

FINAL REPORT

ON THE

SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS

IN THE

DARBHANGA DISTRICT

1896 TO 1903.

BY

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ON THE
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IN THE
DISTRICT OF DARBHANGA.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS report has been arranged on the model of that describing the similar operations in Champaran and Saran. It has not been thought necessary to repeat, or even to condense, the exhaustive information given by Mr. Stevenson-Moore in the Muzaffarpur final report regarding such general questions as the reasons which led to the preparation of a record-of-rights in North Bihar, the evolution of the procedure now followed, and the use and maintenance of the record. The first part of this report describes the physical features and population of the district and gives a sketch of its revenue history. The second part contains an account of the recent Survey and Settlement operations and an analysis of the statistics compiled from the records prepared.

PART I.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Considering the present position of the Darbhanga district as the headquarters of Maithila Brahminism, singularly little is known of its early history prior to the Muhammadan period. The *Ramayan* contains a few references to localities which local patriotism identifies with some existing villages in Benipatti thana, chief among them being Ohiuta, which is said to have been the abode of Ahalya, the wife of Gautama Rishi, who was turned into stone by her husband's jealous harshness and restored to life by Rama. But no reference is found to any place in the district in the more authentic records of Buddhism, and it seems to have been left unvisited by the Buddhist pilgrims, who traversed a large part of Bihar in the fourth and sixth centuries of the Christian era. Nor is it possible to draw, with regard to Darbhanga, from the history of the Pala and Sena dynasties, even such scanty information as is obtainable in regard to Muzaffarpur and Saran. There can be little doubt that up to the 12th or 13th century, Darbhanga was relatively a backward tract, and that its development has coincided with the rise of Brahminism, and of the leaders of Brahminism—the Darbhanga Raj family.

2. The oldest known document in Darbhanga is a grant dated 1400 A. D., conveying the village of Bisfi in Benipatti thana to the poet Vidyapati, who flourished in the reign of Raja Shiva Singh, and made the latter the best known of all the Hindu Rajas of Maithila. Probably the oldest family in the district is that of the Raja of Dharaur, which flourished long before the English occupation, but is now in very reduced circumstances. At the present day, however, the only landholder of any historic importance in the Maharaja of Darbhanga, whose family is descended from one Mahesh Thakur, who is said to have come from Jabalpur about the beginning of the sixteenth century. He took service as a priest with the descendants of Raja Shiva Singh, who still exercised a nominal supremacy in Tirhut, but as they collapsed before the advancing of Muhammadan power, Mahesh Thakur managed to get Akbar to confer upon

him the grant of what are now the Darbhanga Raj Estates. During the Muhammadan period, Mahesh Thakur and his descendants gradually consolidated the power of the family both in agrarian and in social matters, and though, owing to recusancy at the permanent settlement, Raja Madhu Singh was for some time deprived of a portion of his property, the British Government eventually recognised him. During the first half of the last century, owing to mismanagement and litigation, the estate fell into considerable difficulties. But the litigation had the effect of deciding once for all that the estate was impartible and that the inheritance to it was regulated by primogeniture, and owing to a long minority of over 20 years from 1860 onwards, during which the estate was under the Court of Wards, it is now in a very flourishing condition. It may be noted that Darbhanga has been the headquarters of the family since 1762 only. Prior to that date they resided at Madhubani.

3. The district of Darbhanga takes its name from its chief town. The derivation of the name throws little light on early history. Local patriotism insists that Darbhanga is derived from "*dár-i-bangal*" meaning the door of Bengal, but this is probably etymologically impossible and is certainly meaningless, for the division between Bengal and Bihar has always lain much further east. It seems probable that Darbhanga must be content to take its name from one Darbhangi Khán, a Muhammadan free-booter, concerning whom little or nothing is known.

4. Such information as is available regarding the Revenue History of the district will be given in a separate chapter. The present district was not formed till 1875. Prior to that date, together with the district of Muzaffarpur, it formed the large and unwieldy district of Tirhut which covered 6,343 square miles. The Darbhanga district now covers 3,348 square miles and consists of three subdivisions, Madhubani, Darbhanga and Samastipur. It is divided into ten thanas, the distribution of which over the different parganas is shown in the following statement :—

Subdivision.	Name of Thana.	Name of Pargana.	Area of pargana or portion of pargana in square miles.	Total area of thana in square miles.
Madhubani ...	Benipatti ...	Bhála ...	61	270
		Nautan ...	47	
		Bachhaur ...	1	
		Bharwára ...	7	
		Tájpur ...	16	
		Basantar ...	1	
		Jarail ...	137	
		Khajauli ...	Jabdi ...		87	323
	Bachhaur ...	142		
	Háti ...	13		
	Gaur ...	1		
	Bhála ...	74		
	Jarail ...	6		
	Phulparás ...	Alápur ...	266	455
		Bhaur ...	4	
		Pachahi ...	49	
		Náredigar ...	1	
		Jabdi ...	66	
		Mokrabpur ...	10	
		Dharaur ...	35	
		Khand ...	24	

Subdivision.	Name of Thana.	Name of Pargana.	Area of pargana or portion of pargana in square miles.	Total area of thana in square miles.
Madhubani ...	Madhubani ...	Jabdi ...	28	298
		Bachaur... ..	29	
		Háti	70	
		Bhaur	81	
		Paribárpur Jabdi ...	4	
		Gaur	38	
		Gopálpur... ..	15	
		Lowám	4	
		Dharaur	2	
		Naredigar	8	
		Pachahi	12	
		Jarail	22	
Darbhanga Sadar	Darbhanga ...	Jákhar	5	428
		Gopálpur	4	
		Lowám	9	
		Pindáruich	57	
		Berai	19	
		Paribárpur Rágho ...	3	
		Pingi	24	
		Ughara	22	
		Sihora	9	
		Bhadwár	18	
		Parukhpur	7	
		Pachhim Bhigo	18	
		Rám Chaund	27	
		Purab Bhigo	24	
		Bawál	7	
		Jehángirábád	9	
		Shábjahánpur	21	
		Bharwára	122	
		Hawéli Darbhanga ...	4	
		Sarai Hamid	4	
Tirsath	5			
Fakhrábád	1			
Nánpur	11			
Darbhanga Sadar	Bahera ...	Chak Mani	28	448
		Ughara	6	
		Jakhar	8	
		Hávi	102	
		Jakhalpur	7	
		Ahilwára	84	
		Tarson	1	
		Salempur Mahua	4	
		Dharaur	104	
		Ahis	70	
		Lowám	44	
		Salemábád	2	
		Fakhrábád	1	
		Paribárpur Rágho ...	17	
		Gopálpur	22	
		Pachahi	8	
		Bhaur	1	
		Pingi	2	
Benua	1			
Purab Bhigo	1			

Subdivision.	Name of Thana.	Name of Pargana.	Area of pargana or portion of pargana in square miles.	Total area of thana in square miles.
Samastipur ...	Rusera ...	Jákhar ...	30	348
		Kasma ...	19	
		Jakhalpur ...	48	
		Saraisa ...	1	
		Padri ...	87	
		Báde Bhusári ...	2	
		Hamidpur ...	18	
		Benua ...	44	
		Hirni ...	32	
		Ahis ...	1	
		Tarson ...	34	
		Chak Mani ...	31	
		Ahilwára ...	1	
Samastipur ...	Warisnagar ...	Kasma ...	118	196
		Jahángirábád ...	1	
		Shahjabánpur ...	1	
		Kharsand ...	5	
		Chak Mani ...	1	
		Barail ..	20	
		Jákhar ...	50	
Samastipur ...	Samastipur ...	Saraisa ...	296	296
		Dalsingh Sarai...	Saraisa ...	178	286
Bálágachh ...	107			
Hájipur ...	1			
Total area of district ...				3,348

5. There are thus 58 parganas in the district, of which 30 are situated in more than one thana. Ten of the parganas are less than five square miles in area. The largest pargana in the district is Saraisa which also extends over a considerable area in Muzaffarpur.

6. The district assumes the shape of a fairly well defined parallelogram, its mean length being greater than its mean breadth. It lies between 25°-30" and 26°-48" north latitude and 85°-40" and 86°-40" east longitude. It is bounded on the north by Nepal, on the west by Muzaffarpur, on the east by Bhagalpur, on the south-east by the north Ganges portion of the district of Monghyr, and for about 20 miles along the south-west boundary it is divided by the Ganges from the district of Patna. The whole district of Darbhanga forms a vast alluvial plain, with a general slope from north to south varied by a depression in the centre. It contains no natural hills or eminences. It is divided by its interior river system into three well-defined physical divisions.

7. The first of these, starting from the south, is the tract in the extreme south-west of the district, comprising the thanas of Dalsingh Sarai and Samastipur, which are separated from the rest of the district by the Bur Gandak river. This area resembles in every respect the Rajipur subdivision of Muzaffarpur and the Begusarai subdivision of Monghyr, which adjoin it. It consists of a large block of upland with a few *chours* or marshes here and there. It is the

richest and most fertile part of the district, and produces all the most valuable *rabi* and *bhadoi* crops.

8. The second main physical division of the district corresponds roughly with Warisnagar thana and consist of a small *doab* between the Baghmata and the Bur Gandak rivers. This tract is liable to inundation from the former river. It is the lowest part of the district, and the main crop produced is winter rice, though in many parts good *rabi* crops are also raised from the lands enriched by inundation.

9. The rest of the district, comprising the Sadar and Madhubani Subdivisions, consist of a vast low-lying plain intersected by numerous streams and marshes, but traversed also in parts by ridges of uplands. The south-eastern portion corresponding roughly with the thanas of Bahera and Rusera is, in the rainy seasons, mainly a vast chain of temporary lakes, joined together by the numerous beds of the hill streams which pass through the Madhubani subdivision on their way from Nepal to the Ganges. In this part the only crop of any importance is winter rice, which, when not submerged by too early floods, is very prolific. Large tracts in the area do not dry up till well on in the cold weather, and in some places communications are open for only three or four months of the year. In the Madhubani subdivision, the land is generally speaking higher, especially in the three western thanas and in the south of Phulparas, which contain stretches of high land, suitable for the growing of the more valuable *rabi* crops. But the staple crop is winter rice and the paddy of Alapur, Jabdi, and Bachaur is famous all over Bihar.

10. The district contains three main river systems—the Ganges, the Gandak, and the Kamla-Tiljuga. The Ganges is of little importance so far as Darbhanga is concerned. There are no large marts on its bank within the district, which it skirts for only 20 miles. The only stream in the district of any importance, which joins the Ganges direct and not by way of the other river systems, is the Baya. This river is an overflow of the Big Gandak, which forms the boundary between Muzaffarpur and Saran. After flowing through the south-western part of Muzaffarpur, it runs through part of Dalsingh Sarai thana in Darbhanga and finally joins the Ganges just below Dhanespur at the extreme south-east corner of the Samastipur subdivision.

11. The Bur Gandak or little Gandak, as it is sometimes called, is an important river throughout its course in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and North Monghyr. In all these districts it marks a clearly defined division of the country. It enters the Darbhanga district near Pusa and after flowing past Samastipur leaves it just below Rusera. Though its importance has been diminished by the Railway, it is still a valuable trade highway, and there are many large bazars and marts on its banks. It is navigable practically all the year round for country boats of fair size. Its offshoots, the Jhamwari and the Balan, leave it near Pusa, and after flowing through the south-western part of the Samastipur subdivision, rejoin the parent stream in Monghyr, before it flows into the Ganges at Khagaria.

12. All the rivers in the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions belong to the Kamla-Tiljuga group, so called because they all join one another at Tilleshwar in the south-east corner of Rusera thana, and are thenceforward known indiscriminately by either name, while proceeding through Monghyr and Bhagalpur to join the Ganges and the Kosi by various tortuous courses. The first of the group is the Baghmata, which rises in Nepal, and during its course through Darbhanga pursues an easterly direction parallel to the Bur Gandak, which it formerly joined near Rusera. It has however within the past thirty years cut out a new bed for itself, and after forming the northern boundary of Warisnagar thana it cuts into the Karai and joins the Tiljuga at Tilleshwar. The Karai prior to its junction with the Baghmata is an unimportant stream. The little Baghmata, on which the town of Darbhanga stands, also finds its way to the Tiljuga by the bed of the Karai. Its chief tributary is the Dhaus, which runs through the north-west of Benipatti thana. The little Baghmata was formerly joined near Kamtaul by the Kamla, a river whose old beds are found

all over the north of the Madhubani subdivision. It used to flow ten miles east of Madhubani town, but now runs ten miles to the west of it. Its main channel now runs about four miles east of Darbhanga town past Babera, Singhiya and Hirni to Tilleshwar. It is a fairly large river in the rains and liable to heavy floods. Further east still is the little Balan, a deep and narrow river with a well-defined bed, which runs south through the eastern part of Khajauli and Madhubani thanas, and joins the Tiljuga near Rusera. The Balan Proper, also known as the Bhati Balan, is a river with a wide shifting sandy bed, liable to heavy floods, but practically dry during a great part of the year. Its old beds are found all over the north of Phulparas thana. Lastly comes the Tiljuga which rises in Nepal and skirts the entire eastern boundary of the district, though portions of its length fall in Bhagalpur district.

13. Practically all the rivers in the Madhubani and Sadar Subdivisions are liable to overtop their banks during heavy floods, but they rapidly drain off into the low-lying country in the south-east of the district, on which all the lines of drainage north of the Bur Gandak converge. Most of the rivers in the Madhubani subdivision are used for irrigation in years of short or late rainfall. There are no canals strictly speaking, but ordinary channels or *pynes* are common, and during the famine of 1897 much good was done by Mr. R. S. King, Sub-Manager of the Rohika Circle of the Darbhanga Raj, in the skilful construction of channels, for many of which the old beds of the Kamla were utilised.

14. The soils of the district may be divided into three kinds, *balsundri*, a sandy loam; *bāngar* or *ohikna*, a clayey soil with an admixture of sand; and *matari*, a clay soil with little or no sand. Each class is locally still further subdivided into numerous, different varieties, depending on the greater or less admixture of sand (*bālu*) but this further classification is varying and unscientific and of no practical importance. The three main classes follow the physical division of the district into three parts. *Balsundri* is the prevailing soil south of the Bur Gandak in the thanas of Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai. The *Doab* between the Bagmati and the Gandak, corresponding roughly with Warisnagar thana, is chiefly composed of *bāngar*, while in the rest of the district the prevailing soil is *matari*. But the distribution is not a strict one, for *matari* soils are found in the *chaurs* in Samastipur, and *balsundri* in the high lands of Benipatti. *Matari* soil being extremely retentive of moisture is best suited for the growing of winter rice. *Bhadoi* crops which cannot stand too much moisture do best in *balsundri* or sandy *bāngar*, and the more valuable *rabi* crops are almost exclusively grown on *balsundri*. Rice also does well on low-lying *bāngar* lands, if the admixture of sand is not too strong to absorb the moisture. All over the district are found patches of *usar* land, which are unproductive owing to the salt efflorescence known as *reh*. It is generally believed that this can only be eradicated by inundation.

15. On the whole, however, the foregoing classification of soils is of little practical importance, and would not be readily understood except by the more intelligent cultivators. As Mr. Finance remarked in his report on the Alápur Settlement: "The only classification of land locally known is that into *dhanhar* and *bhit*, *dhanhar* meaning the low lands on which rice paddy is grown, and *bhit* the uplands growing cereals or crops of any kind other than *dhan*."

This is the classification adopted by us in the record, but its main use has been to facilitate the identification of their plots by the raiyats, and it is of little value in any other respect. Rent rates for *dhanhar* land are higher in Madhubani than those for *bhit*, but the contrary is the case in Samastipur, where the *bhit* lands are the more valuable. In many parts of the district however no rent-rates are found, holdings being held on a lump rental, irrespective of the classes of soil of which they are composed.

16. Although there is a certain amount of irrigation in the north of the district, the main sources of supply are tanks and streams, which are apt to fail in a dry season when most wanted. The district therefore, like the rest of North Bihar, is dependent for its prosperity on seasonable rainfall. The normal rainfall of

the district as given in the Collector's report on the famine of 1897 is shown in the following statement :—

RAINFALL.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Sadar ...	'53	'48	'39	'69	2'53	7'91	11'39	11'39	9'68	2'19	'16	'17	48'33
Madhubani...	'74	'39	'30	1'01	2'06	8'80	10'03	10'51	10'17	2'62	'63	'08	46'18
Samastipur...	'64	'38	'23	'36	2'35	7'63	12'19	10'35	8'01	3'18	'09	'08	45'43
District average ...	'64	'40	'30	'69	2'63	8'03	11'39	10'75	9'25	2'13	'06	'11	47'37

17. The district is fortunate, inasmuch as its normal rainfall may be described as ideal for the purposes of the system of agriculture generally practised. The main crop in the district is winter rice, which, as will be seen, covers over three-fifths of the cropped area. This crop requires good rain at the end of May and in June, to facilitate the preparation of the ground and the growth of the seedlings. More rain is required in July and August for transplanation, and without a good fall during the *hathiya* asterism at the end of September and during the early part of October, the rice withers away and never comes to maturity. All the essentials for a good winter rice crop are thus secured in a year of normal rainfall, which also provides admirably for the crops of the *bhadoi* harvest, which are sown in May and June and reaped in August and September. A good rainfall at the end of the monsoon further secures moisture for the crops of the next spring harvest, which are sown in October and November, and in a normal year are refreshed during the cold weather by seasonable showers.

18. But unfortunately the district does not always enjoy a normal rainfall, and whether this falls short of the average, or is badly distributed, full crops cannot be looked for. In a district so dependent as Darbhanga on its winter rice, the most serious results naturally ensue from a failure or premature cessation of the monsoon, and in this connection it may be of interest to compare with the normal the rainfall of the year preceding the two greatest crop failures of modern times—1873 and 1896. These are shown in the following statement :—

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Normal ...	'64	'40	'30	'69	2'63	8'03	11'39	10'75	9'25	2'02	'06	'11	47'37
1873 ...	'15	'07	2'05	'01	'21	4'30	8'63	7'23	3'67	...	...	'23	27'61
1896 ...	'13	...	...	'06	2'48	5'15	12'20	8'73	6'38	'13	'11	'08	36'80

19. As illustrating the manner in which the unfavourable rainfall of these two seasons affected the crops, it will be of interest to quote from the reports of the most competent contemporary observers. As regards the rainfall of 1873, Sir A. P. Macdonnell writes :—

“The rains of 1873 commenced late, were insufficient to bring even the *bhadoi* crops to full maturity or to permit of the usual rice area being sown down, and ceased in September with a deficiency under the normal varying from 11 inches in Tajpur (Samastipur) to 23 inches in Madhubani and 28 inches in Darbhanga. The inevitable consequence was the failure of the rice crops in every subdivision, culminating with the almost total destruction of the winter rice crop in Darbhanga.”

20. The deficiency in the rainfall of 1896 was not so great as in 1873, but its effects were intensified by the short rainfall of 1895. The Collector writes in his famine report :—“There was virtually no rain in the cold weather of 1895-96, and as the September rain was not very heavy, while the rainfall in October was practically *nil*, the water-level had sunk very low by May 1896, when there

was fairly heavy rain. In May however, as throughout the season, the rain fell in a few heavy showers, which quickly dried up. There was again good rain in the end of June and beginning of July, but then commenced the first long break of about six weeks; hardly any rain fell during this period, while there were many cloudless days of burning sunshine. Thus the rain which fell in August found the ground very dry and the water-level little, if at all, higher than in June. Towards the close of August there were a few days of fairly heavy rain, and then another long break with fine hot days and occasionally west winds till after the middle of September. This rain again fell on a dry and parched-up soil, and in most cases it almost disappeared in a few days. The monsoon rainfall was below the average, but it was not so much the small quantity of the rainfall as its bad distribution and the very hot sunny intervals, that had so disastrous an effect on the crops."

21. Thus it may be said of Darbhanga, that in a year of normal rainfall it is practically independent of irrigation and can raise full crops without it, but that the importance of seasonable and well distributed rainfall, particularly during the monsoon, cannot be over-estimated.

The dependence of the district on the rainfall.

Communications.

22. The district is on the whole well off in the matter of railway communications. Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai thanas are traversed by the main line of the Tirhut State Railway, which enters the district just below Dalsinghsarai and runs through Samastipur to Waini, a distance of 29 miles. The southern part of this area also contains 25 miles of the new chord line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway from Hajipur to Bachhwara, which runs parallel to the Ganges embankment from east to west. From Samastipur a line runs to Darbhanga and there branches off in two directions, the first north-west to Sitamarhi through Kamtaul and Jogiara, and the other due east to Khanwa Ghat on the Kosi. The total length of line within the district is 146 miles. The parts of the district most in want of railway communication are the south-east and the Madhubani subdivision. It has long been proposed to construct a line from Sakri to Jainagar on the Nepal Frontier, and most of the earth-work was completed as a relief work during the famine of 1897, but the project has not yet been carried out. There can be no doubt that such a line would be of great utility. Not only would it pass the important town of Madhubani, but it would also secure a large share of the Nepal Frontier traffic. The number of rivers in the south-eastern part of the district is likely to prove an obstacle to the extension of railway communication to that area for many years to come.

Railways.

23. In addition to the railway telegraph system, there are wires from Sakri to Madhubani and Rajnagar, a distance of 20 miles; from Nirmali to Naraya (6 miles), and from Samastipur to Rusera (18 miles).

Telegraph.

24. The district contains 55 sub and branch post offices and is thus provided with one post office for every 60 square miles.

Post offices.

25. The Bur Gandak river is navigable for boats of 1,000 maunds burden at all seasons of the year, but its boat traffic has much decreased since the opening of the railway. Boats of 400 or 500 maunds can pass up the Baghmati except in a very dry season. The other rivers in the district are navigable in the rainy season only, and are not much used even then owing to their liability to floods.

River traffic.

26. The most important marts are the district and subdivisional headquarters, Darbhanga, Samastipur and Madhubani. Naraya in Phulparas thana is an important centre for the Nepalese grain traffic. Rusera, owing to its position on the Gandak, was at one time the largest market in the south of the district, but it has somewhat lost its importance since the opening of the railway, though it has still a flourishing bazar. The other markets in the district are mainly of local importance.

Markets.

27. The district contains 1,734 miles of roads, or a little more than half-a mile of road to every square mile of superficial area. Particulars are given in the annexed statement :—

Number of class.	Description of class.	Mileage.
IA	Metalled, bridged and drained	23
IB	Do., partially bridged and drained	112
IIA	Unmetalled, bridged and drained	829
IIB	Do., partially bridged and drained	553
	Village roads	717
	Total	1,734

28. Many of the roads in the low-lying tract in the central and south-eastern part of the district are impassable during the rains, and this area is undoubtedly in lack of good communications. It must, however, be confessed that the matter is one of considerable difficulty. The nature of the country is such as to render high embankments a necessity. These are expensive to maintain in repair and are frequently breached in time of flood. To avoid this, an enormous amount of bridging would be necessary. Much has, however, been done in recent years to improve communications by the erection of five pontoon bridges at different points on the Gandak and the Baghmati.

The road from Darbhanga to Jainagar on the frontier, which crosses all the rivers in the west of the Madhubani subdivision, has been completely bridged throughout at the cost of the Darbhanga Raj. In Samastipur, where the country is high, comparatively little embanking or bridging is required, and most of the roads are in good order, and communications are open at all seasons of the year.

29. Prior to the famine of 1874, the district seems to have been very badly off for roads, and though much was done during the famine to construct new roads and repair existing ones, the total length of roads, made over to the Road Cess Committee on its formation in 1875, was only 648 miles. The length of roads has, therefore, nearly trebled within the past quarter of a century. The average annual expenditure of the District Board on roads during the last ten years has been Rs. 1,47,780, of which Rs. 83,000 is devoted to repairs and the remainder to original works.

CHAPTER II.—POPULATION.

30. The earliest recorded estimate of the population was made at the time of the permanent settlement in 1793, and was based upon enquiries made during the preceding years for revenue-paying and for revenue free lands separately. The result for the whole district of Tirhut, corresponding with the present districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, was to show a population of 1,844,310 persons only, or less than a third of the combined population of the two districts at present. Though the 1793 figures were probably an under-estimate, like all those which were arrived at before the first proper enumeration of 1872, nevertheless there can be no doubt that an enormous increase has taken place within the last century, and that the population must have at least doubled itself within that time.

31. In 1802 the Collector estimated the population of the district as two million souls, but an estimate made by the Revenue Surveyor in 1846 returned only 1,637,545 persons. This estimate was, however, based on the number of houses and as the enumeration of the houses was admittedly imperfect and incomplete, little reliance can be placed on the figures. During the next quarter of a century, estimates of the population fluctuated from 1,800,000,

to 1,500,000, but the first really systematic census of 1872 showed their inadequacy as it returned a total population of 4,354,706 persons giving a density of 691 persons to the square mile. At the census of 1901 the average density of the population of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga combined was 928 persons to the square mile, so that there has been an increase of over 30 per cent. in the last 30 years.

32. There can, however, be little doubt that some part of the increase must be ascribed to defective enumeration in 1872, for a second test-census of the Darbhanga subdivision, made in 1874 by the agency employed on famine relief, showed that the population was greater by 13 per cent., than that returned in 1872. The figures for 1881, when the first census of Darbhanga as a separate district took place, also supply the first really trustworthy starting point for gauging subsequent variations in the population of the district.

33. The following table indicates the variations of the population of the district, thana by thana, during the last 20 years:—

Serial number.	Name of thana.	TOTAL POPULATION.			PERCENTAGE OF VARIATION.	
		1881.	1891.	1901.	1881—1891.	1891—1901.
<i>Madhubani Subdivision.</i>						
1	Penitotti	247,238	249,815	248,481	+1.0	+8.88
2	Kanjanli	177,994	228,920	217,329	+8.6	+8.01
3	Phulparas	267,500	298,868	326,964	+10.9	+10.31
4	Madhubani	211,772	244,219	253,655	+15.8	+3.86
	Total	904,504	1,014,700	1,046,429	+12.0	+7.85
<i>Darbhanga Subdivision.</i>						
5	Darbhanga	409,519	411,462	435,453	+9.3	-1.36
6	Bahera	319,875	345,559	355,024	+11.5	+2.74
7	Rusera	256,605	267,795	275,118	+4.0	+5.09
	Total	986,000	1,024,806	1,065,595	+8.0	+1.60
<i>Samastipur Subdivision.</i>						
8	Warisnagar	164,940	170,902	169,055	+0.6	-1.13
9	Samastipur	306,193	306,181	311,312	-0.3	+2.00
10	Dalsingh Sarai	279,501	262,276	272,270	-0.1	+3.81
	Total	750,634	739,259	752,637	-2.3	+1.92
	District total	2,630,496	2,801,965	2,912,611	+6.5	+3.95

34. The total increase in population during the period has been just over 10 per cent., but over three-fifths of this took place in the first decade. The population in Samastipur is practically stationary. Though the subdivision recovered during the second decade some of the ground which it lost in the first, its present total population is still less than it was in 1881. The variations in Dalsingh Sarai are due to changes of jurisdiction in the fluctuating area on the Ganges diara. In Samastipur thana the population slightly decreased in the first decade and slightly increased in the second, whereas in Warisnagar the contrary is the case, but the variations in both are insignificant.

35. In the Sadar subdivision, only Darbhanga thana shows an actual decline of population in the last decade, but this is due to the fact that fortuitous circumstances caused a large number of non-residents to be present in Darbhanga town during the census of 1891. Excluding the urban area, the Darbhanga thana shows a slight increase of less than a half per cent. during the period from 1891 to 1901. Taken as a whole, the most striking feature of the Sadar subdivision is the sudden arrest in the rise of population, which has taken place since 1891.

36. In Madhubani, the rise in population has continued during the last decade, though it is considerably less rapid than in former periods. The

Benipatti and Khajauli figures for 1881-1891 are vitiated by changes of jurisdiction.

37. Taking the district as a whole then, we find that the population of Samastipur is practically stationary, that the Sadar is fast approaching a similar condition, and that it is only in Madhubani that any considerable increase is to be found, and that even here the rate of progress was appreciably less during the last decade than at any previous period. Nor can these phenomena be ascribed to any special cause, such as famine or plague. Plague may, indeed, have affected the population of the Dalsingh Sarai and Darbhanga thanas, but its effect has been slight; for Madhubani, where plague has not yet found an entrance, returns a higher death-rate than any other part of the district; and as to famine it is sufficient to point out that the rise in population is greatest in Madhubani, which was most widely affected by the crop failure of 1896, and least in Samastipur, in which two thanas were hardly affected at all. To quote from the Census Report of 1901: "The fact seems to be that while the other parts of the district have as dense a population as the land will support, there is still some room for expansion in Madhubani;" and this proposition receives further corroboration when the figures for density of population in each subdivision are further examined as in the following statement:

Subdivision.	Density per square mile according to the Census Report.	Density per square mile including the urban population and the non-settled areas.	PERCENTAGE TO THE TOTAL AREA OF—			Average rent rate per acre.
			Cultivated area.	Cultivable area but not cultivated.	Uncultivable area.	
Madhubani ...	811	100	79	11	10	Rs. a. p. 3 12 2
Sadar ...	872	811	79	12	9	3 10 9
Samastipur ...	985	1,001	83	9	8	3 15 4
District Total ...	878	849	80	11	9	3 12 4

38. Samastipur is thus eminently a rural tract, dependent almost entirely on agriculture, and the pressure of the agricultural population on the soil is already so great that further expansion under present conditions is neither to be expected nor desired. The great density of population per square mile of the settled area is due to the fact that about 40 square miles of diara is excluded from this, but as the diara is practically uninhabited and mainly uncultivated, the pressure of population on the inhabited and productive area cannot be put at less than 1,000 per square mile. There is no very marked difference between the conditions of Madhubani and the Sadar so far as the strictly rural areas are concerned; and as the indications are that the Sadar during the last decade approached very near the limit of population which the soil is capable of supporting, it cannot be expected that Madhubani will show any considerable further increase at the next census. As will be seen hereafter, these two subdivisions are mainly rice-producing tracts, and they cannot hope to support so large a population as Samastipur, where the rich uplands produce more valuable crops. Of the district, as a whole, it may, therefore, be said that, under present conditions and in the absence of some economic revolution, there is little room for further increase of population, and it is fortunate that the record-of-rights which has been prepared will operate to secure the cultivators against the danger of being deprived of an undue share of their scanty gains by rack-renting, to which, in the absence of special protection, the highly-populated state of the district would make it particularly liable.

39. The rent-rates shown in the above statement are deduced from the rents recorded as payable, and not from the rents claimed and in some cases collected by the landlords.

Effect of density on rent-rates.

which were very much higher. But even so, rents in Darbhanga have not yet become true competition rents, for they do not vary with the pressure of the population on the soil. The highest rent-rates in the district are found in the Khajauli and Rusera thanas, where the population is only 766 and 763 to the square mile, respectively, the reason being that big and powerful landlords have been able to make their raiyats agree to periodical enhancements. On the other hand, many extremely congested villages in Samastipur show very low rent-rates, either because the raiyats have been strong enough to resist enhancements, or because the landlords have not thought it worth while to enforce them. But this report will be found to contain ample evidence of the ease with which illegal enhancements have been made in all parts of the district, and there can be no doubt that without a record-of-rights, they would have become more and more common, that rents would have tended more and more to become purely competition rents, and that the provisions of the law restricting enhancement by contract between landlord and tenant would have become very largely a dead letter. Mr. Bourdillon, in his Census Report of 1881, described as one of the most difficult problems of Indian administration, the amelioration of the conditions of a dense agricultural population, "so that while the pressure on the soil is relieved (by emigration), the cultivator shall receive his fair share of the profit, while the landlord is paid a reasonable rent with punctuality." It may be hoped that the record-of-rights now prepared will do much to secure the latter of these objects.

40. This matter is the more important, because emigration as a remedy for over-population, does not yet appear to have taken any real hold in the district. The Census Report for 1901 shows that out of every 10,000 persons born in the district only 392 are now found elsewhere, and of these 255 are in contiguous districts. There are only about 3,000 more emigrants than there were in 1891, and the proportion of emigrants is lower than in any other district of North Bihar except Champaran, where land is still available for cultivation. The emigration is, moreover, almost counterbalanced by the fact that out of every 10,000 persons enumerated in the district at the Census, 310 were immigrants born elsewhere. In fact, to quote again from the Census Report: "The eb and flow between Darbhanga and its neighbours is almost at a par; it loses to Bhagalpur and gains in all other directions." Whether another decade of increasing pressure on the soil will stimulate emigration, remains to be seen. Judging from the experience of Muzaffarpur and Saran, the probabilities are that it will; for in these districts the proportion of emigrants to natives is one in twenty and one in ten, respectively, and seems to be steadily rising.

41. For details as to the composition of the district population, reference must be made to the Census Report. It will be sufficient to note here that the district contains 106 females to every 100 males. Females preponderate in every thana, and the preponderance has been steadily increasing since 1872. The causes appear to be obscure, but a partial clue may, perhaps, be found in the fact that the proportion of female to males is highest (over 110 per cent.) in Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai, and lowest (103 per cent.) in the Madhubani Subdivision. Pressure on the soil is greatest in the former area and least in the latter, and the relative preponderance of females probably indicates the extent to which temporary emigration is resorted to. The emigration to Bhagalpur chiefly takes place from the northern and central parts of Darbhanga which adjoin it, and as it is largely of a permanent nature, the emigrants take their wives with them. But from the south of the district, there is a good deal of temporary emigration to the eastern part of the province during the labouring season, and in this case the emigrants usually leave their women folk behind. Again, many of the marsh lands in the Gogri thana of Monghyr, which only produce a *rabi* crop and are submerged during the rains, are cultivated by men from Dalsingh Sarai thana, who only leave their houses for the cold weather and rarely take their families with them. The preponderance of females over males in a given area is thus of interest, as illustrating the manner in which a congested agricultural population seeks to relieve the pressure on the soil without entirely abandoning its native villages.

42. Nearly 88 per cent. of the population are Hindus and 12 per cent. are Muhammadans. The number of persons belonging to other religions is only 792.

Distribution of population by religion.
The proportion of Muhammadans is highest in Darbhanga thana, where they form over a fifth of the total population, and lowest in Dalsingh Sarai, where they form little more than a twentieth of the total population. There has been no important variation in the proportion of Hindus to Muhammadans during the last decade.

43. One of the most important of the Census tables, from the point of view of the Settlement Report, is that which deals with the distribution of population by occupation, especially in regard to agriculture, and in this respect the report on the Census for 1901 is a perfect kind of information, from which I shall attempt to extract the most salient features. It was admitted by the Census Superintendent of 1891 that the occupation statistics of that year were vitiated by the "persistent influence of caste functions" which accounted for "the large proportion of non-agriculturists in the Burdwan and Patna Divisions." The great majority of cultivating Brahmins, for instance, were shown in the Census Returns as priests, though they never performed any priestly functions, and a large number of persons of other castes were shown as following the traditional hereditary occupations of those castes, though they had in fact abandoned them, and were dependent solely on agriculture for a livelihood. The result was that in forming an estimate of the agricultural population for the purposes of the Muzaffarpur and Saran Settlement reports, it was necessary to go beyond the Census tables and to base the figures on a more or less empirical deduction made from enquiries in selected villages. The result of those enquiries was to show that about 84 per cent. of the population of Muzaffarpur and Saran were dependent on agriculture as a means of subsistence.

44. In paragraph 906 of the Census Report for 1901, the Census Superintendent describes the methods which were adopted to secure more accurate statistics with regard to the proportion borne by the agricultural community to the total population. Not only was care taken to see that all persons, whose principal occupation was agriculture, were entered under that head, but those persons, whose chief source of income is non-agricultural, but who also partially follow agricultural pursuits, were separately enumerated. The result corroborates in a striking manner the correctness of the estimate of the agricultural population made for the Muzaffarpur and Saran reports, and these may be said in turn to establish the soundness of the classification adopted at the late census.

45. According to the Census Table XV, the population of Darbhanga in 1901 was distributed as follows :—

Occupation.	Number.	Percentage to total.
Pasture and agriculture	2,908,729	79.27
Other occupations	603,882	20.73
Total	2,912,611	100
Persons engaged in other occupations but partially dependent on agriculture.	23,882	.8

46. Of the persons engaged in occupations other than agriculture, more than a sixth are found in the four municipalities of the district and this leaves only half a million people in the strictly rural area, who are not solely dependent on agriculture; and of this half million nearly five per cent. do follow agricultural pursuits to a certain extent. The most important of the non-agricultural population are those engaged in the "preparation and supply of material substances," who

form over ten per cent. of the total population of the district. Then come the "unskilled labourers, not agricultural", who make up a little over five per cent. of the total population. The remaining main classes, viz., Government, Personal service, Commerce and Professions make up little more than four per cent. between them.

The agricultural population. 47. The agricultural population is further subdivided under the following main heads :—

Subdivision.	Total number.	Percentage to total population.
Rent-payers	1,739,360	60
Labourers	494,033	17
Rent-receivers	54,195	1
Miscellaneous (including pasture and supervision).	41,141	1
Total ...	2,308,729	79

48. The rent-payers are the cultivators, pure and simple. They form three-fifths of the total population of the district. The estimate of this class in Saran was 64 per cent. of the total population, and in Muzaffarpur 66 per cent. It is probable that the Darbhanga figure ought to be slightly raised to allow for that "persistent influence of caste functions" which was so marked at the Census of 1891, and can hardly have been eradicated entirely in 1901. Similarly some of the non-agricultural labourers ought probably to be treated as agricultural, because, as pointed out by the Census Superintendent the distinction between the two classes is very ill-defined, and the great majority of labourers engage in agricultural work at certain seasons of the year. But at any rate we are safe in assuming that at least four-fifths of the population of Darbhanga are entirely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, and it is probable that the proportion is even greater than this. The figures will be further considered in the chapter dealing with material condition of the agricultural classes.

CHAPTER III.—A SKETCH OF THE LAND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN DARBHANGA.

49. The present district of Darbhanga was not formed till 1875. Before that date, together with the present district of Muzaffarpur, it formed the large district of Tirhut. In Chapter IV, Part I of the final report on the operations in Muzaffarpur Mr. Stevenson-Moore has given a full account of the early Land Revenue Administration of the district of Tirhut in general, and of the present district of Muzaffarpur in particular. This chapter will deal only with that part of the old district of Tirhut which is now known as Darbhanga.

50. It will be convenient to follow Mr. Stevenson-Moore in his division of the period, for which authentic information is available, into six parts, viz. :—

- (1) The Muhammadan Period (from Akbar's assessment in 1582 to the grant of the Diwani in 1765).
- (2) The early British Period, closing with the Decennial Settlement of 1790.
- (3) The Permanent Settlement of 1793 and its effects.
- (4) The Resumption Proceedings in the first-half of the 19th century.
- (5) The Revenue Survey of 1845 to 1849.
- (6) The Modern Period leading up to the present operations.

(1) *The Muhammadan Period.*

51. The history of the district, prior to the reign of Akbar at the close of the 16th century, is lost in obscurity. Up to about 1530 A. D., it formed part of the great Hindu Kingdom of Maithila, but soon after that date, it came, with the rest of Bihar, more or less under Muhammadan supremacy. No details are available as to the Hindu system of administration, but it was doubtless based on the laws of Manu. The chief features seem to have been the prevalence of produce-rents and *abwab*, and the absence of all detailed information or enquiry as to the areas and capabilities of the tracts rendered liable for the revenue. The oldest document in the district deals with the grant of a village in Benipatti Thana to the poet Vidyapati by Raja Shiva Singh. Its date is about 1400 A. D., and though some attempt is evidently made at precision in the description of the tract concerned, all that can be said about it is that it was "a village on the bank of the Baghmati, known as Bisapi, up to its borders with much-cultivated lands of wide extent, watered by rivers, endowed with woods and tanks." It is not until the assessment made by Akbar's Finance Minister, Todar Mull, in 1582, that any authentic details as to the district and its capabilities are available, and this brief account of its revenue history may well begin with a short description of this great reform.

52. According to the *Ain-i-Akbari*, Akbar's main object was to abolish the previous system of collection in kind and the numerous *abwab* which were connected with it, and to base the Government demand on information as to the actual capabilities of the soil. The details of the procedure adopted for the assessment are given in the Muzaffarpur final report and need not be repeated here. The main principles were the measurement of all productive lands by a standard pole, the fixing of the Government demand at one-third of the gross produce (except for certain crops and classes of soil, for which special rates and allowances were declared), and the commutation of the Government share of the produce to cash at rates based on average prices during a period of years. The interests of the tax-payers were safeguarded by provisions that any one, who objected to the classification of his lands, should be entitled to have their produce specially appraised, and that any one, who objected to the rate fixed for commutation, should be allowed to pay his revenue in kind. The measurement and assessment appear to have been made by *amins*, supervised by an *Amalguzar* or collector, for each *sirkar* or district, and a *kanungo* for each *pargana*, and though the controlling staff was weak, judged by modern standards, the whole operations were a very great advance on any previous system of land revenue administration, and the assessment so made remained in force for over a century.

53. Darbhanga formed a portion of *Sirkar Tirhut* which belonged to the northern division of the *Subha* or province of Bihar. The 42 *parganas*, for which figures are available, returned a productive area of 166,072 *dallani* bighas, equivalent to 204,536 acres. The revenue assessed on them was Rs. 2,31,006, giving an incidence of Re. 1-2 per productive acre, as compared with Re. 1-7 in Tirhut as a whole, Re. 1-8 in Saran and Re. 1-6-3 in Champaran. The inference is that Darbhanga was in a more backward agricultural condition than the rest of North Bihar, and it is probable, as pointed out by Mr. Grant, that the more remote parts were practically unsubdued and in the hands of refractory and independent zamindars. However, the subsequent development of the district may be gauged from the fact that it now contains 1,692,443 cultivated acres. In other words cultivation has increased eight-fold in the last three centuries. The present revenue of the district is Rs. 7,98,301 or more than three times what it was in Akbar's reign, but the present incidence per cultivated acre is only 7½ annas, as against Re. 1-2 at Todar Mall's assessment.

54. During the remaining period of Muhammadan rule, Akbar's assessment was subjected to revision on two occasions, the first in 1685 during Aurangzeb's reign, and the second in 1753 by Ali Vardi Khan, the *Subhadar* of Bihar. Unfortunately no *parganawar* details or information as to areas are given, and it is consequently impossible to trace the effects of these

assessments in the district of Darbhanga proper or to work out their incidence per acre. The figures for Tirhut as a whole are given in the following statement :—

Year of Assessment.	Revenue in rupees.
1582	4,79,495
1685	7,69,287
1750	8,20,042

55. The striking increase between 1582 and 1685 was no doubt due in a large measure to the extension of cultivation, which had occurred during the century of peaceful government, which the country enjoyed owing to Akbar's wise reforms. But the absence of all details regarding Aurangzeb's assessment points to the conclusion that it was somewhat arbitrary in character, and, that it was probably as heavy as the country could well bear, is shown by the fact that Ali Vardi Khan could only effect a small increase sixty-five years later. A re-adjustment of Ali Vardi Khan's assessment made in 1765 showed that out of a gross revenue of Rs. 8,20,042 only Rs. 2,45,212 actually reached the Government, the enormous difference being appropriated by *jagirdars*, collection charges and so forth, a sure sign of the decaying influence of the central Moghal power. Mohammad Raza Khan, *Subhadar* of Bihar, who was in charge of the revision proceedings of 1765, returned three whole parganas in Tirhut with a revenue of Rs. 1,42,070, as his own *jagir* and allowed many similar "unconstitutional alienations," as Mr. Grant terms them, to his dependents and subordinates.

(2) *Early British Administration up to the Decennial Settlement, 1765 to 1790.*

56. With the grant of the Diwani to the East India Company in 1765, its servants were called upon to take up the Land Revenue administration of a vast province, a task wholly dissimilar to the mercantile business to which they were mainly accustomed. The fluctuations in the early British administration of Bihar need only be briefly noticed. At first the task of the revenue collection was left entirely in native hands, but it was soon recognised that the necessity of collecting information about the internal resources of the country was of paramount importance, and in 1769 supervisors were appointed to superintend the collection of the revenue, and were directed to obtain a history of the tracts under their charge with regard to their condition, revenue, *abwab*, capabilities of the soil, etc. In the following year a revenue council was posted at Patna to control the work of the supervisors. A couple of years later, the whole internal administration was, under orders of the Court of Directors, entrusted to the European servants of the company under the control of the Board of Revenue stationed at Calcutta. This assumption of direct management, however, proved a failure, and a reversion to native agency took place in 1774, when the administration was made over to *amils* under the control of a Provincial Council at Patna. A quinquennial settlement of the land revenue was made in 1772, which expired in 1777. During its currency, three Civil Servants were under orders of the Governor-General in Council, deputed to make detailed enquiries and to enter on a "minute local scrutiny of the accounts kept in each village, and of whatever else might best enable them to procure the most exact information of the real produce or value of the lands." Pending these enquiries, quinquennial settlements were discontinued, and annual settlements were made for 1778, 1779, and 1780. These however were not a financial success, and in 1781 came an important administrative change. Districts were placed under the charge of European Collectors for the first time, subject to the control of a Committee of Revenue in Calcutta. Mr. Francis Grand was appointed first Collector of Tirhut in 1782. He was however more of a merchant than an administrator, and was removed from his post in 1787, being succeeded by Mr. Robert Bathurst, who carried out the decennial settlement.

57. The revenue administration was greatly hampered by the lawless state of the country, which was infested by bands of robbers, who were generally in collusion with the native *amils*, and did not hesitate to molest even the European servants of the Company. But the greatest difficulty which the Collector had to overcome in making settlements of the land revenue was his want of knowledge of the capabilities of the soil. His unskilled and unprincipled subordinates seem to have been more of a hindrance than a help. His orders were to settle direct with the zamindars as far as possible, and to have recourse to farmers only when the zamindars refused to accept a fair assessment. But the enormous number of petty proprietors, for which the district was even then notorious, made a fair settlement a matter of great difficulty, as they quarrelled and haggled over every detail. The only large proprietor in the district, Raja Madhu Singh of Darbhanga, contumaciously refused all terms and did his best, by intimidation, to prevent farmers from taking settlement of his estates, or from collecting rents if they did take settlement. Imperfect as the assessment made under such conditions necessarily was, the difficulties of collecting it were aggravated by unfavourable seasons, during which large remissions had to be made. In one year, on the other hand, the Collector reported that the harvest was so plentiful that the raiyats could not sell their grain, and had a difficulty in paying their rents in cash.

58. The variations of the revenue roll, between the acquisition of the *Diwani* in 1765 and the decennial settlement of 1790, are of little interest except as illustrating the defective system of administration described above. The gross revenue of Tirhut rose from Rs. 8,20,042 at Mahammad Raza Khan's revision in 1765, to Rs. 8,51,820 in 1787. The oldest Register in the Darbhanga Collectorate is that compiled by Nawab Hushiyar Jang in 1773. This shows, for the 45 parganas comprising the present district, a revenue of only Rs. 1,39,713 levied from 2,005 *asti* and 1,795 *dakhli* villages, but no details of area or incidence are given. The revenue however does not apparently include the income from *jagir* lands and other payments appropriated by middlemen.

59. Measures to effect a more permanent and scientific settlement were taken by Lord Cornwallis after his arrival in India in 1786. Interrogatories were issued to the Collectors of districts and other experienced officers, who were required to report on three main points :—

- (1) The amount of assessment proposed.
- (2) The persons with whom settlement should be made.
- (3) The measures necessary for the protection of the tenants from oppression and for the prompt realisation from them of the just demands of the landlord.

60. Mr. Bathurst, the Collector of Tirhut in 1788, proceeded to make an assessment based on the assets or *paidawar* of the lands, of each estate, including the cash and produce rental and the income from fisheries, orchards, house rents, pasture, lands, forests and other miscellaneous sources. From this he deducted the *kharcha dehi*, including collection charges, the sums debitable to the up-keep of temples and local charities, and the allowance of 10 per cent. on the collections left to the proprietors, or the value of the *malikana* lands left to those who were deprived of the direct management of their estates. The difference between the *paidawar* and the *kharcha dehi* he proposed to settle as the *mufassil jama* or the revenue payable. The principle of the settlement was thus absolutely sound, but the whole of its efficacy depended on the accuracy with which the value of the gross produce was ascertained, and it need hardly be said that the agency which the Collector had at his disposal for this purpose was entirely inadequate.

61. As to the class of settlement holders, the Collector strongly advocated recourse to the farming system. He held that it would be impossible to effect direct settlement with "the host of petty proprietors found in almost every pargana, many of whom are almost savages, who never occupy themselves except in hunting; decline all interference in whatever regards their *Milkints* and only request that the Collector would see their *Malikana* secured to them". Nor had

he a higher opinion of the chief landlord in the district, Raja Madhu Singh of Darbhanga, who is described as "a man in every way incapable of managing so extensive a farm, or indeed any farm whatever. In point of capacity he is nearly an idiot, oppressive and faithless, and in respect to conducting the business of the country, serves no other purpose than that of strengthening, by his station and authority, the hands of any worthless character whom he may appoint his manager." It may be remarked in passing, that Madhu Singh subsequently showed himself fully capable of holding his own with the Collector and that so sweeping a censure on his character was scarcely deserved. However, the Collector's unfavourable impression of the zamindars of his district led him to advocate that, in the interests of their raiyats, settlement should be made, not with them, but with temporary farmers. He urged that "in making the zamindars in act as well as in name lords paramount of the soil, their abject and helpless vassals, the raiyats, trained up to hereditary submission will bear in silence and secret dread whatever their imposing tyranny may inflict". He recommended that to whomsoever the power of collecting rents should be entrusted, the granting by them of registered pattas to the tenants should be insisted upon. More modern experience renders it doubtful whether temporary farmers would have proved more just or considerate landlords than the zamindars, but the Collector's warning as to the danger of entrusting agrarian administration to the latter was amply justified by subsequent events.

62. The Collector's proposals as to assessment were approved by the Government of Lord Cornwallis, but he was directed to make settlement with the zamindars in all cases where possible and to have recourse to farmers, only if the zamindars should refuse eligible offers. The main difficulty was due to the action of Raja Madhu Singh, who not only refused to accept any proposals himself, but endeavoured to prevent others from doing so by spreading the rumour that Government intended to make over to him the *mukarrari* or perpetual lease of the whole of Tirhut. The Collector, however, appears to have conducted the operations most patiently and carefully. He writes :—

"Wherever the maliks have offered eligible proposals, they have been uniformly accepted and wherever ineligible I have had recourse to the conditional proposals of *thikadars*, showing at the same time all possible attention to their responsibility, and to the right of those zamindars whose terms have been refused."

And again in explaining to the Board the exclusion of certain proprietors from settlement he writes :—

"These instances were innumerable at the commencement of my labour, and continued so till the measures taken to confute the *maliks* deprived them of any hope of denying with success the just valuation of their lands. My plan, when any malik disputed the *jama* proposed by me, was to search the *daftar* of every *patwari* of every village within his *milkhat*, and to summon the principal raiyats and others capable from long local knowledge of giving information, and I do not exaggerate when I say that whole nights have been spent in these tedious and minute investigations; but to have recorded the various and often desultory communications of each person, to whose experience I had recourse, would have been a work scarcely possible to have accomplished—useless to have attempted."

The settlement so made was confirmed by the Board for ten years in 1790.

63. According to the Revenue Roll of 1790, the revenue of the district of Tirhut was Rs. 9,836,42. The area supposed to have been assessed was 1,584,836 acres giving an incidence of nine annas per acre. The revenue in 1787 was Rs. 8,51,829, and so the increase effected by the decennial settlement was 15 per cent. It is interesting to observe that the revenue roll of the district of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga put together in 1900-1901 stood at Rs. 17,49,221. The increase was mainly due to the resumption proceedings which will be described hereafter. Confining our attention to the area covered by the present district of Darbhanga, we find that the revenue assessed at the decennial settlement amounted to Rs. 5,47,512. The area assessed was reported to be 6,53,801 bighas or 570,725 acres, giving an incidence of 15½ annas per acre. The high incidence is mainly due to the fact that the farmers, with whom Raja Madhu Singh's estates were settled owing to his default, offered higher terms than were obtained generally for the district. Little more than a quarter of the total area of the district came under the decennial settlement operations and nearly two-third of the present cultivated area escaped assessment altogether.

84. The number of estates formed in the district of Tirhut in 1790 was 1,331. In 1900-1901 the districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga together contained no less than 33,811 estates. Taking the figures for the Darbhanga district alone, we find that the corresponding area contained only 532 estates in 1790 as against 13,457 at the present day. The number of estates has therefore increased twenty-five fold within little more than a century, and the Collector's difficulties in framing an assessment for the "host of petty proprietors" whom he encountered at the decennial settlement, sink into insignificance compared with the magnitude which such an operation would assume if it had to be performed at the present day.

(3) *The Permanent Settlement and its effects.*

65. The long series of endeavours to adjust the share of the State in the produce of the soil, came to an end, so far as the greater part of Bihar was concerned, in 1793, when the Governor General in Council, with the sanction of the Court of Directors declared the decennial settlement to be permanent. This, however, did not affect the large tract in Darbhanga, forming the estate of Raja Madhu Singh, who refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government until the decision of his objections as to *Malikana* and *dastrant*, or allowances for land of which he alleged himself to have been wrongfully dispossessed. This led to a lengthy correspondence, the details of which are given in the Muzaffarpur final report, and need not therefore be reproduced here. It was not until 1800 that the materials for a settlement were arrived at, and even then there was considerable discrepancy between the estimate of the Collector and the Raja as to what constituted a fair revenue demand for the latter's estate. The Collector tendered the estate for an annual revenue of Rs. 1,68,506 but the Raja's account showed that only Rs. 1,42,053 could fairly be demanded. Eventually, however he agreed to an increase of Rs. 10,000, and this compromise was accepted by the Board, the estates being permanently settled with the Raja on these terms about 1807. Prior to this, they had been let out on periodical leases to farmers. The greater part of the Raj property was settled as one estate. This at present bears tauzi no. 6424 in the Darbhanga revenue roll. It covers an area of 944 square miles, scattered over 42 Parganas and 720 villages (of which 100 are in the Muzaffarpur district). The revenue demand payable in Darbhanga is Rs. 1,05,205.

66. With the exception then of the greater portion of the Darbhanga Raj Estates, and of the invalid revenue-free grants, which were not resumed till nearly half a century later the Permanent Settlement of the district was concluded in 1793. Owing to the temporary leases to farmers of Raja Madhu Singh's estates at varying assessments during the next fifteen years, the exact effect of the Permanent Settlement on the revenue is difficult to trace. Thus though the revenue demand at the decennial settlement was fixed at Rs. 5,47,512 five years later it had fallen to a little over three lakhs, owing to the failure of the farmers to keep their engagements. The fluctuations in the revenue roll will be further discussed after the resumption proceedings have been dealt with. Meanwhile the effects of the Permanent Settlement on the landlords and tenants of the district may be briefly considered.

67. It is generally believed that the rigidity with which the assessment made at the Permanent Settlement was collected, and the manner in which the Regulations of 1793 limited the powers which the landlords had hitherto exercised in the collection of rent from their tenantry, led to undue hardship in the case of landlords, who were unable to pay the revenue owing to inability to collect the rents. This was doubtless the case in a considerable part of Bengal, but Mr. Stevenson-Moore has clearly shown that the conditions of Tirhut were entirely different. During the three years from 1793 to 1795, the arrears due from estates which the Collector recommended the Board to advertise for sale were less than Rs. 10,000 per annum. In the succeeding three years, the same arrears slightly exceeded this sum, but they were always less than 2 per cent. of the total demand,

Particulars as to the number of estates actually sold are not forthcoming, but it is clear from the correspondence that many proprietors paid up their arrears, before the sanction of the Board to the sale of their estates was received. The amounts, which could not be collected without recourse to sale, must therefore have been quite insignificant. Among the reasons given for default, difficulty in rent collections is nowhere alleged. In a few cases complaint was made of over assessment, but this was mainly in regard to estates, such as those of Raja Madhu Singh, which were let out to farmers, as their Permanent Settlement had not been concluded. Only six persons appear to have been confined to jail for non-payment of revenue. On the whole, therefore, it must be admitted that the revenue fixed at the Permanent Settlement was collected with great success, so far as the district of Tirhut was concerned, and that at no time was the number of estates in arrears so large as to endanger seriously the Government revenue.

68. Nevertheless Regulation VII of 1799, (the notorious *Haftam*),
 Regulation VII of 1799. extended to the landlords of Tirhut, as well as of the rest of the province, the power to distrain the crops of their raiyats, and in certain cases to arrest their persons for arrears of rent, without reference to any Court. Though there is no indication that such stringent measures were required to ensure the security of the Government revenue, the probabilities are that the Regulation in itself did less harm in Tirhut than elsewhere. The greater part of the rents seem to have been realized in kind and as the Collector reported "in this case there can be little occasion for distraint, the *Malik* taking care to secure his right before the crop is taken off the field." As to the other oppressive provisions of the Regulations, even during the present operations, we found many instances where the raiyats were so depressed as to be afraid to claim any of their rights as against their landlord, and the power of the landlord must have been infinitely greater a century ago. *Haftam* therefore in all probability only legalised customs which had been in practice from time immemorial and which the Regulations of 1793 had been unable to banish. It is true that at the end of 1792 the Collector reported that "throughout the district the distribution of *pattas* by *zamindars* and *thikadars* has been conducted with the strictest conformity to the general regulations, that is to say, all taxes existing at the formation of the decennial settlement have been revised, and the whole consolidated with the *asal* into one specific sum." But shortly afterwards we find him reporting an estate in which 64 per cent. of the proprietor's demand was made up of *abwab*; and in the next year many complaints were made by raiyats that the zamindars were exacting rents higher than those entered in the *pattas*. There is no trace in the correspondence of any counter-complaint that the zamindars were unable to realize the *patta* rent from the cultivators; and on the whole it seems probable that the practices to which legal sanction was attached by the *Haftam* were among the least of the oppressions from which the raiyats had hitherto suffered.

69. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that the *Haftam* must have exercised an injurious effect on a class already sufficiently helpless and depressed, nor did it lead to that improvement in the collection of the Government revenue, which was its primary object. In 1802 the arrears amounted to nearly Rs. 75,000, and the Collector ascribed the default mainly to the mismanagement of the estates by their zamindars. It would appear also that much embarrassment was caused by the creation of small estates due to the lenient working of the revenue sale law. In his anxiety to avoid causing any hardship, the Collector put up minute portions of an estate to sale for the recovery of small arrears, thus encumbering the revenue roll with a number of petty estates, which are a source of great trouble even at the present day.

70. The condition of the raiyats continued to give cause for anxiety
 in 1812 the Collector reported that the rules in
 force for the distraint of property for arrears had
 been the cause of great abuse and oppression, and had given rise to most serious affrays. With regard to a proposal that distraint should only be allowed in cases where the landlord and raiyat had exchanged *pattas* and *kabuliyats*, he wrote that it would only have the effect of putting a stop to

distrain altogether in the district, as there was scarcely one instance a *patta* being taken or a *kaluliyat* executed. He described this state of affairs, however, as being "more the fault of the raiyat than of the *malik*, the raiyat being averse to bind himself to pay any considerable fixed rent." No doubt, as in rent disputes at the present day, there were generally faults on both sides, the raiyats resisting a demand for undue enhancements by refusing to pay any rent at all.

71. The first step taken for the protection of the tenants was Regulation V of 1812, but this modified the stringency of the *Haftam*, only by abolishing the power of the zamindar to arrest the raiyats' person in case of default in payment of rent. But incomplete as the measure was in itself, it indicated a recognition on the part of Government of the raiyats' need for protection, which was soon to produce further results. In 1815 measures were taken for the re-establishment and re-organisation of the local and village agency, which had existed in Muhammadan times. The kanungo, or officer in charge of a pargana or group of villages, had been abolished in 1793, it being supposed that, once the revenue had been fixed in perpetuity, his services would no longer be required. The patwari, or the officer in charge of the accounts of each village, was retained, nominally in order that his accounts and papers might be referred to in rent disputes and in partition proceedings, but in the absence of proper control, he had practically become a mere servant of the zamindar.

72. The kanungo in Bihar was re-established by Regulation II of 1816. His duties were to compile accurate records for his circle from information supplied by the patwari, and he was also required to "authenticate" or register the execution of *pattas* and *kaluliyats*. Five years later, the Collector of Tirhut reported that "a single instance could not be found throughout the district of a *patta* or *kaluliyat* having been presented to a kanungo for authentication." As to the record which the kanungos were supposed to prepare the Collector wrote—

"The only accounts at present possessed by the kanungos are papers called the patwari accounts, but which, to the best of my belief, are never the genuine accounts of the villages. An abstract of the patwari account could be of little use and therefore these papers are preserved in the kanungo's *sarishta* exactly in the state in which they are delivered by the patwari."

He also reported that the kanungo's papers were seldom referred to by the Courts. In consequence of these and similar representations from other districts, the kanungo was finally abolished in 1827 after an existence of little more than ten years.

73. Nor was the re-organisation of the patwari attended with much greater success. Regulation XII of 1817 attempted to convert him from the zamindar's servant into an agent of Government. His appointment and dismissal rested with the Collector, though he continued to be paid by the zamindar. But the Collector reported that the control exercised over the appointment and removal of patwaris did not tend to make them independent of the individuals from whom they received their wages. This has been the experience of nearly every officer who has had to deal with patwaris up to the present day. Though, over the greater part of Bihar, the registration of patwaris in the Collectorate has fallen into disuse, their position as *quasi* Government servants gives them considerable independence, and though they are ordinarily on the side of the landlord against the raiyat, cases are not wanting in which a dishonest patwari, in collusion with the raiyats, can do much to defraud the proprietor of his rights. One of the chief advantages of the present operations, from the point of view of good landlords, is that it will render them to a large extent independent of their patwaris in the management of their estates, and nothing would do more to destroy confidence in the record of rights than to allow the patwari to have any hand in maintaining or correcting it.

74. The recreation of a local agency was therefore a failure so far as the regulation of the rights of landlords and tenants were concerned. The Collector of Tirhut put the matter tersely in 1822, when he wrote; "after a permanent settlement and the

collection of the whole revenue of a district at the sadar station, pargana officers necessarily cease to hold any connection with the revenue officers of the Government." In other words, there was no supervision over the local agency. It was left to collect its information as best it could, and it need only report such matters as it chose. No confidence was felt in its work and in the absence of more trustworthy information, no authority could take decisive action in regard to agrarian matters for the regulations of the rights and duties of landlords and tenants. The real remedy was the preparation of a proper record of these rights, and this first came to be realized in the course of the operations for the resumption of revenue-free estates, which will now be described.

(4) *The Resumption Proceedings.*

75. The prevalence of revenue free properties in Tirhut was very marked from the earliest times. During the Hindu period, the granting of lands for charitable and religious purposes was very common. The *Ain-i-Akbari* contains no details on the subject, but Akbar's assessment touched only 1,277 square miles out of the 6,114 in the whole area now forming the districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. Even assuming that two-thirds of the tract was then uncultivated, it is obvious that a large part of the cultivated area must have escaped assessment altogether. During Muhammadan rule, the remoteness of the district from the centre of the Moghul power rendered it easy for the subordinate officials of the Empire to carve out for themselves *jagirs* and *nankars*. And to such an extent had this practice grown, that as we have seen, at the final Muhammadan assessment of 1765, out of a total demand of less than eight lakhs of rupees, more than five lakhs was retained by *jagirdars* and other revenue free holders and never reached Government at all, the chief offender being the officer in charge of the assessment, who secured to himself properties yielding a revenue of nearly a lakh and a half of rupees. In declaring the decennial settlement to be permanent in 1793, the Governor-General in Council reserved the right "to impose such assessment as he may deem equitable on all lands at present alienated and paying no public revenue, which have been, or may prove to be, held under illegal or invalid titles." In view of the previous history of the district, it is not surprising that the effects of the resumption proceedings on the revenue roll of Tirhut were almost as important as those of the permanent settlement, and as the resumption was carried out with much more care than the permanent settlement, it proved to be a task of even greater magnitude.

76. Endeavours were made from the earliest days of British rule to ascertain the nature and areas, of revenue-free lands with a view to their assessment, but as the enquiries were imperfect and little action was taken on them, their results need only be briefly noticed. A register compiled in 1773 showed that, at the time of the acquisition of the *diwani* in 1765, Tirhut contained 480 villages, wholly or partly revenue-free. In 1784 rules were laid down for the guidance of officers deciding on revenue-free claims, and as a result of further enquiries an elaborate register was compiled in 1791 showing four classes of *lakhiraj* lands—

- (1) Those granted by the Emperor;
- (2) Those granted by his deputies;
- (3) Those granted by Subordinate Officers;
- (4) Those granted by Zamindars.

77. The first two classes were known as *badshahi* or royal grants, and those of the third class as *hukumi*. The former were recognized as valid, if the claimant could produce a *sanad* and was in possession. The latter were only accepted as valid, if held from a date prior to 1765. The Register shows a total area of 69,319 bighas or 60,511 acres, situated in 521 villages, scattered over 36 parganas, as liable to assessment. Only 1,303 bighas appear to have been recognized as genuine *lakhiraj*. In 1793, kanungos were deputed to make further enquiries regarding *hukumi* and *zamindari* grants. The result

showed for Tirhut, as a whole, 712 villages containing 44,601 acres held revenue-free, and most of these were in parganas forming the present district of Darbhanga. Enquiries, however, still went on and yet another register was compiled in 1802, which showed for Darbhanga parganas no less than 118,149 acres of revenue-free land scattered over 1,171 villages.

78. In spite of all these elaborate enquiries and the still more elaborate registers in which they resulted, little real progress was made in resumption for the next thirty years. Regulation II of 1819 facilitated proceedings to a certain extent by transferring them from the Civil to the Revenue Courts. But the first real advance was made by Regulation VII of 1822, which provided that all future settlements should be preceded by a record of "the rights and obligations of various classes and persons possessing an interest in the land, or in the rent or produce thereof"; and the modern principle of basing all settlements upon such a record was recognised for the first time.

79. Though by 1826 revenue to the amount of Rs. 48,000 had been assessed under the new Regulation, progress was still slow and the Collector explained the delay as follows:—

"The troubles and difficulties in fact only commence when the resumption is to be enforced. Claims upon claims, obstacles upon obstacles, then occur, and then only is to be ascertained and defined what land actually has been resumed. In every point of view, therefore, it becomes necessary to appoint an efficient, a respectable and a responsible establishment, and amongst the kanungos in this district; with perhaps a few exceptions, neither efficiency, respectability nor responsibility can fairly be calculated upon."

80. In fact the establishment at the Collector's disposal was inadequate to cope with the work, and this was recognised in 1833, when the actual measurement of the lands was made over to a professional survey party, while the Collector and his staff were made responsible only for the framing of the record and the assessment based upon it. Special Judges were appointed to hear appeals from the decisions of the Collector, and the striking resemblance of the whole proceedings to those of more recent date is further exemplified by the matters regarding which information was required in the record itself. These were—

- (1) Specification of boundaries of the area under settlement with full details about *minhai* lands not liable to assessment.
- (2) Details about extent of cultivation, classification of lands, outturn of crops, and gross produce.
- (3) Rate of rent for each class of land and the gross produce for it, with specification of *abwab* realized along with rents.
- (4) Information about the lands held under produce rents, (*batai* or *bhali*), their extent and nature of tenure.
- (5) Determination of the status of the tenants, of their privileges, and liabilities.
- (6) Information regarding village officials.

81. After completion of the record, the officer in charge of the proceedings drew up his report on the resources of the property, and submitted it to his covenanted superior, who was usually the Collector of the district. The latter then submitted his proposals for assessment to a special Commissioner, whose proposals were in turn laid before the Board for sanction. A specimen of a complete record is given on page 86 of the Muzaffarpur final report. Figures drawn from the resumption records of selected villages in the Darbhanga district will be given in that portion of the present report dealing with statistics.

82. From 1833 onwards the resumption proceedings were carried on briskly and were completed in the Darbhanga district about 1850. Their extent can best be judged by the fact that they resulted in an assessment of 593,845 acres, or 928 square miles, and in an addition of Rs. 3,60,596 to the revenue of the

district. A Thanawar statement showing the details of resumed areas and of the revenue assessed is given below:—

Serial number.	Name of thana.	Area in bighas.	Jama	Remarks.
			Rs.	
1	Benipatti ...	74,789	36,682	
2	Khajauli ...	29,051	12,802	
3	Phulparas ...	47,693	32,913	
4	Madhubani ...	55,223	31,097	
5	Darbhanga ...	110,037	49,449	
6	Bahera ...	120,854	73,509	
7	Rusera ...	77,305	21,487	
8	Warisnagar ...	34,701	19,201	
9	Samastipur ...	63,598	42,710	
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	68,274	41,146	
	Total ...	680,985	360,596	

It will be seen from this statement that the largest area resumed and the largest addition of revenue occurred in thana Bahera, while the lowest figures are for thana Khajauli.

83. The revenue added to the roll as a result of the resumption proceedings accounts for no less than 45 per cent. of the present permanently-settled revenue of the district. The rates of assessment The average rate per acre applied to the area resumed, which covered nearly one-third of the whole district, amounted to Rs. 0-9-8 as compared with the present rate of just under six annas for the total area of the district. Considering that the average rent rate of the district is Rs. 3-12-4 per acre and that 80 per cent. of the total area is cultivated, it cannot be said that the resumption rate is excessive. If it had been applied at the permanent settlement of the district as a whole, its present revenue would have been over thirteen lakhs instead of being less than eight lakhs.

84. The decennial settlement revenue was, as already stated Rs. 5,47,512 but as the estates of Raja Madhu Singh were at that time not settled with him, the revenues shown in the registers for his estates were those at which temporary settlements were made with farmers. That the revenue, for which the farmers had agreed, underwent serious fluctuations will be seen from the fact that in 1795 the estimated revenue for the Darbhanga portion of the Tirhut district was only a little over three lakhs. The difference between the present revenue of the district and that of 1795 is, therefore, about 4½ lakhs, of which about 3½ lakhs is accounted for by the resumption proceedings. The balance of 1½ lakhs is due to the fact that Raja Madhu Singh subsequently agreed to a comparatively fair *jama*, and the revenue finally settled for his estates was much higher than that paid by the farmers in 1795, though it was less than that at which the Collector was able to make temporary settlements in 1790.

(5) *The Revenue Survey.*

85. The survey of the areas affected by the resumption proceedings only emphasised the necessity for a complete survey of the district as a whole. So early as 1815, the Collector of Tirhut reported that many boundary disputes in many instances attended with serious consequences, were arising from the fact that the district had never been measured at the time of the decennial or any subsequent settlement. "Consequently" he adds, "there are but few estates whose boundaries are defined." Serious administrative inconvenience was also caused by the want of a survey, as the Collector had no information as to the exact area of his district or the number of villages contained in it. The revenue survey was accordingly undertaken with a view to remedying these defects, by demarcating the boundaries of villages and estates and collecting accurate though limited statistical information concerning them.

86. The procedure is fully described in the Muzaffarpur final report. The operations started by an unprofessional survey of village boundaries by the Civil Department, who also decided boundary disputes and noted in which villages an internal survey would be necessary, owing to its containing more than one estate. The work was then handed over to the professional survey department, who made an accurate survey of each village as demarcated, and prepared village maps on the scale of four inches to the mile. They also surveyed the estate boundaries within the villages where necessary and wrote up a *khasra*, but the maps used for this work were not the accurate village maps but the unprofessional maps prepared at the outset by the Civil authorities. The compilation of statistics was left entirely in the hands of the professional Survey Department.

87. In the light of more modern experience, the defects of the revenue survey procedure are of course obvious. In the absence of any previous survey, the preliminary demarcation of village boundaries by the Civil authorities was probably necessary, but it was a grave mistake to throw the whole responsibility for the demarcation of estates within the village on the Survey Department without any assistance from the Collector, who was the officer chiefly interested in this matter. But the most serious defect of all was that the operations were carried out without any clear idea or definition of the main units concerned, viz., the "estate" and "the village." That this is no exaggeration will be seen from the following quotation from a report written by Mr. Wyatt, the Revenue Surveyor, in 1848, when the operations were nearly completed.

The Revenue Surveyor's definition of an estate. "By estate," he says, "I mean a compact village bearing one name, though it may have a dozen detached portions. Each village plan bound up in the volumes is an estate and the number returned as surveyed this season mean complete estates or villages on separate maps. Some of these have extra detached portions, which when worked by traverses (which is generally done, except when the pieces are very small) are added to the number of estates and designated under the head of circuits."

88. It is doubtful, however, whether the Collector realised any more clearly the distinction between the village or geographical unit and the estate or parcel of land belonging to one proprietor or set of proprietors, and responsible for the payment of one Government revenue demand. At all events we find him in 1835 estimating that his district contained 16,000 villages. It is probable that he really meant estates, as the revenue survey disclosed the existence of only 7,586 villages in the district.

89. The results of the confusion at the revenue survey between the village and the estate are still visible at the present day, and nowhere more so than in Darbhanga. The treatment of scattered blocks of land, belonging to the same estate, as appertaining to the village in which the main part of the lands of the estate was found, has left a legacy of scattered portions of villages which are still a real hindrance to the revenue administration, and caused special inconvenience to our work. In the Darbhanga thana, for instance, no less than 157 villages were surveyed at the revenue survey in 431 blocks. Many of these are miles apart from one another; some are situated in different thanas, and a few in different districts. The measures which were taken to deal with this difficulty during our operations will be described in another part of this report.

90. As regards the demarcation of estates at the revenue survey, the main defect, apart from the fact that the work was carried out without reference to the Collector, is that it was reproduced on inaccurate maps. It is probable that the scientific village maps were on too small a scale to be used for the purpose in most cases. Whatever the reason, we have frequently found the *thakbast* or *khetbut* maps, as they are called, of little use in deciding disputes as to the estate in which a particular area lies. The *thakbast* maps will of course now be superseded by those prepared during our operations.

91. But whatever may be the defects of the revenue survey as viewed in the light of modern experience, its results must have been of inestimable value to the Collector at the time it was prepared. The statistics collected in each village are still of no small interest, though they are limited in scope owing to the decision that no attempt should be made to obtain complete agricultural information for the district as a whole. This step was taken on two grounds, firstly, lest the amins should make the collection of elaborate statistics a pretext for extortion and, secondly, lest the landlords should be led to believe that the survey was being made with the object of upsetting the permanent settlement. The ease with which statistics were collected during our operations tends to show that these difficulties were probably exaggerated. But as the resumption proceedings were still in full swing at the time of the revenue survey, it is possible that the abstention from anything which might shake the confidence of the people in the permanence of previous revenue settlements was politically wise.

92. One of the most beneficial results of the revenue survey as regards the district generally was undoubtedly the cessation of boundary disputes. As regards disputes between villages, the survey stopped them almost completely, while the estate maps, though not so accurate as the village maps, were of course a great advance on the previous state of affairs, when no maps of any kind were in existence. In fact the abolition of boundary disputes effected by the revenue survey, renders it difficult to realise at the present day the state of affairs which must have prevailed before the revenue survey took place. The Collector of Tirhut in 1853, in an interesting report which is quoted in paragraph 279 of the Muzaffarpur final report, points out how the decisions of Magistrates, when based on a survey, are much more respected than when based on a casual measurement made by an amin, against whom accusations of collusion, well or ill-founded, are certain to be brought by one or other of the parties interested. And there can be no doubt that our maps, which are on a larger scale and accompanied by an infinitely more complete record than those of the revenue survey, should be of even greater use to the Civil, Criminal and Revenue Courts.

93. Again the Collector of 1853 points out the effects of the survey in increasing the value of property, and here again his words are even more applicable to areas in which a complete record of rights has been prepared in the course of operations like the present. He writes:—

“European and Native capitalists would not hesitate to purchase landed properties in surveyed districts, as they would know at once the value and extent of the property purchased, and would have no difficulty in getting possession of that property. European capitalists would hesitate to purchase landed properties in non-surveyed districts, as they would be ignorant of the extent and value of the property purchased. Altogether I look upon the survey, properly conducted, as a boon to the landed interests, and as one of the greatest blessings ever conferred on the landed proprietors of this magnificent empire.”

94. Nor has the revenue survey been of less advantage to the administration generally. Its maps furnished the materials from which the Collector's Land Registration Registers were originally compiled and are maintained at the present day, and the thanawar distribution of its villages made by the Boundary Commissioners first rendered possible the taking of a complete and accurate census of the province.

95. So far as Tirhut was concerned, the revenue survey began in 1846 and was completed in 1849. It showed the area of the district to be 6,114 square miles, covering 81 parganas and 7,586 villages. The land revenue amounted to Rs. 14,62,548, giving an incidence of annas 5-11½ per acre. The return of the number of estates is inaccurate for the reasons given above.

96. The area forming the present district of Darbhanga worked out to 3,330 square miles at the revenue survey as against 3,348 square miles at the present survey, the difference being probably due to changes in the Gangetic diara. Owing to changes of jurisdiction, and to several estates having lands both in the present district of

Darbhanga and in that of Muzaffarpur, it is impossible to furnish exact figures regarding the Darbhanga revenue demand at the revenue survey, but approximately it amounted to six and three-quarter lakhs of rupees, or about a lakh less than that of the present day. The increase is due partly to the re-adjustments between the Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga revenues, which took place after the separate creation of the two districts, and partly to the resumption proceedings, which were not completed till after the conclusion of the revenue survey. The present incidence of the Government revenue per acre in Darbhanga is almost exactly the same as that of Tirhut, as a whole, at the revenue survey.

97. The only professional survey, made in district between the revenue survey and the present operations, took place in 1865-68, and was confined to the Gangetic diara.

The diara survey. It was undertaken under Act IX of 1847 with a view to the re-adjustment of revenue rendered necessary by changes in the riparian area. In order to ascertain these changes exactly, it would have been necessary to relay the revenue survey boundaries accurately before beginning the fresh survey, but this was not done, partly owing to the difficulty of obtaining common fixed points and partly owing to the small scale of the revenue survey maps. The result is that the village maps of the diara survey often differ entirely from those of the revenue survey, and the re-adjustment of revenue undertaken on the basis of the former must have been a very complicated task. Its effects on the revenue roll were, however, slight. In the whole of Tirhut, it resulted in the creation of forty-six fresh estates with a demand of Rs. 3,989. This must be balanced against a remission of Rs. 2,708 granted on account of diluviation. As no parganawar figures are available, the exact effect of the diara survey on the revenue roll of the present district of Darbhanga cannot be given. But as the diara area of Darbhanga is much smaller than that of Muzaffarpur, it was probably insignificant.

During the present diara survey all maps have been prepared on the scale of 16 inches to the mile and have been connected with permanent stations on the high bank on both sides of the river. There will therefore be no difficulty in relaying village boundaries according to the present survey, should there be any necessity for doing so. It is not probable that any further diara survey will be undertaken with a view to an increase of revenue. All that it could be expected to effect would be a re-adjustment of revenue (what is gained in one part being lost in another,) and the settlement of boundary disputes which must constantly arise in an ever fluctuating area.

(6) *The Modern period.*

98. The present district of Darbhanga was formed on 1st January 1875, and as ample materials exist elsewhere for tracing its subsequent revenue history, they will only be briefly summarised here. Apart from the relations of landlords and tenants, which will form the subject of the second part of this report, the district revenue has mainly been affected by the working of the Revenue Sale law of 1859, of the Partition Act of 1876, and of the Land Registration Act of the same year. Their effects may therefore be briefly considered.

99. The following table shows the average number of estates sold in the district for arrears of revenue in each of the last five quinquennial periods:—

QUINQUENNIAL PERIODS.	Average number of estates sold per annum.	Average annual demand of the estates in rupees.	Average price at which they were sold in rupees.	Proportion of price to demand.	REMARKS.
1875-76 to 1879-80	9	Rs. 600	Rs. 17,666	29	
1880-81 to 1884-85	24	1,592	97,560	61	
1885-86 to 1889-90	44	1,843	94,935	51	
1890-91 to 1894-95	33	1,317	30,334	23	
1895-96 to 1899-1900	61	2,030	63,079	31	
Average per year.	34	1,476	60,715	41	

100. This statement clearly indicates the ease with which the Government revenue is realised in Darbhanga. Less than three estates per 1,000 have to be sold on the average every year, and the arrears due from them amount to less than one five-hundredth part of the total revenue. This is no doubt due in part to the predominance in the northern part of the district of large and solvent proprietors, but it must also be ascribed partly to the moderation of the Government demand, the incidence of which, as will be seen, is less in Darbhanga than in any other district of North Bihar except Champaran. Another remarkable feature is the high price realised by the estates which have been sold, which amounts to 41 times the Government revenue as compared with 30 times in Muzaffarpur and eight times in Saran. The figures for Darbhanga are, however, swelled by the high prices paid during the decennial period, 1880-1890, when several large proprietors appear to have purchased small estates at high rates with a view to rounding of their property, and on the whole the market value of proprietary rights in Darbhanga would appear to be about the same as in Muzaffarpur.

101. Partition work in the district has always been heavy, and as the following figures will show, within the past 25 years on the average, more than one partition a week has been carried out :—

Quinquennial Period.	Number of partitions effected during the period.	
1875-76 to 1879-80	...	321
1880-81 to 1884-85	...	186
1885-86 to 1889-90	...	306
1890-91 to 1894-95	...	355
1895-96 to 1899-1900	...	232

Total number of cases disposed of during 25 years .. 1,400 or 56 per year.

The increase in the number of permanently settled estates from 7,962 in 1878, when the district revenue roll was finally constituted separately from that of Muzaffarpur, to 13,457 at the present day is almost entirely due to partitions.

102. In this connection it is interesting to examine the figures for the number of permanently settled estates in the district of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran for the last 20 years of the 19th century :—

Year.	Darbhang.	Muzaffarpur.	Saran.	Champaran.
1879-1880	8,257	13,001	4,669	1,006
1884-1885	9,815	15,898	4,220	1,060
1889-1890	10,813	17,501	4,559	1,105
1894-1895	12,329	19,016	5,023	1,169
1899-1900	13,400	20,191	5,345	1,232
Percentage of increase during the 20 years.	62	55	31	22

The increase in Darbhanga is double that in Saran and is even greater than in Muzaffarpur. In Saran the practice of private partitions is much more general than in any other district, while in Champaran the predominance of the Bettia Raj tends to keep down the number of estates.

103. The figures of Land Registration during the last quarter of a century are shown in the following statement:—

Land Registration.

QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD.	Total number of land Registration cases disposed of during the period.	Average number of cases disposed of per year.
1876-77 to 1879-80 ...	61,773	12,355
1880-81 to 1884-85 ...	12,139	2,428
1885-86 to 1889-90 ...	13,515	2,703
1890-91 to 1894-95 ...	15,209	3,042
1895-96 to 1899-1900 ..	19,456	3,891

104. The rise during the last quinquennium is due in great part to our operations, in course of which mistakes and omissions in his Registers have been brought to the Collector's notice. Though the volume of work in this department is steadily rising, it is less than in Muzaffarpur, owing no doubt to the greater number of estates in the latter district.

105. The fluctuations in the annual land revenue of the district since its creation have been insignificant. It has varied from Rs. 7,89,093 in 1879, to Rs. 7,88,301 at the present day. The following table compares the permanently settled revenue of the four districts of North Bihar.

The revenue roll.

DISTRICT.	Area in square miles.	Revenue.	Incidence of revenue per acre of total area.
		Rs.	Rs. A. P
Darbhangha.. ...	3,348	7,88,301	0 5 10
Muzaffarpur ...	3,033	9,65,128	0 7 11
Saran ...	2,674	12,63,924	0 11 9
Champaran... ..	3,531	5,15,553	0 3 7

106. The number and area of temporarily-settled and revenue-free estates in each district are so insignificant, that they may be left out of account in calculating the incidence. It is remarkable that Darbhanga has a larger area and a smaller revenue than any other district except Champaran, the circumstances of which are exceptional. As nearly one-third of the Darbhanga district was assessed during the resumption proceedings at an average rate of $9\frac{3}{4}$ annas per acre, the only conclusion that can be come to is that the rest of the district was extremely fortunate in securing a light assessment during the permanent settlement. It was probably at that time in a more backward condition than Muzaffarpur, though the proportion of cultivated and uncultivated land in each district is now identical.

107. In addition to the permanently-settled area, Darbhanga at present contains six temporarily-settled estates yielding an annual revenue of Rs. 927, and seven estates the property of Government with an income of Rs. 11,326. Two of these estates comprise the lands of the old stud farm at Pusa. A scheme for their utilization is now under consideration. Three others have been bought in by Government at various times in satisfaction of revenue demands. The remaining two estates are both in the diara. One was resumed in 1846 but has remained in the possession of Government

Temporarily-settled and Government estates.

ever since, owing to the recusancy of the former revenue-free holders, while the other is an accretion which has never been settled.

108. There are 856 revenue-free estates in the district covering an area of 123,635 acres. Most of them are very petty and none is of any historical importance.

Revenue-free estates.

109. There are also 78 estates which are borne on a separate register and are known as *zaid fhrist* or out side any list, because at the Revenue Survey they could not be identified with any estates recognized by the Collector as revenue-paying or as revenue-free. Twenty-three of these estates have been identified by us and recorded as *zaid fhrist*. Particulars regarding them have been supplied to the Collector for such action as he may think necessary. Eight more estates have, since the revenue survey, been recognized as revenue-free. No trace of the remaining 47 *zaid fhrist* estates could be found. They have doubtless been amalgamated with neighbouring revenue-paying estates.

Zaid fhrist estates.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.--PROCEDURE AND PROGRESS.

THE PRESENT OPERATIONS.

110. The survey and settlement operations about to be described formed part of the great scheme for recording and establishing the statutory tenant-right of the raiyats of North Bihar. Though the work only began in Muzaffarpur and Champaran in 1892, it had been advocated as early as 1822, but the proposals for its inception did not take practical shape until the enquiries, made after the famine of 1874, revealed the necessity of placing the relations of landlords and tenants in Bihar on a surer basis. The execution of the project was, however, delayed by the supposed necessity of providing for the maintenance of the record before preparing it, but in 1885 an experimental survey of part of the Muzaffarpur district was carried out by Mr. E. W. Collin, I.C.S., and the results showed that the circumstances of the tract were such as fully to justify the preparation of a record of-rights, even if it were not found possible to maintain it. Mr. Collin reported that "some such measure as a survey and record-of-rights is absolutely necessary, if the rights of the raiyats are not to be entirely confiscated, and if a system by which they have been hitherto deprived of more than half of their legitimate share of the profits of their land is not to be perpetuated. The main point" he added, "is to ascertain the existing rent and certify it to the raiyat." This report will be found to contain ample evidence that Mr. Collin was right in his diagnosis of the situation, and subsequent events have fully justified his recommendation that the survey and record-of-rights should be extended to the whole of North Bihar, even if it could not be maintained afterwards.

The objects of the operations.

111. The subsequent correspondence which led up to the initiation of the present operations is given at length by Mr. Stevenson-Moore in the Muzaffarpur final report, and need not be recapitulated here. Suffice it to say that the work, which was begun in Muzaffarpur and Champaran in 1892, was extended to Saran a year later and to Darbhanga in 1896. It was a great advantage that, before the operations began in Darbhanga, most of the misunderstandings regarding them had been cleared up, and the virulent opposition with which they were at first met in some quarters had perished of inanition.

The beginning of the work.

112. The traverse survey party entered the district in 1893, and for special reasons preliminary records were written for a small tract known as Taluka Lahin⁷ in the north of the district in the field season of 1895-96. But, owing to the requirements of the three other North Bihar districts, no cadastral party could be deputed to Darbhanga till 1896, and it was not till November of that year that work began in earnest. Mr. Stevenson-Moore was appointed Settlement Officer of the district in addition to his duties in Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Saran and held charge until his departure on furlough in July 1899, when

The staff employed.

I succeeded him, remaining in charge until April 1903, when the operations were practically concluded. As in the other districts of North Bihar, an officer was appointed to the subordinate charge of the operations under the Settlement Officer. This post was first held by Mr. R. B. Hughes (now Mr. R. B. Hughes-Buller), who was at the same time Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of Muzaffarpur. I succeeded him in March 1898, being also at the same time Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of Champaran. In March 1899 Mr. W. S. Adie succeeded me on my departure on leave, and on my return I succeeded Mr. Stevenson-Moore as Settlement Officer. Mr. Adie remained in charge until August 1899, when he was transferred to the Financial Department and was succeeded by Mr. W. R. Gourlay, who held his post till December 1902. During the concluding months of the operations Babu Ramesh Chandra Datta has been in subordinate charge under me.

113. The headquarters of the operations were at Muzaffarpur until August 1898, when they were transferred to Darbhanga where an office and record-room were built near the Collectorate at a cost of Rs. 15,590. These will be taken over by the Collector at the conclusion of the operations. Since July 1899, Darbhanga has also been the headquarters of the Settlement Officer in North Bihar. Babu Ramesh Chandra Datta has been in charge of the headquarters office throughout the operations, and has had exceedingly laborious and responsible duties to perform. A list of the other officers employed is given in Appendix II. Maulavi Ashfak Hussain and Maulavi Syed Ahmed Ali Khan have served for over four years in all parts of the district and in nearly every branch of the work. Babu Nilmani Dey was in charge of the recovery operations throughout, except during the final season when he was transferred to Monghyr.

114. On the 17th November 1891, a notification under section 3, Act V Notification under the Survey Act. (B.C.) of 1875 was issued, ordering the survey of all lands in the four North Bihar Districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Saran and Champaran. This was done to legalize the traverse survey which precedes the cadastral survey.

115. Notifications under section 101 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were issued, bringing one or more thanas at a time under survey and settlement, in order that the provisions of section 111 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, ousting the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts regarding questions of rent and status during the preparation of a record-of-rights, might not be brought into operation sooner than was necessary.

The following is a list of notifications issued under section 101 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Number.	Area notified.
	<i>Thana.</i>
No. 520-1.-L. R., dated 6th December 1896	Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai.
	<i>Thanas.</i>
No. 705-T. R., dated 6th September 1897	Warisnagar, Rusera and Darbhanga.
	<i>Thana.</i>
No. 3481-L. R., dated 22nd November 1898	Bahera.
No. 3491-L. R., dated 25th September 1899	Revised notification for thanas Warisnagar, Rusera and Darbhanga.
No. 4059-L. R., dated 21st November 1899	Thanas Benipatti and Phulparas.
No. 2405-T. R., dated 9th November 1900	Thanas Khajauli and Madhubani.

116. By Notifications no. 496-T. R., dated 7th June 1897 and no. 1473-L. R., dated 2nd April 1898, issued in pursuance of Government order no. 914-T. R., dated 15th October 1896, 26 villages in the Gangetic diara in Dalsingh Sarai thana, covering an area of about 40 square miles, were excluded from survey and settlement under the Bengal Tenancy Act.

117. Unlike Champaran and portions of the districts of Muzaffarpur and Saran, the unit for notifications under section 101 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in Darbhanga was always the thana and not the pargana or tappa. It had been decided before the beginning of the settlement operations in Darbhanga, that the thana and not the pargana should be the basis of our work, and that the record, when completed, should be arranged, thana by thana, in the Collectorate record-room.

118. The earlier notifications bringing the thanas of Samastipur, Dalsingh Sarai, Warisnagar, Rusera and Darbhanga under settlement, were issued before the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act of 1898 came into force. Revised notifications, bringing them in to conformity with the language and the provisions of the Amendment Act, were issued for thanas Warisnagar, Rusera and Darbhanga. The work in Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai had been practically completed before 1898 and it was not thought necessary to revise the notification issued in regard to them. The remaining thanas of the district were notified under the Amendment Act, which, besides some verbal alterations, introduced a new clause (i) into section 102 of the Act.

The particulars notified. 119. The particulars which we were required to ascertain and record were the following :—

- (a) The name of each tenant or occupant.
- (b) The class to which each tenant belongs, that is to say, whether he is a tenure-holder, raiyati holding at fixed rates, settled raiyat, occupancy-raiyat, non-occupancy raiyat or under-raiyat, and if he is a tenure-holder, whether he is a permanent tenure-holder or not, and whether his rent is liable to enhancement during the continuance of his tenure.
- (c) The situation and quantity and one or more of the boundaries of the land held by each tenant or occupier.
- (d) The name of each tenant's landlord.
- (e) The rent payable at the time the record-of-rights is being prepared.
- (f) The mode in which that rent has been fixed, whether by contract, by order of a court, or otherwise.
- (g) If the rent is a gradually increasing rent, the time at which, and the steps by which, it increases.
- (h) The special conditions and incidents, if any, of the tenancy.
- (i) The name of each proprietor, including rent-free owners, with the character and extent of his interest, and the situation, quantity and boundaries of the proprietor's private lands, as defined in Chapter XI of the Act.
- (j) If the land is claimed to be held rent-free, whether or not rent is actually paid, and if not paid, whether or not the occupant is entitled to hold the land without payment of rent, and if so entitled, under what authority.

120. After the Amendment Act came into force, I was vested with the powers of a Revenue Officer under section 108 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, by Government Notification no. 880-T. R., dated the 30th October 1899.

121. The District Judge of Tirhut was appointed Special Judge of the Darbhanga District, by Government notification no. 692-L. R., dated 15th February 1898.

The Traverse Survey.

122. The cadastral survey of Darbhanga, as of the other districts of North Bihar, was preceded by a traverse survey, the main object of which is to obtain, by means of theodolites, fixed stations on or near the boundaries of villages. This operation, which is of course entirely under the control of the Survey Department, is described in a note written by the Superintendent, Provincial Surveys, Bengal, and reproduced in paragraph 362 of the Muzaffarpur final report. It is preceded by a demarcation of village boundaries carried out by the inhabitants, but permanent stations are not laid if there are any disputes as to boundaries, these being reserved for decision by the Settlement Department during cadastral survey.

Annual progress.

123. The following table shows the progress made in the work, year by year :—

SEASON				Area in square miles.	REMARKS.
1893-94	...	...	...	518	Benipatti and North Darbhanga thanas.
1895-96	...	...	...	1,179	Thana, Khajauli and portions of thanas Darbhanga, Warisnagar, Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai.
1896-97	...	...	...	430	Thanas Dalsingh Sarai and Rusera.
1897-98	...	...	...	597	Thanas Darbhanga and Bahera.
1898-99	...	...	...	625	Thanas Ehulparas and Madhubani.
Total				3,349	

The area of the district is 3,348 square miles. The slight excess is apparently due to special arrangements having to be made for the surveys of municipalities, and to the survey in the Gangetic diara which was carried across to the southern high bank of the river in the Patna district.

124. As it was originally intended to carry out the operations in this district by working from north-west to south-east, the traverse survey began in 1893-94 in the Benipatti thana. No work was carried out in 1894-95 and in 1895-96 the area taken up was somewhat scattered, as it was then proposed merely to revise the maps of the Darbhanga Raj villages which had previously been surveyed by Mr. Finucane, and it was thought that a traverse survey would be unnecessary. Experiments in Muzaffarpur, however, showed that revision was little less costly than an entirely fresh survey, and the Manager of the Raj finally consented to the latter being undertaken. In 1896-97 the entire programme of the Darbhanga operations was changed, and owing to the famine it became necessary to start work in the south of the district instead of in the north. The traverse party had to conform to the new programme, and this explains the apparently somewhat haphazard system in which the traverse survey of the district was carried out. No special inconvenience, however, was caused except in Benipatti thana, where the cadastral party, in 1899-1900, found that some of the traverse stations, laid down six years previously, had in the interval been washed away by floods. This necessitated a certain amount of re-traversing and somewhat delayed the cadastral survey.

125. The attitude of the villagers towards the traverse party was on the whole unexceptionable, and remarkably few fines had to be imposed for non-attendance during demarcation. This is a matter which gave some trouble when the operations started in Muzaffarpur and Champaran and the more sympathetic attitude shown in Darbhanga was no doubt due to the popularity which eventually attended the operations in the former districts. No difficulty was experienced except in the diara in identifying the present boundaries of villages with those of the revenue survey. There were, however, two villages shown in the Boundary Commissioner's list for Darbhanga thana, which for a long time could not be located. Eventually one was detected amalgamated with another village belonging to the same proprietor, and it was found that the other was occupied by the site of the district jail. Both villages were under 5 acres in area, and the fact that nobody had any interest in demarcating them accounted for our difficulty in discovering them.

Cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing.

Annual progress.

126. The following table shows the progress made in cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing year by year :—

YEAR.	CADASTRAL SURVEY.		PRELIMINARY RECORD WRITING.		REMARKS.
	Villages.	Square miles.	Villages.	Square miles.	
1895-1896 ...	1	16	1	16	Taluka Lahiri in Phulparas Thana.
1896-1897 ...	599	541	599	541	Thanas Dal Singh Sarai and Samastipur.
1897-1899 ...	833	732	833	732	Thanas Rusera, Warinagar and South Darbhanga.
1898-1899 ...	876	684	876	684	North Darbhanga and Bahera.
1899-1900 ...	727	917	593	731	Benipatti and Phulparas and a portion of Madhubani: part of Khajauli was surveyed but no records were written.
1900-1901 ...	351	413	487	599	Madhubani and Khajauli.
Total ...	3,387	3,303	3,387	3,303	

The above figures deal only with the area for which the record of rights was prepared under the Tenancy Act. The municipal and diara areas will be separately dealt with.

127. The area dealt with in 1895-96 consisted of 14 tolas of a large village known as Taluka Lahiri in the north of Phulparas Thana. Owing to serious disputes between landlords and tenants in this tract, it was specially notified under section 101 (2)(b) of the Bengal Tenancy Act by Notification No. 4983-L.R., dated 15th November 1895, and it was decided that its cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing should be taken up in advance of the ordinary district operations. A special staff of amins was deputed from the Muzaffarpur cadastral party, and the record-writing was carried out under the supervision of Mr. Hughes. A somewhat extraordinary state of affairs was found to exist in the area. The property originally formed a *nankar* or revenue-free grant. It was resumed about 1800 and sold in 1803 for arrears of Government revenue, being purchased by the predecessors in interest of the present Madhubani Babus. These persons continued in possession until 1891, when owing to the misconduct and oppression of their tahsildar and other local agents, the raiyats revolted in a body, refused to pay rent to the Babus and set up as their landlord one Rangu Singh, the surviving representative of the old *nankar lars*, who still lives in the village and possesses considerable local influence. During the record-writing, the raiyats adopted a very stubborn attitude, and refused to acknowledge that the Madhubani Babus were their landlords. Nevertheless the operations were most effective. After their conclusion, it was found possible to withdraw the force of special police which had been quartered in the village for the preceding five years. The Babus thought it prudent to bring a suit in the Civil Court for declaration of their title and possession over the area, and it was resolved to postpone the attestation of the village until this had been decided. The Civil Court ultimately found in favour of the Babus on all points, and the attestation and completion of the records of the village were taken up in due course along with the rest of Phulparas Thana. The costs of the work in this area were under orders of Government, finally merged in those of the district operations, and recovered from the landlords and tenants in the ordinary proportions.

128. It had originally been intended to begin the district operations proper in Penipatti Thana in the north-west, but as this area suffered severely from the failure of the monsoon in 1896, it was thought advisable to start work in the south of the district, where the winter rice crop is comparatively unimportant, and there was little or no distress. Thereafter the operations were carried on from south to north, the last thanas to be taken up being Madhubani and Khajauli, the cadastral survey of which was completed in April 1901.

The ordinary programme, 1896—1901.

129. The cadastral survey of the district was carried out by the party under Mr. C. S. Kraal, Assistant Superintendent of Survey except in Benipatti Thana, which was entrusted to Mr. A. W. Smart in season 1899-1900. The whole district was surveyed on the scale of 16" to the mile, except the village sites, which were surveyed on the scale of 64" to the mile, where the numbering of the plots would not have been legible on a map of smaller scale. The latter work is expensive and troublesome, and its amount has lately been reduced by a salutary rule introduced by Major Crichton that houses and their courtyards when belonging to one occupant should be mapped together. This has enabled a considerable area to be mapped on the 16" scale which, under the old system, when houses and courtyards were always treated as separate plots, had to be mapped on the 64" scale.

130. The check of the cadastral mapping is carried out by the Survey Department. The minimum prescribed scale is one lineal mile to each square mile of mapping, but in Darbhanga this was considerably exceeded, as more than 4½ lineal miles per square mile were checked, and 2,492 village sites were independently resurveyed on the 64" scale. About two-fifths of the check was carried out by European officers of the Survey Department and the remainder by Inspectors and Head Inspectors.

131. There are four municipalities in the district, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani and Rusera. These were dealt with in accordance with the orders of the Board No. 477-A., dated the 4th April 1893. The agricultural portions were surveyed in the ordinary course, and a record-of-rights prepared for them. The Rusera municipality could not afford to pay for a detailed map of its urban area, covering about 350 acres, and this was consequently only surveyed topographically on the 16" scale. The other three municipalities agreed to pay for a detailed survey and record-of-occupancy. Their urban areas were surveyed on the scale of 64" to the mile, and a wall map for the entire municipal area on the scale of 16" to the mile was prepared, one serial number being maintained throughout, corresponding with that of the record-of-occupancy. This document, which was prepared primarily for the purposes of municipal assessment and administration, contains the following columns in Darbhanga and Madhubani:—

- (1) Serial number of plot.
- (2) Name of proprietor, with parentage, caste and residence.
- (3) Name of intermediate landlord, with parentage, &c.
- (4) Name of sub-landlord, with parentage, &c.
- (5) Name of actual rent-receiver, with parentage, &c.
- (6) Name of occupant, with parentage, &c.
- (7) Area of plot in acres.
- (8) Area of plot in bighas.
- (9) Description of plot, *i.e.*, whether *pukka* or *kacha* house, road, tank, garden, &c.
- (10) Remarks.

The record-of-occupancy of Samastipur municipality does not contain columns 2, 3 and 5, which were subsequently added at the suggestion of Mr. Wheeler, Collector of Darbhanga, to provide for the greater subinfeudation of proprietary interests which is found in Darbhanga and Madhubani.

132. As a guide to the probable cost of future municipal surveys of this kind, the following table showing cost rates may be of interest:—

NAME OF MUNICIPALITY.	Total area for which a wall map and record of occupancy was prepared.	Urban area surveyed on 64" scale.	Total cost.	Cost rate per acre of total area.
	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.
Darbhanga ...	4,480	2,259	6,945	1 8 3
Samastipur ...	1,024	205	686	0 10 8
Madhubani ...	1,164	490	1,804	1 8 9

133. Samastipur is a mushroom town of little more than 10 years standing. Its urban area is small and scattered, and the work there was hardly more troublesome than in an ordinary rural village. Darbhanga and Madhubani, on the other hand, are both old towns, in parts thickly populated, and the house-to-house survey in many parts of the bazar was extremely intricate and difficult.

134. Excluding the 350 acres of the Rusera municipal urban area, the only portion of the district, for which no detailed survey was made, was an area of 40 square miles consisting of shifting lands in the Gangetic diara. In accordance with the Government orders No. 914-T-R., dated the 12th October 1896, the villages in this tract were only surveyed topographically on the 16" scale, the boundaries being confirmed under section 12, Act V (B.C.) of 1875. Khasras were, however, written up at the request of the Collector for portions of two villages, containing Government estates. A congregated village map of the whole area on the scale of 4" to the mile has also been prepared and made over to the Collector, showing the boundaries of each village at the revenue survey of 1845, at the diara survey of 1865-86, and at the present survey. This should enable him to detect and assess to revenue any subsequent accretions. The present diara survey was carried up to fixed points on the permanent southern high bank of the Ganges in the Patna district, thus avoiding the defect of the old diara survey of 1865, which was only connected with the high bank on one side of the river. There will be no difficulty in relaying the boundaries of any of the villages of the present survey at any time.

135. An independent survey of the Nepal boundary on the 16" scale was carried out and compared with the maps of the previous survey of Colonel Tanner made in 1882-83. The differences discovered were slight and unimportant. They were duly reported to the District Magistrate and through him, to the Resident in Nepal.

136. The work of preliminary record-writing or *khanapuri* was carried out in this district as in the rest of North Bihar by the survey *amins*, subject to the dual control of officers of the survey and settlement departments. The procedure was uniform throughout, the *amin* filling up the columns of the *khasra* in the field, and his *muharrir* writing up the *parchas* or abstracts for landlords and *raiya*s. The time of the officers of the settlement department was mainly devoted to the decision of internal and boundary disputes, and the bulk of the actual plots testing was done by officers of the survey department. Out of the 5,685,754 plot measured during cadastral survey, the entries regarding 15,90,540, or nearly 30 per cent., were tested on the ground while the work was in progress. The following table shows the agency by which the testing was carried out:—

		Plots.
European officers of the survey department	...	61,086
Inspectors and head Inspectors	...	1,492,518
Officers of the settlement department	...	34,936
Total	...	1,590,540

137. The main features of the work of each season will now be briefly described. The area taken up in the first year 1896-97. comprised the thanas of Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai, which resemble in most respects the neighbouring subdivisions of Hajipur in Muzaffarpur and Begusarai in Monghyr. The land is extremely fertile and ordinarily produces two crops in the year at the autumn and spring harvests. Winter rice is unimportant except in a few low-lying and limited tracts. There are no big proprietors of any importance, and the whole Samastipur subdivision is remarkable for extreme subdivision of proprietary rights. The work was therefore marked by the difficulties inseparable from such an area, viz., the small average size of the plot (less than one-third of an acre), and the numerous disputes as to the possession of individual plots, as to whether they lay in one or another of the many estates and subdivisions.

of estates which were generally found interspersed over the lands of a single village. It was found that no less than 57,602 plots, or one in every twenty, were affected by disputes of this kind, and in spite of the utmost endeavours of the Assistant Settlement Officers deputed to the area, it was only possible, during preliminary record-writing, to decide disputes regarding 15,904 plots, or little more than a quarter. The remainder had to be held over till attestation, and it was the inconvenience of this course which led, in the following year, to the employment of kanungos for the decision of these disputes. These kanungos have now become a regular institution in the North Bihar operations, and their work and the methods of testing it will be separately described.

138. In season 1897-98, the area taken up comprised the Warisnagar and Rusera thanas and the south of Darbhanga. The proportion of plots disputed rose to one in sixteen, but with the aid of the kanungos no less than 93 per cent. of the disputes were decided before field-work was completed. This showed a great advance on any previous year. The greater part of the area is held by petty proprietors, and no special description of it is required. But the year was remarkable for the first serious and organised endeavour, which we had met with in Bihar, to obstruct our proceedings and frustrate their objects. The scene of occurrence was the Padri Pargana, consisting of about 100 villages, covering 75 square miles in the south-east of Rusera thana. The proprietor of this area is the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who is, however, in no way responsible for its management, as it is let out on a perpetual maintenance grant to his uncle, Babu Ganeshwar Singh. The latter is very old, and the pargana is managed by his son Laliteshwar Singh, to whom all the discredit for its present condition must be ascribed.

139. When preliminary, record-writing began in February 1898, the amins reported that the work was practically at a stand still, because none of the raiyats would come forward to point out their lands. Enquiry showed that this was due to the terrorism and oppression of the landlord's local agents, who, in the enforced absence of the raiyats, claimed that practically all the cultivated lands of entire villages should be recorded as in the possession of the Babu. It was not until Maulavi Ashfaq Hussain was specially deputed to supervise the record-writing that any progress could be made and even then it was only the more intelligent of the raiyats, who could be induced to point out their own lands or to give information as to those cultivated by their neighbours. Matters, however, came to a crisis when Maulavi Ashfaq Hussain discovered evidence that a general attempt was being made by the Babu to corrupt the amins, in order to induce them to enter raiyati lands as *zirat*. Mr. Stevenson-Moore thereupon brought the scandal to the notice of the late Maharaja of Darbhanga, and, as a result of his intervention, Laliteshwar Singh undertook to see that all opposition was withdrawn, and that the raiyats were allowed to come forward to point out their lands. It was then, however, too late in the season to complete the work and the survey party had to be recalled.

140. Early in the next season a special party was deputed to the area under Maulavi Ashfaq Hussain, and entirely fresh records were written up for twenty five villages. When the raiyats saw that we were determined to prepare a correct record for the area, they plucked up courage to point out their lands, with the result that 2,534 plots, which in the previous season had been recorded as in the possession of the Babu, were now entered in the names of the raiyats, who actually cultivated them, and it was found that the Babu had only 137 plots in direct cultivation in the villages concerned. Similar results were obtained by a revision of the records of the other villages at attestation, when many other difficulties were encountered. These will be described in the section dealing the attestation.

141. The area for which preliminary records were written during season 1898-99 comprised the northern portion of Darbhanga thana and the whole of Bahera. Here again obstacles were placed in our way by certain landlords, the most prominent of whom were Ganga Prasad, a Darbhanga banker, and the Raghopur Babus in Bahera. These persons followed the evil example of Ganeshwar

Singh, and took steps to prevent their raiyats from coming forward to point out their lands. Fortunately, however, the obstruction was not nearly so well organised as in Padri, and though it gave us a good deal of trouble, patient enquiry generally managed to elicit the raiyats' names. Nevertheless it was necessary to take special measures to meet the difficulty.

142. In the estates of the chief offenders with regard to the suppression of raiyats, the amins were not allowed to record any land as in the possession of the proprietor until a special enquiry had been held by a Revenue officer. Where, as was frequently the case, a large block of cultivated land was claimed as in direct possession of the landlord, but its interior divisions showed that it was unlikely that it was cultivated by only one person, the block was surveyed not as one plot, but in separate plots according to the internal divisions. The discovery of the actual cultivator for one of the divisions frequently induced the others to come forward and declare themselves. Rent rolls had to be scrutinised to ensure the entry of all the tenants' names in the record, and where the landlords were recalcitrant in producing their *jambandis*, fines were inflicted under the Survey Act. This suppression of raiyats has been much more common in Darbhanga than in any other district in North Bihar, and may be looked upon as the last method of obstruction offered by these landlords, who had no reason to welcome our operations. As a rule, it was only the lower caste raiyats who could be induced to suppress themselves, and it was found that very often the land concerned was held on a produce rent. The belief is very general, both among landlords and raiyats, that a cultivator can have or acquire no rights in such lands and so it is not surprising that powerful landlords should have been able to induce the more ignorant raiyats to refrain from claiming any interest in them

143. Extreme subdivision of proprietary rights was also found in parts of this area. In one village Panchob, in Darbhanga Thana, covering only 406 acres, no less than 278 separate sets of proprietary interests, each consisting of separate lands, were recorded.

144. A technical difficulty, which first became acute during this season was due to the enormous number of Revenue survey villages in scattered blocks not included in one periphery but forming scattered blocks. In Darbhanga Thana 157 villages were found to have been surveyed at the Revenue survey in 431 blocks, and in Bahera, 62 villages comprised 140 blocks. Not infrequently the blocks are in different thanas, and occasionally they are in different districts. In order to preserve the Revenue survey village as the unit of our work, we have assigned the same thana number to all the blocks appertaining to one mauza. One serial number has been maintained throughout the map and khasra of the entire village as far as possible, but where the blocks are in different Inspectors' circles this is generally impracticable, and a separate serial has to be adopted for each block. In this case each block is distinguished by a fractional number.

145. The origin of the inclusion of a number of scattered blocks within one Revenue survey village is the confusion, which existed at the time of the Revenue survey, as to the essential distinction between an estate and a village. Where the lands of an estate were scattered, the Revenue surveyor, generally, though not invariably, treated them as belonging to a single village. The Thakbust surveyor went further and when the lands of an estate comprised, say, the whole of village A and a portion of village B, he treated this portion of village B as belonging to village A and called it a *chitarazi* of village A. Originally we treated these *chitarazis* as entirely separate villages, and prepared separate records for them, but the inconvenience of this course was seriously felt in Darbhanga and Bahera where many of these so-called *chitarazis* consisted only of a few scattered fields. Mr. Stevenson-Moore accordingly reopened the question as to whether we should not formally treat such scattered blocks as parts of the parent village, or whether we should deal with them merely as estates in the village in which they geographically lay. He favoured the latter course which was ultimately sanctioned by the Board in their letter no. 432-A., dated 30th December 1899.

146. There can be no doubt that this course was the only practicable one, and that no object was served by perpetuating the error committed at the revenue survey owing to the confusion of villages with estates. At the conclusion of our operations, we write up for the Collector his *Majuwar* Register C, showing all the estates which have lands within each village, and a cross reference to his *Mahalwar* Register enables him to discover in which of our villages the lands of any particular estate lie.

147. Intimately connected with this matter, is the question of the suitability of the revenue survey village as the unit of our work. Under section 3 (10) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, a village is defined as "an area included in a village map of the revenue-survey within the same exterior boundary," and it is only within such an area that a settled raiyat can acquire a right of occupancy under section 21, without holding a particular field for 12 years. But the revenue-survey boundary of a village very often differs somewhat from that of the present survey. Under the existing rules, we are required to show on our maps the revenue-survey boundary whenever there is a considerable difference between it and the present boundary, and a "considerable difference" has been defined as a difference exceeding five chains in width. But the revenue-survey boundary, so laid down, more often than not cuts through cultivated fields, and a raiyat may therefore be in the anomalous position, from a strictly legal point of view, of having occupancy-rights in one part of his field and non-occupancy-rights in the rest, though the whole field is held under one landlord and is considered by all concerned to belong to one village. Fortunately, the question has never been raised during our operations, and we have always decided the status question according to the present boundaries of villages. But the position is undoubtedly paradoxical and might tend to raise disputes where none at present exist. Our records are interpreted by reference to our maps, and there seems to be no good reason why in the question of status alone we should be bound by the maps of the revenue-survey, especially where these do not represent the existing state of things. Mr. Lyon has accordingly proposed that steps should be taken to make the area, included in our maps, the village for the purposes of the Tenancy Act, and the matter is now under consideration.

148. The area for which preliminary records were written in season 1899-1900 comprised the thanas of Benipatti and Phulparas. It had originally been intended to take up the rest of the Madhubani subdivision, comprising Khajauli and Madhubani Thanas also, but the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who owns the larger part of the area, represented that he would be unable to arrange to look after his interests in so large a tract, and Government therefore directed that the work should be spread over two seasons. The total expenditure on the operations was considerably increased by this change of programme, owing to the fact that the two cadastral camps in 1899-1900 could only deal with areas of 292 square miles and 439 square miles, respectively, instead of the normal 600 each, but there can be no doubt that it conduced to efficiency. For not only were the Raj officials enabled to co-operate with us more effectively in securing the preparation of an accurate record, but, as will be seen from the section on attestation, many difficult rent questions arose in the Raj area, and it was a great advantage that we had not to deal with them all in a single season.

149. The check exercised by the Raj over preliminary record-writing was very effective and proved of great value both then and at subsequent stages of the work. A special staff of amins and muharrirs was employed, who wrote up *khasras* in our form in the field at the same time as the survey amins. Although there were a few instances of friction between the Raj and the survey amins, there can be no doubt that the duplicate *khasra*, besides being useful to the Raj, was a great help to accuracy in the original. Further the maps and *khasras*, prepared for most of the Raj villages by Mr. Finucane, were of the greatest assistance, and on the whole, apart from a few special causes of dispute which will be described separately, the work of preliminary record-writing in the Raj villages was extremely simple. The supervision of *khanapuri* by Mr. R. S. King, the Sub-Manager of Rohika Circle, was

particularly effective and thorough, and greatly reduced the amount of revision of the records at subsequent stages of the work.

150. The chief landlords in the Madhubani subdivision, other than the Raj, are the Madhubani Babus, who hold an entire pargana, Jabdi, and several smaller tracts on a perpetual maintenance grant from the Maharaja of Darbhanga. Their estates are not well managed; disputes especially about rent, were numerous and difficult to decide owing to the fact that many of their village papers were not above suspicion. So far as preliminary record-writing went, however, the chief difficulty arose from the claim that a certain portion of every holding paid a produce, rent known as *mankhap*, of 8 or 10 maunds a bigha, calculated on the area without reference to the outturn. Before the work began, many of the raiyats had actually been induced to take out portions of their fields, and they came forward to admit that these paid a produce rent of the kind described. But on the stakes being removed, they were quite unable to point out any plots or portions of plots as held on a produce rent. The whole thing appeared to be a clumsy device of the village officials who doubtless profit most by the substitution of a produce for a cash rent. We accordingly refused to enter any particular area as held on a produce rent, but we found afterwards that, in certain villages, it was the custom for the raiyats to pay part of their rent in kind for the convenience of the landlords. Where collections of this kind were proved, we entered rents accordingly at attestation.

151. The northern part of Benipatti Thana is mainly held by smaller proprietors, the chief of whom is the Cheraut Mahant, who gained the unenviable notoriety in Muzaffarpur of being the worst landlord with whom the settlement authorities came in contact. Throughout the area, suppression of raiyats was extremely common, and in some villages we had the greatest difficulty in inducing the raiyats to come forward and claim the valuable opium lands round their houses. The Mahant had also induced his tenants to agree that all lands, which had been abandoned by their original cultivators and resettled with others during recent years, should be recorded as proprietors' private land and that no raiyat should put forward any claim to them. It was not till several fines had been inflicted for the non-production of papers, from which the previous history of such lands could be traced, that the Mahant withdrew his obstruction.

152. No attempt was made in Darbhanga to utilise the village patwaris or other local agency in the preparation of the record-of-rights, but it is satisfactory to find, from the Survey Department reports, that the majority of the amins employed were natives of North Bihar, and that their work compared favourably with those of the "foreigners" from up-country. Though the latter were able to show a slightly larger outturn of survey work, this was more than made up for by the greater facility of the former in the work of record-writing. This is of course only natural, as the majority of the Bihari amins have a hereditary interest in the land and grasp local problems much more readily than outsiders of the same class. The coolies and chainmen employed to assist in the work were all recruited locally, and were paid direct by the Survey Department. The system of obtaining these men through the local zamindars, which caused some trouble in Muzaffarpur and Champaran, was fortunately never introduced in Darbhanga.

153. As a rule the entire record-writing of a single village was done by the same amin, but in a few large villages, such as are not uncommon in the north of Madhubani, in which it would have been impossible for one amin to complete the work in a single season, it had to be split up among several amins. In such cases the main difficulty is to preserve the serial numbering throughout the map and *khasra*, and this is effected by counting the number of plots on each sheet of the map, before record-writing begins. If fields have to be subdivided during the record-writing, fractional numbers are used. This method of record-writing, which is known as the Cheraut system from the village in which it was first introduced, has always been worked with complete success by the

officers of the Survey Department. In the Darbhanga District, the records of thirty-seven villages were written on this system.

Internal Disputes.

154. The following table shows the number of disputes filed during each season at preliminary record-writing:—

Season.	Number of disputes filed.	Number decided at Khanapuri.	Area under Khanapuri in square miles.	Percentage of disputes decided at Khanapuri to number filed.	Number of disputes per square miles.
1895-1896 ...	414	413	16	99.	26
1896-1897 ...	37,602	10,132	541	27.	69
1897-1898 ...	41,536	38,838	732	93.	56
1898-1899 ...	43,617	41,047	684	94.	64
1899-1900 ...	42,591	42,324	731	99.	58
1900-1901 ...	34,176	34,010	599	99.	57
TOTAL ...	199,936	166,764	3,303	83.	65

155. These disputes concern all entries in the record, except those relating to rent and status, which do not come up till attestation. The most numerous are about possession and this, together with the small size of the plot, accounts for the fact that the largest number of disputes per square mile was filed in the area dealt with in 1896-97, where extreme subdivision of proprietary rights is found. The area dealt with in 1898-99, which comes next, is in the neighbourhood of the Darbhanga town, where proximity to the Courts and facility for obtaining legal advice stimulated litigation at all stages of the work. In the last two seasons of the work disputes would have been much fewer, but for the action of the Raj in claiming a half share in the value of all trees cut or felled in its estates and disputing the title of every rent-free holder.

156. It cannot be said that the Raj was well advised with regard to either of these matters. The tree claim was stoutly resisted, even by raiyats who in other respects showed themselves most subservient to the Raj, and the Raj was quite unable to prove that it had ever generally exercised the right which it claimed. Eventually it was discovered that the cases divided themselves into two classes, the first, when the raiyat had planted an orchard on ordinary *bhit* land forming part of his ancestral holding and had gone on paying full *bhit* rates for the land ever since; and the second, where the Raj had let out lands to a raiyat at low rates for the purpose of planting an orchard on the understanding that half the value of the timber should belong to the Raj. Occasionally also where an orchard had been held originally at a produce rent, this had been converted into a low cash rent on a similar understanding. Where this could be proved the raiyat generally admitted the Raj claim, but the main dispute was as regards the first class of cases when the raiyat was paying full rates of rent for his orchard land.

The Raj was unable to produce any evidence of its alleged right in the timber of trees on such lands, and eventually withdrew its claim, but not before a certain amount of soreness and indignation had been unnecessarily aroused in the minds of the tenantry affected.

157. Again the Raj subordinates had instructions to dispute the right of the great majority of *birtdars* or rent-free holders. The idea was to force the *birtdars* to produce their *sanads* or to give some proof of their title to hold rent-free, lest it should be said hereafter that the Raj had waived its rights in the matter. But I doubt whether the policy was judicious. The *birtdars* had no difficulty in proving their possession, which is what we were primarily concerned with, and even when

they had no *sanaās*, there was no proof that rent had ever been collected from them, or any justification for recording them otherwise than as *birdars*. Thus practically every case had to be decided against the Raj, and the moral effect of this must have been unfavourable to Raj interests. It would have been wiser, I think, if the Raj had selected the cases in which it was really unwilling to recognise the *birdars'* title, and had filed disputes regarding them only. Certainly the action of the Raj caused great irritation among the Tirhutiya Brahmins, who are notoriously litigious, and possess great influence in their villages. We came across not a few disputes which had been filed at the instigation of a Brahmin out of revenge for the Raj having contested his title to his *birt*. It may be laid down as an axiom, in this part of the country at any rate, that one false or unfounded claim almost invariably produces an equally false and unfounded counter-claim. Although it was almost impossible for the higher officials of the Raj to exercise complete control over their subordinates in the matter of filing those internal disputes, more discrimination might have been exercised in the matter, and if this had been done, a good deal of unnecessary bad feeling would have been avoided.

158. During the first two seasons, the disputes were decided by the Assistant Settlement Officers deputed to supervise the record-writing. In 1895-96, the area was small and all the disputes, except one, were decided but in 1896-97, when the work began in earnest, the Assistant Settlement Officers were able to decide little more than a quarter of the disputes filed, and over 25,000 had to be left pending for a year till attestation. The inconvenience of this was very great in every way. In the first place, it meant that the records were handed over to us for attestation in a very incomplete state. Not only were the disputed entries themselves left blank, but where the dispute was about the possession of a plot, as most of them were, the boundaries of the surrounding plots had also to be left incomplete. Again it is much easier to decide the disputes, and a correct decision is much more likely to be arrived at, if the enquiry is held soon after the disputes are filed, than if the parties are given a year or more in which to concoct false evidence. Lastly, as it takes two to make a quarrel, 25,000 pending disputes concern at least 50,000 persons, and this is a serious matter for the peace of the tract, besides giving opportunities to the strong to oppress the weak.

159. As it was impossible to increase the staff of Assistant Settlement Officers to deal with those disputes, both on the ground of the expense and owing to want of officers Khanapuri kanungoes. Mr. Stevenson-Moore proposed that kanungoes should be entrusted with the work, and the proposal was sanctioned by the Board. Since then the staff employed for preliminary record-writing has consisted of an Assistant Settlement Officer for every 200 square miles, and of a kanungo for every 100.

The Assistant Settlement Officer's duties are to decide boundary disputes, to supervise the record-writing and to enquire into difficult internal disputes, or those in regard to which an objection has been raised to the kanungo's order. The kanungoes, besides deciding the internal disputes, also give great assistance in plot testing. They are mostly Collectorate kanungoes, and the knowledge which they gain of settlement work is very useful to them when they return to their own districts. A few of the higher ministerial officers of the Settlement Department have also been promoted to these posts. There was at first a certain amount of friction between the Khanapuri kanungoes and officers of the Survey Department, but this has been altogether removed by rules which have been framed to regulate their mutual relations.

160. In the last few years, practically all the interior disputes filed during record-writing have been decided by kanungoes before the end of the field season. Their work is thoroughly tested at attestation and the results, except in the case of a few officers, are highly satisfactory. Altogether kanungoes decided 148,588 disputes in the Darbhanga district. Objections were raised to their decisions at attestation in 27,408 cases, or less than 19 per cent. of the total number. This is an excellent result, when it is considered that the people are not only permitted but encouraged to re-open disputes at attestation. No court-fee or

written petition is required. Each man as he passes before the attestation officer, has only to mention his objection in order to have the whole matter re-enquired into. The result of the re-enquiries is that 11,438 of the kanungos' decisions, or 7.6 per cent. of the total number, have been found to be wrong on points of fact or law, while 2,494 have been revised on technical grounds, owing to alteration of the parties between the date of the original decision and of attestation, or for similar reasons reflecting no discredit on the kanungos' decisions. In other words the kanungos have decided nearly one and-a-half lakhs of disputes as they arose, greatly to the benefit of our records and of the parties concerned. Over 80 per cent. of their decisions are accepted by the parties as correct, although every opportunity is given to them to object, and less than 10 per cent. of the decisions require revision on any ground whatever.

Boundary disputes.

161. Disputes as to whether a particular area lies in one village or another are treated as boundary disputes, and decided under the Survey Act by Assistant Settlement Officers, who have the powers of Assistant Superintendents of Survey under rule 1(a), Chapter VI of the Government rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act. The disputes are tried summarily during preliminary record-writing, but a certain amount of formality is insisted on. A trace is made of the disputed area and of the surrounding plots from the cadastral map, and this is accompanied by a *kharsa* showing the names of the persons alleged by the contending parties to be in possession of each of the disputed plots. The judgment is written on a printed form, which shows clearly the names of the villages affected and of the persons present to represent them at the enquiry. The record of the boundary dispute case is filed with the record of one of the villages concerned, but duplicate traces and copies of the final order are prepared and filed with the records of all the other villages affected. But the most valuable of all the rules for the decision of boundary disputes is the one which requires local enquiry to be held in all cases without exception. Most of the disputes concern petty strips of waste land or of recent cultivation on the banks of streams and water courses, and the parties are usually quite satisfied if a responsible officer enquires into the question of possession on the ground, or lays down the revenue survey line, if neither party has any proof of effective possession.

The number filed.

162. The following table gives particulars regarding the number of boundary disputes filed in each thana:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANAS.	Total number of villages surveyed.	Number of boundary disputes instituted.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL DECISION WAS—			Percentage of boundary disputes to total number of villages.	REMARKS.
				Upheld.	Modified.	Reversed.		
1	Bonpatti	247	180	27	31	3	73	
2	Khajauli	105	11	21	16	3	57	
3	Phulpura	327	166	34	23	9	61	
4	Madhubani	319	174	41	36	7	66	
5	Darbhanga	683	323	63	48	11	77	
6	Bahera	424	408	80	47	22	95	
7	Rusea	300	107	37	31	6	51	
8	Warisnagar	334	120	17	13	1	54	
9	Sarvastipur	363	113	16	13	3	46	
10	Dalsinga Saral	243	155	14	11	3	61	
	GRAND TOTAL	3,436	2,213	353	257	67	64	

163. The total number was 2,213 as compared with 1,475 in Muzaffarpur although there are 4,505 villages in Muzaffarpur and only 3,436 in Darbhanga. The very considerable increase is due mainly to the action of the Darbhanga Raj, which filed disputes regarding the most trifling discrepancies between our maps and those of Mr. Finucane's survey. As the maps are not on the same scale and the comparison was not always very carefully made by the Rajamins, the discrepancies were often more apparent than real, and the Raj eventually acquiesced in our decision of the disputes according to possession where possible, and in other cases according to the Revenue Survey line. In Bahera thana, where there were almost as many disputes as there are villages, the Raj

villages are scattered and usually march with those of the other large proprietor of the area, Ganga Prasad, a Darbhanga banker, who is not on good terms with the Raj. Ganga Prasad seemed to consider it a point of honour to file disputes against as many Raj villages as possible, and the Raj subordinates retaliated.

Wherever two villages were separated by a piece of waste land, the latter was invariably claimed by both, and in addition there were cases where both claimed cultivated land, although there was no doubt as to possession. The cheapness of this form of litigation no doubt commends it to old rivals of this kind, and the local agents of big landlords too often find in the institution of such disputes a means of enriching themselves by harassing the actual cultivators of the area affected.

164. None of the boundary disputes was of particular interest, but those in the Dalsingh Sarai Gangetic diara caused considerable difficulty. Large stretches of sand and river were claimed by several villages, both in the Patna and Darbhanga districts. The disputes in some cases date back to the time of the permanent settlement and have more than once been before the Privy Council. As references had to be made to the Collectors of Darbhanga and Patna, it was not possible to decide them all in a single season. In the meantime the river changed its course and altered the whole face of the country affected. Thus three disputes, which were left pending at the end of season 1897-98, were found, when taken up for decision in the following season, to affect no less than sixteen villages. Eventually all the diara disputes were decided on the basis of the 1865 line which was accepted by the parties in default of any evidence as to possession. Specially competent traverse surveyors were obtained from the survey department to relay this line on the ground and on the 16" maps, and it may be hoped that we have at last brought a certain measure of peace to this very turbulent area. At all events we have removed one great obstacle to finality. Hitherto each party has been able to produce voluminous decisions of all kinds of Courts, both Civil and Criminal, but the absence of maps prepared by working from fixed traverse stations on either high bank renders it practically impossible to identify on the ground the land covered by any particular decision. The maps which accompany our decisions leave no doubt as to the area to which they refer, and it will be a simple matter to relay our boundary lines in any future case of dispute.

165. Appeals against the decisions of the Assistant Superintendents of Survey were filed in 353 cases, or 16 per cent. of the total number. They were all decided by the Settlement Officer who was vested with powers as Superintendent of Survey under the Survey Act for the purpose. The result of the appeals was, on the whole satisfactory; only 29 of the original decisions being reversed and 67 modified. Eighty-five cases were remanded for re-enquiry, the final results of which are incorporated in the above figures.

166. Several of the appellate decisions came before the Commissioner of the Division, but he declined to exercise his revisional powers under section 58 of the Survey Act in any case.

Attestation.

167. On the conclusion of record-writing in the field, the records are prepared in the survey office for attestation. The preparation of the record for attestation. Khatians are written up in which all the plots of one holding are brought together. The areas of each plot are extracted and entered in the khatians and khasras, and the crop and cultivation statistics are prepared. At the same time the records are corrected in accordance with the orders passed during preliminary record-writing, regarding interior and boundary disputes, and the carrying out of orders is carefully checked. Area slips are also prepared for landlords and tenants, showing the area of each plot in which they are interested, and these are distributed some time before attestation begins, so that all concerned may have full information as to the areas of their holdings, and may be able to bring to notice any mistakes. The preparation of the records for attestation takes about six months, and in large operations, such as those in Darbhanga, it

is never possible to begin attestation earlier than the field season following that in which preliminary record-writing was completed.

168. The procedure followed at attestation is fully described in the Muzaffarpur report and need only be briefly referred to here. Every entry in each khatian is read out to the landlords and tenants concerned by a munsarim, who also fills up the columns for status and rent, if the parties are agreed as to these. The tenants are then called up one by one before the attestation officer, who has certain prescribed entries read out in his presence and initials them after satisfying himself that the raiyat understands them. It is also his duty to decide disputes and to pass orders on any objections that may be raised to the correctness of the record. The khewat or record of proprietary interests is similarly dealt with, except that it is explained to the landlords in the first place by the peshkar of the camp instead of by a munsarim. After attestation has been completed, the record is corrected in accordance with the orders passed by the Assistant Settlement Officer; the corrections are checked by the peshkar, and the record is then draft published.

The procedure of attestation.

Annual progress.

169. The following statement shows the progress of the work year by year :—

YEAR.	Number of villages attested.	Area in square miles attested.	Number of plots attested.	Number of holdings attested.	REMARKS.
1897-1898 ...	599	541	1,098,684	206,971	Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai.
1898-1899 ...	833	732	1,107,606	244,083	Rusera, Warisnagar and South Darbhanga.
1899-1900 ...	526	316	549,159	135,678	Portions of Bahera and North Darbhanga.
1900-1901 ...	949	1,115	1,642,775	295,198	Benipatti, Phulparas, Bahera, and 22 square miles of Madhubani transferred from Benipatti after attestation.
1901-1902 ...	480	599	1,087,530	157,207	Khajauli and Madhubani.
Total ...	3,387	3,303	5,655,754	1,039,087	

170. The programme for each year was carried out in full, except in 1899-1900 when we were compelled, owing to want of funds, to suspend attestation in Bahera thana for a year. The Amendment Act of 1898 had not come into force when the estimates for this year were framed, and sufficient allowance was not made for its effects in accelerating the office work, and consequently increasing the year's expenditure on the completion of the records of previous seasons.

171. The area in the Samastipur subdivision dealt with in the first season is chiefly remarkable for great subdivision of proprietary rights. Very few of the proprietors keep proper rent accounts, or issue printed receipts in the prescribed form. Such receipts, as exists, are merely for individual payments and contain nothing to show the annual demand or the area for which it is payable. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that rent disputes were the rule rather than the exception.

172. As in all other parts of North Bihar, partitions as carried out under the old Act without any record of the raiyats' rents were found to be a fruitful source of illegal enhancements and uncertainty about rents. The greatest care had to be taken that the total rental of raiyat for his lands in the newly-formed estates did not exceed the undivided rent paid before partition, and it was not infrequently a very troublesome task to make an equitable distribution. The unfortunate

The work in Samastipur.

Partitions and rent disputes.

effects of long pending partition proceedings were very evident. In one village, the partition had begun in 1882 and had not been completed at the time of attestation. The proprietors had been quarrelling fiercely among themselves for over twenty years, raiyats had been dispossessed and set up, one against the other, by the different landlords, there were no trustworthy papers as to rent, and the whole village was in an indescribable state of chaos. The majority of the landlords and raiyats welcomed the Assistant Settlement Officer's decisions, summary though they necessarily were, as putting an end to a state of things which had become almost intolerable.

173. One very frequent cause of rent dispute is the attempt to consolidate *abwab* and illegal cesses with the rent. As a rule, the raiyats do not object to paying these if they are levied casually and unsystematically, but they generally resist attempts to consolidate them with the legal rent. In one case, though no objection was raised at attestation, the raiyat shortly afterwards prayed for further enquiry, which showed that *abwab* at the rate of four annas in the rupee had been consolidated with the rents about six years previously. These were of course cut out and the rents were re-attested. This case illustrates the deep-rooted objection of the raiyats to *abwab* being treated as rents. Great pressure must have been put upon them in the first instance, to induce them to refrain from raising an objection at the original attestation, but this eventually proved insufficient to deter them from bringing the matter to light. It also illustrates the necessity, which was constantly impressing itself upon us during our work in Darbhanga, of the attestation officer carefully examining every paper and scrap of evidence he could lay his hands on regarding rent, even where the parties were agreed and there was apparently no dispute.

174. The *abwab* most commonly met within the district are the same as those found in Muzaffarpur. The following is a list of the most important :—

Abwab.	Short description.
1. <i>Tahrir</i>	... Literally writing fee levied by the patwari on the raiyats of the village at rates varying from one quarter anna to one anna in the rupee of the rent, as remuneration for writing receipts and keeping accounts <i>Hisabana, residana, furkaon,</i> and <i>neg</i> are alternative names.
2. <i>Badarat</i>	... Miscellaneous charges at half to one anna in the rupee for miscellaneous favours shown by the patwari to the raiyat. The consideration for payment appears to be rather shadowy.
3. <i>Beshi</i> ...	... Excess or enhancement, excess payment which the rent-collector appropriates.
4. <i>Kharcha</i>	... Or <i>kharcha dehi</i> , collection charges. This is another <i>abwab</i> realized by the landlord from the raiyats at the rate of one to two annas per rupee for meeting the collection expenses of the villages.
5. <i>Salami</i>	... Payment made to the malik or patwari when settlement is granted or mutation of entries effected in the <i>jamabandi</i> .
6. <i>Dak-behri</i>	... Dak-cess at quarter to half anna per rupee of rent annually payable by the raiyat.
7. <i>Bandh-behri</i>	... Emolument cess at quarter anna to one anna per rupee.
8. <i>Puibandi</i>	... An <i>abwab</i> realized from the raiyats for the ostensible object of repairing bridges. Rarely met with.
9. <i>Kotwali</i>	... A small fee levied yearly from the raiyats for the ostensible object of keeping up the rural police for protection of the raiyat's property from theft.

Abwab.	Short description.
10. <i>Batta or Batta Company.</i>	A very common <i>abwab</i> , generally levied at half anna to one anna per rupee, to compensate for short weight of rupees introduced by the East India Company. It is also levied for short weights of any kind of rupees for the time being in currency. In some villages even <i>darbattas</i> , i.e., <i>battas</i> upon <i>battas</i> are charged which means a further exaction on the amount of the <i>batta</i> on the original rental of the holding.
11. <i>Khunti</i> ...	An impost levied on cultivators at as. 12 to Re. 1-4-0 per bigha, for cultivating tobacco.
12. <i>Khapta</i> ...	Similar to the above, is levied for allowing the raiyats to raise special crops. This is generally levied on Koeris.
13. <i>Dawat Puja</i> ...	The worship of the inkpot on the 17th Kartik is observed by all Kayasthas. They are prohibited from using pen and ink on this day. The festival is made an occasion for realising one or two annas per rupee from the well-to-do raiyats who will pay it.

175. An exception to the general confusion about rents was found in the estates held by indigo factories as landlords. Here clear accounts are kept of the amounts due and of the amounts paid each year, and proper receipts are granted to the raiyats. There is consequently seldom any dispute as to the rent payable, and still more seldom any difficulty in ascertaining it. The special difficulty met with in estates held by factories as landlords is as to their status in the lands in their own direct cultivation. This subject will be discussed in the separate chapter on indigo.

176. In 1898-99 rent disputes were still the main difficulty, and they affected nearly 50 per cent. of the holdings, which came under attestation. Several unscrupulous landlords used the area slips made over to them before attestation to write up entirely fresh rent rolls, in which any difference between the raiyat's old area and his survey area was assessed to rent at the old, and in some cases higher rates. The identity of the survey area with the jamabandi area rendered these malpractices easy of detection at attestation, but in order to prevent them, a rule was laid down requiring all landlords, except a few who were above suspicion, to file copies of their rent-rolls before the area slips were made over to them.

177. In one village the landlord, failing to get possession of the area slips, took a copy of the village map from the survey department, extracted the areas of each plot, and wrote up new rent-rolls accordingly. Here again the identity of the survey and jamabandi areas led to a detection of the fraud, but the ingenuity displayed rendered it necessary to place restrictions on the supply before attestation of copies of the village map to landlords by the survey office, except with the Settlement Officer's permission, which was only granted, as a rule, on the village rent-rolls being filed.

178. In this area we first came across Rai Ganga Prasad, a wealthy Darbhanga banker, who has acquired extensive estates in the east of the district. This landlord exercises great influence over his raiyats, and this influence was often abused by his servants. The village accounts are in confusion and the proprietor's object seems to have been to collect as much as he could, without enquiring too closely into the methods adopted by his agents. We found that road cess was being systematically collected at the rate of one anna in the rupee, and when we recorded the legal maximum of half an anna, fresh rent-rolls were prepared in order to mislead the Assistant Settlement Officers, in which the excess half anna was shown as consolidated with the rent. This trickery was, however, discovered in time. Prior to our operations, the raiyats of the estate had been

completely in their landlord's power, and most of them were thoroughly cowed by the fact that such accounts as were kept, showed enormous outstanding arrears, and the threat of a civil suit for their recovery was constantly held over their heads. In the absence of proper rent receipts, the raiyats had practically no means of proving what their rents actually were, and most of the suits which had been brought concerning rent had been decided in favour of the landlord.

179. In one village on the banks of the Bagmati, he constructed an embankment, and got it registered as an improvement under the Tenancy Act. He then got the rents of some 25 tenants enhanced by more than 100 per cent. under section 30(c) of the Bengal Tenancy Act in the Civil Court, and the other raiyats, numbering about 400, yielded and agreed to pay a similar enhancement. The embankment burst soon after the civil suit had been decided and had never been repaired since, and, though the village suffered severely from floods, which destroyed the *bhadai* crops nearly every year and frequently the *oghani*, also, the landlord had managed to collect the greater part of his exorbitant demand, with the result that the raiyats were hopelessly involved in debt. As we found that the embankment was no longer effective, we applied the provisions of section 29(ii) to the case, and recorded as payable the rents which were entered in the jamabandi before the enhancement took place. The matter eventually came before the Special Judge, who upheld our action in all respects. It cannot be denied that, in a case of this kind, our officers, who are able to ascertain the full and complete facts by enquiry on the ground, are much more likely to arrive at a correct conclusion than a civil court, which must perforce rely mainly on the documentary evidence produced before it.

180. But the strongest justification for our operations was found in the Padri pargana in the south-east of Rusera thana. It has already been noted how the landlord, Babu Ganeshwar Singh, prevented his raiyats from coming forward to point out their lands during preliminary record-writing. During attestation we found that the state of things in the area was even worse than had been expected. Practically all the raiyats were holding their lands under registered contracts, which provided that they should give up their holdings at the end of five years, and that they should at any time be liable to ejection for non-payment of rent, or if they should grow indigo or opium in their lands. The latter prohibition is instructive. The Babu's villages are situated in a remote part of the district and his object evidently was to retain complete control over them and to prevent any intervention on the part of Government officers of the opium department or of European planters. The flagrantly illegal conditions restricting the growth of occupancy rights were of course ignored.

181. It was found, however, that the agreements also violated the provisions of the Tenancy Act regarding the enhancement by contract of the rents of occupancy raiyat. They had been executed in 1303 and the rents entered in them were much higher than those entered in the previous agreements of 1298, which again exceeded those shown in the rent-rolls of previous dates. In other words, the landlord had introduced a custom of enhancing rents every five years, and in many cases the last enhancement had resulted in an increase of the rent by eight annas in the rupee. Some of the rents were at the enormously high rates of Rs. 11-8-0 per bigha, whereas the average rent rate of the thana is only Rs. 4-1-10. Mr. Stevenson-Moore decided that the rents entered in the agreements of 1303 were not legally payable by occupancy-raiyats, inasmuch as rents had already been enhanced by contract in 1298 and were, therefore, not liable to further enhancement for 15 years under section 29(c) of the Bengal Tenancy Act. He accordingly directed the rents paid before the second enhancement to be recorded as the rents payable.

182. But even this did not solve the difficulty, for in most of the agreements no rental was mentioned, but only a rate per bigha, and it transpired that the Babu had in many villages been tampering with the *laggi* or measuring pole and had cut it down from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$ *haths*. The rents entered in the jamabandi had, therefore, been arrived at not merely by enhancement of rates, but by increase of the nominal areas to which those rates were applied. It therefore became necessary to prepare elaborate schedules in order to calculate the rent actually payable on the proper areas.

183. All this work greatly increased the expenditure on the operations in this area, and in the apportionment order for thana Rusera, Government directed that Babu Ganeshwar Singh should pay a sum of Rs. 4,500 over and above the amount due from him in the ordinary course. The former amount, which represented approximately the extra expenditure caused by the Babu's obstruction during preliminary record-writing and by the difficulties encountered at attestation, was recovered from him under protest by the certificate procedure. He subsequently brought a civil suit against Government for the recovery of the amount with damages, on the ground that the apportionment order was *ultra vires*, but the Subordinate Judge of Muzaffarpur dismissed his claim with costs.

184. There can be no doubt that Babu Ganeshwar Singh is the harshest and most oppressive landlord with whom we have yet had to deal in North Bihar. His wanton disregard of the law in all his dealings with his unfortunate tenantry has already been described. But an even more striking illustration of his oppressive conduct is to be found in his method of realising rents. Instead of collecting in four instalments like most landlords, it was his custom to collect 14 annas of the demand at the beginning of the agricultural year and two annas at the end. As few of the raiyats could pay the first instalment in cash, the practice was for the mahajan in each village to advance the money for them. The mahajan got all the receipts and kept them until the harvest, when he went to the raiyats' threshing floors, accompanied by several of the Babu's peons, and forcibly took away grain to recoup himself for his advance, 20 to 25 per cent. being deducted from the fair market price in lieu of interest. That the raiyats should have stood this scandalous and disgraceful oppression so long without open revolt, is striking evidence of their patience and tractability, and of the necessity for preparing a record of their rights.

185. The Babu has made several attempts to get our proceedings upset. He petitioned the Board for a re-attestation on the ground that our officers were prejudiced against him, but his application was rejected, the Board remarking that the officers responsible for the work in this area were "to be commended for their exertions to defeat the endeavours of the zamindar to frustrate the whole object of the Bihar Survey proceedings." He has brought several suits in the Civil Court with the object of discrediting the record-of-rights and of recovering higher rents than those which we recorded as payable. In one comparatively unimportant case, the Munsiff found that about 400 bighas of land, which we had declared to be *raiya*, was *zirat* within the meaning of section 120 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. An appeal is pending in the High Court regarding this decision. But it is satisfactory that in all the rent suits, the Civil Court has upheld the rents recorded by us as payable.

186. Since our operations brought the raiyats a knowledge of their rights, they have on the whole behaved with remarkable self-restraint. They have naturally resisted the Babu's attempt to exact from them the old illegal rents, and this has occasionally led to a few slight disturbances. But they have throughout expressed their willingness to pay the rents recorded by us as payable, and a satisfactory settlement on these terms is now in progress. Mr. Maddox, the Collector, has induced the landlord to accept from the raiyats such arrears of the rent recorded by us as are not barred by limitation, and clear receipts up to the end of the last agricultural year are being granted to the raiyats who pay this. A large number have already agreed to these terms and there is little doubt that practically all the tenants will follow their example. The landlord has had a lesson which he will not readily forget, and if he treats his raiyats with ordinary consideration and regard for their rights, there is no reason why the future of the pargana should not be as peaceful and prosperous as its past has been dark and turbulent.

187. The most important landlords in the Madhubani subdivision other than the Darbhanga Raj, are the Madhubani Babus. Their estates are not in a satisfactory condition. There is an European manager, but sufficient control is not exercised over the local agents, and abuses are allowed to pass unchecked. The village papers are

often untrustworthy, and most of them show constant tampering with and enhancement of rents. The result was a very large crop of rent disputes at attestation and many of them were difficult to decide. Of one village, Lachmi-pur, the attestation officer, Babu Bipin Bibari Banerji writes : " within a short time before attestation, the jamabandis had been recast with a view to get enhanced rents attested. But the raiyats disputed the rents claimed by the landlord in every *khatian*. The *patwari* on examination admitted having recast the jamabandi, but the Babus declined to produce the old jamabandi. The rents stated by the raiyats were therefore attested." In another village, Pandaul, the jamabandis showed great and continual enhancements within the past 15 years. The raiyats bitterly disputed the rents claimed by the Babus, and their collection papers were found to be quite untrustworthy. Eventually, attestation was carried out on the basis of a jamabandi found in the office of the Raj, which was a recent purchaser of a share in the village, and whose predecessor in interest had not joined the Babus in making the illegal enhancements. Similar cases were found all over the area, haphazard and unjustifiable enhancements resulting in non-payment of rent, dispute and litigation.

188. The most striking example of this was found in Taluka Laheri, where, as already noted, owing to the misconduct and oppression of the Babus' local agents, the raiyats revolted in a body about ten years ago, refused to pay any rent, and set up one of themselves as landlord. The disturbances arising out of this condition of affairs necessitated the quartering of special police in the area for many years, and obliged the Babus to bring an expensive civil suit to re-establish their title and possession. But though they had won this nearly three years before attestation began, they had not ventured to collect any rent whatever or to exercise any of the ordinary rights of proprietors. The raiyats had encroached and taken up lands as they pleased, without any reference to those whom the Civil Court had declared to be their rightful landlords. Even at attestation they refused to acknowledge the Babus their landlords or to state any rents, as payable to them. The Babus had admittedly collected no rent for ten years, and attestation had to be carried out on the basis of an old jamabandi current before the revolt began. This was in most cases very advantageous to the raiyats, as they had utilised the period of the Babus' virtual expulsion from the village to increase, very largely in many cases, the original size of their holdings. Even now that the record has been finally published, the Babus find it difficult to collect rent in this area, and it will be many years before the distrust and ill-feeling caused by mismanagement and misconduct are removed.

189. Small proprietors abound in the area round Darbhanga town and in the north of Benipatti and Khajauli thanas as well as in the Samastipur subdivision. The main features of the work in their villages were suppression of the rights of low caste tenants, who were sometimes prevented by force from claiming their lands, and in the case of better class tenants, disputes about rents and possession, often rendered difficult of decision owing to deliberate falsification of accounts and papers by both parties.

190. Though the origin of rent disputes can generally be traced back to an illegal enhancement or to an attempt to consolidate illegal cesses with the rent, it must not be supposed that the raiyats are always blameless in the matter. Thus in one village in Dalsingh Sarai thana, mainly inhabited by Rajputs, the proprietors were new purchasers. The raiyats had combined to pay no rent and the landlords had no papers whatever showing the rent payable. The village had, before the purchase, been in lease to an indigo factory, which had recently changed hands. All the old village servants had been dismissed or gained over by the raiyats, and no information could be got from them. Some of the new proprietors in despair allowed their shares to be put up for sale in default of payment of Government revenue, and the raiyats at attestation stated rents which actually amounted to less than the Government revenue demand. Fortunately Maulavi Ashfaq Hussain, the attestation officer, learnt by diligent enquiry that a former *patwari* of the village was living about eight miles off. Without saying a word to any one, he started off, reached this person's house at daybreak, and was fortunately able to secure from him a complete set of papers,

showing the rents payable to the indigo factory during the period of the lease. The raiyats' attempt to defraud the new proprietors was thus frustrated.

191. The village of Jogiara in the north-west of Darbhanga thana gave a good deal of trouble. The raiyats are mainly Rajputs, and are descendants of the former proprietors of the village, who were sold up about 60 years ago, when the village was purchased by a Nawab resident in Muzaffarpur. The best lands of the village were, however, retained by the Rajputs, and the Nawab, finding it impossible to collect any rents from them, made over the village in trust to Government, the income being applied to the support of the Muzaffarpur Zila School. The estate is now managed by the Collector of Darbhanga. At attestation, the Rajputs applied to be recorded as raiyats at fixed rates, on the ground that their rents had not been changed for 20 years. This was true, but as their raiyati interest had only come into existence after they had lost their proprietary rights, the Collector had no difficulty in rebutting the presumption arising under section 50(2) of the Tenancy Act, that raiyats, whose rent rates have not been changed for 20 years, have held since the permanent settlement. The claim for fixity of rate was accordingly disallowed, and the tenants were recorded as ordinary settled raiyats. On this, the Rajputs adopted a most refractory attitude and absented themselves for some days from attestation altogether. A few judicious fines and the tact of the attestation officer, Maulavi Syed Ahmad Ali Khan, soon brought them to their senses, but the case shows that it is not only landlords, who are responsible for making unfounded and unreasonable claims.

192. In another case, the rejection of unfounded claims as to rent led to a serious disturbance in the attestation camp. In Turbulent raiyats. village Tatuara in Bahera thana, the majority of the tenants, led by a few non-resident Brahmins, disputed the landlords' statements and claimed to be holding at absurdly low rates. In support of their assertion, they put forward receipts which were obviously fictitious, whereas the landlords' papers were amply corroborated by independent evidence. When the Assistant Settlement Officer announced his intention of adopting the latter in the record of rents, the Brahmins shouted to the raiyats to leave the camp, and when remonstrated with by the camp peons, began to brandish *lathis* and to break down the bamboo enclosure surrounding the Assistant Settlement Officer's court. After a police enquiry, the ringleaders were prosecuted for rioting, and were convicted by the Magistrate and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The convictions were, however, set aside by the Sessions Judge, on the ground that the evidence did not establish the existence of any unlawful assembly or common object.

193. The case incidentally raised the point as to whether Attestation Officers are Revenue Courts. A few of the principal participants in the disturbance, who were arrested on the spot, were fined by the Assistant Settlement Officer for contempt of court under section 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The fines were, however, set aside by the Sessions Judge on the ground that there was nothing to show that the Assistant Settlement Officer was sitting as a court when the disturbance took place. The matter was referred to the Legal Remembrancer, who expressed the opinion that Assistant Settlement Officers, engaged in the preparation of a record-of-rights, do sit as Revenue Courts, while engaged in ascertaining and recording the particulars mentioned in section 102 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, inasmuch as, under the Government rules framed under section 189, they have been vested with the powers of a Civil Court for the purpose. In accordance with Circular no. 45S., dated 30th December 1901 from the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, a form has now been prescribed for the use of attestation officers, who find it necessary to take action under section 480 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the object being to comply with the provisions of section 481, to prevent Assistant Settlement Officers from misusing their powers under section 480, and to make clear to appellate courts the judicial nature of their proceedings. It is clearly inadvisable that Assistant Settlement Officers should have recourse to the criminal law more than is absolutely necessary, and this is prevented by a rule requiring Assistant Settlement

The powers of Attestation Officers as Revenue Courts.

Officers to report to the Settlement Officer all cases in which they find it necessary to inflict fines for contempt of their lawful authority.

194. A new raiyati tenancy of some interest was found in Bahera thana. It is known as *jaidadi*, the word *jaidad* meaning a crop. In the large *chauras* or marshes which are characteristic of the area, a crop can only be grown in an exceptionally dry year, and the cultivators pay rent for such lands only in the year in which a crop is grown, and only for such areas as produce a crop. These areas are measured at the time of the harvest and pay either a cash rent at a rate previously agreed upon or a produce rent. For areas in which the crop, though sown, has been destroyed by floods, no rent is charged. Though most of the raiyats take up the same lands in the years in which cultivation is practicable, they strongly objected to their being entered in the same khatians as those of their ordinary holdings, as they feared that, if this were done, they might be compelled to pay rent for them every year, whether they produced a crop or not. The tenures were thus clearly of an *utbandi* nature, and the Director of Land Records ordered that they should in all cases be entered in khatians separate from those in which the ordinary lands of the raiyat's holdings were recorded. A raiyat was not held to have occupancy rights in such lands, unless he had held them continuously for 12 years. The rate of rent payable for the land when cultivated, or the produce rent was entered in the column for incidents of the tenancy. The entries made under these rules were received with complete satisfaction by the landlords and raiyats concerned, and not a single objection was filed regarding them.

195. The bulk of our work in the last two seasons was carried out in villages belonging to the Darbhanga Raj, and requires special description. The area is divided into six main circles,—Hya Ghat, Rohika, Rajnagar, Jhanjharpur, Ahis and Alapur, and in all of them except the last two we had a certain amount of trouble in ascertaining the rents payable. But before proceeding to describe this, I must acknowledge the great advantages, which we enjoyed in dealing with Raj villages, as compared with those of ordinary proprietors. In the first place, absolute reliance could be placed on the trustworthiness of all the Raj rent rolls and collection papers. Whether the Raj demand was legal or not, was often a question of considerable difficulty, but no attempt was ever made to strengthen the Raj claim by showing fictitious collections. In other words we were always sure of our facts and had only to apply the law to them, an advantage which can only be fully appreciated by those who have had to deal with the estates of ordinary native proprietors, where it is not always possible to surmount satisfactorily the first and main difficulty of getting at the facts.

196. The second great advantage of the Raj area was that it had all been surveyed by Mr. Finucane in 1876—1878, except the villages belonging to the Ahis Circle and a few others, which had been recently purchased. Unfortunately, it was only in Alapur that Mr. Finucane's survey was followed by the preparation of a record-of-rights, and in a large part of the tract the jamabandis had never been revised according to Mr. Finucane's areas. But even when we had only Mr. Finucane's map and khasra to refer to, they were invariably of the greatest use in deciding questions of possession, by affording a sure basis from which to start and indicating precisely the state of things at a given date regarding the facts of possession of the disputed area.

197. It was most unfortunate both for the Raj and for its raiyats that except in Alapur, no record-of-rights and more especially of rents, was prepared after Mr. Finucane's survey, for, as I shall show, the state of uncertainty regarding rents, which prevailed over a large part of the Raj estates, was due directly to alterations of the rent-roll in the period which elapsed between Mr. Finucane's survey and our operations. The first enhancement was made in 1884, when the late Maharaja came of age and the estate passed out of the hand of the Court of Wards. It amounted to a four to eight annas increase per bigha on the former rental and in many cases to more, owing to a general levelling up of rates. Thus, in one large taluka or group of villages

prior to the enhancement, there were three rates for *dhanhar* land, Rs. 4-2, Rs. 3-11, and Rs. 2. At the enhancement, all *dhanhar* land was assessed at one rate, Rs. 4-8. The increase was not in all cases so harsh as this, and where it was fairly moderate it was generally acquiesced in by the raiyat. But in many villages the majority of the raiyats, and in most villages some of them, passively resisted, as they had a perfect right to resist, enhancements made in this arbitrary manner.

198. No attempt was made to execute a contract with each individual.

The Sharanama system.

Sharanamas on behalf of the whole village were executed by the Jeth raiyats, agreeing to the new rates. In Raj villages, these Jeth raiyats are practically the landlords' servants, as they collect the rents, and are paid for doing so, either by a remission of part of their own rent or by a percentage on their collections. In any case, their admission could not bind the other raiyats unless it could be shown that they too had agreed to the enhancement. The fact that they had not agreed was shown by their payments. In many cases, the rent collections since the enhancement did not exceed 50 per cent. of the nominal demand. Further, many of the raiyats had refused to take receipts with the enhanced rental entered upon them, and receipts had been issued to them with this column blank. No attempt had been made by the Raj to enforce collections through the Civil Court.

199. As the enhancement had taken place before the passing of the

The raiyats' passive resistance.

Tenancy Act, the provisions of section 29, limiting its amount to two annas in the rupee did not apply. The only question was whether the raiyats had agreed to pay the enhanced rents. In the absence of any specific agreement, the fact that the raiyats had not paid the enhanced rents and that they had refused to take receipts with the enhanced rents entered on them, showed that they had been no parties to the contract. The Raj claimed that the rents shown in their rent rolls should be recorded as payable. The raiyats urged that they had never agreed to pay those rents and never had paid them. In every case, therefore, a schedule of collections had to be drawn out, and where it was shown that raiyats had never agreed to the Raj demand and had never paid it, the rents as they stood before the enhancement of 1884 were recorded as payable.

200. This, however, was the simplest case of all. In most of the villages

Further readjustment of rent.

of the Rohika Circle and in a considerable part of Jhanjharpur, a further readjustment of rent had taken place since 1884. Entirely fresh rent rolls had been written up in which Mr. Finucane's areas were entered for the first time. Those areas had been assessed to rent usually at the 1884 rates, no allowance being made for the fact that Mr. Finucane's survey was much more rigid and accurate than the rough measurement with a pole, on which the former jamabandi areas were based. In many cases, lands had been reclassified and this had resulted sometimes in an increase and sometimes in a reduction of the original rent. These operations were much more systematically carried out than in the case of the 1884 enhancement. Each raiyat was called up and his new area and rental were explained to him. As an inducement to him to accept the new rental, he was offered a remission of all outstanding arrears, and most of the raiyats agreed to these terms.

201. On the whole the readjustment of rents in the Rohika Circle

The Rohika Circle.

was fairly and carefully done by the Sub-Manager, Mr. R. S. King, but he had totally ignored the provisions of section 29 of the Tenancy Act, limiting the enhancement of the rent of an occupancy raiyat by contract between himself and his landlord, to two annas in the rupee. In many cases, the new rent exceeded the old rent by much more than this, and it became necessary to draw up statements to show how much of the increase was due to excess area and how much to enhancement of rate. After making the usual allowance of 2 kathas per bigha to cover the difference in system between Mr. Binucane's survey and the original measurement, it was generally found in the Rohika Circle villages that the increase due to actual enhancement of rate was within the prescribed limit of two annas in the rupee. But in Jhanjharpur, the work had not been carried out so carefully or considerately, and we found many instances where the readjustment had

resulted in illegal enhancement. In all these cases, we recorded as payable the rent as it stood before the readjustment, leaving the Raj to apply for a fair rent under section 105.

202. In the Rajnagar Circle, the rent question was still more complicated. The area was surveyed under the supervision of Mr. Finucane in 1878, but his areas were not incorporated in the rent rolls until some years later. In 1883 an enhancement was effected in a somewhat curious manner. A certain area in each holding was set aside as paying a produce rent of 10 maunds a bigha. This area was not defined on the ground, but was fixed by taking a certain proportion of the area, generally one or two kathas in the bigha. The rent was, however, not paid in kind, but was commuted to cash at the rate of two maunds per rupee. Thus a bigha of the so-called *mankhap* area paid at the rate of Rs. 5. About 1891, this rate was doubled by the expedient of changing the rate at which the produce was commuted from two maunds per rupee to one maund per rupee. This did not necessarily lead to an enhancement exceeding two annas in the rupee on the total rent, as the *mankhap* area generally formed only a small proportion of the total area of the holding. When, therefore, the new rent did not exceed the old rent by more than two annas in the rupee, and had been actually paid for three continuous years, or had been agreed to by a registered *kabuliat*, it was the rent legally payable under section 29 of the Tenancy Act. But there was a further enhancement of rent two years later, when Mr. Finucane's maps and khasaras were revised, and his areas were introduced for the first time into the rent rolls of the majority of the villages. As was the case elsewhere, no allowance was made for the greater accuracy of Mr. Finucane's survey, as compared with the rough measurement on which the previous areas were based. The whole of the nominal difference was assessed to rent, and frequently the increase thus obtained was exaggerated by a reclassification of the lands composing a holding. There were few cases, therefore, in which this readjustment did not amount to an enhancement, and as it had taken place within two years of the previous *mankhap* enhancement, it was illegal under section 29 (c) of the Act in the case of occupancy raiyats. We were compelled, therefore, as a rule to disregard it, and to record as payable the rents settled at the *mankhap* enhancement. In some villages, matters were further complicated by private measurements and alterations of area which had taken place between Mr. Finucane's survey and the general readjustment of rents in 1893, but enough has been said to show that it was an extremely difficult task to ascertain the rents payable in this area, and as a matter of fact, elaborate schedules had to be drawn out for each tenant, showing the effects of the various readjustments on the rent and area of each holding.

203. It was also necessary to scrutinise very carefully in this area collections of rent as evidence of actual payment. In many cases, the frequent tampering with rents had naturally resulted in bad collections and the accumulation of heavy arrears. The raiyats had been summoned in to the Raj office, and in one room had been given a nominal loan for the amount of the arrears, for which they had to execute a bond, and on presentation of this in the next room they were given clear receipts. No cash transaction took place at all, and in many cases the amount covered by the bond included arrears of rent which the Raj would have been barred by limitation from recovering in the Civil Court. This enforced payment of demands, which were often illegal, could hardly be regarded without suspicion.

204. On the whole it may be said that the constant alterations of the rent-roll which have been going on during the last twenty years have benefited the Raj no more than the raiyats. In the two circles of Ahis and Alapur, where no change has been made in rents, matters were very different. Ahis had only come into direct possession of the Raj in 1888, owing to the lapse of a maintenance grant, and no attempt had been made to alter the rents previously prevalent. Babu Atul Chandra Kerr, the experienced Assistant Settlement Officer, who attested both Ahis and the neighbouring portion of the Jhanjharpur Circle, thus describes the difference between them: "Matters were all in a mess when attestation commenced in these villages (Jhanjharpur). The rents claimed by the Raj

differed in almost all cases from those admitted by the raiyats. The rent receipts granted to the raiyats did not show the area and rental of the holdings for which they were granted. The Raj papers did not show the existing state of things. Hardly any mutation had been registered for years past on account of the raiyats refusing to accept the enhanced jamabandi rental. I had therefore to prepare two rather detailed schedules in almost all cases, one to show the different changes in the rental and area of holdings since 1290, and the second to show the annual collections. Even after making allowance for special causes such as famine years, etc., there was hardly a case in which the Raj had collected the enhanced rents, and the rents as existing prior to the enhancement had to be recorded as payable. In Ahis on the other hand, things were quite different and smooth-going. There was no enhancement in these villages. The old rates had been kept intact until now. If any raiyat made an objection to his rent, the sub-manager was always able to polish it off by reference to his papers, and if any mistake was found in them at the attestation table, it may be noted to his credit that he was always willing to reduce the rents claimed."

205. This description points its own moral. There can be no doubt as to the answer to the question: Is it better for the Raj or for any other proprietor to force up its demands, at the risk of failure in collections and alienation of the sympathy of the tenantry, or to rest content with a moderate demand which is paid cheerfully and willingly? Of course there may be special cases in which reasons exist for enhancing a raiyat's rent, but if the enhancement sought exceeds the limit imposed by the Tenancy Act on enhancement by contract, the Civil or Revenue Court are the proper judges as to the existence or non-existence of circumstances justifying special enhancements. The landlords and tenants are not either in fact or in law competent judges on these points. The wise landlord is he, who does not attempt to enhance rents by contract beyond the limit prescribed by law, and he will take advantage even of these provisions sparingly and cautiously. The raiyats may agree to a moderate enhancement at the time, to save themselves from worse hardships. But it will inevitably leave a certain feeling of soreness, and repeated enhancements will drive the most docile raiyats into rebellion.

206. The loss sustained by the Raj, owing to their failure to follow up Mr. Finucane's survey by the preparation of a proper record, was most strikingly exemplified by the state of the Alapur Circle. This is the only area in which Mr. Finucane was able to carry on his operations to their legitimate conclusion. The rents and holdings of every raiyat were accurately ascertained and recorded by him. The records have been maintained more or less completely up to date, and no attempt has been made to alter or to enhance rent rates. Rents have been realised practically in full, and there were less than a dozen rent disputes at attestation in the whole area. Disputes regarding other matters were not numerous and were easily settled to the satisfaction of all concerned by a reference to Mr. Finucane's papers. As Government remarked in the resolution on the Survey and Settlements report for 1900-1901: "These results are evidence of the value of settlement even without Government revision."

207. The main difficulty of attestation in Darbhanga was to ascertain the rents payable. Other matters of course forced themselves on our attention, such as the belief shared by landlords and tenants alike, that the latter could have or acquire no rights in lands held on a produce rent, the manner in which certain landlords prevented their raiyats from coming forward to claim their lands, and cases of illegal ejection by petty proprietors. But these difficulties were mainly met and overcome during preliminary record-writing, and did not reappear at attestation, for the district, as a whole, is one of big proprietors, whose interest is not to acquire for themselves areas of land which they cannot cultivate, but is practically confined to the rent which they can realise from the tenant to whom the land is let out. Status is a matter of little difficulty in a district where over 90 per cent. of the holdings are held by settled raiyats who have lived in their villages for generations

But the raiyat's status, apart from the protection which it gives him against illegal ejectment, is mainly of importance as regards his rent.

208. Now there can be no doubt that in Darbhanga, the provisions of the Tenancy Act, limiting the enhancement of rent by contract, have hitherto been flagrantly disregarded or rather ignored. Even in the Rohika Circle of the Darbhanga Raj, where the adjustment of rents was on the whole considerably made, and where the new rents were, as a rule, moderate and such as might have been settled as fair by any court, the operations had been carried out without the slightest regard to the legal rights of the tenants, and we found the Raj officials absolutely ignorant of the provisions of the law limiting enhancement by contract to two annas in the rupee. In fact all through the Raj area, what we found objectionable was not so much that the rents claimed were unfair (except in parts of Rajnagar, where the *mankhap* system seems absolutely indefensible), as that they had been fixed arbitrarily and without regard to the rights of the raiyats under the law. What the raiyats objected to was not that the rents were such as they could not afford to pay, and still less that they were illegal (for they were absolutely ignorant of their legal rights), but that constant changes in the rent roll destroyed all security. And it must be remembered that the fluctuations of rent, though perhaps more noticeable in the Raj villages, were undoubtedly far more numerous in those belonging to other proprietors. For it was the completeness of the Raj papers and the ungrudging manner, in which, as I have already acknowledged, they were placed at our disposal, which enabled us to trace the history of enhancements in the Raj area in such detail. In the district, as a whole, the canker, which has mainly affected agricultural prosperity, is the constant tampering with rent rolls and consequent uncertainty as to rents. If our operations put a stop to this, they will have conferred no mean benefit on the district.

209. Nor need we be without hope that this result will ensue. The state of the Alapur pargana, before Mr. Finucane's settlement began, was quite as bad as, if not worse than, that of many parts of the district at the present day. A Commission, which was appointed to enquire into the state of the area in 1875, remarked on the poverty-stricken condition of the tenants, and reported that it was alleged that a large number of them had fled from their homes to avoid the burden of debt due to enhanced rents. Mr. Finucane himself went more deeply into the matter. He ascribed the depressed state of the area to four main causes, (1) failure of the rice crop in 1874-75, (2) the irregular system hitherto in force of realising arrears of rent by distraint, (3) the exactions of low class subordinates, and (4) the system of letting out villages on short term leases to native thikadars, who had no permanent connection with the village, and whose one object it was to make as much as they could out of it during the term of their leases. As to the rent-rates he remarks:— "It is only necessary to say that, the more the depressed condition of the raiyats is attributed to the causes indicated above, the less there is left to be accounted for by the enhanced rates of rent. The removal of the causes just referred to made a very great reduction of rent-rates unnecessary." The measures taken to remove the causes were, firstly, a reform in the system of management and administration, and secondly, "and even more important," (again to quote from Mr. Finucane), "the field to field measurement and settlement by the exchange of *pattas* and *kabuliyats* by which every raiyat is put in possession of (what he had not before), the means of knowing the exact area of his holding and the exact amount of rent for which he is responsible."

210. It is evident, therefore, that what the area suffered from was not so much oppressive rents, as uncertainty about rents. This is not an inaccurate description of the state of the greater part of the district before our operations began. As we have seen, Alapur, after enjoying the benefits of a record for more than twenty years, is now practically free from agrarian dispute of any kind. If our proceedings effect for the district as a whole anything like what Mr. Finucane did for Alapur, we shall have no cause to be dissatisfied with the result of our work.

Draft publication.

211. The following statement shows the progress made in this branch of the work year by year :—

Year.	Number of villages attested.	Number of villages draft published.
1897-1898	599	585
1898-1899	833	846
1899-1900	526	527
1900-1901	949	949
1901-1902	480	480
Total	3,387	3,387

212. Before the Amendment Act came into force in November 1898, draft publication had to be postponed till after the settlement of fair rents, or until the time allowed for filing applications for the settlement of fair rents had expired. Owing to the small number of applications filed in the villages attested in 1897-1898, the delay caused by the old procedure was not serious, and as all the work of subsequent seasons has been carried out under the Amendment Act, the bulk of the draft publication in the district has been done from the attestation camp within a few days of attestation. This adds greatly to the efficiency of the work in every way. Under the old system, when draft publication was carried out from the headquarters office many months after the completion of attestation, proper supervision was impossible, and it was found that little interest was taken in the work by the people. Now, however, the work is always going on within a few miles of the attestation camp. The kanungo works directly under the attestation officer and is subject to constant surprise visits of inspection. But most important of all, the publication is carried out while the record is still fresh in the minds of the people, and before the interest aroused by the attestation proceedings has had time to evaporate.

213. The greater efficacy of draft publication, carried out in this manner, in securing the accuracy of the record, is shown by the larger number of objections under section 103A, filed both in Saran and Darbhanga after the Amendment Act came into force. Further, each kanungo is required during draft publication to keep a list of all mistakes and omissions brought to his notice. This is put up before the attestation officer daily and orders are passed in presence of the parties affected. It is found that people will come into the attestation camp readily to get petty mistakes and omissions set right, which they would not trouble to bring to light, if this involved a journey to headquarters after the close of the attestation season; and the system here described has greatly raised the standard of accuracy in the records filed in the headquarters office after attestation.

214. Draft publication is invariably carried out in the village concerned. The kanungos selected are men of experience and respectability, and their appointment is made by the Director of Land Records on the nomination of the Settlement Officer. Their

duty is to read out every entry in every part of the record, and they are required to initial each page in token that this has been properly done.

Objections under section 103A.

215. After draft publication in the village, the record is kept open for the inspection of the parties concerned, in the attestation camp for one month, and they are allowed to take copies of it under suitable supervision. During this time, objections to any entry in or omission from the record are received, and in Darbhanga the period allowed for filing objections was frequently extended in the case of big landlords, who had several villages under publication at about the same time. Every encouragement was given to the parties to file objections, and it was always recognised that they were a valuable aid towards securing accuracy in the record. In Darbhanga a larger number of objections was filed than in any other district of Bihar, the figures being :—

District.	Number of objections filed.	Number of objections per square mile.
Darbhanga	76,601	23
Saran	66,105	27
Muzaffarpur	34,271	11
Champaran	12,432	4

216. Champaran was of course exceptional, but the main reason for the greater number of objections filed in Saran and Darbhanga, as compared with Muzaffarpur, was undoubtedly the new procedure introduced by the Amendment Act, whereby draft publication followed immediately on attestation. Several circumstances co-operated to produce this result. In the first place, as has been shown, draft publication is much more efficiently carried out under the Amendment Act, and arouses much greater interest among the people, who are able to get a better and fuller knowledge of the contents of the record than was formerly possible. Then, under the old Act, fair rents were settled before draft publication, and, in the course of the fair rent proceedings, many alterations and corrections were made in the record, which now form the subject of objections under section 103A. Further, as will be seen, nearly half of the objections now filed relate to rents, and under the former procedure, if there was any dispute as to the existing rent, an issue was generally framed regarding the matter and finally decided in the course of the fair rent proceedings; and even if no formal issue was framed, it was not worth while for the landlord, having got a fair rent settled, to raise an objection as to the entry of the rent payable before the settlement. And, finally, there can be no doubt that the shortening of the period, within which objections have to be filed, tends to multiply them. Formerly when several months elapsed between attestation and the end of the period allowed for filing objections, there was time for mutual discussion and reconciliation among the parties and for the stronger to bring pressure to bear on the weaker. But now the objections have to be brought, while the party who lost his case at attestation is still sore with the sense of defeat, and as an objection only costs him eight annas to file, he puts one in as a matter of course, if he has anything of a case and very frequently even if he has not. I have thought it worth while to go into the matter thus fully, because the increase in the number of objections, filed after the Amendment Act came into force, gave rise to the apprehension that it might be due to a deterioration in the decision of disputes at khanapuri and at attestation. Very full enquiries were accordingly made into the matter, and in his report for the year 1899-1900, Mr. Lyon stated that the results had convinced him that the apprehension was unfounded.

The number of objections. 217. The thanawar distribution of objections is shown in the following statement:—

NAME OF THANA.	Number of section 103A, objections filed.	Area of thana in square miles.	Number of objections per square mile.	PERCENTAGE OF CASES FILED IN THE THANA.		REMARKS.
				To the district total.	To the number of holdings in the thana.	
Benipatti ...	5,964	270	22.09	7.8	7.1	
Khajauli ...	4,460	323	13.8	5.8	6.6	
Phulparas ...	7,888	455	17.3	10.3	7.9	
Madhubani ...	6,944	297	23.4	9.0	6.9	
Darbhanga ...	16,448	425	38.7	21.5	9.3	
Bahera ...	12,289	448	27.4	16.0	9.0	
Rusera ...	9,273	347	26.4	12.2	9.1	
Warisnagar ...	3,117	196	15.9	4.0	4.5	
Samastipur ...	5,943	296	20.07	7.8	4.9	
Dalsingh Sarai ...	4,275	251	17.03	5.8	5.2	
Total ...	76,601	3,308	23.2	100.	7.4	

218. Darbhanga was the most litigious thana in every respect. It accounts for the largest number of objections, or over a fifth of the total. It has also the highest average of objections per square mile, and an objection was raised to nearly one khatian in every ten. The area is mainly held by petty proprietors, in whose estates the greatest confusion about rents and possession was found at attestation. No less than 75 per cent. of the rents were disputed at that stage, and more than half of the objections filed related to this matter. Another cause of the large number of objections is undoubtedly the fact that the thana contains the headquarters station. It is invariably found that facility for obtaining legal advice tends in a very high degree to increase litigation of all kinds during settlement proceedings. The two thanas, marked by the highest proportion of objections after Darbhanga are Bahera and Rusera, where the conditions are very similar, except as regards proximity to headquarters. The thanas, with the smallest proportion of objections, are Warisnagar, Dalsingh Sarai, Phulparas and Khajauli. In the two former the chief landlords are indigo factories, who are on good terms with their raiyats. The greater part of Phulparas belongs to the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and in the area, for which a record was prepared by Mr. Finucane, there were, as has already been stated, very few disputes of any kind. Khajauli is mainly covered by the Rajnagar Circle of the Darbhanga Raj, and though the rents recorded as payable at attestation were pruned of illegal enhancements, the Raj apparently felt that it would be useless to challenge our action under section 103A, and only filed objections in a few cases where there had been mistakes of calculation.

219. The objections filed require no detailed description, as the matters' raised by them, were the same as have already been mentioned in dealing with attestation. A thanawar Nature of the objections.

classification statement will be found in the appendix. The following is an abstract :—

NATURE OF OBJECTION.	NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS.			Percentage to grand total.
	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Total.	
Zirat claims	229	406	635	·82
Possession	9,916	17,322	27,238	35·54
Money-rent	12,352	24,472	36,824	48·07
Produce-rent	2,624	8,130	5,754	7·51
Status	449	760	1,209	1·57
Title	415	856	1,301	1·71
Trees	1,468	1,163	2,631	3·42
Measurement	207	180	387	·55
Rent-free claims	258	864	622	·81
GRAND TOTAL ...	27,918	48,683	76,601	100·

220. Thirty-six per cent. of the objections filed were allowed and 64 per cent. disallowed. The variations from the general average are unimportant, except as regards objections concerning trees and measurement, of which more were allowed than disallowed. The tree cases were nearly all filed by the Darbhanga Raj, which originally claimed a half share in the timber of all trees cut or felled on its estates. But this claim was eventually withdrawn, except as regards trees grown on lands let out at specially low rates with a reservation of a share in the timber rights to the Raj. Many claims that orchard land was of this nature were either not put forward at attestation through oversight, or were put forward with insufficient proof, and the Raj was consequently compelled to reopen the matter under section 103A. As, however, it rarely did so unless it had a fairly strong case, it is not surprising that the majority of the objections regarding trees were allowed.

221. The objections, regarding measurement, were not numerous, which speaks well for the work of the survey department, both in the field and as regards area extraction in office. The high proportion of objections of this kind which were allowed, is of course due to the fact that the parties do not, as a rule, trouble about petty discrepancies of area, and that large discrepancies are generally due to mistakes in measurement.

222. The most numerous class of objections concerned money-rent, and these accounted for nearly half of the total number. But even these do not indicate any serious discontent with the record of rents made at attestation, for rent objections were filed regarding less than four per cent. of the total number of raiyati holdings in the district, and little more than one per cent. of the rents, recorded at attestation, were found to require alteration. Considering the difficulties encountered at attestation in ascertaining the rents payable, this result is not unsatisfactory and shows, it may be hoped, that the landlords and tenants, generally, are not unwilling to accept our record of rents as a relief from the condition of uncertainty and confusion, which previously prevailed.

223. Next to rent, the most numerous class of objections related to possession. These were, of course, most numerous in the areas where petty proprietors predominated, and over two-thirds of them were filed by landlords. Disputes, as to whether land was held on a cash or produce-rent, accounted for 7½ per cent. of the total and were most numerous in the northern half of the district, where the Madhubani Babus and the numerous Mahants, in the Madhubani Sub-division, find it convenient to collect a good deal of their rents in kind. Objections, regarding other matters, form an insignificant proportion of the total.

Office Work.

224. As soon as all the section 103A objections in a village have been decided, or if there are no objections, when the time allowed for filing them has expired, the record comes into the headquarters office to be prepared for final publication. As on this stage of the work depends very largely the accuracy of the record-of-rights to which a presumption of correctness is attached by law, some description of it is necessary. The subject may, however, be treated briefly, firstly, because a full description has been given in the Muzaffarpur final report, and secondly, because the rules relating to it have lately been codified and printed.

225. When the record first comes into the office, it is subjected to a thorough overhaul and check, known as *janch*, at the hands of a peshkar and his staff of munsarims. Every individual order affecting the record, whether passed on a boundary dispute, or during preliminary record-writing or at attestation, or on an objection under section 103A, is examined and the corresponding correction of the record checked. Formerly when objections were filed long after attestation, the record used to be corrected at this stage in accordance with the orders passed on them; but now that all objections are filed simultaneously and tried at one time, it is found to be cheaper and more efficacious to have the correction of the record carried out in the camp, under the supervision of the officer who decided the objections. After the correction and rearrangement of the record has been completed in office, the *tirij* or index of the khatians is revised and re-written. As every plot in the village has to be accounted for during this process, it affords an opportunity for the check of the village areas and a final revision of the crop and cultivation statistics.

226. The record having been thus completely checked, is now ready for copying. Three copies are prepared, the first to form the record-of-rights and to be finally published and made over to the Collector, and the others for distribution to the landlords and raiyats respectively. The Collectorate copy is now written with a special ink in order to prevent subsequent fraudulent interpolations. On completion of copying, the three copies are subjected to a very close and careful comparison and check with the original by an experienced munsarim, working along with three muharrirs on contract pay, the munsarim himself being responsible for the Collectorate copy or record-of-rights. In order to eliminate as far as possible careless errors and omissions from the copies prepared for distribution to landlords and tenants, there is a final re-check of selected records by a specially competent staff, all working on fixed pay. About eight per cent. of the records are subjected to this re-check, which has very materially raised the standard of copying and comparison work all round.

227. All the above operations are carried out under the sarishtadar, but one or more Assistant Settlement Officers are appointed to the charge of different departments, and all mistakes, the correction of which will involve any material change in the records, have to be put up to them for orders.

228. The other departments of the office, though not so intimately connected with the record-of-rights itself, fulfil many necessary and indispensable functions. The English office had to deal with correspondence and accounts, and owing to the large establishment employed, the latter branch of the work was at all times very heavy. From the Nazarat, an average of over 20,000 processes per annum was issued, exclusive of those issued from the various camps. The duties of the record-keeper and his staff were, in the first place, to receive the draft records made over to us by the survey department, and then to issue them as required for attestation case, and office work, and final publication. As the record at each stage undergoes considerable changes and receives additions, this entails the maintenance of an elaborate system of issue and receipt registers. Finally, on the conclusion of the settlement, the working records are destroyed and the finally-published record-of-rights is handed over to the Collector.

229. A very important department was that of the head peshkar, who was responsible for cases of all kinds including boundary disputes, objections under section 103A, and cases under sections 105 and 106 filed after final publication. His registers enabled him to see that all the cases relating to one village were as far as possible sent out for trial together. He was also responsible for the supply of records to the appellate courts and for the entry of decisions under sections 105 and 106 in the record-of-rights, in accordance with the provisions of section 107 (2) of the Tenancy Act. Programmes were, as a rule, drawn up in his office, and there also the final list of village names was prepared.

230. In the early days of the work the importance of this was not sufficiently realised; and in the compilation of the new district maps for Muzaffarpur and Champaran, considerable difficulty was often experienced owing to there being slight variations in the village name on the village map and in the record. This is due to the fact that many villages are almost equally well known by two or even more slightly discrepant names. In order to avoid further confusion on this account, we now ascertain and record at attestation the correct name of each village, and this is finally adopted in all parts of the record-of-rights. A list of correct village names, accompanied by a correct English transliteration, is also supplied to the survey department for entry on the original village maps and on the new district maps prepared in the Bengal Drawing Office.

231. A noticeable feature of the work was the large amount of copying done for private parties. The total number of applications dealt with exceeded 30,000, two-thirds being for copies of the record-of-rights itself, and the remainder relating to judgments and other miscellaneous proceedings. The total receipts of the copying department amounted to Rs. ₹1,970-1-6.

232. The foregoing brief sketch of the functions of the office gives little idea of the onerous and responsible nature of the duties of the Assistant Settlement Officer at headquarters. Besides having to attend to the requirements of the various camps, of which in the field season there were often twenty or more, he had to control an establishment, which during busy times frequently exceeded 1,000 men, more than half being on contract pay, which rendered necessary a very strict scrutiny of their returns and bills. In Darbhanga, Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt was in charge of the headquarters office practically throughout the operations, and his zeal and energy not only enabled him to get through his work with complete success but also relieved the Assistant Settlement officer in charge of a good many routine duties.

233. The records made over to the Collector at the conclusion of the operations included the following:—

- (a) The volume containing the record-of-rights, *i.e.*, the khewat and the khatians, and also the *tirij* and its *goshwara*, or abstract, the certificate of final publication and a trace of the cadastral map for each village placed in a pocket case attached to the cover.
- (b) Khasras bound up in volumes, one for each village.
- (c) The records of cases and boundary disputes, done up in separate bundles for each village.
- (d) The statistical registers,—one for each thana, containing the cultivation statistics, crop statement, agricultural stock statistics, and the abstracts of the record-of-rights for each village.
- (e) Transfer registers, one volume containing statistics regarding the transfer of proprietary rights, and another volume containing statistics regarding the transfers of occupancy rights for the whole district.
- (f) The village notes bound in volumes in Thanawar order.

- (g) The principal registers of cases, accounts and recovery of costs.
 (h) Records of certificate cases in which sales of immovable properties have been confirmed, or surplus sale proceeds held in deposit, and other miscellaneous papers of importance.

Final Publication.

Annual progress. 234. The following table shows the annual progress in final publication :—

Year.	Number of villages attested.	Number of villages finally published.
1897-98	599	19
1898-99	833	595
1899-1900	526	900
1900-01	949	898
1901-02	480	742
1902-03 ... ..	...	233
Total	3,387	3,387

235. The work was carried out by kanungos in the village and on the whole excited greater interest in Darbhanga than in the other districts. The Darbhanga Raj and other big proprietors, who had their own copy of the record written up at khanapuri and attestation, sent representatives to attend the final publication in order to get their copy of the record complete and up to date. They then used it for the purpose of preparing applications for the settlement of fair rents under the section 105, and plaints under section 106, and were thus spared the necessity of consulting the original record at headquarters. But among the raiyats and the smaller landlords generally, final publication as a rule excited little interest. Its place is taken by the distribution of the certified copies of the records to landlords and tenants at the time of recovery of costs.

236. Final publication is, however, of course a well defined stage in our work, and the Amendment Act by postponing the settlement of fair rents, until after it has taken place, has done much to shorten our proceedings for the great majority of the landlords and tenants, who are not concerned in the litigation, which now follows final publication, but under the old law preceded and therefore delayed it. Only 41 villages in the district had been finally published when the Amendment Act came into force in 1898, but since then we have with rare exceptions been able to finally publish all villages within less than a year after the conclusion of attestation. Our work in a given area is now spread over only three years as follows :—

First year—

- Field season ... Cadastral survey and preliminary record writing.
 Recess ... Preparation of the draft record for attestation by the survey department.

Second year—

- Field season ... Attestation and draft publication.
 Recess ... Decision of objections under section 103 A, check and completion of the records in office and final publication.

Third year

- ... Recovery of costs, distribution of copies of the record and decision of cases under sections 105 and 106.

237. Under the Act as it stood before amendment, it was never possible to complete a given area in less than four years, and the filing of scattered applications for the settlement of fair rents or of plaints, regarding disputes which had to be tried as Civil suits, frequently delayed recovery of costs till the fifth season after khanapuri. It is hardly necessary to point out that the great saving in time effected by the Amendment Act is not due to any acceleration or

curtailment of the main branches of the work, such as record-writing, attestation, and publication. It is simply that the Legislature has recognized the fact that the great majority of the people are quite content with a summary procedure in the preparation of a record-of-rights, and have no occasion or desire for formal litigation. This is accordingly not allowed to retard final publication, though opportunities are given for indulgence in it after final publication. The passing of all the villages of a given area through each stage of the work at the same time tends greatly to efficiency and enables us to make over to the people the certified copies of the finally published record within two years of the completion of preliminary record-writing and before their interest in the operations has had time to evaporate.

Settlement of fair rents.

238. Under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, fair rents can only be settled after the preparation of a record-of-rights on the application of landlords or tenants, and the importance of this branch of the work consequently varies considerably in different areas. The following table shows its effects and results in each thana of the district:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Number of raiyati holdings in thana (excluding rent-free).	Number of holdings brought under suit.	Number of holdings for which fair rents were settled.	PERCENTAGE.		Total previously existing rental of thana.	Total previously existing rental of holdings for which fair rents were settled.	Total rental settled for holdings in column 5.	Total increase.	PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.		REMARKS.
					Column 4 to column 3.	Column 5 to column 3.					To previously existing rental of holdings for which rents were settled (column 9).	To previously existing rental of thana (column 8).	
1	Benipatti ...	71,251	2,557	2,410	3.38	3.38	465,626	51,673	56,599	7,016	13.53	1.54	
2	Khajauli ...	62,863	1,332	1,227	2.12	1.95	619,270	19,254	22,011	3,657	18.99	0.69	
3	Phulparas ...	89,525	23,941	21,566	26.74	24.11	607,991	314,793	352,315	37,522	11.92	4.54	
4	Madhubani ...	57,813	4,691	3,059	5.37	5.30	458,560	30,136	45,203	6,157	15.73	1.34	
5	Darbhanga ...	151,994	4,691	2,635	3.09	1.73	592,351	32,993	35,326	2,333	7.00	0.39	
6	Bahera ...	124,550	6,234	5,975	5.00	4.79	672,197	69,355	69,744	3,489	6.20	0.53	
7	Buera ...	83,291	779	498	0.94	0.59	536,917	7,760	8,004	215	2.75	0.04	
8	Warisnagar ...	87,390	1,569	1,116	2.77	1.98	291,569	16,159	17,674	1,515	9.39	0.52	
9	Samastipur ...	101,612	1,408	871	1.38	0.85	523,344	9,222	10,132	910	9.87	0.17	
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	69,835	2,511	1,465	3.60	2.10	414,716	19,439	21,425	1,986	10.21	0.46	
	Total ...	859,813	46,499	40,638	5.38	4.54	5,371,483	566,813	631,613	64,801	11.04	1.20	

239. It has been our experience in North Bihar that on the whole, applications for the settlement of fair rents are only made by big landlords, and Darbhanga was no exception to this rule. Petty resident landlords, who manage their own property have hitherto been in the habit of continually altering and enhancing their rents and are averse from allowing their raiyats the protection of a fair rent, which cannot be altered for 15 years. Consequently we find that in Darbhanga applications, for the settlement of fair rents were filed mainly in thanas, where the Darbhanga Raj was predominant. After the Raj, the landlords who took most advantage of the provisions of section 105 were the Madhubani Babus and some of the indigo factories in the Samastipur subdivision. All these landlords possessed records of previous measurements, and thus found it comparatively easy to prove cases where their raiyats had encroached on lands not included in their original holdings.

240. The net result of our work was to settle rents for little more than one-twentieth of the raiyati holdings in the district. The rents of those holdings were raised by nearly 12 per cent., but the total rental of the district was increased by our proceedings by little more than one per cent. In the case of 75 per cent. of the holdings affected, fair rents were settled on compromise and in the Darbhanga Raj villages over 90 per cent. of the cases were compromised. Of the increase decreed, 86 per cent. was due to the assessment of excess area to rent and only 14 per cent. was due to actual enhancement of rate.

241. Our work in the assessment of excess area to rent in the Raj villages, was greatly simplified by an agreement come to between Mr. Lyon, Director of Land Records, and the Maharaja at a conference held at Darbhanga in December 1899. In cases where increased rents were claimed, on the ground that the record showed that the raiyats were holding land in excess of that entered in the jamabandi as the result of a previous measurement, the Maharaja consented to make to such of his raiyats as were willing to compromise, the following allowances to compensate for the greater rigidity and accuracy of the present survey :

(1) in all cases, an allowance of 5 per cent. on the survey area, or one katha in the bigha,

(2) an additional allowance of 5 per cent. or 2 kathas in the bigha, in all cases where the length of the measuring pole by which the jamabandi areas were arrived at, could not be accurately ascertained in feet and inches, though it nominally contained the same number of cubits as that used for the conversion of acres into bighas by us,

(3) such additional allowance as might be found on calculation to be necessary, to cover any actual difference in length between the present standard of measurement and that used in arriving at the areas recorded in the jamabandi.

On our part we undertook, as a general rule, and provided we were satisfied as to the fact and nature of the previous measurement on which the jamabandi areas were based, to settle the rents resulting from a compromise drawn up on the above principles as fair and equitable, provided that the increase did not exceed 20 per cent. In all cases where the increase exceeded 20 per cent. the Raj was required to prove specifically the existence of excess area.

242. The Raj was, of course, greatly aided in this task by the fact that the great majority of its villages had been previously surveyed by Mr. Finucane. Even in cases where the Raj jamabandis were based upon Mr. Finucane's measurement, the allowance of one katha on our survey area was deducted from the difference between Mr. Finucane's areas and the present survey areas, and only the resultant remainder was assessed to rent. It was necessary to make the allowance in such cases because Mr. Finucane's areas were not extracted from the map like ours, but were calculated by multiplying the mean length of a field by the mean breadth, irregularly shaped fields being broken up into rectangles and triangles (called *goshas*), for this purpose. It was found that this method of arriving at areas resulted in an average difference of something under a katha per bigha, and the allowance given by the Raj was consequently amply sufficient to cover it.

243. It may appear surprising that the largest number of holdings sued for a settlement of fair rents and the largest increase of the previously existing rental occurred in the Phulparas thana, over half of which is composed of pargana Alapur, which was not only surveyed by Mr. Finucane, twenty-five years ago, but for which rents were also settled by him. But it must be remembered that at Mr. Finucane's survey only 64 per cent. of the tract was under cultivation, whereas at the present time the cultivated area is over 80 per cent. of the total. Thus 16 per cent. of the present cultivated area was not included in the area for which Mr. Finucane settled rents. It had not, of course, entirely escaped assessment since Mr. Finucane's survey, but a considerable amount of encroachment on it had been concealed, owing to dishonesty and incompetence on the part of the Raj subordinates. In some cases we found men who were actually paying the patwari more for the land on which they had encroached, than we found to be a fair rent according to the village rate. The circumstances of the area were therefore such as to create considerable differences between the areas of holdings as recorded at Mr. Finucane's survey and in our record, and as a comparison of Mr. Finucane's maps with ours enabled the Raj to account for every item of difference, they filed applications for fair rents to be settled in all cases where the discrepancy was at all considerable. Nearly all the cases were compromised, but whenever the increase of rent exceeded 20 per cent. we insisted on the difference being accounted for by a plot to plot comparison between Mr. Finucane's map and our own, and such a comparison was also made whenever the raiyat asked for it, or when he denied the existence of excess area.

244. Practically the whole of the enhancement of rate under section 30 of the Bengal Tenancy Act was decreed in the Raj villages in the Madhubani subdivision, excluding the Alapur pargana where little enhancement of rate was asked for, Mr. Finucane's rates being left untouched in the majority of cases. But in the rest of the area, as already explained, there had been periodical enhancements of rents within the last twenty-five years. In nearly all villages some of the raiyats had resisted these enhancements and had refused to take rent receipts with the enhanced rent entered on them. But they had gone further and many of them had paid little rent at all since the dispute arose. In many cases it was impossible to ascertain the original rent of the holdings, and at attestation, rents had to be recorded on an average of actual collections. This frequently worked out to a very low rate of rent, and in such cases the Raj applied to have the rents levelled up to the prevailing rate of the village. Here again the Raj had an advantage over the great majority of landlords in Bihar, for their rent rolls are based on rates applied to different classes of land and their rents are not arrived at merely by a letting of estimated areas at a lump sum. They were, therefore, in a position to prove prevailing rates for the different classes of land composing the holdings held at disproportionately low rates, and where the tenants could show no reason for holding at such low rates, their rents were generally enhanced up to the prevailing rates. In all such cases, however, local enquiries were held to ascertain whether the lands of the holdings concerned were really similar and possessed similar advantages to the lands for which the prevailing rate was paid, and the enhancement granted on this account was under Rs. 10,000, an insignificant proportion of the total rental of the district.

245. The only area in which the Raj did not apply for a settlement of fair rents, in the case of raiyats holding excess area or paying at a disproportionately low rate, was the Rajnagar Circle. Here, as already explained, at attestation, we found the rents claimed by the Raj to have been illegally enhanced and they were consequently not the rents legally payable. We accordingly recorded as payable the rents which had prevailed prior to the illegal enhancement. The Raj did not contest this procedure either at attestation or under section 103A, nor did they apply to have fair rents fixed in the area. But after draft publication, they induced the raiyats to go to the Registration office and execute *kabuliyats* agreeing to pay the rents which we had declared not to be the rents payable. Fortunately, the fact that these *kabuliyats* were being executed was discovered by Mr. Maddox, Collector of Darbhanga, before the work had been completed. The Maharaja then stopped the execution of any further *kabuliyats*. The whole question has been referred to Government, and it need only be said here that it is unfortunate that the Raj authorities, if they considered that the rents recorded as payable were not fair and equitable, did not avail themselves of the opportunity offered by our proceedings of getting fair rents settled for the whole area.

246. Of the whole increase of Rs. 65,000 decreed under section 105, about Rs. 50,000 was given in the Raj villages. Of the balance the larger part was secured by the Madhubani Babus, mainly in one large village known as Taluka Lahiri, where the circumstances were altogether exceptional. Owing to the misconduct and oppression of the landlords' servants, the raiyats had revolted in a body about ten years before our operations began. They set up one of themselves as the landlord and paid no rent to the lawful proprietors. At attestation, rents were recorded on the basis of the *jamabandi* current before the revolt began, but it was found that the raiyats had taken advantage of the state of chaos, which prevailed during the period when the proprietors were practically banished from the village, to increase very largely the areas of their holdings. They had encroached on waste land and on land formerly in the occupation of the proprietors or of raiyats who had abandoned their holdings, and as no attempt had been made to maintain the rent rolls up to date, there were very great discrepancies between the areas entered in them and in the record-of-rights. The area was, therefore, eminently one in which a settlement of fair rents was required, and it was fortunate that the landlords applied for this.

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In making it we were greatly assisted by the records of a previous measurement which, though made with a pole, was found to have been remarkably accurate. An allowance of two kathas in the bigha was found to be sufficient to cover the difference between it and the accurate survey on which the areas in the record were based, and this the landlords readily gave, accompanying it in most cases by a reduction of rate. Many of the raiyats agreed to the rents thus arrived at, and it may be hoped that the settlement effected will bring peace to this long-disturbed area.

247. As regards the other landlords in the district, the proceedings under section 105 had little effect on their rent rolls. In the south of the district, practically the only landlords who applied for an increase of rent were the indigo factories, who generally had records of a previous measurement, by means of which they could prove the existence of excess area. In most cases the raiyats sued had been holding the extra land by connivance with the village officials, and readily agreed to pay a fair rent for it. The increase due to enhancement of rate in this area was insignificant. As most of the lands are held on a lump rental, it would have been impossible for the majority of landlords to prove the existence of a prevailing rate.

248. In 992 cases, application was made for the settlement of fair rents in respect of lands which were actually found to be held rent-free, but which the occupant failed to prove that he was entitled to hold without payment of rent. The area concerned was only 450 acres and the rent assessed was Rs. 1,733, the average rate being thus Rs. 3-13-9 per acre. Of the total area 370 acres was in the Raj villages in Phulparas thana, and the great majority of the land was found to be first class paddy land, the rate paid for which is over Rs. 5 an acre. In most of these cases, the rent-free occupants were found to be holding some of the best land in the village by connivance with the local officials, and this fact accounts for the rate of rent imposed upon such lands being higher than the average district rate. Thanawar details will be found in the fair rent statement in the Appendix.

219. Another branch of the rent settlement work in the district was the commutation of produce rents to cash, under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. In all, 758 applications were filed for commutation, but more than half of these were withdrawn or dismissed for want of prosecution, and eventually rents were only commuted for 327 holdings covering an area of 381 acres. The total cash rent fixed amounted to Rs. 1,707, the average rate being Rs. 4-7-9 per acre. As a rule, in such cases, the parties came to terms and agreed to a rate slightly higher than the rate paid for similar lands in the neighbourhood. The majority of the applications came from the Madhubani Babus' villages in Phulparas thana, where an annoying and harassing system of exacting a produce rent for small portions of holdings, generally one or two kathas in the bigha, has long been in force. In the district, as a whole, only 8 per cent. of the raiyati area is held at a produce rent, and it was not to be expected that applications for commutation would be numerous; 503 applications have, however, been made to the Collector since our operations closed.

250. As rents were settled on compromise for 75 per cent. of the holdings concerned, appeals against fair rent decisions were not numerous. Out of 2,691 cases decided, appeals were filed against the fair rents settled in only 176. The decision of the Lower Court was upheld in 90 cases, modified in 14, and reversed in 27, while 18 cases were remanded for further enquiry. No point of importance was raised in any of the appeals. In the modified cases, the Special Judge slightly varied the allowance given to cover the greater accuracy of the survey measurement. Of the 27 cases in which the Lower Court's decision was reversed, seven were decreed in terms of compromises, and, in 16, the Special Judge disallowed increase of rent on the ground of excess area, because he disbelieved the evidence that the jamabandi areas were based on a measurement, and held that there was nothing to show that the difference between the areas of the holdings as entered in the jamabandi and in the

record-of-rights was due to the raiyats holding more land than they were paying rent for. In four cases, enhancements allowed by the Lower Court, on the ground that the raiyats' rates of rent were below the prevailing rate of the village, were disallowed by the judge on the ground that the existence of a prevailing rate had not been proved. 27 appeals are still pending.

251. The difficult question as to the proper issues to be framed and tried in cases where the landlord claims enhancement of rate under section 30 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, on the ground that the raiyats' rate of rent is below the prevailing rate, was finally set at rest, by an order of Mr. Champan, the Special Judge, who in appeal no. 268, of 1901, prescribed the following issues for trial in such cases:—

The issues in cases regarding enhancement of rate.

- (1) At what rate of rent does each defendant-raiyat hold his lands?
- (2) Are there lands of a similar description and similar advantages to those of the defendant-raiyat's lands in the same village or in neighbouring villages?
- (3) Is there any prevailing rate of rent paid by occupancy-raiyats for such similar lands?
- (4) If so, what is that prevailing rate?
- (5) If the rate of rent paid by any defendant-raiyat is below the prevailing rate, is there no sufficient reason for that defendant holding at so low a rate?
- (6) What is the fair and equitable rent which should be settled in the case of each defendant-raiyat?

We are indebted to Mr. Chapman for many valuable suggestions regarding improvements in our procedure for trying cases under sections 105 and 106.

Disputes under section 106.

The number of disputes in each thana.

252. The following table shows the number of disputes filed in each thana in Darbhanga:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Number of disputes filed.	PERCENTAGE OF CASES FILED IN THE THANA.	
			To the district total.	To the number of holdings in the thana
1	Benipatti	876	5.58	0.44
2	Khajauli	284	4.21	0.05
3	Phulparas	1,758	26.00	1.72
4	Madhubani	540	8.01	0.53
5	Darbhanga	1,039	15.41	0.56
6	Bahera	757	11.23	0.51
7	Rusera	462	6.85	0.43
8	Warisnagar	380	5.64	0.51
9	Samastipur	456	6.76	0.35
10	Daleingh Sarai	695	10.31	0.77
	Total	6,742	100	0.61

253. As in Muzaffarpur and Saran, little more than one holding in every 200 was affected by a dispute. Phulparas shows the highest number of

disputes filed, but the majority of these were formal claims put in by the Darbhanga Raj that the occupants of rent-free lands were not entitled to hold them without payment of rent, and undoubtedly the most litigious thana in the district is Darbhanga, where genuine disputes as to rent and possession were most numerous at all stages of the work. Apart from Phulparas, Dalsingh Sarai shows the largest proportion of disputes to holdings. This area is noted for extreme subdivision of proprietary rights and small holdings, and such a condition always tends to the multiplication of disputes both about rent and about possession.

254. Full details as to the nature of the disputes will be found in the classification statement in the Appendix. The following is an abstract:—

NATURE OF DISPUTES.	Number of disputes allowed.	Number of disputes disallowed.	Total number of disputes.	Percentage.
Claims to <i>zirat</i> ...	2	7	9	0.13
Possession ...	975	1,035	2,010	29.81
Money-rent ...	924	1,139	2,063	30.61
Produce-rent ...	274	323	597	8.86
Status ...	58	68	126	1.87
Title ..	36	62	98	1.45
Trees ...	174	108	282	4.18
Measurement and area ...	54	7	61	0.90
Rent-free claims ...	1,307	189	1,496	22.19
Total ...	3,804	2,938	6,742	100.

255. As under section 103A, the most numerous class of disputes were those concerning money-rent. Then come disputes about possession and claims that the occupants of rent-free lands were not entitled to hold without payment of rent. Disputes, regarding other matters, form a small proportion of the total and the small number of claims, that land was true *zirat*, is remarkable.

256. The disputes were mostly of the same nature as those which were decided at attestation and under section 103A, and no detailed description of them is necessary. The only exceptions were the cases relating to rent-free lands. These were nearly all filed by the Darbhanga Raj. As already explained, the Raj began by disputing at khanapuri the right and title of nearly every rent-free occupant in its villages, the object being to throw the burden of proof of title to hold rent-free on the rent-free holder. During the early and summary enquiries, the Raj lost most of its claims, as the rent-free holder was generally able, either to produce a document, the genuineness of which the Raj was not in a position to dispute, or to show that he had been holding without payment of rent for a long time, under circumstances which *prima facie* entitled him to continue so to hold. But these summary enquiries enabled the Raj to discriminate between spurious and genuine rent-free holders, and to collect evidence as to the real nature of the lands held by the former. They were thus in a position after final publication to file suits regarding those whose title to hold rent-free was invalid, and they succeeded in proving their contention in the majority of cases. More than two-thirds of the cases of this nature were filed in Phulparas thana and mainly related to the Alapur

pargana, where a comparison of Mr. Finucane's record with ours enabled the Raj to detect a large number of instances in which person holding land rent-free had taken it up surreptitiously by connivance with the village officials. The value of a record-of-rights to a large proprietor, who must necessarily leave the management of his estates, to some extent, in the hands of underlings, was thus again demonstrated. In most cases of this kind, the suit for declaration that the occupant was not entitled to hold his land rent-free was accompanied by an application to have a fair rent assessed upon it.

257. Fifty-six per cent. of the disputes, filed under section 103, were decreed and 44 per cent. disallowed; but excluding the suits regarding rent-free lands, of which the great majority were decreed, over 52 per cent. of the other suits were disallowed.

258. Appeals were filed to the Special Judge in 680 cases, or about one-tenth of the total number. The result of the appeals decided up to date has been that 410 decisions have been upheld, 14 modified and 145 reversed, while 35 cases have been remanded for further enquiry. More than half of the cases reversed were tried in five batches and the total number of decisions reversed is only 2 per cent. of the total number of cases decided. Nevertheless the reasons for reversal are interesting and deserve description.

259. Of the 145 cases concerned, 95 were reversed on the evidence pure and simple. Of these 36 related to possession, 22 to rent, and the remainder to miscellaneous matters.

In regard to all these cases, Mr Chapman, the Special Judge, took up very strongly the position that the entry in the record-of-rights, which was disputed under section 106, must be presumed to be correct until the contrary was shown, and the person who disputed the correctness of the entry in the record must offer very strong proof of his contention, before being allowed a decree declaring that the record was wrong. Prior to the delivery of these important rulings (which of course are highly satisfactory as emphasising the value to be attached to the record-of-rights), Assistant Settlement Officers had been occasionally too prone to regard disputes under section 106 as open questions between the parties, without reference to the previous history of the disputes in the course of the framing of the record, and had not attached sufficient weight to the presumption of correctness belonging to all entries in the record under section 103B of the Tenancy Act. In the majority of the appeals decreed on the evidence, the Special Judge held that the presumption of correctness attaching to the finally-published record had not been sufficiently rebutted by the evidence produced.

260. In 50 cases the decisions of the Lower Court were reversed on compromise. Ten of these related to possession and were of no particular interest, but of the remaining cases, 36 concerned rent and 4 were about status, and those raised some very important and difficult questions, which were thoroughly discussed at the time and may here be briefly described.

261. In a number of disputes under section 106 regarding the rents payable for holdings, the raiyats filed petitions of compromise, stating that they were willing to pay the rents claimed by the landlords. Enquiry showed that these rents were not the rents legally payable, because they exceeded the rents previously paid by more than two annas in the rupee, which is the limit placed by section 29 of the Tenancy Act, on enhancement by contract between an occupancy-raiyat and his landlord. Consequently we held that the so-called compromise merely amounted to an admission on the part of the raiyat that he was willing to pay an illegally enhanced rent and that under section 17E of the Tenancy Act he was debarred from contracting himself out of his rights in this way. The Assistant Settlement Officer, therefore, refused to act on the compromises, and no evidence being offered that the rents entered in the record were not the rents legally payable, the suits were dismissed. Appeals were preferred to the Special Judge, when the compromises were again put forward. The Special Judge, Mr. Staley, without going into the merits of the cases, passed the following orders: "Appeal decreed according to terms of compromise."

262. The question as to whether Assistant Settlement Officers are justified in deciding disputes as to existing rents, to refuse to act on compromises whereby the raiyats bind themselves to pay illegally enhanced rents, was referred by the Board to the Advocate-General. His opinion was as follows :—

“ Upon the facts stated in letter No. 384, dated 22nd October 1900, from the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, to the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, with accompanying papers, I am of opinion that the Settlement Officer acted in accordance with law in refusing to record the existing rent as the rent payable at the time the record-of-rights was being prepared, assuming he found to his satisfaction that such existing rent had been arrived at by a contract entered into after the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act which contravened the provisions of section 29 (b) of that Act and was therefore wholly void (*See* Kristodhone Ghose *vs.* Brojo Gobindo Roy, I.L.R., 24 Cal., 895), and in entering as the rent payable at the time the record-of-rights was being prepared the rent as it was paid before such invalid and illegal contract was entered into, notwithstanding the fact that such enhanced rent had been paid for not less than three years, rent payable being, in my opinion, the rent which the tenant is legally liable to pay.

Suits regarding these entries having been instituted by the landlord before a Revenue Officer under section 106, the tenants, as I understand the case, filed *Solehnama*, admitting the claim of the landlord and stating that they were willing to have the existing rent entered as being the rent payable. The Revenue Officer, ignoring their petitions of compromise, dismissed the suits, holding that the Settlement Officer was justified in not recording the enhanced rental. The question remains whether the Revenue Officer was right in ignoring the petitions of compromise.

By section 148 (2), the Code of Civil Procedure is, subject to any rules which may be made under section 143 (1) (under which none have been made), declared to apply to all suits between landlords and tenants, and by section 107 in all proceedings under section 106, the Revenue Officer shall, subject to the rules made by the local Government under this Act, adopt the procedure for the trial of suits. Of these rules, No. 42 declares that proceedings under section 106 shall be dealt with in all respects as suits between the parties. Section 106 provides for the filing of a plaint, and section 107 enacts that the Revenue Officer's decision in every such proceeding shall have the force and effect of a decree of a civil court in a suit between the parties, and shall, subject to the provisions of sections 108 and 109A, be final. In this state of the law it must, I think, be conceded that section 375 applied to the suits before the Revenue Officer. If so, it seems to me difficult to contend that the Revenue Officer was justified in refusing to decide the disputes brought before him in accordance with the compromise petitions filed, and so far as I can discover in no sense resiled from. Those compromise petitions are, as I think, distinguishable from the contract of enhancement. They were probably arrived at with the view of avoiding further litigation or other lawful consideration. An agreement to pay rent in excess of 2 annas in the rupee above that previously paid, when there had been disputes and differences as to that rent, with the object of avoiding further litigation, has been held not to be an agreement to enhance within the meaning of section 29—(*See Sheo Sahay v. Ram Ranchia*, I. L. R., 18 Cal., 333). That section relates only to enhancement by contract; it has no bearing upon enhancement by suit. Possibly the tenants considered that it was well to avoid the risk of a suit for enhancement in which the existing rent might have been enhanced. Had the landlord sued for enhancement at, say, an increase of Re. 1 per bigha, it could not be said that the tenant could not compromise at 8 annas per bigha, though such 8 annas enhanced be more than 2 annas in the rupee the rent previously payable by him. The law is framed so as to protect the tenant from enhancement by contract above the amount allowed by section 29 (b), but in doing so drives the parties into court and there leaves them free, considering no doubt that the court will protect them from anything like fraud or coercion. I am of opinion that the Revenue Officer was in error in ignoring the petitions of compromise and proceeding to try the suit against the expressed wish of the parties, who arrived at a settlement which, upon the facts laid before me, I must conclude was freely and fairly entered into and was of a lawful character.

In this view of the matter, the judgment of the Special Judge in appeal was right, and the entries in the records must be altered so as to accord with that decision.”

263. Practically, therefore, the Advocate-General held that though in the course of the framing of the record we were justified in refusing to record illegally enhanced rents as payable, nevertheless if in the course of hearing of a dispute under section 106 regarding the rents payable, the parties agreed that an illegally enhanced rent should be paid, we should be bound to act on such agreement. Government in letter No. 429-T.R., dated 31st May 1901, remarked : “ There is no doubt that the latter view is not in accordance with the intention of Government and the only question for consideration is whether legislation should be undertaken.” Accordingly it was directed that a further report should be submitted as to how the rulings had affected entries made by the Settlement Officers, through subsequent litigation under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. A further report regarding six additional

cases of a similar nature was consequently submitted by me, and in forwarding it to the Board, the Director of Land Records remarked, in his letter No. 112-T.S., dated 31st May 1902 :—

“ The suits were instituted to alter the entries in regard to the rents payable, and the so-called compromises upon which the Special Judge acted were nothing but agreements tendered by the riyats to pay enhanced rents. Such compromises would have been relevant in enhancement suits brought under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, but were absolutely irrelevant in the cases under discussion which were suits to ascertain the rent at present payable and not for enhancement of the present rents ”

264. The cases were referred to the Legal Remembrancer who endorsed the Director's view. He said: “ I do not think the compromises in question were relevant in cases under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

That section deals with disputes in regard to the existing state of things and an admission by a tenant in a petition of compromise as regards what has been and is the rate of rent would be relevant. But if, as in the cases under reference, the petitions of compromise stated, and the tenants also deposed that the rent had been paid at a particular rate but they now agreed to pay a higher rate in future, the enhanced rate cannot be recorded in a proceeding under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. In the case reported in I. L. R., 18 Cal., 333, the deed of compromise only settled *what had been the rate of rent.*

“ In the case referred to the Advocate-General for opinion (please see my letter No. 2069, dated 18th February 1902) the rent had been paid at the enhanced rate for three years and the question was one as to the legality of the contract. In *Nath Singh v. Domri Singh* (I. L. R., 28 Cal., 90) the question related to the legality of a certain agreement. In the present cases the point raised refers to the relevancy of a promise to pay rent at an enhanced rate *in future* in disputes as regards existing rates of rent tried under section 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. I am of opinion that such a promise, even if lawful is not relevant, and the parties should have proceeded under section 105 of the Act.”

265. The Legal Remembrancer's opinion thus practically confirms the soundness of our procedure, though he is apparently inclined to make a reservation in regard to cases where an illegally enhanced rent had actually been paid for a series of years. In regard to this, our position would be that no amount of payment could render an illegally enhanced rent legally recoverable because proviso (i) to section 29 of the Bengal Tenancy Act does not apply to enhancements exceeding two annas in the rupee. As to the Advocate-General's opinion quoted above and referred to by the Legal Remembrancer, I would point out that it appears to be based not on the fact of payment of an illegally enhanced rent for a series of years, but on the assumption that a genuine dispute as to the amount of rent payable existed between the parties. In such cases a compromise arrived at, with the view of avoiding further litigation, might possibly be deemed a contract for lawful consideration. But in the cases under consideration, there is no real dispute as to the amount of rent payable. It is admitted by all concerned that the rent payable before the enhancement was so much, and that the rent claimed exceeds the rent previously payable by more than two annas in the rupee. It is conceivable that the riyat might agree to pay the rent claimed with the object of avoiding further litigation and worry, but it is doubtful whether such motives for divesting himself of the rights conferred upon him by law could be deemed lawful consideration.

266. A further very important ruling regarding the treatment of compromises in such cases was given by Mr. Chapman, the Special Judge, in a case concerning a claim that certain lands were *zirat* within the meaning of section 120 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. These lands were admittedly in the occupation of cultivators, and the only evidence that they were *zirat* was the admission of the cultivators who were made defendants to the suit. When they were examined, it was found that the cultivators had no conception of the legal meaning of the term *zirat*, and consequently their admission that the land was *zirat* was worthless. The Assistant Settlement Officer accordingly refused to act on it, and as no other evidence was adduced in support of the claim, it was dismissed. On

appeal the Special Judge upheld our action on all points. He remarked as follows:—

"Petitions of compromise asking for a decree declaring the land concerned to be *sirat* have been filed. I informed the appellant's pleader that I was not prepared to accept and act upon these petitions, unless I was satisfied that the respondent tenants concerned understood the purport of the compromise. The petitions themselves do not indicate that the petitioners understood that a tenant holding *sirat* land is not entitled to many of the privileges conferred by the Tenancy Act upon the cultivators of land. Either, the petitions were not signed by the tenants themselves. They were both signed by the same persons in the names of the tenants. When the tenants were sent for, it was found that they were not present. The appellants' pleader did not ask for an adjournment, in order to obtain the attendance of these tenants, or to satisfy the Court that the respondent tenants understood the terms of the compromises. In these circumstances, I refrain from granting decrees in terms of the compromises.

The Assistant Settlement Officer's decision upon the evidence seems to me to have been correct. The appeals are dismissed with costs.

I assess the pleader's fee at Rs. 12. Upon the subject of compromise I desire to add that it is, in my opinion, open to doubt whether the terms of section 375 of the Code of Civil Procedure can be held to apply to all questions raised in suits under section 106 of the Tenancy Act. Section 375 of the Code of Civil Procedure is as follows:—'If a suit be adjusted wholly or in part by any lawful agreement or compromise,.... such agreement or compromise shall be recorded, and the Court shall pass a decree in accordance therewith, so far as it relates to the suit, and such decree shall be final, so far as it relates to so much of the subject-matter of the suit as it dealt with by the agreement or compromise.'

The decision of a suit under section 106 of the Tenancy Act not merely extends to the determination of the question as at issue between the parties, but also results in an entry in a public record to the effect that the right of the plaintiff in respect of a particular piece of a land is of a certain character, and this entry operates not merely as a satisfaction of the plaintiff's particular claim against the particular defendant, but it also establishes that claim *contra mundum* until the contrary is approved. Section 103B of the Tenancy Act lays down that every entry in a record-of-rights shall be presumed to be correct until the contrary is proved. When the question in a suit under section 106 of the Tenancy Act is whether a certain piece of land is or is not proprietor's *sirat*, that is to say, whether the present or any future occupier of the land can or cannot acquire occupancy right in it, I am disposed to doubt whether a Court can rightly regard a compromise put in by the person who happens to be at present in occupation as a compromise to which the terms of section 375 of the Code of Civil Procedure apply. A compromise under that section might rightly be regarded as a final decision of the question as between the immediate parties to the suit, but could hardly be said to justify an entry in the record which will affect not only the interests of the immediate parties to the suit but also all future occupiers of the land. A decree can be passed in accordance with a compromise only in so far as the compromise relates to the suit. In any case such compromises should not, in my opinion, be acted upon until the Court is completely satisfied that the tenant fully understands what will be the effect of the declaration that the land is proprietor's *sirat*.²²

267. Practically, therefore, our action in refusing to act on compromises violating the provisions of the Tenancy Act, regarding contracts between landlords and raiyats, has been vindicated at all points. But the subject is one that requires watching, and it is evident that the legal question is not free from difficulty. If it should be held that under the law as it stands we are bound after final publication to modify our records in accordance with agreements containing flagrantly illegal conditions, then undoubtedly the law ought to be altered. We take enormous pains before final publication to prune the record of rents of all illegal enhancements and to secure a correct record of status. Much of the value of our work would be lost, if in judicial proceedings under section 106 we were bound to act on the admissions of ignorant raiyats, wantonly depriving themselves of the protection which the law has conferred upon them. But fortunately, so long as the Courts continue to take the view of the law expressed in the Special Judge's judgment quoted above, there is little fear of so disastrous a result taking place.

268. After the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act of 1898 came into force, I was vested with powers under section 108 to revise the orders of Assistant Settlement Officers under sections 105 and 106. Proceedings under section 108 were taken in 61 cases and the powers of revision were exercised in 11 only. These powers of revision are mainly useful in cases of errors of calculation in fair rent suits, where they afford a cheap and simple remedy of putting matters right without compelling the parties to apply for review under the Civil Procedure Code. I declined to exercise the powers of revision in regard to matters which would more properly have come before the Special Judge on appeal, and the Special Judge on several occasions upheld this view of the law.

CHAPTER II.—EXPENDITURE AND RECOVERY OF COSTS.

269. The total cost of the operations was Rs. 16,21,297. Full details of the expenditure on each department of the work during each year are given in the statement in the Appendix. The cost rates per square mile and per acre are shown in the following statement :—

Serial number.	Head.	Total expenditure.	Area dealt with in square miles.	Cost rate per square mile.	Cost rate per acre.	Standard cost rate per square mile.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.
1	Traverse survey ...	1,14,780 0 0	3,348	34 4 8	0 0 10	40
2	Cadastral survey ...	3,03,649 0 0	3,308	91 12 8	0 2 8	} 259
3	Khasrapuri ...	2,88,853 0 0	3,308	72 3 8	0 1 9	
4	Record-writing ...	1,24,947 0 0	3,303	37 13 8	0 0 11	
	Total Survey expenditure ...	7,82,229 0 0	3,308	286 1 8	0 5 9		193
5	Khasrapuri ...	43,979 0 0	3,308	13 5 0	0 0 4	21
6	Attestation ...	1,37,122 0 0	3,303	59 9 7	0 1 3	59
7	Cases under section 103A ...	70,212 0 0	3,303	21 4 0	0 0 6	17
8	Office work and final publication ...	1,47,046 0 0		44 8 4	0 1 1	33
9	Cases under sections 105 and 106 ...	1,10,301 0 0	3,303	33 6 4	0 1 0	30
10	Supervision and headquarters staff ...	1,43,285 0 0	3,303	49 6 11	0 1 3	25
11	Computation and recovery of costs ...	33,700 0 0	3,303	10 3 4	0 0 3	11
12	Contingencies ...	1,08,429 0 0	3,303	31 5 0	0 0 9	40
	Total Settlement expenditure ...	8,39,063 0 0	3,301	254 0 6	0 6 4	227
	GRAND TOTAL ...	16,21,297 0 0	3,303	490 13 8	0 12 1	420

270. It will be observed that a larger area was traversed than was cadastrally surveyed. This is due to the fact that 40 square miles of diara and municipal area were only topographically surveyed. Similarly five square miles consisting of shifting lands in the diara appertaining to Government Estates was only cadastrally surveyed and khasras were written up for it, but no record-of-rights was prepared. The area for which a record was prepared was thus only 3,303 square miles.

271. The following table compares the cost rates of the Survey and Settlement Departments in Darbhanga, Saran and Muzaffarpur with the standard cost rates per square mile which have been adopted for estimates in normal areas :—

	NORMAL COST RATE.		COST RATE IN DARBHANGA.		COST RATE IN SARAN.		COST RATE IN MUZAFFARPUR.	
	Per square mile.	Per acre.	Per square mile.	Per acre.	Per square mile.	Per acre.	Per square mile.	Per acre.
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Survey expenditure ...	154	0 4 0	236 1 8	0 5 9	217 7 0	0 5 5	183 17 0	0 4 1
Settlement expenditure ...	227	0 5 9	254 0 6	0 6 4	289 9 5	0 7 1	311 4 8	0 5 3
Total ...	420	0 10 6	490 13 8	0 12 1	501 0 5	0 12 6	374 3 8	0 9 4

The heavy survey expenditure in Darbhanga is mainly due to the curtailment of the programme of 1899-1900, when as already explained, in order to meet the wishes of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, it was decided to spread the work in the Madhubani subdivision over two seasons. This resulted in the two Cadastral Camps between them completing only 739 square miles in that season instead of the normal 1,200 square miles. This check to the programme also affected the Settlement expenditure to a considerable extent, though it is easier for the Settlement department than for the Survey department to reduce establishment on curtailment of programmes. It was, however, realised by Government that the alteration of the programme in Madhubani must

inevitably increase the total expenditure, and a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 was added to the original estimates to provide for this. Had Madhubani been finished in one season as originally proposed, there can be little doubt that the settlement cost rates would not have exceeded the normal.

272. The detailed settlement cost rates show few important variations from the accepted standard. The actual cost of Khanapuri is less than the standard, because in the first years of the operations, before the introduction of Khanapuri kanungos, the staff employed to supervise preliminary record writing and to decide the disputes which arise at that stage, was less than was subsequently found necessary for the efficiency of the work. The largest excess over the normal is found under the heads office work and supervision. This is due mainly to the change of programme referred to above, and partly to the fact that Darbhanga was, throughout the greater part of the operations, the headquarters of the Settlement officer of North Bihar, and a good deal of work was done there for other districts, the cost of which it is difficult to apportion. The saving under the head of contingencies is due to the fact that the tents and furniture used in Darbhanga were taken over from Muzaffarpur and Saran, after the operations in those districts had closed, and the expenditure in Darbhanga on items of this nature was small. The benefit which accrued to Darbhanga on this account may, however, be set off against the fact that a good deal of miscellaneous work in connection with the closing of the Saran and Muzaffarpur operations had to be done in Darbhanga. The cost rates of the main portions of the Darbhanga work approximate to the standard, the only exception being in regard to case work under section 103A, which as already noted, was heavier in Darbhanga than in any other districts of North Bihar. The cost rate of the work under sections 105 and 106 is sufficiently accounted for by the heavy rent settlement work in the Darbhanga Raj area.

273. The total cost of the operations, after deducting the sums to be realised on account of Court-fees and miscellaneous receipts, was estimated by Mr. Stevenson-Moore in March 1898 at 9½ annas per acre; and an apportionment order no. 197-T.R., dated the 24th May 1899 was accordingly issued by Government under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, apportioning costs at this rate in thanas Dalsingh Sarai, Samastipur and Warisnagar. Similar apportionment orders at the same rate were subsequently issued for the other thanas of the district, as the work in them approached completion. The Government share was assessed at one quarter in accordance with the orders contained in the Secretary of State's despatch no. 88, dated 5th July 1894. In order to facilitate calculation in the actual computation of costs, the landlord's share was fixed at 4½ annas per acre, and the raiyat's share at 3 annas per acre.

274. The results of the apportionment orders may be calculated as follows:—

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 16,21,297. After deduction of the Government share of one quarter or Rs. 4,05,324, a balance of Rs. 12,15,973 was left to be recovered from the landlords and raiyats of the district.

The amounts actually collected were as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Recovered from landlords and raiyats under the apportionment orders...	10,25,594	7	6
Court-fees ...	1,63,953	7	0
Process fees ...	8,073	6	3
Miscellaneous receipts, including copying fees, etc. ...	32,134	6	3
Total ...	12,29,759	11	0

275. But there is another item which though not actually collected should be entered to the credit of the account. This is a sum of Rs. 7,494-3-9, being the amount assessed on the area of 16,539 acres in the occupation of Government and the District Board, which was exempted from payment under the orders of Government. This item can fairly be treated as an asset, as it is not included in the Government share of one quarter, and the lands on which it is charged would have paid it, if they had been in the occupation of private parties. Adding this item to the total actually collected, we arrive at a total of Rs. 12,37,254-2-9, or Rs. 21,2^o1 in excess of the sum actually payable to Government by the landlords and tenants of the district.

276. It was formerly the practice to deduct the receipts on account of court-fees and miscellaneous receipts from the total cost before arriving at the quarter-share payable by Government. I have suggested that this course deserves reconsideration, inasmuch as the court-fees are paid entirely by the landlords and tenants of the area, and should be treated as a contribution from them to their share of the costs of the operations. The matter is still under the consideration of Government, but as in the three other districts of North Bihar, costs were apportioned by obtaining the Government share of a quarter on the total cost less the receipts on account of court-fees, it may be convenient if I give the results of the recovery operations in Darbhanga calculated on this basis.

The following are the figures :—

	Rs.
Total cost	16 21,297
Deduct court and process fees and miscellaneous receipts ...	2,04,161
	<hr/> 14,17,136
Deduct Government share of one quarter	3,54,284
	<hr/> 10,62,852
This leaves ... ..	...

as the sum to be recovered from the landlords and raiyats under the apportionment orders. But the amount actually apportioned, including the demand for the lands in the occupation of Government and the District Board, was Rs. 10,33,093, so by this method of calculation, the apportionment orders produced Rs. 29,700 less than the sum actually required. This works out to less than 3 pice per acre on the total area of the district.

277. The deficit, arising from a similar method of calculation in Saran, was Rs. 25,260, and in Muzaffarpur Rs. 26,501, but the total deficit in all three districts is more than covered by the surplus of Rs. 2,03,611 in Champaran : so that in North Bihar, as a whole, Government has gained on the working of the apportionment orders, even if the method of calculation, most favourable to Government, be adopted, and the Government share of one quarter is calculated on the sum remaining after deducting court-fees and miscellaneous receipts from the total expenditure on the survey and settlement operations. The surplus, on the North Bihar operations, as a whole, will thus amount to over one lakh of rupees in any case, and may be nearly 2½ lakhs, if it is decided that the Government share of one quarter should be calculated on the total cost. It is probable, however, that the surplus will be absorbed by the scheme for the maintenance of boundary marks, which is one of the objects to which the proceeds of an apportionment order, under section 114 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, may be applied.

278. The process of computing the shares of the landlords and raiyats was the same as that followed in Saran and Muzaffarpur, and has been fully described in the final report on the operations in the latter district. The simplicity of the acreage rates, prescribed for Darbhanga, rendered the mechanical difficulty of the work much less than in Saran, where the rates were extremely awkward. The predominance of large proprietors in a great part of Darbhanga also tended to make the work simpler and to reduce the cost. It is, of course, very much easier to compute the landlord's share of the cost in a village, where this is due from a single individual, than when it has to be split up among a large number of individuals with varying shares and interests.

279. A camp, for the recovery of costs in Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai thanas, was started on the 1st of December 1899, and, since then, the work has proceeded without interruption, each area being taken up in the season following that in which its attestation was completed. The system followed was, with a few minor variations, the same as that originally adopted in Muzaffarpur. The recovery officer pitched his camp in a convenient centre, to which the landlords and raiyats of the surrounding villages, within a radius of five miles, were called in to pay up their respective dues, and on doing so, they were given their copies of the records concerning their estates or holdings. For big landlords, like the

Darbhanga Raj, and for several indigo factories, consolidated accounts for all the villages in a certain area were made out and the dues realised in a lump sum. The collections made in camp were remitted to the nearest Treasury or Sub-Treasury, as a rule, every other day. The staff consisted of nine to sixteen tahsildars according to the requirements of the work, together with a cashier and an assistant cashier for writing up accounts. A police guard of one head-constable and four constables was employed in the camp. It speaks well for the work of all concerned, from the recovery officer downwards, that the sum of Rs. 9,81,418 collected in camp was safely lodged in the Treasury without any defalcation whatever. During the recess, the recovery officer was employed at headquarters in collecting arrears by means of the certificate procedure.

280. The recovery operations in Darbhanga have been attended with extraordinary success throughout. Particulars of the total demand from landlords and raiyats are given in the annexed statement:—

Serial no.	Class.	Demands.	
		Items of demand.	Demand.
			Rs. a. p.
1	Landlords	148,711	6,38,683 9 6
2	Occupiers	981,739	3,86,914 14 0
	Total	1,125,450	10,25,598 7 6

The whole of this sum of over 10½ lakhs of rupees, due from over a million separate assesseees, was collected within the period from 1st December 1899 to 31st March 1903, not a single item being outstanding on the latter date. This is a result which has never yet been achieved in any other district, and the greatest credit is due to the recovery officers, Babu Nilmani De and Babu Jagdish Chandra Lahiri, and to their staff. The cashier, Muhammad Yusuf, in particular, deserves special mention for the manner in which he accounted for the large sum collected, made up of a host of petty items, with the utmost promptitude and accuracy. But even the most competent and devoted staff, working under the most perfect system, could not have brought about such results without the cordial co-operation of the landlords and raiyats of the district, and the most gratifying feature of the success of the recovery work is the indication, which it affords of the value attached by them to our operations and of the eagerness, with which the raiyats especially paid up the small amounts due from them, in order to obtain the certified copies relating to their holdings. There cannot be any doubt that the ease with which the demands were collected was due to the fact that the assesseees felt that they were getting good value for their money in the copies of the khatians which were furnished to them.

281. The amount in respect of which collection had to be enforced by the certificate procedure was only four per cent. of the total demand. Particulars are given in the annexed statement:—

Serial no.	Class.	Total no. of certificates filed.		Number of cases satisfied.		Number of cases struck off.		Remarks.
		Cases.	Demand.	Cases.	Demand.	Cases.	Demand.	
1	Landlords	4,310	43,815 15 6	4,204	42,773 2 9	6	30 12 9	In the cases struck off, the land was ultimately found to belong to Government.
2	Occupiers	3,682	1,478 8 0	3,658	1,476 13 0	4	1 11 0	
	Total	8,992	44,293 7 6	8,862	44,170 15 9	10	41 7 9	

Thus over 96 per cent. of the landlord assesses paid up voluntarily 93 per cent. of the landlords demand. In the case of the raiyats, the voluntary payments were even more striking, for they amount to 99·7 per cent. of the total demand paid by 99·8 per cent. of the assesses. A large number of the raiyati arrears brought under certificate were in respect of holdings, abandoned by their original occupants and not resettled, and these dues were eventually collected from the landlords in possession. It may, therefore, be said that practically the whole of the raiyati demand was collected without any coercive measures whatever.

The cost of the recovery operations.

ments :—

	Rs.
Computation	13,115
Recovery Camp	18,295
Certificate Department	4,290
Total	33,700

282. Another satisfactory feature of recovery work in Darbhanga was its low cost. The following was the expenditure on the different departments :—

The total cost of the work was, therefore, only 3·18 per cent. of the amount recovered, as compared with 5·6 per cent. in Muzaffarpur and 5·9 per cent. in Saran; and the saving is even more considerable than this, for in both the latter districts some arrears had to be made over to the Collector for realisation, whereas in Darbhanga the demand was collected in full. Owing to the simplicity of the rates prescribed for Darbhanga and the predominance of big landlords, the cost of computation was proportionately little more than half what it was in Saran, but the main saving was in the cost of the certificate procedure and must be ascribed to the greater readiness with which the Darbhanga assesses paid up their dues.

283. It may be added that the gross demand calculated on the total area of 2,113,829 acres brought under computation at the rate of 7½ annas per acre amounted to Rs. 9,57,829, but owing to the working of the rule that all fractions of an acre exceeding half an acre were to be treated as one acre, the actual demand as computed amounted to Rs. 10,33,093, an excess of Rs. 75,264, or nearly 8 per cent. on the gross demand. This amount together with the sum of Rs. 8,073, realised as process-fees in the course of the recovery certificate proceedings, is more than double the cost of the computation and recovery operations.

CHAPTER III. STATISTICS.

284. The total area of the Darbhanga district, as obtain from a summation of the areas of the villages surveyed during the present operations, is 3,348 square miles, or 18 square miles in excess of that returned at the revenue survey. The difference is due to minor alterations of jurisdiction and to changes in the Gangetic diara in the south of the district.

285. The district was dealt with as follows by us :—

	Acres.	Square miles
1	2	3
Area for which a record-of-rights was prepared under the Tenancy Act.	2,113,829	3,303
Diara area surveyed in detail under Act V of 1875	3,101	5
Diara area surveyed topographically under Act V of 1875	22,614	35
Urban municipal area surveyed under Act V of 1875	3,304	5
Total	2,142,848	3,348

286. The following table gives Thanawar details:—

Serial Number.	Name of Subdivision.	NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VILLAGES.			Total number of holdings in settled villages exclusive of shikah holdings.	Total number of plots in settled villages.	TOTAL AREA IN ACRES.				AVERAGE AREA OF A—						
			Settled.	Excluded.	Total.			Settled.	Excluded.	Total.		Subdivision in square miles.	Thana in square miles.	Village in acres.	Holding in acres.	Plot in acres.		
										In acres.	Square miles.							
I	Madhubani ...	Hentpatti ...	347	...	347	87,531	400,191	172,773	...	172,773	270	...	...	609	3	0.4
		Krajaull ...	105	...	105	86,058	557,707	20,532	...	20,532	338	...	...	1,059	3	0.4
		Phulparas ...	327	...	327	93,030	718,226	291,060	...	291,060	453	...	...	590	3	0.4
		Madhubani ...	310	...	310	96,347	574,049	190,343	400(1)	190,343	298	...	...	616	3	0.3
					1,079	...	1,079	540,866	2,388,182	680,709	400	681,190	1,346	...	336	798	3	0.4
II	Darbhanga ...	Darbhanga ...	667	25	693	179,589	742,591	371,827	2,359(1)	371,066	428	...	...	403	3	0.4
		Bahera ...	431	...	431	142,818	740,258	256,037	...	256,037	448	...	...	670	3	0.4
		Rusera ...	399	...	399	1,016,939	651,836	222,063	350(1)	222,413	348	...	...	570	3	0.5
					1,475	25	1,500	484,366	1,634,718	780,827	2,009	782,436	1,224	...	408	523	3	0.4
III	Samastipur ...	Warisnagar ...	234	...	234	66,439	3,440	126,336	...	126,336	196	...	...	538	3	0.4
		Samastipur ...	383	...	383	123,543	651,061	180,441	205(1)	180,636	296	...	...	495	3	0.3
		Dalsing Sarai ...	216	26	242	82,060	647,308	257,435	24,715(3)	182,700	260	...	...	757	3	0.4
					633	26	659	274,011	1,412,959	472,308	25,920	493,223	778	...	249	560	3	0.3
		District Total...			3,327	51	3,408	1,039,228	5,685,754	2,118,819	29,919	2,148,646	3,346	1,116	335	623	3	0.4

(1) Municipal area.
(2) Diara area.

287. The district is thus about the average size of those in the lower Provinces, and is larger than any country in Great Britain or Ireland except York and Inverness. It is larger than Muzaffarpur or Saran, but smaller than Champaran in which, however, only 3,286 square miles was surveyed under the Tonancy Act. The average size of the three subdivisions is 1,116 square miles, which is about the same as that of an English country. There are ten thanas with an average area of 335 square miles, the largest being Phulparas in the Madhubani subdivision which, however, contains an independent outpost. There are 3,438 villages with an average area of a little less than a square mile. The largest village in the district is Karmegh in the Phulparas thana, which covers an area of 9,579 acres, or nearly 15 square miles. The smallest village is Bahuarwa in Darbhanga thana, which measures only two acres. The largest villages are in the Madhubani subdivision and the smallest in Darbhanga thana, which is also remarkable for great subdivision of proprietary rights. The haphazard manner in which the revenue survey village units were fixed has been described in a previous chapter.

288. Over a million separate holdings were recorded during the settlement operations, the average size being just over two acres. The distribution of these among landlords and tenants will be analysed subsequently. Holdings are composed of plots, of which over 5½ millions were entered in our records, the average size of a plot being about two-fifths of an acre, or much the same as in Muzaffarpur.

289. The Samastipur subdivision contains the smallest average units and Madhubani the largest. This doubtless indicates greater agricultural pressure in the south of the district, but differences in soil and in land-holding interests are also responsible for a good deal. The north of the district contains large stretches of paddy land, which always mean large plots and also large villages, as village sites are few and far between in such an area. The south, however, is almost entirely upland, which is highly cultivated in minute plots, and it is held by a large number of petty proprietors; whereas the north mainly belongs to one big landlord, the Maharaja of Darbhanga, and such a condition will always tend against excessive subdivision of units, be they villages, holdings or plots.

290. During the present operations, six main statistical statements were compiled, and these will now be analysed and discussed. They consist of—

- (1) the *milan khasra* or khasra abstract giving details regarding the cultivated and uncultivated area ;
- (2) the crop statement, also compiled from the khasra ;
- (3) the agricultural stock statement, written up for each village by the amina during preliminary record-writing ;
- (4) an abstract of the record-of-rights and rents compiled in the settlement office, while the record is being prepared for final publication ;
- (5) statistics of transfers of proprietary rights, compiled for selected villages during attestation ;
- (6) statistics of transfers of occupancy rights, compiled during attestation for all villages.

291. A few words of explanation are required regarding the areas covered by these. The total area of the district is 3,348 square miles, but of this 45 square miles was excluded from operations under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Of the excluded area, 40 square miles consist of shifting lands in the Gangetic diara, and 5 square miles cover the urban portions of the four municipalities in the district. Of the diara area, however, five square miles containing Government and temporarily-settled estates, was cadastrally surveyed, and khasras were written up for it. Agricultural statistics were, therefore, compiled for this area. For the remaining 40 square miles of diara and urban-areas there are no statistics. The first three statements therefore, which refer wholly to agricultural matters, deal with an area of 3,308 square miles. The remaining statements, which are derived from the record-of-rights itself, cover only the area for which the record was prepared, or 3,303 square miles.

292. The main features of the agricultural condition of Darbhanga can be most readily grasped by a comparison with those of other neighbouring districts, and this is exhibited in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	Total area in acres for which statistics were prepared.	NET CROPPED AREA.		BRADAL.		AGHANI.		RABI.		TWICE CROPPED.		IRRIGATED.		REMARKS
			Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	
1	Darbhanga ...	2,716,930	1,691,443	60	468,087	28	1,740,006	63	801,919	47	631,359	38	108,331	6	
2	Muzaffarpur ...	1,941,254	1,555,201	80	594,008	38	747,800	48	938,039	60	729,032	48	20,828	1	
3	Saran ...	1,633,436	1,284,010	79	625,118	41	445,109	34	791,189	62	477,405	37	194,421	15	
4	Champan ...	2,079,815	1,447,668	70	664,437	46	866,779	58	799,622	55	572,670	39	27,430	2	
5	Gaya (Tikari and Government estates).	372,508	246,734	66	16,268	0	154,263	54	110,320	01	53,120	21	127,934	5.0	
6	Monghyr (Narban estate)	30,359	24,410	80	8,938	37	8,081	23	12,154	51	4,913	20	87	0.4	

293. It will be seen that Darbhanga has a larger cropped area than any other district in North Bihar, and that the proportion borne by this to the total area is as large as in Muzaffarpur and larger than in Saran. It must be remembered, however, that both Muzaffarpur and Saran contain large *diara* tracts of sand and water which go to swell the proportion of the uncultivated area, whereas Darbhanga has comparatively little *diara* area. But in any case it is clear that in Darbhanga, as in the other districts of North Bihar, except Champan, there is very little room for extension of cultivation.

294. Probably the most remarkable feature about Darbhanga is its dependence on the *aghani* harvest, no less than 63 per cent. of its cropped area being under crops of this kind. Moreover, as will be seen from the crop statistics, more than eight-ninths of the Darbhanga *aghani* area is under winter rice. The proportion of the cropped area under *aghani* is much greater in Darbhanga than in any other district in Bihar, and it is no exaggeration

to say that Darbhanga, apart from a limited area in the south, is mainly dependent for its prosperity on the winter rice crop. This factor, therefore, will be found essential to a right understanding of the agricultural condition of the district.

295. Owing to the predominance of the *aghani* crops in Darbhanga, the *dhadai* and *rabi* areas show a corresponding contraction. The area twice cropped is also considerably smaller than in Muzaffarpur. The lands devoted to winter rice never bear a second crop of any considerable value. On the other hand, Darbhanga shows a larger irrigated area than any other district of North Bihar except Saran. In the latter, however, wells are the chief source of irrigation, which is mainly employed for the *rabi* crops, while in Darbhanga four-fifths of the irrigated area is under winter rice, and lies mainly in the north of the district, where tanks and streams are largely used as sources of irrigation.

296. Turning now to a more particular examination of the Darbhanga figures, it will be convenient to deal first with the uncultivated area which accounts for 20 per cent. of the total area of the district. Of this nearly half is not available for cultivation, being made up of roads, rivers, house sites, tanks and the like. The remainder, or slightly over one-tenth of the total district area, is available for cultivation. Thanawar figures are given in the following statement:—

NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL AREA.		Area cultivated in acres.	Area uncultivated in acres.	DETAILS OF UNCULTIVATED AREA IN ACRES.			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA.					REMARKS.
	In acres.	In square miles.			Current fallow.	Culturable area other than current fallow.	Unculturable area.	Cultivated.	Uncultivated.	Current fallow.	Culturable area other than current fallow.	Area unfit for cultivation.	
Benipatti	172,772	270	136,606	36,166	1,825	17,606	16,073	79.1	30.0	1.1	10.3	9.6	
Khajuli	2,652	323	106,898	39,627	738	26,819	17,970	80.9	19.1	0.3	10.1	8.7	
Phulparas	301,060	455	333,766	57,204	2,437	27,630	27,337	80.3	19.7	0.8	9.5	8.4	
Madhubani	190,341	267	145,927	44,414	918	24,173	19,325	70.7	29.3	0.6	12.7	10.1	
Subdivisional Total	660,701	1,245	608,957	177,243	5,018	90,230	61,195	79.4	30.6	0.7	10.5	9.4	
Darbhanga	271,827	425	213,120	58,601	3,349	29,748	26,624	78.4	21.6	1.2	11.0	9.4	
Bahera	280,937	448	235,068	61,840	3,609	32,312	26,929	78.4	21.6	0.9	11.3	9.4	
Rusera	283,063	347	175,614	46,449	2,337	21,935	21,477	70.1	30.9	1.0	10.2	9.7	
Subdivisional Total	760,877	1,220	613,802	166,889	8,105	84,735	74,080	78.6	21.4	1.0	10.9	9.5	
Warinagar	128,339	106	104,915	23,421	1,013	9,899	9,570	83.7	16.3	0.8	7.0	7.8	
Samastipur	18,481	296	167,919	31,579	1,808	17,623	12,658	83.3	16.7	1.0	9.0	8.7	
Dalsingh Sarai	157,485	247	180,378	27,107	1,607	11,233	14,367	82.8	17.2	1.0	7.1	9.1	
{ Settled	3,101	5	2,028	1,078	25	416	643	65.2	34.8	0.8	13.1	9.9	
{ Excluded	100,886	261	29,411	28,865	1,533	11,558	17,016	82.4	17.6	1.0	7.2	8.4	
Subdivisional Total	478,303	738	373,195	78,107	4,417	38,795	38,595	83.3	16.7	0.9	8.1	7.7	
{ Settled	2,101	5	2,028	1,078	25	406	648	65.2	34.8	0.8	13.1	10.9	
{ Excluded	476,403	743	368,218	8,066	4,442	38,700	37,243	83.1	16.9	1.0	9.1	7.8	
District Total	1,118,639	1,803	1,001,430	223,409	18,530	213,060	191,819	80.0	20.0	0.8	10.1	9.1	
{ Settled	3,001	5	2,028	1,078	25	406	648	65.2	34.8	0.8	13.1	20.9	
District Total	1,116,930	1,808	1,002,443	224,487	18,555	213,466	192,467	79.9	20.1	0.9	10.1	9.1	

297. Madhubani thana has the largest uncultivated area, but this is mainly due to the large extent of mango groves in this thana. The uncultivated area in both the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions is slightly above the district average, but in Samastipur it amounts to only 17 per cent., in spite of the fact that in the *diara* area shown as excluded, the proportion rises to nearly 35 per cent. If the 35 square miles of topographically surveyed area in this subdivision were included in the total, the proportion of uncultivated area would be about the same as the district average, as the *diara* area is practically all uncultivated. As it is, however, also unculturable, the fact remains that there is smaller room for extension of cultivation in Samastipur than in any other part of the district.

298. It may appear somewhat remarkable that Samastipur under these circumstances shows a higher proportion of current fallow than Madhubani, but the reason is that the agricultural conditions of the two subdivisions are radically different.

Samastipur, as a whole, is marked by the careful cultivation of its rich high uplands. Such lands require occasional rest, and the cultivators are intelligent enough to understand the advantage of allowing it to them. But in Madhubani the lands are mainly low and produce but one crop in the year, and so the necessity for high cultivation does not arise. In a year of good rainfall, no one would think of leaving rice lands fallow, and, indeed, rice lands positively deteriorate when left uncultivated. As pointed out by Mr. Finucane in his final report on the Alapur settlement, rice lands when allowed to go out of cultivation "become baked and hardened, the *aile* or partitions between fields become broken, and the drains by which the land was irrigated, get filled up or obliterated. The cost of cultivating such lands is therefore large, and raiyats will not pay anything like the original rent for it. As they express it, the land has gone out of repair (*be-maramat*), and it takes time and labour again to bring it into repair."

The area uncultivated, but cultivable.

299. Particulars of the cultivable area, other than current fallow, are shown in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area of thana in acres.	CULTIVABLE AREA OTHER THAN CURRENT FALLOW.				PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA CULTIVABLE OTHER THAN CURRENT FALLOW.				REMARKS.
			Old fallow.	Mango Groves.	Other kinds, including cultivable jungles.	Total.	Old fallow.	Mango Groves.	Other kinds, including cultivable jungles.	Total.	
1	Bentpatti ...	172,775	7,575	8,339	1,864	17,808	4.4	4.8	1.0	10.2	
2	Khajauli ...	206,525	9,048	9,242	3,531	20,821	4.4	4.0	1.7	10.1	
3	Phuiparam ...	291,060	13,311	10,063	8,786	27,850	4.7	3.5	3.0	9.5	
4	Madhubani ...	190,343	7,803	12,942	3,488	24,173	4.1	6.8	1.8	12.7	
	Subdivisional Total ...	660,700	39,235	39,576	12,419	90,230	4.4	4.6	3.5	10.5	
5	Darbhanga ...	221,889	14,751	17,624	1,393	33,768	5.4	4.7	0.6	11.0	
6	Bahera ...	286,937	17,080	11,760	2,843	32,319	6.3	4.1	1.0	11.3	
7	Rosera ...	222,038	15,513	5,723	1,395	23,385	7.0	2.6	0.6	10.2	
	Subdivisional Total ...	780,827	47,697	30,136	6,032	84,786	6.1	3.9	0.9	10.9	
8	Warisnagar ...	125,238	4,284	4,352	1,208	9,844	3.4	3.5	1.0	7.9	
9	Samastipur ...	189,401	8,887	6,210	1,967	17,033	4.7	3.3	1.0	9.0	
10	Dalsing Sarai { Settled ...	157,486	5,023	4,740	1,461	11,233	3.3	3.0	0.9	7.1	
		Excluded ...	3,101	94	1	310	405	2.0	0.1	10.0	13.1
	Dalsing Sarai Total ...	160,586	5,117	4,740	1,771	11,689	3.2	2.9	1.1	7.1	
	Subdivisional (Settled ...	472,302	18,244	18,320	4,531	39,095	3.9	3.3	1.0	8.1	
	Total. { Excluded ...	3,101	94	1	310	405	2.0	0.1	10.0	13.1	
	Subdivisional Total ...	475,403	18,338	18,321	4,841	39,500	3.9	3.3	1.0	8.1	
	Total ... { Settled ...	2,128,529	104,456	85,732	23,572	213,660	5.0	4.0	1.1	10.1	
	Total ... { Excluded ...	3,101	94	1	310	405	2.0	0.1	10.0	13.1	
	Total ...	2,116,630	104,550	85,633	23,882	213,465	5.0	4.0	1.1	10.1	

300. Half of the area under discussion, equivalent to one-twentieth of the total area of the district, is waste land, pure and simple. Much of it is impregnated with the salt efflorescence known as *reb*, and is unfit for cultivation in its present state, but in a district such as Darbhanga, where the cattle mainly depend upon grazing and get little other food during the greater part of the year, it would probably be impossible to reduce the area of waste land to any appreciable extent. As it is, old fallow covers less than five per cent. of the total area in all thanas, except those of the Sadar subdivision, which contains a considerable amount of swamp and marsh, which is under water for the greater part of the year and is useless for grazing purposes.

301. The large area under mango groves, especially in the north of the district, adds, however, to its grazing resources. In Madhubani thana particularly, the mango groves constitute a most valuable agricultural asset. This area is the strong hold of Brahmanism in the district and many of the groves had been planted

from religious motives. Culturable jungle is chiefly found in the Madhubani subdivision, along the banks of streams and on the Nepal frontier. There is also a considerable area of it in the small diara tract for which statistics are available.

302. The details of the area unfit for cultivation are given below :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area in acres.	AREA NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION IN ACRES.				PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AREA UNFIT FOR CULTIVATION.				HOUSEHOLD.				REMARKS.
			House sites.	Water.	Other kinds.	Total.	House sites.	Water.	Other kinds.	Total.	Total number of houses occupied.	Average size of a house in square yards.	Number of persons per house.	Total number of persons residing in an acre of land.		Number of houses in an acre of land.
1	Beispatti	172,773	2,490	8,918	5,361	16,673	1.4	5.2	3.0	9.6	57,909	211	4.6	107	33
2	Khajauli	216,285	2,400	7,948	7,532	17,670	1.2	3.9	3.8	8.7	41,610	290	5.9	99	17
3	Phulparas	391,000	3,479	12,410	11,498	27,327	1.2	4.2	4.0	9.4	71,280	283	4.6	85	21
4	Madhubani	18,341	1,028	6,86	8,315	19,326	1.4	4.4	4.3	10.1	83,925	236	4.4	90	21
	Subdivisional Total	880,700	11,043	37,656	32,493	81,196	1.3	4.4	3.7	9.4	224,126	240	4.8	87	20
5	Darbhangha	27,827	3,694	12,276	9,764	25,624	1.2	4.6	3.8	9.6	68,481	243	6.4	103	19
6	Bahera	290,977	3,326	13,839	9,763	26,928	1.2	4.8	3.4	9.3	43,537	251	5.6	107	19
7	Rusera	923,009	3,376	12,810	6,423	21,477	1.1	5.8	2.8	9.7	46,082	250	5.7	111	19
	Subdivisional Total	780,827	9,286	38,924	26,950	74,020	1.2	5.0	3.3	9.5	178,100	252	5.6	106	18
8	Wariyengar	125,226	1,606	7,993	4,639	14,238	1.2	6.1	3.2	7.6	21,501	247	5.4	105	20
9	Samastipur	159,481	3,818	8,346	6,564	18,688	1.2	1.7	5.5	8.7	67,833	201	4.5	107	24
10	Dalsingh Sarai (Settled)	167,485	2,467	4,968	6,911	14,367	1.5	8.3	4.4	9.1	...	...	...	...	...
	Dalsingh Sarai (Excluded)	3,101	20	345	283	648	0.7	11.1	9.1	20.9	...	...	...	...	...
	Dalsingh Sarai Total	160,586	2,487	5,384	7,194	15,015	1.9	3.3	4.5	9.4	64,040	228	6.0	109	22
	Subdivisional Total (Settled)	473,303	6,903	13,168	17,584	36,596	1.4	3.6	3.7	7.7	...	...	...	...	...
	Subdivisional Total (Excluded)	3,101	20	345	283	648	0.7	11.1	9.1	20.9	...	...	...	...	...
	Subdivisional Total	476,465	6,913	13,612	17,867	37,243	1.5	2.6	3.7	7.8	163,804	218	4.8	102	22
	District Total (Settled)	2,118,829	27,228	89,748	78,680	191,800	1.3	4.2	3.6	9.1	...	...	...	...	...
	District Total (Excluded)	3,101	20	345	283	648	0.7	11.1	9.1	20.9	...	...	...	...	...
	District Total	2,121,930	27,248	90,093	78,963	192,447	1.3	4.2	3.6	9.1	655,100	237	5.1	103	20

303. The most important item is water, which covers 4 per cent. of the total district area. The proportion is lowest in the Samastipur subdivision, the greater part of which is separated from the rest of the district by the Bur Gandak river, and which itself contains no rivers of any importance. Further north, however, we find a network of rivers and streams, most of which converge on the extreme south east corner of the district. It must be remembered that Dalsingh Sarai thana contains 35 square miles of Gangetic diara which is not included in these figures.

304. The miscellaneous uncultivated area consists mainly of roads and the banks of rivers, except in Dalsingh Sarai, where a few sandy tracts in the diara are included. Apart from this thana, there are no important variations from the district average. House sites are classified separately. They account for nearly one and a half per cent. of the total area of district. The variations from the district average are nowhere significant, except in the small diara area where, as was to be expected, house sites cover a very small proportion of the total area.

305. The number of houses recorded at the last census * (excluding those in the municipal area, which was omitted from our operations and from the scope of the above statistics), was well over half a million. The average number of persons occupying an inhabited house is just over five, being highest in Rusera and lowest in Madhubani thana. The average size of a house is only 237 square yards, as compared with 272 square yards in Saran and 290 square yards in Muzaffarpur. But the Saran and Muzaffarpur statistics are based on the census of 1881, while in 1901 the definition of a house, as the residence of a single commensal family, was more strictly enforced, and it appears from paragraph 64 of the Census Report for 1901 that this difference especially affected Bihar. In any

case, however, the house sites in Darbhanga seem to be more congested than in Saran or Muzaffarpur, for they contain 103 persons to the acre as compared with 97 in Muzaffarpur and 98 in Saran. As was to be expected, the greatest average congestion is found in the Samastipur subdivision, where land is valuable, and the lowest in Madhubani. The greatest number of persons per acre of house site is, however, found in Rusera Thana, where as also in Bahera, there is, in many parts, much low-lying marsh land and little land suitable for house sites.

306. The average size of the house throws little light on agricultural prosperity. Though here and there, a man who has got on in the world, may move out of the village *basti* and build himself a brick house elsewhere, the average raiyat, however prosperous he may be or however his family may increase, will stick to the house of his fathers and his fathers' gods; and to spend his savings on the improvement of his dwelling in the last thing that would occur to him. After all, his house is only a place to sleep in, and for half the year he and his sons sleep in the open. One might have expected that the women folk, who spend so much more time in the house, would try to secure as good a one as they could afford, but religious considerations make them reluctant to move. There is probably no peasantry in the world, which attaches less consideration to a comfortable dwelling-place than the Bihar raiyat.

307. It will be of interest to preface the analysis of the details of the present cultivated area by a few notes, based on such scanty details as are available, regarding the history of the extension of cultivation in the district. The history of extension of cultivation in the district. Statistical information is non-existent before the period of the resumption proceedings and the *thakbust* survey in the middle of last century, but Babu Charu Chandra Kumar has found in the Muzaffarpur Collectorate several earlier reports bearing on the subject, from which brief extracts may be given.

308. The state of cultivation at the time of the decennial settlement is thus described by the Collector in a report dated 5th July 1828. "The district of Tirhut contains two sircars and a half or grand divisions viz.:—Sircar Hajipur, Sircar Tirhut, and half Sircar Monghyr, including a part of Champaran. At the time of the permanent settlement in 1197, the greater part of Sircar Hajipur was in a forward state of cultivation, the other sircars, particularly Tirhut, much the reverse, to which may be attributed the low jamas assessed at the time and for some time subsequently in most of the estates, in comparison with what the estates could now yield were a fresh settlement to take place."

309. In 1796 or six years after the decennial settlement, the Collector refers to the extensive waste lands, lying on the northern borders of Raja Madhu Sing's estates, and speaking of pargana Pachhi, he describes the country as the abode of "dreadful beasts of prey." The neighbouring pargana of Alapur, now one of the richest parts of the district, was, towards the close of the eighteenth century, the haunt of wild elephants as the following extract from a report of the Collector to the Board, dated 1st June 1797 will show:—

"Regarding the present situation of Alapur, which has at all times been to me a cause of great anxiety, the partial failure of the *Kharif* from drought and the dreadful and more than common depredation of the wild elephants where the harvests were plentiful, have entirely put a stop to all improvement and render the situation of this pargana more discouraging than ever. The raiyat that have deserted in consequence are numerous and I have no hopes of ever realizing the jama of Government."

310. The earliest estimate regarding the extent of cultivated and uncultivated area is to be found in a letter of 1802 from the Collector to the Governor-General in Council, in which it is stated, that the proportion of cultivated to uncultivated land was as three to two. But this estimate was probably little more than guess work and the following description of pargana Bharwara, also written in 1802 is more instructive, as it appears to have been drawn up after a visit to the tract:—

"I have seen some part of the lands myself, and it strikes me that want of industry prevails strongly among the natives of this part. For miles and miles are plains with only here and there a few *bighas* in cultivation, and the uncultivated land surrounding it apparently as well worth the trouble of agriculture as any part I have seen. The *rahi*

crops in these parts are extremely unproductive, owing to the lowness of the country and the length of time the waters remain upon the lands, but the *khari* harvest is a gain productive; indeed I may say the principal and almost only produce of these mahals.

311. Pargana Bharwara comprises a considerable portion of the present Sadar subdivision of the district, and the fact that 78 per cent. of it is now cultivated is a striking proof of the extension of cultivation within the last century.

The tract is still, however, mainly rice producing. Again, in 1811, the Collector reported that 691 villages were still unassessed owing to their "jungly state." In 1826, cultivation was still backward in the eastern part of the district. The Collector writes as follows:—

"The district towards the eastward through which I passed is in a less advanced state of cultivation than other parts of the district, and there still remains a vast extent of jungly grass to be cleared away. Reasonable hopes may, however, be entertained from what has already occurred, that at some future period much of the waste land will be brought into cultivation and a considerable accession of revenue obtained thereby."

A decade later, a considerable advance appears to have been made, as we find the following description of the parganas which now make up the greater part of the Rusera and Bahera thanas. Writing in 1837 the Collector says:—

"On my recent tour of duty as Magistrate, I had occasion to march through Pargana Padri and was much struck by its altered appearance, formerly there having been much heavy grass jungle in it, the resort of wild beasts, whereas now cultivation has been greatly extended throughout it. The same appeared to be the case with the adjoining pargana Hirni. Another pargana, Benna, adjoining the above two, does not appear to have been so much advanced in cultivation and it has been kept under temporary settlement in consequence, and will in due time receive the requisite attention of the settlement officer: as the present settlement expires in 1851 F. S."

312. The next important estimate of the cultivated area of the district was that of the Revenue Surveyor of 1846 who put it at 75 per cent. of the total. As our statistics show that it is now only 80 per cent., this was probably an over-estimate, and at best it was an estimate based on guess work, as no statistics of cultivation were compiled at the Revenue Survey. Sir A. P. Macdonnell, in his report on food-grain supply and famine relief in Bihar in 1870, put the cultivated area at 79 per cent. of the total, and though our figures show that he somewhat over-estimated the *bhadai* and under-estimated the *rabi*, his figures as a whole correspond remarkably closely with ours and indicate the soundness of the methods of enquiry adopted by him in the absence of detailed statistical information. His estimate of the area under rice is only 20,000 acres less than our figures, and was probably, at the time it was made, almost absolutely correct. The figures, adopted for the "Agricultural Statistics of British India" prior to our operations, showed from 82 to 84 per cent. of the district area as cultivated, and it is now found that this was excessive. Either Sir A. P. Macdonnell's estimate of the extent of the cultivated area in 1876 was too high or there has not been such extension of cultivation since, as was allowed for in compiling the agricultural statistics. Probably both causes have been at work.

Sir A. P. Macdonnell.

313. It should be noted here that Mr. Finucane during his survey in 1878 of pargana Alapur, the Darbhanga Raj estate in Phulparas thana, found only 64 per cent. of the total area to be cultivated. But, as noted by Mr. Finucane in his final report, it would be unfair to take this area as a criterion for the rest of the district at that time. Owing partly to the drought of 1874-75 and partly to the oppression of the Raj tenure-holders and subordinates, a very large area had recently gone out of cultivation, and Mr. Finucane found no less than 13 per cent. of the total area to be *parti-jalid* or new fallow. One of the results of Mr. Finucane's proceedings was to bring this area under cultivation again, and normal cultivated area in 1878 may fairly be taken as 77 per cent. of the total. The present cultivated area of Phulparas thana is 80 per cent. of the total, so that the extension of cultivation within the last 25 years has not been great.

Mr. Finucane's figures for Alapur.

314. A certain amount of statistical information regarding the extension of cultivation can be gleaned from the records of the resumption and *thakbust* proceedings. The former were based on an accurate survey and the areas are therefore trust-worthy, but as many of the records concerned portions of villages only, it is impossible to use them all for the purposes of comparison. However, 50 villages, covering an area of 50 square miles and scattered all over the district, have been identified with existing Revenue Survey villages, and a comparison of their present cultivated areas with those shown in the records of the resumption proceedings is given in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Number of villages selected.	Area in acres.	Percentage of cultivated to total area in villages selected at time of resumption proceedings.		
				Percentage of cultivated to total area in villages selected at time of resumption proceedings.	Percentage of cultivated to total area in villages selected at the present day.	Percentage of cultivated to total area in thanas at present day.
1	Benipatti	4	2,846	51	67	79
2	Khajuli	3	3,103	56	86	81
3	Phulparas	9	1,456	58	87	80
4	Madhubani	9	5,498	66	78	77
5	Darbhangra	12	6,794	61	79	73
6	Bahera	8	337	73	83	78
7	Rusera	8	4,247	64	84	79
8	Warisnagar	5	2,387	75	81	84
9	Samastipur	2	4,509	73	83	83
10	Dalsingh Sarai	1	1,118	76	85	82
	Total	50	32,154	61	82	80

315. The figures represent the state of affairs in these villages between 1830 and 1840, and, so far as they go they show that cultivation has extended by over 20 per cent. in the last seventy years. As the area is so small the thanawar details are hardly worthy of analysis, but the great development of the four northern thanas of the district is noteworthy.

316. The *thakbust* records throw further light on the state of the district a decade later, during the period 1845-49. As the areas were not arrived at after a measurement, they are not so trustworthy as those found in the records of the resumption proceedings, but they were based on returns sent in by patwaries and may be accepted as approximately accurate. The following table gives particulars for 200 villages scattered over all parts of the district and covering an area of 256 square miles:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Number of villages selected.	Area in acres.	PERCENTAGE OF CULTIVATED TO TOTAL AREA	
				At the time of the <i>thakbust</i> survey.	At the present day.
1	Benipatti	25	20,856	71	80
2	Khajauli	24	23,678	74	82
3	Phulparas	10	11,504	79	81
4	Madhubani	16	12,337	72	80
5	Darbhangra	33	22,875	66	82
6	Bahera	37	41,017	69	77
7	Rusera	29	18,264	75	82
8	Warisnagar	7	2,391	80	89
9	Samastipur	14	7,377	80	83
10	Dalsingh Sarai	5	3,863	80	90
	Total	200	164,372	72	80

317. These figures indicate a very considerable extension of cultivation, especially in the Madhubani subdivision, between 1830 and 1850. They also indicate that in Samastipur, extension of cultivation had almost reached its utmost limits half a century ago, and indeed in 1856 we find the Collector reporting that this area was "cultivated like a garden". In Darbhanga and Bahera thanas alone, does the advance between 1830 and 1850 appear to have been comparatively slight; and even at the present day, these thanas contain large tracts of marsh and swamp, which can only be cultivated partially in dry years.

318. To sum up then, we have seen that, in the early part of the nineteenth century, a very large proportion of the district, amounting probably to half the total area, and certainly in the north to more than half, was uncultivated. By 1840, the cultivated area had increased to three-fifths of the total, but in the north it was still little more than half. During the next 10 years, the cultivated area appears to have rapidly increased, until in 1850 it amounted probably to nearly three-fourths of the total. In 1875, Sir A. P. Macdonnell estimated it to be 73 per cent. of the total, and our figures show it to be just under 60 per cent. We should probably, therefore, not be far wrong in drawing the conclusion that cultivation has nearly doubled itself within the last hundred years, but that the greater part of the extension took place in the first half of the century. The present cultivated area is four-fifths of the total, and its nature and composition will now be examined.

319. In Darbhanga, as in the rest of Bihar, the crops fall under one or other of the three main harvests, *bhadoi*, *aghani* and *rabi*, or autumn, winter and spring. The thanawar distribution of the cropped area is shown in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	CROPPED AREA.						Total.	TWICE CROPPED.		Total net cropped.	REMARKS.
		Bhadol.		Aghani.		Rabi.			Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.		
		Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to net cropped area.					
1	Denipatti	24,923	16'	97,556	71'	95,471	69'	27,949	81,283	50'	136,000	
2	Khajauli	47,673	28'	110,098	85'	77,683	45'	334,454	69,456	40'	166,999	
3	Phulpur	39,999	17'	191,185	81'	85,163	36'	316,350	83,564	35'	233,786	
4	Madhubani	37,881	28'	98,836	87'	66,823	45'	303,398	57,411	30'	145,927	
	Subdivisional Total	150,475	23'	497,677	73'	324,939	47'	973,001	189,734	43'	683,357	
5	Darbhanga	59,084	27'	133,046	61'	130,133	61'	331,255	108,059	50'	213,193	
6	Bahera	51,138	23'	164,164	72'	87,890	38'	303,992	77,894	34'	225,098	
7	Ruseera	44,838	25'	109,374	63'	73,803	43'	228,005	52,391	30'	175,614	
	Subdivisional Total	155,013	25'	495,574	66'	291,826	47'	653,312	238,344	38'	415,014	
8	Waranagar	42,354	40'	43,098	46'	50,172	47'	141,134	36,399	34'	104,735	
9	Samastipur	66,633	41'	67,347	43'	67,001	42'	190,780	41,673	20'	149,107	
10	Dahluh Sural Settled	54,237	41'	40,743	31'	66,917	51'	161,907	31,559	24'	130,348	
	Excluded	1,157	87'	157	7'	1,214	60'	2,528	505	24'	2,023	
	Dahluh Sural Total	55,414	41'	40,900	30'	68,131	51'	164,435	32,064	24'	132,371	
	Subdivisional { Settled	102,046	41'	150,698	39'	164,140	46'	502,671	109,670	37'	393,001	
	{ Excluded	1,157	87'	157	7'	1,214	60'	2,528	505	24'	2,023	
	Subdivisional Grand Total	103,203	41'	150,855	39'	165,354	46'	505,199	110,175	37'	395,024	
	District Total { Settled	637,530	27'	1,062,949	62'	800,705	47'	2,338,174	637,754	37'	1,700,420	
	{ Excluded	1,157	87'	157	7'	1,214	60'	2,528	505	24'	2,023	
	Total	638,687	27'	1,063,106	62'	801,919	47'	2,340,702	638,259	37'	1,702,443	

320. The predominance of the winter harvest in the Madhubani and Sadar subdivisions is very marked, and exceeds the proportion found in any thana or subdivision of Muzaffarpur or Champaran. As will be seen, winter rice is the chief crop grown in these subdivisions and this accounts for the small area under crops of the autumn harvest, for which also the tract is unsuited owing to its liability to floods. In Phulparas no less than 81 per cent. of the net cropped area is under *aghani* crops. The *rabi* proportion is fairly constant throughout the district, but it would be a fallacy to suppose that this indicates equality of conditions, so far as the spring harvest is concerned. For land on which winter rice is grown will only produce at the *rabi* harvest *khesari*, a grain of inconsiderable value, or a thin catch crop of gram or linseed. It is only from *bhadoi* lands that a *rabi* crop of any value can be reaped, and so the *rabi* crop is mainly of importance in Samastipur where the *bhadoi* and *rabi* areas approximate.

321. Mr. Stevenson-Moore, in paragraph 721 of the Muzaffarpur final report, throws out the interesting suggestion that "by adding the *bhadoi* and *rabi* percentages of area and deducting the *aghani*, we get a fairly correct measure of agricultural prosperity". This method of calculation, however, as applied to Darbhanga would yield untrustworthy results, for according to it, the subdivisions would stand in the following order :—

Samastipur	...	...	...	...	...	+48
Sadar	...	...	...	...	...	+7
Madhubani	...	...	...	...	...	-3

There is not, as a matter of fact, such a difference between the material condition of Samastipur and the rest of the district as these figures would seem to indicate. But the test suggested by Mr. Stevenson-Moore does indicate, approximately, the areas which are likely to suffer most severely in the case of a failure of the winter rice crop, which is the main, if not the only, cause of famine in Bihar. As, however, failure of the winter rice is fortunately not the normal state of things, it would be unsafe to judge of the ordinary condition of an area by its liability to distress in extraordinary years. The matter will be further discussed in dealing with the material condition of the people. It is of course a truism, that an area, which depends mainly on one crop, will suffer more severely from the failure of that crop than another area, which has several alternative crops to fall back upon, all of which are highly unlikely to fail in the same year.

322. In regard to the twice cropped area, the same caution applies as in the case of *rabi*. A high proportion of twice cropped lands is not necessarily an index of agricultural prosperity or of ability to withstand the effects of drought. For instance, the largest proportion of twice cropped lands in Darbhanga is in the Madhubani subdivision, where 72 per cent. of the net cropped area is under winter rice and most of the second crops must therefore be of inconsiderable value. Phulparas, with 81 per cent. of its net cropped area under winter rice, has 35 per cent. twice-cropped, or a larger proportion than the Samastipur subdivision, in which area, mainly, really valuable *bhadoi* and *rabi* crops are produced in the same year from the same land.

323. In fact, the agricultural condition of an area cannot be correctly gauged without reference to the crop statement, but before turning to this, a few words may be said regarding irrigation in the district, based on the figures contained in the *milan khasra*. The following statement shows the irrigated area and the main sources of irrigation :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Net cropped area.	IRRIGATED AREA AND HOW IRRIGATED.										NUMBER OF WELLS.			Number of wells per square mile of cultivated area.	REMARKS.
			IRRIGATED AREA.		Irrigated from wells.		Irrigated from private canals.		Irrigated from tanks and abais.		Irrigated from other sources.		Masonry.	Earthen.	Total.		
			Area in acres.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area in acres.	Percentage of total irrigated area.	Area.	Percentage of total irrigated area.	Area.	Percentage of total irrigated area.	Area.	Percentage of total irrigated area.					
1	Benipatti ...	186,060	48,672	26.18	176	0.40	1,043	2.40	24,037	58.14	16,385	42.16	1,632	20	1,652	9	
2	Khajauli ...	160,198	19,141	11.94	501	1.23	706	3.48	5,046	42.05	10,035	62.37	1,622	68	1,757	11	
3	Phulparas ...	258,704	27,38	11.73	104	0.40	1,180	4.15	9,239	30.14	17,916	65.92	1,707	233	2,000	14	
4	Madhubani ...	146,027	7,919	5.42	28	0.35	255	3.23	6,449	58.71	2,937	37.72	1,704	57	1,821	12	
	Subdivisional Total...	6,3,357	98,060	15.48	690	0.71	3,143	3.21	44,904	45.65	40,354	50.23	7,055	375	7,431	7	
5	Darbhanga ...	319,168	1,682	0.53	22	3.07	9	0.25	145	13.65	888	63.43	2,350	132	2,482	7	
6	Bahera ...	328,088	1,658	0.76	10	1.21	9	0.54	689	53.65	743	44.63	1,384	105	1,489	4	
7	Rusera ...	175,604	210	0.12	31	14.76	...	...	22	10.48	157	74.76	909	18	925	2
	Subdivisional Total...	618,860	3,550	0.58	73	3.49	18	0.63	1,056	26.04	1,783	60.85	4,643	253	4,896	2	
8	Warlanagar ...	104,218	1,441	1.37	712	40.41	...	...	161	11.77	568	39.43	1,371	31	1,402	9
9	Samastipur ...	157,112	3,381	2.15	3,420	78.94	...	...	343	8.80	466	12.36	2,632	451	3,283	13
10	Dainisigh (Settled ...)	130,378	3,029	2.32	2,003	66.77	...	...	366	13.08	590	19.15	1,638	363	2,001	13
	Dainisigh (Excluded ...)	2,023	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	1
	Dainisigh Saral Total	132,401	3,029	2.29	2,003	66.77	...	...	366	13.08	590	19.15	1,642	363	2,004	13
	Subdivi- (Settled ...)	393,196	3,401	0.86	3,694	70.16	...	...	873	10.39	1,634	19.45	6,041	1,334	7,375	13
	Subdivi- (Excluded ...)	3,023	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	1
	Subdivisional Total...	396,219	3,401	0.86	3,694	70.16	...	...	873	10.39	1,634	19.45	6,045	1,334	7,379	13
	District (Settled ...)	1,090,490	100,391	9.19	6,668	6.09	3,161	2.89	40,633	43.87	59,671	49.15	17,730	1,063	19,793	7	
	District (Excluded ...)	2,123	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	1
	Total ...	1,092,613	100,391	9.19	6,668	6.09	3,161	2.89	43,603	43.87	59,671	49.15	17,734	1,063	19,797	7	

324. The most remarkable feature of this is the prevalence of irrigation in the Madhubani subdivision, as compared with the rest of the district. This is probably due in part to the fact that this area was the last in the district to be surveyed, and that greater attention was paid to the compilation of irrigation statistics there than in the area surveyed in the earlier days of the operations. It was found that the amins, if left to themselves, only record as irrigated, plots which are actually being irrigated at the time of survey, and as this takes place in the cold weather, there is a danger of the record of the irrigation of the more important crops being omitted altogether. Special instruction regarding the matter were therefore issued during the progress of the work in Darbhanga, and these resulted in the irrigation statistics being more complete in the north of the district than in the south. But even allowing for this, there can be no doubt that irrigation is much more largely practised in the north than in the south, and there are several reasons why this should be so.

325. It will be noticed that, in the Samastipur subdivision, wells are the main source of irrigation, while in Madhubani and the Sadar, their place is taken by tanks and "other sources" (chiefly rivers and streams), which together water over 95 per cent. of the irrigated area, the area irrigated from wells being insignificant. The numerous streams and rivers, which run through Madhubani are very largely taken advantage of for the irrigation of winter rice, especially in the Khajauli and Phulparas. In Benipatti, in which nearly a third of the cropped area is shown as irrigated, a very complete system of channel and pynes or cuts from the Kamla river, constructed at small cost by the energy and foresight of Mr. R. S. King, Sub-Manager of the Rohika Circle of the Darbhanga Raj, during the famine of 1897, was the means of saving 30,000 acres of winter rice during the partial failure of the monsoon in 1901. And all over the subdivision, tanks are very largely used for the irrigation of the fields in their neighbourhood, either to expedite the transplantation of the winter rice seedlings or to prevent them from withering during a break in the rains. In the Sadar subdivision, the main sources of irrigation are the same as in Madhubani, but the area irrigated is very much less. Most of the Madhubani streamlets have joined the larger rivers before they reach the Sadar, and the

latter are too large to permit of their use for irrigation by the simple and inexpensive means adopted by the Madhubani cultivators. Tanks also are less numerous in the Sadar, and the raiyats being less familiar with irrigation than their fellows in Madhubani, make less use of such tanks as there are. Lastly, for the reasons already given, the Madhubani irrigation statistics are probably more complete than those of the Sadar, though it would be difficult to say to what extent this has affected them.

326. The contrast between the north and the south of the district is still further exemplified in the following statement showing the main crops which are ordinarily irrigated :—

The crops which are irrigated.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Cultivated area.	AREA IRRIGATED.		RICE.		WHEAT.		OTHER CEREALS, INCLUDING PULSES.		OTHER FOOD CROPS.		FOOD CROPS OF ALL SORTS.		NON-FOOD CROPS.	
			Area in acres.	Percentage of cultivated area irrigated.	Area.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).	Area in acres.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).	Area in acres.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).	Area in acres.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).	Area in acres.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).	Area in acres.	Percentage of irrigated area in column (4).
1	Benipatti ...	136,668	43,573	31.98	35,179	80.7	630	1.4	4,384	11.4	248	0.3	41,081	94.1	2,741	6.9
2	Khejuli ...	157,994	19,141	11.45	15,033	83.7	35	0.3	702	4.0	5.0	1.0	17,100	66.8	1,959	10.2
3	Phulparas ...	259,776	27,428	11.73	25,473	93.6	165	0.0	563	2.0	365	1.3	24,768	97.6	672	2.3
4	Madhubani ...	145,927	7,19	5.48	7,187	90.7	28	0.5	277	3.5	167	2.0	7,463	96.7	260	3.3
	Subdivisional Total...	683,357	98,000	14.35	84,071	85.7	643	0.9	6,583	6.7	1,300	1.3	92,635	94.6	6,426	6.5
5	Darbhanga ...	213,168	1,002	0.50	810	57.4	17	1.0	71	6.7	141	13.6	842	79.3	220	20.7
6	Ensera ...	235,088	1,658	0.74	677	53.0	47	3.8	154	9.3	177	1.7	1,263	77.6	4.6	24.4
7	Rusera ...	175,014	210	0.12	23	10.0	3	1.4	12	5.7	39	18.6	77	36.0	123	63.4
	Subdivisional Total...	613,268	2,639	0.48	1,510	51.5	67	2.8	235	8.0	360	12.3	2,172	74.1	764	25.9
8	Warisnagar ...	1,4,915	1,441	1.37	...	...	3	0.1	2	0.2	127	8.8	131	9.1	1,310	90.0
9	Samastipur ...	157,002	3,911	2.49	4	0.1	18	0.5	14	0.6	27	0.7	73	1.9	3,268	84.1
10	Dalsingh Settled Sar. I. (Excluded)	13,378	3,009	2.22	...	...	20	1.0	235	7.6	323	7.6	490	10.2	2,589	63.6
	Dalsingh Sarai Total	132,431	3,029	2.29	...	...	30	0.0	338	7.7	329	7.6	40	10.2	2,520	63.6
	Subdivisional (Settled...)	383,165	8,401	2.14	4	...	49	0.0	358	3.1	363	4.6	694	8.3	7,707	91.7
	Subdivisional (Excluded)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Subdivisional Total...	305,216	8,411	2.15	4	...	40	0.0	258	3.1	363	4.6	694	8.3	7,707	91.7
	District Settled... Total	1,69,140	100,311	6.47	85,585	78.2	904	0.0	7,070	6.5	1,873	1.7	95,511	87.3	13,800	12.7
	District Excluded... Total	2,023	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	1,692,441	169,391	6.46	85,585	78.2	904	0.9	7,079	6.5	1,873	1.7	1,65,611	87.3	13,690	12.7

327. While 85 per cent. of the Madhubani irrigated area is under rice, there is practically no rice irrigation in Samastipur, the great majority of the irrigated area being under non-food crops, almost entirely opium and tobacco. In Madhubani, nearly one-fifth of the staple-crop, rice is ordinarily irrigated; in Benipatti thana the proportion rises to over one-third. In Samastipur, irrigation is reserved for special and highly cultivated crops, covering an insignificant proportion of the cropped area. In Madhubani, irrigation is almost entirely practised on food crops, and the same is true of the Sadar, excluding Rusera thana, where there is practically no irrigation at all. In Samastipur, on the other hand, almost all the irrigation is devoted to non-food crops.

328. The extension of irrigation in Darbhanga is thus by no means a simple question or one on which it would be advisable to generalise. In the south of the district, extensive irrigation is not practicable owing to the scanty sources of supply, nor is it greatly required for the crops mainly grown. There is a prejudice against well-irrigation, which is probably to a certain extent well founded. It is believed that land once artificially irrigated must always be irrigated. In the prevailing soils of the area, irrigation forms a crust below the surface, which impairs the fertility of the land, unless irrigation is continued every year. Hence irrigation is only practised on lands near wells, and these lands are reserved for the more valuable crops. The irrigation once begun must be continued, and though it may result in a good

return through the production of more valuable crops than can be raised on unirrigated lands, it entails an amount of labour and expense from which the majority of cultivators are averse. No doubt the increasing pressure of the population on the soil will cause an extension of well-irrigation in this area, as it has already done in Saran and North Monghyr; but it is a matter which must be left in the hands of the cultivators themselves.

329. In the Sadar subdivision little can be done in the way of extension of irrigation, owing to the scanty sources of supply, and this is the more unfortunate, because it is this area, which, as a rule, suffers most severely in case of failure of the winter rice crop.

330. It is in the north of the district that opportunities exist for extension of irrigation on a comparatively large scale and the question there is complicated

by the fact that, in years of normal rainfall, irrigation is little practised or required. The water, which, in a year of drought, is priceless, is in ordinary year a superfluity, and it is in a dry year, when irrigation is most wanted, that there is a scanty supply of water in the tanks and streams. All irrigation projects in Madhubani accordingly suffer from the defect that they would be little used in ordinary years, while, in dry years, they would benefit a comparatively small area. Hence large irrigation works are probably financially impossible, and extension of irrigation must be looked for, mainly in the direction of increasing the usefulness of the present sources of supply, on some cheap and efficient system such as that which has already proved so successful in Benipatti. Well-irrigation is practically useless for winter rice, owing to the small area commanded by each well, and no wells would stand in an area so liable to inundation. But already tanks can irrigate 45,000 acres in the subdivision, and rivers and channels nearly 50,000 acres. It would probably be possible to improve the manner in which these two sources of irrigation are used, at a cost which would be insignificant in comparison with the advantage to be gained, and this would go far to render a large part of the area secure against a failure of the monsoon.

The crop statistics.

331. Turning now to the crop statistics, it will be interesting in the first place to compare the position of Darbhanga with that of other districts in Bihar and the United Provinces. This is shown in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	Total area.	RICE.		WHEAT.		BARLEY.		MAIZE.		MILKMAKING.		GRAM.	
			Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.
1	Darbhanga	2,118,030	1,059,007	61.39	52,831	3.12	152,605	0.91	233,271	13.01	83,592	5.13	35,635	9.11
2	Saran	1,981,335	440,173	24.3	75,523	6.00	200,433	20.3	40,764	3.1	213,240	10.6	58,707	4.5
3	Muzaffarpur	1,941,364	767,708	40.36	60,720	4.48	246,580	10.96	82,451	5.50	163,750	10.53	43,836	2.81
4	Champanan	2,039,815	782,061	44.00	105,361	7.27	214,099	14.78	17,385	1.20	110,868	6.28	37,161	2.60
5	Gorakhpur	3,911,051	975,915	40.28	211,311	16.02	254,107	12.93	45,448	2.30	104,071	5.24	148,773	7.43
6	Azamgarh	1,876,288	332,431	41.14	85,467	4.38	165,397	20.15	67,456	3.48	21,780	2.08	45,074	5.58
7	Bahia	758,802	121,000	23.60	21,218	4.43	88,083	16.98	0,918	1.01	44,604	8.57	63,239	19.17
8	Gaya	3,24,308	136,553	48.67	20,157	8.17	11,307	4.64	4,842	1.90	3,670	1.40	30,802	12.38

Serial number.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	OTHER FOOD GRAINS, INCLUDING PULSES.		MISCELLANEOUS FOOD (i.e., GRAINS AND POTATOES).		TOTAL FOOD CROPS.		TOTAL NON-FOOD CROPS.		Total cropped area.	TWICE CROPPED AREA.		NET CROPPED AREA.		REMARKS.
		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to total cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to total cropped area.		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to total area of district.	
1	Darbhanga	327,531	19.80	37,785	2.23	1,062,758	64.21	3,7,914	15.79	2,370,702	678,350	37.71	1,992,442	7.95	
2	Saran	372,574	28.1	37,612	2.9	1,57,627	8.3	2,9,675	14.4	1,761,505	477,495	37.2	1,584,010	25.0	
3	Muzaffarpur	511,414	33.07	77,765	5.90	2,010,317	58.50	361,093	11.50	2,378,333	724,022	46.48	1,556,301	20.11	
4	Champanan	378,224	24.90	11,162	1.16	1,199,550	32.15	30,479	17.85	2,029,328	572,770	39.55	1,447,698	69.61	
5	Gorakhpur	667,081	29.93	7,517	0.37	3,367,500	89.58	301,930	11.44	2,059,496	650,921	37.41	1,988,516	67.32	
6	Azamgarh	264,492	31.29	1,471	0.04	8,22,215	87.5	1,57,323	12.44	1,065,538	19,195	74.4	808,315	28.75	
7	Bahia	142,343	4.767	82	0.16	60,312	81.1	55,963	8.5	657,274	123,019	25.02	519,255	65.27	
8	Gaya	64,783	8.74	450	0.10	272,148	80.9	27,613	9.31	209,861	113,127	21.53	246,734	36.25	

332. The first point of interest in this is the remarkable prevalence of the rice crop in Darbhanga, where it covers both a larger gross area and a larger proportion

Food crops.

of the cropped area than in any other district for which statistics are given. And it may be added that while 93 per cent. of the rice crop in Darbhanga is winter rice, nearly all the other districts show a larger proportion of *bhadoi* rice. Thus, in Champaran, one-third of the total rice area is reaped at the *bhadoi* harvest and in Saran one-seventh. The liability of the north of Darbhanga to floods renders it unsuitable for the growth of autumn rice, except on the higher lands. *Marua* is another crop which is much more prevalent in Darbhanga than elsewhere, and rice and *marua* together occupy nearly three-quarters of the cropped area of the district. This predominance of rice and *marua* leaves little room in Darbhanga for the more valuable *bhadoi* and *rabi* food crops, wheat, barley and *makai*, under all of which Darbhanga shows a smaller proportion than any other district except Gaya. It is also deficient in miscellaneous food-grains and pulses. Under non-food crops, however, it shows a higher proportion than any district except Champaran, but the non-food crop resources of Darbhanga are not so valuable as those of other districts, as will be seen from the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	Total area of the districts.	NET CROPPED AREA.		OILSEEDS.		SUGAR.		DYES.			
			Area.	Percentage to total area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	INDIGO.		OTHER DYES.	
									Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.
1	Darbhanga ...	2,116,330	1,692,443	79'85	1,777,734	10'80	10,399	0'96	52,136	2'48	255	0'08
2	Saran ...	1,833,435	1,284,010	70'0	92,329	7'2	36,135	2'8	45,613	2'5	1,159	0'06
3	Muzaffarpur ...	1,841,254	1,555,291	84'5	51,881	2'8	5,765	0'3	67,258	3'6	159	0'01
4	Champaran ...	2,079,815	1,447,688	69'6	94,363	6'4	11,155	0'5	95,070	6'3	1,793	0'1
5	Gorakhpur ...	2,681,951	1,988,515	74'1	157,893	7'3	78,162	2'9	14,125	0'5	7,605	0'28
6	Azamgarh ...	1,378,288	88,333	6'4	2,633	0'2	76,817	5'5	82,311	5'9	25	0'001
7	Ballia ...	788,802	519,255	65'8	1,397	0'2	39,071	7'5	474	0'06	...	...
8	Gaya ...	272,408	242,734	89'1	15,390	5'6	5,081	2'0	...	...	6	0'001

Serial number.	NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	OPIMUM.		TOBACCO.		FIBRES.		GARDEN PRODUCE, ORCHARDS OTHER THAN MANGO GROVES.		OTHERS.		TOTAL.	
		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.
1	Darbhanga ...	2,403	0'14	28,807	1'70	2,677	0'18	2,862	0'18	81,781	4'83	267,914	21'74
2	Saran ...	40,217	2'1	1,485	0'08	19,755	1'3	25,502	2'0	2,788	0'1	200,678	20'00
3	Muzaffarpur ...	12,170	0'70	17,432	1'12	0,093	0'004	8,355	0'52	65,906	4'23	201,906	16'82
4	Champaran ...	93,594	5'1	2,465	0'17	0,937	0'06	5,937	0'41	88,624	6'13	860,479	24'90
5	Gorakhpur ...	18,555	0'86	208	0'01	1,961	0'09	40,273	0'71	10,917	0'55	201,910	15'18
6	Azamgarh ...	6,409	0'30	420	0'05	898	0'06	3,776	0'46	1,987	0'28	125,328	15'52
7	Ballia ...	4,866	0'24	339	0'06	1,382	0'27	7,008	1'49	530	0'16	65,902	16'77
8	Gaya ...	6,163	2'46	1	...	213	0'08	672	0'35	36	0'06	37,613	11'19

333. The main non-food crop of Darbhanga is oilseeds, which cover nearly half of the non-food crop area, a much higher proportion than in any other

Non-food crops.

district. These are largely grown as catch crops in winter-rice lands and their value is often inconsiderable. Sugarcane and opium both cover very small areas in Darbhanga as compared with most of the other districts, and though Darbhanga shows a large area under tobacco, it is nearly all in the Samastipur subdivision. As regards indigo, Darbhanga takes the third place, being preceded by Champaran and Muzaffarpur, but the proportion of its net cropped area under indigo is less than in Saran or Azamgarh.

334. The figures therefore clearly show the dependence of Darbhanga on the winter-rice crop, and it is not surprising that eight out of the ten thanas in the district have been officially declared liable to famine in the event of the failure of the monsoon. In Dalsingh Sarai and Samastipur

conditions are, as will be seen, quite different but in the rest of the district a good rice-crop means prosperity, and even a partial failure means distress and hardship ; for the only important food-crop besides rice is *marua*, which is in ordinary years the poor man's food. In the area liable to famine, the non-food crops are not of sufficient value or importance to aid greatly in carrying on the cultivation should the rice-crop fail

Thanawar distribution of food-crops.

335. The thanawar distribution of the food-crops in Darbhanga is shown in the following statement :--

Serial number.	NAME OF THANAWA.	RICE.						WHEAT.		BARLEY.		
		AGRAHA.		BHADOL.		TOTAL.		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	
		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.					
1	Benipatti ...	172,774	64,891	69.48	8,443	6.18	108,834	75.61	4,383	3.91	14,616	10.2
2	Khajauli ...	240,525	90,343	59.49	16,587	10.11	116,230	69.60	3,942	2.36	12,103	7.25
3	Phulparas ...	291,900	178,525	78.37	13,393	5.08	191,819	68.08	3,721	1.59	18,416	6.93
4	Madhubani ...	190,343	90,838	62.86	8,465	5.79	99,301	68.04	3,600	2.40	15,639	10.65
	Subdivisional Total ...	990,700	478,896	67.84	47,079	6.89	510,674	74.73	15,846	2.28	59,023	8.33
5	Darbhanga ...	271,817	126,884	59.06	17,513	6.87	138,397	64.93	2,439	3.40	24,021	11.27
6	Bahera ...	246,937	155,800	69.23	8,929	2.74	159,729	70.98	5,064	2.65	22,339	9.88
7	Ru. cra ...	221,063	101,417	57.75	3,673	2.04	104,999	59.90	6,673	3.74	13,858	7.32
	Subdivisional Total ...	789,817	383,101	63.41	20,014	3.26	403,115	65.67	19,975	3.26	59,117	9.62
8	Warinagar ...	128,336	38,604	34.80	1,136	1.08	37,740	35.97	5,409	5.18	11,060	11.40
9	Samsatipur ...	180,481	56,373	55.70	384	0.24	56,756	35.94	6,338	4.01	15,283	9.68
10	Dalsingh Sarai { Settled ...	167,485	3,834	23.42	150	0.14	39,720	23.58	5,689	4.29	9,940	7.55
	Excluded ...	3,101	...	...	2	0.10	2	0.10	34	1.08	286	14.14
	Dalsingh Sarai Total ...	160,586	30,634	23.09	152	0.14	39,722	23.20	5,023	4.25	10,126	7.65
	Subdivisional { Settled ...	473,303	123,610	31.41	1,706	0.43	125,216	31.64	17,326	4.41	37,063	0.43
	Excluded ...	3,101	...	...	2	0.10	2	0.10	34	1.03	280	14.14
	Subdivisional Total ...	476,403	123,610	31.25	1,708	0.43	125,218	31.68	17,360	4.39	37,369	0.46
	District Total { Settled ...	2,113,829	970,200	57.80	68,799	4.07	1,030,000	61.40	52,647	3.13	152,222	9.00
	Excluded ...	3,101	...	...	2	0.10	2	0.10	34	1.63	286	14.14
	Total ...	2,116,930	970,200	57.35	68,801	4.06	1,030,002	61.29	52,681	3.12	152,508	9.01

Serial number.	NAME OF THANAWA.	MARUA.		MAKAI.		GRAM.		OTHER WOOD-GRAINING, INCLUDING PULSES.		MISCELLANEOUS.			
		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	POTATOES.		OTHERS.	
										Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.
1	Benipatti ...	14,301	10.43	1,300	0.88	2,631	1.93	47,039	34.43	75	0.05	363	0.27
2	Khajauli ...	27,348	16.39	1,395	0.84	5,647	3.36	32,032	19.17	134	0.03	691	0.53
3	Phulparas ...	26,300	11.21	178	0.06	58	0.02	38,055	16.66	436	0.10	256	0.11
4	Madhubani ...	26,670	17.53	983	0.97	2,111	1.45	26,416	18.10	95	0.07	213	0.20
	Subdivisional Total ...	93,385	13.67	3,762	0.65	10,447	1.53	144,480	21.14	740	0.11	1,833	0.26
5	Darbhanga ...	24,674	11.58	9,093	4.09	10,550	5.14	65,248	27.32	73	0.03	2,517	1.23
6	Bahera ...	32,600	14.44	7,132	3.16	2,384	1.33	27,794	12.36	36	0.02	693	0.28
7	Kusera ...	21,673	18.48	9,151	5.21	4,000	2.28	29,317	16.71	8	0.01	4,742	2.70
	Subdivisional Total ...	60,865	13.17	26,226	4.38	17,940	2.93	115,769	18.60	117	0.03	6,141	1.38
8	Warinagar ...	9,673	9.41	16,339	14.03	509	0.67	21,054	22.83	10	0.05	8,159	7.75
9	Samsatipur ...	21,596	14.50	30,613	13.09	1,455	0.92	20,706	13.17	63	0.04	10,396	6.53
10	Dalsingh Sarai { Settled ...	18,263	10.17	20,451	16.09	8,178	3.97	32,005	24.56	240	0.19	8,058	6.15
	Excluded ...	...	...	391	19.83	16	0.79	1,165	87.59	...	...	141	6.17
	Dalsingh Sarai Total ...	18,263	10.03	20,832	15.74	8,194	3.92	33,170	9.05	240	0.19	8,199	6.19
	Subdivisional { Settled ...	46,031	11.71	50,453	14.36	7,232	1.84	70,555	18.55	361	0.09	26,452	6.3
	Excluded ...	...	...	391	16.63	16	0.79	1,165	87.59	...	...	141	6.97
	Subdivisional Total ...	46,031	11.05	50,834	14.38	7,248	1.83	71,720	18.74	361	0.09	26,633	6.74
	District Total { Settled ...	210,271	13.03	86,481	6.12	38,619	2.11	336,674	19.92	1,218	0.77	38,428	3.16
	Excluded ...	...	...	391	16.83	16	0.79	1,165	87.59	...	...	141	6.9
	Total ...	220,271	13.01	86,892	6.13	38,625	2.11	337,839	19.96	1,218	0.77	38,567	3.16

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL FOOD-CROPS.		TOTAL NON-FOOD-CROPS.		Total cropped area.	TWICE CROPPED AREA.		NET CROPPED AREA.		REMARKS.
		Area.	Percentage to total cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to total cropped area.		Area.	Percentage to net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage to total area of district.	
1	Benipatti ...	187,877	88.17	20,143	13.68	217,919	51.283	59.48	138,666	79.70	
2	Khajauli ...	199,711	84.82	35,743	16.18	235,454	68.456	40.90	1,6,998	80.80	
3	Phulparas ...	275,439	87.68	40,561	13.92	316,000	62.54	35.33	231,798	80.33	
4	Madhubani ...	173,802	85.47	29,536	14.53	203,338	57.411	30.54	146,027	79.67	
	Subdivisional Total ...	836,830	85.59	136,262	14.01	973,091	359,734	42.40	683,357	79.40	
5	Darbhanga ...	270,609	86.11	41,616	13.89	312,225	108,059	50.89	213,166	74.48	
6	Bahera ...	258,958	85.47	44,021	14.53	302,979	77,694	34.61	225,285	78.45	
7	Rusera ...	105,348	85.63	17,657	14.32	123,005	53,391	29.83	175,614	79.08	
	Subdivisional Total ...	730,915	85.77	121,307	14.23	852,212	238,944	38.83	613,268	78.02	
8	Warisnagar ...	213,162	80.18	27,972	10.88	241,124	38,209	34.61	104,015	64.71	
9	Samastipur ...	154,535	77.35	45,245	22.65	199,780	61,678	20.62	138,102	63.33	
10	Dalsingh Sarai { Settled ...	135,352	77.39	36,615	23.61	161,967	31,680	24.23	130,287	82.79	
	{ Excluded ...	2,025	80.10	503	19.90	2,528	505	24.90	2,023	66.24	
	Dalsingh Sarai Total ...	127,377	77.44	37,118	23.56	164,495	32,094	21.24	132,401	62.45	
	Subdivisional { Settled ...	393,039	78.16	109,892	21.84	502,931	100,076	27.89	398,105	65.25	
	{ Excluded ...	2,025	80.10	503	19.90	2,528	505	24.90	2,023	66.24	
	Subdivisional Total ...	395,064	78.17	110,395	21.83	505,459	110,161	27.68	396,218	63.13	
	District Total { Settled ...	1,960,738	84.28	367,411	15.72	2,328,149	637,754	37.73	1,690,421	79.97	
	{ Excluded ...	2,025	80.10	503	19.90	2,528	505	24.90	2,023	66.24	
	Total ...	1,962,763	84.21	367,914	15.79	2,330,703	638,259	37.71	1,692,443	79.05	

336. Rice is of course by far the most important crop, covering as it does over three-fifths of the net cropped area.

Rice.

In Madhubani, the proportion is nearly three quarters and in Phulparas thana it rises to over four-fifths. Less than one-fifteenth of the rice area in the district is reaped at the autumn harvest, the rest being entirely of the *aghani* variety. *Bhadoi* rice is most extensively grown in Khajauli thana, where, as in the neighbouring thana of Benipatti, it is often destroyed by floods. The cultivators are, however, generally compensated for the loss of their *bhadoi* crops in this area by the excellent *aghani* crop, which they obtain from the submerged lands. With so large an area under winter rice, less than one-tenth of which is irrigated, Darbhanga is a district peculiarly sensitive to variations in the monsoon rainfall, for seasonable and well distributed rainfall throughout the whole course of the monsoon from beginning to end is essential to the prosperity of this crop. The *bhadoi* crops on the other hand, while requiring good rain during the early part of the monsoon, are reaped during September, and are consequently independent of the *hathya* rains at the end of that month, the absence of which is fatal to the *aghani* harvest. This explains why the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions of the district are always liable to scarcity or famine in the event of a failure of the monsoon, while the greater part of Samastipur is immune, for though rice is the most extensively grown crop in the Samastipur subdivision, it covers less than a third of the net cropped area, as compared with the district average of three-fifths.

337. After rice the next largest area, both in the district as a whole and in each subdivision, is that shown as under miscellaneous food-grains. These include

all cereals and pulses except *marua*, maize, barley, wheat and gram, for which separate figures are given. Of the miscellaneous food-grains, the most widely grown is *khesari*, which is usually sown as a catch-crop in *aghani* lands, at or just before the time of the *aghani* harvest. It is a cheap grain and as a rule is eaten only by the poorer classes, though it is sometimes used with barley to make *chupattis*. *Arhar* is another important crop shown under this head. It is usually sown with *makai* in May or June, but is not reaped till the following March. One main objection to the crop, from the cultivator's point of view, is that it occupies the land for so long a period, while the grain is not so valuable as that of other crops. On the other hand, the stalks are used for sold for fuel

and the leaves are valuable as fodder. Again *arhar* is a hardy crop which requires little rainfall to sustain it, and it is consequently grown largely in a year of drought. The other miscellaneous food grains require no detailed description. The chief are peas, *masuri*, *kodo*, *china*, *sawan*, *urid*, *mung*, *janera* and oats. All of these except oats are generally sown with other crops. Their value as food-grains is much lower than that of the crops for which special columns are provided in the statement, and they form as a rule the poor man's food. *Kodo*, *china* and *sawan*, are husked and boiled and eaten like rice. *Masuri*, *urid* and *mung*, are consumed as pulses. *Janera* and oats are largely fodder crops. The whole of these minor food-grains, for which separate figures are not given, cover less than one-fifth of the net cropped area of the district, as compared with one-third in Muzaffarpur, and the smaller proportion may be regarded as satisfactory, as leaving more room for more valuable crops.

338. The most important single crop in the district after rice is *marua*, which covers 13 per cent. of the district area, a proportion which is fairly equally maintained in each subdivision, though in Samastipur this crop is rather less extensively grown than in the northern part of the district. It is most prevalent in the Khajauli and Madhubani thanas. *Marua* is the only crop which is transplanted like rice. It is the staple crop of a considerable part of the district, and is cultivated with considerable care. It is another cheap grain, which is mainly eaten by the poorer classes. The grain is pounded into flour and consumed in the form of cakes. The stalks are useful as fodder. *Marua* is reaped in September, and the land on which it is grown almost invariably produces a second crop at the *rabi* harvest.

339. The next most important crop in the district is barley. It is grown on fairly high lands which have generally already produced a *bhadoi* crop. Its covers about 9 per cent. of the district cropped area, and the subdivisional variations are unimportant. It is largely consumed in the form of cakes by the poorer middle classes, who cannot afford rice or maize.

340. After barley comes *makai*, covering 5 per cent. of the district cropped area, but it owes its position in the list to its predominance in the Samastipur subdivision, where it occupies 14 per cent. of the net cropped area and is the crop next in importance to rice. The *makai* area in Madhubani is insignificant. It is often sown with *rabi* crops, and even where this is not the case, a *rabi* crop is usually sown in the land after the *makai* has been cut. The *makai* crop is often very luxuriant, especially when grown on the high lands round the village home-stead. It is used as food in various forms. By the well-to-do, the cobs are often eaten roast or fried, but usually they are threshed and ground into flour, and then eaten either as *sattu* or in the form of cakes.

341. Wheat covers only 3 per cent. of the net cropped area and is least important in Madhubani and most prevalent in Samastipur. It requires a rich and fairly dry soil, as it is very subject to blight. It is often grown as a second crop in the best *makai* lands, but in many cases wheat lands are left fallow during the rains. It is a valuable crop, and but for its want of hardiness, would probably be more widely grown than it is. As a food, it is eaten by the well-to-do classes, and the value of its bye-products is inconsiderable.

342. Gram, the last of the important cereals, covers only a little over 2 per cent. of the cropped area. It is most widely grown in Darbhanga thana, where, as elsewhere, it is often sown as a catch crop in winter rice lands. It is usually eaten in the form of flour or *sattu*.

343. Miscellaneous food-crops, consisting mainly of potatoes, yams and *suthni*, are important only in the Samastipur subdivision where they cover nearly 7 per cent. of the net cropped area.

344. The difference between Samastipur and the rest of the district is also shown in the proportions of area under food and non-food crops, respectively. While Samastipur shows 22 per cent. of its total cropped area under non-food

Non-food crops—Thanawar distribution.

crops, the Sadar subdivision and Madhubani have only 14 per cent. each. In order to appreciate the reasons for this difference, it is necessary to examine the non-food crop figures, which are shown in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	NET CROPPED AREA.			OIL SEED.		SUGAR.		DYES.			
		Area.	Percentage to total area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	INDIGO.		OTHERS.		
								Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	
1	Bonipatti	172,772	130,666	70.10	23,004	10.10	1,001	0.01	100	0.12	27	0.03
2	Khajnali	206,525	166,998	80.86	20,642	10.00	2,327	1.13	1,748	1.04	8	0.00
3	Phulparas	291,400	233,766	80.23	21,020	7.22	1,790	0.61	...	0.00	55	0.02
4	Madhubani	190,843	145,927	76.07	14,535	7.62	2,763	1.45	2,452	1.28	40	0.02
	Subdivisional total	830,700	663,867	79.40	66,027	7.95	8,900	1.07	5,963	0.72	125	0.01
5	Darbhanga	271,527	213,166	78.53	27,102	10.00	2,026	0.74	2,417	1.15	87	0.03
6	Bahera	256,937	225,088	87.64	24,711	9.62	8,507	3.31	5,248	2.04	70	0.03
7	Rusera	232,069	175,614	75.67	14,539	6.26	453	0.20	6,335	2.73	4	0.00
	Subdivisional total	760,533	613,868	80.72	66,351	8.72	5,986	0.79	13,997	1.72	111	0.01
8	Warisnagar	125,336	104,915	83.71	7,174	5.72	839	0.67	8,874	7.08	5	0.00
9	Samastipur	169,481	167,002	98.53	9,684	5.72	195	0.12	13,422	8.04	5	0.00
10	Dalsingh Sarai { Settled	187,485	130,378	69.59	8,898	4.74	210	0.11	10,579	5.64	9	0.00
	{ Excluded	2,101	2,023	96.24	79	3.76	11	0.52	261	12.90	...	0.00
	Dalsingh Sarai Total	189,586	132,401	69.85	8,977	4.74	221	0.11	10,840	5.71	10	0.00
	Subdivisional total { Settled	472,302	393,165	83.25	23,257	4.92	1,343	0.28	23,585	4.99	19	0.00
	{ Excluded	2,101	2,023	96.24	79	3.76	11	0.52	261	12.90	...	0.00
	Subdivisional total	474,403	395,188	83.30	23,336	4.92	1,354	0.28	23,846	5.01	19	0.00
	District total { Settled	2,118,829	1,690,420	79.81	177,645	8.38	16,288	0.77	61,875	2.97	256	0.01
	{ Excluded	2,101	2,023	96.24	79	3.76	11	0.52	261	12.90	...	0.00
	Total	2,118,930	1,692,443	79.85	177,724	8.38	16,300	0.77	62,136	2.98	256	0.01

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	OPIMUM.		TOBACCO *		FIBRE.		GARDEN PRODUCE.		OTHERS.		TOTAL.		REMARK
		Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	Area.	Percentage of net cropped area.	
1	Bonipatti	1,789	1.30	106	0.08	55	0.04	800	0.20	4,541	3.40	30,113	22.00	
2	Khajnali	114	0.07	3,004	1.80	121	0.07	704	0.42	7,133	4.27	25,743	21.40	
3	Phulparas	5	0.00	573	0.37	31	0.02	755	0.52	6,836	2.71	40,561	17.48	
4	Madhubani	13	0.01	1,911	0.97	48	0.03	689	0.47	6,746	4.62	20,536	20.24	
	Subdivisional total	1,915	0.28	4,374	0.64	255	0.04	2,417	0.35	24,846	2.61	126,212	19.94	
5	Darbhanga	19	0.01	542	0.23	77	0.04	983	0.46	11,422	5.30	44,416	20.93	
6	Bahera ... ..	...	0.00	741	0.33	57	0.03	508	0.22	9,177	4.08	44,024	19.66	
7	Rusera ... ..	...	...	1,031	0.69	261	0.14	400	0.24	9,716	5.51	32,657	15.69	
	Subdivisional total	19	0.00	2,374	0.37	395	0.08	1,919	0.31	20,816	4.91	121,207	10.70	
8	Warisnagar	15	0.01	3,147	3.00	324	0.31	407	0.39	7,488	7.14	27,073	26.06	
9	Samastipur	34	0.02	9,018	5.28	1,665	0.67	522	0.40	10,296	6.52	45,245	26.65	
10	Dalsingh Sarai { Settled	420	1.32	8,037	6.93	643	0.49	495	0.38	8,721	6.69	30,415	24.09	
	{ Excluded ... ..	...	0.00	62	0.06	8	0.15	2	0.10	85	4.20	508	24.66	
	Dalsingh Sarai Total	420	0.32	8,099	6.87	651	0.49	497	0.38	8,806	6.68	31,118	24.69	
	Subdivisional total { Settled	469	0.12	22,007	5.63	2,084	0.52	1,524	0.39	20,504	6.74	110,833	27.98	
	{ Excluded ... ..	...	0.00	62	0.06	8	0.15	2	0.10	85	4.20	508	24.66	
	Subdivisional total	469	0.12	22,159	5.61	2,092	0.52	1,526	0.39	20,589	6.73	111,341	27.98	
	District total { Settled	2,408	0.14	28,745	1.70	2,674	0.16	5,860	0.26	61,695	4.83	267,411	21.73	
	{ Excluded ... ..	...	...	62	0.06	8	0.15	2	0.10	85	4.20	508	24.66	
	Total	2,408	1.14	28,807	1.70	2,677	0.16	5,862	0.26	61,781	4.83	267,919	21.74	

345. The most extensively grown non-food crop in the district is oilseeds, consisting mainly of linseed, but comprising also 25,000 acres of mustard and small areas of *til* and castor oil. It is, however, the least valuable non-food crop, and is most extensively grown in the Sadar and Madhubani subdivisions, as a catch crop, after the harvesting of the winter rice. In Samastipur, the major portion of the large non-food crop area is devoted to indigo and tobacco, two very valuable crops, which are unimportant elsewhere. On the other hand, the small area under sugarcane (less than one per cent. of the net cropped area), is mainly found in the north of the district, particularly in the Madhubani subdivision,

where the Darbhanga Raj has recently substituted it largely for indigo. But as a whole, the more valuable non-food crops are grown mainly in the Samastipur subdivision.

346. Tobacco is probably the most paying crop in the district. Five-sevenths of the total area is found in the

Tobacco and opium.

Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai thanas, and most of the rest is in Warisnagar and Benipatti. The latter, though mainly a rice-growing tract like the rest of Madhubani, contains a considerable stretch of high land which is used for the more valuable *rabi* crops. The greater part of the opium grown in the south of the district, is in Benipatti. Opium cultivation has never been widely practised in the south of the district, its place being taken by its rival, tobacco, for the production of which pargana Saraisa, which covers a large part of the Samastipur and Hajipur subdivisions, has long been widely noted.

347. Indigo is most widely grown in Samastipur, but was until recently very generally cultivated in all parts of the district. Its cultivation has now been practically abandoned in the three northern thanas of Madhubani, but it still covers over two per cent. of the net cropped area in all the other thanas of the district, except Darbhanga. A special section will be devoted to a description of the indigo industry in the district.

Indigo.

348. Sugarcane has long been cultivated in the Madhubani subdivision and in Bahera thana. It is nearly all made into *gur* and consumed locally.

Sugarcane.

The high prices obtained during the last few years have led to some increase of cultivation, but there has recently been a fall in price, the effects of which are not yet apparent. As sugarcane occupies the land, exclusively, for a period of eighteen months, good prices are required to make it pay. Its price appears to fluctuate more than that of most commodities, and so its cultivation is always somewhat of a speculation. One attraction to the raiyat, however, is that he can generally get an advance from the merchant for whom he grows the crop, and this factor almost invariably causes an extension of sugarcane cultivation in a year of draught, when other crops have failed and the cultivators are pressed for ready money. Some of the recent increase in the cultivation of sugarcane, in Madhubani, is undoubtedly due to the readiness with which the raiyats took advances after the failure of the monsoon in the autumn of 1901.

349. Of the miscellaneous non-food crops, the most important is *kharhaul* or thatching grass. The proportion shewn under this heading is almost the same as in Muzaffarpur. The area under fibres is insignificant and is mostly accounted for by cotton cultivation in the Samastipur subdivision.

Miscellaneous non-food crops.

350. The following table brings together in a concise form the information regarding the prevalence of different crops in different parts of the district,

Graphic summary.

which has been discussed in the foregoing paragraphs. Only the more important crops are shown and fractions are omitted;—

Food crops,

Crop.	Percentage to net cropped area in subdivision.			Percentage to net cropped area in district as a whole.
	Madhubani.	Sadar.	Samastipur.	
Aghani rice	68	62	31	57
Bhadol rice	7	3	1	4
<i>Total rice</i> ..	75	65	32	61
Miscellaneous food-grains ...	21	19	19	20
Marua	13	13	12	13
Barley	8	10	9	9
Makai ... ..	...	4	14	5
Wheat	3	3	4	3
Gram	1	3	2	2
Miscellaneous food-crops ...	2	1	7	3
<i>Total food-crops</i> ...	122	118	99	116

Non-food crops.

Crop.	Percentage to net cropped area in subdivision.			Percentage to net cropped area in district as a whole.
	Madhubani.	Sadar.	Samastipur.	
Oilseeds ...	13	11	6	11
Miscellaneous non-food-crops ...	4	5	7	5
Indigo ...	1	2	8	3
Tobacco ...	1	1	6	2
Sugarcane ...	1	1	1	1
<i>Total non-food crop</i> ...	20	20	28	22
Grand total cropped area ...	142	138	127	138
Twice cropped area ...	42	38	27	38
Net cropped area ...	100	100	100	100

Agricultural Stock.

351. During the preliminary record-writing, the amins took a census of the agriculture stock of the district. This was very carefully checked by inspecting officers and the result for each thana is given in the statement below :—

Thana-wise distribution.

Serial number.	Name of thana.	Total area in square miles.	Cows.	Bulls and Bullocks.	Male buffaloes.	Cow-buffaloes.	Horses and ponies.	Calves including buffalo calves.	Sheep.	Goats.	Mules and Donkeys.	Total number of cattle of all sorts.	Ploughs.	Carts.
1	Benipatti ...	270	20,230	23,715	834	10,933	763	12,265	1,244	8,010	160	77,005	11,084	2
2	Khajauli ...	323	27,456	26,242	534	14,032	1,043	18,879	2,175	13,137	92	105,600	13,028	1,0
3	Phulparas ...	455	34,978	44,056	1,074	17,741	1,391	25,293	2,217	21,517	123	138,419	20,463	3,0
4	Madhubani ...	297	19,983	23,589	655	11,625	1,730	15,211	2,438	8,640	484	84,405	10,343	1,1
5	Darbhanga ...	425	26,062	30,087	2,057	11,463	1,653	12,213	1,913	11,519	475	90,340	12,900	1,0
6	Bahera ...	443	28,795	31,680	994	12,020	1,127	17,035	1,222	8,945	156	90,155	12,683	1,0
7	Rasera ...	347	31,834	25,263	1,172	6,710	1,234	10,577	2,404	12,140	325	98,909	9,764	1,1
8	Waranagar ...	196	11,732	14,329	650	5,439	1,002	6,180	2,640	11,905	504	69,091	4,911	6
9	Samastipur ...	226	27,154	28,548	1,846	8,755	1,583	11,447	2,998	24,627	1,414	109,046	10,156	2,0
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	251	22,811	22,666	972	5,686	1,262	9,722	2,843	12,995	532	79,472	8,270	1,3
	Total ...	3,378	251,050	272,075	10,290	104,418	12,807	147,085	24,140	121,048	4,460	951,233	113,651	14,7

252. The total number of live-stock of all kinds is therefore over 9½ lakhs, which gives 34 head per 100 persons of the total population, as compared with 30 in Muzaffarpur and 23 in Saran. This gives rather less than two head per family or much the same as in the other two districts. Bulls and bullocks are the most numerous class, and bulls, bullocks and cows together make up considerably more than half of the total live-stock. The proportion of male buffaloes to cow buffaloes is low, but the district is noted for its breed of buffaloes. Good males fetch a high price and are largely exported to Bengal, and this doubtless accounts to a considerable extent for the disproportion between males and females. Goats are most numerous in the areas where Muhammadans form an important part of the population, but are only two-thirds of the number found in Muzaffarpur. The number of sheep, horses, mules and donkeys is comparatively insignificant.

Live-stock.

353. Darbhanga has nearly three times as many carts as Muzaffarpur, probably owing to the fact that its central and northern parts are almost entirely lacking in railway communications. There is also a good deal of cart traffic between the north of the district and Nepal. After allowing a pair of bullocks for each cart there is left just over two bullocks for each plough. Buffaloes are not generally used for ploughing in this district.

Carts and ploughs.

Distribution of live-stock. 354. Further details regarding the distribution of the more important live-stock are given in the following statement :—

Serial number.	Name of thana.	Area in square miles.	POPULATION.		NUMBER OF CATTLE PER 100 PERSONS OF POPULATION.						
			Total.	Number per square mile.	Grazing cattle.				Draught cattle.	Cattle of all sorts including male buffaloes, mules and donkeys.	Number of calves per 100 cows and cow buffaloes.
					Cows.	Cow buffaloes.	Sheep.	Goats.			
1	Bonipatti ...	270	266,431	987	7.4	4.1	0.5	3.0	8.9	29.2	39.4
2	Khajauli ...	323	247,329	766	11.1	1.7	0.0	5.3	11.4	42.7	45.6
3	Phulparas ...	455	325,904	719	1.7	5.4	0.7	3.5	13.1	43.3	45.0
4	Madhubani ...	297	255,853	794	8.5	4.9	1.1	3.7	10.0	36.8	48.1
5	Darbhanga ...	435	359,209	829	7.8	3.1	0.5	3.1	8.4	36.9	31.9
6	Bahera ...	448	355,024	792	8.1	3.4	0.9	2.0	8.6	37.9	42.3
7	Rusera ...	347	384,873	763	12.0	2.5	1.3	4.6	9.9	37.3	43.0
8	Warisnagar ...	199	169,055	863	8.7	3.2	1.6	6.9	8.5	34.0	40.6
9	Samastipur ...	298	303,311	1,031	8.0	3.8	1.3	8.1	9.4	36.1	31.9
10	Daisingh Sarai ...	251	372,270	1,085	8.4	2.1	1.0	4.8	8.3	29.3	34.1
	Total ...	3,308	2,809,219	849	8.1	3.7	0.9	4.2	9.7	33.8	40.9

355. It should be noted that the area dealt with is only that which was cadastrally surveyed. The remaining 40 square miles consists of the urban and diara areas for which no records were prepared, but the urban area is so small (being less than five square miles), and the diara area is so thinly populated and contains so few cattle, that they can be safely disregarded.

356. The number of milch kine is largest in Khajauli and Phulparas thanas, which contain the parganas of Jabdi and Bachaur, noted outside the district for their breed of cattle. Sheep are mostly found in the south of the district, but their number is inconsiderable. The proportion of goats is fairly constant in each thana except in Warisnagar and Samastipur, which greatly exceed the district average. The excess is due to a number of Muhammadan villages in the neighbourhood of Samastipur town. Phulparas and Khajauli again show the highest proportion of draught cattle as well as of agricultural stock of all kinds, and it is noteworthy that these two thanas also return the lowest density of population.

357. The number of calves is 41 per 100 cows and cow-buffaloes, as compared with 28 in Saran and 10 in Muzaffarpur, but a reference to paragraph 770 of the Muzaffarpur final report will show that the accuracy of the Muzaffarpur figures is open to doubt, as six thanas return less than 10 calves per 100 cows, which seems an extraordinarily low proportion. The figures for one of the Saran subdivisions are incomplete, but those for the other two subdivisions give just over 40 calves per 100 cows, or practically the same as Darbhanga. It is probable, therefore, that this is the normal proportion in an ordinary area.

358. The position of Darbhanga, in regard to stock solely used for agricultural purposes, is compared with that of the neighbouring districts in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.					Population.	BULES AND BULLOCKS.		PLOWERS.		CARTS.		LIVE STOCK OF ALL SORTS.		REMARKS.
		Total.	CULTIVATED.		UNCULTIVATED.			Total number.	Number per square mile of cultivated area.	Total number.	Number per square mile of cultivated area.	Total number.	Number per square mile of cultivated area.	Total.	Per 100 persons of population.	
			Square miles.	Percentage of total area.	Square miles.	Percentage of total area.										
1	Darbhanga ...	3,308	2,845	80	663	20	2,808,219	272,075	108	118,654	43	14,700	8	921,333	34	
2	Muzaffarpur ...	2,135	2,430	80	605	20	2,712,837	242,703	110	85,117	35	5,043	8	810,950	30	
3	Chhapra ...	2,260	2,368	70	987	25	1,850,464	262,336	125	103,112	65	19,318	8	666,138	32	
4	Saran ...	2,374	2,061	77	110	23	2,406,898	317,080	100	75,909	32	47,090	7	655,114	28	
5	Gorakhpur ...	4,581	3,107	68	674	32	2,994,067	596,468	116	270,378	87	24,390	7	1,701,804	65	

359. Darbhanga, while considerably behind Champaran and Gorakhpur in this matter, is rather better stocked than Muzaffarpur or Saran, though it has slightly less bullocks than Saran, in proportion to the cultivated area. Over 100 square miles of the uncultivated area of Saran consists of *diara* land, and if this be omitted from consideration, the proportion of uncultivated land falls to 20 per cent. of the total area of the district, as in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. This point is noteworthy as illustrating the fact that the supply of agricultural stock is mainly a question of grazing. As was said in the Saran final report, if a man has not sufficient land on which to graze two pairs of bullocks, he must do his ploughing with one pair, even though this should lead to overwork and require him to replace his cattle oftener than would be necessary, if he could arrange to keep a larger stock. Thus we find that Champaran and Gorakhpur, with 30 per cent. of their total areas uncultivated, are better stocked in every respect than the other three districts, where the uncultivated area is only 20 per cent. of the total. It seems probable that in the latter, the grazing ground, necessary for the maintenance of a sufficient agricultural stock, has been reduced to the lowest possible limits. In Darbhanga, there is one plough to every 15 acres of the cultivated area, as compared with one plough to every 17 acres in Saran, and one plough to every 18 acres in Muzaffarpur. The cost of a plough is so small, however, that this alone is little test of relative conditions, and a truer indication is to be found in the number of bullocks per square mile, in which respect there is little difference between the three districts. The variation in the number of carts in the different districts is mainly an indication of the relative development of Railway communications, though the state of the roads has no doubt something to do with it.

360. The state of the different thanas of the Darbhanga district in regard to the conditions just discussed is shown in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.				BULLS AND BULLOCKS.		PLOUGHS.		CARTS.		NUMBER OF BULLS AND BULLOCKS.		Number of cultivated acres per plough.	
		Total.	Cultivated.		Uncultivated.		Total number.	Per square mile of cultivated area.	Total number.	Per square mile of cultivated area.	Total number.	Per square mile of cultivated area.	Per plough.		
			Square miles.	Percentage of total area.	Square miles.	Percentage of total area.									
1	Benipatti ...	270	114	79	55	21	23,715	111	11,034	53	617	3'8	2'1	2'0	12
2	Khajauli ...	323	361	81	62	19	26,242	103	18,022	50	1,653	6'3	2'2	1'9	15
3	Phulparas ...	455	365	80	90	20	44,066	121	29,162	66	3,067	6'4	3'2	1'9	11
4	Madhubani ...	297	238	77	89	23	23,589	103	10,342	45	1,120	4'0	3'3	2'1	14
5	Darbhanga ...	425	339	78	92	23	30,997	94	12,900	29	1,686	5'1	2'4	2'1	17
6	Bahera ...	448	352	78	95	23	30,690	87	12,653	37	1,022	2'9	2'4	2'3	17
7	Rusera ...	347	274	70	73	21	26,283	82	9,784	36	1,137	4'1	2'6	2'8	16
8	Warisnagar ...	116	164	84	38	16	14,329	87	4,411	29	856	5'2	3'0	2'6	23
9	Samastipur ...	296	247	83	49	17	28,548	114	10,156	41	2,016	8'8	2'8	2'8	16
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	251	207	82	44	16	22,660	110	8,270	40	1,337	6'6	2'7	2'4	16
	District Total ...	3,308	2,645	60	663	20	273,075	108	118,654	48	14,710	5'6	2'4	2'1	16

361. All the four thanas of the Madhubani subdivision may be said to be well stocked, with a plough on the average to every twelve acres and considerably over 100 bullocks to the square mile. The Sadar subdivision and Warisnagar thana are the worst stocked of all. The whole of this area is liable to inundation, from which the cattle always suffer most severely, and in addition a large part of Bahera and Rusera are badly off for roads, and few carts are kept in this tract. Samastipur and Dalsingh Sarai are wonderfully well stocked, considering the small proportion of waste land which they contain, but the high cultivation practised in this area no doubt necessitates the maintenance of a considerable agricultural stock. Warisnagar returns the fewest ploughs, but the largest number of bullocks per plough. Nevertheless, it seems to be, on the whole, the worst stocked thana in the district, while Phulparas is the best off in this respect. The latter thana, however, returns a very large number of carts, so that a considerable proportion of its bullocks are probably used mainly, if not exclusively, for trading purposes. It contains several big bazars between which and Nepal there is a large traffic.

Status.

362. The area in occupation of landlords and tenants is 2,871 square miles, or 86 per cent. of the total area of the district. The remaining 14 per cent. is made up of lands in possession of Government or the District Board, and of lands which are in no one's direct possession, either because they are unculturable, or because they have not yet been cultivated or used by any one. The occupied area, however, includes such uncultivated lands as are covered by groves, houses, and the like, or are included in tenants' holdings, and the status of the persons in occupation of such lands has of course been duly recorded. The distribution of the occupied area among the different classes of landlords and tenants will now be examined.

363. The following table compares the position of Darbhanga in respect of this matter with that of the neighbouring districts of Bihar and the United Provinces :—

Serial number.	NAME OF DISTRICT.	Total occupied.	AREA OCCUPIED BY PROPRIETORS, TENANT-HOLDERS AND TENANTS.							
			Occupied by proprietors and tenant-holders.	Percentage to total area.	Fixed rates and raiyats.	Percentage to total area.	Occupancy and raiyats.	Percentage to total area.	Non occupancy raiyats.	Percentage to total area.
1	Darbhanga	1,637,731	269,276	14	89,971	2	1,537,675	85	11,406	1
2	Muzaffarpur	88,095	826,725	19	74,474	5	1,270,373	71	50,432	2
3	Saran	1,370,813	138,267	10	66,619	5	1,160,307	61	16,450	1
4	Champanan	1,678,335	163,278	9	61,030	4	1,314,648	64	40,432	3
5	Bonara	477,513	89,317	20	122,158	29	188,816	43	57,225	8
6	Mithapur	784,083	53,818	18	104,346	36	76,037	27	54,852	10
7	Ghazipur	858,100	209,841	31	77,443	13	272,763	62	88,452	15
8	Jaunpur	823,454	113,760	18	30,688	48	163,751	26	65,385	9
9	Balia	349,260	79,227	23	107,221	30	126,613	37	36,189	10

364. It will be observed that the area in the direct occupation of landlords is larger in Darbhanga than in Saran or Champanan, but is less than in Muzaffarpur or any of the districts of the United Provinces. Considering the attempts, which were made during the framing of the record of Darbhanga by a large number of landlords, to suppress their raiyats and prevent them from claiming their lands, it is satisfactory to find the proportion of lands in the direct cultivation of landlords no larger than it is. There can, however, be no doubt that the increasing subdivision of proprietary rights, which is going on over a large part of the district, has made it necessary for the petty proprietors to resort to direct cultivation to a much greater extent than was formerly the case. The manner in which this tendency works is illustrated in an interesting manner in the fifty villages in which, as already explained, it has been found possible to compare the statistics of the resumption proceedings of 1840 with those of the present operations. The selected villages are scattered all over the district and may be taken as fairly representative. In them the occupied area has, within the last sixty years, increase from 20,218 acres to 27,959 acres, or by 38 per cent. The area in the occupation of raiyats has increased from 18,436 acres to 22,966 acres, or by 24 per cent., but the area in occupation of landlords has gone up from 1,782 acres to 4,993 acres, or by 180 per cent. Hence, therefore, the landlords have been able, or more probably have been forced by circumstances, to retain in their own possession the lion's share of the extension of cultivation. Now that little further extension of cultivation is possible, while subdivision of proprietary rights is still going on, the position of many a petty proprietor must be a serious one. Hitherto he has been able, as a rule, to meet the wants of his going family and the inevitable subdivision of his property which this entails, partly by ousting his raiyats from their lands and taking them into his own cultivation, and partly by raising their rents. But the record-of-rights will to a large extent prevent him from resorting to either of these expedients, and many petty proprietors must shortly reach a stage at which they will no longer be able to live on the proceeds of their landed

property, and will be forced to take to other avocations. Nor from the raiyats' point of view is this altogether to be regretted, for it is a proverb in the district that the small proprietor is the harshest landlord. It is useless for him to complain that his opportunities for harshness have now been curtailed, though it may be recognized that his temptations and necessities are great.

365. As regards the status of the tenantry, Darbhanga compares favourably with Muzaffarpur and the districts of the United Provinces, though it is slightly behind Saran and Champaran. Of the occupied area in Darbhanga, 85 per cent. is held by raiyats at fixed rates and raiyats with rights of occupancy, as against 79 per cent. in Muzaffarpur and 89 and 88 per cent. in Champaran and Saran, respectively. The low percentage of raiyats at fixed rates in Darbhanga is due to the large number of enhancements of rate which we have found to have taken place in this district. Further, there have been very few claims to hold at fixed rates in the Darbhanga Raj Estates, where ample proof of periodical enhancements is always forthcoming. The area held by non-occupancy raiyats in Darbhanga is considerably smaller than in any other district.

366. Statistics of the number and area of the various classes of holdings in each subdivision of Darbhanga are given in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF STATUS.	MADRASA.					DARBHANGA.				
		Number of holdings.	Percentage of total number of holdings.	Area.	Percentage of total occupied area, excluding Kaiser-i-Hind.	Average size of holdings.	Number of holdings.	Percentage of total number of holdings.	Area.	Percentage of total occupied area, including Kaiser-i-Hind.	Average size of holdings.
1	Zirat	15	0.00	8.7	0.1	24.40	0.3	1,717	0.3	8.38	
2	Held by proprietors but not zirat	5,484	1.7	50,010	0.7	9.12	21,335	5.4	97,315	14.6	4.56
3	In cultivating possession of tenants-holders	2,051	0.9	14,891	2.0	5.05	3,545	0.9	17,374	2.6	4.80
4	Raiyats at fixed rent or rates	385	0.1	1,770	0.3	4.85	2,041	0.7	4,051	0.6	1.7
5	Settled or occupancy raiyats	308,589	92.9	665,568	89.0	2.18	355,171	89.8	582,073	79.8	1.20
6	No-occupancy raiyats	1,987	0.6	1,250	0.2	1.13	1,723	0.4	8,134	0.8	1.81
7	Rent-free holders	4,269	2.8	12,761	1.7	1.39	1,727	0.4	10,638	1.6	0.66
	Total	328,650	...	747,007	...	...	396,867	...	660,860	...	...
8	Unoccupied or <i>Gairmasras</i>	11,097	...	106,803	...	...	27,148	...	109,890	...	...
	Total	340,347	...	853,809	...	...	423,915	...	770,103	...	...
9	Kaiser-i-Hind	410	...	7,491	...	...	557	...	4,681	...	...
	Total	340,866	...	860,700	...	...	424,462	...	774,784	...	...
	Under raiyats	18,547	5.0	9,360	1.4	0.50	19,553	5.4	11,387	2.1	0.64

Serial number.	NAME OF STATUS.	SAMASTIPUR.					TOTAL.					REMARKS.
		Number of holdings.	Percentage of total number of holdings.	Area.	Percentage of total occupied area, excluding Kaiser-i-Hind.	Average size of holdings.	Number of holdings.	Percentage of total number of holdings.	Area.	Percentage of total occupied area, including Kaiser-i-Hind.	Average size of holdings.	
1	Zirat	636	0.3	4,029	1.0	6.32	858	0.1	6,113	0.3	7.13	
2	Held by proprietors but not zirat	13,930	5.4	51,816	12.3	3.73	47,730	4.3	199,041	10.8	4.69	
3	In cultivating possession of tenants-holders	2,676	1.4	20,807	4.9	5.99	19,108	1.0	63,122	3.0	5.21	
4	Raiyats at fixed rents or rates	1,419	0.6	4,581	1.1	3.23	4,725	0.5	10,379	0.5	2.20	
5	Settled or occupancy raiyats	225,175	17.9	830,235	77.9	1.47	863,935	80.8	1,527,775	63.3	1.7	
6	No-occupancy raiyats	2,143	1.0	8,825	1.5	2.59	6,153	0.8	11,690	0.5	1.9	
7	Rent-free holders	8,698	3.5	8,865	1.4	0.98	29,394	3.0	22,499	1.6	0.89	
	Total	259,169	...	423,749	...	...	661,466	...	1,697,721	...	1.97	
8	Unoccupied or <i>Gairmasras</i>	17,331	...	44,137	...	...	55,1.4	...	269,609	...	...
	Total	276,500	...	467,886	...	...	1,037,660	...	2,097,330	...	...
9	Kaiser-i-Hind	541	...	4,477	...	...	2,638	...	16,439	...	...	Percentage calculated on raiyats area only.
	Total	277,041	...	472,363	...	...	1,040,298	...	2,113,769	...	...
	Under raiyats	22,845	8.0	11,748	2.4	0.53	60,448	5.7	32,461	2.1	0.64	

367. The area recorded as proprietors' private land is insignificant, being only about a tenth of what it was in Muzaffarpur. Every year that passes adds to the difficulties experienced by proprietors, in proving that land in their own cultivation is true *zirat* within the meaning of section 120 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. There is in Bihar no real village usage as regards *zirat* lands. All land in the possession of a landlord of any kind, whether proprietor or tenure-holder, however acquired, is locally known as *zirat*, so long as it is in the landlords' occupation. But this use of the term does not correspond with the legal meaning, and it would be impossible to record as true *zirat* all lands which are locally known as such. Hence it is practically necessary for the landlord, who claims land as true *zirat*, to prove either that it was cultivated by himself or by his servants or by hired labour for twelve continuous years before the passing of the Tenancy Act, or that it was specially let as private land before the second day of March, 1883; and as time passes it becomes more and more difficult for the landlord to adduce satisfactory evidence on these points, or to rebut the presumption, that land is not proprietors' private land until the contrary is shown. Another reason for the small area recorded as *zirat* in Darbhanga, and specially in the Madhubani subdivision, is the predominance of the Darbhanga Raj, in which there is little land in the proprietors' direct occupation, except that which has recently been abandoned or surrendered by raiyats and not re-settled. Very few claims to *zirat* were made in the Raj Estates.

368. The area held by proprietors amounts to over thirty times the area recorded as true *zirat*, and covers more than 10 per cent. of the occupied area. It is largest, as might be expected, in the Sadar and Samastipur subdivisions, where petty landlords predominate. In Madhubani it covers less than 7 per cent. of the occupied area, and is mainly found in villages appertaining to certain indigo factories, which are now the property of the Maharaja. As these holdings had been created by the factories prior to the Maharaja's purchase of them, and at a time when the original owners of the factories were tenants of the Maharaja, they could not be recorded as true *zirat*.

369. The area in direct possession of tenure-holders is less than 3 per cent. of the total occupied area. In Samastipur, however, it amounts to nearly 5 per cent., the increase being due to the large number of indigo factories in that area.

370. There are less than 5,000 raiyats at fixed rates and they hold only a little over 10,000 acres. They are most numerous in the Sadar subdivision, where a considerable number of tenants in the neighbourhood of Darbhanga town hold on *mukarrari* leases which are locally known as *khiraj*.

371. Nine-tenths of the occupied holdings, and over four-fifths of the occupied area belong to settled and occupancy raiyats. In the Madhubani subdivision, their areas and number are still higher than this, and the average size of their holdings is over two acres. In the rest of the district, the larger area in the direct cultivation of proprietors and tenure-holders leaves less room for the raiyats, and the average size of their holdings is only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres. The holding as recorded in the settlement papers is simply the area held by a tenant under a single proprietor or under a single demand in the rent-roll, and does not comprise all the land in possession of a family dependent on agriculture for its livelihood. In the south of the district, where proprietary rights are minutely subdivided, it is the rule rather than the exception for a tenant to hold lands under more than one proprietor, and even in the Darbhanga Raj area, it is not uncommon for the lands of one raiyat's holding, if they have been settled at various times, to appear in more than one entry in the *jamabandi*. An attempt will be made hereafter with the help of the census figures to determine the average area in the cultivating possession of an ordinary agricultural family.

372. Non-occupancy raiyats cultivate little more than a half per cent. of the occupied holdings. The greater number of them in Samastipur is due to the diara area in that thana. Except in Madhubani, the average size of their holdings is greater than that of settled raiyats. This is due to the fact that certain indigo factories in Darbhanga and Samastipur hold considerable areas as non-occupancy raiyats.

373. Small cultivating rent-free holders have just under 30,000 acres, distributed over the same number of holdings. They are most numerous in the Darbhanga Raj villages in Madhubani. Rent-free occupiers who have let out their lands to cultivators are included among tenure-holders.

374. Under-raiyats are an unimportant class. They cultivate only 32,491 acres or little more than 2 per cent. of the raiyati area. Less than 7 per cent. of the raiyati holdings are sublet, and most of these are only sublet in part. The average size of an under-raiyat's holding is only a little over half an acre. There is thus no indication that raiyati interests are being acquired by non-agriculturalists and sublet to the actual cultivators. The largest proportion of under-raiyats is found in the Samastipur subdivision, where indigo factories often hold under this status on what are known as *kurtauli* leases. Elsewhere, the under-raiyat usually takes up for a short time some portion of a holding, which the original raiyat is unable to cultivate entirely himself. No trace was found in the district of any custom under which under-raiyats acquire occupancy-rights.

375. The rights of the three main classes interested in the land (proprietors, tenure-holders and raiyats), as entered in the settlement papers, will now be examined in greater detail.

Proprietary interests.

376. In discussing the record of proprietary interests, it must be remembered that there is a distinction between the manner in which these are entered in the record-of-rights and in the Collectorate registers. The unit of the Collectorate is the estate, while that of the Settlement Department is the revenue survey village. But one estate may comprise a large number of villages held by one proprietor, as in the case of the Darbhanga Raj, or, as is more usual in the south of the district, there may be several estates within one village. Hence, although only 13,400 estates are borne on the district revenue roll, yet, owing to many of these appearing in more than one village, we have had to frame 19,141 separate records of proprietary interests, and the labour of framing the settlement record was still further increased by the fact that 2,049 estates, or 14 per cent. of the total number, were found on the ground to have been privately partitioned among different co-sharers, each of whom holds separate physical possession of separate areas of land. Such separate areas are known as *pattis*, and it is necessary to prepare a separate sub-record for each of them.

377. The following table compares the record of proprietary interests in revenue-paying and in revenue-free estates:—

Serial number.	ESTATES.	NUMBER OF ESTATES.			Number of pattis.	NUMBER OF PROPRIETORS.			Percentage of estates privately partitioned.	Average number of pattis per privately partitioned estate.	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PROPRIETORS.			
		Joint.	Privately partitioned.	Total.		Joint.	Privately partitioned.	Total.			In a joint estate.	In privately partitioned estate.	Total.	Per patti.
1	Total revenue-paying Estates.	10,492	2,049	19,141	16,087	82,761	45,908	128,667	14	6	6	17	7	3
2	Total revenue-free Estates.	555	125	680	1,145	2,100	2,391	6,491	18	9	6	27	10	3
	TOTAL	17,047	2,774	19,821	16,182	86,861	48,297	135,178	14	6	6	18	7	3

378. The degree of subdivision is greater throughout in revenue-free than in revenue-paying estates. A larger

Comparison between revenue-paying and revenue-free estates.

proportion is privately partitioned, there are more *pattis* per estate, and a larger number of proprietors both in the joint estates and in those privately partitioned. Many of the revenue-free estates are very small, consisting of petty redeemed estates, railway lands no longer required and settled free of revenue, and so on.

379. As regards the number of proprietors, it should be explained that each individual has been counted only once in the same village, no matter in how many estates or *pattis* within the village he may be interested. This course has involved a certain amount of repetition of names of proprietors as regards estates which are situated in more than one village, but the number of such cases is relatively insignificant and they do not appreciably affect the total.

380. In the following statement, similar information is furnished for each thana for revenue-free and revenue-paying estates combined.

NAME OF THANA.	Total number of villages.	NUMBER OF ESTATES AS PER VILLAGES KHEWAT.			KHEWAT NUMBERS.					Total number of proprietors.	TOTAL AREA IN ACRES.		AVERAGE AREA OF VILLAGES.		AVERAGE NUMBER PER VILLAGES OF—		AVERAGE AREA PER VILLAGES.							
		Jointly.	Privately partitioned.	Total.	Integral.	Fractioned.	Total.	Of estates having no separate lands.	Net khewat numbers having separate lands.		Total.	Cultivated.	Total.	Cultivated.	Estates.	Total khewat numbers.	Net khewat numbers having separate lands.	Proprietors.	Of Estate.		Under each proprietor.			
																			Total.	Cultivated.	Total.	Cultivated.	Total.	Cultivated.
Benipatti ...	847	1,320	153	1,378	1,667	1,373	3,030	7	3,032	6,411	172,772	136,666	609	553	6	12	11	34	125	99	57	45	21	16
Khajauli ...	195	410	44	454	604	235	836		836	1,593	206,535	166,098	1,059	955	2	4	4	8	455	368	247	200	130	105
Phulparas ...	327	518	25	538	744	235	973		973	1,424	291,080	233,736	899	715	2	3	3	4	541	435	399	240	204	164
Madhubani ...	819	921	62	781	996	390	1,396		1,396	2,437	190,343	145,917	614	471	2	4	4	8	359	199	141	108	78	60
Darbhanga ...	607	4,608	777	5,285	5,793	4,741	10,533	665	5,868	28,764	871,227	213,168	414	324	8	16	15	44	51	40	28	22	9	7
Rusera ...	428	2,317	677	3,004	3,002	2,742	5,744	32	5,712	18,169	296,927	225,038	970	528	6	13	13	42	107	84	50	39	18	13
Warisnagar ...	354	1,008	422	3,010	3,081	4,340	6,421	166	6,255	25,225	222,163	175,614	569	460	5	16	16	35	110	87	28	28	9	7
Samastipur ...	383	2,528	370	2,808	3,363	2,987	6,240	105	6,135	23,047	189,481	157,903	495	412	8	16	16	60	65	54	31	26	9	7
Dalsingh Sarai ...	216	2,190	172	1,508	1,815	1,413	3,227	59	3,168	11,359	157,425	730,378	729	604	7	15	15	53	105	67	50	41	14	11
TOTAL ...	3,087	17,047	2,774	19,821	23,507	20,323	42,830	1,326	41,504	135,178	2,113,539	1,690,430	624	499	6	13	12	40	107	85	51	41	16	13

381. Thus the preparation of the record-of-rights, for the 3,387 villages in the district, involved the separate

The number of separate interests recorded.

treatment of no less than 42,830 proprietary interests including *pattis*, and also parcels of land appertaining jointly to several different estates or *pattis*, and hence called *shamilat*. But out of these, 1,326 entries related to estates which are entirely joint with other estates and have no separate lands of their own. The net number of khewat entries, to which separate lands were assigned, is therefore, 41,504. The corresponding figures in Muzaffarpur was 46,302. The total number of proprietors in Darbhanga is 135,178, as compared with 163,933 in Muzaffarpur. The predominance of the Darbhanga Raj in Madhubani, sufficiently accounts for the difference between the two districts, as in Muzaffarpur there are no such large proprietors. In the rest of Darbhanga, the subdivision of proprietary interests is even more minute than in Muzaffarpur.

382. The average size of the village is smallest in the Darbhanga thana, which also shows the largest number of

Contrast between Madhubani and Samastipur.

estates per village. The largest number of proprietors per estate is, however, returned by Rusera thana and the thanas of the Samastipur subdivision. Khajauli, Phulparas and Madhubani, where the Darbhanga Raj is predominant, return the largest units of all kinds and the smallest number of proprietors per village and estate. In Phulparas, the average area, per village, in possession of a single proprietor, is 204 acres. In Samastipur, it is only 8. In Phulparas, the proprietor is one of the greatest landlords of the Province. In Samastipur, he is little more than an ordinary cultivator. The same difference between the Raj and non-Raj portions of the district is apparent in almost every column of the foregoing statement.

The subdivision of proprietary rights...
the annexed table :—

Estate	...	...	...	=	16 annas
1 Anna	...	...	...	=	20 gandas.
1 Ganda	...	...	...	=	4 kauris.
1 Kauri	...	...	...	=	3 karants.
1 Karant	...	...	...	=	3 dants.
1 Dant	...	...	...	=	20 rens.
1 Ren	...	...	...	=	16 parasts.
1 Parast	...	...	...	=	16 kanwas.

383. The ordinary scale of the subdivision of proprietary rights, is shown in

384. A kanwa is equivalent to a 59 millionth part of sixteen annas. Considering that the average size of an estate in the district is little over 100 acres, and in some thanas barely half as much, it must be conceded that the table for expressing proprietary interests is sufficiently detailed to meet all reasonable requirements.

Tenures.

385. Though there are few degrees of sub-infeudation, nevertheless simple tenures in Darbhanga, as in the rest of North Bihar, play an important part in agrarian economy. As the following

The simplicity of tenures.

table shows, over one-fifth of the district area is let out to tenure-holders of different kinds, but less than a tenth of the tenure-holder's area and only 1½ per cent. of the district area is again sublet.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area brought under settlement.	TENURES.						UNDER-TENURES.			REMARKS.
			Rent-paying.		Rent-free.		Total.		Area.	Percentage of column 8.	Percentage of column 8.	
			Area.	Percentage of column 8.	Area.	Percentage of column 8.	Area.	Percentage of column 8.				
1	Revipatti	172,772	8,387	5	6,628	4	14,085	9	708	0.41	5	
2	Khajauli	206,525	8,033	4	42,813	21	50,876	25	8,292	1.67	16	
3	Phulparas	391,080	6,130	3	52,629	18	88,758	20	5,312	1.83	9	
4	Madhubani	190,343	11,776	6	29,383	16	41,039	23	1,030	0.64	3	
5	Darbhanga	271,537	27,723	10	10,105	4	37,927	14	1,098	0.78	3	
6	Bahera	280,987	37,888	13	17,041	6	54,929	19	5,834	2.09	11	
7	Rusera	222,64	29,56	13	41,161	18	69,680	31	2,909	1.81	6	
8	Warisnagar	125,339	23,539	27	2,534	2	26,073	29	2,458	1.98	7	
9	Samastipur	189,481	49,581	26	4,955	3	54,536	29	8,375	1.73	6	
10	Dalsingh Sarai	157,485	35,354	22	3,662	2	39,016	25	2,311	1.47	6	
	Total	2,112,620	246,904	12	210,820	10	457,724	22	33,062	1.56	7	

386. In Darbhanga, unlike Muzaffarpur, rent-free tenures are almost as important as rent-paying tenures, and here again the influence of the Darbhanga Raj is strikingly apparent. Nearly three-

fifths of the total area covered by rent-free tenures, occurs in three thanas of Madhubani, Phulparas and Khajauli, and is due to the maintenance grants given by the Maharajas of Darbhanga to their relations, in accordance with the custom of the family. The holders of such grants are allowed to hold the land rent-free subject to the payment of the Government revenue to the Maharaja, but the grants revert to the Raj on the death of the grantee without male heirs. In Rusera, the only other thana with a considerable area under rent-free tenures, the major portion is covered by the grant of this nature enjoyed by Babu Ganeshwar Singh. In the other thanas in the district, the areas held rent-free are insignificant, as are the rent-paying tenures in Madhubani. In Samastipur, on the contrary, mainly owing to the number of indigo factories in that subdivision, rent-paying tenures cover more than a quarter of the total area.

387. Under-tenures are most numerous in Khajauli thana, but even there they account for less than one twenty-fifth of the total area. They are mainly sub-leases

Under-tenures.

from the Madhubani Babus, who are themselves maintenance-holders under the Darbhanga Raj. In area where great subdivision of proprietary rights prevails,

both tenures and sub-tenures are comparatively unimportant. The area available to each proprietor is so small that he cannot afford to sublet his rights in it.

Rent-paying tenures.

388. The following table gives further particular regarding rent-paying tenures:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total khewat entries.	Total area.	APPERTAINING TO RENT PAYING TENURES OF ALL CLASSES.				TEMPORARY.							
				Khewat entries both wholly and partly.		Area of the tenures.		To all classes of persons.				To indigo planters alone.			
				Number.	Percentage of total khewat entries.	Period.	Percentage of total area.	Number.	Percentage of total khewat entries.	Acres.	Percentage of total area.	Number.	Percentage of total khewat entries.	Acres.	Percentage of total area.
1	Bonpatti	1,019	172,772	246	14	6,357	8	168	9	6,870	4	11	1	230	0.1
2	Kh. Jali	645	200,525	134	21	8,035	4	57	0	6,930	3	...	...	...	...
3	Phulparas	779	261,060	226	29	6,190	3	75	10	2,491	2	...	0.1	181	0.1
4	Mudhubani	1,059	150,143	422	40	11,776	8	14	14	6,245	3	...	0.2	325	0.2
5	Darbhanga	6,659	271,827	2,022	31	27,772	10	480	7	21,968	8	78	1	7,511	2.7
6	Dahera	2,379	284,937	656	19	27,898	13	487	14	33,040	13	163	5	13,019	5.5
7	Rusera	2,568	222,663	663	26	22,595	13	634	21	7,300	12	110	5	16,135	7.7
8	Warisagar	2,815	125,336	602	24	33,538	27	420	15	22,838	24	234	8	28,186	19
9	Samastipur	3,723	189,491	786	21	40,561	26	508	14	45,331	24	210	8	29,006	16
10	Dalsingh Sarai	1,987	157,485	511	26	25,384	23	345	18	33,009	21	170	9	24,562	16
	Total	26,381	2,113,920	6,368	26	245,904	12	3,218	13	212,912	10	968	4	116,736	5

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of leases of temporary tenures.	NUMBERS OF LEASES OF TEMPORARY TENURES.						PERMANENT.							
			Farming.		Zarpeshgi.		Other kinds.		To all classes of persons.				To indigo planters alone.			
			Number.	Percentage of total number of leases.	Number.	Percentage of total number of leases.	Number.	Percentage of total number of leases.	Number.	Percentage of total khewat entries.	Acres.	Percentage of total area.	Number.	Percentage of total khewat entries.	Acres.	Percentage of total area.
1	Bonpatti	134	28	21	105	78	1	78	5	1,087	1	...	...	...
2	Khajouli	61	37	34	30	64	1	77	12	7,103	1	...	...	...
3	Phulparas	75	41	55	34	45	...	151	19	3,139	...	...	...	...
4	Mudhubani	141	61	43	77	55	...	376	25	5,531	...	...	...	...
5	Darbhanga	517	274	53	220	43	23	1,602	25	6,754	2	...	...	0.1
6	Dahera	478	244	51	215	45	19	169	5	4,818	2	...	...	0.4
7	Rusera	1,715	608	50	530	44	77	120	6	1,335	1	...	...	...
8	Warisagar	972	6.5	63	287	25	120	12	242	9	2,700	33	1.17	2,745	2.19	
9	Samastipur	1,023	625	61	384	38	14	260	7	4,280	2	...	...	...
10	Dalsingh Sarai	1,037	604	67	317	31	26	166	8	2,345	1	...	...	...
	Total	5,653	3,211	57	2,168	38	294	3,150	12	23,992	3	85	34	4,183	20	

389. The total number of rent-paying tenures is 6,368, or exactly one quarter of the total number of estates and *pattis*. They cover however only 12 per cent. of the total area. Nearly half of the rent-paying tenures are of a permanent nature, but these cover only about a seventh of the total area under rent-paying tenures. Most of the permanent tenures are of ancient date. The rise in the value of land in modern times has rendered proprietors disinclined to alienate their rights permanently, except at excessive rates or on payment of a very high *salami*.

Permanent tenures.

390. Temporary tenures are most numerous in the Samastipur Subdivision, where considerably more than three-fifths of their area is held by indigo factories, and in the district as a whole, it is satisfactory to find that more than half the area held under temporary tenures is in possession of indigo factories, who, as a rule,

Temporary tenures.

are considerate landlords and do not tamper with rents. This leaves less than 100,000 acres, or little more than one twenty-fifth of the total area of the district, in the hands of ordinary temporary tenure-holders or *thikadars*, many of whom are mere rent speculators, whose one object is to make as much as they can out of the village during the term of their lease, and, when they are non-resident and consequently unrestrained by public opinion, they are frequently not too scrupulous as to the methods which they adopt for effecting this. As, however, the area in their possession is so small, their powers for evil are comparatively limited.

391. The majority of tenures are simple farming leases, only 43 per cent. being given as security for loans.

Mortgages.

The proportion of usufructuary mortgages is highest in the Madhubani Subdivision, but the number of rent-paying tenures of all kinds is very small in this area, owing to the fact that the Darbhanga Raj manages practically the whole of its estates direct, the main exception being those areas which are given out rent-free to relations and dependents of the Maharaja.

392. The commonest kind of mortgage is that known as *zarpeshgi*, in which the proprietor allows the interest to be paid yearly by deduction from the rent payable to him by the mortgagee, the principal being repayable at the end of the term agreed upon. Nearly all the tenures classified as "other kind," which form 5 per cent. of the total, are of the kind known as *sadua patua*, in which both principal and interest are liquidated by the annual rent payable by the mortgagee, the tenure thus returning to the proprietor free of incumbrance at the end of the term agreed upon. The *zarpeshgi* leases are most in-favour with indigo factories and others, who wish to acquire a quasi permanent interest in the land, as it happens, more often than not, that the proprietor is unable to repay the principal on the expiry of the term of the lease, and is consequently compelled to renew it.

Rent-free tenures.

393. The various classes of rent-free tenures are shown in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL NUMBER OF RENT-FREE TENURES.			RELIGIOUS TENURES.				SERVICE TENURES.				MALIKANA.			OTHERS.					
					NUMBER.		AREA.		NUMBER.		AREA.		NUMBER.		AREA.	NUMBER.		AREA.			
		Number.	Area.	Percentage to total area.	Number.	Percentage of total number in column 4.	Area.	Percentage to total area in column 5.	Number.	Percentage of total number in column 4.	Area.	Percentage of total area in column 5.	Number.	Percentage of total number of column 4.	Area.	Percentage of total area of column 5.	Number.	Percentage of total number of rent-free tenure.	Area.	Percentage of total rent-free area.	
1	Benipatti ...	172,772	953	6.638	3.9	873	91.6	6,068	76.5	1	0.1	1	0.02	9	0.9	74	1.1	70	.78	1,466	22.4
2	Khajauli ...	208,525	608	42,843	20.7	490	81.3	4,780	11.1	3	0.8	1	0.0	3	0.3	1	0.0	109	18.1	86,061	88.0
3	Phulparas ...	301,080	1,092	62,628	18.1	870	79.7	11,108	31.1	1	0.1	51	0.1	1	0.1	8	0.0	220	20.1	41,469	78.8
4	Madhubani ...	199,348	1,310	29,263	15.4	990	76.0	14,990	51.3	10	0.8	38	0.1	1	0.2	15	0.1	802	33.1	14,320	48.8
5	Darbhanga ...	271,627	2,581	10,105	3.7	1,467	56.6	4,408	48.0	4	0.2	17	0.2	324	11.4	878	8.7	826	32.0	6,807	47.6
6	Bahera ...	286,857	1,328	17,411	5.9	1,032	84	5,100	29.9	10	0.8	10	0.1	23	1.8	817	1.9	168	13.3	11,614	84.3
7	Rusera ...	227,063	904	41,161	18.1	748	82.7	3,374	8.3	4	0.4	5	0.01	15	1.7	35	0.1	187	18.2	87,748	91.7
8	Warisnagar ...	128,336	742	2,634	2.0	521	70.2	1,868	73.3	80	10.8	191	7.1	14	1.9	169	6.7	127	17.1	328	13.0
9	Samastipur ...	189,461	1,594	4,935	2.6	1,347	84.5	4,227	85.3	73	4.6	303	6.1	140	8.8	348	7.0	84	3.1	60	1.6
10	Dalsingh Sarat.	167,465	1,118	3,662	2.2	930	83.2	2,572	78.4	49	4.3	329	5.6	24	3.1	108	3.8	118	10.4	458	12.5
	Total ...	2,118,839	12,125	210,620	10.0	9,264	76.4	67,768	37.4	235	1.9	836	0.4	534	4.3	1,928	0.9	2,104	17.4	150,286	71.3

394. They are much more important in Darbhanga than in any other district in North Bihar, covering as they do about one-tenth of the total area. The most numerous are those granted for religious purposes, which amount to more than three-quarters of the whole. These, however, cover little more than a quarter of the total area under rent-free tenures, and the largest and most important are those classified as "others," which include the maintenance grants given by the Darbhanga Raj to junior members of the Raj family, and are consequently found mainly in those thanas in which the Raj is predominant. They are specially noticeable in Khajauli, Phulparas and Rusera Service tenures cover an insignificant area. Most of the land held in this way belongs to petty village officials such as *barahils* and *goraits*, who cultivate the entire area themselves, and are therefore not classified as tenure-holders. Malikana

tenures consisting of lands held rent-free in perpetuity by former proprietors of the village are also unimportant.

Under-tenures. 395. Under-tenures cover less than two per cent. of the total area of the district. The thanawar figures are given below.

NAME OF THANAWA.	Total area of thanawas.	TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDER-TENURES.				PERMANENT.						TEMPORARY.					
		Number.	Area.	Percentage to total Area.	Average size of under-tenures.	TO INDIGO PLANTERS.		TO OTHER PERSONS.		TOTAL.		TO INDIGO PLANTERS.		TO OTHER PERSONS.		TOTAL.	
						Area.	Percentage column 5.	Area.	Percentage column 5.	Area.	Percentage column 5.	Area.	Percentage column 5.	Area.	Percentage column 5.	Area.	Percentage column 5.
1 Bonipatti ...	173,773	78	708	0.4	9			1	0.1	1	0.1	83	5	670	95	702	100
2 Khanjauli ...	306,525	75	8,208	2.7	176			730	9	730	9			7,473	91	7,473	91
3 Phalpara ...	291,000	143	5,313	1.8	27			1,616	30	1,616	30			3,696	70	3,696	70
4 Madhubani ...	100,343	277	1,030	1.0	6			207	20	207	20	19	23	84	78	823	80
5 Darbhanga ...	271,637	123	1,028	0.4	3			56	5	56	5	234	23	738	73	973	86
6 Bahera ...	280,937	116	5,834	2.1	60			600	10	649	11	1,111	16	4,074	70	5,185	89
7 Buxera ...	322,043	94	2,809	0.9	31			781	27	876	30	324	8	1,809	63	2,033	70
8 Wariyagar ...	125,336	126	2,468	2.0	30			130	6	289	12	1,113	45	1,057	43	3,170	89
9 Samastipur ...	189,481	151	3,255	1.7	32			19	1	178	0	1,420	43	1,677	51	3,07	91
10 Dalalgh Barai ...	167,465	103	2,311	1.4	13			5	0.2	5	0.2	2,080	90	236	10	2,306	100
Total ...	3,113,829	1,383	33,062	1.1	26			453	1	4,154	13	4,606	14	6,383	19	26,456	88

396. Only 14 per cent. of the under-tenure-holders' area is held on permanent leases. In the Samastipur subdivision, over half of the under-tenure-holders' area is in the possession of indigo factories. The largest area held on under-tenures is found in the Madhubani subdivision, where most of the holders derive their title from maintenance grantees under the Darbhanga Raj.

Raiyati Rents.

397. Rents are of two kinds, cash and produce. Raiyats holding at fixed rents or rates of course pay only in cash. The proportionate area held by other classes of raiyats and by under-raiyats on cash and produce rents, respectively, is shown in the following statement:—

CLASS OF RAIYATS.	Total area.	Area on produce rent.	Percentage of area on produce rent to total area.	CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGE IN—		
				Muzaffarpur.	Saran.	Champanan.
Settled and occupancy raiyats.	1,527,675	125,893	8.	7	4	4
Non-occupancy raiyats.	11,699	793	7	19	8	22
Under-raiyats.	92,491	17,362	53	61	23	65

398. The total area held by non-occupancy raiyats and under-raiyats is very small. So far as settled and occupancy raiyats, who hold over 83 per cent. of the total occupied district area, are concerned, produce rents are slightly more common in Darbhanga than in Muzaffarpur and the percentage is twice as high in Darbhanga as in Saran. There can be no doubt that this indicates roughly the relative position of Darbhanga in regard to agricultural development. It is slightly behind Muzaffarpur and both are a good deal behind Saran, where however much higher cash rent rates are found. The skilful and intelligent Saran cultivator finds it more paying to give a high cash rent for good lands, than to divide the produce with his landlord. The comparatively small area under produce rents in Champanan is due to the predominance of big landlords in the greater part of that district.

399. The proportions of land held on a produce rent in the different thanas of Darbhanga do not vary greatly from the district average, and it does not seem worth while to give them in detail. As a rule, produce rents are most in favour, where the landlord is petty and resident and can personally attend to their realisation, and consequently we find that in Darbhanga the largest produce rent paying area is in Dalsingh Sarai thana, where it is over 12 per cent. of the total raiyati area. The proportion in the neighbouring and similarly situated thana of Hajipur in the Muzaffarpur district was much the same. After Dalsingh Sarai come Darbhanga and Bahera thanas, where also petty resident proprietors predominate, and 10 per cent. of the area pays a produce rent. Much of the land in these thana is subject to inundation, and in some villages the raiyats prefer to pay a rent varying with the outturn rather than a fixed cash rent. In all the other thanas of the district, the produce rent-paying area is below the district average, except in Madhubani, where the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Madhubani Babus' estates raise the proportion to 10 per cent. These landlords maintain a very large establishment of Brahmin priests and other dependants, and have always found it convenient to realise a considerable share of their rents in kind.

400. Produce rents are of three kind *batai*, *bhaoli* and *mankhap*. Under the *batai* system, the actual crop is divided between the landlord and the raiyat, either in the field or on the threshing floor. The proportion is usually half and half, but in the north of the district it is not unusual for the landlord to take nine-sixteenths of the produce. This system is known as *nausalha*. The *batai* method of division is usually very harassing to all concerned. The raiyat is worried by the perpetual supervision of the landlord, and unless the latter can realise the grain in person, he is almost certain to be swindled by his agents. It may, indeed, be said that nobody except the *gumashta* class benefits by the *batai* system.

401. The *bhaoli* system on the other hand offers less opportunities for vexation or fraud. The value of the crop is appraised, on the ground, shortly before the harvest, and a share of that value is paid by the raiyat to the landlord, either in cash or in kind, as may be found most convenient. Everything, of course, depends on the manner in which the appraisal is carried out, but it is surprising with how little friction it is accomplished in the majority of cases, and in some parts of the district, where the rice crop is exceedingly liable to inundation, it is probably as suitable a method of arriving at a fair rent as could be devised.

402. So much cannot, however, be said for the *mankhap* system, under which the raiyat has to pay a certain quantity of the outturn, usually from eight to ten maunds a bigha, irrespective of the amount of the produce. The rate is about double that of the ordinary cash rental, and though in a good year the raiyat, who pays, *mankhap* may secure a larger share of the produce, than he who pays *batai* or *bhaoli*, the *mankhap* system is intensely unpopular among the raiyats. It deprives them of the benefit of the high prices, which is the only compensation they receive for a season of short outturn, and cases have actually been known in which raiyats, in a year of famine, had to buy grain at exorbitant rates to make over to their insatiable landlords. Some of the agents of the Madhubani Babus, in whose estates this system is most prevalent, actually boast that, in the last famine, in 1897, they collected the *mankhap* paddy demand, in full. It is not difficult to imagine how this harshness must have increased the suffering of the raiyats, who were already in sore straits owing to the failure of their crops. It is universally believed throughout the district, that the holders of *mankhap* lands, and to a less extent those of *batai* and *bhaoli* lands also, can have or acquire no rights in the lands held on such terms. It is fortunate therefore that the area held on a produce rent is no longer than it is.

403. Cash rents are of much greater importance in Darbhanga, as in the rest of North Bihar, than produce rents for they are paid in respect of nearly four-fifths of the occupied area. As 91 per cent. of the area occupied by raiyats is cultivated, and as the remainder, with the exception of the small areas covered by houses, is generally productive, consisting of orchards and the like, cash rent

rates will, in the following discussion, be worked out on the total areas of holdings and not on the cultivated area only. The following table shows the average rent-rates paid by different classes of raiyats in Darbhanga, and compares them with those of the three other districts in North Bihar :—

Class of raiyat.	Cash rent paying area in acres.	Total cash rent.	Rate of rent per acre.	CORRESPONDING RATE IN—		
				Muzaffarpur.	Saran.	Champanan.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Raiyats at fixed rents...	10,372	18,124	1 12 0	2 11 11	3 4 9	1 2 3
Settled and occupancy raiyats.	1,402,432	5,304,479	3 12 6	3 12 3	4 5 4	1 14 11
Non-occupancy raiyats	11,908	42,979	4 7 10	4 9 0	5 0 6	1 12 10
Total ...	1,423,760	5,371,582	3 12 4	3 13 5	4 5 4	1 14 7
Under-raiyats ...	15,129	66,433	4 8 4	4 5 9	5 2 3	2 8 10

404. Raiyats at fixed rates occupy a very advantageous position in Darbhanga, but the area held by them is small, being less than one-third of what it is in Muzaffarpur. In respect of settled and occupancy raiyats, who hold over 98 per cent. of the total raiyati area, the Darbhanga rent rate is practically the same as that of Muzaffarpur, both being considerably lower than Saran and higher than Champanan. There can be no doubt that Saran is in every way the most advanced district in North Bihar, and Champanan the most backward. The rates of non-occupancy raiyats and of under-raiyats are, again, very similar in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, but the area held by them is very small. The rate payable by under-raiyats is only 20 per cent. in excess of that payable by raiyats, but it must be remembered that more than half the area held by under-raiyats pays a produce rent.

405. Before proceeding to analyse the Darbhanga figures in further detail, it will be of interest to trace, as far as possible from the materials available, the history of rents in the district. Unfortunately these materials are very scanty. As has been shown in the Chapter on revenue history, all the available evidence goes to show that, at the time of Todar Mull's assessment of 1582, the rent rate of the parganas, comprising the present district of Darbhanga, was about Re. 1-2 per cultivated acre, or considerably lower than in any other part of North Bihar. For the succeeding 250 years, we have no accurate or trustworthy information of any kind. Owing to the absence of areas in the records of the various readjustments of revenue, made during the Muhammadan period and at the permanent settlement, we can only ascertain the gross demand, and the computation of rates is almost entirely a matter of guess work.

406. Sir A. P. Macdonnell, on the assumption that the revenue fixed at the Permanent Settlement was nine-tenths of the gross rental, puts the latter for the combined districts of Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga at Rs. 11,72,661 which would give a rent rate of slightly under Rs. 2 per cultivated acre. He is, however, disposed to think that the true rental, in 1793, was higher than that stated, but on the other hand it must be remembered that parts of Darbhanga were at that time much more backward than Muzaffarpur, and it is therefore probable that the average rent rate of the district, in 1793, was not much more than half what it is now.

407. This estimate is corroborated by the statistics compiled from the records of the resumption proceedings, which took place in 1830-40. The figures for the 50 villages, for which cultivation statistics were given in paragraph 314, show that their average rent-rates at the time of the resumption proceedings were Re. 1-5-2 per rent-paying acre, varying from Re. 1-10-3 in thana Warisnagar to Re. 1-2-7 in thana Madhubani. The present rent-rate of these villages, as

computed from the records-of-rights, comes to Rs. 3-9-5 per acre of the rent-paying area. In no case is the increase less than 100 per cent. In one case it is 316 per cent., and the general average rate of increase is 171 per cent. It is not of course claimed that these villages are in this matter representative of the district as a whole, for it is more than probable that their rental was understated during the resumption proceedings, with a view to securing a light assessment. But the figures, coupled with those of the permanent settlement, point irresistibly to the conclusion that rent-rates in the district have been doubled within the last century.

408. It may perhaps be worth while to point out that the increase in rates here discussed is quite unconnected with the increase of rents due to extension

The increase in rates.

of cultivation. Indeed in the 50 resumed villages, the cash rent-paying area has slightly decreased between the resumption proceedings and the present day, the increase in the cultivated area having been absorbed by the petty proprietors or let-out by them on a produce-rent. It should be added that all the proprietors in the villages concerned are petty, and the same results would not be found in villages belonging to big landlords; but still the striking fact remains that in these 50 villages, the raiyats' rents have more than doubled within the last 60 years, while there has been a decrease in the area held by them.

409. No details regarding the history of enhancements during the past half century are forthcoming. The Darbhanga Raj officials unfortunately did not see their way to allowing us to inspect

Rents in the Darbhanga Raj estates.

the old papers in their office, and we are therefore unable to furnish for the Darbhanga estate any such information as to the history and development of rents as was given for Bettiah and Hathwa. Mr. Finucane's report on the settlement of Alapur shows that during the 20 years prior to 1878, rent-rates in that area had been subject to constant enhancement, both directly and through the imposition of illegal cesses and *abwab*. As already stated, the fair rents settled by him have continued practically unchanged to the present day. In other portions of the Raj estate, there was a general enhancement about 1883, when the estate passed out of the hands of the Court of Wards. In some parts this was accepted by the raiyats, but in many villages it has been successfully resisted to the present day. The enhancement seems to have been very capricious varying from two to eight annas per bigha, without any regard to the capabilities of the soil. It was mostly effected by *sharanamas*, or agreements executed by the leading raiyats of the village, admitting that henceforth the rates were to be so much.

410. It may be said that the *sharanama* system is one of the most objectionable methods of enhancement. Legally, of course, it only binds the people who are

Methods of enhancement.

parties to the *sharanama*, and then only if the resultant enhancement does not exceed the limits prescribed by law. But practically, if the leading raiyats of the village can be induced to agree to the *sharanama*, the others soon fall into line. As, however, the agreement is only concerned with rates, it leaves the individual raiyat in ignorance of his new rent until this is worked out for him by the patwari or some other underling. It is small wonder, therefore, that in many places the raiyats of the Darbhanga Raj to this day refuse to allow the new rent, resulting from the *sharanama* enhancements, to be entered on their rent-receipts.

411. But many landlords do not even take the trouble to get *sharanamas* executed when they want enhancements. They simply enter the new rent in the *jamabandi* and exert pressure, both legal and illegal, to compel the raiyats to pay it. Pretexts for enhancements are as various as the methods employed to effect them, and it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

A measurement by a shorter pole than that previously in use often results in an actual enhancement of rate, though the landlord will claim that the increase is due to extension of cultivation. Partitions under the old Act, when no record of the raiyats' rights was prepared, were invariably accompanied by enhancement of rent, and the first action taken by a new purchaser of an estate is generally an endeavour to raise rents all round.

412. It is to be hoped that the record-of-rights now prepared will give some stability to rents in the district, for there can be no doubt that this is badly needed.

Not only have rent-rates doubled within the last century, but the road cess returns show that in the 17 years between 1876 and 1893, the rental which the landlords claimed as payable had increased by over 25 per cent., although there could have been very little extension of cultivation during that period. As has been shown by Sir A. P. Macdonell, the enhancement was obtained through the Civil Court in less than one case in 10,000, and the rate of increase is more than double that all allowed by law in contracts between landlords and raiyats. There can then be no doubt that the provisions of the Tenancy Act in regard to this matter have hitherto been almost entirely a dead-letter.

413. The variations of rent-rates of the different classes of raiyats in each thana are shown in the following statement :—

THANAWAY RENT-RATES.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	RAIYATS AT FIXED RENT.			OCCUPANCY AND SETTLED RAIYATS.			NON-OCCUPANCY RAIYATS.			TOTAL OF ALL CLASSES OF RAIYATS.			UNDER-RAIYATS.		
		Total area.	Total rent.	Average rate per acre.	Total area.	Total rent.	Average rate per acre.	Total area.	Total rent.	Average rate per acre.	Total area.	Total rent.	Average rate per acre.	Total area.	Total rent.	Average rate per acre.
			Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1	Nonipatti ...	441	440	1 1 8	115,704	4,59,808	3 14 11	3,430	1,845	5 9 5	118,085	4,55,898	3 14 10	500	2,042	4 1 4
2	Khajauli ...	512	524	1 0 8	148,406	5,15,947	3 3 4	377	1,708	4 15 5	149,775	5,18,770	3 3 3	494	1,951	3 9 9
3	Phulparas ...	492	366	0 13 11	224,306	2,93,732	3 9 4	1,307	3,980	3 5 3	225,915	2,97,991	3 9 3	899	2,969	3 6 5
4	Madhubani ...	305	405	1 0 5	120,238	4,57,380	3 8 2	177	766	4 5 2	120,810	4,58,580	3 8 1	746	2,714	3 10 10
5	Subdivisional Total	1,770	1,785	1 0 11	616,334	23,37,388	3 13 4	2,091	8,177	3 15 3	623,155	23,40,458	3 13 3	2,599	9,699	3 11 9
6	Darbhanga ...	2,552	3,049	1 3 4	170,265	5,87,344	3 7 3	553	1,916	3 7 6	173,370	5,92,351	3 6 6	949	3,519	3 11 6
7	Bahera ...	793	724	0 14 8	181,737	5,66,012	3 9 7	1,387	4,461	4 5 5	183,124	5,70,473	3 9 6	1,905	6,590	3 9 10
8	Rusera ...	677	1,010	1 8 1	120,141	5,39,770	4 3 1	693	2,767	3 15 6	120,834	5,36,537	4 1 10	1,635	8,413	5 7 8
9	Subdivisional Total	4,021	4,833	1 3 3	494,133	17,86,424	3 11 0	2,738	11,150	4 1 3	496,871	18,01,305	3 10 9	4,367	18,282	4 4 6
10	Warisnagar ...	191	374	3 0 3	78,970	2,68,376	3 10 0	1,176	4,919	4 1 7	80,158	2,91,698	3 11 1	2,314	9,708	4 3 2
11	Samastipur ...	2,702	5,354	3 8 8	133,123	5,00,722	4 1 1	3,467	16,768	6 13 9	127,593	5,33,344	4 0 6	3,177	15,663	4 15 0
12	Dalsing Sarai ...	2,093	5,271	2 8 4	97,923	4,01,569	4 1 7	2,440	7,079	3 4 2	102,464	4,14,810	4 0 9	2,660	14,512	5 7 7
13	Subdivisional Total	4,881	11,501	2 8 3	300,015	11,66,667	3 16 5	6,092	20,696	4 18 8	310,688	12,20,730	3 15 4	8,141	39,903	4 14 8
	District Total ...	17,379	18,134	1 12 0	1,44,2,492	53,04,479	3 13 6	10,936	49,979	4 7 10	1,453,760	53,71,583	3 13 4	15,129	69,433	4 6 4

414. Raiyats at fixed rates are a very small body, but their rent rates are very low especially in the north of the district. In the case of the main body of

Occupancy raiyats.

raiayats who possess occupancy rights, the average rent-rate exceeds four rupees an acre in four thanas only. In Samastipur and Dalsing Sarai, agricultural conditions have long been highly developed; the landlords are petty and resident, and as the tract is highly productive and practically immune from the effects of drought, high rent-rates were to be expected. But neither Rusera nor Khajauli are specially favoured in any respect, and the high rent rates prevalent in them can only be ascribed to the action of their chief landlords. In Rusera this is Babu Ganeshwar Singh, whose conduct towards his tenantry has already been described. The larger part of Khajauli, which shows absolutely the highest rent rate in the district, belongs to the Rajnagar Circle of the Darbhanga Raj, where the raiyats are particularly subservient, and have allowed the rent rates to be forced up in a very remarkable manner, even agreeing after final publication to pay rents which we had held to be illegal.

415. The areas held by non-occupancy raiyats and by under-raiyats are very small, and the thanawar figures hardly require discussion. The highest all-

Non-occupancy raiyats.

round rates are found in the Samastipur subdivision and the lowest in Phulparas, where it is noteworthy that the rent rate of non-occupancy raiyats is lower than that of occupancy raiyats. It must be remembered, however, that non-occupancy raiyats hold a much larger proportionate area on produce rents.

416. But more important perhaps than the thanawar comparison of rent rates is that of the rent rates levied by different classes of landlords. A state-

Rent rates of different landlords.

ment to show this has been complete for 256 representative villages covering

317 square miles and situated in all parts of the district, and the following is an abstract :—

LANDLORD.	Number of villages selected.	Rent rate of occupancy raiyats.		
		Rs.	A.	P.
Darbhanga Raj	60	3	16	5
Rai Ganga Prasad	20	4	11	2
Madhubani Babus	20	3	14	10
Babu Ganeshwar Singh	10	4	5	8
Other important proprietors holding undivided estates	50	4	0	0
Petty proprietors holding divided estates (pattidari)	70	3	14	5
Indigo factories	35	3	6	11
Total	265			

417. Indigo factories are thus the most lenient landlords so far as rents are concerned, and this coincides with our experience and with the general opinion. It may appear surprising that petty proprietors should return so low a rent rate, but it must be remembered that the figures here given are those of the rents recorded by us as payable, and not of the rents claimed by the landlords, which were in many cases very much higher. This explanation also applies to the comparatively low rent rates found in the villages of the Madhubani Babus and of Babu Ganeshwar Singh. The highest all-round rent rate is found in the villages of Rai Ganga Prasad, a wealthy Darbhanga banker, whose estates are managed very strictly and who is notorious for the promptitude with which he realises his claims. He has recourse to the Civil Court for the collection of rent arrears to a greater extent than any other landlord in the district.

418. There are considerable variations in the rent rates returned by the different circles of the Darbhanga Raj, the highest being Rs. 4-14-10, in Rajnagar Circle, and the lowest, Rs. 3-8, in Alapur, the area surveyed and settled by Mr. Finucane in 1878. The ease with which rents are realised in this latter area, and its satisfactory condition from an agricultural point of view, show the benefit of a moderate assessment both to the landlord and the raiyat, and the Maharaja and his advisers would do well to consider whether the policy of forcing up rents in some other portions of the estate has not been overdone. At all events, there can be no question that in Rajnagar, where the rent rate is so much above the district rate, no further enhancement should be allowed for many years to come, and that any attempt on the part of the subordinate officials of the Raj, to realise rents higher than those recorded as payable should be sternly repressed by those responsible for the management of the estate.

419. It is interesting to note that the average rent rate is considerably lower in revenue-free, than in revenue-paying estates. The following table gives details :—

		Total area.	Cash rent paying area.	Cash rental	Rate per acre.
Revenue-paying estates	...	1,930,194	1,340,862	Rs. 51,07,067	Rs. 3 12 11
Revenue-free estates	...	128 635	82,898	2,64,515	3 8 1
Total	...	2,113,829	1,423,760	53,71,582	3 12 4

Probably, with no revenue to pay, there is less temptation to force up rents, but as revenue-free estates form little more than one-twentieth of the total

district area, it would be a mistake to lay too much stress on the matter, which may partly be due to special causes.

420. We are now in a position to compare the landlords' assets with the revenue demand of the district. To the cash rental we must add the value of the produce rent received, which may be put, at a moderate computation, at Rs. 6 an acre. The same rate may be assumed for the value of the produce of the lands in the direct cultivation of proprietors, while for lands in the direct cultivation of tenure-holders an average rent rate of Rs. 3 or three-quarters of the raiyati rent rate will not be excessive. We thus obtain the following as the total landlord's assets:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Cash rental	...	55,71,582
Produce rental, 126,186 acres, at Rs. 6 an acre	...	7,57,116
Produce of area in direct cultivation of proprietors, 205,154 acres at Rs. 6 an acre	...	12,30,924
Rental of tenure-holders for lands in their own cultivation, 53,122 acres at Rs. 3 an acre	...	1,59,366
Grand total landlords' assets for both revenue-paying and revenue-free lands	...	75,18,938
Deduct for revenue free lands	...	...
Cash rental	2,64,515	...
Produce rental, 8,715 acres at Rs. 6 an acre	52,290	...
Produce of land in direct cultivation of landlords, 28,788 acres at Rs. 6 an acre	1,73,728	...
Total landlord's assets of revenue-free lands	4,90,533	...
Remainder—Total landlord's assets for revenue-paying lands	...	70,28,455

421. The diara area for which no record-of-rights was prepared, covers only 25,715 acres or 40 square miles and, as the greater part of it is uncultivated, the average rent rate is probably under a rupee an acre, so its assets may be neglected. The total area of the district, including the diara and urban area omitted from our operations but excluding the lands held revenue-free, is 2,019,213 acres. We thus arrived at the following comparison of the rate per acre of assets and revenue:—

Total revenue-paying area.	Total assets of revenue-paying area.	Total Revenue.	Rate per acre of —	
			Assets.	Revenue.
Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
2,019,213	70,28,455	7,58,301	3 7 8	0 6 2

At the Permanent Settlement, the Government revenue was fixed so as to allow the zamindars 10 per cent. of the assets as profits. They now enjoy 88 per cent. The Government revenue instead of forming nine-tenths of the assets is now only one-ninth of them. Moreover, the forgoing figures do not include the ground rents in the urban area, the greater part of which is included in permanently-settled estates.

422. The last road cess revaluation of the district was concluded in 1895, and resulted in an assessment of Rs. 85,13,169, or nearly 10 lakhs in excess of the total landlord's assets according to our calculation. It must be remembered, however, that our figures omit consideration of the rent-free lands, which may probably be valued at an additional three lakhs of rupees. The settlement records also contain no information as to *sairats*, market dues and other sources of income which are not strictly agricultural, but must account for a good deal. Lastly, there can be

no doubt that many landlords included in their returns illegally enhanced rents which we have found not to be payable. On the whole, therefore, it seems probable that a revaluation of the district on the basis of the settlement records would not result in any increase, though it might secure a more equitable distribution of the total demand.

Transfer of proprietary rights by sale.

423. Under orders of the Director of Land Records, enquiries regarding this matter were made by the attestation officers in one selected village at each centre. The scope of the enquiries. The total number of villages so selected was 347, and they covered 442 square miles or 13 per cent. of the total district area. The figures, therefore, so far as they go, may be taken as fairly representative of the district as a whole. It should be noted that only those transfers, which have taken place within the past ten years, have been recorded. The details are as follows:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area.	Total number of khewat entries.	NUMBER OF VILLAGES SELECTED.			KHEWAT ENTRIES IN VILLAGES SELECTED.		TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSFERS.		AREA TRANSFERRED.	
				Number.	Total area of these villages.		Number.	Percentage of total number of khewat entries.	Number.	Percentage of khewat number under enquiry.	Area.	Percentage of total of villages selected.
					Area.	Percentage of total area.						
1	Benipatti ...	172,772	18,19	58	23,923	19.2	558	30.7	60	10.8	5,082	9.8
2	Khajauli ...	206,525	648	22	18,297	8.9	168	24.1	47	30.1	2,733	14.9
3	Paiparna ...	291,000	770	19	9,872	3.4	110	14.1	74	21.8	1,107	12.3
4	Madhubani ...	180,343	2,088	22	11,548	6.1	188	14.9	20	19.0	1,190	10.4
	Subdivisional Total ...	650,708	4,305	121	73,666	8.5	924	22.8	161	16.4	8,202	11.3
5	Darbhanga ...	271,927	5,599	55	69,998	13.4	4,235	18.7	180	10.8	7,068	14.1
6	Bahera ...	285,937	3,273	53	40,501	14.1	645	25.0	78	9.2	2,878	7.1
7	Rusera ...	222,083	2,804	37	31,949	14.3	315	15.8	78	21.2	4,251	18.4
	Subdivisional Total ...	780,937	12,453	185	122,144	15.6	2,424	19.4	261	11.0	14,197	11.8
8	Warisnagar ...	125,326	2,615	23	17,152	13.7	243	8.6	31	12.8	834	4.9
9	Samastipur ...	189,461	3,773	50	32,414	17.1	638	23.5	120	14.4	2,197	4.4
10	Daisingh Sarai ...	157,465	1,987	35	38,024	24.1	573	29.8	128	21.8	2,448	7.6
	Subdivisional Total ...	472,252	8,675	108	87,620	18.6	1,454	16.4	274	16.9	5,479	6.4
	DISTRICT TOTAL ...	11,13,829	25,282	347	282,630	13.4	5,068	20.0	716	14.2	27,698	9.8

424. Although the greater portion of the Benipatti and Khajauli thanas is held by the Darbhanga Raj, those portions which are not so held are remarkable for very minute subdivision of proprietary rights. This accounts for the high proportion of khewat entries in the selected villages in these thanas, but does not of course indicate a greater frequency of sales there than elsewhere, as the Darbhanga Raj villages, except a few which have been recently purchased, return no transfers whatever. The total number of transfers is highest, as might have been expected, in the Darbhanga thana, which also shows the greatest number of khewat entries, indicating the greatest amount of subdivision of proprietary rights. This thana also accounts for nearly one-fourth of the total area sold. The comparatively small area transferred in Warisnagar and Samastipur is undoubtedly due to the numerous indigo factories in that area. As noted by Mr. Stevenson-Moore in the Muzaffarpur final report, a distressed proprietor can frequently save his estate from sale, by raising money by means of a usufructuary mortgage to an indigo factory, and a factory is generally ready to advance money in this way, in order to get a footing in a village and so acquire lands for indigo cultivation.

425. Taking the district as a whole, we find that nearly one-tenth of the areas of the selected villages have been affected by transfers. This is almost double the proportion found in Muzaffarpur, but the enquiries in that district were not complete. Moreover, it must be remembered that nearly half of the Darbhanga district belongs to big proprietors, in whose villages, as a rule, no transfers of proprietary rights have taken place.

Classification of the transferees.
426. The classification of the transferees is shown in the following statement:—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of transfers.		LANDLORDS.		LAWYERS.		MONEY LENDERS.		RAIYATS.		Area transferred.	Price paid.	Price per acre.	Highest price per acre.	Lowest price per acre.
		Number.	Percentage of total number.	Number.	Percentage of total number.	Number.	Percentage of total number.	Number.	Percentage of total number.							
										Number.	Percentage of total number.					
1 4-3	Benipatti ...	80	80	89.4	...	...	8	8.9	8	8.9	3,083	26,768	87	266	8
	Khajauli ...	47	30	63.8	...	...	15	31.9	2	4.3	2,731	167,631	61	283	1
	Fulparas ...	24	14	58.3	...	...	1	4.2	9	39.3	1,196	76,835	84	111	1
	Madhubani ...	20	16	80.0	...	...	8	40.0	1	5.0	1,197	69,82	49	147	3
	Subdivisional Total ...	161	110	68.3	8	3.7	20	12.4	16	10.0	8,207	671,548	70	283	1	
5 4-3	Darbanga ...	130	103	79.2	4	3.1	11	8.5	12	9.2	7,058	807,619	44	267	4	
	Bahera ...	78	72	92.3	...	...	3	3.8	1	1.3	2,878	147,351	61	481	4-3
	Buzera ...	78	67	85.9	...	...	4	5.1	2	2.6	4,251	169,465	40	468	6
	Subdivisional Total ...	286	242	84.6	4	1.4	18	6.3	15	5.2	14,187	1,124,435	44	481	4-3	
8 10	Warinagar ...	31	28	90.3	1	3.2	2	6.5	...	...	804	32,513	39	304	8
	Samastipur ...	127	89	70.1	4	3.1	12	9.5	16	12.6	2,087	237,337	109	258	40	
	Dalsingh Sarai ...	123	75	61.0	1	0.8	6	4.9	41	33.3	2,048	233,290	88	413	2	
	Subdivisional Total ...	281	192	68.3	6	2.1	20	7.1	59	21.1	5,939	493,140	69	413	2	
DISTRICT TOTAL ...	716	546	76.3	16	2.2	67	9.4	67	9.4	27,068	1,039,323	80	481	4-3		

The proportion of money-lenders is everywhere satisfactorily low. The comparatively high percentages in Khajauli and Madhubani thanas are somewhat fictitious, as they are made up of only 23 transfers. There is in fact no indication that proprietary rights are passing to any extent into the hands of the money-lending classes. In Dalsing Sarai thana, one-third of the transferees are shown as raiyats, but in this area, there is often but little distinction between the petty proprietor and the cultivator. Elsewhere the number of raiyati transferees is small, and in the district as a whole over three quarters of the transfers have been made to persons of the landlord class.

427. The average price paid per acre is only Rs. 59 for the district as a whole as compared with Rs. 95 in Muzaffarpur. In Saran, however, the average price came to only Rs. 50 an acre. The value of proprietary rights has indeed no direct connection with the rent rate. In Saran, for instance, where the rent rate is higher than in any other district in North Bihar, the value of proprietary rights is lowest, and the rate per acre obtained for proprietary rights is less than half the rate paid for occupancy rights. The fact is that many other matters affect the value of proprietary rights more closely than the rent rate, and a specially high rent rate may even impair that value. The purchaser has to consider the state of feeling of the raiyats and if they are exasperated by attempts to realise an unduly enhanced rent, they may combine against him and prevent him from collecting anything except with the utmost trouble and difficulty. A *bona fide* purchaser of an estate is not a mere rent speculator like a temporary tenure-holder, whose one object is to make as much as he can out of the village in a limited time. The purchaser looks for a steady return on the purchase money, with the prospect of being able, if necessary, to part with his investment for as much as he gave for it. Then again, unless he is fortunate enough to acquire an undivided village or estate, he must consider the temper of his co-proprietors, whether they are likely to assist him and work with him, or to embarrass him, by setting up the raiyats against him, by withholding payment of their share of Government revenue and in many other ways which are open to the petty landlord, ill-disposed to welcome a new-comer as co-sharer. All these matters influence the value of proprietary rights in the case of genuine purchases, where the vendor's title is clear, and coupled with the fact that many purchases, especially in the Collectorate and the Civil Court, are purely speculative, cause the price paid to

fluctuate enormously, out of all proportion to the rent rate or any other fixed standard. As a matter of fact in Darbhanga, the price paid per acre varies from 27 times the annual rent rate in Samastipur thana to 10 times the average rent rate in the adjoining thana of Rusera. For the whole district, the average price is 16 times the annual rent rate. It exceeds this in four thanas only.

428. In all probability, the figures are hardly worthy of more detailed analysis. As has been pointed out, nearly half the district is in the hands of large proprietors and is practically free from transfers of proprietary rights. The transferred area here dealt with is little more than one per cent. of the total area of the district, and is thus too small to form the basis of any valid conclusions as to the value of proprietary rights. For a similar reason, little is to be gathered from the figures showing the highest and lowest rates per acre, which are invariably due to special circumstances. Both the highest and lowest rates in the district are found in the same thana, Bahera, where the rent rate is well below the district average.

The highest rate of Rs. 481, is due to a fancy price paid for a small area with the object of rounding off an estate, while the lowest rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas was paid in a speculative purchase of a heavily encumbered estate at a sale for arrears of road cess.

Transfer of occupancy rights.

429. Under the orders of the Director of Land Records, contained in his circular no. 24-S., dated the 24th September 1894, statistics were compiled during attestation regarding the transfer of occupancy rights, whether by sale or by mortgage, for all villages in the district. The record of such transfers was not limited like those of proprietary rights to transactions which have taken place within the last ten years, but all transfers which came to light during attestation were registered. Practically, however, very few transfers of over ten years date were recorded for, in the case of older sales or mortgages, the tendency is for the transferee to step into the place of the old tenant, all traces of whom become obliterated. It should be noted that only usufructuary mortgages are dealt with in these statistics, mortgages without possession, locally known as *makfuls*, being omitted. The latter transactions are, however, comparatively few and unimportant, as the raiyat's credit is, as a rule, not good enough to enable him to borrow much money, without giving up physical possession of his holding or some part of it, to the lender.

The area affected by sales and mortgages. 430. The following table gives thana-war details regarding the area affected by sale and mortgage and the number of transactions of each kind :—

Social number.	NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL FOR THE THANA.		NUMBER OF TRANSFERS.			PERCENTAGE.			AREA TRANSFERRED IN ACRES.			PERCENTAGE.		
		Number of occupancy holdings.	Area thereof.	By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.	Of column 5 to 3.	Of column 6 to 3.	Of column 7 to 3.	By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.	Of column 11 to 4.	Of column 12 to 4.	Of column 13 to 4.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Bentpatti ...	70,854	124,067	3,005	2,573	4,677	3.96	3.03	6.60	1,321	1,260	2,581	1.06	1.02	2.09
2	Khajuli ...	62,530	166,938	1,910	1,612	3,523	3.13	2.56	5.71	1,811	1,411	3,222	1.14	0.72	1.58
3	Phulpara ...	88,132	278,543	7,498	3,290	11,298	7.95	3.73	11.78	7,524	2,544	10,068	3.18	1.07	4.25
4	Madhubani ...	67,073	142,982	3,366	4,297	8,293	3.90	5.02	9.53	2,763	2,460	5,242	1.92	1.73	3.44
	Subdivisional Total ...	308,589	675,568	14,479	12,371	26,830	4.69	4.00	8.69	13,478	7,444	20,922	3.03	1.12	3.14
5	Darbhanga ...	149,133	169,095	2,591	5,613	8,104	1.74	3.69	5.43	1,077	2,774	4,731	1.74	1.46	3.50
6	Bahera ...	123,307	264,573	2,010	4,751	7,767	8.44	3.65	6.39	2,111	3,744	5,219	1.10	1.30	2.59
7	Rusera ...	69,781	128,444	80	1,223	1,303	0.10	1.48	1.65	170	1,445	1,575	0.12	1.02	1.14
	Subdivisional Total ...	265,771	532,172	5,687	11,428	17,175	1.60	3.24	4.84	4,398	7,307	11,605	3.43	1.38	2.18
8	Warisnagar ...	50,490	84,862	478	1,948	2,444	0.81	3.45	4.23	795	1,474	1,609	0.47	1.74	3.20
9	Samastipur ...	100,113	173,536	64	3,396	3,902	0.50	3.40	3.91	44	1,708	2,142	0.32	1.38	1.90
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	68,572	111,637	443	2,888	3,331	0.65	4.21	4.86	561	1,500	2,141	0.52	1.39	1.91
	Subdivisional Total ...	225,175	330,225	1,403	8,334	9,037	0.42	3.68	4.28	1,410	4,743	6,153	0.43	1.43	1.66
	DISTRICT TOTAL ...	688,835	1,527,675	21,549	33,093	54,043	2.42	3.01	6.03	19,236	19,363	38,659	1.26	1.27	2.53

In the district as a whole, only a little over 6 per cent. of the occupancy holdings and only 2½ per cent. of the area held by occupancy raiyats was found to be affected by sales or mortgages with possession.

431. Sales are more numerous and affect a larger area than mortgages in the Madhubani Subdivision only. The reason is the predominance in that area of the Darbhanga Raj, within whose estates the purchaser is accorded practically unrestricted recognition, subject to the payment of a nominal *salami* or registration fee, and of all arrears of rent due from the vendor. The exaction of the latter penalty operates, as will be seen, to reduce the price obtained for occupancy rights, but, owing to the systematic manner in which the Raj rent rolls and accounts are maintained, it is always easy for the intending purchaser to ascertain the rent and the arrears due from a holding, and an impetus is in this way given to outright transfers by sale.

432. In the estates of petty proprietors on the other hand, money is more usually raised by mortgage. The purchaser by sale is never certain whether he will be accorded recognition by the landlord, or whether he may not be called upon to agree to hard terms as a condition of recognition. He may be required to pay a heavy *salami*, or a greatly increased rent, or to give up some of the best lands of the holding. On the other hand, the transferee, who gets a mortgage with possession, has few or no difficulties to contend with. The rent is still nominally paid by the old tenant, and the landlord in the majority of cases knows nothing about the transaction. Even if he gets to know of it, it is very difficult for him to do anything, as the original raiyat and the transferee, acting in collusion, can easily outwit him. At all events, the effect of the practically unrestricted system of transfer, which prevails in Madhubani, is clearly shown in the foregoing statement. The percentage of area transferred by sale is double that of any other part of the district, while the proportion of the area affected by mortgage is smaller than elsewhere.

433. Phulparas thana returns the largest number of transfers in the district (nearly one-fifth of the total), and the area transferred in this thana is more than a quarter of the district total. Sales are twice as numerous as mortgages, and the area sold is nearly three times the area mortgaged. The thana consists mainly of rich rice lands, which, except in a year of drought, are highly productive. Holdings are larger and rents are lower than the district average, and the cause of the large number of transfers cannot be ascribed to the depressed condition of the people. The real reason for the peculiar position of Phulparas is undoubtedly the impetus given to transfers by the record-of-rights, prepared by Mr. Finucane for the Alapur pargana, which covers 250 square miles, or more than half the area of the thana. Before the present operations began, there was no tract in North Bihar in which rights were so clearly defined, and which was so free from agrarian dispute, as Alapur. A purchaser was always able to make sure of the vendor's title to a definite area, and as the tract belongs, entirely to the Darbhanga Raj, he was practically certain that he could get himself accepted by the landlord, on fulfilling certain well-known and easily ascertained conditions. There is thus every inducement for him to acquire occupancy rights by sale instead of by the more round-about method of mortgage, which is necessary elsewhere. Although the vendor may, under such circumstances, be tempted to part too readily with his land, he also participates in the benefits of clear definition of title, which is secured by a record-of-rights. For there is no doubt that the record enhances the value of occupancy rights, and so if a raiyat finds it necessary to raise a certain sum, he can do so by selling less land than would be necessary in an area for which no record-of-rights existed. That occupancy rights in Phulparas thana do not fetch a higher price, is entirely due to the special custom prevailing in Raj villages, under which the transferee is required to pay the arrears of rent due from the holding as a condition of recognition.

Transfers of part holdings.

434. In the following statement the transfers of whole and of part holdings are distinguished :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	TOTAL AREA TRANSFERRED.			AREA OF WHOLE HOLDINGS TRANSFERRED.			PERCENTAGE.			AREA OF PART HOLDINGS TRANSFERRED.			PERCENTAGE.		
		By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.	By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.	Column 8 to 9.	Column 10 to 11.	Column 12 to 13.	By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.	Column 14 to 15.	Column 16 to 17.	Column 18 to 19.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Benipatti ...	1,321	1,300	2,621	255	163	418	16.70	19.39	12.04	1,066	1,097	2,163	80.80	80.70	87.96
2	Khuanii ...	1,811	1,140	2,951	339	114	453	15.85	13.79	10.00	1,472	1,056	2,528	84.65	81.29	90.04
3	Phulparas ...	7,534	2,561	10,095	1,268	230	1,508	15.76	26.76	13.87	2,771	2,334	5,105	64.23	57.24	87.13
4	Madhubani ...	2,763	2,490	5,253	683	216	799	15.22	21.11	8.07	2,779	2,65	5,444	81.78	78.69	91.33
	Subdivisional Total ...	12,448	7,444	20,892	2,440	622	3,062	17.68	18.17	11.04	10,998	6,022	17,020	84.37	81.83	88.96
5	Darbhanga ...	1,977	2,754	4,731	647	633	1,280	27.06	33.73	13.98	1,330	2,121	3,451	71.94	67.27	77.03
6	Bahera ...	2,251	2,048	4,299	887	812	1,699	15.08	17.19	13.83	1,814	2,036	3,850	84.93	83.31	81.48
7	Rusera ...	170	1,405	1,575	98	304	402	20.33	67.03	25.91	73	1,061	1,133	70.67	42.35	76.09
	Subdivisional Total ...	4,398	7,007	11,405	1,732	1,400	3,132	21.00	25.74	19.55	2,268	5,798	8,066	78.10	74.28	80.48
8	Warisnagar ...	395	1,474	1,869	87	219	306	10.37	23.02	14.89	304	1,265	1,569	83.08	77.97	85.14
9	Samastipur ...	434	1,708	2,142	163	216	379	10.39	20.92	13.65	301	1,402	1,703	82.71	69.35	87.35
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	581	1,560	2,141	235	251	486	22.70	40.45	16.09	343	1,309	1,652	77.30	59.65	83.01
	Subdivisional Total ...	1,410	4,742	6,152	455	686	1,141	18.65	32.37	14.47	955	4,058	5,013	81.45	87.73	85.83
	GRAND TOTAL ...	19,230	19,393	38,623	4,027	2,917	6,944	17.98	20.93	15.04	15,309	16,476	31,785	82.03	79.07	84.90

435. Less than a fifth of the total area transferred is composed of whole holdings, the remainder being merely portions of holdings. Rusera thana returns the highest percentage of sales of whole holdings, but the area concerned is less than 100 acres. In Phulparas thana, where sales are most numerous, it is satisfactory to find the proportion of sales of whole holdings well below the district average. In the district as a whole, sales of whole holdings account for more than a fifth of the total area sold, but in Phulparas the proportion is less than 17 per cent. which is another indication that sales in this thana to a considerable extent take the place occupied by mortgages elsewhere.

436. Information regarding the classification of transferees and the rate paid per acre is given in the following statement :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of transfers.	NUMBER OF TRANSFERS TO—							
			Landlords.		Lawyers.		Money-lenders.		Balyats.	
			Number.	Percentage to total.	Number.	Percentage to total.	Number.	Percentage to total.	Number.	Percentage to total.
1	Benipatti ...	4,677	609	10.01	5	0.11	370	0.64	2,943	62.84
2	Khajauli ...	3,672	51	1.39	15	0.41	355	0.96	3,121	84.73
3	Phulparas ...	10,399	97	0.94	33	0.34	719	6.98	9,417	91.74
4	Madhubani ...	8,293	120	1.45	172	2.07	608	7.33	7,438	89.69
	Subdivisional Total ...	26,830	607	2.26	227	0.84	1,947	7.26	15,949	59.49
5	Darbhanga ...	8,104	1,023	12.62	35	0.43	871	10.75	6,175	76.20
6	Bahera ...	7,703	1,010	13.11	34	0.44	1,518	19.71	5,208	67.61
7	Rusera ...	1,308	269	20.55	15	1.15	161	12.30	864	66.00
	Subdivisional Total ...	17,775	2,302	13.40	78	0.45	2,550	14.35	12,245	71.30
8	Warisnagar ...	2,474	263	10.63	11	0.45	287	11.64	1,718	71.25
9	Samastipur ...	3,903	394	10.10	45	1.15	920	23.68	2,543	65.17
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	3,331	640	19.48	64	1.92	351	10.54	2,307	71.06
	Subdivisional Total ...	9,677	1,336	13.80	70	0.72	1,558	16.17	6,629	68.73
	District Total ...	53,012	4,445	8.38	435	0.79	6,056	11.43	42,717	79.83

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	ANNA TRANSFERRED, PRICE PAID.								
		By sale.			By mortgage.			Total.		
		Area.	Total price.	Rate per acre.	Area.	Total price.	Rate per acre.	Area.	Total price.	Rate per acre.
			Rs.	Rs. A. P.		Rs.	Rs. A. P.		Rs.	Rs. A. P.
1	Benipatti	1,321	59,450	40 0 10	1,360	53,065	41 5 0	2,681	1,06,706	40 15 3
2	Khajanli	1,811	65,753	36 3 4	1,143	31,110	27 4 10	2,954	83 0 1	32 6 11
3	Phulparas	2,534	2,34,941	81 2 11	2,564	70 7 7	22 9 11	10,098	3,05,768	30 4 8
4	Madhubani	2,703	1,09,843	39 6 7	2,480	72,011	29 0 8	5,243	1,91,700	34 10 0
	Subdivisional Total ...	15,429	4,50,222	39 0 5	7,444	2,26,002	30 7 8	20,972	6,77,124	32 7 1
5	Darbhangra	1,977	77,305	39 1 8	2,754	80,873	29 10 2	4,731	1,67,177	35 5 5
6	Bahera	2,351	75,435	32 3 2	2,045	69,343	32 0 5	4,396	1,74,778	32 13 0
7	Rusera	170	6,038	40 12 0	1,405	51,607	36 12 5	1,675	59,903	37 3 4
	Subdivisional Total ...	4,398	1,53,070	36 4 11	7,207	2,40,692	33 0 9	11,606	4,00,558	34 8 3
8	Warisnagar	305	17,021	45 5 11	1,474	67,698	33 5 7	1,809	75,910	40 0 11
9	Samastipur	434	27,805	33 9 8	1,708	1,03,783	60 2 19	2,142	1,30,385	60 13 11
10	Dalsingh Sarai	591	30,485	51 7 6	1,980	1,25,000	63 2 8	2,141	1,55,535	72 0 10
	Subdivisional Total ...	1,410	71,011	43 14 6	4,742	3,95,838	60 4 5	6,152	3,61,940	58 13 1
	District Total ...	19,236	6,85,009	35 10 6	19,383	7,53,622	36 13 9	28,629	1,43,631	37 4 3

437. Taking the district as a whole, it is satisfactory to find that four-fifths of the transferees are raiyats, and that only a little over 11 per cent. are money-lenders. The latter class is most numerous in the Sadar and Samastipur subdivisions, where the proportion of landlord transferees is also much larger than in Madhubani. In the former area, petty proprietors predominate, and these are very often practically indistinguishable from raiyats. In no part of the district, are there any signs that land is to any considerable extent passing into the hands of professional money-lenders to the detriment of the actual cultivators. Rusera thana again shows the greatest variation from the normal, but the area affected is very small. In the estates of Babu Ganeshwar Singh, which comprise more than a quarter of this thana, no transfers of any kind were found. This landlord's treatment of his tenantry has already been described, and it has not hitherto been such as to induce would-be purchasers to acquire raiyati interests under him.

438. The average rate paid on sale is less than that advanced on mortgage in the district as a whole, but it exceeds it in eight of the ten thanas. The only exceptions are Benipatti and Dalsingh Sarai, which though at opposite ends of the district are marked in parts by extreme subdivision of proprietary rights. Such a condition always tends to prevent the transfer of occupancy rights by sale. The transferee is almost certain to experience trouble and difficulty, in getting himself recognised as a tenant, at the hands of one or other of the cosharing landlords, and prefers as a rule to avoid this by acquiring possession indirectly through a mortgage, when, as already explained, it is in practice very difficult for any landlord to interfere with him. Excess of the mortgage over the sale rate invariably shows that the custom of free transferability by sale does not exist. The highest rates, both for sale and mortgage, are found in the Samastipur subdivision, where also rent rates are highest and lands on the whole most valuable. The price paid per acre is depreciated in the Madhubani subdivision by the custom of the Darbhanga Raj, which, as already stated, requires the purchaser to pay up all arrears of rent due from the former tenant. As the latter is usually in embarrassed circumstances at the time of the sale, these arrears are often considerable and form a large addition to the purchase price, causing a corresponding diminution of the actual amount which the purchaser is willing to pay to the seller.

439. The custom of the free transfer of occupancy-rights is at present in a transition stage, but there can be no doubt that it is growing. Except in a limited area in Rusera thana, where the landlord is strong enough to forbid transfers altogether, and the circumstances are such as to discourage would-be purchasers from attempting to defy him, we found

Transferability of occupancy rights.

transfers either by sale or by mortgage in almost every village. The views of landlords on the matter differ widely. Some of the petty proprietors are themselves purchasers of occupancy rights, and openly assert that they are transferable without reference to the landlord. Most of them however levy a fee of some kind from the transferee as a condition of recognition, but this is usually a matter of form, though, as we have seen the difficulty of securing recognition from all the members of a co-sharing family, in some parts reduces the rate obtained on sale below that advanced on mortgage. Finally in the Darbhanga Raj area, transfer is practically unrestricted, provided certain easily fulfilled conditions are complied with, and though one of these conditions tends to reduce the price obtained by the vendors, they do not operate to reduce the volume of transactions, and the record-of rights will probably have the same effect in increasing them, as it has already had in the Alapur pargana. Some are inclined to urge that, as freedom of transfer without the landlord's consent has already practically established itself in the greater part of the district, little harm would be done by legalising it, and that the raiyat would benefit, if such a course were adopted, by a reduction in the rate of interest and an increase in the value of occupancy rights. But most people will agree with Mr. Stevenson-Moore that "to incur the odium, whether by legislation or otherwise, of depriving landlords of a right they are quickly losing or of conferring on raiyats a privilege that they are rapidly gaining for themselves would probably be bad statesmanship. The treatment of the question of free transfer at present required, is perhaps to be left alone."

CHAPTER IV.—STATISTICAL ESTIMATE OF THE MATERIAL CONDITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

440. It will be generally conceded that all famines in North Bihar, which have been serious enough to require Government relief on a large scale, have been due to the failure of the winter rice crop. There is, it is believed, no instance in which Government has had to undertake relief, save in limited local areas, owing to a failure of the crops of the *bhadai* or *rabi* harvests, though, in the event of a failure of the winter rice crop, conditions are of course relieved or aggravated according to the nature of the preceding *bhadai* and the subsequent *rabi* harvest. Thus it is only to be expected that Darbhanga, which has a larger gross area and a larger proportion of its cropped area, under winter rice than any other district in North Bihar, should suffer most severely in the case of famine, and as a matter of fact, eight out of the ten thanas in the district or more than four-fifths of its total area, have been officially declared liable to severe distress in the event of a failure of the winter rice crop. The statistics of the last great famine of 1897 further emphasize the importance of the winter rice crop in Darbhanga. The three districts of Saran, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur are practically on an equality, so far as the pressure of population on the soil and the small area available for extension of cultivation are concerned. But as the following table shows, the crop failure of 1896 affected them in different degrees of intensity :—

DISTRICT.	Percentage of net cropped area under winter rice.	Higest number of persons relieved on any one day during the famine of 1897.	Percentage of persons relieved to total population affected by the crop failure.
Darbhangā	57.33	253,910	10.19
Muzaffar, ur	42.35	139,855	6.98
Saran	29.11	85,173	5.75

441. Though Saran has the greatest density of population to the square mile and the highest rent rate, it suffered least severely from famine, owing to the variety of its crops and the practical independence of many parts of it of the winter rice harvest. In Darbhanga on the other land, where

in two subdivisions winter rice covers over three-fifths of the net cropped area, more than a tenth of the population affected by its failure had to turn to Government for relief during the famine of 1897. There could be no more striking corroboration of the conclusion of the Famine Commission, that "the devastating famines to which the provinces of India have from time to time been liable are in all cases to be traced directly to the occurrence of seasons of unusual drought, the failure of the customary rainfall leading to the failure of the food-crops on which the population depends." And it might be added that in Bihar, famine, as distinct from local scarcity, is always due to the failure of the winter rice crop, and varies in its effects upon a given area with the importance of the crops other than the winter rice, on which the cultivators can fall back.

442. As we have seen in the Chapter dealing with the population of the district, at least four-fifths of the inhabitants of Darbhanga, and probably more, are entirely dependent on agriculture as a means of livelihood. An attempt will now be made by means of the statistics discussed in the preceding Chapter, to form an estimate of the material condition of this vast mass of two and a third million souls, and to ascertain the profits which they derive in ordinary years from cultivation. In the note appended to this Chapter, the average outturn, value to the cultivator, and cost of cultivation of the principal crops have been discussed, and taking these figures as a basis, the gross annual value of the produce of the district and the net profit earned by the cultivator may be thus calculated :—

Serial number.	NAME OF CROP.	Area.	Average outturn per acre in maunds.	Gross value of average outturn per acre.			Total gross value of outturn.			Cost of cultivation on per acre.			Total cost of cultivation.			Net profit per acre.			Total net profit to cultivator.			REMARKS.
				Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	
1	Rice (bhadal) ...	68,801	11½	30	13	6	31,32,080	13	6	12	13	6	8,48,863	13	6	18	0	0	12,58,418	0	0	
2	Maize ...	86,862	12	19	8	0	10,93,640	0	0	0	14	0	5,07,176	4	0	12	10	0	10,93,640	33	12	0
3	Marna ...	230,371	12	18	0	0	29,64,876	0	0	0	0	0	19,82,139	0	0	9	0	0	19,82,139	0	0	0
4	Kodo ...	17,288	10	12	8	0	2,11,850	0	0	0	0	0	1,03,608	0	0	6	8	0	1,12,842	0	0	0
5	Rice (sahani) ...	970,706	14	38	12	0	3,66,56,070	8	0	15	8	0	1,50,38,193	8	0	21	4	0	2,68,16,877	8	0	0
6	Yam, etc. ...	38,167	100	50	0	0	18,38,350	0	0	12	8	0	4,57,087	8	0	37	8	0	13,71,263	8	0	0
7	Wheat ...	62,881	9½	28	12	0	12,78,233	12	0	11	0	0	5,81,691	0	0	12	13	0	6,74,332	12	0	0
8	Barley ...	152,608	9½	16	10	0	25,36,445	8	0	6	0	0	2,15,048	0	0	10	10	0	18,20,397	8	0	0
9	Gram ...	35,135	9	18	0	0	6,41,430	0	0	5	8	0	1,96,402	8	0	12	8	0	4,45,028	8	0	0
10	Miscellaneous food-grains ...	820,871	9	78	0	0	87,70,278	0	0	6	0	0	19,33,480	0	0	12	0	0	88,48,858	0	0	0
11	Potatoes ...	1,218	80	80	0	0	97,440	0	0	28	0	0	30,450	0	0	55	0	0	66,990	0	0	0
	Total food-grains ...	1,692,783					6,57,80,555	8	0				2,37,08,774	1	6				8,30,71,181	8	0	
12	Sugarcane ...	16,499	35	91	14	0	14,97,470	10	0	65	0	0	10,80,485	0	0	26	14	0	4,39,085	10	0	0
13	Tobacco ...	28,807	14	70	0	0	20,16,490	0	0	30	0	0	5,76,140	0	0	50	0	0	14,40,350	0	0	0
14	Opium ...	2,408		42	0	0	1,00,026	0	0	13	0	0	31,230	0	0	20	0	0	68,796	0	0	0
15	Pibroes ...	2,677		13	14	0	37,143	0	0	8	14	0	10,373	8	0	10	0	0	20,770	0	0	0
16	Linsced and til ...	136,387	5	30	0	0	37,07,740	0	0	2	7	0	4,45,362	13	0	16	9	0	22,48,347	3	0	0
17	Mustard and others ...	42,337	8½	22	6	0	12,38,357	4	0	8	0	0	2,54,052	0	0	25	4	0	9,43,305	4	0	0
18	Indigo ...	52,591		15	0	0	7,86,565	0	0	0	0	0	2,01,865	0	0	10	0	0	1,00,000*	0	0	0
19	Miscellaneous non-food crops ...	87,813														5	0	0	4,36,095	0	0	0
	Total non-food crops ...	867,914					88,29,993	4	0				26,80,657	8	0				57,39,690	1	0	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,330,708					6,41,64,547	13	8				2,63,87,331	4	6				3,68,11,371	9	0	

* This represents the profit to the cultivator only. Three quarters of the indigo is grown by the manufacturer himself.

443. The area figures have been taken from the crop statement and of course include the twice cropped lands. In order to ascertain the average value of the outturn per acre, these must be excluded. We thus find that the gross annual value of the produce of the 1,692,443 acres of cultivated area in the district is Rs. 6,41,64,547. This gives the gross average value of the produce per acre as Rs. 37-14. Similarly the gross average cost of cultivation per cultivated acre comes to Rs. 14-15-9, but this would only be paid in cash if the cultivator did no field work himself, but employed hired labour for all agricultural operations from ploughing to reaping. It need hardly be said that such a case as this is seldom, if ever, found. The ordinary small cultivator, with a holding of less than five acres, does at least half the field work himself with the aid of his family, and his actual disbursements for the hire of outside labour cannot be put higher than Rs. 7-8 an acre. Such

a cultivator then, after paying for the cost of cultivation, would have a net profit left of Rs. 30-6 per acre. Deducting from this his rent, at the average district rate of Rs. 3-12-6 per acre we find that the net return to the cultivator at the end of an ordinary year works out to Rs. 26-9-6 or say Rs. 26-8 per acre.

444. We are now in a position to estimate the minimum size of a holding, capable of supporting a pure cultivator and his family in such moderate comfort, as to relieve them of the necessity of working for other cultivators or seeking other means of employment. The average number of persons per family can be obtained from the Census returns, where each house defined as the "residence of a commensal family" was separately enumerated. It appears that in 1901, the village population numbered 2,809,219 persons and occupied 555,696 houses. This gives an average of almost exactly five persons per family. Now for the peasantry of North Bihar the cost of living in moderate comfort may be put at Rs. 15 per head per annum. This is the estimate worked out in detail by Mr. Stevenson-Moore in his report on the Narhan operations, and it had also been adopted by Dr. Grierson previously in his "Notes on Gaya." So that a Darbhanga family requires a net income of Rs. 75 per annum to maintain itself in a moderate degree of comfort.

445. We have seen that a family of cultivators, who do half the cultivation work themselves, can make a profit in an ordinary year after payment of rent of Rs. 26-8 per acre. So that a family of this kind with a holding of three acres would make a net profit of Rs. 79-8 per annum, and would thus have a small margin of four or five rupees over the sum absolutely necessary for its maintenance. But as a matter of fact, a family with such a small holding as this would do practically the whole of the cultivation themselves, and their only necessary outgoings would be the rent and the cost of seed and possibly the occasional hire of a plough and a pair of bullocks. The net profits of such a family would be well over Rs. 30 an acre and they could consequently earn the Rs. 75 necessary for their subsistence from a holding of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. This I think may be taken as the size of the subsistence holding for a family of pure cultivators in Darbhanga. For a family with such a holding, by dispensing with outside labour, could in an ordinary year earn just sufficient to keep themselves. On the other hand, a family with a holding of less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres would not be pure cultivators. They could not earn from the holding sufficient to keep themselves in moderate comfort, and would have to supplement their income by working for other cultivators or resorting to other sources of employment.

446. In order to come to a conclusion as to the material condition of the agricultural classes of Darbhanga, it is necessary to ascertain what proportion of the population have holdings above or below the subsistence limit of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. Here the record-of-rights does not help us, because it treats as a separate holding each parcel of land held under a separate proprietor, and in many parts of Darbhanga where extreme subdivision of proprietary rights is found, it is the rule rather than the exception for each family to hold two or more of such parcels. But a approximate estimate can be obtained from the census returns, which divide the agricultural population of the district as follows:—

	Number.	Percentage to total population.
Rent-payers	1,739,360	60
Labourers	494,033	17
Rent-receivers	34,195	1
Miscellaneous (pasture and supervision)	41,141	1
Engaged on other occupations but partially depended on agriculture	23,882	8
Total	2,332,611	80

447. Now the rent-payers, the miscellaneous agriculturists and the persons engaged in other occupations, may be grouped together as pure cultivators, because, as has been shown in the Chapter on population, it is very probable that many persons, whose real occupation is agriculture, returned themselves at the census under their hereditary caste occupations. This gives a total of 1,804,383 pure cultivators or 360,876 families. The total area in the occupation of raiyats (including small rent-free holders) is 1,579,445 acres, but some of this should probably be allotted to the labourers. An allowance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres per labouring family, or half an acre per head will be ample on this score, as persons with a larger holding than this would almost certainly have been returned as rent-payers. After making this deduction of 247,016 acres from the total raiyati area, we are left with 1,332,429 acres to divide among the 360,876 families of pure cultivators. This gives an average of 3.6 acres per family or more than an acre in excess of the subsistence holding. Even allowing for the fact that about 9 per cent. of the raiyati area is uncultivated (though this uncultivated area is not entirely unproductive), the average family of pure cultivators in the Darbhanga district, forming over three-fifths of the total population, should enjoy a moderate degree of comfort, and should be able to save sufficient in ordinary years to tide them over an occasional season of shot crops.

448. As a matter of fact, the cultivators of Darbhanga can and do weather more than one season of crop failure without turning to Government for relief. It is a common proverb that it takes three bad years to make a famine. Even in the great famine of 1897, which followed two seasons of bad harvests and was accompanied by a higher range of prices than had been known since the previous famine of 1873-74, the proportion of pure cultivators who had to seek relief at the hands of Government must have been very small. For the total number relieved, when the distress was at its height, was only 10 per cent. of the total population affected, or little more than half of those who are classed in the census returns as labourers, and who have either no land at all, or whose holdings are too small to support them from the profits of cultivation in an ordinary year, so that they have to eke out their income by working for others. This class can only just make both ends meet in an ordinary year, and consequently has no reserves to fall back on in a bad year. A large part of it must perforce therefore turn to Government for relief after a serious crop failure, particularly when that is caused by drought, and produces a diminution of the demand for field labour, which is its main source of support. And it speaks well for the staying powers of the district, that a large minority even of the labouring class were able to dispense with Government relief during the last famine.

449. The famine statistics thus corroborate the contention that the average size of the pure cultivator's holding is well above the subsistence limit, and that the pure cultivators have a reserve, on which to fall back, in years of scarcity, and do not live a mere hand to mouth existence. But this does not imply that the district, under present agricultural conditions, could support any considerable increase of its agricultural population without a material reduction of the standard of comfort. As we have seen, 80 per cent. of the district area is under cultivation. The area still available for cultivation is only 10 per cent. of the total, and it is not probable that the cultivated area could be materially increased, having regard to grazing requirements. It may be assumed, therefore, that little relief is to be anticipated from extension of cultivation in the district, and it will be of interest to estimate the income under present conditions of the agricultural population, including both cultivators and labourers.

450. Excluding the rent-receivers, the cultivators and labourers number just under 2,300,000 persons, or over four-fifths of the total population of the district. They hold an area of 1,579,445 acres, of which over 90 per cent. is cultivated and fully productive. The remainder is not entirely unproductive, as a good deal, consists of orchards and the like, but

such profits as are derived from it, may be set off against the cost of maintenance of cattle and the purchase of agricultural implements. There is a further area of 258,276 acres in the cultivation of landlords, which gives employment to a certain number of labourers, though the raiyats derive no benefit from it at all. The cost of cultivation was found above to be Rs. 15 an acre, but as a large proportion of the landlords, who have lands in their own cultivation, are petty and resident, and do a good deal of field work themselves, it may fairly be assumed that not more than Rs. 7-8-0 per acre goes to the labourers employed on the cultivation of the landlords lands.

451. On the foregoing, then, is based the following estimate of the sum available in an ordinary year for distribution among the 2,300,000 cultivators and labourers, constituting the agricultural population of the district:—

	Rs.
Gross value of the produce of 1,421,500 acres or 90 per cent. of the raiyati area, at Rs. 37-14-0 per acre	5,38,39,312
Earnings of labourers employed in the cultivation of landlord's lands, 258,276 acres at Rs. 7-8-0 per acre	19,87,070
Total	<u>5,57,76,382</u>
<i>Deduct rental—</i>	
Cash	53,71,582
Produce	7,57,116
Total	<u>61,28,698</u>
Net amount available for distribution among cultivators and labourers	4,96,47,684

452. This gives an average income of Rs. 21-8-0 per head of the agricultural population. Similar calculations in Saran gave an average income of Rs. 18-8-0 per head, so the reserve in Darbhanga is evidently larger, but as Rs. 15 per annum is the minimum income required to maintain an individual in moderate comfort, a considerable portion of the population of both districts must, in an ordinary year, earn little more than the minimum, and any serious increase in their numbers, or a bad year, must inevitably be followed by a reduction in the standard of comfort.

453. Another matter of interest in regard to the material condition of the agricultural community, is the question of their indebtedness. The transfer statistics discussed in the preceding chapter, show that only a little over 6 per cent. of the raiyati holdings and only 2½ per cent. of the raiyati area, are affected in whole or in part by sales or mortgages with possession. The total amount of recorded indebtedness is under eight lakhs, as compared with 50 lakhs in Saran. The transfer statistics do not show cases in which the land is mortgaged as security for a loan, but possession is retained by the borrower, nor do they disclose amounts borrowed on security other than the land. But loans of the first kind are usually only made to persons whose credit is otherwise good, as the fear of a previous mortgage ordinarily deters lenders from advancing money on the security of the land without obtaining possession. As to loans of the second kind, the land is the raiyat's chief source of credit, and only petty loans of a floating and temporary nature are made on other security. It is satisfactory, therefore, to find that so small a proportion of the raiyats are indebted to such an extent, that they have had to part with their holdings or portions of them in order to borrow money, and that the total amount of indebtedness incurred in this way is less than one-sixtieth of the share of the gross annual produce secured by the cultivating classes. The indebtedness of the Darbhanga agricultural community cannot therefore be said to be a very serious matter, and in this respect the district is certainly better off than Saran,

where the total recorded indebtedness incurred by mortgages with possession was half a crore of rupees or nearly one-seventh of the share of the gross annual produce secured by the cultivating classes.

454. In a district so dependent, as Darbhanga, on a single crop, the question of food stocks is of some importance, and an attempt will now be made

Food stocks; exports and imports.

to estimate the surplus which the district has to spare, after satisfying its own requirements in an ordinary year. Darbhanga has always been known as an exporting district, but the statistics on the subject are very incomplete, as they deal only with the railborne traffic and the Nepal frontier traffic. The bulk of the export traffic is carried on by means of carts and boats, and escapes registration altogether. The figures for the last seven years show an average export of only 26,483 tons of food-grains per annum, but, as we shall see, the normal surplus is at least ten times as great as this. On the other hand, the average annual imports for the last seven years amount to 65,956 tons. Of the registered imports and exports, about half consist of rice. Two-thirds of the imports and practically the whole of the exports are railborne, the remainder being due to traffic with Nepal.

455. The following table shows the average outturn of the food-grains within the district, based upon the calculations in the note appended to this

The average outturn of food-grains.

chapter regarding the average outturn of the principal crops:—

Serial number.	Name of Crops.	Area under crop.	Average outturn per acre in maunds.	Total.
	<i>Aghani.</i>	Acres.	Mds.	Mds.
1	Aghani rice	970,206	14	13,592,884
	<i>Bhadai.</i>			
2	Bhadai rice	68,801	11½	808,412
3	Maize	86,862	12	1,042,344
4	Marua	220,271	12	2,643,252
5	Kodo	17,268	10	172,680
	<i>Rabi.</i>			
6	Wheat	52,881	9½	502,370
7	Barley	152,508	9¼	1,448,826
8	Gram	35,635	9	320,715
9	Miscellaneous food-grains	320,571	9	2,885,139
10	Potatoes	1,218	80	97,440
11	Yams	36,567	100	3,656,700
	Total	1,962,788	... ..	27,160,762

456. It may be remarked that this gives an average outturn of 14 maunds per acre, but the figures are swelled by the high returns given by yams and potatoes. Excluding these, the average outturn per acre for all other crops is 12 maunds.

Average outturn per acre.

457. The requirements of the district may be divided into food and seed grain. For food, Sir A. P. Macdonnell's estimate of three-quarters of a seer per head per diem may be adopted. The yearly consumption of the population of 2,912,611 souls would therefore be 732,238 tons. For seed a general average of 20 seers an acre may be assumed, which for the 1,962,788 acres sown, gives a total of 36,051 tons or, allowing for wastage, say 40,000 tons.

Food and seed requirements.

458. The balance of food-grains in favour of the district in an ordinary year may thus be calculated as follows:—

		Tons.	Tons.
Total produce of the district—			
27,160,762 maunds	...	...	993,656
Deduct—			
Food consumption	...	732,238	
Seed-grain	...	40,000	
		772,238	
Normal surplus of food-grain		...	221,418

459. In paragraph 50 of the report on the famine of 1897, the Collector, by assuming a general average outturn of 14 maunds an acre for winter rice and 12 maunds an acre for all other crops, calculated the normal surplus to be 6,364,235 maunds, or 232,839 tons, a result which agrees in a remarkable manner with the foregoing calculations. But in order to arrive at an estimate of the produce available for exportation, regard should be had to the imports, for these, consisting mainly of rice and the cheaper food-grains, set free the more valuable food-grains for sale elsewhere. If the average import figures be added to the normal surplus, the quantity of food-grains available for exportation in an ordinary year will be found to be over 280,000 tons, or more than a quarter of the total annual produce of the district. In ordinary years, therefore, the produce of the district is more than sufficient for its maintenance, and the value of the surplus, calculated at the low average rate of Re 1-8-0 a maund, is nearly double the total rental of the district.

460. The foregoing discussion points to the conclusion that, on the whole, the pressure of the population on the soil is less felt in ordinary years in Darbhanga than in either Muzaffarpur or Saran, and this is corroborated by the fact that emigration from Darbhanga is much less than from either of the other districts. The census figures show that such emigration as there is from Darbhanga is almost counter-balanced by immigration from its western neighbours, both of which show at once a larger number of emigrants and a smaller number of immigrants than Darbhanga. The remittances made by money-order into the Darbhanga district are less than one-third of those received by Saran. But though the pressure on the soil has not yet driven the population to resort to emigration to any great extent, the indications are that the limits of expansion are being rapidly reached. The facts, that in the south of the district the population is now practically stationary and that in the north its advance has received a significant check, while there is practically no room for extension of cultivation, all point to the conclusion that the district will at no distant date reach a point, when it will no longer be able to support an increase in its population from the produce of the soil, without either a reduction in the standard of comfort or an increase in productive capacity. Saran has already reached such a point, and is avoiding or minimising a reduction in the standard of comfort by resort to emigration, and also by higher and more careful cultivation. There is no doubt, some room for improvement in the latter respect in Darbhanga also, for hardworking as the Darbhanga cultivator is, it cannot be said that he is so skilful and adroit as his Saran neighbour. On the other hand, it must be remembered that Darbhanga is mainly a one-crop district and can never hope to rival Saran in the richness and variety of its products.

461. The present condition of Darbhanga, as disclosed in the statistics discussed above, may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) Over four-fifths of the total population, or two and one-third million souls, are entirely dependent on agriculture as a means of livelihood.
- (2) Nearly half a million of these have either no lands at all and are entirely dependent on the wages of labour for a livelihood, or have holdings which are too small for their maintenance, so

that they are compelled to supplement their incomes by working for other cultivators. More than half of this body of cultivating and landless labourers had to turn to Government for relief during the last famine, and their condition must always cause anxiety at times of short crops or high prices.

- (3) The remainder of the agricultural community (omitting the small body of landlords), consists of the pure cultivators. These persons, numbering about one and three-quarter millions, enjoy a moderate condition of comfort. The average size of their holdings is over $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, or more than an acre in excess of the area of the "subsistence" holding. They can weather two or three successive bad seasons from their own resources without turning to Government for relief. Little more than a twentieth of them are in debt, to the extent that they have had to part with their holdings, or any portion of them, in order to borrow money, and the amount of their indebtedness is an insignificant proportion of the total annual income of the class to which they belong.
- (4) The district requires for its own consumption less than three quarters of its total annual production of food grains in an ordinary year. The value of the surplus available for export is nearly double the annual rental of the district.
- (5) Though the present condition of the pure cultivators is on the whole favourable, the district could not, under the present conditions of agriculture, support any considerable increase of population without a material reduction of the standard of comfort. Moreover, the dependence of a large part of the district on a single crop would render any further reduction in the average size of holdings a matter of grave apprehension. For the "subsistence" holding is a holding from the produce of which an agricultural family can just support itself in ordinary years. When the subsistence holding comprises lands which are capable of growing a considerable variety of crops, it is exceedingly unlikely that all of them will fail in the same year. But where, as in a large part of Darbhanga, the holdings are composed of land only capable of producing winter rice, the failure of that crop must cause universal distress, if the holdings are at, or only slightly above, the subsistence limit. It is the predominance of the winter rice in Darbhanga which causes that district to suffer so severely from the effects of drought, and though the district might in an ordinary year support a slightly larger population than at present, a reduction in the average size of holdings to the subsistence limit might plunge the whole population into destitution at the next general failure of the rice crop, instead of only one-tenth of the population as at the last failure. But the last census figures indicate that no such rise of population, as would be necessary to produce this effect, is likely to occur, and it may be hoped that the population of the district will remain within such limits, as to enable the larger portion of it to continue, as at present, to enjoy a moderate degree of comfort, taking good years with bad.

Note on the average outturn, normal prices and cost of cultivation of the principle crops.

462. The subjects of this note have been dealt with at some length in the final reports on the operations in the Muzaffarpur and Saarn districts, where the results of the enquiries made have been given in detail. Independent and thorough enquiries have also been made in Darbhanga, but it will suffice to give their results more briefly, and to explain them at length only in cases where there is a material difference between the Darbhanga figures and those adopted for Muzaffarpur or Saran.

The limitations of this note.

(1)—*The average outturn.*

464. The estimates of average outturn are based on the experimental crop cuttings, which were made in various parts of the district during the present operations. These have been checked by certain independent enquires made by Babu Nilmoni De for the purposes of this note, and also by reference to such estimates of previous observers as were available.

465. The most important crop in the district is winter rice. The results of a large number of crop cutting experiments gave outturns varying from 8 to 25 maunds of husked rice per acre. The great variations are due to the large number of different qualities of rice grown in the district, and to the difference of the seasons in which the crop cuttings were made. In the Phulparas thana where the best rice in the district is produced, the average outturn in an ordinary year is between 15 and 20 maunds an acre, and for the district, as a whole, it would probably be safe to take the average outturn as 14 maunds per acre, which is the figure adopted by Sir A. P. Macdonnell for Darbhanga, and by Mr. Stevenson-Moore for Muzaffarpur.

466. For *bhadai* rice, the results of the crop cutting experiments vary less, giving an outturn of 11 to 12 maunds per acre. Sir A. P. Macdonnell's estimate was 12 maunds. The figure here adopted is $11\frac{1}{2}$ maunds.

467. The outturn of *makai* and *marua* may be put at 12 mannds per acre. This is the same as Sir A. P. Macdonnell's estimate, and is the figure adopted in the Muzaffarpur final report. The Saran outturn worked out higher; but it is well known that the lands of that district are better cultivated and more productive than those of either Muzaffarpur or Darbhanga.

468. As regards the chief *rabi* crops, Sir A. P. Macdonnell estimated an average outturn of 8 maunds in the *sadar* and Madhabani subdivisions, and of 12 maunds in Samastipur, where detailed enquiries showed the produce per acre of wheat to be 10 maunds, and of barley 12 maunds. The crop cuttings of wheat gave an outturn of 5 maunds for a 50 per cent. crop, and of 10 maunds 24 seers for a full crop. Nine and a half maunds may therefore be taken as the average. For barley, the crop cuttings gave outturns varying from $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds on poor land in a poor season, to 16 maunds for an 80 per cent. crop on exceptionally good land. The general average was about ten maunds, and the outturn of this crop may fairly be put down as the same as that of wheat. These figures are only a quarter of a maund higher than those adopted in Muzaffarpur, and are again less than the results obtained in Saran.

469. For gram, no crop cutting experiments appear to have been made; but the test enquiries give an outturn of nine maunds per acre, for an average crop which is the same as that adopted for Saran, and a little less than the Muzaffarpur figure.

470. The crops classified as miscellaneous food-grains, consist mainly of peas, *khesari* and *arhar*, the outturn of all of which varies from eight to ten maunds per acre. A general average of nine maunds will therefore be assumed for all crops of this class, or slightly less than that adopted for Muzaffarpur.

471. The outturn of *alua* and *suthni* may be put at one hundred maunds an acre, as in Muzaffarpur and Saran. Potatoes yield rather less, though they are more valuable, and their outturn may be put at eighty maunds or the same as in Saran, but twenty maunds less than in Muzaffarpur. They are an insignificant crop in Darbhanga.

472. The most important of the non-food crops are the oilseeds. For linseed, experimental crop cuttings gave an outturn of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to two maunds an acre; but as this crop is never grown alone, but always in conjunction with wheat, barley, gram, and other food-crops, it is very difficult to estimate what would be the average outturn of land entirely devoted to it. On the whole, it may be taken at not less than five maunds per acre, as in Muzaffarpur and Saran. For mustard, no crop cuttings were made, but the test enquiries give an outturn of between eight and nine maunds per acre. The former figure was

adopted in Muzaffarpur and the latter in Saran. For Darbhanga therefore an outturn of eight and a half maunds per acre may fairly be assumed.

473. For sugarcane, the test enquiries give an outturn of thirty to forty maunds per acre. An average of thirty-five maunds has therefore been taken or five maunds less than in Saran, where the enquiries regarding this crop were especially full and complete, and where, also, it is cultivated with great care and thoroughness.

474. For the remaining non-food crops such as tobacco, opium and fibres, enquiries revealed no material deviation from the Muzaffarpur and Saran figures, which have therefore been adopted. The ordinary agriculturist is little concerned with indigo, which is separately dealt with in another chapter.

(2) *Normal prices.*

475. There can be no doubt that prices have risen very considerably during the past five years, and in working out the normal prices to be adopted for the purposes of these calculations, allowance has been made for this fact. The prices of rice, maize, marua, wheat, barley, and gram have been taken from the *Calcutta Gazette*, allowance being made for the difference between wholesale and retail prices, and a further allowance of ten per cent. being made in all cases, to cover the difference between the prices received in the village by the actual cultivators, and those realised in the large markets. The result has been that prices in Darbhanga appear to work out midway between those of Muzaffarpur and Saran. This is only natural, for the prices given in the Muzaffarpur final report, were worked out on the average of the four years prior to 1896, or before the cycle of short crops began to affect a large part of India. As Saran is dependent on outside sources for a large part of its food supply, prices are naturally higher there than in Muzaffarpur or Darbhanga, which are largely exporting districts. The following table gives the average prices realised per maund, in each district, by the cultivator, for the more important crops.

Crop.	Darbhanga.			Saran.			Muzaffarpur.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Rice	2	10	0	2	12	0	2	5	0
Makai	1	10	0	1	12	0	1	8	0
Marua	1	8	0	1	12	0	1	8	0
Wheat	2	8	0	2	14	0	2	8	0
Barley	1	12	0	2	0	0	1	10	0
Gram	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	12	0
Miscellaneous food-grains	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Potatoes	1	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0
Yams	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	8	0
Sugarcane (gur)	2	10	0	2	12	0	2	5	0
Tobacco	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	0
Linseed	4	0	0	3	4	0	3	11	0
Mustard	3	7	0	3	4	0	3	7	0

476. The Muzaffarpur prices are taken from the Muzaffarpur final report, and, as stated above, are based on a series of years, when prices were very moderate owing to plentiful supplies. In calculating the Darbhanga prices, allowance has been made for the fact that the present high prices are not likely to continue, and the estimate has been kept studiously low. Thus the average price of gram for the last five years has been Rs. 2-7-0 per maund, and the price of *arhar* has risen from Rs. 2-4-9 in 1898 to Rs. 3-9-0 in 1902. The price of peas and miscellaneous food-grains has also risen considerably. The price of *gur* is subject to great fluctuations, and has been as high as Rs. 3-12-0 per maund. It has, however, been thought advisable to assume a more moderate as the normal price. The price of linseed has risen enormously of late years, from Rs. 3-3-9 in 1898 to Rs. 5-9-0 in 1901. It is said that the demand for it from up-country markets is extending. But for the normal price realised by the cultivator, it would not be safe to take a higher rate than Rs. 4, and here, as in the rest of the estimate, care has been taken not to place too much reliance on the high prices at present prevailing.

The prices adopted.

(3) Cost of Cultivation.

477. The estimate of the requisite seed grain does not differ materially from that adopted in the Muzaffarpur and Saran reports. For broadcast rice, rather more seed is required than for transplanted rice. Local enquiry shows that not less than four seers per acre of maize and marua are required as seed, but the cost is inconsiderable. Most seed grains are slightly dearer than ordinary grains, and allowance has been made for this in the statement. The difference is specially marked in the case of potatoes, which are not as a rule kept by the ordinary cultivator from harvest to seed time, and cannot be bought then for less than Rs. 2-8-0 a maund.

Seed grain.

478. Though the wages of labour are expressed in cash, they are nearly always paid in kind. An able-bodied labourer gets 4 kutchas seers of the cheapest kind of grain available, such as *marua*, gram, or barley *salu*. The money-value of this works out to just under 2 annas, and the latter sum may be taken as the average. Women and boys get 3 seers only, equivalent to about one-and-a-half annas. The wages of labour depend, therefore, on the kind of work to be done. Heavy work, such as transplanting and digging, is always done by men. Lighter work, like weeding, is largely done by women. The cost of hiring a plough (including the ploughman and the pair of bullocks), may be put at 2½ annas a day. The low rate is due to the fact that ploughing is seldom done after noon, and thus the ploughman only gets paid for half a day's work. It is comparatively rare, however, for a cultivator to hire a plough. If he has not enough of his own, he can usually borrow from his neighbours, on the understanding that he will repay the obligation by lending his own plough when required.

Wages of labour.

479. Reaping and threshing are invariably paid for by a share in the produce, usually one-eighth. In some crops however, such as *marua*, which are easy to reap, the proportion actually paid is a good deal less than this. When the cultivator does not watch his crop himself, he gives the produce of 5 *dhurs* in the bigba to some one to do it for him, and the same amount is paid to the blacksmith and carpenter for keeping his ploughs and *kodalis* in order. About one-twelfth of the produce goes to the persons who husk and clean the rice and cotton crops. Manuring is seldom resorted to in Darbhanga when any extra expenditure is involved thereby, except for special crops like potatoes, tobacco, sugarcane and poppy, and even then only to a limited extent. Irrigation is practised chiefly for winter rice from such tanks and streams as contain a readily available supply of water, and the actual cash expenditure on this account is inconsiderable.

480. As regards individual crops, the cost of cultivation here estimated exceeds that given in the Muzaffarpur under the heads ploughing and weeding.

Ploughing.

Owing probably to the heavy clay soil of a large part of Darbhanga, it takes eight ploughs to cross plough an acre in a day. For *bhadai* rice one cross ploughing is usually sufficient, but transplanted winter rice requires at least double this amount. The lands are usually given one cross ploughing directly the first fall of rain enables them to be worked, and another immediately before the seedlings are put in. Three ploughings are usually given to lands prepared for *makai*, *marua*, barely and wheat. Tobacco requires at least eight ploughings or 32 ploughs for one day for an acre.

481. In weeding, one labourer can do about two to two-and-a-half cottahs a day, and ten to twelve labourers are required to do an acre in a day. Some crops such as *marua* and tobacco, require from 15 to 20 labourers per acre. Most crops, except those which are transplanted, are weeded twice, but *marua* is always weeded three times and often more. *Marua*, which is the most important crop in Darbhanga after rice, is cultivated with special care. Babu Nilmoni De quotes a native proverb "*Tinkerauni teruh chas, tab kariha marua ki as*," which may be translated "If you would see your *marua* green, you must weed it three times and plough it thirteen." Thus though my estimate of the cost of cultivation of *marua* is two rupees more than that given in the Muzaffarpur report, I do not think it is above the normal for Darbhanga.

482. A word of explanation is required about the digging of rice lands. Sixteen men are required to dig an acre of land in a day; but as a matter of fact, rice lands are not dug every year, and lowlying lands where moisture lies near the surface are never dug at all. It would probably be safe to assume that not more than a quarter of the rice lands are dug up annually before being ploughed, and for this reason only four men have been allotted to the acre.

483. The cost of cultivation of sugarcane was analysed at great length in the Saran final report. The methods followed in Darbhanga are similar in all respects, but it is only in the best lands that the cultivation is so elaborate or careful as in Saran. The average cost of cultivation per acre in Darbhanga has therefore been reduced from Rs. 75 to Rs. 65.

It must be remembered that the cost of cultivation here given is that which would be incurred if the cultivator got all his work done by hired labour. As a matter of fact however the great majority of the raiyats, with the assistance of their families, do a large part of the work themselves. Allowance has been made for this in considering the material condition of the cultivating classes.

CHAPTER V.—INDIGO.

484. The system of cultivation of indigo is so widely different from that of other crops, and produces such clearly defined economic effects on the position of the landlords, raiyats, and labourers of the areas in which it is grown, that it seems advisable to devote a section to a brief discussion of its position in the district. The cultivation of indigo in the district by European agency dates back to the time of the Permanent Settlement, the present concerns of Dalsingh Sarai, Jitwarpur, Tiwara, and Kamtaul having been all founded before the close of the 18th century. Between 1800 and 1900 indigo had spread into every thana of the district, though it was always more prevalent in the south than in the north, where the prevailing soil has never been altogether suitable for the crop. In 1874 the district contained the largest concern in India, and probably in the world: this was Pandaul, which with its outworks comprised an area of 300 square miles. It was subsequently split up, the northern outworks being purchased by the present Maharaja of Darbhanga, who abandoned the cultivation of indigo in them about three years ago, within which period also the fall in the price of the dye, due to the competition of artificial substitutes, has caused many other factories to abandon or contract very greatly the area under indigo.

List of factories.

485. The following is a list of the factories in the district at the present time:—

Serial no.	Name of concern.	Name of outwork, if any.	Thana.	REMARKS.
1	Jainagar	Naradh	Khajauli.	
2	Kewan	Bakwa	Ditto.	
3	Pandaul	Lohat	Madhubani.	
4	Raiyam	Lehra	Khajauli.	
5	Benipur	Harsinghpur	Madhubani.	
6	Hati		Ditto.	
7	Mankauli	Singhwara	Bahera.	
8	Tharma		Benipatti.	
9	Anar		Bahera.	
10	Hathauri	Rasulpur	Do.	
11	Daulatpur	Baghauni	Do.	
12	Mungalgarrh	Meghaur	Darbhanga.	
13	Buchauli	Ramnagar	Ditto.	Factory in Muzaffar-
14	Girpura	Kursauli	Ditto	pur district.
15	Muktapur	Motipur	Do.	
16	Jitwarpur	Kalyanpur	Do.	
17	Banhar	Chak Mehsi	Warisnagar.	
18	Agrail	Hasauli	Ditto.	
19	Harsinghpur	Daodpura	Ditto.	
20	Ilmasnagar	Masina	Samastipur.	
21	Rewari	Alampur	Ditto.	
22	Gangauli	Kumlah	Warisnagar.	
23	Keota	Chatra	Ditto.	
		Tupha	Ditto.	
		Gobindpur	Ditto.	
		Shahpur	Ditto.	
		Pambarhanda	Ditto.	
24	Maniarpur	Kalyanpur	Dalsingh Sarai.	
		Budayah	Ditto.	
25	Shahpur Undi		Ditto.	
26	Nandni		Ditto.	
27	Mau	Dharnapatti	Ditto.	
		Maniar	Ditto.	
		Barauli	Warisnagar	Outwork of Dholi
		Sakri		Factory in Muzaffar-
		Subnaha		pur.
28	Mauji		Rusera	Ditto.
				Ditto.
				Closed.

486. In order to estimate the economic position of indigo in the district, it is necessary to know the relations of the factories to the land in different areas, and with this object statistics have been compiled from the record-of-rights. The following is an abstract :—

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area of thana.	AREA HELD BY THE FACTORIES.								AREA UNDER INDIGO.		REMARKS.	
			As proprietor.		As permanent tenure-holder and under tenure-holder.		As temporary tenure-holder and under tenure-holder.		Total tenure-holder and under tenure-holder.		Total as landlord.			
			Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.	Area in acres.	Percentage to total area.		
<i>Madhubani Subdivision.</i>														
1	Bonipatti ...	172,772	38	0'02	...	...	262	0'15	262	0'15	800	0'17	144	0'12
2	Khajauli ...	208,525	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,745	1'04
3	Phulparas ...	201,060	...	...	...	...	181	0'09	181	0'09	181	0'09	...	...
4	Madhubani ...	190,348	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,452	2'37
	Total ...	863,700	38	0'01	...	...	443	0'05	443	0'05	481	0'06	7,409	0'79
<i>Darbhanga Sadar Subdivision.</i>														
5	Darbhanga ...	271,837	1,101	0'42	22	0'01	7,745	2'85	7,707	2'86	8,929	3'28	2,417	1'15
6	Bahera ...	266,937	3,816	1'34	171	0'06	16,029	5'34	15,300	5'30	19,066	6'64	6,245	2'33
7	Rusera ...	222,068	472	0'21	868	0'17	16,350	7'36	16,718	7'58	17,190	7'74	6,235	2'43
	Total ...	760,832	5,489	0'71	861	0'01	39,124	5'01	39,695	5'08	45,174	5'71	13,927	2'37
<i>Samastipur Subdivision.</i>														
8	Warisanagar ...	125,336	3,049	2'41	2,697	2'31	23,337	18'61	26,234	20'92	39,279	31'36	8,574	6'17
9	Samastipur ...	160,481	2,474	1'31	328	0'49	31,115	16'42	32,443	16'91	34,617	18'32	13,482	8'51
10	Dal Singh Sarai ...	167,486	4,308	2'67	360	0'22	26,643	16'52	26,602	16'14	31,195	18'61	10,640	6'18
	Total ...	452,303	9,726	2'06	4,175	0'68	81,094	17'17	85,289	18'66	104,091	23'11	32,696	6'31
	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,113,829	15,253	0'72	4,796	0'22	120,851	5'71	125,387	5'93	140,640	6'63	62,126	2'98

487. Indigo therefore covers just over 3 per cent. of the cultivated area of the district, but of the area under indigo more than three-fifths is in the Samastipur subdivision. There is now no indigo at all in Phulparas thana; and in the Madhubani subdivision the only concern of any importance is Pandaul. In the Sadar subdivision, and specially in Bahera and Rusera, indigo is of more importance; but even there it covers less than 3 per cent. of the cultivated area, whereas in all the thanas of the Samastipur subdivision the proportion is over 8 per cent. Again, in that subdivision, factories are landlords in respect of more than one-fifth of the total area. In the Sadar they are landlords for little more than one-twentieth of the total area. As regards Madhubani, it should be explained that the Maharaja of Darbhanga is the present proprietor of Pandaul, and his proprietary interests have not been shown in the above statement, as this would have been misleading. As a matter of fact, apart from Pandaul, the indigo industry is of no practical importance in the Madhubani subdivision, as all the factories in the north and east have ceased to grow the crop.

488. In the other two subdivisions, the main bulk of the factories' interest as landlords is derived from temporary tenures. Even in Samastipur they hold less than 3 per cent. of the total area as proprietors or permanent tenure-holders and in the Sadar the proportion is less than one per cent. Owing to the well-known unwillingness of proprietors to part with their rights unless absolutely forced to do so, it is comparatively seldom that a factory has an opportunity of buying an estate, whose lands are situated conveniently for the factory's purposes, while the practice of granting permanent leases has almost entirely died out with the rise in the value of land. Factories are, therefore, mainly dependent on temporary leases, for acquiring interests in villages in which they wish to extend or maintain the cultivation of indigo.

489. But though the factories have secure rights as landlords in only a very small proportion of the total area in which they are interested, they are much better off in regard to the lands in their direct cultivation. Statistics for this have been compiled for the three thanas of the Samastipur subdivision only, in which most of the indigo grown in the district is found. Here indigo factories cultivate direct no less than 30,760 acres or 94 per cent. of the total area under indigo. This would leave only 6 per cent. of the total indigo area to be cultivated by raiyats for the factories, but the proportion is probably somewhat higher than this, for some of the land in the direct occupation of the factories grows crops other than indigo. Formerly, apart from indigo, the factories grew little but oats and fodder crops for their own consumption, but of late years, owing to the fall in the value of indigo, they have taken, to a considerable extent, to the growing of ordinary *rabi* and *bhadai* crops, and this tendency is particularly marked in Dalsingh Sarai, where Mr. Coventry's experiments, as is well known, have been highly successful. Still it is a striking fact that the factories in Samastipur have in their direct cultivation an area equivalent to 94 per cent. of the total indigo growing area, and their position in regard to this land will now be analysed.

490. The interest of the factories in the 30,760 acres which they cultivate themselves may be classified as follows :—

Nature of interest.	Area in acres.	PERCENTAGE TO	
		Total area cultivated direct.	Total area under indigo.
Permanent landlord interest (proprietary and permanent tenure holding) ...	4,052	13	12
Secure tenant interest as raiyats as fixed rates, occupancy raiyats and rent free... ..	7,117	23	22
Total secure interest ...	11,169	36	34
Temporary landlord interest	13,859	45	42
Temporary tenant interest (as non-occupancy and under raiyats)	5,732	19	18
Total insecure interest ...	19,591	64	60
GRAND TOTAL ...	30,760	100	94

491. Thus, of the land in their direct cultivation, factories have secured interest in 36 per cent. and insecure or temporary interest in 64 per cent. In Muzaffarpur, planters had secure interest in only 22 per cent. of the land on which indigo is grown and insecure interest in 39 per cent. In Saran, the proportions were 30 per cent. and 29 per cent. The Darbhanga planters are, therefore, in a stronger position than those of either Saran or Muzaffarpur, both as regards the amount of indigo land in their direct cultivation and the proportion of this in which they have secure interest.

492. Little need be said regarding the manner in which factories acquire these different interests, for the matter has been exhaustively dealt with in the final reports of Saran and Muzaffarpur. The nature of tenures in Darbhanga has been described in a previous section of this report, where it has been shown that 43 per cent. of the tenures in the district are granted as security for mortgages, while the remainder are simple farming leases. To this it need only be added that, in the case of factories, a loan is more frequently the primary consideration for the grant of a tenure than in the case of ordinary farmers. The embarrassed proprietor turns to the nearest factory for a loan at a moderate rate of interest, with the knowledge that he is making over his village to a strong landlord, who will collect the rents punctually and will in all probability return the village, on the repayment of the loan, in

a better condition than that in which he received it. And in generally pays factories to invest money on unimpeachable security of this kind, as it carries with it the further advantage of giving them a footing in the village.

493. A factory, taking a lease of an estate, acquires direct possession over all the lands which were formerly in cultivation of the proprietor, and also

The Tinkathya system.

over any lands which may become vacant during the period of the lease, by abandonment or surrender on the part of their original occupants. In addition to this, it was formerly the universal custom for the raiyats to surrender to the factory for indigo cultivation, a certain proportion of the lands of their holdings, usually three cottabs in the bigha, the raiyats receiving an abatement of rent for the area so given up, and a promise that it would be returned to them on the cessation of the factory's connection with the village. But this system of acquiring lands was always intensely unpopular with the raiyats, and is not now generally practised by the best factories. As indigo cultivation usually entails the breaking down of field boundaries and the amalgamation of many small plots into one large one it was usually practically impossible for any factory, even with the best will in the world, to trace out and restore to the raiyat his original plot, on the expiry of a long-term lease, and the whole system was a fruitful source of dispute and discontent. It is satisfactory, therefore, that it is being abandoned, and now most of the land, which is found in the possession of a factory in its capacity as a temporary tenure-holder, is that which it has acquired unobjectionably as the representative of the superior proprietor.

494. The very considerable area held by factories on raiyati interests is mainly acquired by the purchase of raiyati rights, either privately or through the

Acquisition of raiyati rights by factories.

Civil Court. The law facilitates the acquisition of occupancy right by tenure-holders in an area like Samastipur, where petty proprietors predominate and great subdivision of proprietary rights prevails. For under the ruling in the case of *Maseyk versus Bhagabati Barmansia* (Indian Law Reports, Calcutta XVIII, 1891), a person, who does not hold the whole of the proprietary interests of an estate or patti in farm, is not debarred from acquiring occupancy rights in the lands of the estate during the term of his lease; and consequently a factory, holding only a share of an estate in lease, as is very common, is frequently able, on the expiry of the lease, to retain in its own possession lands in which it has managed to acquire an occupancy right during the continuance of the lease, by means of direct cultivation and payment of rent to the non-leasing proprietors. This method of acquiring occupancy rights is of considerable importance in Darbhanga, for the factories in Samastipur are found to have occupancy rights in nearly a quarter of the land in their own cultivation.

495. The land held by the factories as under-raiyats is mainly acquired by what are known as *kurtauli* leases, which correspond to the *Sadua-patua*

Kurtauli leases.

leases, granted by proprietors to tenure-holders. The factory gives the raiyat an advance of so many years rental of the land taken up, and in return is allowed to cultivate the land for that period, giving it back to the raiyat on its expiry. The only risk run by the factory is that the raiyat may go off with the advance, without paying the rent to the superior landlord, who may then sell up the holding and refuse to recognize the factory in any way. But in practice this is not serious, for *kurtauli* leases are generally executed for part holdings only, and the raiyat remains in the village to cultivate that portion, which he has not sublet to the factory. An analogous form of mortgage sublease is the *suth-barna*, in which, as in a *zurpeshgi* tenure, the factory gives an advance, on which the interest only is liquidated by deduction from the annual rent for the land sublet, the factory retaining possession until the principal is repaid. But, here again, want of security other than the land, which is worthless if the raiyat should abscond, prevents the system from being very common.

496. As we have seen, the area in direct cultivation of the factories amounts to 94 per cent. of the total area under indigo, and though some part of the

The cottah system of indigo cultivation.

former area is no doubt under crops other than indigo, still the amount of indigo that is not grown direct by the factories must be very small, and cannot exceed 10 per cent. of the total. The agency employed for

growing this outside indigo, consists of raiyats, who are generally the tenants of the factory and who execute documents known as *sattas*. The raiyat usually receives an advance and binds himself to grow indigo on a certain specified portion of his holding, and to pay damages if he should fail to carry out his agreement. All the expenses of cultivation are paid by the raiyat, but the seed is given by the factory, which also carts away the indigo when cut. The raiyat is paid for the indigo at a rate which is fixed by the Indigo Planters' Association, and which is at present Rs. 13-8-0 for a bigha measured with a $6\frac{1}{2}$ hath *laggi* or about Rs. 15 an acre. In some cases, *sattas* are executed by raiyats who are not the tenants of the factory, and they are then called *khushki*, or voluntary *sattas*. The factory merely supplies the seed, and pays for the crop when delivered, at a rate varying from two to three annas a maund. But this system is very rare in Darbhanga.

497. The advantages and disadvantages of the *satta* system have been fully discussed in the Saran report, and as it affects so small an area of the indigo land in Darbhanga, the matter may be more briefly dealt with here. The main objection from the raiyats' point of view is that indigo so grown does not pay them so well as ordinary crops. The expenses of cultivation are at least Rs. 5 an acre, so that the net profit remaining to them after payment by the factory is not more than Rs. 10 an acre. All the ordinary *rabi* crops, which indigo displaces, pay better than this, and as indigo is generally grown on good lands which usually bear both a *bhadai* and a *rabi* crop, the pecuniary loss arising from the substitution of indigo for ordinary crops is, in an ordinary year, not inconsiderable. The raiyat is also harassed to a certain extent by the supervision of his indigo cultivation by the factory servants, and no doubt in many cases this causes very real annoyance.

498. Against these disadvantages of indigo cultivation, there must be set off certain advantages, which, though more or less intangible, are none the less real. In the factory, the raiyat has a just and considerate landlord, who rarely if ever attempts to enhance his rent or to exact from him petty *salamis* and cesses, and who will protect him if he gets into trouble, and help him if he gets into debt. Again, the raiyats' land benefit by the rotation of the deep-root indigo crop with the ordinary cereals, and in many cases it is manured with indigo *sith*, or refuse, by the factory free of charge. As, moreover, indigo is little affected by the failure of the monsoon, the raiyat in a year of drought gets a good return for his indigo cultivation, whereas from his ordinary *bhadai* and *aghani* crops he would get little or nothing. Whether these advantages outweigh the pecuniary loss is, of course, a matter of opinion. There can be no doubt that in many cases they do. In striking the balance of the account, much allowance must be made for human nature, and especially for the nature of the man who would be the raiyat's landlord in the absence of the factory, and for the nature of the factory servants, and the manner in which they carry out their duties of supervision. Many raiyats finds this the most irksome part of indigo cultivation, and lay far more stress upon it than upon the pecuniary loss which it entails. On the other hand, numerous cases are known of raiyats suffering from an oppressive landlord, beseeching a factory to take a lease of their village, and promising to grow as much indigo as may be required.

499. While the effects of indigo cultivation on the raiyats who grow indigo are doubtful, or at any rate depend upon factors whose importance it is impossible to estimate in the mass, the number of raiyats concerned and the area which they cultivate is so small, as to render the consideration of the matter from their point of view, one of secondary importance. The ordinary cultivator in Darbhanga is little affected by indigo cultivation, except in so far as he may have an indigo factory for his landlord, and as this usually implies protection from enhancement of rent, it is a pure gain to him, provided the factory does not force him to grow indigo against his will, or to give up his lands for the cultivation of indigo. The small area in which indigo is grown, otherwise than by the factories direct, renders the first danger inconsiderable, and the second has been minimized since the practical

Effects of the indigo industry on the raiyats of the district.

abandonment of the *tinkathia* system. Hence it may be said that the cultivators of the district derive nothing but advantage from having indigo factories as their landlords, and how great the advantage of stability of rents is, can only be appreciated by those, who have seen and realized the constant and vexatious enhancements which, prior to our operations, were always going on in the estates of ordinary native landlords.

500. The indigo industry may, without any qualification whatever, be pronounced a boon to the proprietors and labourers of the district. The manner in which embarrassed proprietors turn to indigo factories for loans has already been described. Even for proprietors, who are not financially embarrassed, it is no small benefit to be able to rid themselves of the trouble of management, by handing over their property to a tenure-holder, who will pay a full rent punctually and manage the estate efficiently. The benefit of the industry to the labourers is clear. It has been calculated by Mr. Stevenson-Moore, that on the average 172 labourers are required for one day per annum, per acre, for the cultivation and manufacture of indigo. This means an expenditure on wages alone, of at least Rs. 20 an acre, so that the annual total wages bill for the 50,000 acres, under indigo, must exceed ten lakhs of rupees. The cultivation of none of the ordinary food crops gives employment to so large a labour force as this, and the benefit of the indigo industry to the labourers of the district, is enhanced by the fact that a good deal of the work falls to be done in the hot weather when little other employment is available.

501. It may be said, therefore, that the indigo industry is an unquestionable benefit to all classes in the district, with a possible reservation as regards the raiyats who grow the crop on the *satta* system, and whose profits are not so large as they would derive from the cultivation of other crops. They are, however, compensated in other ways, and in any case, their number in Darbhanga is so small as to render them of little importance in estimating the effect of the industry on the district as a whole, and in this connection, the valuable services, rendered on many occasions by members of the planting community to the general administration should not be forgotten.

502. In conclusion, it may be of interest to compare the salient features of the industry in the four great indigo growing districts of the province. These are shown in the following statement:—

DISTRICT.	Total area under indigo in acres.	Percentage of area under indigo to net cropped area.	Percentage of area cultivated direct by factories, to total area under indigo.	Percentage of area cultivated direct by factories under secure proprietary rights, to total area under indigo.	Percentage of area cultivated direct by factories under secure raiyati rights, to total area under indigo.	Percentage of total district area held by planters as landlords.
Darbhanga ...	52,136	3.08	94	12	22	6
Saran ...	45,513	3.54	76	9	21	17
Muzaffarpur ...	87,258	5.62	61	11	11	17
Champaran ...	95,750	6.63	32	17	2	46

503. In considering the Darbhanga figures, it must be remembered that there is very little indigo in the Madhubani subdivision, which covers more than a third of the district. This fact partially accounts for the comparatively weak position occupied by the Darbhanga planters as landlords, but even if the Madhubani subdivision is left out of account, planters are landlords in respect of only 11 per cent. of the remainder of the district, a proportion considerably smaller than elsewhere. But the Darbhanga planters are stronger than those of other districts in the large proportion of the indigo

The strong position of the Darbhanga factories as cultivators.

area, which they retain in their direct cultivation, and in which they enjoy secure proprietary and tenant rights. The fact that the Darbhanga factories have always been cultivators on a large scale, and grow the greater part of the crop themselves, instead of merely purchasing it from others, will doubtless be of advantage to them, if the present depression in the industry should necessitate the substitution, in whole or in part, of other crops for indigo; and, as a matter of fact, the lead in the experiments, which are now going on in this direction, has come from Darbhanga factories.

CHAPTER VI.

CONCLUSION.

Village Officials and Village Customs.

504. Little information can be given concerning village officials and village customs, beyond what is contained in previous Settlement Reports, and in Dr. Grierson's works. ^{The patwari.} The patwari in Darbhanga, as elsewhere, is the chief village official. He is responsible for keeping the accounts of all rent transactions, and in most estates he also collects the rents. Before the present operations began, his papers were, in the great majority of petty estates, the only record to which either landlord or raiyats could refer in case of dispute. His powers were consequently very great, and how he abused them is a matter of common knowledge. The record-of-rights will confer no greater boon on landlords and raiyats alike, than by rendering them independent of the patwari for trustworthy evidence as to rents, and nothing could do more to destroy confidence in the record-of-rights, than to allow the patwari to have any hand in revising or maintaining it.

505. The patwari's pay is of course only a small part of his income. ^{His income and perquisites.} His position in the village enables him to get hold of the best lands and to enter them in the rent-roll either in his own name or in that of his relatives. In the case of lands abandoned by their original occupants, he is often able to relet them without the landlord's knowledge and to appropriate the rents. His perquisites are not inconsiderable. He gets a fee called *tahrir*, amounting usually to half an anna in the rupee on the rent paid, for every receipt which he issues to the raiyats. A similar amount is levied on the occasion of the *dawat puja* and frequently on other festivals as well. On every fresh settlement of lands, or entry of a transfer in the rent-roll, he gets a *sulami*, the amount varying with the importance of the transaction and the position of the parties concerned. The appraisement of crops on land paying a produce rent, the sale of the produce of land cultivated by the landlord, and many other occasions in village life give him opportunities for further adding to his income.

506. The system of management in the Darbhanga Raj was introduced ^{The system of management in the Darbhanga Raj.} when the estate was under the Court of Wards, and is very complete. The estate is divided into circles of varying size, comprising from fifty to two hundred villages each. Each circle is in charge of a sub-manager, who is responsible to the Maharaja for its efficient working. Under the sub-manager, there are usually several tahsildars in charge of groups of villages, and their duties are to supervise the collection of rents by the patwaris and *jeth* raiyats. The patwari in Raj villages is merely an accountant. He cannot make alterations in the rent-roll without the sanction of the sub-manager, and the actual rent collections are made by the *jeth* raiyats, who remit the rents direct to the tahsildar in charge of the village. The patwari merely makes an entry of the payment in his accounts and in the receipts issued to the raiyats.

507. The *jeth* raiyats are usually the largest raiyats in the village. ^{The *jeth* raiyats.} The office is generally hereditary, though not necessarily so, and *jeth* raiyats are not infrequently removed for misconduct, or because their work is not satisfactory. Each *jeth* raiyat is made responsible for collecting the rents of a group of raiyats, which is known as a *gach*. He is remunerated, either by a percentage on the

rent collections made by him, or by receiving a remission known as *maaj jeth raiyat*, on his own rent, or by being allowed to hold his lands at a specially low rate of rent, so long as he continues to do the work of a *jeth raiyat*. The institution of *jeth raiyat* appears to work remarkably well on the whole, and it certainly lessens the *patwari's* power for evil. The *jeth raiyat* are usually the most important residents in the village and have considerable local influence. It, therefore, pays the landlord to treat them leniently in the matter of remission of rent. As a rule enhancements are worked through the *jeth raiyats*. They are first induced to agree by a promise of having their arrears of rent wiped off, or of obtaining larger remissions in future, and under their influence the rest of the village frequently follow suit.

508. Nearly every village has its *barahil* or *gorait*, whose duty is to summon the raiyats to the landlord's office for payment of rent or other purposes. He is usually remunerated by being allowed to hold a small area of land, rent-free. The village tradesmen are nearly always paid in grain. The blacksmith, (*lohar*), gets the produce of 10 to 12 *dhurs* of land for each plough, which he is required to keep in repair throughout the year. The washerman (*dhobi*), and barber, (*hajam*) get the produce of five or six *dhurs* of land annually for each person for whom their services are required.

MAINTENANCE OF THE RECORD

509. As a scheme for the maintenance of the record, and the preservation of boundary marks, is still under the consideration of Government, little need be said on the subject here. There can be no doubt, that there is a general desire among the raiyats, and among the better class of landlords, including nearly all indigo planters, that the record should be maintained. The value attached by the raiyats to the record, is shown by the ready manner in which they pay for the certified copies made over to them during the recovery of costs, and I have hardly ever been to a recovery camp, without some of the raiyats coming to me and enquiring what arrangements are to be made for the record of future change, in regard to their holdings. I have always availed myself of opportunities of this kind to discuss the question of maintenance with the raiyats, and to get at their opinions as far as possible. The great majority would prefer a periodical revision by responsible officers of Government to annual maintenance by a low paid local staff. The raiyats in the Alapur pargana have specially strong views on this matter. They point to the fact that, though the Raj has endeavoured to maintain Mr. Finucane's record up to date, yet the rent-rolls current at the time when our operations were in progress were defective in many ways, and as a matter of fact we had to settle new fair rents for over quarter of the raiyats in this area. When a strong landlord like the Raj, with every interest in maintaining correct records, fails to do this by means of a staff under his own control, it is doubtful whether better results could be obtained from a low paid local agency, independent of landlord and raiyat alike. Certainly an enormous amount of supervision would be necessary to secure anything like accuracy and to prevent malpractices, and it would be a serious misfortune if public confidence in the record were shaken by the methods adopted for maintaining it.

510. If, however, the record were periodically revised by an agency, and under precautions similar to those employed in its original preparation, these objections would vanish, and I have no hesitation in saying that the raiyats would pay willingly for such revision any sum not exceeding that which they had to pay for the original. It is certain that the cost of revision would be less than half the cost of the preparation of the original, and that no difficulty in recovering the cost of revision need be anticipated. The raiyats generally appear to desire that revision should take place every five or seven years, but it would be difficult to fix on a suitable period without further experience. Probably after one or two revisions, as the record became better known and people became more accustomed to handling it and to using it in every day transactions, it would be possible to lengthen the period between revisions.

511. In any case, it appears necessary to have at least one general revision in order to bring the record up to date, before any definite scheme of maintenance is started. Such revision would be of the utmost value not only in bringing to light defects in the framing of the original record, but also in giving information on the important point, as to how far the record-of-rights is actually being adhered to, especially as regards rents. Signs are not wanting that certain landlords are endeavouring to get from their raiyats rents higher than those entered in the record as payable. In September 1902, Mr. Maddox, Collector of Darbhanga, while inspecting the Sub-Registration Office at Madhubani, noticed that a large number of rent *kabuliyats* were being registered by raiyats of the Rajnagar Circle of the Darbhanga Raj. Enquiry showed that in all these cases, the Raj had refused, at attestation, to record the rents claimed by the Raj as payable, because those rents had been enhanced contrary to the provisions of section 29 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, relating to the enhancement of rent by contract between landlord and raiyat. We had ascertained the rents legally payable, by deducting the illegal enhancements, and this necessitated protracted enquiries, during which the reasons for our action were fully explained both to the Raj officials and to the raiyats. Nevertheless, within a few months, and in some cases within a few weeks of the completion of attestation, the Raj had been able to induce over 700 of its raiyats to go to the Registration Office and to execute agreements to pay the rents which we had found not to be legally recoverable. After these facts came to light, the Maharaja stopped the execution of *kabuliyats* in this area, and the whole matter has been referred to the higher authorities. But the case is a striking illustration of the fact that even the preparation of a record-of-rights is not sufficient to prevent a strong landlord from recovering illegally enhanced rents from his raiyats. The Raj officials profess that they did not know that their action was contrary to law. In other words they do not yet understand that the law limits enhancement of rent by contract between landlord and tenant, and that, if the landlord wants higher or more frequent enhancements than the law allows to be effected by private contract, he must obtain them through the Courts.

512. There is reason to believe also that suits for arrears of rent are being used by landlords to obtain higher rents than are entered as payable in the record. According to figures, which have been furnished by the courtesy of the District Judge, the Munsif of Darbhanga in 1902 dealt with 3,113 suits for arrears of rent. In 2,342 cases, the rents claimed were those entered in the record-of-rights. In the remaining 771 cases, higher rents than those entered in the record were claimed. These higher rents were decreed, in 310 cases *ex parte* in the absence of the raiyats, and in 56 cases on the admissions of the raiyats while in 139 cases higher rents are reported to have been decreed partially on compromise. In only one contested case was a higher rent decreed than that entered in the *khatian*. Thus, practically, the landlord succeeded in getting higher rents than those entered in the record-of-rights, only in cases where the raiyats either failed to enter an appearance or agreed to his claim, and it is somewhat disquieting that such cases should have been so numerous. So far as can be gathered, a Civil Court, in cases of non-appearance or compromise, would not make any enquiries about the legality or illegality of the rents claimed or agreed to, but would decree them as a matter of course.

513. The District Judge Mr. Chapman, in a note on the subject, writes as follows:—

“ It appears to be almost universally the practice for the landlord not to file the *khatian* until the tenant has entered an appearance and contested the suit. It is, therefore, by no means certain that landlords have not endeavoured to enhance the *khatian* rates by bringing suits, claiming rates higher than the rates in the *khatians* and persuading the tenants not to contest them. It is worth considering whether a landlord should not be compelled by law or rule to file his *khatian* with his plaint in every rent suit. Such a rule would protect tenants from enhancements being made in the manner above indicated ”

514. But this would only be a partial remedy, unless the Civil Courts in every case in which higher rents than those entered in the *khatians* were claimed, required the landlord to show that the higher rent was the rent legally

payable; and this would have to be done, even if the tenant admitted the landlord's claim or did not appear to contest it. In no other way, could the presumption of correctness, attaching to the entry in the record of rights of the rent payable, be used so as to safeguard the raiyat absolutely against illegally enhanced rents being decreed in suits for arrears of rent.

515. But even if the law permitted action of this nature, it is doubtful whether the Civil Courts, with their inherited traditions of respect for compromises and the admissions of the parties to the suits from a proper agency to enforce it. At present, the position is this. If a raiyat goes to a sub-registration office and agrees to pay an illegally enhanced rent, his agreement is null and void. If he goes into Court and agrees to pay an illegally enhanced rent, that rent is decreed without question or enquiry, and the same result ensues, if he fails to appear and contest a claim for an illegally enhanced rent. It is a question, therefore, for serious consideration whether, under present circumstances, the law regarding enhancement of rent can be effectively enforced. It is not of course pretended that any case for immediate legislation has been made out. The cases, in which higher rents than those entered in the record have been decreed on compromise or in the absence of the raiyat, so far form an insignificant proportion of the total number of raiyat holdings in the district. But if further experience, or the results of a revision of the record, should show that landlords are still able to get their raiyats to pay illegally enhanced rents, it will be necessary to consider whether steps should not be taken to secure the observance of the law. One of the most effective ways of doing this would probably be to transfer suits for arrears of rent from the Civil Courts to the revenue officers employed in maintaining the record, and definitely to empower the latter to require strict proof of the legality of a rent, which exceeds that entered in the record, even though it should be admitted by the raiyat or though he should not contest the claim. Revenue officers, working with the record as a basis, could probably decide rent suits more quickly and more cheaply than Civil Courts. Their jurisdiction should therefore commend itself to good landlords, who do not want enhancement but only a cheap and ready means of recovering the rent legally payable; and there can be no doubt that revenue officers would be able more effectively than Civil Courts to put a stop to illegal enhancements carried out in defiance of the law.

516. One notable effect of the settlement proceedings has undoubtedly been an increase in the number of suits for arrears of rent, which have gone up, from an average of between 3,000 and 4,000 per annum in the years prior to 1900, to 15,243 in 1902. A special enquiry has been held into this matter by Mr. Chapman, the late District Judge of Muzaffarpur, who has kindly favoured me with a copy of his note on the subject. His conclusions are as follows:—

“The increase in the number of rent suits must be attributed chiefly to two causes:—

“(1) that the tenants withheld rents during the pendency of the settlement operations, in order to wait and see what rates would be settled;

“(2) that the landlords now have a record on which they can safely rely to prove the relationship of landlord and tenant and the rate of rent, and that their own papers were not such that they could safely ask the Court to rely on them before.

“In addition to this, there has been a substantial amount of dissatisfaction by the landlords with the rates of rent which have been settled by the Settlement Officers. Signs of this dissatisfaction are most evident in Madhubani, where the settlement has been most recent, and are least evident in those parts of the district in which the settlement was completed the longest time ago, namely Samastipur. The number of cases in which the tenants have been dissatisfied with the khatian rates has been small.”

517. The Munsif of Madhubani is of opinion that “the chief cause of increase is that the landlords are not satisfied with the rates of rent entered in the khatians, and

Causes of the increase.

are bringing rent suits in order to establish their claims to rates higher than those entered in the khatians." He mentions several landlords who have brought suits for this purpose, and nearly all of them are persons in whose estates we found illegal enhancements during attestation. A large number of the cases appear to be still pending, but it is stated that in the case of one landlord, 181 claims for rent higher than those entered in the record were decreed on the admission of the raiyats. In the Darbhanga munsiffi, on the other hand, out of 7,730 rent suits instituted, the landlord claimed rents higher than those in the khatians in 25 per cent. of the cases only. In Samastipur the number of rent suits was only 300, and in only 58 of these were rents higher than those entered in the khatians claimed.

518. Without a detailed enquiry into a number of cases, the full significance of these figures cannot be gauged, nor can it be ascertained in how many cases the landlord's dissatisfaction with the rents entered in the record is justified. The mere fact, that the raiyats agree to rents higher than those entered in the khatians, is no proof that such rents ought to have been recorded by us as payable. It would, however, be impossible to ascertain the facts without calling up the parties and examining their old rent-rolls and receipts, and such a course would be difficult, if not impracticable. Meanwhile it is satisfactory that the District Judge does not consider dissatisfaction with the record, whether justified or not, to be one of the main causes of the increase in the number of rent suits. The first of the main causes to which he ascribes the increase, viz., that the raiyats withheld rent while the settlement operations were in progress, will shortly disappear, while the second cause, that the landlords have now a record-of-rents on which they can ask the Court to rely, may be expected in time to decrease the number of cases in which it will be necessary to have recourse to the Courts. It may be added that even in 1902, the rent suits instituted affected less than one-and-a-half per cent. of the raiyati holdings of the district. Thus the figures and the enquiries made regarding them in no way indicate any combination on the part of the raiyats to resist payment of the rents entered in the records. The main causes to which the increase in the number of rent suits is due, are temporary in their nature, and the main danger is lest landlords should utilise rent suits to get decreed as payable, illegally enhanced rents, which we have declined to record as payable.

519. It now remains for me to acknowledge the good services of the officers who were employed during the operations.

Notice of Officers.

A list of them is given in Appendix II, and as nearly all worked loyally and well, it is difficult to select names for special mention. As Assistant Settlement Officer at headquarters for more than five years, Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt had extremely onerous and responsible duties to perform. His ability, thoroughness and unfailing capacity for work enabled him to discharge them with complete success. Maulavi Ashfak Husain's strong character, firmness and detective ability enabled him to do excellent work in the most difficult areas with which a Settlement Officer can be called upon to deal, where powerful and unscrupulous landlords prevent their tenants from coming forward to claim their rights, and it is necessary to win the confidence of the latter before a correct record can be prepared. The unprecedented success of the recovery operations in Darbhanga is sufficient testimony to the ability, method and tact of Babu Nilmoni De, and the work in the concluding season was successfully wound up by Babu Jagdish Chandra Laheri. Of the officers employed on the ordinary, but none the less important, duties of attestation and case work, the following deserve special mention: Maulavi Mohiuddin Ahmad, Babu Atul Chandra Kerr, Babu Charu Chandra Kumar, Babu Bipin Behari Banerji, Pandit Rama Ballabh Misra, Maulavi Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan, Babu Probodh Chandra Chatterji, Mr. S. S. Day, and Babu Khetra Bhusan Prasad. Among the Khanapuri kanungoes, Babu Suresh Chandra Deb and Maulavi Zahurul Husain did specially good work. Mr. W. R. Gourlay was in subordinate charge of the work in Darbhanga for nearly four years, and I cannot speak too highly of the value of his services. To his indefatigable zeal, energy and enthusiasm, and to his unceasing efforts to improve the standard of work and to secure accuracy in the record, must be ascribed a very large part of the success with which the

operations have met. Finally, I may be permitted to refer to the services rendered by Mr. Stevenson-Moore, who initiated the settlement and was in charge of it for nearly three years. It fell to him to deal with the difficult rent problems, which confronted us in the south of the district, and the principles laid down by him have proved of the utmost value, not only in the rest of Darbhanga, but also in the other districts, to which the operations have since been extended. I also desire, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the officers serving under me, to express to Messrs. Lyon and Allen, who held the post of Director of Land Records, during the progress of the settlement, our warm gratitude for the unfailing kindness, consideration and help which we received from them.

520. We are indebted to Major Crichton, Superintendent of Provincial Surveys, Bengal, for the most cordial assistance in all matters connected with preliminary record-writing, and the relations between our staff and that of the Survey Department have always been of a satisfactory nature. Most valuable assistance in many matters has been rendered to us by all the officers who held the post of Collector of Darbhanga while the operations were in progress, and particularly by Messrs. Carlyle, Maddox and Wheeler.

APPENDICES.

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APPENDIX II.

List of officers employed on Settlement duty in the district of Darbhanga.

NAME OF OFFICER.	Designation.	Nature of employment.	PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT.			REMARKS.
			Year.	Month.	Day.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G. J. Stevenson-Moore, Esq., I.C.S.	Settlement Officer	.....	2	9	13	
J. H. Kerr, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	.....	3	8	20	
E. D. Hughes, Esq., I.C.S.	Assistant Settlement Officer in charge.	Inspection and general supervision of office.	1	8	3	
J. H. Kerr, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	Ditto	1	4	10	
W. S. Adie, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	Ditto	...	5	4	
W. B. Goutlay, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	Ditto	2	9	20	
E. Lister, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	Ditto	...	5	14	
L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, Esq., I.C.S.	Assistant Settlement Officer.	Khanapuri, attestation and case work.	...	5	24	
H. H. Hazell, Esq., I.C.S.	Ditto	Khanapuri and case work	...	8	9	
J. W. Engelbrecht, Esq.	Ditto	Khanapuri inspection	...	5	29	
Maulvi Muhammad Yusuf Ali	Ditto	Ditto	...	...	10	
Babu Akhauri Bahaduroo Narain Singh.	Ditto	Ditto	...	8	11	
Babu Homesh Chandra Dutt	Ditto	Case work and office work at headquarters.	5	5	14	
.. Khetra Bhuvan Prasad	Ditto	Khanapuri, attestation and case work.	2	8	14	
.. Chintia Haran Chatterji	Ditto	Attestation and case work	1	2	28	
.. Bahaduroo Narain	Ditto	Attestation	...	6	...	
.. Fakir Chandra Chatterji	Ditto	Ditto	...	6	20	
Maulvi Ashiq Hussain	Ditto	Attestation and case work	4	3	5	
.. M. Ashraf Hussain	Ditto	Attestation	...	8	4	
.. Syed Abul Fazal	Ditto	Attestation, Khanapuri and case work	1	8	14	
Babu Ghara Chandra Kumar	Ditto	Attestation and case work	2	7	27	
.. Atal Chandra Kerr	Ditto	Khanapuri, attestation, case work and office work.	2	11	30	
.. Prabhodh Chandra Chatterji	Ditto	Attestation, case work and office work.	3	...	24	
.. Mahendra Nath Kanda	Ditto	Attestation and case work	2	1	23	
.. Annada Charan Das	Ditto	Khanapuri and case work	1	11	9	
Maulvi Syed Ahmad Ali Khan	Ditto	Attestation and case work	4	2	27	
Mr. A. J. Ollenbush	Ditto	Attestation	...	6	21	
Babu Nobin Chandra Kerr	Ditto	Ditto	...	4	25	
Maulvi Abdul Majid	Ditto	Ditto	...	8	17	
.. Aftabur Rahman	Ditto	Ditto	...	2	24	
Fauzit Rama Dalabha Misra	Ditto	Attestation and case work	2	8	16	
Maulvi Mohiud'in Ahmad	Ditto	Ditto	1	10	4	
Babu Annada Charan Guha	Ditto	Ditto	...	6	21	
.. Nilmoni De	Ditto	Attestation, case work and recovery of cost.	2	...	18	
Mr. S. S. Day	Ditto	Khanapuri, attestation and case work.	1	4	13	
Babu Homanto Kurrar Maltra	Ditto	Attestation, case work and office work.	...	4	21	
Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Momin	Ditto	Attestation and case work	...	9	4	
Babu Satish Chandra Guha	Ditto	Ditto	1	1	4	
.. Har Sahai Lal	Ditto	Ditto	...	2	1	
.. Sarat Chandra Chatterji	Ditto	Ditto	...	7	28	
.. Suresh Chandra Chakravarty	Ditto	Case work	...	8	9	
.. Khifil Chandra Sarkar	Ditto	Khanapuri, attestation and case work.	...	9	12	
.. Braja Durlay Hazra	Ditto	Attestation	...	3	...	
.. Suresh Chandra Sarkar	Ditto	Ditto	...	1	10	
.. Hem Chandra Chatterji, No. I	Ditto	Case work	...	...	28	
.. Moti Lall Roy	Ditto	Attestation	...	3	13	
.. Hem Chandra Chatterji, No. II	Ditto	Khanapuri	...	...	29	
.. Hara Krishna Mahanta	Ditto	Attestation	...	4	9	
.. Jogindro Narain Mitra	Ditto	Attestation, case and office work.	...	7	8	
.. Dipa Behari Banerji	Ditto	Ditto	1	1	17	
.. Charu Chandra Banerji	Ditto	Attestation and case work	...	6	14	
.. Devendro Kumar Mitra	Ditto	Ditto	...	8	18	
Mr. C. W. E. Connolly	Ditto	Ditto	...	5	14	
Babu Sarade Nandan Das	Ditto	Attestation	...	2	20	
.. Dakshina Benjan Ghose	Ditto	Ditto	...	2	9	
.. Jagdish Chandra Lahiri	Ditto	Recovery of costs and office work.	...	4	20	

APPENDIX III.—(MILAN KHASRA).

Khasra Abstract (all areas in acres).

NAME OF THANA.	CROPPED AREA.							Current follow.	CULTIVABLE AREA OTHER THAN CURRENT FALLOW.					AREA NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION.			Total.
	Bhadra.	Asadh.	Chait.	Total.	Twice cropped.	Net cropped area.	Old fallow.		Mangroves.	Cultivable jungles.	Other lands.	Total.	Hyacinth.	Waste.	Other lands.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Bentpatti ...	21,922	67,556	86,171	217,949	81,243	136,706	1,825	7,075	6,359	828	1,171	17,408	2,498	9,813	5,281	18,4	
Khajauli ...	47,673	110,009	77,669	335,454	69,466	100,008	729	9,086	9,348	1,173	1,458	20,819	2,490	7,948	7,532	17,0	
Phulparas ...	29,959	191,189	85,163	316,310	82,894	233,416	2,657	13,811	10,063	1,086	1,700	27,720	3,429	12,310	11,488	27,3	
Madhubani ...	37,981	98,285	26,628	203,896	67,471	146,425	918	7,808	12,942	770	3,658	24,173	2,826	6,465	6,215	19,3	
Subdivisional Total ...	150,678	467,077	224,930	673,001	289,734	623,557	5,018	28,285	39,576	5,373	7,047	90,280	11,048	27,086	22,498	61,1	
Darbhanga ...	59,046	132,048	120,183	331,235	108,059	212,176	2,240	14,761	12,624	143	2,240	29,788	2,164	12,478	9,704	28,6	
Bahera ...	51,138	164,184	87,600	302,922	77,594	225,328	2,600	17,687	11,769	136	2,707	22,312	2,326	13,839	9,768	29,6	
Rusra ...	44,828	109,374	73,803	238,005	52,201	175,804	2,227	15,516	5,722	98	1,500	22,635	2,176	12,800	6,262	22,4	
Subdivisional Total ...	155,012	465,674	281,626	863,212	239,344	613,908	2,195	47,977	20,136	278	11,617	84,735	6,286	28,984	25,699	74,4	
Warisnagar ...	42,254	48,698	20,173	141,194	26,279	104,915	1,012	4,284	4,253	19	1,184	2,899	1,008	2,983	4,029	8,4	
Samsatpur ...	65,632	67,177	67,001	199,780	41,378	107,902	1,606	8,037	6,219	173	1,698	17,023	2,618	2,346	6,594	13,4	
Dalsinghara ...	55,414	40,900	68,181	164,495	22,994	133,401	1,532	5,117	4,560	428	1,843	11,638	2,657	5,394	7,194	13,4	
Subdivisional Total ...	163,200	156,775	155,354	505,390	110,161	346,218	4,442	18,538	15,331	619	4,222	36,500	6,212	12,513	17,617	27,1	
District Total ...	469,687	1,060,095	601,919	2,320,702	639,289	1,603,448	19,544	104,680	65,032	6,900	17,516	212,465	27,242	69,168	76,122	192,7	

NAME OF THANA.	Total uncultivated columns 9, 13 and 17.	Total area columns 2 and 12.	Irrigated area.	IRRIGATED AREA AND HOW IRRIGATED.					DETAILS OF IRRIGATED AREA AS REGARDS CROPS.					NUMBER OF WELLS.		REMARKS.
				Irrigated from wells.	Irrigated from Government canals.	Irrigated from private canals.	Irrigated from tanks and abars.	Irrigated from other sources.	Rice.	Wheat.	Other cereals and pulses.	Other food crops.	Non-food crops.	Masonry.	Earthen.	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Bentpatti ...	36,106	172,772	48,672	176	...	1,023	24,027	16,228	35,179	620	4,084	246	2,521	1,623	20	
Khajauli ...	39,627	206,635	19,121	361	...	706	8,049	10,025	16,033	25	763	380	1,023	1,622	65	
Phulparas ...	67,294	291,060	27,429	134	...	1,139	8,220	17,016	25,679	155	808	368	672	1,767	233	
Madhubani ...	41,416	190,343	7,919	28	...	255	4,949	2,637	7,157	28	277	167	290	1,764	57	
Subdivisional Total ...	177,348	660,700	99,080	699	...	2,148	44,864	46,264	84,071	348	6,866	1,020	5,423	7,655	275	
Darbhanga ...	56,601	271,827	1,062	22	...	9	145	598	610	17	71	144	220	2,260	122	
Bahera ...	61,649	286,937	1,658	20	...	9	889	740	877	47	162	177	405	1,884	106	
Rusra ...	46,449	222,063	210	31	...	...	22	167	23	3	12	29	122	900	16
Subdivisional Total ...	164,699	780,827	2,930	73	...	18	1,066	1,783	1,510	67	235	260	756	1,642	238	
Warisnagar ...	20,421	125,236	1,441	712	...	...	161	598	...	2	2	127	1,210	1,371	21
Samsatpur ...	31,579	169,481	2,931	3,000	...	...	346	426	4	18	24	27	2,858	2,822	461
Dalsinghara ...	28,188	160,568	2,029	2,063	...	...	266	580	...	29	232	298	2,529	1,842	252
Subdivisional Total ...	80,188	475,403	6,401	5,894	...	...	673	1,604	4	49	258	289	7,707	6,045	1,834
District Total ...	424,487	2,116,930	108,291	6,666	...	2,161	46,896	52,071	85,835	264	7,079	1,973	12,900	17,742	1,922	

V
APPENDIX IV.
Crop statement.
(All areas in acres)

NAME OF THANA.	CEREALS AND PULSES.													OIL-SEEDS.				CONDIMENTS AND SPICES.		SUGAR.	
	RICE.		Wheat.	Barley.	Jowar (millet).	Rajra (millet).	Mandua.	Maize.	Gram.	Kolo.	Keno.	Other food-grains including pulses.	Linsced.	Til or jingih.	Mustard.	Others.	Condiments and spices.	Sugar cane.	Others.		
	Bhadol.	Aghani.																			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Bonipatti ...	9,443	94,891	4,387	14,516	3	9	14,261	1,706	2,081	369	...	40,678	20,419	15	1,358	185	593	1,071	...		
Khajuli ...	10,887	90,343	2,943	12,103	5	11	27,316	1,345	2,647	110	...	31,837	16,328	74	2,59	1,790	696	2,396	...		
Phulparas ...	13,04	178,625	3,731	13,466	17	11	26,300	178	68	250	...	38,677	27,217	7	3,241	462	274	1,700	...		
Madhubani ...	6,456	90,438	3,600	16,638	3	45	25,576	983	2,111	77	...	26,290	1,704	7	1,293	298	360	3,763	...		
Subdivisional Total	47,079	463,695	15,646	56,022	27	76	98,385	5,762	10,447	685	...	143,492	76,089	100	8,556	2,683	1,800	8,910	41		
Darbhangha ...	12,613	125,684	7,439	24,021	469	167	24,674	9,990	10,060	902	...	55,881	24,980	48	1,063	102	644	2,078	...		
Bahera ...	3,929	155,970	6,964	22,230	119	150	32,500	7,132	2,984	445	...	27,101	3,830	48	9,083	269	36	3,497	10		
Rusera ...	2,672	101,617	6,672	12,658	1,943	10	23,072	9,164	4,008	141	1,773	26,176	9,114	32	4,636	767	3,966	451	1		
Subdivisional Total	20,014	388,101	19,075	59,117	1,845	207	60,855	26,266	17,940	1,483	2,611	109,158	55,433	126	9,684	1,118	4,336	5,974	11		
Warisnagar ...	1,136	36,604	5,409	11,090	32	8	6,878	15,389	599	1,368	589	23,067	5,617	16	1,243	289	954	791	47		
Samastipur ...	284	55,373	6,328	15,283	43	...	22,696	20,663	1,455	45	64	21,024	5,799	...	3,673	377	707	196	...		
Dainisgh Saral ...	188	80,634	5,623	10,128	209	46	12,202	20,832	5,194	268	...	32,620	3,616	17	2,058	768	2,210	321	...		
Subdivisional Total	1,708	133,610	17,360	37,369	284	54	46,031	56,884	7,248	1,668	673	75,311	14,901	33	6,978	1,464	3,871	1,377	47		
District Total	68,601	970,206	62,681	152,908	1,146	427	320,271	86,882	116,636	4,021	3,284	327,991	147,083	269	25,117	6,266	10,027	18,200	99		

NAME OF THANA.	FIBRES.				DYES.			DRUGS AND NARCOTICS.		Fodder crops.	Khar.	Garden produce and orchards other than mango groves.	MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.				Total.	Area cropped more than once.	Net area cropped.	REMARKS.
	Cotton.	Jute.	Sunat.	Others.	Indigo.	Kusum.	Others.	Opium.	Tobacco.				Food.		Non-Food.					
													Potatoes.	Yams.		Others.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Bonipatti ...	34	2	12	9	164	24	3	1,788	100	3	4,049	270	75	...	303	7	217,049	81,283	136,690	
Khajuli ...	82	7	32	...	1,746	2	...	114	3,004	...	...	704	134	...	871	6,517	235,454	68,453	108,688
Phulparas ...	15	4	0	...	...	25	30	...	873	...	...	785	418	...	268	6,980	110,360	62,694	228,788
Madhubani ...	27	1	7	...	3,453	40	...	13	891	...	640	669	95	10	274	5,850	208,338	57,411	145,927	
Subdivisional Total	164	14	60	18	5,363	99	39	1,915	4,874	3	4,589	2,417	740	19	1,784	18,434	873,091	289,734	683,357	
Darbhangha ...	29	1	56	...	2,447	26	1	19	502	4	10	983	73	862	2,155	10,766	321,335	1,08,59	218,166	
Bahera ...	19	8	7	...	5,946	45	26	...	741	6	3	506	36	...	582	8,810	302,883	77,894	225,068	
Rusera ...	160	9	92	...	6,836	4	...	...	1,031	...	98	430	5	2,268	3,470	6,758	226,06	62,391	175,614
Subdivisional Total	169	18	166	23	18,927	75	26	19	2,274	19	106	1,719	117	1,928	6,213	28,943	863,212	239,344	613,868	
Warisnagar ...	208	1	52	...	2,574	5	...	15	2,147	...	3	407	50	3,337	4,791	6,526	141,124	36,309	104,815	
Samastipur ...	951	6	7	105	12,432	...	5	34	9,913	...	3	633	62	10,368	60	9,650	199,789	41,378	167,408	
Dainisgh Saral ...	890	6	51	1	10,640	...	9	420	9,069	...	21	497	349	5,165	14	5,576	164,493	32,094	132,404	
Subdivisional Total	1,947	13	108	109	32,840	14	5	469	22,169	5	22	1,526	391	21,768	4,865	22,081	606,319	110,781	395,218	
District Total	2,164	45	323	145	52,176	191	64	2,403	28,907	20	4,726	5,682	1,318	23,715	12,562	60,978	2,330,702	68,259	1,602,443	

APPENDIX V.
List of tenants' agricultural stock.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Cows.	Bulls and bullocks.	Males buffaloes.	Cow buffaloes.	Horses and ponies.	Calves, including buffalo calves.	Sheep.	Goats.	Mules and donkeys.	Pleights.	Carts.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Bonipatti ...	29,731	23,715	536	10,660	753	12,288	1,244	2,019	270	11,024	817	
2	Khajuli ...	27,466	23,342	524	14,032	1,043	18,879	2,176	13,137	2	13,022	1,663	
3	Phulparas ...	24,178	41,658	1,074	17,741	1,391	24,293	2,369	11,617	122	20,463	3,087	
4	Madhubani ...	199,868	23,569	666	11,635	1,730	15,711	3,463	8,144	664	10,242	1,120	
	Subdivisional Total	102,693	119,612	3,799	54,361	4,917	71,608	8,149	41,333	868	54,859	6,667	
5	Darbhangha ...	26,022	30,087	2,067	11,463	1,052	12,213	1,013	11,513	475	12,900	1,686	
6	Bahera ...	18,794	20,680	1,074	12,20	1,127	17,233	2,302	8,946	163	12,864	1,022	
7	Rusera ...	31,634	26,368	1,773	6,710	1,392	16,577	3,474	12,164	525	9,784	1,127	
	Subdivisional Total	77,690	86,980	4,223	30,143	4,063	46,023	6,616	30,603	1,168	36,567	2,815	
8	Warisnagar ...	14,732	14,329	560	5,439	1,002	6,189	2,640	11,603	504	4,811	658	
9	Samastipur ...	27,184	26,548	1,646	9,763	1,563	11,440	3,909	24,527	1,474	10,166	2,015	
10	Dainisgh Saral ...	22,811	22,606	972	6,869	1,342	9,722	2,843	12,906	812	9,270	1,337	
	Subdivisional Total	64,697	63,483	3,268	19,964	3,827	39,349	9,431	40,127	2,660	23,237	4,308	
	District Total	264,980	279,775	10,260	104,418	12,807	149,956	24,149	121,043	4,496	113,664	14,777	

APPENDIX VI.

Statistical statement of rights and rents.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	PROPRIETORS' SARAF.		HELD BY PROPRIETORS BUT NOT SARAF.		IN CULTIVATION POSSESSION OR TENURE-HOLDERS.		RAIYATS AT FIXED RENTS OR RATES.				SETTLED AND OCCUPANCY RAIYATS.				
		Number of holdings.	Total area.	Number of holdings.	Total area.	Number of holdings.	Total area.	Number of holdings.	Total area.	Total of existing rent.	Average rate per acre of total area.	Number of holdings.	Total area, excluding areas of produce rent.	Area on produce rent.	Total of existing rent.	Average rate per acre of total area, excluding areas of produce rent.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Benipatti ...	7	177	3,411	20,008	501	2,184	172	441	490	1 1 5	70,854	115,204	8,778	4,55,808	8 16
2	Khajauli ...	2	114	608	15,180	324	3,285	56	512	534	1 0 8	62,850	148,495	10,440	6,15,947	4 9
3	Phulparas ...	1	5	597	4,758	653	4,209	25	489	360	0 13 11	68,132	224,306	14,277	8,03,756	3 9
4	Madhubani ...	5	73	813	10,012	1,394	5,261	112	395	405	1 0 5	67,078	130,289	13,744	4,57,390	3 6
	Subdivisional Total ...	15	267	5,484	50,010	2,951	14,891	365	1,770	1,785	1 0 11	306,580	618,324	47,3 4	23,80,596	8 12
5	Darbhangha ...	127	1,301	6,205	31,495	1,752	8,005	3,485	2,552	3,089	1 3 4	140,183	170,265	18,530	5,97,344	3 7
6	Bahera ...	3	27	5,889	30,523	924	4,092	306	732	724	0 14 8	122,307	184,727	19,546	6,07,012	3 4
7	Rusera ...	35	299	7,272	35,208	889	7,371	170	677	1,020	1 8 1	82,731	12,141	9,253	5,32,470	4 2
	Subdivisional Total ...	205	1,717	31,735	172,216	3,605	17,324	2,911	4,921	4,838	1 3 3	355,171	484,133	47,989	17,05,426	8 11
8	Warisnagar ...	70	429	4,301	18,592	978	5,873	131	186	374	2 0 1	5,049	74,970	5,892	2,80,376	3 1
9	Samastipur ...	376	2,830	6,390	19,309	1,722	8,318	734	2,302	5,854	2 8 8	100,113	127,128	10,418	5,09,723	4 2
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	102	970	3,330	13,915	978	6,816	554	2,093	5,278	2 8 4	68,672	97,922	13,915	4,01,559	4 1
	Subdivisional Total ...	628	4,029	13,920	51,816	3,676	20,907	1,410	4,511	11,506	2 6 3	22,517	300,015	30,220	11,68,657	3 12
	District Total ...	858	6,113	40,739	199,041	10,102	58,128	4,725	10,372	18,134	1 12 0	882,085	1,402,482	125,393	53,04,479	8 13

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	NON-OCCUPANCY RAIYATS, INCLUDING DIARA RAIYATS.					RENT-FREE HOLDERS.		UNOCCUPIED.		KARSAK-HIND.	Total area of villages.	UNDER RAIYATS.				
		Number of holdings.	Total area, excluding area on produce rent.	Area on produce rent.	Total of existing rent.	Average rate per acre of total area, excluding area on produce rent.	Number of holdings.	Total area.	Number of holdings.	Total area.			Number of holdings.	Total area, excluding area on produce rent.	Area on produce rent.	Existing rent.	Average rate per acre of total area, excluding area on produce rent.
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
1	Benipatti ...	225	330	20	1,845	6 9 5	2,742	3,193	4,401	21,350	1,129	172,772	2,503	507	840	2,043	4 1
2	Khajauli ...	287	367	34	1,798	4 14 5	1,308	1,585	1,740	24,318	1,854	200,525	7,342	464	1,375	1,951	4 0
3	Phulparas ...	1,368	1,207	90	3,860	3 3 8	1,043	9,745	2,160	28,788	2,267	291,000	6,757	949	2,039	2,983	3 6
4	Madhubani ...	127	177	25	765	4 5 2	3,371	4,088	3,370	23,239	2,111	193,843	5,945	746	1,906	2,744	8 10
	Subdivisional Total ...	1,987	2,081	169	6,277	3 15 8	9,259	13,761	11,907	105,692	7,491	840,700	19,547	2,699	6,760	8,699	3 11
5	Darbhangha ...	306	553	94	1,918	3 7 8	5,897	4,811	11,496	31,362	2,470	271,827	7,370	949	2,665	3,529	8 11
6	Bahera ...	637	1,427	234	6,461	4 5 6	3,423	3,906	2,872	39,197	1,200	288,937	6,571	1,095	2,241	6,890	3 9
7	Rusera ...	390	693	63	2,757	3 15 8	2,557	2,178	7,759	38,271	943	222,063	5,309	1,555	1,592	2,413	6 7
	Subdivisional Total ...	1,723	2,738	391	11,136	3 1 2	11,727	10,693	27,143	1,04,930	4,631	750,627	19,556	4,399	6,968	14,932	4 4
8	Warisnagar ...	669	1,178	30	4,819	4 1 2	1,626	1,044	4,936	12,110	1,034	125,336	4,613	2,314	977	9,708	4 3
9	Samastipur ...	1,085	2,467	50	16,768	0 12 9	4,719	2,711	7,731	16,655	1,507	189,481	9,462	3,177	1,218	15,662	4 15
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	709	2,449	147	7,079	3 4 2	3,723	2,100	4,064	15,372	1,788	167,485	8,250	2,050	1,409	14,512	5 7
	Subdivisional Total ...	2,443	6,092	238	29,501	4 13 8	8,808	5,865	17,331	44,137	4,417	472,302	22,747	8,141	3,601	39,902	4 14
	District Total ...	6,153	10,806	793	44,979	4 7 10	29,894	20,499	66,174	259,589	18,530	2,113,829	60,448	16,120	17,362	68,433	6 8

APPENDIX VII.

Transfer of occupancy rights, District Darbhanga.

Thana serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total area of thana.	Total area held by occupancy raiyats.	Total number of Raiyats of occupancy raiyats.	NUMBER OF TRANSFERS.						AREA IN ACRES TRANSFERRED.		
					By sale.		By mortgage.		Total.		By sale.	By mortgage.	Total.
					Whole holding.	Part holding.	Whole holding.	Part holding.	Whole holding.	Part holding.			
					6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Beripatti	172,972	184,067	70,864	269	1,526	231	2,841	600	4,167	1,321	1,360	2,681
2	Khajaull	206,625	198,036	63,630	247	1,712	63	1,629	390	3,312	1,811	1,140	2,951
3	Phalpara	291,060	238,588	88,138	802	6,206	270	9,020	1,072	9,296	7,534	2,504	10,098
4	Madhubani	190,342	148,082	87,073	607	8,709	343	4,554	940	7,353	2,768	2,490	5,243
I	Subdivisional Total	860,700	668,698	309,569	1,915	19,544	927	11,441	2,642	23,083	13,428	7,444	30,572
5	Darbhanga	271,827	169,095	149,132	519	2,072	618	4,995	1,137	6,977	1,977	2,754	4,731
6	Bahera	286,937	204,613	128,807	489	2,541	477	4,375	940	6,816	2,351	3,048	5,209
7	Ruera	222,063	139,479	82,731	31	55	149	1,074	180	1,120	170	1,405	1,675
II	Subdivisional Total	770,827	532,072	356,171	1,019	4,668	1,341	10,244	2,263	14,912	4,308	7,207	11,605
8	Warisnagar	125,336	84,893	50,490	102	354	242	1,706	341	2,000	305	1,474	1,869
9	Samsatipur	164,981	163,566	100,113	69	475	310	3,188	809	3,508	454	1,708	2,142
10	Dalsingh Sarai	167,485	111,837	68,373	130	313	308	2,650	439	2,803	561	1,530	2,141
III	District Total	472,302	330,236	226,175	381	1,072	760	7,474	1,091	8,546	1,410	4,742	6,162
	TOTAL	2,113,829	1,577,876	888,935	3,295	18,212	2,981	29,163	6,106	47,446	19,236	19,393	39,029

Thana serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	NUMBER OF TRANSFERS TO—				AMOUNT.		RATE PER ACRE FOR LAND TRANSFERRED.		NUMBER OF TRANSFERREES STILL HOLDING AN UNDER-RAIYATS.		REMARKS.
		Landlords.	Lawyers.	Money-lenders.	Raiyats.	Paid on sale.	Advanced on mortgage.	By sale.	By mortgage.	On cash rent.	On produce rent.	
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1	Benipatti	509	6	310	3,843	63,550	62,055	40 9 11	41 5 1	...	...
2	Khajaull	81	16	365	3,121	62,782	31,119	29 2 4	37 4 10	...	49	
3	Phalpara	97	35	719	9,447	234,911	70,817	31 2 11	37 9 10	...	...
4	Madhubani	120	173	863	7,438	109,940	72,911	39 6 7	39 6 4	...	...
I	Subdivisional Total	807	227	1,947	23,610	457,223	234,933	39 8 5	39 7 8	...	40	
5	Darbhanga	1,023	36	371	6,175	77,305	70,572	39 1 9	39 10 1	...	254	
6	Bahera	1,010	28	1,518	5,306	75,435	99,343	33 8 2	33 9 5	...	...
7	Ruera	269	15	161	864	6,936	61,677	40 11 4	36 12 3	...	...
II	Subdivisional Total	3,112	78	2,550	12,245	167,676	240,882	38 4 11	38 6 9	...	254	
8	Warisnagar	393	11	267	1,713	17,52	67,998	45 5 11	39 5 8	...	4	
9	Samsatipur	391	45	920	2,543	27,005	102,730	63 8 10	60 2 9	1	2	
10	Dalsingh Sarai	540	64	881	2,967	30,185	126,090	52 12 10	73 3 11	...	93	
III	District Total	1,336	120	1,558	6,023	76,011	288,878	52 14 6	60 4 8	1	101	
	TOTAL	4,445	425	6,285	42,717	65,900	763,623	35 10 6	38 13 9	1	408	

APPENDIX VIII.

Transfer of proprietary rights.

Serial number	NAME OF THANA.	Total area of villages selected.	Total number of Khatwat entries.	Number of transfers.	Area transferred.	Percentage of column 6 to column 3.	Percentage of column 5 to column 4.	NUMBER OF TRANSFERS TO-				Share of land revenue transferred.	Price paid.	Average rate per acre of land transferred.	Highest rate.	Lowest rate.	Remarks
								Landlords.	Lawyers.	Money-lenders.	Rajputs.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Benipatti	33,223	558	60	3,083	9'28	10'75	50	...	5	5	Rs. A. P. 998 1 1½	Rs. 2,67,718	Rs. A. P. 86 13 11	Rs. A. P. 338 4 1	Rs. A. P. 20 7 3	
2	Khajauli	16,397	156	47	2,731	14'93	30'13	30	...	15	3	1,363 13 9½	1,67,633	61 5 8	383 4 8	15 3 4	
3	Phulparas	9,802	110	24	1,176	12'20	31'82	14	1	1	8	859 9 9½	76,835	64 3 8	111 4 8	13 8 11	
4	Madhabani	11,545	158	30	1,797	10'36	18'99	16	5	8	1	531 10 10	59,323	49 9 6	148 10 0	1 5 1	
	Subdivisional Total ...	73,966	983	161	8,207	11'26	16'40	110	6	29	16	3,828 3 3½	571,548	69 10 3	363 4 6	1 5 1	
5	Darbhanga	49,924	1,234	130	7,058	14'2	10'63	108	4	11	13	5,463 1 0	3,07,519	48 9 9	266 3 10	4 0 3	
6	Bahera	40,501	845	78	3,878	7'10	9'23	74	...	3	1	1,280 8 3½	1,67,351	51 3 4	481 3 4	0 4 3	
7	Rusera	31,649	345	73	4,251	13'43	31'16	67	...	4	3	751 14 10½	1,69,465	39 13 10	468 7 6	5 8 0	
	Subdivisional Total ...	122,144	2,424	281	14,187	11'61	11'59	246	4	18	16	7,475 3 1½	6,34,635	44 9 6	461 3 4	0 4 2	
8	Warisnagar	17,163	343	31	834	4'86	13'78	23	1	2	...	839 13 7	82,518	38 15 7	304 6 9	7 13 7	
9	Bamastipur	33,414	636	130	3,067	6'44	14'35	39	4	12	15	955 10 6	2,27,337	108 14 6	367 13 3	40 0 0	
10	Dalsingh Sarai	38,924	573	133	3,648	6'97	21'47	75	1	6	41	14,739 14 2	2,33,290	69 1 10	413 1 7	3 0 0	
	Subdivisional Total ...	67,620	1,682	274	5,569	6'36	16'69	193	6	20	66	16,535 6 3	4,93,140	39 3 9	413 1 7	3 1 6	
	District Total	282,630	5,058	716	27,963	9'69	14'16	546	16	67	67	37,838 12 8	16,39,323	58 10 0	461 3 4	0 4 3	

APPENDIX IX.

Classification of cases under section 103(A), B. T. Act, disposed of in the district of Darbhanga.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of objections instituted.	Zirat claims.		POSSESSION.								MONEY RENT DISPUTE.			
					Landlord versus Landlord.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.		Baiyat versus Baiyat.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.	
			Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Benipatti ...	5,964	3	24	380	641	323	601	80	236	147	289	274	1,254	141	801
2	Khajauli ...	4,460	...	10	310	230	186	277	47	95	163	256	600	888	126	272
3	Phulpuras ...	7,868	...	1	157	891	403	775	102	153	220	451	679	1,617	168	1,960
4	Madhubani ...	8,944	...	20	390	475	368	739	201	292	321	576	410	958	163	240
5	Darbhanga ...	18,443	29	117	444	518	997	1,208	369	326	347	1,035	2,389	3,971	1,420	1,052
6	Bahera ...	12,399	1	42	429	595	443	951	168	344	321	702	1,710	2,417	692	1,279
7	Rusera ...	9,273	3	70	385	391	328	698	120	142	92	294	691	9,637	906	534
8	Warisnagar ...	9,117	23	39	198	203	166	325	47	64	34	76	487	863	68	200
9	Samastipur ...	5,943	151	59	65	111	568	753	101	85	23	75	601	1,325	341	155
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	4,275	33	24	59	111	515	793	70	48	63	56	509	1,164	39	192
	GRAND TOTAL ...	76,601	229	406	2,852	4,207	4,405	7,420	1,404	1,765	1,765	3,930	8,299	16,112	4,053	6,360
	Allowed ...	27,918	299					9,916						12,353		
	Disallowed ...	48,683	406					17,332						24,473		
	Total ...	76,601	635					27,338						36,824		
	Percentage to Grand Total...	100	83					35.54						48.07		

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	PRODUCER RENT DISPUTE.				STATUS.				Title.	Trees.	Re-measurement.	Rent-free claims.				
		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Zirat versus Landlord.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.									
		Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.								
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
1	Benipatti ...	65	71	27	50	9	23	6	3	7	34	151	167	7	13	...	...
2	Khajauli ...	223	203	11	24	35	22	10	10	5	15	244	223	25	9	18	26
3	Phulpuras ...	423	155	71	103	47	114	19	13	21	37	190	164	16	12	...	...
4	Madhubani ...	263	279	95	120	16	27	15	11	18	16	582	270	53	22	33	...
5	Darbhanga ...	540	564	179	116	19	92	36	9	62	130	113	147	14	25	53	119
6	Bahera ...	150	586	88	99	47	167	21	40	167	316	102	84	12	17	...	...
7	Rusera ...	88	140	44	29	36	135	26	12	10	36	11	39	11	16	50	110
8	Warisnagar ...	38	97	9	8	8	16	1	5	33	80	21	94	16	14	24	17
9	Samastipur ...	199	290	39	9	78	17	16	8	45	98	31	20	47	45	49	65
10	Dalsingh Sarai ...	79	142	2	50	13	35	2	2	28	124	23	32	3	5	40	29
	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,055	2,522	550	608	298	647	151	112	415	985	1,408	1,163	207	180	258	864
	Allowed ...		2,624				449			415		1,408		207		258	
	Disallowed ...		3,130				760			883		1,163		180		364	
	Total ...		5,754				1,209			1,301		2,571		387		622	
	Percentage to Grand Total...		751				1.87			1.71		3.43		.55		.81	

APPENDIX X.

Settlement of fair rents under section 105.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of cases.	Number of holdings concerned.	EXISTING RENT OF THE HOLDINGS SETTLED UNDER—			FAIR RENT SETTLED,				Total.
				Section 52A.	Section 52B.	Section 30.	After contest.	On compromise.	Es-parte.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Benipatti ...	165	2,557	81,099 10 1	126 12 6	9,900 1 10	8,217 6 7	49,306 9 2	2,307 12 1	59,956 12 11	
2	Khajauli ...	93	1,532	14,872 15 2	874 4 10	1,538 10 4	2,787 4 1	19,351 1 1	803 1 3	23,011 6 5	
3	Phulparas ...	727	23,941	2,77,381 0 3	586 1 8	6,428 1 7	76,608 14 6	2,60,165 8 5	18,443 11 6	3,59,314 13 5	
4	Madhubani ...	816	3,466	32,111 7 8	119 8 4	3,088 10 7	2,319 13 9	41,902 2 11	3,070 16 1	45,982 18 10	
5	Darbhanga ...	330	4,601	31,287 12 5	94 4 6	666 0 6	7,424 10 5	28,174 1 0	2,628 18 7	30,802 11 7	
6	Bahera ...	206	6,231	47,130 14 2	506 11 3	4,281 3 9	11,494 12 9	48,706 1 11	1,451 8 7	50,157 10 0	
7	Rusera ...	106	770	6,658 1 6	1,068 1 4	63 10 6	903 9 6	7,100 8 4	...	8,008 12 0	
8	Warisnagar ...	149	1,586	15,117 12 9	488 12 3	559 5 8	5,599 15 7	11,507 9 10	476 3 7	17,073 12 0	
9	Samsatipur ...	87	1,408	9,201 7 2	30 8 8	...	1,397 3 2	8,276 3 2	468 12 0	10,159 3 0	
10	Daisingh Sarai ...	393	2,511	18,063 3 9	444 10 0	11 3 0	9,890 6 4	11,390 7 5	204 1 6	31,484 16 6	
Total ...		2,091	48,450	4,79,824 6 0	5,198 11 0	26,508 15 11	1,20,502 4 2	4,79,059 12 0	20,051 14 2	6,31,612 14 8	

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	NUMBER OF HOLDINGS FOR WHICH NEW RENTS WERE SETTLED.				NUMBER OF HOLDINGS FOR WHICH THE PRESENT RENT WAS SETTLED AS FAIR.				NUMBER OF HOLDINGS FOR WHICH NO RENTS WAS SETTLED.		AMOUNT OF ENHANCEMENT UNDER.					
		After contest.	On compromise.	Es-parte.	Total.	After contest.	On compromise.	Es-parte.	Total.	Dismissed.	Withdrawn.	Section 52A.	Section 30.	Total.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Benipatti ...	100	2,015	89	2,214	111	71	14	106	18	100			3,772 0 8	3,256 7 2	7,028 7 10	
2	Khajauli ...	80	1,033	49	1,161	39	26	1	66	10	40			1,733 8 1	1,927 3 0	3,670 10 11	
3	Phulparas ...	2,904	16,117	710	2,634	1,892	174	369	1,056	407	1,210			35,8 0 3 3	1,6 1 11 6	37,907 14 11	
4	Madhubani ...	89	2,559	166	2,834	26	180	30	225	69	172			3,747 11 6	2,413 0 11	6,160 12 6	
5	Darbhanga ...	10	1,515	201	1,726	670	397	42	809	1,116	943			2,343 12 10	78 4 6	2,422 1 4	
6	Bahera ...	84	3,5 5	16	3,637	1,633	308	197	2,338	65	198			8,474 15 2	53 18 4	8,528 12 7	
7	Rusera ...	6	270	...	276	116	93	...	213	160	141			446 7 11	...	446 7 11	
8	Warisnagar ...	111	681	22	814	170	119	13	302	115	355			1,474 7 1	44 4 6	1,519 11 7	
9	Samsatipur ...	39	573	81	699	71	75	66	193	443	89			912 6 2	...	1,124 6 2	
10	Daisingh Sarai ...	251	899	12	1,153	269	16	8	318	285	781			2,051 8 1	3 6 6	2,054 4 7	
Total ...		3,676	29,163	1,375	34,134	4,620	1,293	786	6,698	2,677	3,909			55,702 0 1	9,578 8 6	65,340 8 7	

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Amount reduced under section 52B.	NUMBER OF HOLDINGS IN WHICH RENTS WERE—			Number of holdings and under sections 30 and 52B.	Their existing rent.	RENT-FREE HOLDINGS FOR WHICH RENTS WERE SETTLED UNDER SECTION 105(2).			REMARKS.
			Enhanced under section 52A.	Enhanced under section 30.	Reduced under section 52B.			Number of holdings.	Area in acres.	Rent settled.	
1	Benipatti ...	12 3 2	1,874	340	9	113	10,756 10 9	31	10 1/2	20 15 3	
2	Khajauli ...	3 10 8	998	193	1	112	1,980 7 9	55	8 79	84 4 4	
3	Phulparas ...	86 6 6	10,062	568	15	1,769	30,400 1 5	738	370 61	1,204 14 10	
4	Madhubani ...	3 5 6	1,956	879	24	449	2,617 14 4	146	48 79	129 12 1	
5	Darbhanga ...	89 7 3	1,080	46	3	...	...	...	...	...
6	Bahera ...	39 3 1	3,022	15	7	829	8,235 14 7	23	17 44	66 10 0	
7	Rusera ...	237 8 5	239	37	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Warisnagar ...	3 12 3	767	27	6	...	...	...	...	...
9	Samsatipur ...	2 1 3	689	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Daisingh Sarai ...	69 0 1	1,119	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...		539 7 2	34,025	2,109	66	3,341	55,291 0 11	992	449 68	1,736 9 7	

APPENDIX XI.

Classification of cases under section 106.

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	Total number of cases instituted in this thana.	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED OF IN THE THANA.				Possession.								MONEY RENT DISPUTE.			
			Zirat claims.		Landlord versus Landlord.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.		Baiyat versus Baiyat.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.			
			Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Benipatti	374	193	181	1	21	23	14	12	3	15	5	8	34	42	5	60	
2	Khajauli	284	234	50	...	26	17	57	2	2	2	2	2	11	2	2	5	
3	Phulparas	1,753	1,264	489	...	68	18	83	62	2	26	25	22	63	69	2	12	
4	Madhubani	540	365	175	...	13	9	51	31	6	16	15	25	28	2	4		
5	Darbhanga	1,039	384	655	...	32	44	37	60	18	15	18	18	180	306	75	70	
6	Bahera	767	378	389	...	28	44	46	53	22	29	22	25	117	43	30	43	
7	Rusera	462	274	248	...	18	25	16	21	8	25	4	25	68	45	73	59	
8	Warisnagar	880	174	206	...	18	83	24	56	5	10	16	2	35	80	12	23	
9	Sarasipur	466	224	222	...	13	10	97	40	21	23	13	16	68	70	20	31	
10	Dalsingh Bari	606	274	331	...	5	7	42	24	26	18	10	99	127	43	10		
	Total	6,742	3,504	3,238	2	7	350	225	377	468	185	183	150	159	643	833	281	307

Serial number.	NAME OF THANA.	PRODUCE RENT DISPUTE.				STATUS.				Title.	Trees.	Re-measurement.	Rent-free claims.		REMARKS.		
		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.		Landlord versus Baiyat.		Baiyat versus Landlord.					Allowed.	Disallowed.		Allowed.	Disallowed.
		Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.	Allowed.	Disallowed.								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
1	Benipatti	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10	4	...	33	12	
2	Khajauli	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14	...	...	97	3	
3	Phulparas	28	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	26	1	...	80	112	
4	Madhubani	50	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	24	...	...	160	6	
5	Darbhanga	19	116	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	10	...	...	16	7	
6	Bahera	8	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10	28	...	51	23	
7	Rusera	14	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	...	...	6	1	
8	Warisnagar	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	1	...	...	1	1	
9	Sarasipur	28	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	2	3	7	2	
10	Dalsingh Bari	9	24	30	...	...	...	...	...	4	18	16	...	3	18	
	Total	201	261	73	72	39	37	19	31	38	62	174	108	54	7	1,307	189

APPENDIX XII.

Settlement Financial Statement.

DARBHANGA.

Main sub-head of budget.	EXPENDITURE.				
	1896-1897.	1897-1898.	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Pay and allowance of Settlement Officer.	2,718 11 7	6,812 15 0	15,517 1 1	13,588 7 8	15,040 10 7
Assistant Settlement Officers	3,617 11 11	17,526 5 1	30,039 14 6	35,495 10 8	39,168 2 7
2. Fixed establishment	700 14 7	.....	1,190 12 0	2,360 11 1	2,734 12 8
3. Temporary establishment ... ..	.....	8,089 14 1	28,108 1 11	43,002 3 1	61,854 4 0
4. Contract and job work ... ..	.....	8,634 15 0	6,645 1 7	14,528 5 11	19,407 8 8
5. Travelling allowance of officers	988 4 0	6,270 1 9	12,935 0 0	12,903 0 11	17,591 9 6
Establishment	7 0 0	25 3 0	117 15 8	1,078 14 0	1,069 1 0
6. Supplies and Services—					
Forms... ..	.....	.....	.....	11,484 8 1	10,792 6 5
Tents ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Petty construction ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
„ repairs ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
7. Contingencies—					
Hot weather charges... ..	8 5 0	8 0 0	98 8 8	50 0 0	221 0 4
Service Postage „	1 0 0	443 0 0	210 0 0	516 0 0	330 0 0
Service telegrams	4 12 0	122 1 0	108 12 0	215 7 0	169 0 0
Miscellaneous	817 0 0	8,606 2 4	15,809 2 11	8,968 4 5	12,863 9 8
Total	8,879 12 1	52,637 10 0	1,11,868 6 11	1,43,291 8 8	1,52,114 11 9

Main sub-head of budget.	EXPENDITURE.				Total.	REMARKS.
	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903	1904		
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	
1. Pay and allowance of Settlement Officer.	18,034 1 5	7,027 15 9	.....	.....	70,685 15 6	
Assistant Settlement Officers	58,448 1 1	41,628 9 9	6,638 7 0	.....	2,33,105 14 7	
2. Fixed establishment	2,856 11 1	3,582 0 0	626 2 0	.....	13,750 15 5	
3. Temporary establishment... ..	54,655 4 11	26,068 2 4	3,463 15 8	.....	2,38,847 14 0	
4. Contract and job work	32,404 6 10	25,658 12 0	.....	.....	1,02,178 12 7	
5. Travelling allowance of officers	13,053 13 0	8,146 11 10	1,674 15 0	.....	74,540 8 0	
Establishment... ..	1,516 15 8	1,108 9 9	57 3 9	.....	4,980 14 0	
6. Supplies and Services—						
Forms	801 12 11	394 8 2	0 15 2	.....	22,335 2 10	
Tents	228 13 0	34 8 0	.....	.....	763 2 0	
Petty construction	1 2 0	300 5 0	.....	.....	301 7 0	
„ repairs	54 12 0	19 9 6	11 4 6	.....	85 10 0	
7. Contingencies—						
Hot weather charges	227 7 11	680 8 4	75 10 0	.....	1,867 8 8	
Service Postage „	506 13 4	528 10 3	5 9 0	.....	2,875 0 7	
Service telegrams	99 7 0	228 0 0	39 14 0	.....	1,074 7 0	
Miscellaneous	114,957 9 8	7,526 8 10	1,860 4 9	.....	71,933 9 8	
Total	1,98,206 1 9	1,27,580 5 6	14,619 4 11	.....	8,39,007 12 7	

APPENDIX XIII.

Financial Statement showing expenditure on different Departments of the work.

DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES.	EXPENDITURE IN--						
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Traverse survey ...	2,070 0 0	12,817 0 0	13,919 0 0	25,534 0 0	18,948 0 0	24,780 0 0	15,761 0 0
Cadastral survey ...	.....	.....	.....	27,416 0 0	48,818 0 0	41,033 0 0	70,441 0 0
Record-writing ...	.....	468 0 0	.....	13,088 0 0	51,773 0 0	60,595 0 0	92,073 0 0
Khanapuri ...	.....	.....	.....	2,644 14 9	4,440 14 2	9,737 10 10	8,823 0 0
Attestation ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	19,413 7 8	33,719 10 4	19,279 14 10
Case-work under section 103-A.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,848 12 4	15,785 8 7
Office work and final publication.	.....	.....	.....	.....	448 8 6	12,371 14 1	31,634 14 5
Case-work under sections 105-106.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,179 15 4	10,425 12 9
Computation and recovery.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,168 1 4
Supervision ...	.....	.....	.....	5,363 11 4	14,168 4 0	22,247 15 1	32,106 3 10
Supplies and services and contingencies.	.....	.....	.....	871 2 0	14,178 7 10	18,391 8 11	20,098 0 11
Total ...	2,070 0 0	13,275 0 0	13,919 0 0	74,915 12 1	1,72,176 10 0	2,37,796 6 11	3,21,566 8 8

DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES.	EXPENDITURE IN--				Total.	Cost rate per square mile.	Standard cost rate per square mile.
	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903 up to July 1903.			
	9	10	11	12			
	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Traverse survey ...	9*1 0 0	.....	.....	.....	1,14,780 0 0	94 4 6	40 0 0
Cadastral survey ...	98,924 0 0	19,017 0 0	.....	.....	3,03,648 0 0	91 12 8	163 0 0
Record-writing ...	98,659 0 0	49,156 0 0	.....	.....	3,03,300 0 0	110 2 5	183 0 0
Khanapuri ...	14,085 9 8	8,441 10 10	.....	.....	43,973 0 0	18 5 0	21 0 0
Attestation ...	46,779 5 6	45,390 0 9	2,739 9 10	.....	1,67,132 0 0	50 9 7	50 0 0
Case-work under section 103-A.	30,721 4 8	14,783 2 1	9,072 8 3	.....	70,212 0 0	21 4 0	17 0 0
Office work and final publication.	28,780 2 1	44,979 1 7	28,952 6 1	.....	1,47,146 0 0	46 8 4	33 0 0
Case-work under sections 105-106.	20,358 4 10	30,212 2 4	38,648 6 3	5,507 0 0	1,10,301 0 0	33 6 4	30 0 0
Computation and recovery.	11,333 7 0	9,463 12 5	7,844 12 11	.....	35,700 0 0	10 3 4	11 0 0
Supervision ...	25,168 15 3	30,022 2 9	29,587 11 9	1,753 0 0	1,63,265 0 0	49 6 11	25 0 0
Supplies and services and contingencies.	14,419 11 7	17,073 11 0	13,664 2 8	6,817 0 0	1,03,429 0 0	31 5 0	40 0 0
Total ...	3,76,646 11 9	2,66,379 1 9	1,30,537 10 9	14,077 0 0	10,31,297 0 0	419 13 8*	227 0 0

* On 8,303 square miles, the area for which a record of rights was prepared.

APPENDIX XIV.

General Statement of expenditure and receipts.

YEAR.	EXPENDITURE.			RECEIPTS.						REMARKS.	
	Survey.	Settle-ment.	Total.	Court-fee.	Miscellane-ous.	Recovery of cost.					
						Cost.	Process fees.	Arrears.	Total.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	
1893-94 ...	2,070	...	2,070	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1894-95 ...	13,275	...	13,275	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1895-96 ...	13,919	...	13,919	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1896-97 ...	66,636	8,880	74,916	8 12 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1897-98 ...	1,10,539	52,638	1,72,177	6 0 0	148 11 6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1898-99 ...	1,36,408	1,11,368	2,47,776	14 18 2 0	312 12 4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1899-00 ...	1,78,275	1,43,892	3,21,567	26,917 10 0	3,238 8 8	1,16,722 6 9	450 8 0	.....	.....	.....
1900-01 ...	1,64,534	1,62,104	3,26,638	27,445 1 0	7,713 11 7	2,00,802 11 6	3,299 6 6	.....	.....	.....
1901-02 ...	68,173	1,98,208	2,66,379	64,445 7 0	11,584 15 10	3,30,755 1 3	2,772 2 8	.....	.....	.....
1902-03 ...	...	1,27,680	1,27,680	14,985 1 6	8,303 4 2	2,67,316 4 0	1,671 7 2	.....	.....	.....
1903 up to July ...	...	14,670	14,670	.....	1,098 8 2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	7,82,229	8,36,068	16,21,297	163,963 7 0	32,134 6 3	10,35,598 7 6	8,073 6 3	10,38,671 13 9	

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AGRICULTURE—			Of ploughing	133	478
Labour, wages of	133	478	Of the settlement operations	74	269
Population, average annual income of	135	480	Of weeding	134	481
Cost of living of	134	474	Rate of municipal surveys	35	132
Indebtedness of	128	453	Rate of survey and settlement	74	271
Material condition of	123	440	Apportionment of	75	273
of the district	13	47	Recovery of	75	279
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AGRIAN—			prices of the principal	132	476
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Survey	34	120	Boundary disputes	44	164
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE,
BENGAL.

No. 2478.

FROM S. L. MADDOX, Esq., I.C.S.,

Offg. Director of the Dept. of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.

Dated Calcutta, the 1st February 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit for the information and orders of the Board the Final Report on the Survey-Settlement Operations in the Darbhanga district. The report is written by Mr. J. H. Kerr, I.C.S., the Settlement Officer, and omits, as far as possible, reference to the general questions common to North Bihar, which have been fully dealt with in the final report on the Muzaffarpur district. The benefits however of the Amending Act of 1898, passed after the conclusion of the operations in Muzaffarpur, are well demonstrated in paragraphs 212, etc., 215, etc., 236, etc., and paragraph 268.

2. There is no ancient history of importance and no authentic record previous to the rise of the Darbhanga Raj family in the sixteenth century. Moreover the separate revenue history starts from 1875 only, the date of the division of Tirhut into the two districts of Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. There are three main physical divisions of the district, and two of these are included in the annual programme of famine relief. Only Samastipur and Dalsingsarai thanas in the south-west have, so far as I know, never been affected, whereas Warisnagar and the northern and north-eastern thanas depend largely on winter rice, and have on many occasions been the scene of relief works and other operations for the alleviation of famine. With the exception of the Bar Gundak river which comes into the district from the west, the other rivers enter the district on the Nepal Frontier, and channels of the Bagmati, Kamla and Balan are to be found in all parts of the north of the district. Mr. Kerr draws attention to the fact that a normal rainfall renders the district practically independent of irrigation. Recent experience has also shown that a winter rice crop of 60 per cent. followed by one of 34 per cent., both the results of short rainfall, has caused severe famine, whereas a rice crop of only 33 per cent. following a normal crop only caused scarcity.

3. The district is well served by railways and roads. The Sakri-Jainagar Railway line is also now under construction, and should tap a large grain supply from Nepal. As regards the roads, my own opinion is that they are too numerous, some might well be abandoned in order that more might be spent on the upkeep of the others. As regards population, in the end of paragraph 38 Mr. Kerr states that it has reached the limits which the land can support and shows that the record-of-rights has been made at the most opportune time.

4. The distinction in paragraph 39 between the rents recorded as payable and the rents claimed and even collected opens out to us a view of the very careful work done by the department in the way of defeating illegal enhancements. This is discussed later in the report (paragraph 209), and it is only necessary here to note that rents in this district are not necessarily higher in the most thickly populated portions of the district, but the pitch of enhancement :

varies according to the powers of large zamindars to increase rents and of raiyats to resist their attempts. Although at present emigration is not so much resorted to as in Saran and Muzaffarpur, the higher proportion of females to males in congested areas shows that here and there the males relieve pressure by emigration. An analysis of the census figures also shows that about 80 per cent. of the population depends on agriculture for support.

5. In the Revenue History of the District we find that whereas cultivation has increased eightfold in the last three centuries, the incidence of revenue is only $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas per cultivated acre as compared with Re. 1-2 in the end of the sixteenth century. Mr. Kerr, after giving an interesting account of the various regulations of the early part of the last century, sets forth the difficulties encountered in the course of these proceedings. Until Regulation VII of 1822 the principle of basing settlement on a record-of-rights and obligations of persons possessing an interest in land or in the rent or produce of it was not recognised. The revenue added to the roll by the resumption proceedings accounts for not less than 45 per cent. of the present permanently-settled revenue of the district. In the revenue survey we have a remarkable exhibition of the confusion which existed between villages and estates (see also paragraph 145). For instance, in 1835 the Collector reports that there were 16,000 villages in his district when he must have meant estates, as the Revenue Survey showed only 7,586 villages. Notwithstanding its defects, however, the Revenue Survey put an end to boundary disputes, increased the value of landed property and furnished materials for the Collector's Land Registration Registers.

The case with which the revenue has been collected since 1875 when the district was divided off from Tirhut is shown in paragraph 99 *et seq.*, but the difficulties which the Collector has to face in the rapid increase in number of estates are also shown in paragraph 102. The low incidence of Land Revenue is, I think, correctly ascribed to the backward state of cultivation at the time of the permanent settlement. The temporarily-settled and revenue-free estates in the district are unimportant.

6. The traverse work begun in 1893, but no cadastral party took the field on a large scale till 1896. The survey notifications were issued by the thana for the first time, and not by the tappa or pargana—a very important change which has led also to the geographical arrangement of records by thanas. It will be seen that the famine of 1896-97 somewhat interfered with the traverse and cadastral programme but the benefits of the operations in the adjoining districts made progress more smooth in Darbhanga. No special difficulties occurred except in the case of Taluq Lahiri described in paragraph 127, pargana Padri in paragraphs 138 to 140, and Darbhanga thana in paragraphs 141 and 142. We find that suppression of raiyats was more common in this district than in any of the North Bihar districts, and that generally lower caste raiyats paying produce rents were suppressed. Other difficulties arose owing to the minute subdivision of proprietary rights and to the scattered blocks of which some Revenue Survey villages were composed. The last difficulty led to an important decision in regard to geographical arrangement, that is to say, the treatment of scattered blocks as estates in the villages in which they lie and the Collector's Mauzawar Register C is prepared by the Settlement Department on these lines.

The change, however, is really greater than appears at first sight, and paragraph 147 deserves perusal. No question of status has ever been raised hitherto, and our records are always interpreted by reference to our maps. With respect to Mr. Lyon's proposals referred to in the end of paragraph 147, no more has been done than to issue a Circular (no. 78 of 24th February 1903) to provide for a procedure in case an objection by the landlord should be preferred.

7. The various stages of the work—record writing, internal disputes, boundary disputes, draft publication, objections under section 103A, office work, final publication and case work, including settlement of fair rents and disposal of suits under section 106—are treated in paragraphs 148 to 268, and I shall only refer to important points. Record writing in the north was much facilitated by the help of the Raj officials, among whom Mr. E. S. King is especially mentioned, and by the use of Mr. Finucane's maps and khasras.

The *mankhap* or fixed portion of produce-rents in the estates of the Madhubani Babus and suppression of raiyats in those of the Charaut Mohunt created special difficulties. It is very satisfactory to find that in Khanapuri, where knowledge of local problems is an advantage, the Bihari amins proved more satisfactory than the 'foreigners.' The Darbhanga Raj was responsible for two specially large classes of disputes in regard to trees and to *birat* or rent-free holdings. Mr. Kerr shows how ill-advised in most cases the Raj officials were, and certainly the opposition to *birat* left a legacy of trouble to the District Officer in the shape of rioting and punitive police for the next two years. The tribute paid to the work of Khanapuri kanungoes deserves special mention. More than 80 per cent. of the 1½ lakhs of decisions made by this agency were accepted as correct by parties, and less than 10 per cent. required revision on any ground whatever. The number of the boundary disputes was unnecessarily swelled by the Raj claims in cases of only petty discrepancies and by the constant opposition to the Raj of Rai Gunga Prashad Singh Bahadur. The decision of disputes in the diara will, it is hoped, prevent much trouble and bloodshed in the future. The results of appeals show the work to have been well done.

8. The difficulties in attestation were mainly due to subdivision of proprietary rights, to partitions and to *abwab*. As in the Saran report, Mr. Kerr acknowledges the satisfactory state of accounts kept and receipts given to raiyats by Managers of Indigo Factories, though, at the same time, there were special difficulties in record of the managers' status in respect of lands in their own possession. The acts of oppression discovered in the estates of certain leading zamindars, Rai Gunga Prashad Singh Bahadur, Babu Guneswar Singh and the Madhubani Babus caused much anxiety to the Department, and I regret to say that instances also occurred where raiyats were to blame for obstruction. The history of rents in the Darbhanga Raj, described in paragraphs 195 to 210, deserves careful perusal. We see clearly the advantages of even a previous survey and still more clearly the advantages where that survey has been followed by a record-of-rights. We see also in what way before the passing of the Tenancy Act rents were tampered with, and how even *sharanamas* from *jeth* raiyats were considered a sufficient excuse for enhancing the rents of other tenants of the same village. Even too, after the passing of the Tenancy Act, we see how energetic managers were able to ignore the provisions of section 29. It must be added, however, in respect of the Darbhanga Raj that many illegalities were detected only because genuine papers, however compromising, were never withheld, and this fact redounds greatly to the credit of the Raj management. In the district as a whole, Mr. Kerr observes, the canker which has mainly affected agricultural prosperity is the constant tampering with rent-rolls and consequent uncertainty as to rents. He also clearly demonstrates the benefits conferred on pargana Alapur by Mr. Finucane's record, and has very good ground for expression of the hope that our proceedings may similarly benefit the whole district.

9. As regards draft publication, the changes effected by the amending Act of 1898 in bringing on draft publication at an earlier stage have resulted in far greater accuracy, inasmuch as it now takes place when the interest of attestation has not abated and correction of mistakes has been made easy because the settlement camp is near at hand. Draft publication also is no longer a farce because at any moment the Assistant Settlement Officer may pay a surprise visit to his kanungo.

In the filing of objections under section 103A we again see the benefits of the Amending Act. Setting aside Champaran, we find disputes under the old section 105 amounting to only 11 per square mile in Muzaffarpur, whereas in Darbhanga, originally part of the same district, they amount to 23 per square mile and in Saran to 27. Paragraph 216 shows, however, that the increase in objections is in no way due to deterioration of work in the early stages. It is perhaps interesting to note that objections are more numerous where proprietors are small and where, as in the case of Darbhanga thana, legal advice is at hand, but the fact that 36 per cent. of the objections were allowed as valid proves the value of giving facilities for their institution. The office work was well done under the supervision of Babu R. C. Dutt, and the receipts from

copying records for parties, amounting to nearly Rs. 42,000, show the popularity of the records. The benefits of the amending Act in shortening the procedure in a given area by one year are set forth in paragraphs 236 and 237.

10. Fair rents were settled for 5 per cent. of the total number of tenancies dealt with, 75 per cent. of these being settled on compromise. The fact that on the whole the new rentals only exceeded by 1·20 per cent. the incidence of the existing rentals of all the thanas in the district is some measure of their fairness. The only increase at all substantial was in Phulparas thana, Alapur pargana, and was mainly due to extension of cultivation. As regards commutation proceedings under section 40, it is surprising to find so few applications. It seems to me that the provisions of section 40 (2) permitting an officer acting under Chapter X to receive and dispose of the applications are not well enough known. Possibly Settlement Officers and Assistant Settlement Officers might do more to encourage such applications, especially in areas where "the harassing and annoying system" described in paragraph 249 prevails, or possibly a sub-clause in either section 102 or section 105 might have the desired effect of giving more publicity to the powers possessed by the Settlement Department under section 40. I have had some experience as Collector in Darbhanga of fixing fair rents on commutation, and am conscious that a fairer rent can be fixed by the Settlement Officer, with his facilities for local inspection and his local knowledge of the particular village and of the forms in which the particular zamindar keeps his accounts, than by the District Officer. The result of appeals shows that the work was well done. For the issues to be framed in cases under section 105, specified in paragraph 251, the Department owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. E. P. Chapman, the Special Judge of Tirhut. We are also indebted to Mr. Chapman for teaching Assistant Settlement Officers (paragraph 259), the value of the presumption attaching to entries in a record-of-rights published under section 103B and (paragraph 266) for his views regarding the application of section 375, Civil Procedure Code to all questions raised in suits under section 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, and also for the suggestions quoted in paragraph 513.

11. Rent-free claims under section 106 were on the whole the most important, and the zamindar succeeded in 1,307 out of 1,496 cases. As 56 per cent. of all the cases filed were decreed, there appear to have been good ground for instituting the majority of them. Paragraphs 261 to 268 contain matters of vital importance. Though apparently we have powers to construct the record so as to avoid recording as the rent payable an illegally-enhanced rent, the Advocate-General would appear to hold that in a suit under section 106 we are nevertheless bound to give a decree for an illegally-enhanced rent if the parties agree that it should be paid. On the other hand, the Legal Remembrancer holds that an admission by a tenant in a petition of compromise under section 106 as to what has been and what is the rate of rent would be relevant, but if the raiyats state the particular rate at which rent was paid and now agree to pay a higher rate, the enhanced rate cannot be recorded under section 106. Mr. Kerr, however, seems quite right in his contention that no amount of payment should render an illegally-enhanced rent legally recoverable if the proviso (i) to section 29 covers only clause (a) of that section. Mr. Chapman's *obiter dictum* as to the effect of applying section 375, Civil Procedure Code to all compromises in suits under section 106 may well be brought to the notice of other Special Judges. The powers under section 108 were most sparingly exercised by the Settlement Officer.

12. The cost-rate has been very heavy for two main reasons—the reduction of programme to suit the Darbhanga Raj and the fact that Darbhanga, being the head-quarters of the Bihar Settlement, a great deal of work for Muzaffarpur and Saran also was done there.

Mr. Kerr's remarks as to the method of calculation of costs may be perused. He suggests that, instead of first deducting the amounts realised by Court and Process fees and miscellaneous receipts from the total cost, one-fourth of the gross total as Government share should first be deducted.

The question is however settled by Government Order no. 154-T.—B. of 21st April 1903, paragraph 4.

The progress of recovery may almost be described as wonderful and clearly shows the value of the record, inasmuch as tenants and landlords willingly paid up the costs in order at the time of payment to receive their copies. The cost of recovery was only 3.18 per cent. of the amount recovered as compared with 5.6 per cent. in Muzaffarpur and 5.9 per cent. in Saran. Computation was also the more easy as the fractions were simple— $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas per acre for landlords and 3 annas for the tenants.

13. The area of the district is 3,348 square miles, of which a record-of-rights was prepared for 3,308 square miles, including 5 square miles of diara containing Government and temporarily-settled estates, and excluding 40 square miles of diara and urban areas. The villages vary in size from 15 square miles to 2 acres, and plots are larger in the paddy lands of the north where proprietors are few, and smaller in the uplands of the south where there are numerous proprietors. The net cropped area amounts to 80 per cent. of the total area, and the *aghani* harvest covers 63 per cent. of the net cropped area. The figures show the vital importance to the district of the winter rice crop as occupying nearly the whole *aghani* area. There is little room for extension of cultivation, and if the 11 per cent. returned as culturable were cultivated, there would be nothing left for the cattle to graze. A remarkable tribute to the intelligence of the cultivators is borne out by the figures for Samastipur and Madhubani. In the former there is a fair amount of upland recorded as fallow where the lands require rest, and in the latter there is practically no fallow because rice lands deteriorate if allowed to go out of cultivation. Information regarding the state of cultivation at the end of the 18th century and in the early part of last century has been gleaned from the Muzaffarpur Collectorate. Extracts are also given from the statistics collected by Sir A. P. MacDonnell and Mr. M. Finucane, and a comparison is made between the present survey and the thakbust. An interesting exposure of the fallacy that a high proportion of twice-cropped area necessarily indicates agricultural prosperity or ability to withstand the effects of drought is given in paragraph 32.

14. The amount of irrigation in the north of the district is due in large measure to the system of connecting channels of the Kamla river and the *pynes* constructed by Mr. R. S. King. The report of the Indian Irrigation Commission, Volume II, pages 166-68, specially notices this work, and it is a fact that in the area covered by these channels the outturn of winter rice in 1901 was 80 per cent. as against 30 per cent. on the west, 21 per cent. on the east and 19 per cent. on the south. The contention, however, that this system has opened out areas to damage from flood hitherto immune should be kept constantly before the notice of the authorities. My impression at present is that the main sufferer is the District Board by damage to roads. There is also a great deal of irrigation by lifts from the other rivers flowing in from Nepal all along the northern frontier of the district. The Irrigation Commission made enquiries into the Diara and Kamla schemes (see Volume II, page 163), and other schemes are described in Public Works Department Selections of papers relating to Famine Protection in North Bihar.

It is to be noted that in Madhubani and the north of the district, in fact in all thanas included in the area of the annual famine programme, irrigation is devoted to food-crops, whereas in the south, in the thanas not included in that programme, it is reserved for the special and highly-cultivated non-food-crops. The great difficulty in the way of an extension of irrigation in the north is due to the fact that the supply of water is liable to be cut off in Nepal at the time when it is most necessary.

15. The figures for the different crops and Mr. Kerr's comments (paragraphs 331 to 350) afford the most valuable information to the District Officer as the district is one which gives continual anxiety and 104 lakhs of rupees have been spent on famine relief in 29 years. I can personally vouch for the use already made by the Collector of the survey and settlement statistics in 1901-1902 during the scarcity not amounting to famine, and later in 1902 in preparation of a report to the Irrigation Commission. One point perhaps which should be brought clearly to the District Officer's notice is that the above-mentioned paragraphs explain terms such as "miscellaneous food-grains," "non-food-crops," etc. Without a reference to the *khanapuri* rules of a particular year or without this report the terms would not be easily intelligible.

16. Carefully compiled statistics for live-stock are given and Mr. Kerr points out that the supply of agricultural stock is mainly a question of grazing. If a man has not sufficient land on which to graze two pairs of bullocks, he must do his ploughing with one pair. Moreover in Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga the grazing ground necessary for the maintenance of a sufficient agricultural stock has been reduced to the lowest possible limits. He argues too that a large number of carts means a lack of railway communications, but there is also a demand for carts for the frontier trade with Nepal.

17. The analysis of the record-of-rights shows 85 per cent. of the occupied area to be in the possession of settled and occupancy raiyats and raiyats at fixed rates. The effect of the record-of-rights in preventing petty proprietors from taking lands into their own cultivation will have to be observed at a future revision of the record. The distinction between true *sirat* and land in the cultivating possession of the proprietors gives one of the clearest instances of the benefits of the Tenancy Act. No doubt it is somewhat artificial and it is certainly obnoxious to most zamindars, but here, as in all other settlements, the record will for ever safeguard the raiyati area for the raiyat. When it is stated that the settled and occupancy raiyats hold from 2 to 2½ acres, the fact that a holding means the area held by a tenant under a separate demand in the rent-roll must be understood. Non-occupancy raiyats, holders of rent-free lands and under-raiyats are unimportant. The first and third occur where there are indigo factories and the second hold for the most part under the Darbhanga Raj.

18. *Proprietary rights*.—Though there are only 3,387 villages and 13,400 estates on the revenue roll, 42,830 separate records of proprietary interests were made or, deducting lands held entirely joint with other estates, 41,504. The work was lighter than in Muzaffarpur only because the Maharaja of Darbhanga is sole proprietor in so many villages. Thus the total number of recorded proprietors is 135,178 as against 163,933 in Muzaffarpur. Shares are recorded down to the 59 millionth part of a rupee.

19. Tenure-holders occupy one-fifth of the area but of this less than one-tenth is cultivated by raiyats. Many of the rent-free tenures were created by the Darbhanga Raj and most of the rent-paying tenures are held by indigo factories. There are thus very few *thicadars* who are speculators, or mortgagees or service tenure-holders. Under-tenures are held for the most part either by grantees of the Madhubani Babus or of factory managers.

20. Mr. Kerr determines the position in agricultural development (which approximates to Muzaffarpur, but is almost equally behind Saran) from the figures for produce-rents (see paragraphs 397 and 398). In this connection the incidences given in the statement in paragraph 403 may also be compared. It is also the fact that where there are resident petty proprietors produce-rents occur more frequently. They also occur where owing to floods the crops are precarious and—as we also found, in Orissa—where there is a priesthood to maintain. The paragraphs on the produce-rents known as *batai*, *bhaoli* and *mankhap* are most interesting, and we may hope that as soon as the survey-settlement has been completed in the Nadia district we may have material for amendment of the Tenancy Act. *Mankhap* corresponds to the *sanjha* of Bengal and Orissa.

21. The incidence of the rents of settled raiyats, as already remarked, bears out Mr. Kerr's theory of the position held by Darbhanga in the agricultural development of the four North Bihar districts. He traces the history of rents from 1582 to the present time. Some methods of enhancement are described—*sharahnamas* with *jeth* raiyats, entry without intimation to raiyats of increased demands in the *jamabandis*, measurement by a short pole and *batwaras* without record-of-rights. So far as records show, rent-rates have doubled during the last century without extension of cultivation, and the road-cess returns show increase of 25 per cent. in gross rentals between 1876 and 1893, practically without the intervention of the courts. The personal element, *i. e.*, the manner in which different landlords alter rents, is graphically shown in paragraph 416, and the highest incidence is found in the estate of the landlord who puts his tenants most often into court.

The District Officer will largely add to his knowledge of the district by perusal of paragraphs 416, 417, 418 and 511. The figures by which the

incomes of proprietors are calculated show an income (in revenue-paying areas) which has risen from Rs. 88,000 to Rs. 62,40,000 since the permanent settlement, and whereas at the permanent settlement the proprietors retained only 10 per cent. of the assets, they now enjoy 68 per cent. The Government revenue is now 11 per cent. of the assets as against 90 per cent. at that time. Paragraph 422 should be referred to at the next revaluation proceedings.

22. In the statistics of transfers of proprietary rights we note that where proprietary interests are most subdivided transfers are most frequent, at the same time it is interesting to find that they occur less frequently where there are indigo factories. I think that any comparison with Muzaffarpur would be misleading, as in the work of this district the enquiries were more carefully made and in so many of the villages of Darbhanga there are large proprietors who discountenance and prevent transfers. It is satisfactory however to find that the transfers are rarely made to mahajans. Prices are low as compared with those of Muzaffarpur, but not so low as in Saran, and bear no relation to the rent rate or to any other fixed standard.

23. Very full statistics are given for transfers of occupancy rights amounting to 6 per cent. of holdings and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of area, the transfers including sales and mortgages. Out and out sales occur more frequently in zamindaris where rent rolls are kept well up to date, because the purchaser gets a clear title; mortgages on the contrary are more frequent in the estates of petty proprietors. That a record-of-rights facilitate out and out transfers is proved by the fact of the largest number of transfers having occurred in the area covered by Mr. Finucane's record. One advantage of the record is that when the riyat has to raise money he can do so by selling less land than would be necessary in an area for which there was no record-of-rights, and that advantage is taken of this benefit is shown by the figures for Mr. Finucane's area (paragraph 435). An analysis of the transfers shows that land is not to any alarming extent passing into the hands of mahajans. Reading paragraph 431 with paragraph 437, it will appear that confidence in a zamindar's record promotes transfers and, as stated above, facility for transfers of portions of holdings is of great benefit. Mr. Kerr joins with Mr. Stevenson-Moore in deprecating legislation on the subject of free transfers, but I am inclined to think that his remarks almost make out a case for interference. "Excess of the mortgage over the sale rate invariably shows that the custom of free transferability by sale does not exist."

24. In a district ten thanas of which, out of twelve, are included in the annual famine programme and in which 104 lakhs have been expended on famine relief in less than 30 years, the Chapter on the material condition of the agricultural classes is of vital importance to the District Officer. In connection with this Chapter the following reports may be read :—

Report on the Famine of 1896-97 by Mr. R. W. Carlyle, C.I.E.

Report of the Indian Irrigation Commission, Vol. II.

Report of the Collector to the Indian Irrigation Commission of 1902.

Evidence taken at Darbhanga by the Indian Irrigation Commission of 1902.

25. The precarious nature of the district is immediately explained by the high percentage of winter rice to the net cropped area. Notwithstanding this fact it is shown that in 1897 the highest percentage of persons relieved on any one day of that famine to the total population was 10.49 and this number according to the recent census returns is only a little more than half of those who are classed in the census returns as labourers, i.e., either those who have no land at all or whose holdings are too small to support them in an ordinary year. From this it may be fairly argued that the average size of the cultivator's holding is above the subsistence limit, Mr. Kerr also shows that an income of Rs. 21.8 as against Rs. 18.8 in Saran and as compared with a necessary minimum of 15 is available per head of the agricultural population. The statistics for the balance of food-grains in favour of the district show that in ordinary years the pressure of population on the soil is less felt here than in Muzaffarpur or Saran, but that very soon, without emigration, the district will not support itself. Owing to the large area under

one crop and the smaller area available for extension of cultivation, practically no improvement in outturn of food-crops can be expected. I agree in the conclusions recorded in paragraph 461 but in regard to sub-paragraph (3), if "bad seasons" include two or three failures of the winter rice crop, experience has shown that the agricultural community cannot weather them without turning to Government for relief. The paragraphs on outturn, prices and cost of cultivation, adds considerably to the store of knowledge which future District Officers will possess.

26. Mr. Kerr has already paid a tribute to the well-kept rent-rolls of the indigo planters, and to the fact that the Manager is often the saviour of embarrassed proprietors. At the time of the survey, from which the figures are compiled, indigo occupied of the cultivated area of the district, and in the south the factories have actually in their own cultivation 94 per cent. of the indigo-growing area. The interests held are also much more secure than in Muzaffarpur or Saran owing to the fact that in 36 per cent. of the area they are permanent. With the exception of the raiyats' interests acquired during the currency of temporary tenures, no objection can be taken to the method of acquisition and there is every hope that this security of interest, if the present depression continues, may be of service by enabling the planters to substitute other crops for indigo.

27. Mr. Kerr shows us what the village patwari is and how he lives, and contrasts the system of management in the Darbhanga Raj where the patwari is relegated to the position of an accountant, pure and simple. The evils of enhancement of rents through *jeth* raiyats without the consent of his fellow-raiyats has been already discussed in paragraphs 8 and 11.

The wish of the raiyats to have a maintenance of records by the same agency as prepared the records is again mentioned in this as in the Saran Report, and Mr. Kerr goes so far as to say that the benefit is so much appreciated that raiyats would be quite prepared to pay as much as the original cost of preparation of the original records towards the cost of their maintenance.

28. Mr. Kerr remarks on one flagrant case of an attempt to set aside the records which was detected by the Collector and reported to Government. It is also believed that suits for arrears of rent are being used as a lever for enhancement and in cases of compromise or non-appearance there seems to be reason for fearing that the rents claimed, whether legal or not, would be decreed by the courts without inquiry. Whether landlords should be compelled by law or rule, as suggested by Mr. Chapman, to file a copy of the khatian with every suit or not has already formed the subject of a report. If records were properly maintained, an amendment of the law to this effect would be most valuable, but, as Mr. Kerr points out, the remedy would only be partial unless the Civil Courts required the landlord to show in every claim for rents higher than those recorded in the khatian that the rents were legally payable, notwithstanding any compromise filed or failure of appearance of the raiyat. Thus it is very necessary for District Officers to keep an eye on the working of the law for enhancing rents, and Government may from time to time ask for reports from the District Officers in order to see whether any remedy may be devised short of transferring suits for arrears of rent from the Civil Courts to the Revenue Officers employed in maintaining the record. The reasons for increase in suits following on the operations are given in paragraph 516, but without a detailed enquiry involving examination of records it is impossible to say in how many cases the landlord was justified in his objection to the rents recorded. Possibly Government may think fit from time to time to depute an officer to hold such an examination.

29. In the last two paragraphs of his report Mr. Kerr mentions the officers who have contributed so largely to the success of this very important settlement. The progress made by the Department in improvements of procedure has been shown in many ways, from the adoption of the thana unit for the notifications of survey at the beginning to the simplified methods of the recovery system at the end of the operations. The special feature of the work has been the infinite pains taken to ascertain and record the rents legally payable and to prevent suppression of raiyats.

The credit is due to Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore and to Mr. J. H. Kerr, ably supported by Mr. W. R. Gourlay and to the fact that in all the stages they have had the assistance and support of Messrs. P. C. Lyon and C. G. H. Allen as Directors of Land Records. Mr. Lyon was himself Settlement Officer in Bihar and his experience in solving the many problems arising during the operations proved invaluable. Mr. Kerr also acknowledges the great benefits of Major Crichton's cordial co-operation and the assistance of three Collectors of Darbhanga, Messrs. Carlyle, Maddox, and Wheeler. Without the help of loyal subordinates, who have never shirked their share of responsibilities, success could not have been attained, and I venture to draw the Board's attention to the special services rendered by Babu R. C. Dutt (paragraph 232), by M. Ashfaq Hussain (paragraph 190), M. Syed Ahmed Ali Khan (paragraph 191), and by Babus Nilmoni De and Jagadis Ch. Lahiri (paragraph 280). In conclusion, I would add that Mr. J. H. Kerr deserves special commendation for his very able report and for the many and valuable suggestions which it contains.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

S. L. MADDOX,

*Offg. Director of the Dept. of Land Records
and Agriculture, Bengal.*

No. 2511-A., dated Calcutta, the 21st March 1904.

From—H. LEMESURIER, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, L. P.,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

I am directed to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, a copy of a letter no. 247S, dated the 1st February 1904, from the Director of Land

THE HON'BLE MR. L. HARR, C.I.E.

Records, Bengal, and its enclosures, forwarding, with his remarks, a copy of a Final Report on the Survey and Settlement operations of the Darbhanga district drawn up by Mr. J. H. Kerr, I.C.S., late Settlement Officer, North Bihar.

2. The report, which is most valuable and contains a mass of useful information, is an excellent one, and has been fully reviewed by Mr. Maddox, whose comments are rendered the more interesting by the fact that he was Collector of Darbhanga for some time during the latter stages of the operations.

3. The excellent organization of the management of the Darbhanga Raj, by far the greatest landlord in the district, greatly facilitated the operations and the readiness with which all papers in the Raj *Sarishta* were produced for the inspection of the Settlement Department was a good example to other landlords of the district, some of whom, however, put in obstacles in the way which were successfully overcome. The good work done by Mr. R. B. Hughes-Buller, who had been Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of inspection and general supervision of office for about one year and eight months, was quite invaluable, but he left the settlement shortly after. The omission of his name from the last paragraph of the Final Report is understood to be an oversight.

4. The advantages of the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act III of 1898 were quite noticeable in the Survey-Settlement of this district. It shortened the time taken and otherwise facilitated the operations.

Pages 58 and 63 of report, and paragraphs 1 and 9 of Director's review.

5. The Board notice with satisfaction the testimony to the value of the record-of-rights to the raiyats and the preference expressed by them for a maintenance on the lines of the original record. As regards enhancements of rents by suits disposed of *ex-parte* or by compromise, the Government will be further addressed.

Page 142 of Final Report.

6. In conclusion the Board concur in the praise given to the officers named in the concluding paragraph of the review, and would further note that the success of the operations was largely due to the helpful supervision and direction of Mr. P. C. Lyon, I.C.S., who was in charge for the first four years and eight months and brought to the work his experience gained in Muzaffarpur.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

LAND REVENUE.

DARJEELING, THE 20TH JUNE 1904.

RESOLUTION No. 1472T.—R.

READ—

The Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in the District of Darbhanga.

Letter no. 2511A., dated the 21st March 1904, from the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and letter no. 247S., dated the 1st February 1904, from the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, submitting the report.

The Report on the Survey and Settlement operations in the district of Darbhanga has been submitted by Mr. J. H. Kerr, I.C.S., who succeeded Mr. C. J. Stevenson-Moore, I.C.S., as Settlement Officer of North Bihar in July 1899. In form, it closely follows the report on the district of Saran, upon which a Resolution has recently been recorded by Government; and it is the last of the series of reports in which the proceedings, which were initiated in the year 1891 in respect of the northern districts of the Patna division, have been described and discussed.

2. Nothing could be more convincing than the present report as to the need that existed for the proceedings which have been completed in the Darbhanga district. Illegal enhancement of rent, oppression by the landlords and consequent discontent among the tenantry were found to be prevalent to a greater or less degree in nearly all parts of the district. In one large village, the property of the Madhubani Babus, the misconduct and oppression of the landlords' agents had driven the tenants into open revolt. In the large estates of Rai Ganga Prashad Singh Bahadur, the tenants to whom no proper rent receipts were given were reduced to the verge of despair by confused accounts, which showed them as hopelessly indebted to the landlord. And in pargana Padri the landlord, Babu Ganeshwar Singh, had not merely enhanced rents illegally, but had obtained from the raiyats agreements to surrender their land at the end of five years, and thus rob themselves of their most cherished rights of occupancy.

Even in the estates of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, the wealthiest zamindar in Bihar, which cover two-fifths of the district, the Lieutenant-Governor regrets to note the facts brought to light are far from creditable to the management. Except in pargana Alapura in which a record-of-rights was made by Mr. Finucane in 1876-78, illegal enhancements have been numerous in all circles of the estate since 1884, when the management passed from the Court of Wards into the hands of the late Maharaja. The raiyats complained not so much that the rates arbitrarily fixed by the Raj officials were more than they could afford to pay, but that constant changes in the rent-rolls had destroyed all sense of security. The various ways in which enhancements were effected are described in paragraphs 197 to 202 of the Settlement Officer's report. In numerous cases, the rents collected by the Raj were considerably less than the nominal demand. In all cases in which the enhancements made exceeded the limits allowed by the Tenancy Act, the Settlement Department recorded the rents which were paid by the raiyats prior to the enhancements, the Raj being left to apply for the settlement of fair rents under section 105 of the Act, if it considered such a course to be advisable. Large accumulations of arrears of rent and

discontent among the tenantry were the inevitable result of frequent temperings with the rent-rolls in some of the circles. In the Alapur pargana, on the other hand, where no attempt has been made to enhance the rents, as fixed by Mr. Finucane, collections have been practically made in full, and freedom from agrarian trouble of all kinds has prevailed. The lesson to be learned from these facts is that a good landlord will prefer the collection in full of a moderate demand to an inflated rent-roll, heavy outstandings and a discontented peasantry. It is to be hoped that this lesson will not be lost sight of.

3. The procedure followed in Darbhanga was generally the same as that adopted in Saran. The subject was discussed in paragraph 3 of the Resolution on the report concerning that district, and does not call for separate notice upon the present occasion.

4. The area of the district is 3,348 square miles; while the population, according to the Census of 1901, is 2,912,611 persons. The density of the population thus reaches the high figure of 870 persons to the square mile. Nearly 80 *per cent.* of the total area of the district is under cultivation. Of the remaining 20 *per cent.*, nearly half is not available for cultivation, being occupied by roads, rivers, sites of houses, tanks, etc.; while it is doubtful if any considerable portion of the balance, which is at present reserved for mango groves and pasturage, could be made available for cultivation. The district is dependent to a remarkable degree on its winter rice harvest, no less than 63 *per cent.* of the cultivated area being occupied by this crop. Over four-fifths of the population of the district being dependent on agriculture, it is not surprising that, when this crop fails, the stress of famine is keenly felt.

5. The record-of-rights was prepared for 3,387 villages, varying in size from 15 square miles to 2 acres, and with an average area of a little less than a square mile. Over a million separate holdings were found with an average area of just over 2 acres; while over 5½ millions of plots were recorded with an average area of two-fifths of an acre. The subdivision of proprietary rights was great, it having been found necessary in some cases to employ, minute fractions, representing the value of a *kanwa*, or $\frac{1}{69,000,000}$ of 16 annas, in order to express the interests to be recorded.

6. Few difficulties were met with in recording status. Ninety *per cent.* of the total number of holdings in the district are held by settled raiyats who have lived in their villages for generations. The percentage of the total occupied area in the possession of raiyats holding at fixed rates and occupancy raiyats is 85; the district comparing favourably in this respect with Muzaffarpur (79) and the United Provinces (from 54 to 73), but being slightly behind Saran (89) and Champaran (88). The low percentage of the area occupied by raiyats holding at fixed rates (0.6) is accounted for by the large number of enhancements which were found to have taken place, and of which mention has been made in paragraph 2 of this Resolution. The percentage of tenancies held by non-occupancy raiyats (.6) is considerably smaller than in Muzaffarpur (2), Champaran (6) and Saran (1.48).

7. In paragraph 364 of his report, the Settlement Officer estimates the probable effect of the record-of-rights on the position of petty proprietors. The increasing subdivision of proprietary rights has made it necessary for them to resort more and more to direct cultivation; and mention is made of certain villages in which the area in the occupation of landlords has increased by 180 *per cent.* within the last sixty years. Hitherto, these men have been able to maintain themselves and their families by ousting raiyats from their lands, and by making enhancements of rents. In future, owing to the existence of the record-of-rights, they will be unable to resort to either of these expedients; and the Settlement Officer anticipates that they will be forced to take to other pursuits.

8. The average incidence of rent paid by occupancy raiyats is Rs. 3-12-6, as against Rs. 2-12-3, Rs. 1-14-11 and Rs. 4-5-4 in Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Saran, respectively.

The land revenue assessment payable by the landlords is annas 6-2 per acre as against annas 9-11 in Muzaffarpur, annas 14-2 in Saran and annas 4 in Champaran; while their assets average Rs. 3-7-8, as against Rs. 3-14-8, Rs. 4-2-10 and Rs. 1-13-9, respectively, in those districts. The result, as regards the district of Darbhanga, is that the zamindars retain 88 per cent. of the assets, as against 10 per cent., which was the share of the gross produce to which they were considered to be entitled at the time of the Permanent Settlement. It is interesting to notice, in this connection, that the Darbhanga Raj pays Government revenue amounting to Rs. 1,05,105 in respect of lands situated in the Darbhanga district; while the gross rental derived from such lands according to the Road Cess valuation papers amounts to Rs. 28,99,424.

9. Rents were settled for only a little over 5 per cent. of the raiyati holdings of the district, the resulting increase in the rental being 12 per cent. Of the amount decreed, 86 per cent. was due to the assessment of excess area and only 14 per cent. to actual enhancements of rates.

10. In Chapter IV, Part II of the report, the Settlement Officer has given a full and interesting account of the material resources of the agricultural classes. The average size of the cultivator's holding (3.6 acres) is well above the subsistence limit (2½ acres). The conditions of the district are, however, special. As noticed above, it is dependent on a single crop; and, though, in ordinary years, it might support a slightly larger population than at present, a reduction in the average size of the holdings would probably involve disastrous results in the event of a general failure of the winter rice. Apart from occasional failures of this crop, the chief hindrance to progress and prosperity has, as indicated in paragraph 2 of this Resolution, been the uncertainty that has hitherto existed as to the rent demand.

11. The net cost of the operations amounted to Rs. 14,17,136; the incidence being Rs. 429 per square mile, or about annas 10.8 per acre. The cost of the proceedings was thus lower than in Saran, where the rate worked out to annas 11.3 per acre, but considerably higher than in Muzaffarpur and Champaran, where it amounted to annas 8-8 and annas 6-6, respectively, per acre. The heavy expenditure in Darbhanga is explained by the Settlement Officer in paragraphs 148 and 271 of the report, and was mainly due to an unavoidable curtailment of the programme of 1899-1900.

12. The conspicuous success which has attended recovery operations in North Bihar has been surpassed in Darbhanga, where the entire demand was collected, and practically the whole of the amount due from the raiyats was paid by them voluntarily. In paragraph 11 of the Resolution on the Saran report, it was mentioned that popular opinion was in favour of periodical revision by highly-paid officers in preference to annual revision by a subordinate agency. Paragraphs 509 and 510 of the present report show that the same views prevail in Darbhanga. This question is, at the present time, under the consideration of the Government of India, and it will suffice here merely to draw attention to the remarks of the Settlement Officer.

13. A noticeable result of the operations has been the increase in the number of suits for arrears of rent, which amounted to 15,243 in 1902, as against an average of between 3,000 and 4,000 per annum prior to the year 1900. A special enquiry was made on the subject by the Special Judge appointed under the Tenancy Act; and the conclusions arrived at by him were that, although there had been some dissatisfaction on the part of the landlords with the rates of rent fixed by the Settlement Department, the increase was due chiefly to other facts, viz., (1) that raiyats withheld rent while the operations were in progress in order to ascertain what rates would be settled, and (2) that the landlords now have a record on which they can safely rely in order to prove the relationship of landlord and tenant, whereas previously they were deterred from litigation by the fear that

the papers filed by them would not be accepted as trustworthy by the courts. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the Resolution on the Saran report, the question of the increase in the number of rent suits in the surveyed districts will continue to engage the careful attention of Government.

14. Several very important questions, which have been raised in the report of the Settlement Officer, remain to be considered. The first of them relates to Miscellaneous questions. the attempts which have been made by several landlords of the district to annul the effect of the record-of-rights in respect of rents payable and the status of tenants by the filing of deeds of compromise in cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act. This matter is discussed in paragraphs 261 to 267 of the Settlement Officer's report. Hitherto, the action of the Settlement Department in refusing to recognise such deeds, where they appeared to contravene the spirit of the Act, has been upheld by the superior courts. The subject is one, however, which will require close and constant attention. Other and more insidious methods of evading the provisions of the Act are those described in paragraphs 511 and 512 of the report, viz., (1) the taking of agreements from the raiyats at rates in excess of those allowed by the law, and (2) the securing of decrees in rent suits, either *ex parte* in the absence of the raiyats concerned, or on their admission, or on compromise. Government has already used its influence to secure the cancellation of a large number of illegally executed agreements; but the subject is one which will require continued attention. The question as to what, if any, remedy is called for in cases of the second class is at present under the consideration of the Board, and will shortly be referred by them to Government.

15. It remains for the Lieutenant-Governor to express his high appreciation of the services rendered by the officers who brought these operations to a successful conclusion. His Honour's thanks are specially due to Messrs. Lyon and Allen, who were in charge of the Settlement Department, and to Major Crichton, who was Superintendent of Provincial Surveys, during the progress of the proceedings. Much assistance also was afforded by Messrs. Carlyle, Maddox and Wheeler, who, in their capacity of District Officer, cordially co-operated with the Settlement and Survey Departments. The Settlement Officers were Messrs. Stevenson-Moore and Kerr. Both these officers worked with marked zeal and ability; and they were ably supported by Messrs. Hughes-Buller and Gourlay, Assistant Settlement Officers in charge.

16. His Honour has noticed with pleasure the long list of Native officers to whom the Settlement Officer ascribes a large share of the success of the operations. Of Assistant Settlement Officers, Maulvi Mohiuddin Ahmad, Maulvi Ashfaq Hosain, Babu Atul Chandra Kerr, Babu Charu Chandra Kumar, Babu Bepin Behari Banerji, Pandit Ram Ballabh Misra, Maulvi Syed Ahmad Ali Khan, Babu Probodh Chandra Chatterjee, Mr. S. S. Day, Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt, Babu Nilmoni De, Babu Khetra Busan Prasad and Babu Jagdish Chandra Lahiri are noticed as deserving of special commendation; while Babu Suresh Chandra Deb and Maulavi Zahurul Hussain are mentioned as having done excellent work as Khanapuri Kanungos.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

A. EARLE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 1111—260-2, dated Simla, the 5th August 1904.

From—L. ROBERTSON, Esq, I.C.S., Under-Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

In reply to your letter no. 1497-T.—R., dated the 22nd June last, I am directed to say that the Government of India approve of the issue of the Resolution prepared under the orders of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the final report on the survey and record-of-rights in the Darbhanga district. I am also to express their concurrence in the commendation bestowed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the officers who conducted these operations and to say that they share his satisfaction with the results.