 2,204 were restored in two sub-divisions of Dhárwár.

There can be no doubt that the law on the subject is now widely known, and steps taken to set aside alienations will certainly result in a still wider publicity of it and act as a check against future alienations of service lands.

(3) *Magisterial Work*.—Mr. Maconochie observes that Mámíatdárs are generally better Revenue officers than Magistrates. This is not to be wondered at considering the multifarious calls on their time and the difficulty of devoting their undivided attention to any one work without interruption. He also notices a tendency, which is not confined to Ratnágiri, but is worse there than

elsewhere, to take up as criminal cases what are mere civil dispute. Mr. Hudson notices a tendency to grant adjournments on insufficient grounds. Both these are subjects which might well occupy every District Magistrate's attention. They have been asked specially to scrutinise the work of Magistrates when just appointed, to see that they get into a good way of dealing with their cases from the first. The Sub-Divisional Magistrates in Kánara and Mr. Moghe in Dhárwár and Mr. Patwardhan in Ratnágiri took a fair number of cases in relief of Táluka Magistrates. The District Magistrate of Kolába also took up cases in relief of the Mámlatdár of Karjat. The Panwel Bench has not been working well, sittings having had to be postponed for want of a quorum.

The Hubli cotton trade suffered on account of an accidental fire which destroyed cotton worth about three lákhs. Insurance saved the largest sufferers in the fire. The adulteration of good with bad cotton received a check by the intervention of the Bombay merchants.

Mr. Painter's action in refusing to allow Circle Inspectors to return to head-quarters until they had finished all measurement cases, which they are in the habit of accumulating, might well be followed by other Sub-Divisional Officers.

## B.—SIND.

### (1) Economic Condition and Prospects.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

1. The season proved to be exceedingly satisfactory. The river rose in good time and, although it fell suddenly in the end of August, it soon recovered itself and maintained a high level almost up to the end of the season, not only providing a sufficient supply for the kharif crops, but enabling a large area to be soaked for rabi cultivation. The rainfall, especially that of the cold weather, was, generally speaking, both plentiful and seasonable, except in the Kohistan táluka of the Karáchi District—where once again the entire revenue of the tract, to the amount, including the one-anna cess, of Rs. 4,133-2-0, had to be remitted—and in the submontane tracts elsewhere. In the Desert the rainfall was not altogether bad, but the crops suffered from ravages of locusts, and the average produce in most tálukas was below 8 annas in the rupee. Except for these drawbacks, the results were on the whole highly gratifying. The total area under cultivation rose by 14 per cent. and the revenue demand by 16 per cent. Remissions which in the past year aggregated nearly 8 lákhs, amounted this year to Rs. 2,63,000 only, a severe hailstorm in the Lárkána District and duststorms in the Karáchi and Hyderabad Districts being responsible for an appreciable part of the amount. Fodder was plentiful almost everywhere, including the Kohistan and Desert tracts, and the country was practically free from any destructive floods except for a few local breaches in the canal banks, which did some damage, and the river spills in parts of the Ubauro and Ghotki Tálukas, which, although they swept away the kharif crops, enabled a considerable area to be brought under rabi cultivation.

2. Almost all the canals worked satisfactorily, and it became possible to remove the restriction on extension of cultivation in respect of appreciable areas on the Sukkur, Ghár and Begári canals. The Western Nara, which had worked unsatisfactorily in 1904-05, gave splendid results in the year under report with the help of the new mouth recently given to it. There was no opportunity of making use of the dredger at the mouth of the Dád, but the canal worked most satisfactorily all the same. On the other hand, the Nasrat canal, which is in the jurisdiction of the Colonisation Officer, Jamrao Canal, ceased flowing after the end of November, owing to the silting up of the Lundi dhand from which it takes off. This prejudicially affected the cotton cultivation and rabi crops dependent on the canal. The large scheme originally proposed for the improvement of the Ren-wah in the Hyderabad District has been abandoned, and Government have ordered a contour survey of the tract preliminary to the preparation of a project for an entirely new canal. But the superabundance of water, which is the chief complaint in respect of this canal, still continues, and

it appears from the Sub-Divisional Officer, Naushábro's report that the measures taken this year to prevent the overflow of water from the canal proved a failure. The Collector is communicating the Sub-Divisional Officer's remarks to the Executive Engineer.

3. There was at first some fear of the Mahiwah—the new canal in the Mirpur, Mathelo and Rohri sub-divisions—not bringing a sufficient supply owing to the closing by the Mazari Chief, Sardar Bahram Khan, of certain "gahs" or inlets supplying the Gudu dhand from which the canal takes its rise; but fortunately a serious catastrophe was averted by the re-opening of the "gahs" through the good offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ghazi Khán, and the satisfactory working of one of them. The question of the supply of the dhand from these "gahs" and the right of the Mazari Chief to close them is at present in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition, and so far the Commissioner thinks that the relations of the British Government, the Bháwalpur Darbár, and the Mazari Chief with respect to the conservancy of the dhand generally require to be placed on a more definite footing than is at present the case. The Commissioner has the whole question under his consideration, and is in correspondence with the Indus River Commission, and if necessary will address Government on the subject in due course.

4. The scheme for the re-modelling of the Begári canal is under the consideration of Government, and until the proposed re-modelling is carried out little can be done to improve the state of affairs described by Mr. Ferrers as existing in the Sháhdádpur Táluka of the Upper Sind Frontier District. The Choi branch of the Begári canal, which is designed to irrigate a large area in the Shikárpur Táluka, is under construction and will be in working order during the next inundation. Mr. Martin advocates the preferential claims of the local zamindárs to the lands dependent on this branch. The Collector will doubtless give full consideration to this matter when distributing the lands. The question of improving the canals in the Tatta sub-division in the Karáchi District is still in an uncertain state. Some substantial improvements in the canal system of this tract appear to be undoubtedly necessary if the condition of the people is to be permanently improved. In the Nara Valley there were some complaints of deficiency of water in the lower reaches of the Mithrao, but as the Deputy Commissioner truly observes, the deficiency is due more to the large draw-off that takes place in the upper reaches for rice cultivation than to any other cause. The Khipro canal—a branch of the Dhoro Naro—is also said to suffer from inadequacy of water. The Commissioner is not aware whether the view that the Jamrao has injured the supply in the Nara canals is shared by the Engineers. However that may be, some of the Nara canals appear to be in need of improvement, and it is hoped the Public Works Department will propose and carry out the necessary works as soon as possible. Mr. Bharucha's suggestions for the improvement of the perennial supply in the division have been dealt with by the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Beyts, in whose remarks the Commissioner concurs. The Commissioner notices that Mr. Sadik Ali has not made any remarks in his report on the working of the canals in his sub-division.

5. No change in the prices of labour is reported except in the Karáchi District, where they ruled somewhat higher than in the preceding year. Elsewhere they are high enough already, and, in spite of the excellent inundation and the consequent extension of cultivation, which could not have failed to restrict the number of men available for non-agricultural labour, a further rise could not be expected. The influx of labour from the neighbouring provinces and Native States, especially from Rájputana owing to the facilities afforded by the J.-B. Railway, is pretty constant, and any shortage in the supply caused by local withdrawals from non-agricultural to agricultural work is soon made up by this foreign labour. The rates at which the agricultural labourer, the "hari," is paid his wages in kind at the "batai" are regulated by local custom, and are seldom altered. But there is abundant evidence in the reports to show that the excellent harvest of the year improved the condition of the "hari" proportionately with that of his landlord.

6. Prices of food-grains ruled higher than in the preceding year. The reverse would have been the natural consequence of the good inundation and

the abundant harvests; but the famine-stricken tracts of Márwár and Cutch drew off a large porportion of the year's outturn, and the result was a rise in the local prices. This, however, enabled the land-holding classes to realise a good value for their produce. How far the tendency noticed in the last report of some zamindárs to dispense with the aid of middle-men, and deal with the purchasing firms direct, is extending, or how far zamindárs are acquiring the habit of postponing the disposal of their produce in order to take advantage of a rise in prices is not apparent from the reports, but there is no reason to suppose that there has been any retrogression in this respect. More than one report makes mention of zamindárs having been able to discharge their liabilities, and all bear testimony to the general prosperity that has attended the high inundation of the year. The same cannot of course be said of the tracts dependent on rainfall; but here, too, the people were certainly better off than last year. There was plenty of fodder for their cattle, and they themselves must have found ample employment either as harvest labourers or otherwise in the inundation tracts.

7. The total amount of land revenue which remained for collection, after deducting remissions from the demand, was Rs. 1,08,00,000 against Rs. 87,20,000 in the preceding year. Of this 95·54 per cent. was recovered before the end of the year, against 92·38 in 1904-05. The outstandings left are not large compared with the preceding year's balance; and, considering that much of the outstandings belonging to previous years has also been recovered, and that all this has been effected without making any extensive use of the more severe forms of process, the result may be considered highly satisfactory. Dilatoriness in making payment, however, continues to be a common failing of the land-holders in Sind, as evidenced by the larger number of notices issued; but this is an evil which must take time to disappear. As observed in the previous report, an effective remedy lies in the more extended use of the provisions of section 148, Land Revenue Code. The reports show that, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Commissioner last year, penalties under this section, instead of being almost confined, as was then the case, to the Lárkána division, were levied in several other parts of the Province; and, if this policy is judiciously pursued, there is every hope of its producing the desired result. The large number of forfeitures mentioned in the Lárkána report are again mere forfeitures under the Sind Fallow Rules. A sum of Rs. 1,13,627 due from land-holders in the Desert talukas for 1904-05 and previous years was written off during the year.

8. There is little to record in connection with the working of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. Even the money-lenders are now less vehement on the subject, although probably (as stated by Mr. Mules in his remarks on the report for the Kotri sub-division) the feeling between them and the Muhammadan agriculturists continues to be strained. Combined with the restricted tenure, the Act has undoubtedly lessened the credit of the agriculturist. But this does not appear to have affected the agricultural operations of the year in any way. The increased cultivation rendered possible by the excellent inundation of the year has been undertaken without difficulty; and although Government have, as usual, been liberal in the grants of takávi, yet takávi does not supply all the funds requisite for cultivation. Again, while it is certain that the money-lender is chary, since the introduction of the Agriculturists' Relief Act, about advancing money to the cultivator except on absolute sale of land or mortgage with possession, it appears, so far as the information available in the reports goes, that there was an appreciable decrease in the areas transferred by sale and mortgage. These results may be due to various causes, but it may, the Commissioner thinks, be not unfairly assumed as one cause that some zamindárs are learning to be self-reliant and prudent and getting more and more independent of the money-lender.

9. The amount of takávi distributed in the year was Rs. 5,50,000, or about Rs. 10,000 more than in the previous year. Takávi continues to be popular with the cultivators, and care is taken to provide a sufficient amount to meet a genuine demand. With reference to Mr. Ferrers' remark about the cause of decrease in the amount granted in his district, his attention will be

invited to the proviso to rule 4 of the rules under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, under which defaulters may be granted fresh loans under that Act in certain circumstances. It will be apparent from the reports that greater attention is being now paid to the inspection of works, with the result that several cases of misapplication of loans have come to light in the Hyderabad, Sukkur and Upper Sind Frontier Districts. No information is forthcoming in the reports as to the amount of takávi balances still remaining unpaid, but the Commissioner hopes that, in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time, unnecessary postponements have not been allowed. It is satisfactory to find that loans under the Land Improvement Act are largely utilised for the construction of wells.

10. Education generally continues to make good progress. A number of additional primary schools were started in the year under report, and a creditable amount of inspection work was performed by the District Officer. A perusal of the reports leaves the general impression that Muhammadans are gradually evincing a desire for the education of their children. In some places the new schools are said to have been started solely on the application of the local zamindárs. One or two of the schools in the Hur settlements in the Thar and Párkar and Hyderabad Districts are doing very well, and a few boys from these schools recently passed the 3rd Grade Public Service Examination. It is proposed to find suitable employment for these youths in Government service. Some officers complain of insufficiency of trained masters and suitable school-houses. These are wants which can only be gradually supplied. They should be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned, who will doubtless give the matter the attention they deserve. The boarding school at Pithoro (Thar and Párkar District) will shortly be started, and the necessary funds are in process of collection for the boarding house intended to be started at Tando Muhammad Khan in the Hyderabad District. The Muhammadan Madressah at Nausháhró appears to be doing well, although no boarding house in connection with it has yet been started. It is regrettable that, in spite of the re-introduction of English education in the Jacobabad municipal school, the zamindárs of the district still show no desire to send their boys to the boarding house provided for them.

11. The few remarks that are to be found in the reports on the working of the rural standards are generally unfavourable. Mr. Mules is strong in his condemnation of the attempt to teach the Hindu-Sindhi character to Muhammadan boys, and at least one other officer (the Deputy Collector, Tando) bears testimony to the unpopularity of this feature of the rural standards. The whole question is a difficult one on which the Commissioner is not at present prepared to dogmatise. He is about to make it the subject of special careful enquiry, in the light of past no less than of present experience, and hopes that a satisfactory solution may be arrived at.

12. The Sind Madressah-tul-Islam at Karáchi continues to do useful work. The principle that any local Madressahs which may be started should, if possible, be feeders, and in any case must not be rivals, to this central institution, is a very important one on which it has been found necessary to insist. The Lárkána Madressah has still to contend with the apathetic attitude of many of the local zamindárs, but is on the whole a flourishing institution.

13. The Dayaram Jethmal Sind College and the two private institutions in Hyderabad, the Navalrai Hiranand Academy and the Vidyalá High School, continue to be efficiently administered.

14. The remarks made in last year's report regarding emigration and immigration are still applicable. There was no emigration beyond Sind, and the only immigrants were the Kachis, Márwáris, Patháns and Kohistanis, who enter the province at different points to find work at harvesting, as factory hands, or on railways and canals.

15. Trade improved with the good harvests. The export trade by land received a special impetus from the increased demand for grain created by the famine conditions in Cutch and Márwár. That by sea is, as Government are aware, daily growing in bulk and importance.

16. As stated in previous reports, there are no industries of importance in Sind. The number of cotton ginning factories in the Hyderabad and Thar and Párkar Districts increased from 25 to 27, and that of rice-cleaning machines in the Lárkána and Thar and Párkar Districts from 33 to 34.

17. There is nothing specially noticeable in the state of public feeling. The remarks of Mr. Beyts in his Hyderabad report (in which the Commissioner is disposed to concur) are significant, as referring to the most intellectually active part of the Province outside the town of Karáchi. The criticisms of the native press, though often ill-informed and crude, and occasionally scurrilous, appear to be generally well disposed, and, if not a very powerful influence for good, they probably do comparatively little harm. The chief topic of political controversy is the distribution of official patronage between different sections of the community.

The prospects of the current year are most satisfactory, alike in the inundation and in the barani tracts; and at the present moment the Commissioner observes signs of prosperity throughout the course of his tour.

#### Extracts.

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

###### KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

The canals generally worked fairly well. In point of fact, unless a canal is abnormally defective or entirely neglected, it does work well, when the river inundation is high. It is in years of low inundation that the weak points show up. At the same time, the canals in this district, more specially in the Tatta Division, have been much neglected in the past, and I have on suitable occasions drawn attention to this.

The tálukas of Ghorábári and Mirpur Sakro I look upon as the most backward and poverty-stricken in the Province. Tatta is better but bad, Kotri and Manjhand are fair, along the river, Kohistan is a tract, the sport of circumstances over which we have no control and the nursery of thieves. The Karáchi Táluka is dependent on rainfall and the nominal revenue is only Rs. 28,934.

The Shahbandar Division Cis-Indus is better off and in years to come will be as good as, or nearly as good as, neighbouring Hyderabad Tálukas.

The miserable condition of many of the land-owners forced itself upon my predecessor's notice and a sum aggregating Rs. 2,33,856, representing the piled up arrears of years, was wiped off.

A favourable inundation likewise rendered life a little more bearable to the poverty-stricken people.

But I cannot too strongly emphasize my opinion that for years to come the people of Tatta, Ghorábári and Mirpur Sakro in particular, and the district in general, will need tender and careful treatment. Mr. Bader, Executive Engineer, Survey and Construction District, is, it seems, at present engaged on preparing some scheme for the improvement of the water-supply in the three tálukas named, but I am not aware of the details as I have only been asked from time to time and recently for information as to revenue, etc., which I have supplied and am supplying.

With the advent of the dredger for the Indus I hope the prospects of those upon the Oohito will improve and that this cold season it may be feasible to remove the sand-bank at its mouth, *i. e.*, where the Indus bifurcates into the Oohito and Haidri. The restoration of the Band Virah in the Kohistan was impeded by water difficulties, but is now approaching completion. Had it been ready this year, much good would have resulted.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The chief canals in this táluka are the Kalri, the Banghar, the Khatian, the Jamwah, the Gidarwah, the Hajiwah, and the Aghimaniwah. The Kalri has several distributaries such as the Ghar Masan, Ghar Machi, Allah Khai and



Jamwah. During the year under report, which was marked by an excellent inundation, the canals flowed fairly with the exception of the Aghimani and the canals in the north of the taluka, *i. e.*, Jam, Gidar, and Haji. The tardy flow in them is perhaps due to want of proper clearance. The canals are too narrow, their sides falling in towards the bed, the widening of which would greatly improve the situation. The place where these canals take off from the river is itself a bad one, the Indus there having a bad set, with the result that as soon as the water subsides a little, sand bars appear at the head of the canals.

One of the main features worth noting about the Karias taking off from the various canals in this taluka is the absence of pacca sluices at their heads, resulting in excess supply in Mirpur Sakro Taluka. There can be little doubt that an enormous waste of water occurs owing to the absence of pacca sluices, and it is a question whether it would not be desirable always to insist upon their construction.

A. F. Kindersley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Owing to the favourable character of the inundation of 1905 the efficiency of the canals was not put to any severe test. In comparison with previous year, they worked well, and very few complaints were heard of insufficiency of water. During the year 1905-1906 a much larger grant than usual was made for the clearance and improvement of canals, with the result that it has been found possible to remove the restriction on cultivation from a number of canals, and the efficiency of the irrigation system has been considerably increased throughout the division.

The smaller canals of the division are mostly not in as good condition as the larger ones. The Nasir Wah in Sujawal Taluka has been extended and others have been improved. But there are a number of small canals which are on the Government list, and in some canals, such as the Kodarion and the Khanto, the Government clearance does not extend to the tail. In my opinion it is desirable that the sphere of work of the Public Works Department should be made as large as possible, as the zamindárs find it very difficult to combine effectively to carry out their own clearance in these small canals.

#### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. M. A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The canals taking off from the old Fuleli owe their satisfactory working entirely to the exceptionally good inundation. They cannot really be trusted until the whole of the old Fuleli system is overhauled and scientifically reconstructed. As forcibly pointed out by Mr. Moysey, the working of the bigger canals above the Nareja Regulator very often depends on the Regulator being closed and the closure is bound to cause hardship to the zamindárs below the Regulator.

The other main canals also worked satisfactorily.

#### LARKANA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

All the canals worked well, but the Western Nara in particular had a most successful year. As I noted in my last year's report, the new mouth of this canal was widened in 1905 and a new regulator constructed at the mouth.

Shaikh Illahibux K., Esq., Deputy Collector.

All the canals of the Division worked well with the exception of Upper Nur Wah in which the water-supply was not as good as was anticipated after the improvement of its mouth in the cold season of 1904-1905.

#### SUKKUR DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

The canals worked well during the year. No irrigational work worth mentioning was carried out during the year. Projects in connection with the Sehar Wah, the Ghotki Canal and the revised Mahiwah are with Government.

The Mahiwah has practically been completed and the work remaining to be done is the Mirkosh and the Sonan branches. The Ghotki canal project is most probably to be taken in hand in the next year. In the Shikárpur Sub-Division, the Choi Branch Ex-Begári Canal is in course of construction. There are still large tracts of waste land to the west of the railway bund in the Shikárpur and the Nausháhró Abro Tálukas which remain unprovided for. It is to be hoped that additional branches from the Begári Canal will before long be constructed to water these lands. The restriction on the permanent grant of land on the Sukkur Canal was removed to the extent of 1,200 acres and the area was available for cultivation in the following inundation season. The rainfall during the year was most opportune and was of great benefit to the rabi crops.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The canals worked well, but in the circumstances that was only to be expected. The restriction on giving out land on the Sukkur Canal was removed to the extent of 1,200 acres and the major portion of this area has been given out in the Nausháhró Abro and Sukkur Tálukas. The permission was, however, not given until after the last Canal Conference in October 1905, and the land was therefore not under cultivation till the present kharif season.

Most of the chief questions of interest as regards the canals of this sub-division were raised at the above Conference. One project then discussed—the Choi Branch to the Begári Canal—has since been sanctioned and its construction taken in hand. It is expected that the Main Canal will be completed during the present cold weather and its distributaries and branches before the 31st March 1906. Its length is 24 miles and the area of country commanded 6,783 acres. It will irrigate the present waterless and waste tract of country in the centre of the Shikárpur Táluka between the Sind and the Begári Canal systems running from the railway line on the west almost up to the river on the east, and will meet a necessity which has been acknowledged for decades and for which the proposed Shikárpur Canal was projected almost a generation ago.

Large grants of land on it have been made or promised to outsiders, but I think the local zamindárs should get a substantial share of the land now to be brought under cultivation. There has been a persistent cry for land and water in the tract, but the former could not be given or taken up on account of the scarcity of the latter. The zamindárs have been waiting for the canal for many years, and it would be extremely hard on them if, now that it is constructed, they should see the benefit go to others.

M. Webb, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The canals worked as well as they usually do in this Division.

#### UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

V. M. Ferrers, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

I have been able to pass through every táluka once, and all but Kashmor twice, and in the inundation season I toured along the Begári Canal from end to end, a tour which made me aware of the somewhat singular state of affairs on that canal. It seems that some fifteen years ago the whole of the water of the Begári used to flow down to the tail in Sháhdádpur Táluka, and that to compensate for this it was necessary to give very large mouths to the water-courses of cultivators on the upper reaches of that canal, who even then were unable to get the water that they needed. But as years went on these conditions for some obscure cause (perhaps in unnoticed fluctuation of the earth's surface) have exactly reversed themselves: Sháhdádpur it is that is now unable to get a drop of water from the Begári. With a view of helping Sháhdádpur the most rigorous restrictions were imposed on the extension of cultivation on the upper reaches. Not only was no new land to be given out, but zamindárs were not to exchange old kabuli lands for new, and no remission was to be given to the man who did not either fallow his land for the full period or else manure it. At the same time about the middle of the canal's length was put under rotation. It is rather singular that at the moment that rotation was thus being applied half way down, at the mouth of the canal some eighteen inches or more were

actually being shut out, the reason being that the first twenty miles were, even so, running brimfull, and the unfortunate zamindars, while not allowed to extend their cultivation, had the mortification of seeing their water-courses (section of which is in many cases absurdly in excess of the area dependent on them) literally bursting with superfluous water. With the concurrence of the Executive Engineer I cancelled the restrictions on the first 38 miles of the canal—restrictions which do not in the least help Sháhdádpur, as any water taken off in those reaches could easily be compensated by letting more in at the mouth and keeping the canal as full as it will hold. As to the utility of the rotation system below mile 38 I am seriously doubtful. It enormously increases the clearance expenses of the zamindárs affected and only raises the level at Garhi Khairo on the borders of Sháhdádpur by four or five inches. Sháhdádpur is no doubt in an extremely bad way. When the canals are first opened there is plenty of water there, but when the zamindárs higher up begin to open their karias the water-supply at the tail goes down to nothing. The zamindárs try to make one believe that they plant large seed-plots of rice at the first fallacious appearance of a full supply and that these are afterwards left to wither and die. Of course they are not in reality so incapable of learning from experience: but their lot is hard enough, and their jowári is not knee high at the time when Bahadur Khan in Thull has grain in the ear and ready for reaping. Even their rabi is not good, though when the rice has had its fill more water does come down for a season; but this does not last long enough to mature a crop on that thirsty soil, and this year it was only the copious rains of December, February and March which saved the crop.

The precarious character of the water-supply reacts unfavourably upon the character of the agriculture in Sháhdádpur: the water-courses are not cleared, nor the land levelled properly, and the scanty crops maintain an unequal fight with the vigorous growth of jungle which debates the arable land with the wheat and jowari.

One cannot but think that the re-modelling of the Begári is from the point of view of this district a very urgent work. In all the other talukas the water-supply is adequate and the season favourable both to kharif and rabi.

#### THAR AND PARKAR DISTRICT.

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

The canals in the district worked well on the whole. The Mithrao was worked on a rotation with the Jamrao, but the supply at the tail below Samaro was inadequate. The Public Works Department are about to undertake improvements in the canal. Much complaint is heard on the Mithrao of want of water, but such want as there is appears to me to be due to the causes which have led to the permanent state of shortage on the tails of the Sukkur and Begári canals in Upper Sind, namely, an almost shamefully wasteful "use" of water on extensive rice cultivation whereby the land on the upper reaches is turned into a swamp while tail lands are almost dry. With all this, conditions do not approach those on the tails of the two Upper Sind canals, though water is used on rice with a freedom not seen in many other parts. The increase of 227 acres in wheat cultivation on the Tharwah is an indication of the growing popularity of this crop on this canal. This is one of the directions in which the experimental farm at Mirpurkhas will be able to give valuable assistance in the selection of the best varieties. The Dhoró Naro worked well, but the supply in the Khipro Canal, one of its artificial distributaries, was unsatisfactory. Its defects will no doubt be remedied by the improvements contemplated by the Public Works Department. The descent in the level of the Nara at this point owing to the scouring action of floods has rendered this step one of considerable urgency.

#### (b) *Agricultural Credit.*

##### KARACHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Collector.

Takávi amounting to Rs. 52,800 was allotted to this district. Rs 42,280 were utilized and Rs. 10,520 surrendered in good time. One thousand one hundred and seventy-four applications were made and 650 rejected.

I am sorry to say there is a lack of honesty about the people in regard to takávi, which I think is perhaps due partly to the fact that individuals have from time to time in the past succeeded in evading repayment. I am myself absolutely opposed to any writing off of takávi, but as I have frequently expressed my views on the subject before now I need not here enlarge upon it.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

My income-tax inquiries in the Division show that the recent hard years have had their effect upon the trading classes as well as upon the agriculturists. The Banya has in fact been badly hit. This somewhat maligned individual must have his uses in the community, but unfortunately for him the abuses that he brings in his train are the more prominent, and recent legislation has uniformly borne this side of his character in mind. The introduction into Sind of Chapters of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act and the wide use made of the restricted tenure exemplify this tendency. The result has been that many Banyas of the division have gone bankrupt, and it seems not unlikely that worse is in store for them. The condition of the Banya is closely connected with that of the agriculturists, whose dependence on the money-lender is great, and it must have considerable effect upon agricultural credit. The relations between the Banya and the zamindár are, in fact, at present upon a somewhat precarious footing. The zamindár suffers from never having ready money. At the beginning of every season he must get money to clear his karias, make advances to his "haris," buy seed, and generally to set his operations in motion. The Banya willingly responds if he can get security for his advances. But now that the restricted tenure is becoming general, the zamindár being unable to pledge his land, cannot provide good enough security, and both parties lose. Moreover, the Banya cannot easily now take the lands of his debtor on mortgage with or without possession. This state of things explains how the zamindárs are beginning to fight against the imposition of the restricted tenure, and how they are preferring to pay up large arrears and keep their lands free. It may be said that, as the State grants takávi on reasonable terms, there should be no difficulty. But from what one hears from the zamindárs and the taluka officers, the rules governing takávi loans are too strict to please the easy-going Muhammadan. The loan is granted at one time of the year usually, watchful revenue officers see that it is spent upon the legitimate objects alone, and they are equally careful to see to the matter of repayment. Interest is charged on the loans and the demands for repayment are as insistent as those for the payment of land revenue. Now that in some special cases takávi has been remitted on condition of the acceptance of the restricted tenure, the objections will no doubt increase. The Banya, though charging far greater interest than the State, and generally resolved to get his pound of flesh, if necessary in the Civil Court, is more popular with the impecunious zamindárs, and probably he will remain so, as the zamindár can spend money he borrows from him as he pleases, and with little thought of the morrow. But under the new conditions the relations between the land owner and the money-lender have yet to be adjusted, as the Hindu is in self-defence drawing his purse strings tighter and tighter. The fact that land often passes into Hindu hands is not always satisfactory. A Hindu does make a careful and good cultivator, though it may be doubted whether he gets as willing and as good service from his "haris" as the Muhammadan, but the Muhammadan owing to his great numerical superiority must, in spite of himself, be kept on the land. In a Province overwhelmingly Muhammadan their wholesale expulsion from the land would gravely upset the balance and inevitably lead to crime. It is therefore to be hoped that the restricted tenure will live down the prejudice which does at present exist against it, and that agricultural credit will be improved again so as to keep the balance even.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

Rochiram Asumal, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The diminution in agricultural credit stands at the same level where it was in the first year after the application of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act. The effect of the Act on transfers of land cannot be accurately gauged, but the number of usufructuary mortgages has no doubt declined.

## LARKANA DISTRICT.

C. G. Henderson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The credit of the agricultural classes with the money-lenders continues to decline. The working of the Relief Act has evidently struck a most serious blow at the usurious practices of the Banya. In the Kamar Taluka the number of mortgages made by Muhammadans in favour of Hindus shows a most striking decrease. There has been this year an area of only 3 acres 15 gunthas mortgaged with possession by Muhammadans to Hindus and this compares with an area of over 386 acres last year. Similarly the mortgages without possession this year affect an area of 769 acres, against an area of 1,129 acres in the year 1904-1905. The area of land sold by Muhammadans to Hindus is also less this year than last, the figures being respectively 811 and 1,394 acres. Similar features are noticeable in the Ratodero and Labdaria Talukas. The phenomenon of decreased borrowings may be due to the occurrence of two or three good seasons and a consequent increase in the prosperity of the agricultural classes, but it would be unsafe to regard this as the sole cause or to overlook the effect of the Relief Act. There is no doubt that the money-lender is chary of advancing money on the old terms. It is rare that an agriculturist will, if he can possibly help it, sell his land outright, and the Banya is less willing than formerly to advance money on a mortgage. The agriculturist accordingly sells his land to the Banya, and a condition is made that the property shall be subsequently resold to the former, at his option, at a stipulated price. The Subordinate Civil Court at Larkana recently held that such a conditional sale was really a mortgage. Though this decision was upset by the District Court, the effect to some extent remains and acts for the present as a check on this particular device for defeating the purpose of the Act.

S. Sadikali Sherali, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The credit of the persons to whom land has been given on the restricted tenure has not been affected much by this system, as after the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act and the amendment of the Sind Incumbered Estates Act, the Hindu money-lenders have materially reduced and restricted their transactions, and unless the zamindar's credit is high and his word of honour inviolable no money is advanced on credit or on mortgages of land without possession. The agricultural operations have not been retarded or undergone any reduction on this account and takavi advances are made very freely.

Shaik Illahibux K., Esq., Deputy Collector.

On the whole the distribution of takavi advances has been a satisfactory record. Recourse to takavi seems to be more freely made now by the zamindars than in the few past years. This appears to be a result of the Agriculturists' Relief Act which has made the Banyas close the doors of lending against the zamindar without mortgage, transfer or proper security. It is evident that customary dealings with money-lenders are still carried on, but on a smaller scale. Zamindars who are unable to get takavi owing to their heavy arrears of land revenue or takavi, or who are not keen enough to understand the stipulations under which the money-lenders are at present compelled to make investments on account of the operation of the Relief Act, borrow at an exorbitant rate of interest in spite of the mortgage of the land. Temporary transfers of *khatahs* as a safe security for a debt are also becoming common.

## SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The material prosperity of the sub-division has been restored by the good year; both zamindars and "haris" profited by it and the Banyas no doubt had their share too. They still complain of the effects of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, which, with the introduction of the restricted tenure in land grants to Muhammadans, has largely curtailed their lendings and the zamindar's borrowings. The Banya states in income-tax appeals that he is unable to get back even money formerly lent, while the zamindar when applying for suspension alleges

that he can no longer borrow, having no credit. The result of this forced economy on the Muhammadan, who formerly spent recklessly knowing that he could always raise the money from the Banya, is generally admitted to be good. As Mr. Jessasing, formerly Mukhtyarkar of Shikárpur, says, "he is gradually learning to shift his reliance off the Banya and place it on himself." On the other hand there is little doubt that the Act has been severely felt by the Banya, and that one of his principal sources of income has been seriously diminished. He will probably find other and more legitimate fields for his activity, and signs are not wanting that he is already doing so.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

V. M. Ferrers, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

Agricultural credit here as elsewhere in Sind has suffered in consequence of recent legislation; the money-lending class now seek to secure their loans by mortgage with possession, and generally endeavour to invest their savings in land and become khátedárs themselves instead of contenting themselves with financing Muhammadan husbandmen: not that the transfer of land to the Hindu is going on rapidly in any part of the táluka except perhaps in Sháhdádpur. Out of 57 transfers to non-agriculturists, 46 occur in that unfortunate táluka; and out of 34 mortgages with possession 21 belong there also, and this is in spite of the very liberal writing off of arrears owing in that táluka which took place this year and last. The district comprises a number of very large land-holders paying tens of thousands of rupees in land assessment annually, and those of them who combine any agricultural skill with a reasonable amount of thrift cannot only pay these large sums with ease, but can go on adding to their holdings by purchase and have an excellent credit as well. As for the thriftless, of whom there are not a few, it is perhaps no bad thing if their credit is restricted, reckless waste is thereby restricted also. Any cash they may require for reproductive expenditure they can generally get as takávi.

(c) *Education.*

KARACHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

Education is pretty much where it was last year. Far more backward than in Upper Sind and Hyderabad, it is only here and there that one comes across a school which is doing any useful work. This does not apply of course to Karáchi, while at Tatta also the schools are quite good, but generally speaking the case is as stated. The attempt to teach Muhammadan children the Hindu-Sindhi language under the "Rural Standards" I look upon as the dearest of dead failures.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Education in this sub-division has made some headway during the year. Though this is not the place to deal with matters municipal, it may be mentioned that all the five schools of Tatta are in a most efficient condition, and the one at Ketí Bunder is doing well. During the year two new schools were opened at Hillaya and Chatochand in Tatta Táluka and give hope of being successful. Another was started at Gujo in Mirpur Sakro Táluka. Apparently the inhabitants of the village do not want the school, and whilst the Mullah's school flourishes, the Local Board one is nearly empty. It is doubtful whether the school should be kept open much longer, and I am endeavouring to find another village in the táluka where there are reasonable prospects of the school flourishing. One school at Doulatpur in Ghorabari Táluka has been closed and in its place another has been opened at Chach Wali Mohomed near Ketí Bunder. The rural standards are taught in practically all the schools and the prejudice against them appears to be dying out. Enthusiasm for education is, however, fitful. At Mirpur Sakro, the head-quarters of a táluka, there is no enthusiasm whatever, and the school is thoroughly bad, whilst in some small villages where the School Boards are energetic, the school flourishes correspondingly. The most satisfactory feature is the increasing number of Muhammadan boys to be found in the schools.

A. F. Kindersley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The number of Local Board Vernacular Schools in the division has been nearly doubled in the past year, having risen from 14 to 25. The new schools have all made a good start. There is, however, a certain feeling against the rural standards, on which all the new schools have been established, on the ground that they do not enable pupils to go in for the Public Service Examinations. This feeling, however, is as yet confined to the more intelligent and ambitious among the parents and former pupils. The zamindars in general support the village schools without troubling themselves as to the standards. In view of the comparative keenness which exists among the zamindars at present for schools in their villages, it seems advisable to refuse to start any more schools until schoolhouses are provided free of cost by the people of the villages. If the present rate of expansion of schools continues, Government can hardly afford to provide buildings for them all, nor to pay rent for hired buildings. In the case of some of the new schools abovementioned, houses have been given by the village people free of rent for the first few months only, and there is no permanent arrangement for the future.

K. F. Mirza, Esq., Deputy Collector.

In most of the Local Fund schools, rural standards are taught but the general tendency of the people is that primary education up to Public Service Examination should be given in all the schools. The Mahommedan proportion is slowly increasing, owing specially to the inducement given to them, by the Mahommedan masters in the Local Fund schools, being permitted to teach the Koran, before and after school hours.

#### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Collector.

Education continues to progress. Various new primary schools were opened during the year of report. The desire for learning is increasing both amongst Hindus and Mahommedans, specially in the northern part of the district. Higher education appears to be commencing to prefer the direction of science and engineering to that of the classical degree, since lucrative appointments are more readily obtained thereby.

Of education among the lower classes in this district I am unfortunately able to give no account, but it is clear that owing to the efforts of enlightened Mahommedans, the zamindár is decidedly beginning to search for education, chiefly an English education.

Boarding houses for zamindárs' sons are in chief request. If the boys in these houses do not receive an English education, one of the main advantages to be expected for them, the moral advantage of corporate school life under good supervision is according to the zamindárs' view likely to be wanting. This is in a great measure undeniable in fact, and, as it is the view taken, it would not ordinarily be easy to fill a boarding house without facilities for teaching English. There is a firm determination too not to eliminate religious teaching from the curriculum.

H. M. A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

As far as figures go, the progress is good. However, the number of Mahommedans continues very small. I venture to think that much good might be done by starting schools only where decent buildings and good teachers are available. I have seen schools started which had to be so miserably housed and organised and kept by such raw and incompetent youths as to bring education into discredit for all time in those villages, and often schools have to be closed within a couple of years after opening. I would likewise beg to point out that very often not the most experienced masters but pupil teachers are told off to manage the infants' lower classes. The school at the Hur Settlement of Biro Mulo is doing well, but the condition of the schools at Charoho and Kangputi, when I visited them, was deplorable. There are, besides, main

and branch schools in each of the Municipal towns, Hala Matiari, Nasarpur, Tando Allahyar, and Tando Adam. They are all flourishing, except the main school at Hala, which has now long been without a regular head master.

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

Mahommedans are making earnest efforts to place English education within reach of their middle class. The Mahommedan Madressah at Noushahro has been in existence for over two years but it has not received any grant yet from the Educational Department. The District Local Board, Hyderabad, has sanctioned substantial help for a boarding house to be allotted to the Madressah.

Rochiram Asumal, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Five new primary schools were opened and one closed in the division during the year under report.

Rural standards are taught in 12 schools. They are as unpopular as before, among Hindus as well as Mohommedans. The latter especially show an ingrained apathy to learning Hindu-Sindhi character owing to racial and religious prejudices.

#### LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

In most parts great interest in the schools is evinced and the attendance is satisfactory. A better supply of trained masters is still required. A Hindu girls' school has recently been opened in Larkána, partly maintained by the Municipality and partly by local contributions. The only technical school in the district is at Talti. I am not satisfied with the work of the technical branch here and doubt whether its existence is justified. Very few of the boys derive any real knowledge of carpentry at the school and such work as is turned out is largely the work of the teacher. Villages in Sind are usually without any skilled artisan and it is most desirable that boys should be trained to be carpenters and blacksmiths, but instruction in rough joinery rather than in fancy work is what is required and the class to be taught must be the sons of the hari and not of pensioned tápadárs and other Government servants if the institution is to have any lasting result. One or two of the night schools are doing good work. I visited one recently and was agreeably surprised at the attendance.

C. G. Henderson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

Education continues to make progress. No less than ten new schools were opened this year in this division. The Kambar Táluka is rather badly off in the way of schools. There were only two Local Board schools at the beginning of the year, and though two new ones have been opened these are at present suffering from the disadvantage that they are not provided with any trained masters. Other new schools will probably be opened shortly throughout the division, as applications have been received and submitted to the Local Boards for consideration. I inspected 23 Municipal Local Board and Mulla schools during the year. The Madressah-Tul-Islam continues to do good work, under the able management of the Principal, Mr. Gulam Mirza. The school has to contend with a good deal of apathy on the part of the zamindárs for whose benefit it was established. Many of the parents of the scholars make little effort to keep their sons at the school but allow them to be absent on one pretext or another. The repeated and unauthorized absence of the boys is most discouraging to the Principal and his assistants. The zamindárs of the district are ready enough to come forward with pecuniary assistance to the Madressah, and they have recently subscribed about Rs. 9,000 towards the extension and improvement of the buildings, but it is to be regretted that they are less inclined to exercise that personal effort which would be so valuable to the efficiency of the institution.



S. Sadikali Sherali, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Five new schools were opened during the year of which I could not inspect three as they were opened after I completed my tour and one school was closed when I went to inspect it on account of a holiday. On the whole the attendance and progress in the majority of the schools was satisfactory. The increase in the number of such schools indicates an advancement in education as the new schools have been opened on the applications of the zamindárs and villagers alike.

Shaikh Illahibux K., Esq., Deputy Collector.

There has been a slight decrease in the total number of boys this year. But on the other hand new schools have been opened, and education is gradually making substantial progress. The introduction of rural standards gained an unpopular opinion and became the cause of general complaint owing to their being unsuitable for the qualifying examinations. In several schools of the division such standards were replaced by the combined ones and the fact has removed the cause for complaint. People unfortunately mistake education as being a qualification solely intended for Government service instead of as a measure necessary to cultivate mental faculties and bring them up to a reformed state of development in order to pursue any line of profession with an improved degree of system. Difficulties are still experienced in getting boys of village agriculturists who neither wish to take up Government service nor look upon education as a material requirement in their line of profession. Some method of granting more liberal scholarships should be devised to induce them to go to schools.

#### SUKKUR DISTRICT.

J. R. Martin, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The demand for new schools still continues, but though four new Local Board schools were opened, two or three were quickly closed again owing to lack of funds. In the circumstances it would have been better had they never been opened. Insufficient funds and the scarcity of trained and suitable masters continue to be the two difficulties in the way of the spread of education in the talukás. In the towns the provision made by the municipalities is not unsatisfactory and good work is being done, I know, in the Shikárpur Municipal schools. Further experience has confirmed me in the views put forward in the last paragraph of my letter No. 2019, dated 7th June 1906, which perhaps I may be permitted to quote.

“I would finally suggest that a closer touch between Educational and Revenue Officers is desirable if the latter are to render the help in the Educational matters that they undoubtedly can. Since coming to Sind I cannot remember meeting a single member of the Educational Department nor is, as far as I am aware, any official intimation given of the movements or programmes of inspecting officers. The dates of the inspections of schools should be communicated to the President of the Municipality or Local Board responsible for them to enable him, if he so wishes, to be present himself or depute others to learn on the spot the defects and requirements of the school inspected.”

#### UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

V. M. Ferrers, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

It was hoped last year that the opportunity now afforded at the Jacobabad school of learning English would bring in the Baluch zamindár class in some numbers to the boarding house there. This expectation has unfortunately been notably disappointed; presumably the absence of English instruction previous to last year was merely made an excuse by zamindárs wishful to keep their sons at home. Several large zamindárs have been liberal with financial assistance but even they have not been able or willing to send pupils. Presumably it is a natural family affection which induces this attitude, because the better class are

not without a certain interest in education after their own fashion. Now that the excuse of no English has been torn away there seems an inclination to fear for the boy's moral character : but if their moral surroundings are likely to be changed for the worse by absence from home then the typical Baluch home is not at all like what on other grounds I believe it to be. The ordinary Local Board schools are badly housed and ill attended and in most cases confine their teaching to their lower standards. I am however curious to see whether the experiment suggested by Mr. Naraindas of distributing to selected Mullahs a few copies of the Koran interleaved with a Sindhi translation may not turn to good account the stultifying exercise of committing to memory the Arabic text, a system to which so large a number of both boys and girls are victims. A few copies were purchased out of monies devoted to the purchase of sweetmeats for the boys, and Bahadur Khan to whose village some of these found their way, volunteered to present copies to the 9 boys in the boarding house. In their case a great deal of outward reverence for the Word of God seems to connote no desire to understand what they read : but here and there a more enquiring mind may be found.

Naraindas Motaram, Esq., Deputy Collector!

The division abounds in Mulla schools, where the Koran is taught. My own idea has been that the teaching of the Koran with its meaning in Sindhi should be one of the initial steps to impart secular education to the Mahomedan boys. There are printed copies of the Koran with the Sindhi translation interlined and if this is taught to the boys they must in ordinary course learn to read and write Arabic-Sindhi. A wealthy and intelligent zamindár has told me that he has found the process to be a success among the ladies of his family. And when this kind of elementary education is acquired, it is expected that it will develop taste for further secular education. When to this the "3 Rs" instruction is added, an average cultivator will have learnt what is necessary to enable him to carry on his avocation with intelligence and to look after his interests. In order to attain this object, I, with your approval, purchased 5 copies of the Koran containing its Sindhi translation and gave them to 5 Mullas in the division to be taught to the boys as an experimental measure. These copies were given only in April last and the result is being watched. Some more copies are about to be issued to these Mullas to facilitate their work. A wealthy zamindár responded to my call and provided 9 copies of the Koran which have been given by you to the boys in the Boarding House at Jacobabad.

I spoke to several zamindárs to send their boys to learn English at Jacobabad but the Baluch parents are too fond of their children to part with them. Moreover they have, as a rule, large landholdings from which they derive handsome earnings. Having plenty to eat and to spare, they are indifferent to education. Two of the zamindárs Khán Bahádur Mir Alimurad Khan Sundrani and Vadero Nurkhan Khoso gave a ready response to my desire and established two stipends of the value of Rs. 6 and 5 per mensem respectively tenable for 3 years in the English school at Jacobabad. These have been awarded by you to the sons of two poor men in the division.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

The population of the district is purely agricultural and, as might be expected, has but a faint desire for education. However, amongst the better class of zamindárs are to be found men who do evince readiness to aid schemes for education, and the Madressah at Pithoro shortly to be opened will supply a most useful stimulus to the education of Mahomedans. The attitude of the cultivating classes is not invariably one of mere apathy, for there is to be met the active objection that school takes away boys from work in the fields, and that book learning makes them impatient of control. These objections can hardly be entirely overcome except by time and patience. There is a technical school at Umarkot the abolition of which is contemplated. There are two industrial schools at the Hur Settlement at Sanghar, one for boys and

one for girls. The girls' school is of considerable utility. The boys' school teaches carpentry of a description which can hardly be of any use except to keep the boys quiet. There is no Anglo-Vernacular school in the district, but the Pithoro Madressah will supply this want.

(d) *Migration.*

KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

There was no emigration or immigration of any importance. There is a considerable to and fro intercourse between Sind and Cutch, of course.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

C. A. Beyts, Esq., Collector.

There was no immigration or emigration during the year beyond the usual influx and departure of Márwári labourers during the harvest season.

H. M. A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There has been very little immigration and emigration during the year. The Thari and Márwári immigrants show no signs of regularly settling down here: none of them adopt Sindhi habits, or build regular houses and very few send their children to schools. Very few become haris, but when they do so, they work on the same condition as Sindhi haris.

LÁRKA'NA DISTRICT.

E. L. Sale, Esq., Collector.

The absence of rain in Cutch-Gandava and Kelat sent a larger number of Bráhmíns than usual down into Sind in search of labour. It was fortunate that so many of them did come: for under ordinary circumstances the local supply of labourers would have been insufficient to deal with the heavy kharif harvest but, in addition, the prevalence of fever disabled a large number of the Sindhi labourers who were available; and had not this welcome influx of harvesters occurred, the zámindár would in many cases have been unable to gather in his harvest at the proper time.

C. G. Henderson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

As usual, Baluchis from the hills and Márwáris from various places visited the division to obtain employment, and left after their work was finished. There is no other immigration or emigration upon any considerable scale.

SUKKUR DISTRICT.

M. Webb, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The influx of Márwáris seems to have increased largely since the last report. Most of them obtain employment on the Railway, where they form the bulk of the coolies. A few also have taken up their residence in Ghotki and Rohri where they do odd jobs. At present some have returned to their native country on the report that rain has fallen. As last year, some Patháns came down to the earthworks at Rohri in the cold weather, but left when it became hotter.

UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

V. M. Ferrers, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

There is normally a good deal of such labour which finds its way to the place where it is wanted. The numbers are estimated at 3,500 but I do not know that much reliance is to be placed on this estimate. Some straggling detachments of this motley army are very commonly to be met with on the

roads which converge upon Jacobabad. Unless they smuggle, as in fact they do to some extent out of ignorance or inadvertence, their movements are not of much consequence in a normal year. The preventive establishment has been put on the alert, as I have some reason to think their vigilance is not so effective as it might be.

Naraindas Motaram, Esq., Deputy Collector.

There was no emigration from the 3 *tálukás* in my charge owing to a favourable season and to the good condition of the people. As regards immigration, several *Márwáris* were found scattered all over the division and they made a living either by threshing grain or by working as labourers on canal clearance. The *Márwári* was not in a position to take to cultivation in this country. The great obstacle in his way was the want of cattle which is a *sine qua non* for the cultivator in this country to carry on agricultural operations. The seed is likewise provided, as a rule, by the *hari* and this the *Márwári* had not the means to do. Owing to the absence of rains in the Baluchistan territory, a few *Brohis* with their cattle came in, and there was plenty of employment for them in the shape of reaping the crop and of canal clearance. There was likewise plenty of fodder for their cattle.

THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

This district is more open to the temporary immigrant than any in Sind. All the *Márwári* and *Thari* labour that comes to Sind passes through it and much is left in it. Again, in times of stress the valley is the grazing ground of the desert and of a large portion of the remainder of Sind on the left bank of the river. As yet the permanent effects of this immigration are not very marked, but it is possible that successive famines may result in a considerable influx of permanent inhabitants from the desert. For the rest immigration is confined to the *Jamrao* tract.

## II.—Inspection.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The following table shows the amount of inspection work performed by the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners :—

No.	Nature of inspection.	IN HOW MANY			Rayats' receipt-books examined.
		Mukhtiar-kars' stations.	Mahalkaris' stations.	Villages.	
	Total of Province ... ..	56	4	5,208	...
1	Visited for inspection ... ..	55	4	863	...
2	Accounts examined ... ..	42	4	1,037	...
3	Records examined ... ..	45	4	627	...
4	Rayats' receipt-books examined ..	...	...	...	1,007
5	Sub-registry offices examined ..	37	1	...	...

There is a falling-off under almost all heads, especially in the number of villages visited and those of which the accounts and records were examined. But there were many unavoidable interruptions to touring during the season,—notably the Royal Visit, and the preparations connected with it, which detained the Collector of *Karáchi* continuously at head-quarters; and on the whole the work done appears sufficient. It is to be noted that an appreciable amount of work done under other heads, such as inspection of schools, dispensaries, boundary marks, liquor and drug shops, etc., is not included in the above statement. Except in a few places, the work of destruction of records is up to date. The work of indexing and filing has also, generally speaking, been regularly attended to.

### III.—Revenue Buildings and Record-rooms.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, Esq., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The District Officers have stated the requirements of each district under this head. In several places the Kardarate buildings are either insufficient or unsuitable. In the Lárkána and Sukkur districts, the chief complaint appears to be about the record-rooms, which, with the growth of the records, are proving insufficient. The matter is engaging attention; but improvements can only be gradually effected.

### IV.—Revenue Establishments.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, Esq., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The work of the Mukhtiárkars and the subordinate establishments has been generally satisfactory. The Mukhtiárkar whose work was unfavourably noticed last year is on long leave preparatory to retirement, and will not be again employed.

The scheme for the revision of the pay and strength of Revenue establishments was brought into force in the year under report, and it is hoped that in future there will be no difficulty in obtaining suitable men for táluka and other offices. But it remains to be seen how far the increased rates of pay improve the *morale* of the establishments. Mr. Beyts in his report for the Thar and Párkar district makes some interesting remarks as to how temptations are brought in the way of the subordinates by the people themselves. Deficiencies in particular establishments, alleged in some of the sub-divisional reports, should be represented separately.

The village establishments, too, worked satisfactorily on the whole. Their survey work is still not quite up to the mark in some districts, but there is no doubt that some improvement has taken place since the issue of the orders referred to last year. Out of 808 tápadárs, 654 are qualified to do survey work. The system of employing special survey parties, composed of tápadárs, to break up, under the supervision of the Superintendent of Land Records and Registration, large areas of waste land into Survey Numbers still continues, but, with effect from the current season, the number of parties has been reduced to three instead of five, in consideration of the smaller amount of work to be done. A special report has recently been submitted to Government on the (so-called) Agricultural school at Hyderabad, which it is proposed to maintain exclusively as a Tápadárs' school, and the development of which will, it is hoped, materially improve the standard of village surveyors. Meanwhile, the survey parties afford excellent opportunities for the instruction of untrained men and of those who have forgotten their work. The parties are also being utilized to give training to those graduates and non-graduates who, under the new rules regulating admissions to and promotions in the Revenue Department of the public service, must pass through the survey course before they can be appointed Mukhtiarkars.

The scheme submitted in July 1905 for strengthening the supervising tápadárs' establishments and improving the emoluments of the village establishments generally is still under the consideration of Government, and it is hoped that no avoidable delay will occur in the introduction of this much needed reform. Under the Government of India's orders, the Village Cess Fund, from which the village establishments used to be paid, has been abolished with effect from the 1st April last, and all expenditure which used to be defrayed from that fund is now payable from Provincial revenues. An amendment of the law is under consideration for the abolition of the cess itself.

The punishment roll of the village officers is as under, contrasted with the figures of the preceding year :—

	Total No.		Fined.		Reduced.		Suspended.		Dismissed.		Total No. punished.	
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1904-05.
Supervising tápadárs Tápadárs	157 803	167 898	1 69	5 67	1 11	7	2 2	..	1 13	9	5 95	5 83

The largest number of dismissals occur in the Hyderabad district, where, during the scrutiny of account books in the course of an income tax appeal, several items of bribery received by tápadárs and a munshi came to light; and, after a formal inquiry by the Collector, those against whom the offence was proved were dismissed.

### V.—Special Matters.

#### A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, Esq., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

In nine out of the ten tálukás in which the preliminary record of rights was completed by the special Inquiry Officers in 1904-05 the test work was carried out during the year under report by special Mukhtiárkars appointed for the purpose. The inquiry work in the tenth táluca was discovered to have been perfunctorily performed, so that it has been decided to have it done over again. The record will shortly be promulgated in some of these tálukás, and in others the promulgation will take place directly the work of fair copying the rough record, which is in progress, is completed.

In addition to the above, the preparation of a preliminary record was undertaken in ten more tálukás, two each in the Karáchi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Lárkána districts, and one each in the Thar and Párkar and Upper Sind Frontier districts. The work in eight has been completed and will be tested in the current year by special Mukhtiárkars. In the remaining two (one in the Hyderabad district and one in the Upper Sind Frontier) an appreciable amount of work still remains to be done. This, together with the test work in these tálukás, will be completed in the current year.

In April last, at a conference of District Officers at which Mr. Curtis, Director of Land Records, was present, the question of entrusting, on the system followed in the Presidency, the preparation of the preliminary record to the existing táluca and village establishments was discussed; and, after a careful consideration of Mr. Curtis' views, and the comments of the local officers thereon, the Commissioner has decided to give full trial to the Presidency system. The remaining work in the two tálukás mentioned above and the entire work in two more tálukás (one in Sukkur and one in Hyderabad) will accordingly be carried out in the current year on that system.

As was anticipated, the people have not as yet shown much interest in the operations connected with the preparation of the record. It remains to be seen whether they can be educated up to an appreciation of its value.

The area held on the restricted tenure introduced by Act VI of 1901, which amounted to 212,995 acres at the end of 1904-05, rose to 264,212 acres at the end of the year under report. This is exclusive of the area granted on the Jamrao, Nasrat, Dad and Hiral tracts under Act III of 1899. Including that, the area is 830,916 acres against 629,703 acres at the end of the preceding year. The conditions of this tenure are applied to nearly all lands granted to Muhammadans. Violation of such conditions has been brought to light in 18 cases, in ten of which the grants have been cancelled, in two the transfers have not been recognised, and in the remaining the matter is under consideration. In addition to these, several cases of evasion have been discovered during the preparation of the record of rights in the Sukkur and Lárkána districts. These are under inquiry. The Commissioner agrees with Mr. Mules that such cases should be dealt with drastically by resumption.

The total amount of revenue remitted by money order is as yet small (only about Rs. 55,000 in the year under report), but the new system, by which during the last five days of the instalment period the revenue may be paid to the tápadár at the táluka office, renders remittance by money order in most cases superfluous. The system is gaining in popularity and a considerable amount of the land revenue was paid at the táluka kacheris during the year. Mr. Kindersley states that under this system the receipt books remain very often unfilled as zamindárs forget to bring them to the táluka office. Mr. Smyth's remarks on the subject indicate a misapprehension on his part of the orders issued regarding payments at táluka head-quarters. It is not intended to "eliminate" the tápadár. On the contrary, under the orders issued, the payments at the táluka head-quarters are not made direct into the táluka treasury, but to the tápadár *under the supervision of the Mukhtiárkar*. The Commissioner concurs in Mr. Beyts' remarks on Mr. Bharucha's suggestion for collecting the first instalment in the Desert tálukás in December.

No special assignments were made during the year beyond the grant in seven cases of land for "huris"—two in the Sukkur and five in the Lárkána district,—the total area given out being 27·6 acres. Huris are rent-free occupancies granted for the encouragement of tree plantation under the orders contained in paragraph 4 of the Commissioner's special circular No. 2.

The land acquisition work of the year was comparatively small, not extending beyond the acquisition of odd pieces of land required in connection with the railways and canals. A considerable area is just being acquired in connection with the doubling of the main line of the N.-W. Railway in the Rohri and Mirpur sub-divisions of the Sukkur district.

No Munsiffs or Conciliators have yet been appointed in any part of the Province under the chapters of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act extended to Sind last year. The difficulty is that there are very few men available in the Province who are either willing or competent to serve as Munsiffs or Conciliators and it is doubted whether, in places where such men may be found, the measure would work satisfactorily. At any rate the papers on the subject do not disclose any strong feeling in its favour.

The provisions of Rules II, III and IV of rule 56 under the Land Revenue Code have been applied to the vicinity of the town of Hyderabad. A similar concession has been recommended for the town of Shikárpur. For the present, it is not considered necessary to extend the concession to the towns of Sukkur and Rohri, and a report to this effect has been submitted to Government. The question as regards the towns of Karáchi and Jacobabad is under consideration.

No Co-operative Credit Societies have yet come into existence. But there are hopes of a few being started in the current year. An application for the registration of one in the Kandiaro taluka of the Hyderabad district has already been made to the Registrar.

The experimental farm at Mirpur Khas continues to be efficiently managed, and in course of time will doubtless prove a valuable institution for the instruction of zamindárs in improved methods of agriculture. The area sown by zamindárs with Egyptian cotton this year was much larger than in the previous year, and the difficulty alluded to in the last report of creating a market for the staple has been solved by the adoption of the measures discussed in the papers underlying Government Resolution No. 7652, dated the 10th August 1906, and subsequent correspondence with Government. The results so far have been successful; but operations have unfortunately been seriously curtailed by the ravages of the boll worm.

The crops of barsum and ground-nuts grown in the Jamrao area were on the whole successful. The success of the former is especially gratifying, as it is a most desirable crop for rotation, and will supply the tract with fodder which, the Colonisation Officer states, "is becoming scarcer and more expensive as bájri gives way to cotton." Unfortunately only a limited quantity of seed was available, but it is hoped that a larger area will be sown with it in the current year.

The Veterinary dispensaries continue to do good work. The usual horse shows were held with on the whole very successful results. It has now been arranged, in consultation with the Army Remount authorities, that horse-breeding operations shall be confined to certain selected areas of the Province while in others (more particularly the Lárkána district) there will only be mule-breeding, supplemented possibly by Local Fund pony-breeding.

#### Extracts.

#### *Restricted Tenure.*

##### KARA'CHI DISTRICT.

A. F. Kindersley, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The restricted tenure does not appear to be regarded in this Division with the strong aversion with which I understand it is received within other parts of the district. There is no sign as yet of agricultural operations being restricted by reason of the loss of credit to the grantees through the imposition of the restricted tenure.

##### HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

H. M. A. Ali, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The Mahomedans recognise the beneficial working of the restricted tenure. Several applications have been received from Hindu Zamindárs also for land on such tenure, but, except in the case of Mukhi Santdas of Khokhar, they have been rejected. The restricted tenure and the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act, while tending to decrease dealings between needy zamindárs and money-lenders, combine to make the latter more grasping and to sharpen their cunning in order to secure the principal and interest of loans. The hari has to sell his crops in advance at a low price to raise money. The zamindár can often obtain loans only by executing a regular deed of sale of land and transferring the khata to the money-lender's name, on the latter's verbal promise to restore land and khata if the zamindár pays the sale money plus interest within a specified time. If the money is not forthcoming within that time, the Bania retains the land (which he takes care to get very cheap pretending that it is practically a mortgage): if the money is offered, he denies the verbal promise and keeps the land all the same.

##### LA'RKÁNA DISTRICT.

C. M. Baker, Esq., Collector.

The new system of the restricted tenure may be said to be yet in its infancy, and any conclusions regarding its effect on the credit of the holders of land on such tenure will be premature. There is hardly any occupant who holds lands exclusively on this tenure, and who has not lands on the other (unrestricted) tenure also. Therefore, a line of distinction between those holding under the new system, and the holders on the unrestricted tenure is most difficult to draw, and there has been no exhibition of weakness of credit of the former class. The agriculturists and money-lenders are adjusting themselves to the new system.

C. G. Henderson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The restricted tenure is now accepted, without any demur, by applicants for land. It is difficult to estimate the extent to which credit has been affected by the inability of holders to transfer, but agricultural operations do not appear to have been restricted as a result.

Shaikh Illahibux K., Esq., Deputy Collector.

Money lending classes appear to be backward in carrying on dealings with people holding lands on restricted tenure, as the system of such grants is supposed by them to have had an unfavourable effect on one of the great means of their resource. Such zamindárs often take advantage of takávi advances and interference in agricultural operations is thus averted. Decrease in the grants on restricted tenure this year is probably due to restrictions on certain canals in the Division. Zamindárs in Sind, as a general rule, are very fond of adding to their holdings by taking up new lands. They do not hesitate to accept grants even on restricted tenure, the actual full benefit of which they will be able to realize in due course of time. They seem to be satisfied with the fact that such lands are transferable in a hereditary line.



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

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

There were only 2 cases, both in the Lárkána District, in which jagirdárs were given assistance under section 86 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code for the recovery of their dues from the tenants. Usually, jagirdárs do not find any difficulty in recovering their dues. The particulars of successions and lapses are as under :—

<i>Succession.</i>			
1st Class Jagirs	...	...	... 1 case.
3rd Class Jagirs	...	...	... 2 cases.
Garden Grants	...	...	... 2 „
<i>Lapses.</i>			
Life Grants	...	... 18 cases	... 2,071 acres.
Seri Grants	...	... 4 „	... 35 „
Mamul Grants	...	... 2 „	... 22 rupees.

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

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The Commissioner has nothing to add to the account of the relations between the land-owning and cultivating classes given in the last report. These relations have continued to be harmonious, except for a solitary dispute here and there, such as is referred to in the Hyderabad report. It is probable, as Mr. Mules observes, that the old feudal spirit is gradually disappearing; but Mr. Ferrers' remarks in paragraph 11 of his report show that it is still strong in Upper Sind. It is perhaps doubtful whether such a spirit ever existed much in Lower Sind, where, generally speaking, there is no such relationship between the zamindár and his haris as that of a head of a clan to its members.

The following table shows the details of transfers in the several districts so far as the information is available in the reports :—

District.	Sales.		Mortgages.	
	1905-06.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1904-05.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Káráchi	15,222	27,114	1,647	6,264
Hyderabad	22,783	28,668	12,393	17,951
Sukkur	6,664	6,863	.....	.....
Lárkána	13,921	18,256	.....	.....

### Extracts.

KARÁCHI DISTRICT.

H. C. Mules, Esq., Collector.

There are no "Mourusi" haris in zamindári lands in this District. Occupants cultivate themselves and with the assistance of ordinary haris in the case of small holdings and the larger holders by ordinary haris. These are in fact much on a level with the day-labourer of England except that they are engaged for the season and are paid in kind at harvest. They have absolutely no rights in the land.

There has been no change in the batai system.

The relations between landholders and labourers have been normal and no important cases of difference have arisen.

Year by year the old feudal spirit is decreasing. It is far less marked in Lower and Middle than in Upper Sind where the big zamindár is still a power in the land and, if properly dealt with, of the greatest use to Government in many ways.

J. W. Smyth, Esq., Assistant Collector.

There is no class of "Mourusi" haris in the Tatta Division. The haris are engaged at the pleasure of the zamindár and receive a share of the produce generally equal to one-third at the time of "Batai." At the outset an advance is made by the zamindárs to the haris to enable them to purchase the necessary seed and to maintain themselves until such time as the crop is ready and the batai made. In a few cases the expenses in connection with the purchase of seed, upkeep of bullocks and karia clearance are incurred by the haris and in such cases their share at the time of batai amounts to two-thirds in case of rice and  $\frac{1}{2}$  in that of a charkhi cultivation.

HYDERABAD DISTRICT.

Rochiram Asumal, Esq., Deputy Collector.

The relations between revenue and rent paying classes are the same as before. The proportion in which the division of produce is made between them has not changed. The "Batai" is generally peacefully made between the zamindár and the "hari". In the event of any friction arising, it is easily removed as the hari, having no inherent rights in the land and being a tenant-at-will, either voluntarily leaves the zamindár or he is ejected by the latter, and there being ample waste lands available for cultivation, he experiences no difficulty in undertaking cultivation of land belonging to a neighbouring zamindár.

LA'RKA'NA DISTRICT. ✓

C. G. Henderson, Esq., Assistant Collector.

The revenue and rent paying classes in the division are perhaps the most prosperous in Sind. Land is very valuable, and frequently changes hands at Rs. 150 or 200 per acre. The ordinary relations between zamindárs and their haris subsist. The hari pays in rent to the zamindár one-half or one-third of the produce, the former generally in the case of flow lands where the expenses of cultivation are small, and the latter for lift lands. All the expenses of cultivation fall on the hari, so that the zamindár's rent is subject to no deduction except the Government assessment. The less energetic zamindárs frequently sell their share of the produce in advance to the Bania at a fixed rate per acre, thus freeing themselves from all responsibility and trouble in respect of their land, and content themselves with a net profit, which, though no doubt high enough, is far less than what would accrue to them if they undertook the management of their estates themselves. The bania then manages the land for the year, takes the zamindári share of the produce and pays the Government assessment. While the hari or the tenant pays to his zamindár a rent which is perhaps as high as or higher than any that is known to exist in any other country, so light is the Government assessment that the landlord can afford to employ a highly paid middleman to manage his estates and collect his profits for him. The zamindár of this type performs absolutely no functions in respect to the land beyond receiving the profits from its cultivation. There are of course plenty of zamindárs who manage their own land and possibly contribute something to the efficiency of its management, but the main burden of the cultivation still rests on the tenants. It is perhaps one of the strangest features of the social life of Sind that the zamindár whose extinction (not through the wiles of the money-lender but through the desertion of his tenants) was long ago prophesied still exists in as strong a position as ever, and that, while there are tracts of land waiting to be taken up, the mass of the cultivating classes appear content to live on half the produce of their labour, and to make no attempt to establish themselves in a position where they might enjoy the whole.

S. Sadikali Sherali, Esq., Deputy Collector.

Formerly most of the large landholders were involved in liabilities from which very few had any prospect of relief without the sale of their holdings, but the introduction of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act and the Sind Incumbered Estates Act has saved many of them from complete ruin. They are generally apathetic and make no effort to educate their boys and prepare them for Government service or trade to increase the sources of their income. The

small or peasant proprietors and rent-paying classes in adverse seasons ply their carts and cattle for hire and do manual work to supplement their deficiencies and are better off than the large zamindárs who live in poverty but would not lower their dignity by doing any other work to add to their slender income from their lands.

Letting land on rent and sub-letting are not common, as the occupants of unalienated and holders of alienated lands take generally a share of the produce in kind. But when land is sub-let, the cash rent charged varies from Rs. 5 to 15 per acre. Land is also sub-let on other principles but this sub-letting is carried on between the landlords and their money-lenders or other persons who take up contracts of the standing crops. The share of the landlord in the produce is divided between the landlord and the village Bania or any other person who takes the contract in stipulated shares, the zamindár takes part of the produce as landlord and occupant of the land and other part is taken by the contractor who undertakes to pay the land revenue to Government. If the land is of good quality and the crop promises a good yield the landlord takes from Re. 1 to Rs. 4 cash per acre also in addition to a share of the produce. In fact the terms are regulated by the prospective outturn of the crop.

The relations between landlords and tenants are generally peaceful. In this Division land is cultivated by tenants-at-will or yearly tenants who have no further interest in the land after the crop is harvested, and produce divided and carried away. If the land is of good quality and has proper facilities for irrigation, the landlord often dictates his own terms of Batai (division of produce); on the other hand if the land is of inferior quality and has defective source of supply or is irrigated by wheels, the cultivator imposes his own conditions, and the zamindár has to yield and to pay an advance of money and grain to boot. The absence of applications under section 86 of the Land Revenue Code shows that there is very little friction between the landlords and their tenants.

Shaikh Illahibux K., Esq., Deputy Collector.

Agricultural labourers who are called "Kurmis" or "Haris" are engaged for cultivating lands. They are haris-at-will and can at any time leave or be driven out if there happens to arise any disagreement between them and the zamindár. They generally continue for a long time because the batai system by which they are paid for their labour remains unaltered except in very rare cases. But no right is established by their remaining long on the land. Disputes between haris and zamindárs are generally settled without the intervention of Courts. The financial state of the revenue-paying classes is represented to be fair in the Sehwan and Dadu Tálukás and very poor in the Johi Táluka, particularly in the Kachho country. Many of the estates are overburdened with debt. In the Johi Táluka encumbrances are probably due to successive bad seasons.

On the whole the condition of the zamindárs in general does not appear to be very satisfactory. Inability to keep the grain in stock till the rise of the market, defective ways of disposing of grain, *i. e.*, directly or without proper agencies, borrowing at high rates of interest, dealings on credit carried on in connection with necessaries of life and agriculture and making payments therefor in kind at the time of Batai appear to be some of the various reasons to which such condition of the rent-paying community is due. It has been often heard from them that the extension of the rules of takávi to certain urgent but reasonable wants other than those as defined by Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, would go far to add to the curtailment of dealings on high interest and to the consequent amelioration of their condition. Though the number of Mahomedan land-holders is proportionately greater than that of Hindus, yet there is every year an increase in the latter, which is presumably attributable to the working of the Relief Act. The zamindár who has not yet grown to be totally independent of the savkár has sometimes to sell off portions of his holdings and sometimes enter into mortgages even by transferring the khátas till the liquidation of the debt. The savkár cannot now advance without adequate security.

## UPPER SIND FRONTIER.

V. M. Ferrers, Esq., Deputy Commissioner.

The relation of zamindár to hari is somewhat different here from what I have known elsewhere, the ordinary quasi-feudal relation of landlord and feoffee co-existing with the phylarchic relation of clansman and chief. Friction is the exception unless the loyalty of the clan is divided by a contested headship as sometimes occurs. On these occasions trouble is inevitable and is likely to need the interposition of the law. But the control of the ordinary zamindár over those of his haris who are not his tribesmen is slack. Much avoidable loss is incurred by the zamindár's failure to interest the hari in remissions. If the land is held on the ordinary batai tenure the zamindár takes the same proportion of the produce in dividing with his haris, whether he has to pay assessment in full or only in part or not at all. Consequently the hari does not care whether remission is granted or refused: and when the crop is ripe it is reaped. If the zamindár is likely to take this ill, the hari can make off with the whole of the produce and the takávi he has had from the zamindár to boot.

## THAR AND PA'RKAR DISTRICT.

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

The relations between the hari and the zamindár are not so cordial as before. The semi-morusi hari is slowly giving place to a virtual farm-labourer who is ejected from his holding on the slightest pretext, the advent of the Thari having considerably strengthened the hands of the zamindárs. The batai system now works to the detriment of the hari who has besides to do a little forced labour for his master in shape of cultivating with his own team the survey numbers reserved by the zamindar of the produce of which he makes no batai. On the other hand, instances are not now rare of haris taking advances from zamindárs on the pretext of meeting expenses for raising hurlas, etc., and then deserting, leaving the debt unpaid. In short there are symptoms of the old patriarchal relations between the zamindár and the hari being strained, which will have the ultimate effect of rendering Government interference indispensable in the interests of the tenantry as in the more advanced provinces of India.

## VIII.—General Remarks.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND, ESQ., COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

*Karáchi District.*

The chief event of the year was the visit to the town and port of Karáchi of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Among other functions, His Royal Highness unveiled the statue of the late Queen-Empress, erected from funds subscribed by the people of the Province as a memorial of Her Majesty's reign.

The Collector condemns the location of the Resident Magistrate's Court at Mirpur Sakro. This place was selected after careful consideration as being a more central point in the sub-division than the town of Tatta, but if the inconvenience caused by the present arrangement is really great, the matter can be re-considered.

The need for relieving the Collector of Karáchi of some portion of his district work so as to enable him to devote greater personal attention to matters connected with the town of Karáchi undoubtedly exists, but the Commissioner is somewhat doubtful of the practicability of adding the Sháhbandar sub-division to the Hyderabad Collectorate—a suggestion which has not hitherto come before him officially.

*Hyderabad District.*

The question of the congestion at Hyderabad, referred to in the last year's report, has, for the present, been partly dealt with by the application of Rules II,

III, and IV of Rule 56 of the Land Revenue Code Rules to the agricultural lands in the environs of the city. There is, however, as yet no appreciable indication on the part of the people to take advantage of the concession. Something more than this seems to be needed, and the matter is receiving the Commissioner's most serious consideration.

The explosion of cordite belonging to the Military Department in the fort at Hyderabad on the 15th April 1906 caused much damage to house property in the town, necessitating the payment of nearly a lách in compensation.

*Thar and Párkar District.*

The Deputy Commissioner's suggestion that the Deputy Collector, Thar and Párkar, should submit a separate report for the Desert tálukás commends itself to the Commissioner. The old arrangement under which the Deputy Collector worked as the Deputy Commissioner's personal assistant has ceased to exist for some years now, and for all practical purposes the Deputy Collector now holds charge of the tálukás like other sub-divisional officers. The Commissioner considers that the suggestion should be carried out from next year. The question of dispensing with the "dual control," referred to in the Nara Valley report and in the Deputy Commissioner's remarks thereon, has already been carefully considered by the Commissioner, who has, in consultation with the Colonisation Officer, arrived at much the same conclusions as those independently recorded by the district officers. The outlines of a scheme, formulated by the Commissioner in this sense, are now being worked out in detail by Messrs. Beyts and Chatfield jointly.

*Lárkána District.*

There was no decrease in serious crime during the year. On the contrary, the number of murders increased from 13 last year to 27 in the year under report. But it is hoped that when the Police force is increased a marked improvement will follow. The Ratodero táluka appears specially to have been the scene of highway robberies and thefts. The Collector's suggestion to extend the Sind Frontier Regulation to the whole of this táluka is impracticable. It is, however, already applicable, as the Collector has been informed, to the area formerly comprised in the old Sujawal táluka, including such villages of that táluka as now form part of the Ratodero táluka.

*Upper Sind Frontier District.*

Mr. Ferrers alludes to the need for railway extensions in the district. He has not, however, succeeded in demonstrating that any such enterprise would be remunerative; and until he can do this, his recommendations are somewhat premature. In only one case, and that of a line with which his district is only in part concerned, does there as yet appear ground for confidence in this respect. The case referred to is that of the proposed Lárkána-Kambar-Shahdadpur feeder, which, having been fully discussed for a number of years, was suddenly dropped a few years back, apparently on no other ground than that of the inability of the Lárkána District Local Board to finance it. The Commissioner is hopeful of reviving this project.

**Reports.**

Commissioners' Land Revenue Administration  
Report, Part II, and Collectors' and Sub-  
Divisional Officers' Administration Reports  
for 1905-06.

No. 10814.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 7th November 1907.

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 5365, dated  
29th October 1906.

Letter from the Commissioner, S. D., No. 5135, dated  
5th November 1906.

Letter from the Commissioner, C. D., No. E.—4276,  
dated 11th December 1906.

Memorandum from the Commissioner in Sind, No. 163,  
dated 21st January 1907.

} Submitting the Land Revenue  
Administration Report, Part II,  
of their respective charges for  
the year 1905-06, together with  
the Collectors' and Sub-Divi-  
sional Officers' Administration  
Reports for that year.

**RESOLUTION.**—The conditions of the season were by no means uniform. It was very favourable in Sind, where the inundation was generally good, most of the canals worked well and the rainfall, save in one or two places, was sufficient and timely. The crop outturn accordingly, both of *kharif* and *rabi*, proved for the most part excellent. There occurred considerable increase of the area under cultivation, and consequently of the revenue demand; while the amount of remissions which it was found necessary to grant was less by nearly Rs. 5½ lakhs than the amount granted in the preceding year.

In the Presidency proper, on the other hand, though there was considerable variation over different areas in the character of the monsoon, generally speaking the rainfall was markedly deficient and unfavourably distributed. The coast districts suffer comparatively little from a shortage of rain provided that what they get is seasonable, since their ordinary measure is much in excess of what the crops grown in them require. But in the year of report the rainfall in these districts was not only much in defect, but also to a large extent capriciously distributed. Kolába and Kánara had for the most part moderate crops, but in Ratnágiri the harvest was generally very poor and in the Thána and Surat Districts the absence of rain at the critical time of transplantation resulted, in greater or less degree, everywhere but especially along the coast belt, in failure of the rice crops.

In the northern districts of Gujarát again, the season, though not a good one, was on the whole appreciably better than that of 1904-05. The abnormal downpour which occurred in July was followed by a long and injurious break which lasted till the middle of September, and the rain that fell subsequently was insufficient in quantity. The crops, both *kharif* and *rabi*, were in consequence considerably below the average in the majority of cases, rice being throughout the whole tract practically an entire failure. On the other hand, the wheat crop was fair in certain areas, while not only was the outturn of cotton generally good, but the high prices obtained for it compensated very largely for losses in other kinds of crops.

It was in the Deccan districts and over much of the Karnátak that the full effect of a scanty and unseasonable rainfall was felt. In Khándesh, though the crops were not satisfactory, there was nothing like failure and cotton here as in Gujarát realised high prices which made up in some measure for deficient outturn. But failure of crops was complete in four districts of the Central Division and, of the Karnátak districts, in the eastern talukas of Belgaum and throughout the whole of Bijápur. Over the rest of Belgaum, the greater portion of Dhárwár, and in Násik, conditions were not very much better. In the last named district there was general scarcity. In Dhárwár as in the North Gujarát districts the rice crop failed altogether, and the outturn of other kinds, save in two talukas, was on the average not more than a quarter of the normal; while in Belgaum the *rabi* failed almost everywhere and the valuation of the *kharif* is calculated by the Commissioner to have ranged from a fourth to somewhat less than half of the normal outturn. Sugarcane alone, the area under which is of course comparatively small, did fairly well in this district.

Furthermore, the absence of moisture caused scarcity of fodder over most of the affected area, which, with the prevalence of rinderpest, resulted in

considerable loss of cattle; while owing to the high price of fodder, added to the loss of their crops, agriculturists were obliged to a large extent to sell off for what they would fetch the less valuable of their animals.

2. In the Northern Division there were nowhere any signs of distress nor were special measures found necessary beyond liberal suspensions and remissions of land revenue in the rice tracts and grants of tagái. More or less acute scarcity, however, prevailed in the Deccan (except Khándesh) and Karnátak, where relief works were opened and gratuitous relief granted, and indirect relief was given to a very large extent in the shape of suspensions and remissions, tagái advances, grants for improvement of water-supply, free grazing in forests and the importation of fodder for sale at cheap rates. In previous years the tendency of the labouring classes to go far afield for work has been noticed as a result of bad seasons and successive plague epidemics. This spirit of self-help showed a remarkable development in this season of distress when thousands of labourers and even cultivators with their cattle emigrated from the affected districts to more favoured tracts, such as Khándesh, the Berars, the Native States of Hyderabad and Mysore, or to large labour centres like Bombay. The latter city found room for an exceptionally large supply of labour from the districts of Kolába and Ratnágiri where the season was not good, the labourers from Ratnágiri alone numbering 312,200 or 26·7 per cent. of the total population of that district. This extensive exodus prevented the scarcity in the Deccan districts from developing into famine, and resulted in a considerable contraction of the demand for state relief. It is a noticeable feature of this movement that even such wild people as the hill tribes of Akola, who could formerly be persuaded with difficulty to leave their homes, went out in large numbers at the first signs of distress. The South African Immigration Act is stated to have checked in some degree the usual movement towards South Africa of the trading and labouring classes from Gujarát and the Konkan, and many of the old emigrants have wound up business there and returned to their homes. In Broach and Surat many of the returning emigrants have invested their savings in land.

3. Successive years of plague and famine have reduced the local supply of field labour in several districts, and emigration and industrial development have contributed to the same result. The easy terms on which grants of land are made on the woodland tenure in Thána and on the restricted tenure throughout the Presidency have enabled many tenants and labourers to become land-holders and this must have a tendency to make non-cultivating land-holders either lower their rents to attract tenants or pay high wages for hired labour. Parts of Gujarát and Sind have to depend mainly on imported labour for the conduct of agricultural operations. As a result of these conditions the wages of agricultural labour generally maintained their fairly high level during the year in the Central and Southern Divisions, while in Sind and parts of Gujarát the average rates were even higher than in the preceding year. The wages of industrial labour, both skilled and unskilled, ruled high owing to the increasing demand in mills in Bombay and Gujarát, in ginning factories in Khándesh and on large railway and other works in Bombay. In Khándesh notwithstanding the extensive immigration the wages of unskilled labour rose by half. Many of the emigrants from the affected districts were thus enabled to save and remit money for the support of those whom they had left behind. Some of the Deccan cultivators who had emigrated to Khándesh and the Berars brought back cotton seed with them on their return, and large areas hitherto cultivated with cereals were placed under cotton cultivation in the season of 1906-07. Prices of food-grains were very high throughout the Presidency, being in places as much as twice the normal. The rise in the Northern Division and Sind was mainly due to large exports to Northern India and to Márwár and Cutch. These high prices benefited the land-holders generally and in Sind also the *harí* who receives a share of the produce as his wages.

4. Collections of land revenue and tagái and other details connected therewith have been noticed in part I of the Land Revenue Administration report. A tendency towards organised obstruction to payment of land revenue was again noticed in Broach, but not to the same extent as in previous years and most of the revenue due for collection was realised. Elsewhere the timely application of section 148 of the Land Revenue Code was generally found sufficient to induce recalcitrants to pay their dues. Leaving out of account the affected tracts where large advances of tagái were required to help distressed cultivators, the reports contain sufficient evidence that the system of tagái advances is gaining popularity both in the Presidency and in

Sind. Cases of misappropriation occurred in a few districts, but the increased supervision now exercised over these transactions ought to greatly reduce the number of such cases in future.

5. About 40,000 acres of land have already been given out under the woodland scheme in Thána. There was a substantial increase during the year in the area held on the restricted tenure, especially in Gujarát, Khándesh, Násik and Sind, the totals at the end of the year being  $5\frac{2}{3}$  lákhs of acres in the Presidency proper and  $2\frac{2}{3}$  lákhs in Sind. These figures, large as they seem, represent but a trifling fraction of the total area under occupation, and the tenure is confined in the Presidency proper almost wholly to the backward classes, such as the Bhils in Khándesh and Panch Maháls and the Kálipráj in the rest of Gujarát. The figures given are exclusive of considerable areas given out under the Jámráo Colonization scheme in Sind and to Thákurs and Kátkaries in Kolába. The more important provisions of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act were extended during the year to the districts previously unaffected by the Act. It is premature to dogmatise regarding the effect of the extension. One result seems to be the substitution of sales for mortgages. But in so far as the former are fictitious, and many are so, the recent amendment in the Act will probably result in the Courts declaring the transactions to be in reality mortgages. It is not yet shown that, except perhaps in Sind, the Act has the effect of restricting credit—and even in Sind the Commissioner remarks that any restriction which has occurred in no way hampers agricultural operations. If the effect is to restrict improvident borrowing, the Act will have succeeded in the object for which it was framed.

6. The slow but steady progress of education, especially among the lower classes, is one of the most satisfactory features of the time. It is probable that the increasing movement of labour about the country, consequent on a series of bad seasons, is gradually teaching the labouring classes the advantage of a certain amount of education if they are to get on in the world away from their homes. Government note with special satisfaction the good results which are attending the efforts of some Collectors to spread education among Bhils, Kolis and other low castes; and they desire to record their opinion that in no direction can the energies of a district officer be more usefully employed at the present juncture than in devising ways for the extension of primary education. There is evidence throughout these reports of a gradually increasing desire for education on the part of the cultivating and labouring classes, and nothing should be left undone to foster it in every way. There is no reason why special schools, like those for Bhils in Mándvi táluca (Surat) and Nandurbár, (West Khándesh) and for Kolis in Mokháda (Thána) and Akola (Ahmednagar) should not be multiplied in many directions. And the reported awakening of the Mahomedan zamindárs of Sind to the advantages of education affords an opportunity for successful endeavours in that province.

7. In the Northern Division and Sind and in Khándesh the relations between superior holders and their tenants are reported to be satisfactory, and no difficulty has been experienced by the former in the recovery of their dues. The same cannot be said of other parts of the Presidency; especially in the districts of Násik, Poona and Sátára Government regret to observe no sign of abatement in the feeling of bitterness between the inámdárs and their tenants generally, which has been noticed before, or of improvement in the matter of the recovery of the inámdárs' dues.

8. The more important of the other special matters noticed in Chapter V, including the Record of Rights, have formed the subject of separate reports. It is satisfactory to note that in the opinion of the Commissioners and district officers the Government farms at Dhulia, Dhárwár and Mirpur Khás and the Training College Farm at Dhárwár are doing useful work. The Agricultural Association in the latter district is also exerting itself commendably in introducing implements of improved patterns and diffusing practical agricultural knowledge among cultivators.

9. Notwithstanding interruptions caused by the state of the season, the tours of district officers were carried out with regularity and the routine inspection performed was generally sufficient and satisfactory. The suggestions made by the Commissioner, S. D., for the better disposal of work by sub-divisional officers have the entire concurrence of Government, who would be glad if Commissioners would every year favour Government with observations regarding the work of their officers. Among subordinate revenue establishments, the work of Mámlatdárs and District Inspectors has been well reported on. With



regard to the work of Circle Inspectors opinions vary but they are generally favourable. The Governor in Council much regrets to notice again the large extent to which fining of village officers is practised. So far as the statistics furnished for the Central and Southern Divisions show, the number of pátils fined varied from '93 per cent. in Kolába to 10 per cent. in Sholápur and that of village accountants from 12 per cent. in Dhárwár to 30 per cent. in Sholápur. In one Sub-Division of the latter district the percentage was as high as 52. The number of talátis fined in the Northern Division was 20·6 per cent., and in one district (Broach) the amounts of fine inflicted were as high as Rs. 10 in individual cases. Government concur in the remarks made by the Commissioners, N. and C. Divisions, on this subject. The proper course as has already been directed (paragraph 7 of Government Resolution No. 8956, dated 18th September 1906) is to warn in writing and if in spite of repeated warnings habitual negligence and disregard of orders continue, to dismiss. Severe fining of men of small pay merely tempts to recoupment from illicit sources; light fines are of no more use than warnings.

10. On the whole it may be said that though the season was generally unfavourable and serious failure of crops occurred in some parts, the year exhibits several features of promise from an economic point of view. The increasing mobility of labour which is referred to by almost every officer as the result of the recent lamentable series of bad seasons, indicates a sturdier feeling of self-reliance among both the cultivating and the labouring classes and must hereafter prove of immense advantage in the industrial development of the country. The rise in the rates of wages in most parts of the Presidency in spite of the unfavourable season can only be taken as evidence both of the prosperity of the working classes and of the progress of trade and industries in the country, and the gradual extension of primary education is a healthy sign of the moral advance of the people.

M. K. NARIMAN,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To

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