

FINAL REPORT
ON THE
OPERATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION
OF A
RECORD OF RIGHTS

IN

PARGANA PORAHAT.

Handwritten signature
DISTRICT SINGHBHUM.

1905-1907.

BY

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Settlement Officer.



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APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

FORM OF THE RECORD-OF-RIGHTS.

The Manki.

1. Who is the Manki?
2. What are his duties?
3. Is he liable to ejection?
4. If so, under what circumstances?
5. In such a case what custom is observed in appointing a successor?

[*Note*—'Successor' has unfortunately been translated by *waris*, but the question answered is that given in English and a note is made in the record (15).]

6. Has a Manki ever been dismissed in this *pir*?
7. Does he hold under a *patta*?
8. If so, what are the terms?
9. Is he entitled by custom to get a *patta*?
10. What is his remuneration?
11. Has the office always remained in the same family?
12. If not, what changes have taken place and by what circumstances were they caused?
13. Whilst the office remains within the same family, does it devolve by a regular rule of succession, or is the most suitable member of the family selected on each vacancy?
14. In the latter case, who makes the selection?

II.—The headman (Munda, Pradhan, Ganjhu or Thikadar).

15. Who is the headman?
16. Does he hold under a *patta*?
17. If so, what are the terms?
18. Is he entitled by custom to get a *patta*?
19. Has he a right to be re-appointed† at the next settlement if he has observed the conditions of the *patta*?
20. Is he a descendant of the original settlers in the village?
21. If the office† has not always remained in the same family, what changes have taken place, and by what circumstances were they caused?
22. Whilst the office remains within the same family, does it devolve by a regular rule of succession, or is the most suitable member of the family selected on each vacancy?
23. In the latter case, who makes the selection?
24. What are the rights and duties of the headman as regards police matters, collection of *rasad*, trees, jungle and waste lands, construction and repair of schools and alienation of his office?
25. Can the rent payable by him be enhanced during the currency of the settlement? If so, on what grounds?
26. Is he entitled to claim a reduction of such rental during the currency of the settlement on the ground of *fauti* (death), *ferari* (desertion), flood or drought?
27. Is he liable to ejection?
28. If so, under what circumstances?
29. To what penalties is he liable for non-payment of rent on due dates?
30. If a headman is dismissed,† what custom is observed in appointing† a successor? Is selection limited to residents or to aborigines if fit persons are available?
31. Has a headman ever been ejected from this village?
32. Has this village ever been held *khas*, *s.s.*, without a headman?
33. Is the headman entitled by custom to get receipts for payments made by him to the *samiandar* or tenure-holder under whom he holds?
34. What is his remuneration?

† *Note*.—These terms, as shown in the report (§§ 62, 242) do not quite correctly represent the headman's position which is rather a tenure from which he can be ejected only by the Court.

III.—Khuntkattidars.

35. Are there any *Mundari khuntkattidars* in the village? If so, who?
36. Are there any tenants, other than *Mundaris* who are entitled to special privileges on the ground that they are descendants of the original clearers of the soil?
37. If so, to what special privileges are they entitled?

IV.—Tenants.

38. Can any class of cultivator in this village clear waste land without permission?
39. Whose permission is required by those not so privileged?
40. When the headman makes a settlement of waste land, is the consent of any other person necessary?
41. Has any class of persons a preferential right?

2. Is salami taken ?
43. Are reclaimed lands held rent-free for any number of years ? If so, for how many years ?
44. What is the procedure when the term ends ?
45. To whom must notice of relinquishment of land by cultivators be given ?
46. Who makes settlement of vacant lands ?
47. Is the consent of any other person necessary ?
48. Is there any custom that vacant land should be first offered to residents of the village in which it is situated ?
49. In the matter of settlement of vacant lands have the aborigines and, if so, what class of them prior rights to dikus ?
50. When vacant land is settled with a raiyat—
 - (i) Is salami taken ? If so, in what cases ?
 - (ii) Is the rate of rent enhanced ?
 - (iii) Is he treated precisely as an old raiyat ?
51. What is the prevalent idea as regards occupancy right ?
52. Is any difference recognised between the rights of a Pahi (non-resident) and Dehi (resident) cultivator ?
53. Is rent paid for homesteads, fruit groves, water stores, threshing floors, and manure pits ?
54. May a threshing floor or manure pit be made by a cultivator outside his holding ?
55. If so, under what conditions ?
56. Can a cultivator convert his upland into rice land without permission ?
57. Can a cultivator make tanks and bandhs without obtaining the consent of the zamindar or tenure-holder or village headman ? If so, in what lands ?
58. Who is liable for maintenance of tanks and bandhs ?
59. Can a cultivator plant trees without permission—
 - (a) on his holding ?
 - (b) outside his holding ?
60. If not, whose permission is necessary ?
61. How can a raiyat be ejected ?
62. If a raiyat's holding is sold up, does he lose his house as well ?
63. Can the rate of rent be enhanced during the currency of the settlement ?
64. Can a raiyat sell his holding ?
65. Mortgage it ? Is the consent of the landlord necessary ?
66. Sub-let it ? If so, to what restrictions is he subject ? Is the consent of the landlord necessary ?
67. Otherwise dispose of it ?
68. Is a raiyat entitled to—
 - (i) Patta ?
 - (ii) Rent receipt ?

V.—Sairat.

69. A *Jalkar* (fisheries). Who has any right to fish in a bandh or stream in the village ?
- B *Bankar* and *Phalkar*.
70. Where do the villagers get—
 - (a) Fuel ?
 - (b) Timber for construction and repair of their houses ?
 - (c) Timber for the construction and repair of their agricultural implements ?
 - (d) Timber for the construction and repair of the implements of their trade ?
 - (e) Sabai, chop-fibre, fruit and other uncultivated forest produce ?
71. Are they legally bound to make any payment ? If so, at what rates and to whom ?
 - (a) For the fuel and timber required for their own use ?
 - (b) For the timber required for the construction of agricultural implements ?
 - (c) For the timber and fuel required for use in their handicraft ?
 - (d) For mahua taken for their own use ?
 - (e) For mahua taken for sale ?
 - (f) For fruit taken from trees standing on their own holdings for their own use ?
 - (g) For fruit taken from trees standing on their own holdings for sale ?
 - (h) For fruit taken from jungle or waste lands for their own use ?
 - (i) For fruit taken from jungle or waste land for sale ?
 - (j) For other uncultivated forest produce (state details) ?
 - (k) For other uncultivated forest produce taken for sale. (If so, state details) ?

72. What are the rights of a villager in trees or bamboos planted by himself or his ancestor?—

- (a) Has he an exclusive right to the enjoyment of leaves and fruits?
- (b) May he sell the leaves and fruit?
- (c) May he sell bamboos?
- (d) May he cut such trees green—
 - (i) if fruit-bearing?
 - (ii) if not fruit-bearing?
- (e) Has he an exclusive right to the dead wood?
- (f) May he sell the timber either green or dry?

73. Who may enjoy the leaves and fruit of self-sown trees generally—

- (a) on cultivated land?
- (b) on homestead land?
- (c) on waste land or in jungle?

74. Is there any special custom (and if so, what) regarding the produce of—

- (a) mahua trees?
- (b) any other trees?

75. Who may enjoy the timber of self-sown trees?

- (a) on cultivated land?
- (b) on homestead land?
- (c) on waste land or in jungle?

76. What trees are usually spared in clearing land for cultivation?

77. Is any permission of either zamindar or headman necessary—

- (i) to the cutting of any tree—
 - (a) in clearing land?
 - (b) for the construction and repair of houses?
 - (c) for the construction and repair of agricultural implements?
 - (d) for the construction or repair of implements of trade?
 - (e) for fuel?
- (ii) to the collection (*lens ka wats*) of sabai, chop—fibre, fruit and other uncultivated jungle produce?

78. Is custom opposed to the cutting of any particular species of trees, unless absolutely necessary?

79. What are the rights of the zamindars as regards sale of—

- (a) timber?
- (b) fuel?
- (c) other uncultivated forest produce?

80. What are the rights of the tenants as regards sale of—

- (a) timber?
- (b) fuel?
- (c) other uncultivated forest produce?

81. What is the custom regarding trees in jahiras?

Lac.

82. Is lac cultivated in this village?

83. On what kind of trees?

84. Is the cultivator legally bound to make payment to zamindar or headman for the cultivation of lac—

- (a) on self-sown trees?
- (b) on trees planted by himself or his ancestor?

85. At what stage does the cultivator become liable to make it?

86. What are the rates?

87. Has a tenant to obtain permission to cultivate lac on trees?—

- (a) planted by himself or his ancestor?
- (b) self sown trees—
 - (i) in jungle or in waste land?
 - (ii) on his own land?
 - (iii) on the homestead land of another raiyat?
 - (iv) on the other land of another raiyat?

88. Do the inhabitants of other villages cultivate lac in this village? If so, how are trees allotted to them?

89. What other customs exist with regard to the distribution of trees?

Tasar.

90. Is tasar grown in this village ?
91. Is the cultivator legally bound to make any payment to zamindar or headman ?
92. If so, at what rate ?
93. Do the inhabitants of other villages cultivate tasar in this village ?
94. If so, is there any difference in the rate payable by them ?
95. How are the trees distributed ?
96. Are the fees collected khas ?
97. If not, what remuneration, if any, does the headman receive for making collection ?
98. Have the villagers the right to graze their cattle free of cost in all the jungle and waste lands of the village and on the cultivated lands of the village whilst such are temporarily fallow ?
99. Have they similar rights over the lands of the neighbouring villages ?

C.—Minerals.

100. Can a villager use the minerals of the village—
 - (a) for himself ?
 - (b) for sale ?
 - (c) in the pursuit of his occupation ?
101. Is he entitled to the free use of minerals—
 - (a) for himself ?
 - (b) for sale ?
 - (c) for the purpose of his occupation ?
102. If not, at what rates does he have to pay when he takes them ?
103. Can a villager utilise the earth of his holding for making bricks for his house ?
104. Can he take limestone to turn it into lime for his personal use ?
105. Is any one's consent necessary ?
106. What is payable, and to whom ?
107. Can he take it for sale ?

VI.—Miscellaneous incidents.

108. Is the headman or any villager or any class of villagers legally bound to pay any of the following dues ? If so, to whom and at what rate ?—
 - (i) chapparbandi.
 - (ii) tantkar (on looms).
 - (iii) kamarkar (on iron workers).
 - (iv) kumharkar (on potters).
 - (v) ghanikar (on oil presses).
 - (vi) mahalikar (on basket makers).
 - (vii) dalakar (dues realised from traders who barter goods or paddy).
 - (viii) patta-salami.
 - (ix) dasahara salami.
 - (x) dasahara or jantal goat.
 - (xi) shadikar (on bridegrooms).
 - (xii) kulikar (on returned emigrants).
 - (xiii) any other dues (to be specified below).
109. Are they legally bound to render bethbegari (forced labour) ? If so, state details.
110. General remarks.

APPENDIX II(A).

NOTIFICATION.

No. 5282L.R.—The 30th November 1905.—In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 101 (1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, as extended to the Chota Nagpur Division, excepting the district of Manbhūm, by Notification No. 721L.R., dated 9th February 1903, published at page 172 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th idem, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to direct that a record-of-rights shall be prepared in respect of all lands in the Porahat Estate and its allied tenures of Anandpur, Kera, Bandgaon and Chainpur, and also in villages Sitahaka, Simidiri, Samrai and Dalki, the property of the Chief of the Kharsuan State in the district of Singhbhum.

The particulars to be recorded in the record-of-rights shall be the following:—

(a) the customary rights, powers and duties of the zamindar or tenure-holder and in particular his right—

- (i) to levy Dalkati, Tantkar, Kamarkar, Dalakar, Lohkar, Mahakar, Patta Salami, Dasahara and Jantal goats, Jangalkar, Ghanikar, Mahalikar, Shadikar, Kulikar, and other dues of a like nature and the rates at which he is by custom entitled to levy such dues;

- (ii) to exact Bethbegari or forced labour ;
- (iii) to cut fruit-bearing and other trees and to obtain jungle produce either for his own use or for sale ;
- (iv) to grant or refuse permission to headmen and tenants to make bāndhs and tanks ;
- (v) to dismiss and appoint headmen ;
- (vi) to eject tenants ;
- (vii) to grant or refuse settlement of waste or vacant lands to tenants ;
- (viii) to fisheries ;
- (ix) to accept or refuse relinquishments of their holdings by tenants ;

(b) the status, rights, powers and duties, according to custom of the village headmen known by the name of Mundas, Ganjhus, Pradhans or Thikadars and in particular—

- (i) whether they are entitled to hold at fixed rates as khuntkattidars ;
- (ii) whether they have a right to be reappointed at the next settlement if they have observed the conditions of the patta and the record of-rights ;
- (iii) their power as regards the settlement of waste and vacant lands ;
- (iv) their power to grant or refuse permission to tenants to make tanks and bāndhs ;
- (v) their power to accept or refuse relinquishments of their lands by tenants ;
- (vi) their power to eject tenants for non-payment of rents ;

(c) the customary rights and duties of tenants and, in particular, their right—

- (i) to hold homesteads, fruit groves, water stores, threshing-floors and manure pits rent-free ;
- (ii) to sublet their holdings ;
- (iii) to settlement of waste or vacant lands according as they are aborigines or non-aborigines, resident or non-resident ;
- (iv) to reclaim lands and to convert uplands into embanked rice lands and to hold newly reclaimed lands at special rates ;
- (v) to the fruit, leaves and timber of fruit and other trees according as they stand within their holdings or on village waste land or were self-sown or planted by themselves, their ancestors or others ;
- (vi) to cut or otherwise use trees in *jahiras* or *sarnas* ;
- (vii) to obtain timber, firewood, bamboos, leaves, stone and other jungle products for their own use or for sale, either raw or manufactured from the jungles in their own or other villages ;
- (viii) to rear lac and silkworms ;
- (ix) to graze cattle in their own or other villages ;
- (x) to fisheries ;
- (xi) to make tanks and bāndhs ;
- (xii) in mango and other groves ;

and their duties as regards—

- (i) repair of tanks and bāndhs ;
- (ii) performance of labour free or at special rates for the zamindar or tenure-holders

(d) Nature and extent of the rights of Government and of private persons in or over the forest produce or waste land as referred to in Notification No. 3586 Forest, dated the 17th July 1894, published at page 779, Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 18th idem, and as provided by section 28 of the Forest Act ;

(e) any other custom or matter regulating the powers, rights and duties of the zamindars, headmen and tenants in general.

APPENDIX II(B).

NOTIFICATION.

No. 955 T.R.—The 30th April 1906.—In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 101 (1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, as extended to the Chota Nagpur Division, excepting the district of Manbhum, by Notification No 721 L.R., dated the 9th February 1903, published at page 172 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th idem, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to direct that, in addition to the particulars to be recorded in the record-of-rights which is being prepared in respect of all lands in the Porahat Estate and its allied tenures of Anandpur, Kera, Bandgaon, and Chainpur, and also in villages Sitahaka, Simidiri, Samrai and Dalki, the property of the Chief of the Kharsawan State in the district of Singhbhum, in accordance with Notification No. 3282 L.R., dated the 30th November 1905, published on pages 1995-96, Part I of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th December 1905, the following shall be recorded—

“(f) The right of tenants to hold lands on special condition as Khuntkattidars.”

APPENDIX III(A).

No. 3283L.R.—The 30th November 1905.—Under section 3(17) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, as extended to the Chota Nagpur Division, except the district of Manbhum, by Notification No. 721L.R., dated the 9th February 1903, published at page 172 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 11th idem, Mr. A. N. Moberly, i.c.s., Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is authorised to discharge the functions of a Revenue-officer, under the provisions of that Act so far as they relate to Revenue-officers, for the purposes of the preparation of a record-of-rights in the Porahat Estate and its allied tenures of Anandpur, Kera, Bandgaon, and Chainpur, and also in villages Sitahaku, Simidiri, Samrai and Dalki, the property of the Chief of the Kharsanan State, in the district of Singhbhum.

He is also vested with the powers of a Settlement Officer under Rule 1, Chapter II of the rules under the Bengal Tenancy Act, for the Chota Nagpur Division, except the district of Manbhum, in respect of the said estate and its tenures and the villages.

Note.—The notification applies to the whole of pargana Porahat except the "railway lands" which are not within the "Porahat Estate."

APPENDIX III(B).

NOTIFICATION.

No. 2818L.R.—The 7th November 1906.—In the same terms as Notification No. 3283L.R., of 30th November 1905, Mr. T. S. Macpherson, i.c.s., Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed "*vide* Mr. A. N. Moberly, i.c.s., on leave."

APPENDICES III (C) AND III (D).

Notification—No. 146T.R., of 20th April 1906—Regarding Babu Rajani Kanta Sen Sub-Deputy Collector, and Notification No. 138L.R., of 8th January 1907, regarding Babu Jyoti Prasad Das, Sub-Deputy Collector, are in the same terms as the Notification detailed in Appendix III (A).

APPENDIX IV(A).

Translation of Patta of Khas Porahat Estate (including Bandgaon) in the settlement of 1880-81.

In accordance with your expectation, thika has been given to you of village _____ in _____ (name of pir), Pargana Porahat, extending to _____ bails⁽¹⁾ from _____ the jurisdiction of _____ 1880-81 to 1899-1900, a period of 20 years, at the rate of Rupees four⁽²⁾ per hāl of five khandis⁽³⁾ paran. Every year, and kist by kist you shall pay to Government without objection Rupees _____ being the rent of your village according to the terms of your agreement. Out of the total rent realised, you shall take for your commission (*nala*) $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas [and *manki nala* $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, total annas four per rupee⁽⁴⁾]. No excuse on your part of flood, drought or 'ferari' will be listened to—the Government rent will be realised from you without (right of) objection. Should the Government rent fall into arrears, Government will realise what is due by attaching and putting to auction whatever property you own. Should you fail to pay the rent on due date or your character (*asharan*) be bad, Government, having ejected you from the thika, will make settlement with somebody else. To the further assessment (*durra bandobast*) that Government will make after the expiry of the present one you have no (right of) objection. You shall be loyal to Government, and carry out all orders in accordance with the terms of the patta. Whenever any crimes, serious or trivial, occur in your elaka, you shall immediately arrest and produce the offender at the thana of Government with the stolen property, etc., and you shall not give shelter to any bad character in your village. Whenever an army or regiment of the sarkar arrives in your elaka, you will arrange for whatever rasad, etc., is required. And on such new cultivation (*i.e.*, embanked land) as will be made in your elaka, you will, till the expiry of the period, take (not more than) one rupee per hāl of five khandis paran. A list of parjas in the village of your thika, with particulars of the holding of each and the rent of it is given below this patta. [And you shall not in any way interfere with the land which has been given to (entered in the name of) the several raiyats at the time of assessment, but the entries have been made with the consent of yourself and your heirs⁽⁵⁾]. Therefore this patta has been executed to be of use in future.

[Then follows a statement of the area, the amount payable by the headman at each of the three kists in the Sadant Pira, and at the Magh rent day in the Kolhan Pira, and a specification of boundaries with a list showing tenants and the embanked land held by each with the rent thereon.]

APPENDIX IV (B).

Translation of patta of Kera Estate for the year 1880-81.

PATTA in favour of Saugar Munda, etc.—In accordance with your expectation, the *pradhani thika* with a patta on the following conditions has been given to you for the period of 20 years, beginning from 1288 up to 1307, in respect of village _____, pargana Kera, zilla, etc.,

in accordance with boundaries entered below, the area of the lands being (on the basis of a measurement of a bigha by a rope 100 cubits long and 50 bighas, or fifty maunds paran to the hāl) 11·3 hāls (after excluding *gharbari* and *gora* (upland) and sugarcane lands, the remainder 11·8 hāls) at the rate of fifty rupees a hāl, producing a total annual rent of Rs. , and a *dasahara salami* of one rupee and two rupees *salami* at the time of taking the *patta* (for which *salami a patta* and *kabuliyat* will be registered in the sarkari dafter) in all Rs. , according to the *jamabandi* given below.

1. You must pay the zamindar (*sarkar*) the assessed rent each year, and kist by kist, without objection; if you fail to do so, you will be liable to legal proceedings. On the whole rental you shall take your *pradhani minhai* at the rate of two annas per rupee.

The Commissioner in forwarding copy of the patta asked the Deputy Commissioner to use his influence to have the patta and kabuliyat registered.

2. No excuse of yours for not paying the rent on the ground of *fauti*, *ferari*, flood, drought, or the like, will be listened to.

3. You shall not realise any rent from the raiyats at a higher rate than has been settled. When a raiyat prepares new cultivation, you shall not take rent for it for five years. After five years you shall take (rent) till the term of the *patta* at half the rate which shall have been settled for (old lands in) the pargana. You shall never take from the raiyats rent for *dihbari*, *gora* and sugarcane lands, and you shall not interfere with such trees (mahua mango, jack and other trees) as are in the possession of raiyats.

4. You shall not be able, without my consent, to alienate by sale, gift or settlement your *pradhani* rights.

5. Should any raiyat abscond or relinquish his holding, you shall be entitled to settle it with another raiyat at the current rate.

6. Should any outsider come and settle in your village, you may not take away the land of any old raiyat to give to him. Should he (new raiyat) reclaim any new lands, he shall enjoy them free of rent for the first five years, but after that period rent will be realised from him at half the current rate [and the rent will be realised by you and paid to me*].

*I do not find the clause in the original patta in some villages e.g., Hatnatodang.

7. Should an old raiyat desire to reclaim new land, he will be entitled to do so without either your permission or mine. Should you yourself desire to reclaim any new lands, you shall be able to do so, and hold them rent-free till the term of the *patta*. Should you let any part of your own holding to any new raiyat, you shall take for it the rent that has been assessed on it, and shall in no case enhance it.

8. You shall carefully guard the jungle and *rakha* jungle, the trees, mango, mahua, and jack, etc., which are within your borders. When the raiyats or you require (wood) for agricultural purposes, for house-building, or making carts, or for fuel, etc., you are entitled to cut all trees, except those in the *rakha* jungle, but without reason you may not damage any tree. If in the aforesaid village there should be (*rahe*) no thatching grass, bamboos, or timber, you shall be entitled to take them from other villages with my consent.

9. Should any wood, etc., be required for my house, you shall have it conveyed to me, free of cost, on payment of wages of labour (cutting and carrying).

10. Whenever any crime, serious or trivial, is committed in your village, you shall inform me, and forthwith arrest and produce the offender before the police with the stolen property, etc., You shall not give refuge to any thief, proclaimed offender, or bad character. Should there be any negligence or lack of diligence on your part in the discharge of this duty, the responsibility will be upon you.

11. Should any Government troops come into my elaka, you shall have arrangements made for whatever rasad is required, and must carefully cause to be carried out at once, without objection, whatever order or orders of Government are issued to you.

12. After the expiry of the term of this settlement (*bandobast*) if you consent to the new rate that will be fixed by panahayat or in accordance with the law in force, and if you shall have faithfully fulfilled the above conditions, then the new settlement will again be made with you or your heir.

13. You shall take half of whatever income (sometimes *dalkati mahsul*, sometimes *andani* is the term used) there will be from *dalkati* in the aforesaid village, and will regularly pay the other half to me.

14. Should you infringe the conditions specified above, or oppress the raiyats, or fail to pay the kists of rent, or realise any rent from the raiyats by oppressive methods, then with the sanction of the Court* you will be ejected from your *pradhani*, wherefore, after *kabuliyat* was taken this *patta* was given to be of use when necessary.

*The only Court was that of the Deputy Commissioner as Chief of Porahat.

Let it be noted here, regarding the *pradhani nala*, that without the consent of the Commissioner Sahab Bahadur, I have been pleased to grant two pice more as *minhai* for the term of the present settlement, that is, annas 2-6 per rupee, an addition of two pice for you.

[Boundaries, *jamabandi*, the three kists, and names of witnesses follow.]

APPENDIX V.

Statistics of Headmen in the Pargana.

ESTATE.	No. of villages.	No. of villages without headmen.	No. of villages, with headmen.			HEADMEN—				REMARKS.
			Diku a.	Abori- ginal. b.	Total. c.	Of village family.		Not of village family.		
						Diku a.	Abori- ginal. b.	Diku a.	Abori- ginal. b.	
1	2	3	4			5		6		7
Khas Porahat— (a) Kolhan Pirs	233	1	14	(a) 218	232	6	(c) 192	(b) 8	(a)(b) 26	(a) Includes two Tamarias. (b) Of those 34, 8 are descendants of headmen who have resettled deserted villages. Of the others, several of both classes have been introduced by the village family to help to maintain the settlement (see Appendix VI). (c) Includes 3 given khuntkatti rights on adoption into the village family. (d) All ejected since 1900: most since 1903, (see note below). (e) In two cases there are two headmen in the villages in one of which one headman is a Ho. (f) Nearly all are descendants of families who resettled the villages just after the Mutiny. (g) Nakti is held by the lakhrajdar; two villages (uninhabited) never had headmen; others recently made khas on analogy of Raja Narpal Singh's estate, including 1½ held by auction-purchaser. (h) One village Kurulia II, has three relatives as joint headmen and one, Padampur, two headmen, one a diku and one an aboriginal. Hathia has two headmen. (i) Excludes one khorposh village resumed recently. (j) 41 are held on clearing-lease, being in many cases resettled villages: in 19 of them rent has not yet been assessed. (k) A large number are deserted villages completely resettled by the present headmen themselves, and in a few cases by their fathers or grandfathers (section 301). (l) Of the 46 aboriginals, 7 are Sonthals, 6 Bhunj, 1 Kharia, 1 Oraon, 7 Hos and 24 Mundaris. (m) Most of these are in the Sadant Pir. (n) Includes one village where there is a pradhan and a muoda. (o) One village is khas and run by son of khorposhdar (under Encumbered Estates), as no tenant will accept the headmanship besides one is practically run by him. (p) Five of them long or always khas, being held by tenure-holders who have only one village; one is held by a servant; half of one village is held for the Thakur. (q) Illegal mukarraris given by Sukhlal Singh were cancelled by Government but out of commiseration the purchaser were permitted to remain as mundas. (r) All resettled villages; two recently, one very long ago. (s) Includes 3 headmen recently appointed by Deputy Commissioner in fiscal divisions of Chainpur village which was formerly khas. (t) The excess of 3 in 5 (b) and 6 (b) over 4 (b) is explained in (e) (h) and (u) above. (u) See (e) and (h) above.
(b) Sadant Pirs...	134½	(d) 44½	63	27	90	(e) 43 (+1)	(e) 25	(f) 20	(f) 3	
(c) Under-tenures in Sadant Pirs.	18½	(g) 8½	(h) 10	1 (h)	10	6 (+2) (h) (x1) (h)	1	4	...	
(d) Kharsawan...	4	...	4	...	4	2	...	2	...	
I (a) Anandpur Khas.	(j) 133	(i) 17	70	46	116	36	(l) 36	(k) 34	(k)(l) 10	
(b) Under-tenures	6	1½	4½	...	4½	1	...	3½	...	
III (a) Kera Khas	68	...	29	39	68	11	37	(m) (n) 18	(n) 3	
(b) J. N. Singh Khorposhdar.	8	(o) 1	1	6	7	...	5	1	(o) 1	
(c) Other Under-tenures.	14	(p) 6	5	3	8	1	3	4	...	
V Bandgaon ...	37	1	(q) 3	33	36	...	30	(g) 3	(r) 3	
V Chainpur ...	22	1	16	5	21	7	3	(s) 9	2	
TOTAL ...	678	81½	219½	377(t)	596½	113 (+4)(u)	332(t)	106½	48(t)	

NOTE.—Porahat Sadant Pirs (column 3). Of the 44½ villages of Raja Narpal Singh in the Sadant Pirs which are khas, none were khas in 1896. Of the headmen ejected, 27 are descendants of the founders of the village (several of the villages had moreover been held by the ancestors of the headmen as lakhiraj, for one or two lives for loyal services in the Mutiny) and of the 18 others, 14 held the village from immediately after the Mutiny, (one for loyal services). At the Mutiny, Porahat and a tola of it only and perhaps Chakardharpur were khas. There have been changes in the line of headmen in four only of these villages since the Mutiny:—[In two villages, the zamindar has wrongfully installed two outsiders as headman after taking large salami from them.]

Ejected headmen —	
Of village family	...
Not of village family—	...
Holding since Mutiny	14 (including Rajgaon.)
Change in line since Mutiny	4 (including Asentalia.)

APPENDIX VI.

Kolhan Pirs—Statistics of Mundas.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pir.	No. of villages.	Munda of village family.	Munda not of village family.	Munda, a Mundari or Ho (H).	No. of villages where there are Mundari khuntkattidars.	REMARKS (c. §196).
Gudri ...	52	39	13(a)	47(M)	49	(a) Includes one Rautia who got the village at the Mutiny; the Jogi who was chosen for Jalmai (with its present offshoot Gandekeda) by the bhaiyads; two changed owing to the Birsa disturbances (§ 245). In Temna, the bhaiyads sent for a man of their own kili from another village, and in Tumranga resident parja was chosen by the bhaiyads of Gudri, who are the non-resident khuntkattidars. The others are resettled villages. One Rautia joined with Mundaris in making the village.
Taring ...	36	29	7(b)	33(M)	34	(b) Tamarias 2. See Appendix V(a). Khuntkattidars lost one by fraud, the other from poverty. A Bhogta took up a deserted village as did also one Mundari. In the other three the bhaiyads gave up the mundaship from poverty.
Mandrugutu ...	17	16	1(c)	17(M)	16	(c) Practically the originator of the present village in which a resident of a neighbouring village merely held goras when the munda occupied the village.
Mugra ...	23	22	1(d)	21(M)2(H)	21	(d) Kurjuli, where the sons of the Ho khuntkatti munda declined.
Mugra ...	17	16[18+8](e)	1(f)[4-3](e)	17(M)	16	(e) In these three villages the bhaiyads adopted the present Munda's family, in one on purchase of khuntkatti right.
Mirka— M—Jate ...	38	30	8(g)	27(H)	28	(f) Successive kilis have tried to maintain the village. (g) Rautias hold 4 of these villages, two being resettled, one an adjacent village, one to which they were called in by the village family (in one case holding one-third of the village separately), two are Mundari villages resettled by Hos, and two are resettled Mundari villages.
M—Kamai ...	15	12	3(h)	15	12	(h) Resettled by Christians.
M—Pansuan ...	7	7	.....	7(H)	.....	.....
M—Golkera ...	13(i)	12(j)	.....	1, 10(H)	.....	(i) Golkera Bazar is a mere bazar separated from Golykera in 1902, and has never had a headman.
M—Mudruan ...	15	15	.....	1(M)14(H)	1	(j) Includes one Bhuin.
Total ...	233	198	34	216(M 179, H 37)	177*	(*) The Mundas are Mundaris (including Tamarias) 169, of whom 154 are of the village family. Dikus 8.

NOTE.—Villages held by Dikus 14, among whom are Rautias 10, Jogi 2 (held by one person—see above) Bhuia 1, Bhogta 1. Rautias held 4 villages, assisted in founding one, and a Bhuia founded one. The Jogi and one Rautia each hold two adjacent villages, the only cases in the pirs where a headman held two villages, and these are special cases. Tamarias 2.

* For the other 72 villages containing Mundari Khuntkattidari tenanciers, see § 267.

APPENDIX VII.

Demarcation of Protected Forest blocks in Khas Porahat (see § 259.)

I HAVE the honour to submit the following brief report on the demarcation of the 25 "large" blocks of protected forest in Porahat.**

2. The method which I followed was to take an amin with me and show him the points between which the lines were to be cut. The lines were then cut, and I subsequently went round them a second time to see that they had been properly done. I had difficulty in getting a sufficient number of amins at first, with the result that I had to give the duty of line-cutting to men to whom I had not personally shown the points. This involved a certain amount of subsequent correction which I was unable as a rule to check personally, and the lines in Block II and part of Block III were not completed until after I had left that part of the estate, and I was consequently unable to go round them.

3. It may, I think, be pointed out here that the lines as cut by me are not necessarily final, and the Forest Department, may if it sees fit, vary them by excluding some areas or taking in others. As the whole of the waste lands of the Porahat Estate are nominally protected forest, this will presumably need no formalities; all that will be necessary will be to convert undemarcated forest into demarcated or *vice-versâ* by cutting a new line.

4. I found it necessary to abandon the lines laid down at the time of the recent settlement almost entirely. They were indistinguishable on the ground, and it was not always easy to find the post. The people had paid no attention whatever to them, and had extended cultivation as they thought fit. I made it my object as far as possible to exclude all cultivation. Where this could not be done, the cultivation included within the line was measured and compensation was tendered at the rate of Rs. 2-8 per acre for gora and Rs. 5 per acre embanked land. I did everything possible to discover all cultivation within the lines both by personal inspection and enquiry and by the issue of proclamation in each village in which the land lay. All land not entered in any tenant's name at the recent settlement and not cultivated since was treated as abandoned, though claims were frequently made to old *jhums* of this nature. Whilst however cultivation was as far as possible excluded, jungle which had not been included within the old boundaries, was added where this could be done without

* This should apparently be 37.26 square miles=23,846 acres.

T. S. M.

† 4.88 square miles.

T. S. M.

unduly lengthening the lines. The result was that the large blocks now contain an area of 36.68* square miles. This gives an increase of just about 10 per cent.† both in area and in the length of the external boundaries. The total length of the external boundaries is now 216.77 miles, but of this only 175.49 miles will have to be cleared by the people, the balance being either rivers or reserved forest boundary. These figures have been arrived at by the use of the chain and compass; a more accurate survey might necessitate their modification to some extent. A detailed statement of former and present areas and boundaries will be found in annexure A. [Not reproduced here—T. S. M.]

5. Maps of the blocks have been made and traces of them supplied to the Forest Department. [The maps, with a register subsequently prepared, of the blocks demarcated by Mr. Moberly have been deposited in the record-room of the Deputy Commissioner—T. S. M.]

6. The people objected strongly to the demarcation, but their hostility did not as a rule take an active form. The amins were obstructed in the north of the Porahat Pir, but when the mundas were sent for, they promised to render assistance, and when I went there a few days later, did so. The Mundaris of Karla, Sankai and Todanghatu in Kundrugutu Pir obstructed the amins, and when sent for persisted in their obstructive attitude, and informed me that they would not permit the lines to be cut, although I warned them that I should be compelled to send for Police, unless they promised to assist. An armed force camped in these villages until the lines had been cut and inspected by me, and a certain amount of new cultivation was included in the protected blocks as a punishment.‡ I strongly

‡ Subsequently excluded in Karla making the area 37.12 sq. miles.

T. S. M.

suspect that the Manki had organised opposition throughout the pir, but I could not get sufficient evidence on which to proceed against him. The result of the action taken in the three villages mentioned above, however was that there was no active opposition in the other villages of Kundrugutu Pir or in Songra Pir.

7. The opposition was based mainly on the allegation that the bahar jungle, *i.e.*, the jungle outside the reserved forest, was made over to them when the reserved forest was first demarcated, to do with as they liked. They were prepared to admit that it would be a good thing if some jungle were left for their descendants, but they objected most strongly to the cutting of lines, saying that they were told when the reserved forest was demarcated, that they would only be prevented from cultivating within it, and that their other rights would not be infringed, and that they felt certain that the cutting of lines meant that they would be excluded from the newly demarcated blocks as well. They ignored the fact that all the waste lands in Porahat were nominally protected forest, and as the protected forest rules have never been enforced, were probably really ignorant of the fact. Their fears were moreover worked upon from dishonest motives by a subordinate of the Forest Department, the Deputy Ranger of Gudri, himself a Mundari, who was detected and departmentally punished. They have little knowledge of or confidence in the European officials, and much prefer to believe one of their own kind, even at the risk of being cheated. I took considerable trouble to explain to all that the sole object of the demarcation was their welfare and that of their descendants,

** The report was in the form of a letter to the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.

but the people of Songra and Kundrugutu Pirs flatly refused to believe that demarcation was not merely a preliminary to absolute reservation, and those of the other pirs were distinctly doubtful about it. They said that they were prepared to take steps to protect the jungle for themselves, but a glance at the condition of the small blocks of jungle set apart by Mr. Taylor with the consent of the people and of some of the larger blocks as well, is sufficient to show that they will never voluntarily take any action of this kind, at any rate until it is too late to be of any use, and that demarcation and management by the Forest Department is the only hope. Time may show that an excessive area of forest has been demarcated in some places; and if this is so, portions of forest may be given up for cultivation by altering the lines. But it is far from certain that the area is excessive anywhere. The fact can only be ascertained after some years of experiment, and it will become increasingly difficult to extend the forest area. It was therefore I think advisable to include as much jungle as possible without unduly lengthening the lines.

8. With this object in view I examined the Settlement maps of all the villages in Porahat proper and ascertained where additional blocks of reasonable size might be formed. After consultation with the Deputy Conservator of Forests as to the practicability of managing these blocks if demarcated, your approval was obtained, and they are now being demarcated, but so as to exclude all existing cultivation as well as all surveyed cultivation and all land on which tasar is cultivated, by a Deputy Collector who has been temporarily deputed for the purpose by the Deputy Commissioner in anticipation of the formal approval of Government. The work is urgent as the jungles are deteriorating very rapidly, and on some hills have already been reduced to scanty sal scrub jungle.

9. The actual cost incurred in paying amins, tindals and coolies for line cutting, in contingencies and compensation amounted to Rs. 1,470-1-6. This sum does not include the cost of the additional blocks for which the accounts have not as yet been closed. It was advanced by the Forest Department and has been fully accounted for to the Deputy Conservator. It includes a sum of Rs. 153-6-10 for compensation which I was unable to disburse, but which will be paid direct by the Forest Department, according to details supplied by me. Several of the Mundaris* in the north of Porahat refused compensation apparently as a protest and part of this amount may be refused as well. The expenditure under the various heads is shown in Annexure B.

10. The above sum does not include my pay or allowances and those of the establishment which have been met from the Settlement budget and which will have to be debited to the account of the Raja of Porahat and recovered from him as part of the settlement costs. It is not very easy to calculate this sum with absolute accuracy, but I have proceeded on the following lines:—

- (i) The whole of the pay and allowances of myself and establishment for all days on which I was engaged on demarcation to the exclusion of settlement work proper.
- (ii) Half of the above pay and allowances for days on which I did both demarcation work and settlement work.
- (iii) The whole of the contingent charges incurred on the dates on which I was exclusively engaged on demarcation, except such items as purchase of books, carriage of forms, etc., which were obviously chargeable to settlement proper.

But no part of the following have been charged to demarcation:—

- (a) Pay and allowance of the Assistant Settlement Officer and his establishment of one muharrir and one orderly.
- (b) Pay of the Draft Publication establishment (kanungo and peons), except on days on which they or any of them were engaged on demarcation.

By this calculation the cost works out to Rs. 4,738-2-2 as per annexure. C The charge for the establishment, is I think, reasonable, as the map traces and accounts were prepared by it and took a good deal of time.

11. The above figures do not include the cost of the demarcation of the additional blocks which is being met by advances from the Forest Department.

12. It is I think unnecessary to refer here to the rights of the people which will be dealt with in the Settlement Report and are embodied in the record-of-rights or to

* Published in *Calcutta Gazette* of 2nd January 1907.

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the proposed rules which were discussed at the conference at Purulia on 24th June.† I would only remark that the customary rights of the people are very extensive, and that for rules to be a success they must introduce the minimum of interference. At the same time in order that there may be no appearance of breach of faith with those people who are most tenacious of their jungle rights, they should not be subsequently modified so as to be made more stringent. The proportion of undemarcated protected forest is very much smaller than that excluded from the demarcated blocks in the Kolhan, and this means that the people will need to take from the demarcated

blocks at once whereas in many places in the Kolhan their village jungle still supplies practically all the forest produce which they need.

A. N. MOBERLY.

30th July 1906.

APPENDIX VIII.

NOTE ON THE DEMARICATION OF ADDITIONAL BLOCKS OF PROTECTED FORESTS IN KHAS PORAHAT (*vide* § 259).

DURING the demarcation of the large blocks of protected forest, it became apparent that Mr. Taylor's small blocks could only be retained as demarcated protected forest when they happen to adjoin the large blocks. Thus the total area demarcated by Mr. Moberly was only 37.26 square miles. Mr. Taylor had considered that even with 48.42 square miles, the area of the large and small blocks combined, the extent of protected forest would be insufficient, but the remedy he proposed, namely, the conversion of part of the reserved forest into protected forest was definitely disapproved. The officers of the Forest Department are of opinion that to manage the protected blocks efficiently, it will be necessary to adopt the coupé system, the effectiveness of which is enhanced with an increase in the area of forest available. And certainly if the idea of successful protection is the equalisation of supply and demand, it is advisable to start with a reasonable prospect of success. To attain this, blocks as large as possible should be formed wherever possible. Subsequently if the total culturable area outside the block has all been taken up, and the block contains more jungle than is required by those who draw on it, pieces of culturable jungle may be excluded, until the balance is level. A considerable area in the shape of irregular patches must always be excluded at the outset from protection to prevent the lines from becoming unmanageably long, so that there will be no sudden check to cultivation. But all protection must be futile if the initial protected area be barely sufficient for present needs, while a large area suitable for protected forest is deliberately left for extension of cultivation which implies a great increase in the population with increased drain on the protected forest. The result must be either the protected forests must speedily disappear, or the people must be prevented from obtaining all they require.

2. It is clear that the undemarcated areas must not be relied on for a supply of forest produce. They are required to provide for legitimate extension of cultivation. I am clearly of opinion that no rules could be proposed for undemarcated areas which would be of value and at the same time not oppressive. Custom in each village will prevent the cutting of fruit trees, and the munda, if he were under the Deputy Commissioner, as undoubtedly he ought to be, might be expected to control wasteful cutting. But it must be taken for granted that with so narrow a margin for reclamation, any undemarcated jungle will speedily disappear. The soundest principle clearly is to recognise this fact, and to demarcate whenever possible.

3. The position therefore was found to be that the twenty-five protected blocks are insufficient, probably for present, unquestionably for prospective, demands on them, but there is still a considerable area available, suitable for formation into blocks of about 250 acres. If, however, those areas were not taken up at once, it would be impossible to take them up later: cultivation does not extend in regular lines, and half-a-dozen plots of reclamation of a bigha each may suffice to ruin irretrievably for protection a block of jungle measuring 250 acres. It is easy to observe a forward policy in conservation, but it is extremely difficult to reforest a completely disafforested tract. It therefore appeared essential that the area of demarcated protected forest should be increased, especially in the Porahat Pir, which is populous and more highly cultivated than other pirs where there is jungle, if the supply of timber is to be at all commensurate with the demand upon it even by the present population of the Sadant Pirs of which Chakradharpur Pir has no jungle at all. Accordingly, with the approval of the Commissioner and in anticipation of the sanction of Government, ten forest blocks situated in Porahat and Goilkera Pirs were marked off on the map and subsequently demarcated on the ground. The demarcation which was done by Mr. C. Prabal, Deputy Collector of Singhbhum, affects 30 villages, and the total area is about 3,244 acres (5.07 square miles), or an average of half-a-square mile, the smallest block being 214 and the largest 520 acres. Part of the area was included in some of Mr. Taylor's village blocks, but most of it he left alone, apparently because it is cultivable scrub, and Mr. Taylor understood that the directions of Government (paragraph 36 of Government letter No. 1825T.R. of 1st July 1902), precluded him from forming blocks when the jungle was not of good quality, and the land culturable. But the formation of protected forest implies restriction to some extent of extension of cultivation since no reasonably large block consists solely of uncultivable waste, and land entirely unfit for any sort of cultivation is probably equally incapable of producing good forest.

4. The method of demarcation was that adopted by Mr. Moberly in connection with the large blocks. In all cases, however, cultivation was excluded or demarcated since no notice of the intention to protect had been given and the cultivators were unwilling to accept compensation and quit. Here, as elsewhere, the people looked with displeasure and distrust on the demarcation, since they fear that the blocks will be ultimately reserved. In my opinion; it would be impolitic and unjust to make the rules more stringent later on so

as to give colour to such suspicions. Even if the coupe system is adopted, I think the villagers in whose village a block lies ought never to be prohibited from taking from the portion of the block within their own village. Anything else will be oppressive, if not in theory, at any rate in practice. The villagers affected are chiefly Hos, who do not see why their rights should be circumscribed for the benefit of dikus or other villagers who have destroyed their own jungle. Besides, there is at present plenty of jungle to look at, and they cannot be expected to understand that it won't last for ever.

5: The blocks being small, the boundaries are long in proportion to the area, but all things considered, the shapes are fairly compact, and better, for instance, than in the proposed reserves of Anandpur. The total area of the supplementary blocks now demarcated is 5.07 square miles, which, with the area demarcated by Mr. Moberly, makes the total area of demarcated forest 42.33 square miles against 48.42 square miles included by Mr. Taylor in his large and small blocks. Deducting this area plus 37.75 square miles, unculturable lands, that is 80.18 square miles from the total unoccupied area of 159.65 square miles, we find that in 1903, there was a total area of 79.47 square miles available for extension of cultivation, or to state it otherwise, two-fifths or 40 per cent. of the estate is reserved jungle of the zamindar, and of the remainder four-eighths or 30 per cent. is cultivated, two-eighths or fifteen per cent. culturable waste, one eighth or 7½ per cent. is demarcated protected forest, and the remainder also 7½ per cent. is uncultivable. If it be urged that for an undeveloped estate like Porahat the margin for extension of cultivation and the area of demarcated forest is too narrow, I am not concerned to deny it, but as of the total area available for cultivation and protected forest, the proportion allotted to each is the fairest division, the fault must be looked for else where. It will be found in the excessive proportion of reserved forest in the estate.

T. S. M.

APPENDIX IX.

Notes have also been submitted, on, among others, the following subjects:—

1. The proposal to release to the zamindar of Khas Porahat the undemarcated unreserved jungle (now protected forest) in that estate.
2. The proposal to apply the Forest Act to the 'Khas Jungle' of the Anandpur Estate.
3. The Kera Forest (by Mr. A. N. Moberly, i.c.s.)
4. The Bandgaon Forest.
5. The administration of the Kera Estate under Act VI of 1876.
6. The administration of the Bandgaon Estate under Act VI of 1876.

No. 345T.

FROM H. McPHERSON, Esq., I.C.S.,

Director of Land Records, Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, L. P.,

LAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

(Through the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division).

Dated Darjeeling, the 6th July 1908.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Board, the final report of Mr. T. S. Macpherson, I.C.S., on the operations for the preparation of a record-of-rights in pargana Porahat of the Singhbhum district, which were begun in November 1905 and concluded in April 1907. The report is supplementary to Mr. J. H. Taylor's Report on the Porahat Settlement of 1900—03. It very considerably exceeds the maximum limit of 120 pages prescribed for District Settlement Reports in Revenue Circular No. 3 of January 1905, and might with advantage have been curtailed. Mr. Macpherson's justification is that he was not made acquainted with the orders of January 1905; and that he had instructions to make the report of each estate and sub-estate self-contained, instructions which involved much repetition of facts and arguments. In view of these considerations and of the fact that the Report could not be materially abridged without placing Mr. Macpherson on special duty for the purpose, the Board have agreed to accept it as it stands. These remarks regarding the length of the Report are not intended to be deprecatory of its general excellence from other points of view. It has been a task of enormous magnitude to Mr. Macpherson, who has had to write the bulk of the Report in the intervals of ordinary district and subdivisional work. To the District Officer of Singhbhum and other local officials it will be invaluable, as it contains a perfect mine of information regarding the history, the agrarian conditions, the forests, the village officials and the local customs of Porahat.

2. Mr. Taylor's settlement was conducted under the provisions of Bengal Act V of 1875 and Bengal Act I of 1879. In the course of the operations he drew up a record-of-rights and duties for the preparation of which there was no sanction in the Acts quoted. It was objected to by the Raja of Porahat and the other proprietors concerned as regards (a) its description of headmen's rights, (b) its prohibition of certain illegal exactions, and (c) its definition of forest rights. Government on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner ordered that an authoritative record-of-rights should be prepared under section 101 (1) of the Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885) which had been extended to Porahat as to other parts of the Chota Nagpur Division by Notification No. 3282L.R., of 30th November 1903. Mr. A. N. Moberly, I.C.S., was appointed Settlement Officer on 30th November 1905 to prepare the record and to demarcate 25 blocks of Protected Forest in Porahat. Mr. Moberly who was assisted by Babu Rajani Kanta Sen spent eight months on the work. His health broke down and he went on leave on 1st August 1906. Mr. Macpherson took over the enquiry on 3rd November 1906 and completed the work with the aid of Babu Jyoti Prasad Das.

3. It was settled by the Board's orders of 17th April 1906 that the record-of-rights should be prepared in the shape of question and answer

There were 110 of these, distributed over the subjects of enquiry as follows:—

14	questions	(1 to 14)	dealt with rights	of Mankis.
20	ditto	(15 to 34)	ditto	of Headmen.
3	ditto	(35 to 37)	ditto	of Khuntkattidars.
32	ditto	(38 to 69)	ditto	of other tenants.
31	ditto	(70 to 100)	ditto	in trees and forests.
7	ditto	(101 to 107)	ditto	in minerals.
3	ditto	(108 to 110)	ditto	of a miscellaneous nature.

Enquiries were made in every village. For each village a separate record-of-rights was prepared, attested and draft published. Objections to the number of 1,559 were received and after their disposal, the records were finally published.

4. The number of villages dealt with was 678. The cost of the operations was Rs. 31,344, of which Rs. 4,738 was spent on forest demarcation. The balance, Rs. 26,606, was debited to the zamindars, sub-zamindars and tenure-holders concerned. The cost worked out to an average of Rs. 39-3-10 per village.

5. Mr. Macpherson has given an account of the history of the pargana which is necessary in order to understand the general features of its agrarian conditions and the nature of the problems that had to be tackled by the officers of settlement in framing the record-of-rights. Porahat was confiscated in 1858 on account of the rebellion of Raja Arjun Singh. Its revenue administration was made over to the Board of revenue in 1859, but it continued in other respects to be managed as a Tributary State. It was incorporated in Bengal by proclamation of 5th August 1892, and was included in the Singhbhum district by Act II of 1892. Up to that date, Bengal Act I of 1879 was not in force in the pargana. Many Acts were extended to it by Notification No. 1008 P. D. of 17th November 1897 issued under Act XIV of 1874. Raja Arjun Singh died in 1890. By indenture dated 10th of October 1895, Porahat was restored to his son, Raja Narpal Singh. It was restored "with full proprietary rights subject and without prejudice to all existing engagements with raiyats and under-tenure-holders," and various restrictions were imposed on the new zamindar, especially as regards forests. The Raja would like to ignore all the rights which accrued to his tenantry by local custom and usage during the 37 years that the estate was in the possession and management of Government and lays claim to all the unrestricted rights of absolute ownership which, he conceives, were exercised by his father, but his claim is clearly untenable in the face of facts and the terms of the indenture of restoration.

6. It is impossible for me in the present review to do more than summarize briefly the results of the enquiry regarding the various classes of rights dealt with. This may most conveniently be done under the six heads—(1) Mankis, (2) Headmen, (3) Khuntkattidars, (4) Raiyati rights, (5) Forest rights, (6) Miscellaneous—corresponding to the principal groups of enquiry in the village record-of-rights.

7. *Mankis*.—The mankis were military chiefs or original settlers under whom groups of villages were reclaimed, the headmen of which recognized their authority. They correspond to the "*parganaitis*" of the Sonthal Parganas. They survive only in the eight Kolhan Pirs of Porahat and in the sub-zamindari of Bandgaon. They have recently been done away with in the sub-zamindari of Kera. It has been found that succession to the office of manki is by primogeniture, subject to physical and mental fitness. If a manki is dismissed, a member of the family to which he belongs is entitled to succeed him. The manki is entitled to a "*nala*" or commission of six pice per rupee of the rental payable through him by his headmen to the proprietor. It is his business to supervise the headmen, to look after roads, boundaries, and forests, and to perform certain police duties, and he is responsible for the rent due to the proprietor. He is no mere tabsildar, dismissible at the will of the proprietor. Mr. Macpherson points out that the proprietor, by refusing to pay some mankis their commission, has intimidated the others and now uses them as instruments of oppression for the extortion of trade

taxes, forced labour, and illegal exactions of various kinds. The mankis are entitled to protection under the terms of the indenture. Mr. Macpherson has suggested, and I fully agree with him, that their appointment and dismissal should be controlled by the Deputy Commissioner. I would give the proprietor a mere right of nomination, but would let the appointment depend on the choice of the headmen, and be subject to the Deputy Commissioner's approval. This is the system of appointment followed in respect of village headmen in the Sonthal Parganas. No suggestion for the abolition of the manki should ever receive countenance. It is an ancient institution intimately connected with the tribal organization of these aboriginal peoples. To them, their communal system is their sole defence against their pushful Aryan neighbours, and no weakening of the system should be allowed. If the manki cannot be protected by executive authority, he should be protected by legislation.

8. *Headmen.*—The great majority of the village headmen are descendants of the original reclaimers of villages. This is almost invariably the case in the Kolhan Pirs. In the Sadant Pirs, many villages were deserted by their original reclaimers during the Mutiny. The deserted villages were after the outbreak settled with others whose position has in the course of the last 50 years been levelled up to that of ordinary khuntkatti headmen. The same has happened in the sub-estates of the pargana, but there are some recently settled villages, particularly in Anandpur, where the founder took his lease, for the purpose rather of settling tenants on the lands of the village than of reclaiming them himself.

It has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the interest of the headman of Porahat in his village is permanent and hereditary subject to fitness. The issue of a *patta* for a given term of years does not make his interest temporary, nor entitle the proprietor to take *khas* possession or to appoint a new headman at the end of the term. The term merely affects the rent. The permanence of the headman's rights is not an incident which conflicts with the liability of his rent to enhancement. His rights are not transferable by sale, mortgage, gift or other transaction.

Succession is by primogeniture. Non-residence disqualifies, a rule to which there are reasonable exceptions. Sex also generally disqualifies, but there have been exceptional cases in which a sonless widow has held to the exclusion of the nearest male heir. If a headman is dismissed for misconduct or default in rent payment, a successor must be chosen from the village, and if he was of the original reclaiming family, the successor must, if possible, be chosen from that family. The selection is made by the village community in *panchayet*. A custom of confirmation by the zamindar has grown up, but the zamindar cannot refuse to confirm except on the ground of unfitness. In the Kolhan Pirs and Bandgaon, the approval of the manki is necessary. Anandpur is exceptional. There, save in Mundari khuntkatti villages and in villages where reclaiming leases distinctly specify to the contrary, the zamindar may in any headman he pleases or keep a vacant village *khas*.

A headman cannot be ejected save for well defined reasons, such as (1) non-payment of rent—this rarely happens because the villagers always take care that their headman pays up. When it does happen, it is usually due to the unlawful exactions of the zamindar—(2) serious misconduct, as for example, the commission of a criminal offence, or failure to perform duties renderable to the State; (3) oppression of the raiyats—the Judicial Commissioner has upheld ejection on this ground.

The duties of the headman are to collect and pay to the proprietor the rent due from the village according to his lease, to arrange for the provision of supplies, on payment, to Government officials on tour, troops on the march, etc., to supervise the work of the chaukidars; to look after bad characters; to preserve the village boundaries, regulate the reclamation of waste land, and protect village forest.

His remuneration consists of a commission on the village rental, which is usually 2 annas 6 pies per rupee of the whole. This commission has taken the place of the old system of remuneration whereby headmen enjoyed certain lands, called "*man*" free of rent. The *man* lands have now been assessed to rent and commission substituted, much to the relief of the headmen, who naturally feared that under section 6 of Act I of 1879 their occupancy rights

in these lands, mostly cleared by themselves and their ancestors, were endangered. I gather from the report that no lands have anywhere been recorded as the service or official holdings of the headmen. While it is reasonable that the headman's own reclamation and his ancestral lands should be recorded as his private holding with occupancy rights, I think it is unfortunate that lands which have come into his possession by virtue of his office, as *e.g.*, lands of other raiyats relinquished to him during his tenure of the headmanship, should not have been distinguished as lands attached to the office which will pass to his successor in the event of his ejection for misconduct or other reasons. Besides his commission, the headman enjoys many other privileges and perquisites which naturally attach to his position as head of the village community. It is his privilege to regulate the work of reclamation. In aboriginal villages, raiyats do not, as a rule, pay any additional rent for newly reclaimed lands between settlements; but in other villages there is a custom to the contrary and wherever rent is paid for such lands, it goes into the pockets of the headmen.

In his anxiety to prove that headmen are not mere farmers (*thikadars*) nor tahsildars of the proprietor, removeable on the expiry of temporary leases or at the proprietor's will, Mr. Macpherson endeavours to maintain the position that they are permanent tenure-holders, save in the case of Mundari khuntkattidars who are expressly excepted from the definition of tenure-holder given in section 2 (P) of Act I of 1879. In my opinion, it is a pity that any attempt should be made to bring village headmen within the four corners of the definition either of "tenure-holder" or of "raiayat." To me they appear to be office-holders rather than tenure-holders. They are the men chosen by village communities, or accepted by village communities as their representatives in dealing with the rent-receiver. I do not see how their recognition as permanent tenure-holder is reconcileable with their liability to ejection for arrears or misconduct. Nor would their recognition as raiyats remove the difficulty. Under section 10A of Act I of 1879, a raiyat's holding may be sold for arrears of rent. Under section 32, a farmer or other lease-holder not having a permanent or transferable interest in the land for which arrears are due may be ejected. Under section 123 permanent tenures may be brought to sale for arrears provided the Deputy Commissioner does not interfere to stop the sale. In the latest draft (30th March 1908) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy and Settlement Bill, 1908, the definitions of tenure-holder and raiyat are unaltered, clause 48 replaces section 10A of the Act, clause 60 replaces section 32, clause 206 replaces section 123. The position is apparently unaltered by the Amendment Bill.

It will be fatal, in my opinion, to the preservation of the communal system if the office or interest of a village headman be regarded as a permanent tenure liable to sale under section 123 of the Act or clause 206 of the Bill. If the tenure be saleable to the highest bidder, we shall have in an aggravated form all the evils that Mr. Macpherson represents as having already occurred in villages where outsiders have been introduced by oppressive proprietors. It is not enough to have the safeguard of the Deputy Commissioner's prohibition of sale so long as no working alternative is provided.

To me the simplest way out of the difficulty appears to be to except the village headman from the definition of tenure-holder just as the Mundari khuntkattidar is excepted and to make special provisions for dealing with him when he falls into arrears of rent or misconducts himself. He is admittedly in Porahat liable to ejection for such reasons, and, as far as I know, Porahat is no exception to the general custom. I see no reason why his liability to ejection for specified causes should not be declared in the Bill and suits or applications for ejection included amongst those which under section 134 of the Bill are cognizable by the Deputy Commissioner only.

Mr. Macpherson has suggested that the appointment of headmen as well as their dismissal should be controlled by the Deputy Commissioner (*vide* paragraphs 462—470 of the Report). I have already expressed my views regarding the necessity of maintaining the manki. It is even more essential to the welfare of these aboriginal peoples that the headman system should be maintained in its entirety. Mr. Macpherson has shown what breaches in the system have already been effected by the proprietor of *khas* Porahat. It is

all-important, that these should be repaired. Clause 234 of the amending Bill will enable wrongfully dispossessed headmen to recover possession up to a limit of six years. But something more than this is required. The Deputy Commissioner should be empowered of his own motion to step in and appoint a headman in all villages which are shown by their history to be entitled to a headman but by the negligence or intrigues of the proprietor have been kept vacant of recent years. I would make 12 years the limit for such interference. To prevent the occurrence of such vacancies in future, it should be prescribed that all successions by inheritance and vacancies must be reported to the Deputy Commissioner within six months of their occurrence by the proprietors, or in manki areas, by the manki. In the case of successions, the Deputy Commissioner would formally approve, in the case of vacancies he would take steps to ensure that suitable headmen be appointed.

9. *Khuntkattidars*.—Under section 154 of Act I of 1879, the rent of a Mundari khuntkatti tenancy cannot be enhanced when the tenancy has been in existence for more than 20 years. In section 2 of the Act there is a definition of "Mundari khuntkattidar." The definition covers both intact Mundari khuntkatti villages and also in 'broken' villages, such parcels of land as are held by descendants of the original Mundari founders. Section 19 of the Act attaches the same privilege of non-enhanceability of rent after 20 years to bhuhari, or "khudkatti" tenancies, but there is no definition in the Act of a khudkatti tenancy. This being the existing state of the law, Mr. Macpherson has recorded as Mundari khuntkattidars entitled to the privileges of section 154 of the Act all Mundari tenants both in intact and in broken villages who belong to the family of the original founders, but with regard to the latter he had no opportunity of ascertaining or recording in respect of what portions of their lands the special status subsists. This has been left to be determined, if necessary, at the next revision of settlement. According to local usage there have been in all these cases frequent enhancements of rent. But as pointed out by Mr. Macpherson, Act I of 1879 was not in force in Porahat till 1893. As soon as it came into force, those cultivators who satisfied the definition became entitled to the privileges conferred by law.

In the absence of a definition of the word "khudkatti" as used in section 19 of the Act, Mr. Macpherson has left open for future consideration the claims to special privileges of all non-Mundari founders of villages and their descendants, although his personal opinion is that all such tenants are entitled to the benefit of the section. In the latest draft of the new Bill, provision has been made for the claims of non-Mundari khuntkattidars. Clause 7 contains a definition of this class of cultivator, and clause 37 proposes that his rent shall not be liable to enhancement if his tenancy was created more than 20 years before the commencement of the new Act. This involves a considerable modification of section 19 of the existing Act which exempts from enhancement tenancies created more than 20 years before the institution of the suit for enhancement. So far as Porahat is concerned, no effect can be given either to the record of Mundari khuntkatti rights or the provisions of the Bill, should they pass into law, till the current settlement of Mr. Taylor expires.

10. *Raiyati-rights*.—The right of a cultivating raiyat is known as 'prajali.' 'Prajali' covers all that is denoted by 'occupancy rights.' The right accrues from the moment that the cultivator enters into possession of any land for the purpose of cultivation, and not as Mr. Taylor puts it, from the time that he pays rent for the land. Mr. Taylor was probably influenced by the words in section 6 of the Act, "so long as he pays the rent payable on account of the same" which were repealed by the Amendment Act V of 1903 and replaced by the last two paragraphs of the section as it now stands. I have no doubt that Mr. Taylor had in his mind rather the liability to rent than the actual payment. Any doubts which might be created by the language of section 6 of the existing Act regarding the extent to which rights of occupancy exist in Porahat or other portions of the Chota Nagpur Division will be set at rest by the new Act. Clause 15 of the Bill accepts the principle of the 'settled raiyat,' while clause 76 saves such a custom as that "whereby a raiyat obtains a right of occupancy as soon as he is admitted to occupation of the tenancy, whether he is a settled raiyat of the village or not."

The proprietor has no right of interference with the internal economy of a village. He has therefore nothing to do with the reclamation of waste land or the settlement of abandoned or otherwise vacant holdings. Nor has the headman exclusive or absolute rights over these. The waste land of a village is really the property of the village community. The relative rights of the headman and of his fellow-raiyats vary according as the village is an intact aboriginal one or a broken or mixed village. In pure aboriginal villages all the raiyats have an equal right of reclamation; the only controlling authority is the *panchayet*, and all new cultivation is rent-free for the period of the settlement. In mixed villages, where the headman is not of the original family of founders, he takes it upon himself to distribute the waste land and he sometimes levies rent for the new cultivation. Nowhere may an outsider be introduced to reclaim waste lands without the consent of the headman who must consult the *panchayet* before giving permission. The rates of rent that may be levied for new cultivation by the headman vary from one estate to another.

Vacant holdings must be settled with villagers. Relatives have the first claim. Generally raiyats of the same community as the original holder have a preferential claim to settlement in mixed villages. The headman has no prior claim. He must cultivate abandoned lands himself if he wants to keep them. He cannot sublet. If no village raiyat will take a vacant holding and the headman does not want it, he may settle with an outsider, but the outsider must be of local origin, that is, he must belong to Porahat or neighbourhood. The headman is not entitled to take *salami* on a re-settlement, and *salami*, as a matter of fact, is rarely taken in aboriginal villages. It would be too much to expect the Dikku pradhan of mixed villages to be beyond temptation. Enhanced rent cannot be taken from the new tenant, and it is contrary to the custom of the pargana for any land to pay rent at higher than village rates. In all the above respects, the customs of Porahat very strongly resemble those which obtain in the Sonthal Parganas and have become stereotyped by entry in the settlement record of that district.

As raiyats may reclaim lands, they may also construct such *bandhs* or water-reservoirs as are necessary for the purpose. They have to take the headman's permission when his permission is necessary for the reclamation itself. The only case in which the proprietor's permission is necessary is where the raiyat wants to make a large tank or water-reservoir out of rice land that has been assessed to rent. Abandoned tanks or *bandhs* become the property of the community.

Homesteads, fruit-groves, water-reservoirs, threshing-floors, and manure-pits are not assessed to rent. Nor may any rent be taken for fruit-trees planted by the raiyats. They are free to plant such without permission on their own holdings. In aboriginal villages they may also plant on the waste land without permission, but as a rule, in mixed villages, the headman's consent is necessary. Uplands may everywhere be converted into rice lands without permission, and no additional rent may be assessed after the conversion for the period of the settlement.

It is unnecessary to discuss local customs as to sale, mortgage, and sub-letting of raiyati holdings as these are now governed by section 10B of Act I of 1879. Raiyats are entitled by law to *pattas* and to rent-receipts. Mr. Macpherson shows that they never get the former and rarely the latter. Neither omission is of any practical importance. The settlement record makes the *patta* unnecessary, and the majority of the headmen are too illiterate to grant receipts and too honest to take advantage of the omission.

11. *Forest rights.*—The general position is that the raiyats are entitled to take free of cost all jungle produce that they require for fuel, for house-building and repairs, for all other domestic and agricultural purposes, and for the purposes of a handicraft, and they are not limited in the exercise of these privileges to the forest within their villages, but may take from any portion of the estate. They have nowhere the right to take for sale, save in the Mundari villages of the Kolhan Pirs, where the sale of minor forest produce by the Mundaris has long been customary. Certain limitations upon the source of supply have sprung up in khas Porahat through the interference of Government for forest conservation, and in other areas, by imitation of this interference and compromise

Originally the zamindars exercised no more rights over the jungle than the raiyats. That is, they took from it what they required for their own purposes. It was only when timber began to have a commercial value that they began to assert the right of sale. In the Kolhan Pirs of Porahat, 195.7 square miles of forest blocks were marked off between 1880 and 1882 and constituted Reserved Forest under the Forest Act in 1890. Four years later the rest of the forest and waste land of the estate was declared Protected Forest under the Act, not with the object of excluding or diminishing the rights of the tenantry, but with the object of regulating the exercise of these rights and preventing their wanton abuse by individuals to the prejudice of the community. When Porahat was restored to the Raja in 1895, the management of the forest was for very good reasons reserved by Government. In order that the management of the Forest Department within the "Protected" area should not unduly limit the extension of cultivation or interfere with the privileges of the raiyats, it was resolved that certain blocks of Protected Forest should be marked off for permanent maintenance by the Department and the remainder of the jungle and waste land be left uncontrolled. Twenty-five blocks covering 37 square miles, and subsequently ten blocks covering five square miles, were demarcated by Mr. Moberly in accordance with these proposals. Curiously enough the original proposal regarding the undemarcated area was that it should be left to the unrestrained control of the zamindar—an obvious confounding of the proprietor with the estate and tenantry. From the first, the "Protected" forest was to be managed on behalf of the village communities, the zamindar having already received his share of the forest in the shape of "Reserves." Mr. Taylor and Mr. Macpherson have both advanced unanswerable arguments that the undemarcated portions of the "Protected Forest" should be left to the management of the village headmen and mankis under the nominal supervision of the Forest Department, and that all claims of the proprietor over this area should be disallowed.

In Bandgaon, the zamindar has no rights of sale over the jungle because there is not more than will supply the legitimate requirements of the raiyats. In Anandpur, the zamindar and raiyats partitioned the jungle between them, the former taking certain blocks as his share and the raiyats the rest. But each party retains certain rights within the jungle of the other. The raiyats may graze within the reserve and fall back on it for minor produce, while the zamindar may sell big trees from the village jungle and any timber that is cut in the process of reclamation and not required for the villager's own use. In Kera the zamindar has been selling from every part of the jungle, but the raiyats also have a free right of supply, and the cess which the former has been endeavouring to realise from jungleless villages is illegal.

Custom places certain restrictions on the right of raiyats to cut trees for their own use. Trees of all kinds may be cut down in making rice land (*don*), but mahua, kusum and mango trees are always spared in preparing upland cultivation. The following trees are also generally saved: all fruit trees of value, asan when required for tasar, palas and other trees useful for lac cultivation, arjun, sal, piasal, and other good timber trees. The latter are, of course, freely cut when required for special purposes, as *e.g.*, the making of ploughs or the repair of houses. The former are spared because they are relatively of more use to the community when standing than when cut. In many villages the *panchayat* decides which trees may be cut. The list therefore varies with local circumstances. In villages devoid of jungle, no green trees may be cut. When a cultivator wishes to cut a tree of a species reserved by the *panchayat*, he has to get the headman's consent. In no other case is his consent necessary. No tree may be cut from the sacred groves (*sarnas* or *jahiras*) of the Mundaris or Hos, and, as a rule, not even the dry wood of fallen trees may be removed from them. It would be a sacrilege punishable under section 295, Indian Penal Code, for a zamindar or any outsider to cut a tree in a sacred grove.

It has already been remarked that raiyats have full rights over the fruit and timber of trees planted by themselves or their forefathers. They have also exclusive rights over the fruit and timber of self-sown fruit trees growing either on the cultivated or on the waste lands of their villages. Those on cultivated lands are usually enjoyed by the owner of the holding, those on waste land

by the whole community of villagers jointly, but they occasionally have a distribution for individual convenience. Mahua trees are often so distributed. There is no payment anywhere for mahua.

Local custom varies as regards the right of the proprietors to levy cesses for the rearing of tasar and the cultivation of lac. A tasar cess was first imposed by the Raja of Porahat in 1839. It was abolished by Government in 1858 when the estate was confiscated. It was not collected during the 40 years of State management and cannot now be revived by the Raja. Bandgaon is in the same position as khas Porahat, but in other sub-estates the cess has been levied from before the Mutiny and cannot now be disputed. Lac has been cultivated since the eighties. The analogy of tasar makes a lac cess unrealisable in khas Porahat and Bandgaon. It is a customary levy in Kera, Anandpur and Chainpur. The rates of collection vary according to the trees used for cultivation, as well as from estate to estate. It is only realisable when the lac is actually cultivated and the cultivation is successful. It is nowhere payable in respect of trees planted by the raiyats.

The raiyats have full grazing rights over all jungle, waste and fallow land of the pargana except the reserved forests of khas Porahat. Fallow land that is reserved for grazing cannot be broken up for cultivation without the consent of the headman and the village community.

The raiyats of each estate have the right to take free of charge and without the permission of the proprietor the less valuable minerals, such as stone, iron-ore, clay, gravel, limestone, so far as these are required for their own domestic and agricultural purposes, and artisans have the right to sell articles manufactured from such products. All other mineral rights belong to the proprietors.

12. *Miscellaneous incidents.*—Homestead lands of cultivators are everywhere rent-free. In some areas, artisans pay trade taxes but their homesteads are rent-free. Trade taxes are not realisable in khas Porahat and Bandgaon where they were abolished during the era of State management, nor in Chainpur where they were commuted in 1886, but they are leviable in Kera and Anandpur by ancient custom. A levy of two rupees on the renewal of a headman's lease is payable in Kera, but no such payment is elsewhere sanctioned by custom. It is the custom in Kera and Anandpur for each headman to pay the proprietor a *salami* of one rupee at the Dasahara festival, and in Anandpur a goat is also renderable to the proprietor by each village community, but these customs do not obtain in other estates of the pargana, and the illegal attempts of the Raja of Porahat to revive or re-introduce them must be characterised as acts of oppression. In six villages the right of the rent-receiver to "*Shadi gami panaha*" or a contribution to the expenses of marriages and deaths, has been recognised. All other claims of this or a similar nature have been disallowed. As to *beth-begari* or forced labour, Mr. Macpherson finds that it is nowhere renderable. It was not seriously claimed in khas Porahat. In other estates it was commuted at various dates and consolidated with the rent.

13. The first seven chapters of the Report deal with the general situation as I have reviewed it above. The rest of the Report discusses the record-of-rights estate by estate. Thus Chapters VII to XI treat of khas Porahat, divided over the heads: "Sadant Pirs" (Chapter VII), "Kolhan Pirs" (Chapter VIII), "Headmen" (Chapter IX), "Forest" (Chapter X), and "Mundari Khuntkatti" (Chapter XI). Chapter XII deals with Anandpur, Chapter XIII with Kera, Chapter XIV with Bandgaon, and Chapter XV with Chainpur. The plan of arrangement has involved a considerable amount of repetition. Valuable as the separate chapters on the various estates of the pargana will be to the District Officer charged with their general administration, to the local officers who have to decide disputes, and to the local Bar which has to advise clients, they are not of sufficient general interest to necessitate further detailed analysis in this review. The only point I should like to draw prominently to the attention of the Board is the account Mr. Macpherson has given of the wicked persistence of the Raja of Porahat in attempting to subvert the proved rights of his tenantry. He has attempted to convert the mankis of the Kolhan Pirs into instruments of oppression by withholding or threatening to withhold their dues. He has illegally ejected or refused to renew the leases of numerous headmen and is either holding their villages khas or has made them over to outsiders. He

treats the rest as tahsildars and refuses to give them rent-receipts. He has taken khas possession of ejected headmen's lands and of vacant holdings, to the settlement of which the village raiyats were exclusively entitled. He has assessed new cultivation to rent at full rates and for his own benefit within the period of settlement, quite contrary to law and custom. He has even interfered with Mr. Taylor's classification and enhanced rents within the village. He takes heavy *salam* on the settlement of vacant holdings even in pradhani villages. All this interference with the internal management of villages is a gross violation of custom and should be put down with a strong hand. The Raja's attempts to realise jungle fees and other illegal cesses and to extort forced labour which he had not even the effrontery to claim openly, should also be strictly checked. He should be warned that if he does not leave his tenantry to enjoy peaceably the rights which are theirs by custom and are guaranteed to them by the terms of the indenture of 1895, a possible consequence may be the cancellation of that deed and the resumption of the pargana.

14. Special attention may be directed to the last chapter of the Report in which Mr. Macpherson has offered "some suggestions." Many of them have already been discussed. Most important of all is the suggestion that the appointment and dismissal of headmen should be controlled by the Deputy Commissioner—an absolute necessity, if the welfare of these aboriginal races is to be secured against the dangers that threaten it. In paragraph 473 certain alterations in Act I of 1879 have been suggested. It will be found from a reference to the draft Tenancy Bill of 1908 that many of the suggestions have been considered and accepted. The Bill is expected to be introduced shortly for the consideration of the Council. Mr. Macpherson's report comes at an opportune moment. Stronger proof of the necessity of some of the proposed amendments of the law, than is obtainable in the pages of this Report, could nowhere else be found.

15. The thanks of the Board and of Government are due to Messrs. Moberly and Macpherson for the labour which they have bestowed on this work both in field and in office. Although, from a settlement point of view, the area and scope of the operations were comparatively limited, the work called for an unusual amount of personal effort and attention, and its results are of the greatest interest and value to the whole Division of Chota Nagpur.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. MCPHERSON,

Director of the Department of Land Records, Bengal.