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Northern Division.

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I.—NUMBER OF ESTATES UNDER MANAGEMENT.

Northern Division.—There were 44 estates under management at the beginning of the year, 9 large and 35 small. Ten new estates were taken over under management during the year, eight under the Talukdari Settlement Officer, one in the Panch Mahals and one in Surat, the Panch Mahals estate having an income of more than Rs. 10,000. Two large estates under the Talukdari Settlement Officer and one small estate in Surat were released during the year of report. The large estates were those of Sayad Imam Haiderbax Valade Musa Miya known as the Shah Alam estate and of the Desai of Broach which were in a solvent condition with large balances of Rs. 15,423 and Rs. 71,355 respectively to their credit. The Desai's estate in Surat, was also free from debt. Thus the estates under management at the close of the year were 51, eight large and 43 small. The Mahij estate was taken over under management from the creditor during the year and its statistics have been incorporated in this report. The available figures for the Baxi estate have also been entered in the three accompanying statements. The differences in the figures of the estate of Shermian Bapumian of Dholka are due to the elimination of the figures of the estate of Pir Vilayat Sha of which Shormian is the manager.

The Mehlool estate in the Panch Mahals was being managed under the Gujarat Talukdars' Act but as the talukdar was declared by the Civil Court to be unfit to manage his estate, under section 5 (1) (c) of the Court of Wards Act, its superintendence was assumed.

Central Division.—At the beginning of the year there were in all fourteen estates under management. One small estate of the Gosavi of Dehu (minor descendants of Saint Tukaram) in Poona was added during the year and two big estates (the Kathi Mewasi estate No. 4 and the Ghadge estate No. 9) were given up.

Of the fourteen estates, under management at one time or another during the year, nine [eight as given in last year's report and the Baul estate (No. 5) shown as a small one last year] were big estates having an annual gross income of Rs. 10,000 and over, and the rest small. This report contains no statistics for the small Gosavi estate in Poona as it came under management towards the close of the year. Similarly figures in respect of estate No. 9 and the small Natu estate in Poona and complete information regarding estate No. 4 have not been given as Nos. 4 and 9 were relinquished, and in the case of the small Natu estate, steps are only just being taken to assume its superintendence. The Government ward (Mr. H. R. Natu) of this latter estate died at the beginning of the year and it took some time to obtain Government sanction to the retention of the estate in the name of his son Mr. N. H. Natu under proviso 1 to section 40 (2) of the Court of Wards Act.

Southern Division.—The total number of estates under management was 28 against 24 in the preceding year. Three new estates were taken over in the district of Belgaum and one in the district of Bijapur, the number of estates