

PERIOD OF TRANSITION

(1818—1826)

BY

R. D. CHOKSEY, M.A., Ph.D.

Price Rs.6 or 12s.

1945

Henry Pottinger

James Grant

John Briggs

H. D. Robertson

S. J. Thackeray

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SELECTIONS FROM THE DECCAN COMMISSIONER'S FILES
(PESHWA DAFTAR)

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PREFACE

This is a companion volume to my *Economic History of the Bombay Deccan and Karnatak*. It pictures the economic conditions prevalent on the advent of the British, and the efforts by that able body of administrators to establish a capable and vigorous rule in the country. They genuinely desired to work for the well-being of the ryot. In spite of their shortcomings they were extremely sincere in all their endeavours. I trust the readers will consider this work a testimony to the industry, intelligence and good-will of our early collectors and commissioners, who did their all to leave the administration happier than they found it.

For the publication grant of this volume I am indebted to the Trustees of the Tata Trust, and to the Edulji Dinshaw Trust of Karachi.

8th October, 1945.
Poona.

R. D. CHOKSEY.

INTRODUCTION

The battle of Kirkee ended the rule of the Mahrattas and Maharashtra, and all the lands to the far south fell into the hands of the British. The career of Mountstuart Elphinstone was of little interest to his biographer after the battle of Kirkee; He would fain close his biography with the address given by the citizens of Bombay in admiration of Elphinstone's services as the Governor. Some desire to perpetuate the memory of Elphinstone as an able and eminent politician at the Court of the Peshwa. The world of scholarship, in particular, cannot forget him as a worthy historian whose versatile genius did not only revel in classical Greece, but also contributed to Indian history. Few, if any, could do more than say that Mountstuart was a capable and industrious administrator; many forget those hours of labour and the herculean task that faced Elphinstone in Maharashtra when he left the sword for the pen, and was called upon to face problems ever so different to those that had so far fallen to his lot.

No man unaided could accomplish the settlement of the conquered territory, and above all, as in this particular case, the establishment of an alien rule, unless and until he found able hands to share the task. Not only Elphinstone but his country, owes a debt to that able body of workers who set about to establish law, peace, and order in the land beyond the Ghauts. We would fain remember those years of toil spent by the immortal historian of the Mahrattas—Grant Duff—whose labours during these early years of land settlement in the Bombay Deccan are overshadowed by his fame as a historian. John Briggs, the historian, is remembered for his translation of "Ferishta" more than for his administration of Khandesh. Chaplin, Pottinger, Robertson, Thackeray and quite a host of others are all consigned to oblivion, and their names are no more remembered than those of a humble clerk at his ledger, and their labours have hardly called forth a word of encouragement or gratitude.

It is only when we toil through those innumerable records, and glance over the myriad reports and voluminous correspondence, that we are in a position to visualise the labour undertaken, and the work accomplished by that able body of men. No period in a nation's history is so fraught with difficulty, problems of a varied nature, and unseen complications, as that period which brings in a transition of the Government from the conquered to the conquerer. The situation we

all the more trying for the conquerers, as they were a people alien to the soil, and strangers to the classes, customs, and creeds of those who were now to be their subjects. But in spite of their failure in several undertakings during the settlement of the new order, be it said in justice, we have before us ample evidence of industry, sympathy and above all, a genuine desire on their part to work for the happiness of all concerned.

It was no happy lot that had fallen to the share of Elphinstone and his co-workers, for there are no two opinions that the last Peshwa had sapped the land full of horrors. His mismanagement, influenced by his weak character, had vitiated and poisoned every Department of the State. So bad was the administration of the last twenty-three years of Baji Rao's rule that nearly every administrator, during the period of transition (1818-1826) believed, that there could have been nothing commendable in the rule of the Mahrattas who had no settled habits, and whose rule was a continued period of chaos, anarchy, pillage and widespread misery. But it must be said in justice to the memory of the followers of Shivaji that there were periods, in the otherwise gloomy picture of 1818, which could and did compare more favourably with the rule that followed.

The period of transition (1818-1826) is a faithful account of the efforts and doings of the first of our English administrators. I have laboured to sift a host of documents and arrange them in order both as to dates, as well as to the particular class to which those documents could be said to belong. The documents do not only narrate the feelings, endeavours, and proposals of the Commissioners and Collectors but give us a peep into the life of the Deccan *Kumbi*. The land settlement, assessment and revenue, the crops, seasons and prices, the customs, duties, and trade followed by communication, all prepare us for an outline of the economic conditions existing at the advent of the British. Then follow the suggestions and proposals to establish a new order of things on a more lasting basis, and commendable to a wise and honest Government: for everything had to be done anew if prosperity were to return to deserted villages and ruined rural economy. These endeavours and efforts at a new order of things are presented by us in a series of letters on each particular topic, for the nine years of continued records that lay open to research.

While there was a keen anxiety to introduce innovation, the first Commissioner of the Deccan was equally anxious to keep alive all that was good during the last Government. It was with this commendable point of view that Elphinstone was anxious to keep our village organizations as he found them. He was the first of those foreign ad-

ministrators who perceived in those ancient institutions—the Deccan village communities—the vigour that had outlived a chequered past. In the absence of all revenue records no choice was left to him or his successors but to accept the old Kumal standard of the best days of the late rule as the basis for the revenue collection. They failed to perceive that times had changed, and as Thomas Marshall pointed out, the people were better able to pay their taxes in the time of the late Peshwa than under their rule. It was a demand for this high assessment that was at the bottom of all the misery and agricultural failure that followed.

What of the seasons that came and went during the nine years (1818-1826) of our review? They were none too good. We have before us ample evidence of the condition before and after the famine of 1824. The years 1825 and 1826, though fairly well off for the rain, were visited by the scourge of cholera. Thousands died and many more fled from their homes. Touching letters passed between the Collectors and the Commissioner describing the prevailing want and barren landscape of the famine-stricken villages, a picture so often familiar in the economic history of our country. The history of prices was none too encouraging. Unemployment had increased the burden on land, bringing in its train a greater output of grain that cramped the market with surplus produce, making even export difficult on account of transit duties and bad communications. Prices continued to show a fall, while the Government assessment showed a proportionate yearly rise.

The successful ryotwar settlement of Madras was introduced in the Bombay Province also. (A revenue settlement was put into practise that was to be revised every year in the light of the season and the circumstances of the ryot.) Moreover, the mode of settlement was the same as it had been under the late Government. The Mamlatdar's picture looms large on the horizon, the Collector only settling a few villages for the assessment as a model. The Patel was responsible along with the villagers, for the assessment allotted. Remissions were yearly in demand since both the season and crops failed nearly every year. The assessment was anything but a success, and though the needed reduction was never reached, the Commissioner's letters give ample evidence of the anxiety he felt at the yearly loss to the ryot. He requested his Collectors to err on the side of loss of revenue to Government rather than press for the collections and compel the ryot to sell their live-stock.

Vexatious transit duties had been a great hindrance to all internal trade in those early days. These duties, especially on grain, in times of scarcity, weighed heavily. Every evidence pointed to their abolition, till in 1822 steps were taken to remove them from grain and several

other necessities of life. The letters give a satisfactory account of the Customs duties levied on various articles, to and from various parts of the Districts. The toll levied at the innumerable Nakas (Customs-Houses) combined with bad means of communication, did untold harm to the movement of commerce. European articles, in the form of wines, shoes, iron goods and several other commodities, even as early as 1826 were being given preferential treatment by way of exemption from duties. Every effort was to be made to make the new possession paying both as regards her land revenue, her markets and by any possible means of taxation. The Abkari will give the reader ample evidence of how the Collectors were against this sort of taxation. When drinking spread in these early years, the Collectors did all within their power to curb intoxication. In their correspondence we find a bold attitude which pointed out the evils of liquor and expressed their anxiety, that though its increase was favourable to the treasury, it was undoubtedly detrimental to the health and well-being of their subjects.

Experiments in cotton, silk and indigo were undertaken in these early years on a meagre scale, but a beginning was made which was destined to shape itself into bigger endeavours in the thirties and forties of the same century. It is to the growth and culture of cotton that the years following the period of settlement (1818-26) were to be largely directed. Closely connected with their experiment in cotton and silk, the question of communication was of vital interest. Under the Mahrattas little or no attention had been directed to the building of roads. All that the British inherited were fair-weather tracks. The road-building efforts of this early period were nearly all of a military nature, and it was the military department and its engineers who planned them. All communications, therefore, till 1852, were undertaken for connecting the important centres or Cantonments both in the Deccan and the Karnatak with a view to aid the military authority. Few roads up the Ghaut were constructed leading to the coast. The earliest of these efforts was the road up the Thul Ghaut from the Bombay Deccan, and the road up the Ram Ghaut in the Karnatak. All trade, therefore, to and from the coast, had to cross these roads with the utmost difficulty, and transport was on pack-bullocks possessed by the Bunjaries. It was only when the possibilities of good cotton culture were found to be practicable in the Bombay Karnatak, and when the Dharwar cotton promised a hopeful future, that the Company realized the necessity of good roads from the interior to the coast.

The monetary world presented to the new-comers a unique problem. The reader will find lengthy tables of the value of various coins both in gold and silver, settled in relation to the Company's Rupee.

The Collectors were anxious to stabilize this varied currency. These varieties of coins changed their value like any other commodity in the market. They presented to the Shroffs and Sowkars a veritable paradise in which to practise their frauds at the time of exchange. Even the Company fell a victim to these deceptions. The early period, therefore, is an effort to drive out of circulation the baser coin, to accept the Government revenue only in a few stipulated coins, and to settle with the Sowcar of every District a fixed value for each of the coins in the Company's Rupee.

The Period of Transition was therefore fraught with peculiar problems of its own. In the light of the events that followed these early endeavours there was much that needed correction, but it was too much to expect even from this body of enthusiastic workers who were brought to face an environment so different from the one they had lived in so far. The changing circumstances, the loss of all true records, the early antagonistic attitude of the intelligentsia, a lack of good native guidance—not to speak of the ignorance of language and customs of the people—with all these it was a difficult problem with which to be faced when visualised in the light of these obstacles. Courage, patience, and a sympathetic attitude to the conquered soon established the reputation of the conquerors. These early English administrators were not only tireless workers but able and wise politicians. In spite of all the disgust they at times openly felt for the native character and which has so often been arrogantly committed to writing, even by such men as Elphinstone and Chaplin, they were conscious that the success of their endeavours to establish their rule rested more on the acceptance of the ruled than on the outcome of their intelligence, no matter however well supported by their material power. The opportunity to win the people was seldom if ever lost, and those at the head of affairs never lost an opportunity to make those newly arrived from England realize the vital importance of this policy. Religious toleration also went a long way to establish the friendliness of the native population. No more wise words could have been written for his successors than those of Chaplin in a Circular to the Collectors in 1822: "There are many peculiar circumstances of character that may prove an insuperable bar to any cordial interchange of sentiment, and some obvious defect and vicious propensity that will often provoke contempt, but, when the motives are sufficiently strong we know that it is in the power of every one to govern his temper." Such advice has gone farther than the sword toward maintaining the Empire over our land, and at times has invoked a due admiration of the political acumen that has characterized the conduct of those early Englishmen.

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SECTION I

LAND ADMINISTRATION

LAND ADMINISTRATION

ASSESSMENT, SEASONS AND PRICES

No. 1. Prices current in the three principal market towns of Khandeish. (To Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir.

I have the honor to forward a list of prices current of articles at this season of the year of several principal towns in different parts of Candeish. I regret that the document should have been so long delayed, but it arose both from the great press of business and the repeated orders obliged to be sent before they could be procured in any shape that rendered it possible to reduce them to one measure and one coin.

I imagine the articles are for the most part at least 10 per cent dearer than at any other time of the year. I shall, however, direct monthly price current to be sent to me, and, from an average of several, it is probable we shall arrive nearer the truth than by any other mode of investigation.

Those customs which were formerly farmed shall now be contracted for as heretofore till the end of the current year.

Dhoollia, 6th October, 1818.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

N. B. See Table No. 1.

No. 2. Regarding the impoverished state of the Province as exhibited in all revenue accounts, and enclosing two statements showing the rates of assessment and the average prices of grain. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir.

In the whole series of my revenue report from the time I entered upon my duties in this Province I have tended to convey the following impression:

1st. That the country is itself in a wretched state of depression both as to capital and population.

2nd. That the nature of the administration for the preceding 20 years precluded the practicability of an acquaintance with the real resources of the soil, and that fraud was opposed by the weak to the violence of the strong.

TABLE NO. 1

PRICES CURRENT OF ARTICLES* IN THE PRINCIPAL MARKET TOWNS
IN CANDEISH IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1818 IN RUPEES
PER MAUND

Articles	Nundoorbar	Parola	Pespuralla	Maligown	Chandore	Yewilah
Almonds	20.	20.	—	—	—	—
Allum	9.	8.	—	6.12	—	7.
Brass	70.	80.	80.	70.	70. 4	70.
Cocoanut	—	—	—	—	9. 4	—
Cocoanut dried	20.	11. 6	12. 8	11.	11.10	13
Cinnamon	80.	60.	60.	60.	60.	50.
Cloves	320.	260.	260.	270.	280.	240.
Cardamums	200.	160.	160.	210.	200.	160.
Copper	55.	—	80.	72. 8	70. 4	70.
Coffee	22.	32.	—	—	—	—
Currants	20.	24.	40.	10.	20.	—
Cotton	13.	17.	14. 6	16.	16.	20.
Camphor	—	100.	—	—	—	—
Dates	—	8.	7. 8	8. 4	4. 8	—
Ginger dried	12.	6.	8.12	10.	9. 6½	10.
Ghee	20.	24. 4	24.	21.	22.	27.
Gum	3. 8	5.	5.	4.	4. 8	5.
Hemp	3.	3. 5	8.	5.12	5.12	5.
Honey	6.	8.	16.	6.12	7. 4	8. 8
Lead	20.	13.	12.	13. 4	12. 8	13.
Nutmeg	800.	500.	460.	560.	520.	480.
Oil	8.	8.	6. 4	8. 2	9.	11.
Opium	560.	390.	400.	320.	200.	240.
Pepper	20.	20.	21.	20.	20.	21.
Sugar	20.	18.	22. 8	18.12	18.13¼	20.
Soap	20.	—	—	—	—	20.
Steel	18.	—	25.	22.	20.	25.
Saltpetre	16.	10.	7.	7. 4	6.12	—
Tumeric	5.	4.	—	4.12	5.	7.
Tobacco	5.	7. 7	8. 8	6. 8	6.15	8.
Thread (cotton)	22.	40.	40.	30.12	32.	40.
Tin	40.	30. 8	30.	32. 8	32.	35.
Wax	20.	26.	26.	20.	20.	20.

Camp at Dhoolia, 6th October, 1818.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

* There were a number of other Articles of various kinds. I have chosen only a few that struck me as important commodities and which could be found in nearly all the mentioned markets.

3rd. That the tendency of such a state of affairs was to create universal confusion in the accounts, a departure from established rule, a general concealment of the actual resources, and an aversion to produce those revenue documents from which alone an assessment could be formed on any fix't principles.

2. I do not think it necessary to enter here into the various measures I have adopted to remedy these evils, but the result of the investigations made has been to deprive all those who benefited under the misrule and laxity of the late Government of those advantages then so requisite to attach them to the soil.

3. While these illicit sources of emolument have been taken from zemindars, potails, chowdries and others, and even the cultivators themselves on the one hand—they have, on the other, been relieved from all the vexatious oppressions to which they were subject.

4. My first instructions directed that I should fix the assessment on the land on the average of the last ten years. This was done, but in my desire to ascertain the resources of the country, to recover from the hands of those who enjoyed concealed cultivation, and to remove the abuses that existed, a very considerable increase on the land assessment of 1228 and 1229 was brought to credit of the former ten years, and this amount has since been added to by the increased cultivation of 2,48,000 begas of land newly cleared.

5. The prices of the farmers' produce enabled them in those two years to pay the revenue before the new crops of 1230. This, however, fell off owing to a bad season during that year, and the general failure of rain in 1231 has reduced the land revenue still lower. In the meanwhile, the increase extent of cultivation has brought so great a quantity of corn and other raw produce into the market that I conceive it my duty to point out the absolute necessity of adopting immediate measures for relieving the cultivator.

6. The practice of levying customs on grain is alone a heavy grievance, as it keeps a superabundance on the spot, and as it lies the accumulated expense of each day's journey is important, and in ten or twelve days the price must be doubled to cover the expense of transport. Besides which, the value of grain has fallen so materially, that unless it is generally promulgated that a large reduction in the rates will be made, I feel assured not only that the revenue will fall off, but that to enforce the present rents must lead to the greatest distress.

7. A scale of the rates of assessment in some of the Pergunnas where the complaints are loudest is hereby annexed, but it will not be fair to compare this even with the other parts in the Deccan, until the same measure had been taken to prevent the enjoyment of concealed lands. Because it is not only necessary that the size of the bega as in Candeish should be fix't, but also that the cultivator should have no

other *bona fide* mode of bearing the burthen easily than by cultivating other land equally good at an inferior rate of assessment, or by cultivating land for which he pays nothing at all; advantages which in Candeish I conceive to be almost impracticable to any great extent after the severe scrutiny that has been made.

8. I have just returned from the Eastern District where I found it necessary to make ample temporary remissions, both on account of failures and on account of assessment made in the early part of the season which required some modification, but the evil of all others, which admits but of no remedy, is the fall of prices.

9. The assessment that was made in the Fusly year 1228 was at the time admitted by all classes to be a fair average of the last ten years, including as it did every item even to the manifest particles of Gown Khurch, because the prices of grain for ten and even for 25 years had risen by the constant demand in Camps, and the great depression in the produce owing to the little encouragement to cultivation. Within the last four years, however, a period of peace has succeeded. To a considerable diminution in the demand, owing to the ravages of cholera morbus on the one hand, has been added a rapid increase of supply from all classes now reverting to agriculture on the other; an abundance has been produced which has not been known for the last 25 years.

10. I find on examining some old records which were produced for the purpose of exhibition that the rates of Nana Farnavees and of the oldest and best administration fall from 25 to 40 per cent below those of the present period. . . . The standard of assessment for the last ten years, therefore, is now by no means a fair criterion to judge, and if we were to fix it according to the value of the raw produce and corn in Fusly 1228 and 1229, taking the assessment of those years as a maximum, we should have to make remissions of more than 50, and in many instances cent per cent. The accompanying Table is formed from the monthly rates of prices sent in from each Talook and will serve to shew the truth of the above statement.

11. From what I have been able to gather from the farmers in almost every Talook where I have consulted them, I have reason to think that not less than 25 per cent on the gross landed produce of Candeish will be required to be remitted to keep up the present cultivation, with permission to make remissions to the proportion they are required, and not to make them will be to incur the risk of a much greater loss of revenue.

12. I have in my late tour promised the ryots that I would represent their case to you, and I hope it will be convenient to let me have an answer sufficiently early to enable me to encourage the cultivators to take their own fields again as I am convinced the state of market is such that it will induce many of the most industrious farmers to give up from despair and sheer poverty.

Dhoolia 20th May, 1822.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

N. B. See Table No. 2 and 3.

TABLE NO. 2

GENERAL RATES OF ASSESSMENT PER BEGA MEASURED BY A ROD OF 5 CUBITS AND 5 FISTS IN LENGTH IN THE FOLLOWING PERGUNNAHS

Pergunnas	Patusthul			Motusthul			Zerayet		
	Sugar-cane	Rice	Sundry & Mixt Products	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort
Sooltanpoor	—	—	72	6	5	4	4.	3.2	2.
Yawul	—	—	—	7	—	—	4.	3.2	3.
Nusseerabad	—	—	—	6	—	—	4.	3.2	2.2
Rawere	—	—	—	7	—	—	3.2	3.	2.2
Sowda	—	—	—	6	—	—	3.2	3.	2.2
Julloda	—	—	—	5	4	3	4.2	3.2	3.
Chopra	—	—	—	7	—	—	4.	3.2	2.2
Pimpulneir	50	20	10.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zytapoor	40	15	8.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nissole	45	21	10.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teliwun	25	20	10.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rorally (?)	52	19	10.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nawnkelra	50	12	10.	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Rates of Assessment all over Candeish are very high, but those of the Pergunnas alluded to seem particularly so, and reductions are most requisite therein.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

No. 3. Letter from Mr. Pringle relative to relief for the subjects due to famine. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I do myself the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Pringle dated the 29th ultimo together with a copy of my reply of this date, and to solicit the favour of your instructions and advice on the subject to which they relate.

TABLE NO. 3

AVERAGE PRICES* OF GRAIN IN CANDEISH SHEWING THE NUMBER OF SEERS PER CHANDOREE RUPEE, EACH SEER WEIGHING 80 RUPEES OR ABOUT 2 LBS. ENGLISH

Talook	Wheat Seers per Rupee			Rice			Jowaree			Bajry		
	1819	1820	1821	1819	1820	1821	1819	1820	1821	1819	1820	1821
	20	21	22	20	21	22	20	21	22	20	21	22
Banglan	20	15½	42½	12½	12½	22½	20	25	38	22½	21¼	47
Nundoorbar	15¼	18	35	7¼	7½	12¾	24	23	40¾	15¼	20½	34
Chopra	18	14	35¼	6	6	8½	20	22	67½	14¾	20	64
Yawul	17	15	35	7	5½	9½	20	20½	74	21	19¼	64
Jamnair	18	18	46	7	10½	16¾	25	30¾	106	23	27	103
Challegaum	16	13½	31¾	9	12	16½	20	28½	66	24	22	66

* I have only chosen a few principal towns and important grains from the original Table.

From my letter to you enclosing copy of one to my assistants under date the 25th November last, you will have learnt that I attach much importance in this year of distress, to the Ryotwar settlement, and remissions being made immediately. The fate of the rubbee crops is by this time well known. Those of the Patus Turuf have some of them arrived at a middling perfection; those of Indapoor looked when I saw them as if they would in general produce no grain, and as there had been no rain, they of course may be considered to have totally failed. The revenue realised up to this date from that district amounts only to a few thousand rupees, and I fear there is little chance of much more being recovered, keeping in view the propriety of leaving the ryots anything to carry on the cultivation of the next season. The difficulty in a season like the present is not so much to order remission and to be lenient, as to ensure the remission, or suspension of revenue that is given by Government from being exacted or appropriated by the village and district officers. There perhaps was no plan so good as that which I had recommended to my assistants to secure the remissions to the people for whom they are intended—but, as Mr. Pringle observed, the heavy instalments of the year are more payable, while excepting in one of the pergunnas in my own charge, the Ryotwar Settlement has not yet been made, the advisability of his suggestion for a general intimation being given that the lands where crops have failed shall pay no rent, is in some degree called for. I should myself have preferred such remissions to have been given the Ryotwar, and for the sake of Government with reference to the circumstances of the ryot; but it is now impossible to calculate on the completion of the Ryotwar. . . . Mr. Pringle's suggestion is worthy of great consideration.

I shall be highly indebted for any observation you may have the kindness to favour me with on this subject. If the measure suggested by Mr. Pringle be in itself good and expedient, we cannot help the amount of loss to Government in acting on it. I shall also be much obliged for any advice on the mode of fixing the amount, and of securing to the ryots the remission intended for them independently of the usual security of granting them puthas with the amount of remission deducted in them.

Poona, 1st February, 1824.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

To Captain H. D. Robertson,
Collector, etc.,
Poona.

Sir,

The advanced season of the year and near approach of the heaviest revenue instalment, render it incumbent on me to submit to your earnest and immediate consideration the distressed state of the country from the late prolonged and unusual drought. I shall have done myself the honor to call your attention to this subject at an earlier period, but delayed the communication until I could be enabled to furnish a rough estimate from which you might form a judgment of the nature and extent of the calamity, and I might be prepared with greater confidence to suggest such measures as might appear best calculated to afford relief.

2. Anticipating the extensive failures which have been the consequence of the deficient supply of rain, I had at the commencement of the season given directions to the district officers for general instructions on the crop, and a detailed account of the failures. These returns are now in a forward state of preparation, and when completed will form a useful basis for any general measure of relief.

3. I need not inform you that the greater part of the rubbee lands are unsown—that of the small portion that has come up, little will arrive at maturity—that few of the khureef crops have yielded a return equal to the expense of cultivation, and that they have been in general parched and burnt up—that even in the garden land, when the irrigation depends on courses drawn from nullahs, the supply of water has occasionally failed, and in these places the sugar-cane produce has been severely injured—that many of the villages have not straw for their cattle if they keep them at home, nor water if they drive them to the jungle—that though fortunate for the ryot as consumers, these evils

have not been augmented to the degree that might have been expected by their usual concomitants, famine and high prices, yet on the disposal of what produce remains to them, they receive little or no compensation by an enhancement of value for the loss on that which has failed. These and all the other difficulties attending a season like the present, your circuit through the district must have already made you fully acquainted with, and I only mention them now to state that I do not believe them to be less in the Junerè Pranth than in other quarters. There are a few villages where the whole or part of the land has fortunately received the contents of a passing cloud at an opportune season, and the crops have been saved from destruction. There are a few fields where the cultivation was commenced at so early a period as to give them the benefit of all the little rain that fell. But these instances are very rare, and it is difficult to say in what quarter the failures have been most extensive. As far as met my own observation, the khureef crops appeared most promising to the eastward, and the deficiency in the rubbee was most conspicuous in the Turufs of Havaily and Narayengaon.

4. The estimated gross rental of the Sewnere Talook for this year, deducting uncultivated land, is Rupees 2,21,768, and that of the Pabbul Talook, Rupees 1,18,942. The rent of the cultivated fields in the former, in which not a seed has been put in to the ground, amounts to Rupees 59,205, and of those similarly situated in the latter, to Rupees 18,274. I have not yet got any accurate returns of the state of the crops which have been actually sown, but I believe it will not exceed the truth if I estimate the rent of the lands in both districts in which these are little better than a total failure, at 20,000 rupees more, which makes the amount of the rental of assessable land in both Talooks, from which the ryots derive this year no return, and are even subject to a positive loss, nearly a lac of rupees.

5. Under these circumstances, the necessity of some relief is evident; the only question is as to the *mode* and *extent* of its application. With regard to the first, whatever opinions there may be concerning the lightness of the assessment, and the justice of the general maxim that the losses of one year are compensated to the ryot by the advantages of another—that he has no claim on the justice of Government for failure whatever he may have on its compassion from individual distress—and that, therefore, remission should be regulated by the condition of the ryot, not of his field. Still, you will perhaps concur with me in thinking the present one of those extraordinary occasions in which

the universality of the evil sanctions a departure from established rule, and a general pressure should be met with a general relief. This principle at least appears to have been recognised by the custom of the late Government, under which, in the years of drought, it was as usual to deduct the rent of lands unsown (Napere) as those which were not actually ploughed—and this I made no doubt often an occasion when it was much less urgently called for than now. It might be possible in this and in other years to make a Koolwar enquiry into the circumstances of the people, and to grant individual remissions only where there was proof of individual distress, but the tediousness and uncertainty of such a process (matters of little importance in a year of comparative prosperity) would this season be productive of ruinous consequences. The relief might, in many cases, never reach the proper object, or when it did it might often reach them too late. From these considerations I am induced to recommend that the *mode* of granting remission should be *prompt* and *general*. The bounty of Government may in this way be extended to persons who might by their own resources have weathered the difficulties of a bad season, but such cases will be rare, while the relief to those who really stand in need of it is immediate and certain.

6. The next question is the *amount* of remission, and on this point I must record my conviction that to be effectual it should not be short of the failure. Where all the expenses and labour of cultivation have been undergone, but from the want of rain the lands have remained unsown, or having been sown the crops have totally failed, it is clear that from whatever source the ryot is to derive the rent he pays to Government, it must be exterior to the returns of the land on which it is paid. It can only be from the surplus produce of his remaining lands, the savings of former years, or the sale of stock. With regard to the first, your own observation must have informed you that it is a source from which this year very little can be expected, and that the ryot must be considered fortunate who largely recovers his expenses. The pressure of the last year which I have already fully reported to you, forbids us to look for any considerable relief from the second. It remains then that the rent of unsown or unproductive land, if collected at all, must fall upon that source from which it is the duty of every good Government to divert it, and in that case it requires no argument to show that the realisation of the demand would be more detrimental to the revenues than its remission.

7. There remains one more experience to be considered which is that adverted to in the third paragraph of your letter of the 25th Novem-

ber, namely, granting suspended remissions with a reservation of the right to recover them next year should the season prove unfavourable. To this the same objection does not apply as last year, when the evil complained of by the ryot was the want of a market for their grain. Had the collections been suspended *then* on that account, the produce would probably in the meantime have been dissipated. This season the case is different, the ryots cannot well be in a worse condition next year than now, they may be in a better, and so far the provision is good. But next to the evil of being obliged to pay the rent is that of having it constantly in anticipation, and the uncertainty and want of confidence this would occasion is perhaps scarcely compensated by the precarious chance of recovering a very small portion of the arrears and indeed, I am not fully satisfied of the (?) under any circumstances of exacting a rent from cultivated lands which do not yield a blade of produce. At least, the arguments against it apply with infinitely greater force than in the case of those which are actually unploughed. In the latter, the ryot may have an object in abandoning the cultivation. The lands in question may be liable to be cultivated at a loss compensated by other land possessed by the occupant of a better description. But this is not the case with unsown land. In these, with every disposition to cultivate, the ryot is deprived of the benefit of his labour by a calamity which he cannot help and for which he is not accountable, and this, too, generally on the best part of the estate, as appears from the returns of Sewnere in which the unsown land gives a higher rate per bega than the average on the whole cultivation.

8. The measure, then, which I would propose, is a general remission this year on all lands from which no produce has been derived, and in other cases a remission to individuals where an investigation of their circumstances might prove it to be requisite. A proposition which I should have thought it unnecessary to preface by any arguments, were I not startled by the magnitude of the amount, which makes me diffident of my own judgment on this occasion, and anxious to have the benefit of your advice previous to adopting any measure which would involve so considerable a sacrifice to Government.

9. The settlement of the Pabhul Pergunnah is already far advanced, and will, I hope, in a few days be completed. The ryots have hitherto been kept contented from a firm expectation that the jum-mabundy would not pass without some measure being adopted for their relief; a confidence which I am happy to observe has been strengthened.

by the ready attention which was given to their complaints last season. The reports of desertions and the clamours of the villagers are much less frequent than they were this time last year, although the distress is undoubtedly much greater. But I will not venture to promise that this feeling can last long, or what may be the effects of a disappointment, and therefore cannot conclude without soliciting the favour of your instructions as to the nature and extent of the remission you may deem necessary at your earliest possible convenience.

Mhaloongee, 29th January, 1824.

(Sd.) R. K. Pringle.

To R. K. Pringle, Esq.,
1st Assistant, etc.,
Junere.

Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 29th ultimo.

It was my intention after settling one of the Pergunnahs in my own charge ryotwar, to have furnished Mr. Simson and yourself with such suggestions as my observations of the state of the people this year might lead me to believe would assist you in the performance of a similar process in your Pergunnahs, but I have hitherto been prevented by doubts as to the mode best adopted for securing to the ryots the remissions intended for them. My letter... is fully explanatory of my opinion in regard to the remissions and to the necessity of an early intimation to each individual of what portion of his dues is to be excused. In a Pergunnah which I settled ryotwar about a month ago, I remitted the rent of all lands, the crops of which had failed, or in which seed had not been sown. I was, of course, obliged to trust to the returns and inquiries of my local officers concerning the state of the land, other avocations not permitting me to verify them further than by asking the villagers concerning the truth of the reports furnished of a particular ryot. I recommend this plan to your adoption, for even although your attention is exclusively turned to the affairs of a limited extent of the country, you would find the investigation endless, while it would interrupt your attention from subjects of more general importance which cannot without injury be left to minor agents. It will be incumbent on you, nevertheless, when you doubt the reports given to you concerning the state of cultivation, to clear them up by personal inquiry. I shall do myself the honor to submit without delay a copy of your letter to the Commissioner and on benefiting by his advice and experience will again

address you, In the meantime, I have the pleasure to enclose for your perusal my letter to Mr. Chaplin dated 25th November last, from which you will perceive my description of the state of the people agrees in all material points with your own.

Poona, 1st February, 1824.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

No. 4. Letter from Mr. Robertson relative to the relief for the ryot due to famine. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

With reference to my letter dated the 25th November last, I have the honor to submit for your information a copy of a letter from the Mamlatdar of Indapoor in reply to a letter which I deemed it expedient to write to that officer on the 29th of November last, desiring him to suspend the collection of last year's balances; to make a particular enquiry regarding them, and to send a detailed account of the circumstances of the ryot owing such advances; the impoverished condition of that district appearing to me to render it a matter of expediency to receive from Government, as soon as practicable, orders for the remission of all past dues, and realisations which would occasion distress.

The Mamlatdar in his tardy reply to my reference, states that the investigation I desired him to make cannot now be effected from the many desertions that have taken place from the district. He does not consequently say that many of the ryots will not return; but it is highly probable that the greatest number will not, since they have almost all of them gone to the Nizam's country, take their cattle with them, and will probably remain there to enjoy the favourable cowl of that Government. The want of forage rendered it absolutely necessary for them to go where it is to be had.

Poona, 19th February, 1824.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

No. 5. On the probability of famine or scarcity, and enclosing report of Messrs. Reid and Boyd. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, calling on me to report on the measures best calculated for providing against scarcity and even famine, in the event of a longer continuance of drought.

2. As I had only a day or two before the receipt of that letter submitted to you, the result of the Kumavisdar's reports up to that period. I thought it best to wait till I should again hear from them on the subject of the seasons and crops in their respective districts.

3. I now have the honor to enclose copies of two despatches from Messrs. Reid and Boyd, who are stationed at Nussuck and Sunjamnair respectively, and I deeply regret to add, from my own personal observation in the Pergunnas around Ahmednuggur with a circuit of from twelve to twenty miles, the state of the country is as bad as is stated in either of these gentlemen's communications.

4. The accompanying abstract of the Kumavisdar's reports up to the 15th inst. will show you the very melancholy prospect of the season held out in every direction at that period, and not a drop of rain has, I grieve to say, since fallen, although the natives fully calculated on having at least some heavy showers during the term of the moon called by them the "Husth" (Elephanta), several days of which have now passed. The atmosphere has also assumed quite that appearance which it usually bears in the dry weather in the Deckan, for not a cloud is to be seen, and the winds are parching and rather hot in the day-time; besides which they have for the last week constantly blown strong from the northwards and eastwards. On the whole I fear, unless the setting in of the Madras monsoon may cause a change, we cannot look for relief, and I apprehend the inevitable consequences must be that all the cattle that are not speedily removed to other districts where they have had rain, or have not been so already, must perish.

5. A great number of the ryots from various parts of this Collectorate have gone off, with their families and any live stock they had left, in to the Nizam's territories and Berar, and a few to Khandeish in all of which the season, though not a fine one, has been more favourable than here. The Kumavisdars applied to me for instructions regarding these emigrations, and I directed them not to interfere (which they seemed inclined to do) to prevent those who chose to go from departing, as it is better the poor people should save their lives and perhaps preserve their cattle by this measure, than remain to perish. We may likewise safely conclude that should the calamity which has fallen on these provinces be providentially ameliorated by timely and abundant rain next year, by far the greater portion of the ryot, who now quit our district, will return to their homes.

6. With respect to the provision of food for those who prefer re-

maining and taking their chance, or who have not the means of moving. I beg that my inquiries lead me to believe there is grain sufficient in the country to feed even the whole population for eight or ten months on the reduced scale of consumption which necessity will oblige all classes to adopt; but the price will be very high indeed, and the total want of forage will, I imagine, oppose a very serious obstacle to importation from the neighbouring district where they may have been more fortunate with their crops. Were it not for this latter fact we might, I fancy, work for considerable supply from the Nizam's district and Berar, unless indeed the failure in the more southern parts of India have the effect of drawing off all the oversurplus produce in that direction.

7. The benevolent intention of Government stated in the fourth paragraph in your letter, might, no doubt, have some effect, for although no forage is procurable in these districts, yet there is plenty, I am informed, in different parts of the Nizam's country within three or four days' march of our own frontier, and if bringaries who brought grain were allowed to proceed to the sea-coast and carry back an equal number of bullock loads of salt, or any other merchandize, free of duty, I should think the advantage would be sufficient to induce those people to transport hay on a certain number of spare bullocks to support the cattle of their convoy whilst in districts where forage was not to be had.

8. It is not in my power to do more than to surmise the probable period at which the pressure of scarcity may begin to operate with severity, but if no rain falls within the next three weeks, it seems to be the general opinion that there will be a great rise in the price of grain by the 1st of November. and as soon as that takes place, the distress of the poor will be extreme. as very few of them had any means of subsistence left; and unless the Government is pleased to provide them with work, I do not see what they are to do to save themselves from starving.

9. I am myself very averse to any system like gratuitous donations of grain, or Government's having anything to do with the purchase and resale at reduced prices of that commodity, but I think it will, in the end, be requisite to give the people who choose to come forward to work, an opportunity of earning a bare subsistence, and for this purpose I would propose they should be paid just as much as would buy grain enough to preserve life at the bazar rate of the day. To prevent the pressure falling more heavily on the resources of one place than another, I would further propose to divide the people who are at work into bodies of not more than 400 men, women and children each, and to employ them in making roads, repairing ghauts, cleaning aque-

ducts, deepening tanks and wells, etc. The expense of such an arrangement it is impossible even to conjecture, but it appears to me, if it were conducted on the most economical scale, a vast deal of good might be done for a moderate sum. I would further take the liberty of suggesting in event of this, or any other similar plan being sanctioned by Government, that all labourers and inferior persons, not being regular monthly servants, now employed in the Deccan on public works, should be paid on the same principle, as I am pretty certain there will be thousands ready to accept with gratitude our offer of service on these terms.

10. I send a nirruk showing the prices of grain in all the districts under me on the 15th of September. This document has been unavoidably framed in the seers of this province, as many of the Kumavisdars did not know the quantity in a Surat seer and have made a reference on the subject. It may be generally taken, I understand, that the seer throughout this Collectorate is a fourth more than that of Surat, from which a tolerably correct estimate of the present prices of grain may be formed. The decrease in the quantity of grain to be had for a rupee in the course of last month is in some places a fourth, and in others less. The various rates at which it is sold in adjoining purnunnas is a forcible demonstration of the absence of carriage, which were it to be had, would no doubt keep all the markets more on a level than they now are.

21th September, 1824.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

To Captain H. Pottinger, etc.,
Ahmednuggur.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that since my letter of the 15th of last month, no rain has fallen in these districts sufficient to encourage the prospect of even a middling crop. In many villages not a drop has fallen, and in others the grain which had sprouted has been completely destroyed by excessive heat.

Nussuck, 15th September, 1824.

(Sd.) L. R. Reid,
Asst. to the Col.

To Captain Henry Pottinger,
Collector, etc.,
Ahmednuggur.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that since my last of the 15th August, no rain of any consequence has fallen in either of the districts

under my charge, and consequently those crops which in Rajoor and Katool were coming forward pretty favourably, are now beginning to feel the effects of the present drought.

I consider the khureef crops now to have entirely failed, and unless a very speedy and ample fall of rain takes place there can be but little prospect of the later crops turning out to advantage.

TABLE NO. 4

PRICES CURRENT OF VARIOUS SORTS OF GRAIN,* ETC., SELLING WITHIN THE COLLECTORSHIP OF AHMEDNUGGUR ON THE 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1824. EXHIBITING THE QUANTITY IN SEERS PER RUPEE

Names of Districts	Rice			Wheat			Bajree			Jowaree		
	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort
Kurda	9	10	12	9	10½	—	10¾	12½	—	13	13½	—
Parnair	7½	—	—	9	—	—	11½	—	—	13	—	—
Rahoor	—	—	8½	11	—	—	13	—	—	16	—	—
Neywassa	—	—	9½	12½	—	—	14	—	—	17	—	—
Shewgaon	6	—	7	12	—	—	18	—	—	20	24	—
Jamkhair	4	5¼	5½	9	10	10½	10	10½	11	12½	13½	15
Pattoda	8	9	—	14	16	—	14	16	—	—	—	—
Wun Dindoree	10	11	12	18	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
Chandoree	8	—	—	17	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—
Ahmednuggur	6	7	8	8	8½	10	10½	10½	11	11	12	13
Ankolla	8	10	12	13	14	9	13	14	11	16	13½	13
Sungumnair	7	8	9	13	14	9	12	14	15	16	13½	13
Nussuck	10½	11	12	14	15	10½	13½	14	11	12½	13½	15

* I have only chosen some grain from the original Table.

The current prices of grain, etc., are enclosed. (Table No. 4.)

Sungumnair, 15th September, 1824.

(Sd.) W. S. Boyd,
2nd Assistant.

Extracts From the Kumavisdar's Reports

There has been only one shower of rain in this Kumavisdarship since 16th August. It was very heavy but did not last above half an hour, and a few villages (on which it fell) have sowed a little grain on it, but they are likely to lose the seed from the continued drought.

Kurdah. There has been no rain in these districts during the months of July and August, and up to this day (15th September). In many villages the people are in the greatest distress for even water to drink, and must quit their homes if rain does not shortly fall.

Parnair. There was two hours' rain on the Kusba of Parnair, and 5 or 6 adjacent villages on the 18th August, in consequence of which

some grain was sown, but the young plants are rapidly withering from the extreme heat.

Ankola. There has been no rain in these Pergunnas (which are close to the Western Ghats) for nearly two months, and the consequence is that the seed which has been formerly sown, and had come up in 50 or 60 villages, is now drying up.

Sungumnair. One fall of rain which lasted three hours took place on 20 villages of this district since the report of the 15th August, but there was not enough to enable the people to sow, and the cultivators are in sad distress.

Rahoory. A little rain fell on five villages of the turruff of Beyla-poor since the last report, and the people sowed their bajree which came up, but owing to the extreme heat of the sun and winds it is nearly withered.

Newassa. There has been rain in this Pergunnah (which lies above the banks of the Godavery) . . . to enable the khureef crops to be sown in most of the villages, and in many they promised favourably, but it will require more rain to bring them forward, and there has not been a drop during the month of September.

Shewgaon. Rain fell on about two thirds of the villages of this district on the 3rd of September, and crops in them promised to be pretty good if further rain comes. In 29 villages, there has been no rain since the date of the last report (13th August).

Jamkhair. There has been rain in forty villages (20 Khaba and 20 Domalla) of this Kumavisdarship since the date of the last report, and if the usual fall occurs in the Hush Nukshutrah (the Elephanta) the crops will be tolerably good.

Pattoda. There was a little rain in this Pergunnah on the 23rd of August, and the villagers where it fell sowed some grain in addition to what they had before done in light soil, but the whole are likely to be utterly destroyed if a speedy fall does not take place.

Nussuck. Rain fell in small quantities on 40 villages of the Pergunnah since the date of the last report, but not enough even to enable the crops to be sown when they had not been so. In above 200 villages there has not been a drop of rain for two months.

Sinnur. There has been no rain in these Pergunnahs since the last report, and no grain has been put into the ground.

Wun Dindoree. There was 12 hours' very light rain throughout this Pergunnah on the 21st of August, on the strength of which many villages put their khureef crop in the ground, but the plants are sickly and stunted and there is little hope of their producing well, even were plenty of rain to come.

Chandore. Throughout the Kumavisdarship rain fell on the 22nd August, and the people sowed their grain. Since then another slight fall has taken place on 36 villages, but none on 88, and if an ample fall does not speedily occur, the khureef as well as rubbee crops will utterly fail.

Ahmednuggur, 25th September, 1824.

(Sd.) H. Pottinger.

No. 6. Report from Sholapoor on the state of the season. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for your information copies of a report and its enclosures which I have received from the Sub-collector of Sholapoor regarding the state of the seasons and crops in his districts.

Ahmednuggur, 28th September, 1824.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

To Captain Henry Pottinger,
Collector,
Ahmednuggur.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a return of the prices of grain in the several Talooks under this sub-collectorate, showing their average during the three or four weeks succeeding my report of last month, handing up a similar statement. From a comparison, it appears that, in Sholapoor and Mohole, grain is cheaper than it was during the preceding month in Barsee; it is sold at the same price, or nearly the same. In Kumulla it is a slight degree dearer, and in Koortee somewhat more so, it is necessary to remark that in the town of Sholapoor, the prices are represented to be nearly double of the average rate of the Pergunnah. This information, however, has been acquired only from rumour as I have not received a return.

I have delayed reporting upon the state of the individual Talookas, because the representation from the Amildars does not appear to me satisfactory, and might, therefore, lead to an erroneous impression. I shall very shortly have an opportunity of personally ascertaining their

respective conditions, and shall lose no time in communicating the result of my observations and enquiry; by that time, likewise, the period for sowing the rubbee crops will have been so far advanced as to enable me to conjecture how far we can reasonably expect any crops. Of the khureef, I fear, there will be little or nothing; there are some 10,000 begas in Koortee which have been sown, and which a seasonable shower or two might recover; in other parts of the same pergunnah, whole villages have absconded, and the general features of all the reports are distressing and desponding to a degree, notwithstanding the rather comparatively low prices of grain, as quoted in the accompaniment.

Sholapoor, 26th September, 1824.

(Sd.) J. B. Simson.

N. B. See Table No. 5.

*No. 7. Statement of prices current, and reporting on the season.
(To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)*

Sir,

1. I have the honour to transmit to you the prices current of grain, etc., in the districts under this Collectorate up to the 15th inst. Those for the last fortnight shall be forwarded tomorrow or the next day, having been detained by the non-receipt of the Kumavisdar's returns.

2. I am happy to have it in power to inform you that since the date of my last report on this subject, a very considerable fall of rain has taken place in every pergunnah under me, and I think there is, at present, every prospect of the rubbee crop being (in most places) unusually abundant.

3. The Kumavisdar's report all coincides in one particular as to the great distress of the ryot for cattle, and in many villages of Nus-suck, Chandore, Wun Dindoree and Ankola a further supply of rain was required up to the 22nd instant to secure the rubbee crop coming forward.

4. Although I trust every chance of famine, or even scarcity of food, is at an end, yet I imagine there will be a very great deal of inconvenience (and possibly in some districts, distress) experienced by numbers of villages for want of water, as even in parts of the country which have been most favoured by the rain, not one of the *nullahs* that used to flow all the year round have a drop in them, and the wells, generally speaking, are now lower than is common in the months of April and May.

TABLE NO. 5

RETURN OF THE AVERAGE PRICES OF GRAIN,* ETC. WITHIN THE SUB-COLLECTORATE OF SHOLAPOOR DURING THE LATTER PART OF AUGUST AND BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER, 1824

	Seers per Rupee															Kurbee per 1,000 Bundles		
	Javari		Wheat		Bajri		Gram		Rice			Dall of Toor	Dall of Moong	Teel	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	
	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort									
Sholapoor	29½	30¾	12½	13¼	15¼	18¼	15¼	16¾	7	7½	9	12	—	11¼	84¼	71½	66¾	
Mohole	30¾	32¼	14	14¾	22¾	—	18	—	8½	9¼	10	12	11¼	14¾	65	60	55	
Barsee	33	34¼	15	16½	22	—	21¼	—	9½	11	11½	13	—	—	70	60	50	
Kurmulla	26¼	28¾	14¼	15½	20½	—	18¼	20¾	7½	8	9¼	11¾	12½	13¾	70	62	50	
Koortee	26¼	30	13¼	15	20	25	16¾	18¾	8¾	9¼	—	11¼	15	11¼	70	60	50	

* I have left out a few unimportant grains that were given in the original Table.

(3d.) J. B. Simson.

(True Copy) (Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

Ahmednuggur, 29th October, 1824.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

*No. 8. Reporting on the state of the season and current prices.
(To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)*

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for your information a copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Simson reporting on the state of the season and sending prices current. . . .

2nd November, 1824.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

To Captain H. Pottinger,
Collector,
Ahmednuggur.

Sir,

Since I addressed you upon the 26th of last month regarding the state of the districts, there have been most seasonable and frequent showers which have been general throughout the Sub-collectorate. . . . Upon the approach of rain, those who had cattle remaining in their villages, at once applied them to the purpose of sowing their fields. By far the greatest number, however, had been compelled to send them into the Nizam's country for pasture, nor was the delay which thus necessarily intervened ere they could be brought back, the only hinderance to the prosecution of cultivation, for the villager in His Highness' districts . . . had let out their fallow lands at an exorbitant rate to those arriving among them . . . thus the renter found it difficult to pay, . . . and until a settlement was effected, . . . the latter were not permitted to take away their bullocks, while every difficulty was thrown in the way of their return to their own homes. The extent of these annoyances cannot now be calculated, but I fear it will prove considerable. In some parts I am told the dearth of cattle has proceeded to such an extreme that the ryots are drawing one another's ploughs. Another difficulty is the disinclination of the banyans to advance grain for the purpose of sowing under the hope that its value will be enhanced even beyond its present unprecedented price. On all occasions the sufferers have not shown an inclination to abide by the sawkar's wishes, and have, by force, helped themselves. I need not say that where it has been brought to my notice, I have not permitted those so offending to escape punishment, and I have endeavoured to impress upon all that the banyan's grain is as much his own, and as entirely at his disposal, as any property is another's to whom it may belong. . . .

Previous to these recent showers, you are aware of the number of inhabitants who are moving to more fortunate countries; the determination of one and all to quit after Dussorah, was singularly general; their emigration has been now laid aside, and many already on foot have retrograded; there is now no apprehension regarding pasture for the cattle, but the prices of grain are kept up by the merchants beyond what is justified by the prospects now brightening around us, and the large quantity in store; the dealers, however, seem determined to be blind to these grounds for an abatement of price, and still cling to the chance of a failure of crops. The accompanying statement of Neericks shows a considerable rise in the prices. [Table No. 6.] I

TABLE NO. 6

RETURN OF THE AVERAGE PRICES OF GRAIN,* ETC., WITHIN THE SUB-COLLECTORATE OF SHOLAPOOR DURING THE LATTER PART OF SEPTEMBER AND BEGINNING OF OCTOBER, 1824

	Seers per Rupee											Curbee per 1,000 Bundles			
	Jawari		Wheat		Bajeri		Gram		Rice			1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort	
	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	1st Sort	2nd Sort	3rd Sort				
Sholapoor	18	19	10	14	13	14	11	12	6	7	7½	unprocurable	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Mohole	21	22	13	14	20	—	14	14¾	8	9	10	83	—	—	—
Barsee	21	23	12	13	17	—	18	—	8	8½	10	unprocurable	—	—	—
Kurmulla	23	25	13	—	17	—	15	15½	6¾	7½	8	unprocurable	—	—	—
Kortee	17½	19	12½	13	16	17	13	16	8¾	9	10	unprocurable	—	—	—

* I have chosen only the important grains. There were others in the original Table such as toor, tell, kurdi, moong, etc.

have cautioned the Mamludars to be careful in drawing up these documents, and expressed an apprehension as to the correctness of those transmitted. I think the present one is more trustworthy... some portion of the enhanced prices is doubtless occasioned by the markets not receiving further supplies in consequence of all the bullocks being employed in the field; if there is any weight in this, it is an evil which will be speedily remedied, and to assist the object of a more abundant market, I have made arrangements for taking off the transit duties now levied upon grain imported from the Nizam's boundaries. Should a temporary measure of this description be considered advisable, its immediate adoption is not required, as the transit of grain, as I have above said, is now at a stand, or nearly so. The carriage of

it upon men's heads is another remarkable feature of the present, unfortunate season. The road is sometimes actually covered for miles by men, women and children thus labouring for a hard earned pittance—the load occasionally is forage.

To induce the marwarries to part with their grain to those in want of seed, I have given very general assurance that for what has thus been eked out, the cultivators will receive advances where they require them. To satisfy the sellers, the amount will not be great, but may be of essential service, and I have long since expressed my opinion that the extent of Tuggave given this year has been very inadequate to the demands. To relieve the cultivators also I have made some alterations in the dates when kists were to be considered due, which have given them more time to liquidate the Sircar's claims for the present year.

Sholapoor, 29th October, 1824.

(Sd.) J. B. Simson.

No. 9. Subject on desertion of inhabitants of Indapoor. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 27th instant, enclosing an extract of a letter from Captain Pottinger.

2. Fifty seven villages of Indapoor have been recently deserted, and a considerable number of persons, but not whole families, have left Poorundher and Alla Bella and the northern parts of Junere. The Indapoor desertions may be looked upon perhaps as immigrations, but certainly none of the others can be considered to have that character. Some have gone with the cattle of the villages to places where pasture and water are to be procured. Others, the young men of the family, have proceeded to large towns to work for their subsistence, thereby relieving their families at home from the expense of some outlay, an object of great consequence where their labours at home would be attended with no beneficial results from the want of rain and water and the expiring condition of the rubbee crops. The mass of the ryots of this Collectorship, though pinched in their means, will, no doubt, weather the season and recover their energy if the next is a favourable rainy season. The ryots under the ghauts having had very fine crops, are in a flourishing condition. It is the only tract from whence I am at present making collections, and I was on the point of reporting to you that in consequence of there having been neither dews nor rain in November and December, the greatest part of the fine rubbee crops,

whose extent and excellence lately covered the country with verdure, and led to the expectation of a plentiful harvest, has now dried up, and that my estimates of land revenue for this year will not be realised. I shall draft a new estimate . . . for the Accountant General's information since there is now no hope to be entertained of the recovery of the crop.

Poona, December, 1824.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

COMMISSIONER IN THE DECCAN, TO THE COLLECTORS

*No. 10. Requesting to revise and review the rates of assessment.
(To Captain H. D. Robertson, Collector.)*

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant on the subject of the village of Amoondé.

2. The Potel and Koolkurnee of that village followed me on my return to Poona, and were with me for about 10 or 12 days, when they were sent back. I had many months ago the honor to send you a statement of their complaints of over-assessment, and I have again gone into an examination of the accounts of the village which have every appearance of being authentic. I have very little doubt of their general accuracy—assuming them as tolerably correct. I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that your settlement for 1230, founded on old Durs to which you have suddenly reverted, is too high, and that the circumstance is quite sufficient to account for many ryots absconding and leaving their crops on the ground, as well as for the reiterated complaints of those who remain in the village.

3. Whether I look to the extent of land under cultivation, to the rates of assessment, or to the annual settlement and collection of the village for the last 30 years, I cannot perceive sufficient ground for the addition that was last year made to the assessment. I have, therefore, to request that you revise your settlement and reduce it, so that it may not considerably exceed the amount realised during former years when the village was in a flourishing condition.

4. Adverting to the time of Nana Furnavees' management, it appears that the quantity of land under cultivation was then greater than at present, altho' the revenue settlement was lower than you have made it. The epoch may, with great propriety I think, be looked to as a sort of landmark to guide you, and with reference to it I should estimate

the present capacity of the village (assuming the land under tillage to be 34 candies) at about 2,300 rupees revenue, which sum approximates to the average of 8 years of Nana's administration.

5. I have availed myself of this occasion to state to you that the inhabitants of Tullegam are again come in to complain that they are still pressed for the amount of the settlement you concluded for that village. I have frequently had occasion to write to you on the subject, and I have no doubt, whatever may be your opinion in regard to the settlement, that you will consider mine which is founded on some experience, to be entitled to consideration, especially when it leads to the side of moderation in favor of the ryot, to whom leniency this year owing to the cheapness of grain seems peculiarly necessary. It appears the more requisite that I should remind you of this policy since I am given to understand that some of the cultivators in your Collectorate are beginning to sell their ploughing bullocks to satisfy the Government demands upon them. I am very far, however, from expecting, in general, implicit deference to my judgment on questions of purely local nature on which you have necessarily better means of informing yourself than I have, and I beg leave explicitly with reference to the concluding para of your letter to disclaim any intention of imputing you over zeal, or want of moderation generally, in fixing the assessment, though in particular instances I perceived errors from which no Collector, however able and experienced, can be entirely exempted.

Poona, 21st April, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 11. Authorising him to make reduction in the assessment on account of the depression of the prices of all sorts of land produce. (To Captain John Briggs, Collector.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, representing the necessity of a reduction of assessment in consequence of the embarrassment arising from the depression of the prices of all sorts of land produce.

2. As you have hitherto exercised your discretion in raising the Jumma of the districts under your charge, you are, of course, at liberty to make such abatements as you may find on enquiry to be absolutely necessary to prevent the inevitable consequence of over-assessment.

3. I had hitherto hoped that the encrease of revenue from Khan-deish had proceeded, not from any enhancement of individual rents,

but rather from a development of concealed resources, a reduction of village expenses, and an extension of the cultivation of waste lands which you have at various times represented to have been brought under tillage, and judging from the extent of the improvements, I had formed an opinion that the settlement had not been augmented beyond the rates in which these sources of improvement had been enlarged and extended. Reflecting also that large misappropriations of revenue in former years by district zemindars, hoozoor and district servants had been detected, and were now brought to the public accounts, it did not strike me that the progressive encrease of the Jumma-bundee could be excessive, especially as I had observed your accounts of Fusly 1230 that you had made reductions in the assessment of that year to the extent of nearly two lacs of rupees, partly on account of failure of crops and partly on account of lands, the cultivation of which had been relinquished. This result, it must be recollected, took place at a time when prices were still up to an unusually high level. The failure, therefore, must have been great to have rendered it necessary and, considering the distress it must have occasioned, there may be reason for questioning the policy of the measure resorted to of levying an extra assessment from those who had good crops in the former year, in order to avoid the exhibition of so large a defalcation.

4. The conclusion, however, from the premises is either that your annual settlement in Khandeish has been too high, or that the exaction of the local functionaries over and above the realisations of Government has caused them to press too heavily upon the cultivating classes. It may be apprehended that both causes have operated to produce this effect, and the distress arising from it has unquestionably been aggravated by the sudden fall of prices.

5. Under all these circumstances of difficulty which have, I fear, been rendered still more embarrassing by the premature alteration of the old rates of assessment, on which subject I addressed you so fully on the 3rd and 22nd of January last, it is not a matter of surprise, tho' it is of regret, that you should anticipate a still further diminution of revenue for Fusly 1231 which has fast expired. It is true that the average of the last 10 years was suggestive to you as a guide by which to make your annual settlements, but as the whole tenor of the instructions that have from time to time been issued by the Hon'ble the late Commissioner, and by myself, inculcated moderation, it will be a source of great concern to the Hon'ble the Governor in Council that you should have fallen into the error of over-assessment. Should it, however, have

been raised to a standard, the realisation of which is incompatible with the prosperity of the ryot, a remedy for an evil of such magnitude cannot be too early applied. In making your final arrangement of the settlement, your own judgment and experience must mainly determine the extent to which lenity and forbearance shall be exercised, a point that can only be decided by the local knowledge and information of the Collector.

6. It is incumbent on me at the same time to state to you, that in the whole course of my examination of villages in Khandeish during my late tour, the general complaint, next to that of the extraordinary depression of prices, was against the inequality of the apportionment of the present land rent upon individual ryot; but I had no reason to believe that the aggregate assessment of villages was immoderate, and on a comparison of the present with former accounts in the Duftur I am led to believe that the land revenue of Khandeish is still below the amount of realisation of the Peshwa's Government, both in Nana Furnavees' time and latterly during Bajee Row's farming system. In Nana Furnavees' time making allowance for the value of Alienation since resumed, the Jumma of Khandeish appears to have been about 53 per cent of the Kumal. In the latter period of the Peshwa's Government, it was about 43 per cent of the Kumal, and the Government realisation of Fusly 1230 falls somewhat short of that ratio. In particular places you may perhaps have raised the assessment higher than at either of those periods, but as it is only from general views that we can judge of the moderation or excess of a settlement, relatively considered, the aggregate at this moment does not at first sight appear excessive. If individual rates of assessment have anywhere been raised 30 or 40 per cent above what they were in Nana's time, it is certainly to be regretted, for it may fairly be assumed that such an augmentation must be intolerably burthensome.

7. Your average of the collection of the 10 years previous to the conquest must, I presume, have been formed on accounts furnished to you by the heads of villages. I need not say that such accounts are not to be depended upon, and can therefore afford no satisfactory criterion by which to decide that the present settlement is immoderate.

8. The transition from low to high prices has, it must be admitted, been great as it has been sudden, and though in a settlement framed on principles of moderation, a change of the value of land produce is never allowed materially to affect the amount of revenue, yet temporary indulgence to the poorer classes of ryots who seldom lay by the profits

of one year to make good the losses of another, is always in some degree indispensable. That the remission should, however, amount to 25 per cent appears to me to be much larger than the exigencies of the time can possibly require, unless, indeed, the districts are reduced to a lower ebb than I suppose them to be. A much smaller reduction, if judiciously distributed, would, I should hope, be sufficient to remove much of the actual embarrassment of the farmers. But a much larger amount will afford little relief and will only serve as a precedent for further abatement if it be meted out generally without reference to existing inequality and to the real necessities of those who demand it. Unless great care also be used to see that the remission really goes to those for whom it is intended, the general burthens will not be sensibly lightened by the reduction.

9. In regard to the complaints of the farmers adverted to in the 11th paragraph of your letter, your own experience must convince you that hardly any sacrifices will satisfy them. I never knew a ryot who, when consulted, did not complain that his rent was too high, either on account of deficient or of redundant produce. Such complaints are quite systematic, and unless supported by other undoubted proof of distress, they are entitled to very little weight.

10. The measure of abolishing the transit duties on grain has for some time past been under consideration, and though it must occasion some temporary loss of revenue, I am persuaded that it will eventually conduce to the prosperity of the country, and I shall, therefore, take an early opportunity of submitting it to the consideration of the Governor in Council.

11. I have submitted a copy of this letter to Government whose instructions shall hereafter be communicated to you. In the meantime, it would be satisfactory to me to be informed whether or not the new system of classification, measurement and assessment which you introduced, was partially or wholly relinquished after the receipt of my letter of the 3rd and 22nd January.

Poona, 24th June, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

P. S. Since writing the above letter, I have compared the settlement of Khandeish with those of several other Collectorates in the Deccan, after making in each such alterations as have been occasioned by deductions and additions to the Jumma of each year owing to transfers, alienations and acquisitions of territory, without which no just comparison can be drawn, the result is that in Ahmednuggur the en-

crease of revenue in Fusly 1229 beyond that of Fusly 1228 amounts to 18 per cent; in Dharwar to $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; in Khandeish to little more than 9 per cent. The Jumma of 1229 compared with 1230 is as follows: In Poona there is an encrease in 1230 of 11 per cent. In Dharwar there is a still further encrease of $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. In Nuggur there is a *decrease* of not quite 2 per cent, and in Khandeish there is a *decrease* of $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The settlement of 1230 in Khandeish appears, therefore, to be not more than $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent above that of 1228, and as the settlement of 1228 was the first year of our management, when the resources of the country could have been fully brought to light, it may be presumed that Government realisations were not excessive, I say the Government realisations, which appear to have been moderate, but as we know that the extra exactions, both of that and the following year, part of which have since been proved, were exceedingly heavy, it may be apprehended that more of the present distress may be referred to that cause rather than to the circumstances of too high a revenue having been collected for Government.

No. 12. Requesting not to raise the assessment. (To Captain H. D. Robertson, Collector.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th instant on the subject of assessment of the ensuing Fusly.

My sentiments at different times conveyed to you, will have shown that I by no means wish the assessment to be raised beyond what the ryots pay without difficulty, and if the principle I have recommended shall occasion the loss which you mention, it is not to be put in competition with the advantage which will eventually accrue to Government from the encreased prosperity of the cultivating classes. So much depends on the improved or neglected state of land at different periods that it is impossible to lay down any specific rule as to whether the old rate, or the modern ones, shall be exacted. If the lands shall have been brought into an improved state of fertility, the rates that have been realised for a course of years in former times may very fairly be again demanded, but if they have been long disused, it will be expedient to revert to them by degrees only, since all sudden changes affecting property are apt to occasion distress. On the whole, however, the average, or medium course adverted to in the second para of your letter seems to be most prudent and advisable. You must, however, I conceive, be guided a great deal by local circumstances, and keeping in view the

former usage of good times, must exercise your discretion in determining whether the present assessment is too high, or too low in particular villages, and lower it or raise it accordingly. As much care and attention are required in reducing the rates of assessment so that the relief may go to those who really stand in need of it, so in augmenting them that the addition shall not fall on those who are already sufficiently burthened. A continuous process of investigation with a leaning to the side of moderation will obviate all danger of committing any very great error. The task of making a settlement in the present imperfect state of revenue record of villages is undeniably difficult, and every allowance is therefore due, should mistakes in this particular be made, but your experience and judgment will, I have no doubt, prevent the occurrence of any of considerable magnitude.

Poona, 31st August, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 13. Requesting to make no endeavour to restrain the price of grain and other provisions. (To Captain H. D. Robertson, Collector.)

Sir,

1. An attempt having been very improperly made by some of the Moamludars in the Ahmednuggur districts to restrain the dealers from enhancing the prices of grain, the Collector has very judiciously circulated instructions to all those who are under him, prohibiting any such interference. It is in vain to use any authority to moderate the rates of sale. Injunctions to that effect are no less unjust than they are nugatory—unjust as their tendency is to tax one class for the benefit of others, and nugatory as they always encrease the evil which they are intended to remedy by discouraging the people from coming to the market, and stopping the forces of supply. If there be a probability of scarcity, the rise of prices is the only circumstance, except that of importing supplies from other countries, which can in the least mitigate the evil by inducing all classes to economise their means so that they may be eked out until there be a return of plenty. To improve any restraint upon the freedom of the market is likewise no less detrimental to the fiscal interests of Government than it is pernicious to the cultivator, for it is that freedom alone which proportions the price to the cost of production, and enables the ryots to judge whether he shall extend, or contract, the limits of his farm. This general rule of non-interference should not be departed from even in the case of scarcity, much less so when we know that there is no immediate or perhaps even remote danger of such a contingency. Every man's own interest will promote him

to produce his stock for sale in due season when there are a number of buyers, and only a few dealers being opulent enough to keep it back for any length of time, the rivalry of others will inevitably bring the rates to a fairer level than can possibly be attained by arbitrary interposition of any obstacle to the supply of market. If such really exist, whether arising from any standing orders about Nirkhs, or any interference of the local district authorities, they should be at once removed by means of a Proclamation, declaring the market perfectly open to all buyers and sellers, whether wholesale or retail, and giving the most satisfactory assurances that no attempt to fix rates shall be tolerated by Government, for it is the freedom of competition alone which can limit the fluctuation of prices within bounds that are consistent with reasonable profits.

2. Some obstructions to the free supply of the markets of Poona by which these recognised principles appear to have been suspended, having lately been complained of, I have been thus particular in impressing the subject upon your attention under the conviction that, were it legal, it would be possible for Government officers to fix prices, since we cannot discover the just proportion between demand and supply, of which private interest is the only sure barometer, all commodities should therefore be left gradually to find their level, which can be adjusted in the market only. Even a sudden and great vibration from low to high prices does not, in my opinion, justify the interposition of the Magistrate. The vibration will probably be found to have been occasioned by the unusual demand of purchasers anticipating a drought and failure of crops. This must naturally raise prices, but if they be permitted to take their course, the competition will soon be transferred to the sellers who will be anxious to profit by the high rates. By this means, we may rest assured that prices will arise at a proper medium, proportionate to the quantity of grain on hand.

3. On all occasions of a considerable rise of prices, some discontent and a hue and cry are raised against monopolizers. But all the avenues to Poona, since the abolition of duties on grain, being open to every ryot who has a grain pit, and to every Brinjaree, Lumbanee, or other grain dealer, or carrier that has a bullock to convey it, it does not appear to me probable that the great dealers would long be able to command their own prices, especially when we further consider that there is a great Military Bazar open to everybody close to the very walls of the city. Did monopoly exist, even to a certain extent, it ought not hastily to be meddled with, for if it is usually in the hands

of capitalists, who, by the employment of their capital, benefit the community by being always able to undersell to petty dealers, by which means the effects of this monopoly, in the long run, will be found to be rather favourable than otherwise to consumers.

4. Whilst grain was a mere drag owing to redundancy, and has been rotting in the hands of merchants, Government never thought of losses, or projected any compensation to him,—neither ought it when things have changed sides to make any indirect attempt to restrain his gains. All the Magistrate has to do is to see that the public peace is not disturbed by the ill-governed passions of hungry and disappointed people, and to take care that impediments to a free supply are prohibited. Any measure beyond these precautions is to be deprecated as likely to occasion a mischievous result.

5. It may be urged that, in this country, particular classes only are engaged in the grain trade, and that, competition being cramped, these indisputable principles of political economy are not so strictly applicable as they are at home. To this it may be replied that the grain trade here is far from being as exclusive as it is sometimes assumed. The whole of the principal cultivators are dealers; merchants of various castes speculate in it. Every Hindoo or Mosulman who has a bullock and a sack may traffic in grain. Brinjarees and Lumbanees are not only carriers but often traders in the articles. This bugbear of monopoly, so often conjured up, but which in reality has no more existence than it ought to have, and must necessarily have, as long as people are allowed to follow the bent of their private interest and individual discretion, public authority never can regulate for them.

6. I have no doubt that all these remarks which have nothing novel in them will have occurred to you, but as they are a good deal at variance with native policy, it may be useful to record them, with a view to check tempering upon so delicate a point on the part of your local functionaries.

Poona, 30th October, 1823.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

REVENUE AND REMISSIONS

COMMISSIONER IN THE DECCAN TO THE COLLECTORS

*No. 14. Letter regarding remissions and the Koolwar settlement.
(To Captain H. D. Robertson, Collector.)*

Sir.

Adverting to your letter of the 4th instant enclosing the copy of your letter to Mr. Pringle on the subject of remissions, I have the honor to furnish, for your information, the following observations that have occurred to me as necessary to be attended to in making the Koolwar settlement.

2. As the crops this year have extensively failed in the dry lands, and there is some diminution even of the Baghaet in consequence of the Monsoon rains having been so remarkably deficient, it may be useful to keep in view a few leading points that may serve you as a general guide in apportioning each individual rent as far as may be practicable, as well as to the state of his circumstances as to the present produce of his lands.

3. For the purpose of effecting this adjustment, the first duty of the district officer should be to ascertain what may be the actual defalcation of cultivation from want of water, or other causes, both in the garden, or Baghaet, and in the Zerait, or dry lands, of every village.

4. In the Zerait, the strictest scrutiny should be made as to what extent of land has been occupied but not sown, in what field the seed sown has not vegetated at all, what fields had yielded only kurbee or straw, or in which the seed sown had come up but the crop has subsequently withered, or in which the crop has yielded a quarter or half or $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ordinary produce.

5. In the Baghaet, enquiry should be made with reference to each holding, whether the means of irrigation has been sufficient for the usual two crops of a Baghaet product of grain, or the single crop of sugar-cane; or whether the water has been adequate only to one superior garden produce and one of wheat, or gram, or vegetable, or the inferior produce of Baghaet, which requires only an occasional irrigation.

6. The khureef crop in the dry land, having not only been cut but thrashed out, and the grain perhaps consumed, it is not easy now to ascertain what has been the harvest. But land that has been sown with mixed crops will still be found in some places to have the toor and the umbaree crops remaining, and from enquiry on the spot it may usually be known what sort of crop of bajree, or other grain, has been already reaped, and if one crop only has been sown, the stubble will often help to shew what has been the state of it. From these and other

sources of information, an estimate may be formed whether the returns have been a quarter and a half, three quarters, or a whole crop, or whether the field has been entirely sown or only partially.

7. With regard to the rubbee crop, it is either still on the ground so that by an inspection the state of each ryot's field may be correctly known, or it probably will be found stacked on the thrashing floor, and an examination of the rick will enable the district officer to guess, with tolerable accuracy, what have been the returns, and how far the stacks of jowaree, etc., have come to a head, or have yielded only straw. The same remark will apply to wheat and other descriptions of grain. The enquiry will be facilitated, too, by comparing the state of one field with that of the adjacent one. The result of which inspection should be particularly recorded, and if partially saved from failure, as is often the practice, by the additional labour of the ryot, who tho' it be Zerait land, sometimes continues to bring water to irrigate it, a note should be subjoined specifying what portion has been productive and what not.

8. All these minute points must necessarily be sifted by the Shekidars and Karkoonas of the district, and when the examination shall be completed, the ryots of two or three villages within the circuit of a koss should be assembled at any convenient place for the Ryotwar settlement along with patels and koolkurnees. It would be idle to expect that the cultivators should state fairly what their fields have produced, but in every village all know very well from the daily talk, and from their personal observation and experience, what has been about the extent of the products of the field of each of their neighbours, and this information whatever may have been the failure, though not procurable from the individual cultivator, is usually attainable through various other channels in his own village, or at all events from the inhabitants of the surrounding places. In most villages, too, it will be found that there are two or more parties, or feuds, amongst the patels, koolkurnees or ryots, from whom an able Catcherry finds little difficulty in acquiring a knowledge of its real resources, and the actual condition of individual ryots.

9. A due examination being finished, the rent of each ryot should be fixed somewhat after the following manner:

First: If a ryot holds both Baghaet and Zeraet, and the crops of both description have been tolerable, his rent should be determined by the usual or Mamool rate without any abatement for mixed patches of waste.

Second: Should both crops of Baghaet have been good, and half his Zeraet productive, whilst the other half has yielded only straw, he may still be fairly made to pay his full rent.

Third: Should his Baghaet have yielded one of the superior crops only, and one inferior requiring less water, and his Zeraet have been only partially productive, his rent should be settled with reference to his circumstances. If he be poor (Nadan) a suitable discretionary remission (Moonasib Kumee) should be allowed for the failure of Zeraet, which would afford him relief and prevent him from relinquishing his land next year.

Fourth: If his Baghaet be in part planted with sugar-cane and part with vegetables, or inferior garden products, and the crop on his Zeraet has been very deficient, the amount to be paid must be determined according to his ability. But if his Baghaet crop has been good, whilst his Zeraet field, forming part of the same holding, has been wilfully left waste, remission need not, in such cases, be allowed to those who have the means of paying without difficulty.

Fifth: If the ryot's Baghaet, owing to want of water, has yielded only the first crop, whilst the 2nd has failed, and the Zeraet has also been deficient, an abatement of the rent must be allowed agreeably to circumstances, and to the rate of the village.

Sixth: When a ryot holds only Zeraet or dry land, if one field has yielded a good crop and the other a half, or three parts of the usual crop, it will not be necessary to make any abatement in the ordinary assessment.

Seventh: If one of his fields has yielded $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a crop and the other only straw, he should get such remission for the latter, say 25, 50 or 75 per cent, as may appear necessary to save him from distress.

Eighth: If one whole field of a ryot has been cultivated, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of another, and the crop only middling, deduction should be allowed for the part lying fallow, in proportion to its extent, unless it be all sort of an eighth or a tenth, in which case abatement may be dispensed with.

Ninth: If the crop of one of his fields be only indifferent, and the other field, for want of rain, has been left fallow, remission should be given in full for the latter. But should the crop of one field have been good, and the other adjoining field have been left waste for the foraging of his cattle, or in consequence of mere neglect or contumacy, he should

be made to pay for it as far as his ability will permit. In case, however, of poverty, the rent must be remitted on his engaging not to offer again in like manner.

Tenth: If a ryot possesses only one field of Zeraet, and one quarter of it be fallow, the fourth of his rent may be remitted. If a half or three quarters be uncultivated, the remission must of course be in proportion.

Eleventh: In a field of great extent, a small portion consisting of one or two begas may perhaps be cultivated, and if measuring it would occupy more time than can be spared, the extent of it must be estimated and allowance made for the part left waste.

Twelfth: Should a crop of a ryot cultivating Zeraet have failed altogether, either before or after coming up, or should the field have been agreed for, but not have been sold at all, the whole rent must be remitted.

Thirteenth: No additional rent should be imposed this year on Zeraet land that may have been partially watered to save the crop. If a small portion, however, of a field so watered be waste not exceeding a fifth of the whole, remission need not be allowed.

Fourteenth: Should the field be extensive, and a part have yielded a crop whilst the other part from not being watered yield only straw, the proportions that have been productive or unproductive of grain should be ascertained, and the discretional abatement allowed according to circumstances.

10. Should the rates of assessment in any village appear so high as to be likely to hinder cultivation next year, the average collection from the cultivated land of that village, during ten years of the preceding Government, should be ascertained and compared with the collections from the same land during our Government, and if from this comparison, and from enquiry from the inhabitants, it be found necessary to make a temporary reduction of those rates, it should be granted on an *Istawa*, or gradually increasing *Cowl*, for a term of years so regulated on the one hand that the ryot may be encouraged to undertake the cultivation, and on the other that Government may sustain no loss from the terms being so easy as to induce the relinquishment of land already under tillage. By these means, it may be hoped that the ryots who have fled may be led to return to their villages, and that those now on the point of emigrating may be persuaded to remain

stationary. These Istawas are however, not to be granted in lump to villages, but to be given as far as may be possible to individual cultivators.

11. The above rules for deciding on the present amount of rent to be taken this year from ryots, are to be extended to villages where the failure of crops is partial. Where the crops of whole villages have utterly failed, and the rates of assessment may be considered at all high, no rent should this year be levied. The whole should be remitted, and such temporary abatement made in the high rates of assessment conformably to the principle suggested in the foregoing paragraph, as may be indispensable to inspire future confidence in the ryot. This being established, it is to be hoped he will see his advantage in remaining at home, if he can by any possible means support himself and his cattle till the cultivating season.

12. I must not, however, omit to state my opinion that the rules recommended for regulating remission are strictly applicable only to Sirkar lands, cultivated by Oopurees, since the extension of this indiscriminately, or generally, to the lands of Meerasdars would tend to undermine the first principle of Meerassee tenure. In a season like the present, however, exception must be made as a special indulgence to the established rules that Meerasdars are liable to pay under all circumstances, and the benefit of the same liberal scale of discretionary abatement may be allowed to them also, when the failure of their crops and their inability to discharge their rents are fully ascertained to your satisfaction by the local functionaries.

13. Where lands this year are held by ryots on Istawa Cowsls, one or two fields in the holding of each ryot may have been productive, in which case the rent of those that have failed ought still to be levied according to the Istawa. If both his old fields as well as the Istawa ones have been very deficient in produce, he should receive a suitable abatement.

14. If he holds only an Istawa field of which the crop has failed, his rent should be remitted on condition of his continuing to cultivate next year, failing in which obligation it may be exacted according to his circumstances.

15. The rents of the present year should be adjusted in the manner above detailed, keeping in view the ability of the ryot to cultivate next year. In making the individual settlement, the Moamludars should, I think, be instructed to take from the ryots general bonds of

joint responsibility (Zunjeer Oondee Zaminee), both for the security of the present revenue and the future cultivation of their land.

16. In communicating to you the above observations, which the want of time has necessarily rendered less comprehensive than they might have been made with more leisure, I beg leave to call your attention to the instructions and remarks with which I have on various occasions furnished you respecting the Ryotwar settlement. In my private letter to you of the 3rd instant, I expressed my hope that you had, from the enquiries already made, collected information enough to enable you to judge what proportion of the first kist of each village might be safely exacted, and there is, I think, still time sufficient for ascertaining the circumstances of each individual before you decide on what should be the aggregating abatement, which cannot be done till the Koolwar is completed.

17. In order that you may, with the greatest ease, apply the principles detailed in the course of this letter in actual practice, or at least such part of them as you may consider useful, I do myself the pleasure to send to you the purport of them translated into the Maratha language. Much more I am aware must depend upon the Collector's judgment in a season like this, than on any definite rules. He cannot, even with the aid of his assistant, look into all the details, but he may do infinite good and prevent much evil by making the native revenue officers perform this office. His own personal industry must necessarily be limited, and past experience must be sufficient to convince him that the success of the Ryotwar system can only be looked for from a vigilant, unrelaxed superintendence and inspection on his part over the superior, as well as the inferior ranks of local functionaries under his control, or, as it has been well observed, from seeing that those servants do their duty, and not by attempting to do it for them.

18. I cannot close this letter without expressing my general approbation of the able and judicious view taken by Mr. Pringle in his letter which has led to the present communication; and although his proposition for remission may perhaps be considered as being a little too broadly expressed, and the tediousness and uncertainty of Koolwar enquiries somewhat overrated, yet I perceive with great satisfaction, that he has acquired a large fund of revenue information which promises to contribute as much to the advantage of Government, as to the prosperity of the people.

Poona, 5th February, 1824.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 15. Drawing their attention to the decline in cultivation. (To Captains H. Pottinger and H. Robertson, Collectors.)

Sir.

1. Having in the course of my late tour had occasion to remark in almost every village at which I encamped a great decline of cultivation and a considerable decrease generally of agricultural resources, which I found on enquiry was not wholly attributed to the extraordinary depression of prices last Fusly, and to the failure of rain in the present, although those circumstances alone are sufficient to have brought about, in a great degree, those consequences, I am induced to draw your attention to the subject in the hope that some remedies may be found for the evil. Besides the causes enumerated, I ascribe the retrogression which is so extensively visible, mainly to the supineness of the Mamlutdars and other district officers in performing those duties which are detailed in the instructions forwarded to you in my circular of the 28th September, 1822. In that letter it was recommended that you should exact from the officers a stricter superintendence of the state of cultivation of their districts, a greater degree of zeal and activity in promoting it, and a closer attention to the important object of investigating the actual conditions of the land, on the fertility or neglect of which the improvement or the defalcation of public resources so entirely depends. I also request to remark no less negligence and apathy on their part in attending to my Circular of the 9th December, 1820, regarding the supervision of individual repartition of the village settlement, in consequence of which neglect the rents of waste lands included in it are much too rigidly exacted, and other irregularities produced, which press heavily upon the inhabitants. Without ascertaining the condition of the ryot, the assessment seems often to have been realised indiscriminately, producing ruin by compelling the cultivators to dispose of their ploughing cattle, an extremity to which a great number have been reduced in many villages. It is chiefly imputable to the absence of minute enquiries so indispensable in a Ryotwar settlement, that such distress has arisen, and hence it may be feared also that the remissions you have liberally made have not always gone to the objects for whom they were intended, for were the case otherwise, your settlements which have not been immoderate in amount, would not I conceive have been followed in so great a degree by the baneful consequences of over-assessment.

2: Another very serious ground of complaint on the part of the villagers is that, notwithstanding their inability to pay, they are pressed

for balances many months after the expiration of the Fuslee, in consequence of which their agricultural labour is interrupted at the most important season, and a discouraging demand kept suspended over them, alone sufficient to repress all future energy. The ill effects of this system were particularly exemplified in one village in Ahmednuggur which lay adjacent to a village of Sindiahs. In the former, the lands were to a great extent waste, and where they had been sold, the crops had entirely failed. In the latter, lands were well tilled and the crops particularly luxuriant. On enquiring into the cause of so striking a contrast, I found that our neighbour's tenants had been treated with a fostering hand last year, whilst a less considerate system had been followed in our own, but more particularly the latter had been sued for balances at the very time when they ought to have been sowing their fields, so that the opportunity was lost, and owing to the failure of the annual supply of rain, never afterwards recovered.

3. One more cause also of deterioration that is remarkable in many villages unquestionably, is the general adoption of individual rates of assessment arbitrarily squared with reference to an old, or newly assumed Kurnal standard. These rates in many places appeared to have produced much mischief in consequence of their being in themselves irregular and unequal, or of their having become obsolete from subsequent changes of circumstances, which render them inapplicable to the present state of things.

4. The defects in our administration which I have shortly adverted to will be best exemplified by the accompanying extract from memoranda of information procured at different villages from the village and district officers during my late tour. Passing as I did through the country without halting more than two or three days at any stage, I had not much opportunity of strictly verifying the account with which I was furnished, and in a season like the present, things would be represented to me in colours somewhat exaggerated. The outlines, however, of the picture are probably correct, you will find some remarks of my own intermixed, which were suggested at the time of receiving the information, but I do not wish you to be guided by them except in as far as they may coincide with your opinion. Where, however, the neglect of the district Cutcherry servants is very apparent, I think if they are not removed, some reduction of their pay in proportion to the defalcation of the revenue of the district under their charge should follow.

5. Adverting to the very depopulated state of the district of Mohal belonging to Ahmednuggur, and Indapoor belonging to Poona, some prompt and decided measures seem to be requisite to save them from utter desolation, and I am inclined to think an Istawa arrangement similar to that which has been lately introduced by Major Robertson into certain parts of Khandeish offers the best chance of securing this object. I enclose for your information a copy of the correspondence that has passed relative to this subject, and shall be happy to receive your sentiments on the expediency of introducing a similar system into the parts of the country above specified, in which the present system of management from whatever cause proceeding, has failed to be successful.

Bombay, 10th April, 1824.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 16. Observation on the state of his district, and on the remission granted. (To Captain H. D. Robertson, Collector.)

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 25th May replying to mine of the 18th April, 1824.

2. It will afford me much satisfaction to find that a great many of my remarks on the state of your district founded on the information procured during my late tour are inaccurate. Those remarks which I told you I had not entirely verified have not been submitted to Government, nor was it my intention to forward them in their present shape, though I shall probably have occasion to communicate their general substance, when I come to make my annual report. Without entering into any controversy with you as to whether or not the cultivation has declined, or that the exactions of the full assessment of Jutha lands have produced distress, I satisfy myself with having brought the complaint to your notice, in order that you may apply a remedy where it may be wanting.

3. With respect to the assertion that there has been "indiscriminate realisation" of the rents of waste lands, I have to lament that there certainly has been a concurrence of testimony to prove the truth of it, and it is borne out by Mr. Pringle's belief of the fact. I must do that gentleman the justice at the same time to say that I never saw anything in his letters which appeared to have been written at "random." Whether any of my notices deserved to be so characterised is a question which I do not think it necessary to discuss. It would be best

elucidated by accurate returns of Jutha lands that have been of late relinquished.

4. Your remarks on the dishonesty of village officers and native servants in the 4th paragraph are unfortunately too true. I think this, added to the incapacity of the latter for revenue details, an evil of greater prevalence in the Deccan than in any other country that has come under observation, and to this cause I ascribe the circumstance of the Ryotwar system being less efficient in practice than in some of the old provinces, on this account it has exhibited, I think, defects which you call inherent, but which I rather ascribe to imperfection of the mode of administering it. These defects your zeal and activity have not been able entirely to remove, but this is not any fault of your management which you seem to think. I am inclined to run down rather the fault of the character of the people with whom you have to deal.

5. There is one part, however, of the 4th paragraph of your letter which calls for more specific observation therein, defending your own management you expect, from your remarks, the settlement of the year in Indapoor and Poorundur made by Mr. Simson, in which you almost assume that Mr. Simson has been overreached by the roguery and collusion of village and district officers, and deceived into granting *enormous* remissions. Having myself had an opportunity of seeing the very wretched condition of those districts, I am quite convinced that great remissions were indispensable to their situation; but if you thought them exorbitant you should have moderated the extent of them. You seem to throw more of the responsibility on Mr. Simson than I think he ought to bear. Though the immediate charge of those Talooks is indeed with him, it rests with you, who are a superior, to see that his settlements are properly made, and before they are finally concluded, it is your province to correct any material errors into which his inexperience may have led him. Should he have acted indeed without consulting you, which I believe he has not, you may perhaps have just reason for believing that his judgment has been imposed upon. Considering, however, the lamentable state of the district in question, I shall not regret that he has erred on the side of moderation.

6. I shall be rejoiced to find that outstanding balances have not in your district been realised with such difficulty as to occasion the sale of ploughing cattle, in many villages, and to impede cultivation, I fear, however, that your Circular orders of the 9th August, 1823, were hardly issued in time entirely to obviate this evil. As I told you before, it may have been exaggerated, and I hope it will prove so.

7. In regard to query put in the 6th paragraph of your letter, I beg leave to state that it would be impolitic to promulgate any general rule for the remission of balances, but I am clearly of opinion that all such rents of individual ryots as cannot from their ascertained poverty be realised within three months after the conclusion of the Fuslee, should be written off, the reasons being fully shewn and the sanction of Government being previously obtained for that purpose, but I must also inform you that a Ryotwar settlement, carefully and judiciously made with reference to the state of the circumstances of the people, such balance ought never to be very great.

8. Adverting to the concluding paragraph of your letter it will, I assure you, be highly gratifying to me to find that the colouring of the picture that was presented to me by the inhabitants... has been very much overcharged. I am from long experience accustomed to such exaggerations, and I have therefore been far from giving credit to the full extent of them. All I wish to impress upon you is that some part of the representation may be well founded, and in that case my having brought them more particularly to your view will, I am persuaded, be an additional motive with you for affording relief where you may find that the exigencies of the people require indulgence.

Poona, 6th June, 1824.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 17. Regarding the Jummabundy settlement of the past Fuslee 1234. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

Having already transmitted the Maratha return of the Jummabundy settlement of the past Fuslee year 1234, I have now the honor to lay before you translation of them, and to submit a copy of a letter from my second Assistant, Mr. Pringle, explanatory of his settlement of his peggannah last year.

2. The circumstances of the ryot and the state of the crops were fully brought to your notice in the course of the past year, and I have now nothing new to add to the information already before you.

3. The settlement of the Jummabundy was founded for the year on the following ground: The land ploughed and sown was alone assessed, and excepting in Sewnere and Pabool Talooks, the Puthees Kuredee Zilla and Miras Puttee were excused. The gross Jumma of the district amounted on these rules to 9,71,335 Rupees and the sayer Jumma Rupees 1,37,492.

4. From this account there was ordered to be deducted remissions with reference to the out-turns of the cultivations. The return from which these were ascertained were framed by the district officers from their inspection of khureef and rubbee harvest, and were at once made a deduction from the Mozewar settlement of villages, with the exception of Sewnere and Pabool Talooks where Mr. Pringle made the remission in the usual manner by a Ryotwar enquiry into the accuracy of the reports of the Shekdaurs and Mamludars. The amount of the remission of Aeen Jumma was on these data Rupees 5,06,596 and the Sayer Rupees 22,729, and the net amount of the settlement for the year after deducting Gaum Khurch, Hukdaurs allowances, etc., was of Aeen Jumma 2,92,026 and of Sayer 92,907, in all 3,84,933 rupees.

5. Those ryots whose crops had wholly or partially failed, had many of them left the country to obtain service and work as labourers in large towns,—nothing of course was obtained from them. Those who remained and whose crops allowed of their being assessed were not pressed for their dues. The realisations of Aeen and Sayer Jumma up to the end of the Government official year, the 30th April 1825, amounted to 2,05,487, and of these the Mawuls, the smallest pergunnabs, whose whole revenue was fixed for the year at 78,000 Rupees, and where there had been fair crops of rice, yielded the sum of Rupees 58,242. Hence there were not above Rupees 1,50,000 collected from the rest of the pergunnas; that is less than a half of the whole amount which, judging from the return of the produce of the cultivation, might have been exacted, but which by not having been rigidly taken has assisted in redeeming the prosperity of the country in a visible and satisfactory manner. The ryots for instance of this Pergunna (Khair) have laid out 75,000 Rupees in the purchase of Malwa bullocks, and the cultivation of the year is equal to that of the last. In the Poorundhur Pergunna it is not much less. At least three fourths of those who had emigrated are returned to their homes in all parts of the Collectorate, and are attending to their agricultural pursuits. In comparison with such circumstances, the defalcation of revenue from mildness in exacting it, will not be considered by Government to be a subject of regret. It was of little consequence to fix the exact amount to be taken from each ryot who had any crop at all, since half of the ryot of some Pergunnas, and three-fourths of those of others had gone away; and to those who remained it was intimated that if they remained, they should not be pressed for their rents, and were to pay only as much as they could, taking as usual receipts for what they did pay. An early assurance of this nature was called for, and it no doubt prevented many persons from

leaving the district. New and perhaps vexatious ryotwar (?) for a ryot's crop I under these orders dispensed with, excepting in the Pergunna of the Mawuls where there were people to give puthas to, and where there had been good crops.

6. To draw any comparison of the revenue of a year of calamity succeeding one of distress, with any other year, is perhaps not of much use. It is sufficient, perhaps, that we know that the energy of the country is far from having been exhausted; and that, after one or two more fruitful years, there will remain but few traces of the bad effects of the difficulties that have been encountered, and which are now nearly surmounted.

7. Of the balance of Rupees 1,77,333, Aeen and Sayer Jumma not realised on the 30th of April, there has been paid up till the 31st of December 1825, Rupees 76,845, leaving a defalcation of the past year in these items of about Rupees 1,00,000 of which Rupees 19,000 remain due in the city of Poona.

8. The reason of the revenues of Tulligaum not having been annually settled in 1823-24 and 1824-25 is that there is a dispute about the Der of the village—the ryots declaring their right to pay the Gaum Challee rate of assessment on good lands only. I intended to have settled the dispute personally, and the year before held a Punchayet... to decide, after an inspection of the lands, the just rate of Tulligaum. The enquiry was not prosecuted to a close... It would have been impolitic in such a year as that of the year before last, to have decided the point against the Tulligaumeurs... The ryots, in the meantime, have had no cause of complaint, the amount they themselves deemed just being alone taken from them after inspection of the crops... Government may have lost by the revenue not being determined, but as the benefit goes to the ryot, there will be the less chance of defalcation from the lenity shewn in years of distress... It will now be surveyed and assessed according to your rules without delay, and the Jumabundy of the current year, if possible, settled upon the ground of the survey...

Khair, 25th January, 1826.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

To Captain H. D. Robertson.

Collector, etc.,

Poona.

Sir.

In laying before you the statements of the Jumabundy settlement of the Sewnair and Pabbul Talooks for the Fusly year 1234,...

I should not now trouble you with any lengthy observations on the failure which has given rise to the defalcation of revenue. . . . I shall, therefore, confine myself to a few remarks . . . to elucidate the fluctuations which have taken place . . . and the principle by which I have been guided in determining the amount of remission.

I have already had occasion to observe that liberal as was the scale of remission . . . for the year 1233, and great undoubtedly as was the immediate benefit to the ryot, yet such had been the poverty to which many were reduced from a succession of unfavourable circumstances, and so extensive the mortality of ploughing cattle . . . that a great decline of cultivation was still to be anticipated for the year 1234. . . . I have now to report that the amount of decrease . . . yet does not greatly exceed one half of that exhibited in the accounts of 1233.

The decrease of revenue from decline of cultivation in 1233 was Rupees 46,626, and in 1234 according to the Jummabundy account Rupees 40,740.10 $\frac{3}{4}$. But in the former year the rent of waste land brought to account and subsequently remitted amounted to Rupees 30,343.13 $\frac{3}{4}$, and in the latter to Rupees 14,767.9 $\frac{3}{4}$. The difference of this sum (Rupees 15,576.4) being deducted from Rupees 40,740.10 $\frac{3}{4}$ leave Rupees 25,164.6 $\frac{3}{4}$ as the actual decrease of revenue from decline of cultivation in 1234.

It would be too much to ascribe this difference entirely to any indulgences, however liberal, granted to ryots in 1233 for the land then thrown out of cultivation having been chiefly in the occupation of the poorer classes. . . . The effect of these indulgences, however, in giving confidence to the ryots, was evinced in the spirited exertions with which cultivation was entered upon last year . . . notwithstanding the previous annihilation of stock. . . .

The decrease of Rs.4,492.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ for the diminution of Ookhtee rates was chiefly occasioned by letting land which had been thrown up by the former cultivator . . . to any person who was willing to undertake it for a single year. . . .

The increase under the head of Istawa rates is occasioned by the progressive rise of rent according to the terms of that description of lease, and is less than it would have been had all the land originally granted on cowl been retained in cultivation. A large portion of such land became waste in the years 1232 and 1233 from the desertion of ryots some of which has since been taken upon Ookhtee terms, but the greater part still remains uncultivated. . . .

The items of decrease in the rates of assessment arise chiefly from reductions made on that account in several villages last year. . . . They were then entered as remissions at the Koolwar settlement, and now appear as a decrease on the Jummabundy. . . .

Of the remaining items of increase and decrease, there are none which from their account or importance appear to call for particular remarks. . . .

After the Mozchwar settlement, in order to determine the amount of remissions, the whole of the land assessed at the Jummabundy was inspected and classed according to its produce. . . . This inspection and classification was then revised in the case of a few individuals in each village. . . . The lands were classed as uncultivated, as unsown, or in which the crops had entirely failed, or as having yielded a quarter, half, three-quarters, or full crop. As the basis of remission, the rent was assumed in proportion to the amount of produce, that is from the first two classes no rent, and from the remaining four a quarter, half, three-quarters or full rent respectively—a further remission was then made with reference to the circumstances of the ryot on account of individual poverty. . . .

The amount of remission according to the above scale, with reference only to the produce which would have been Rupees 2,08,530.11 $\frac{3}{4}$, but the additional remission on account of poverty was Rupees 3,552, and the deduction in the case of substantial ryots Rupees 10,516.13, so that the actual remission to cultivating ryots was Rupees 2,01,565.14 $\frac{3}{4}$.

A remission was also granted to Balothdars, in consideration of the extreme poverty to which many of them were reduced, and the trifling amount of Huks they had been able to realise from the cultivators. . . . According to this the remission amounted to Rupees 5,182.81 $\frac{1}{2}$, making the whole remission of the ryots and Balothdars Rs.2,06,748.71 $\frac{1}{4}$, or rather more than 64 per cent on the Jumma.

The sum remaining to be brought into the Government treasury, after deducting remission and Gaon Khurch collected and disbursed in the villages, was Rupees 1,02,017.91 $\frac{1}{2}$; of which was collected up to the end of July, Rupees 68,996.41 $\frac{1}{2}$; of the outstanding balance (Rupees 33,021.5), a sum of Rupees 2,616.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ may be considered irrecoverable, being on account of Government shares in alienated villages. Another item of Rupees 2,139.121 $\frac{1}{4}$ includes the rent of Kuruns and Government gardens, in which, in consequence of the deficiency of produce, a temporary suspension of the Government demands was granted. . . . A fur-

ther sum of Rupees 2,736.81½ is an account of Kulkurnis Huks, a great portion of which has, I believe, been collected privately, and the balance is therefore merely nominal.

After deducting these items, there remains an outstanding balance of Rupees 25,528.3¾ on account of Government rent and Hukdars. . . .

In bringing these details to a close, I have only to express my hopes that the sacrifice of revenue they exhibit may not be considered greater than the circumstances of the country require. Every year's experience bears testimony to the advantage—indeed to the necessity with a view to future resources—of such concessions in such a season. Their beneficial effects are to be found in a satisfied and not dispirited population, of which not a single individual, under all the calamities of the season, has had it to say that his difficulties have been aggravated by the exactions of the State. The confidence to which such a feeling gives rise is, as I have already observed, very remarkable in active exertion with which cultivation has been renewed after repeated failures and exhaustions of capital, and by the accounts which I continue to receive from the districts, this activity appears by no means to have abated. The ryots of whom nearly two-thirds have left the country last year, have been returning in great numbers since the commencement of the rain, and from the existing spirit of agricultural enterprise . . . I hope soon to have it in my power to report that no very considerable defalcation of future revenue is to be apprehended from the losses and difficulties of the last year.

Poona, 17th September, 1825.

(Sd.) R. K. Pringle.
2nd Assistant.

TABLE NO. 7

ABSTRACT COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE JUMMABUNDY IN THE
SEWNAIR AND PABHUL TALOOKS FOR THE FUSLEE YEARS
1233 AND 1234

	1233	1234	Increase	Decrease
Anee land rent & Babtees	3,46,402.0. 4¾	3,00,375.0.14	—	46,026.0. 6¾
Personal and property taxes, farms, licences, quit rents, etc.	27,418.0. 8½	22,367.0. 4¼	—	5,051.0. 4¼
Total	3,73,820.0.13¼	3,22,743.0. 2¼	—	51,077.0.11

TABLE NO. 8
DETAILED STATEMENT OF INCREASE AND DECREASE*

	Increase	Decrease
Decrease in cultivation	—	40,740.0.10 ³ / ₄
Rates of Ooktee land	—	4,492.0.11 ¹ / ₄
Istawa rates	2,212.0.81 ¹ / ₄	—
Revenue of the village of Tullygaon	—	6,073.0. 1 ¹ / ₄
Rates of assessment	—	2,474.0. 6 ¹ / ₄
Revenue of the village of Narayengaon	5,547.0.41 ¹ / ₂	—
Farms, licenses, etc.	—	3,886.0.14 ¹ / ₂
Meeras Putti	—	117.0. 5 ¹ / ₂
Mohiturfa, Balotti, etc.	—	1,110.0. 4 ³ / ₄
Concealed revenue brought to light	58.0.41 ¹ / ₄	—
Total	7,818.0.1	58,895.0.12
Deduct increase		7,818.0. 1
Net decrease		51,077.0.11

N. B. I have left out remissions in the two Talookas.

TABLE NO. 9
STATEMENT OF DEMANDS AND COLLECTIONS WITH BALANCES WAS:

	Jumma	Remissions	Balances*
Sewnair	2,19,273.0. 4	1,27,579.0. 1 ¹ / ₄	23,424.0. 8 ³ / ₄
Pabhul	1,03,469.0.14 ¹ / ₄	79,169.0.7	9,596.0.12 ¹ / ₄
Total	3,22,743.0. 2 ¹ / ₄	2,06,748.0.71 ¹ / ₄	33,021.0. 5

SURVEY

No. 18. Letter on survey under Mr. Pringle. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Pringle dated the 24th instant. In submitting this proposal for your approval, I beg to state my opinion from what I have myself seen that the scales of payment appear to be very fair. The only part of the first scale in which I think it may eventually be found necessary to make an alteration is in the least quantity. For instance, in this village the Teekas are in some cases mere fractions of an acre, one goonta, and on a half goonta

*The Balance is procured after the consideration of Gaon Khureh and Government collection in July of Rs57,277.0.61¹/₂ in Sewnair and in Pabhul Rs11,718.0.14 (1826).

—Teekas of about half an acre and of quarter of an acre are common divisions, and eight, ten and fifteen acres per day are as much as one man has yet been able to get through in this village. As it is probable, at all events possible, that there may be other villages whose lands are divided into equally minute portions, since a scale is under your consideration, it may be as well perhaps at once to determine for this contingency also, and at least if you do not think it worthy of consideration that a scale of decrease of pay should be framed for work per day under an average of 24 acres. The Patails of this district assured me that there are ryots who will be found to have more than 10 beegas, or eight acres of land of their own, that there are not many possessing five, and that three-fourths of them do not own 3 acres, or 4 Sheosahee beegas. In as far as regards the measurement therefore, if we also take into consideration the custom in most villages of each ryot holding his land in pieces separated from each other, I do not think the average work of surveyors in the whole district is likely to exceed 25 acres each per diem. This, however, is as you will observe an opinion founded on very vague information, and is not perhaps worthy of attention in the present state of our experience and insight into the details of the survey.

I request the favor of your sanction to the expenditure incurred by Mr. Pringle. I shall submit the bills for the chains and cross staves I have prepared as soon as they are furnished to me by the artificers.

Khair, 16th January, 1826.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

To Captain Robertson,
Collector,
Poona.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a detailed statement of the sums which I have drawn from the Mamletdars' treasury on account of the survey from the 1st October, 1825, to the commencement of the present year amounting in all to Rupees 1,192.1.95.

The persons employed in the work have hitherto received a fixed allowance according to their time of service. But as it is desirable with a view to economy and expedition, they should be paid by the job. I beg to propose a scale for the adjustment of allowances on that principle.

The labour of measuring a given number of acres varies with the regularity and size of the fields. The first cannot easily be provided for

by any general rule, and must therefore depend on the fortune of the measurer. His village being assigned to him by lot. Variations from the second (?) will, I think, be equalised with sufficient practical accuracy by the following scale, viz.,

If the average size of the Teekas does not exceed 3 acres, the average quantity of daily work to be 24 acres.

If the Teekas are from 3 to 5 acres, daily work to be 35 acres.

If from 5 to 7 acres—daily work to be 42 acres.

If from 7 to 9 acres—daily work to be 45 acres.

If from 9 to 13 acres—daily work to be 52 acres.

If from 13 to 20 acres—daily work to be 60 acres.

If from 20 to 35 acres—daily work to be 70 acres.

If from 35 to 80 acres—daily work to be 80 acres.

I would recommend that the above quantity of daily measurement averaged on the whole month, should in each case entitle the measurer to the full amount of monthly pay or 27 Rupees, and that this sum should be increased, or diminished, as his work exceeds or falls short of the prescribed quantity.

I have made a distinction between dry garden and waste land. and these varieties affect the labour of the work only as far as they are descriptive of the size of the fields, and that has already been provided for in the scale.

Besides his personal pay, the measurer should have a fixed allowance for his establishment and contingent expenses of Rupees 12.3, viz.,

2 Chain Bearers	Rs. 4.3
1 Peon	Rs. 5.0
Stationery	Rs. 3.0
Total	<u>Rs.12.3</u>

In determining the quantity of work to be required from the *Examiners*, allowance must be made for the time occupied in moving from one village to another, and for the irregularity of the fields which they ought to select for trial. With reference to these, 12 acres (the quantity laid down in the rule) will perhaps be a sufficient amount of daily labour to entitle to a monthly allowance of 40 Rupees, to be diminished when work is less, but not to be increased when it exceeds that quantity. Their allowance for establishment and contingent expenses as laid down in the rule, will be 9.6 Rupees, viz.,

2 Chain Bearers	Rs. 3.3
1 Peon	Rs. 5.0
Stationery	Rs. 1.3
Total	Rs. 9.6

If the payment of the assessors be made by the job, I think it better that it should be regulated by the quantity of land assessed than by the amount of assessment, as the labour of classing poor and rich lands is equal, although the rent is very different.

Each assessor may, I think, easily class five times the quantity of land measured in the same time by one surveyor. The same scale may, therefore, serve for their allowances, the amount of work of the assessors being in each case multiplied by five.

The full pay of the assessor as fixed in the rules is 40 Rupees, which sum should never, I think, be increased, although it ought to be diminished for any deficiency in the quantity of labour.

The fixed allowance I would recommend for establishment and contingent expenses of assessors is 80 Rupees, viz.,

3 Carcoons at 20 Rupees	60
2 Peons at 5 Rupees	10
Stationery, etc.	10
Total	Rs.80

In the case of the *Head Assessor*, as accuracy is of greater importance than expedition, a permanent allowance appears preferable to payment of the job, and in consideration of the great responsibility of the situation, I think 80 Rupees would not be too much, but at all events it ought not to be less than 60 Rupees.

His allowance for establishment and contingent expenses would fix at 85 Rupees, viz.,

3 Carcoons at 20 Rupees	60
3 Sepoys at 5 Rupees	15
Stationery, etc.	10
Total	Rs.85

Should you approve of the above rate of payment, I propose that it should have effect from the commencement of this month, and I beg to

know whether you wish advances on the account to be made as hitherto from the Mamletdar's Treasury, or from the Huzoor.

The number of Carcoons at present employed in the Sewnair and Pabbul Pergunnahs is 34, viz.,

Measurers	24
Examiners	2
Assessors	1
Head Assessor	1
Accountants	6
Total	<u>34</u>

An addition of 6 measurers, 5 assessors, 1 examiner and 15 accountants, is required to make up the complement of 3 sets, and with this establishment I hope the survey of the Sewnair Talook may be completed before the rain.

Junere, 24th January, 1826.

(Sd.) R. K. Pringle,
Assistant.

SECTION II

- (1) Duties
- (2) Customs
- (3) Opium
- (4) Salt
- (5) Liquor

DUTIES

No. 19. Opinion on the subject of modifying transit duties. (To Mr. H. Pottinger, Collector, Ahmednuggur.)

Sir,

Under the existing system, the ryots and cultivating class of inhabitants suffered the greater hardships, not only because the transit duty is in itself high, but on account of the oppression and extortions they are continually subject to by the farmers of the customs, who have always the Kumavisdar and Zemindars on their side whenever a complaint is made by a poor ryot, so that redress is seldom or ever obtained, and the complaint is obliged to submit to the hand of oppression.

During my stay at Nussuck and the neighbouring districts this year, I had innumerable complaints against the Zukautdars of their division for levying more than the established rates of custom, and on my calling on that person for his authority for so doing, he could only show tables and statements recently drawn out by the Zemindars of the district, and which, I have not the smallest doubt in my own mind, from various old receipts and papers that were shown to me, are considerably above the old established rates. Nussuck, Copergaon and Sinnur were exempt from all import duty during the late Government, but it is now levied at those places, and the Zemindars have had the effrontery to give in the statement purporting to be the old established rates of collection at those places.

As the transit duty is so high that it becomes a matter of little consequence to him (ryot) whether he purchases grain in his own Pergunna at a large price, or gets it at a reduced rate in a neighbouring district.

By exempting grain from taxation, the ryot will in a short time acquire a degree of affluence that he could never have attained so long as he was obliged to pay a heavy tax on the produce of the field. He will no longer find it necessary to dispose of his grain to the Wanees of his village at a reduced rate to enable him to pay his kists, but he will be enabled to carry it to a good market, and there to obtain a fair price for it. The benefit of such an arrangement will be felt by the community at large in a greater or less degree, and the comfort and happiness it will tend to diffuse in the family of every ryot, will amply recompense Government for the deficiency it may occasion in the revenue, which I calculate will be about 70,000 Rupees annually....

Ahmednuggur, 7th June, 1822.

(Sd.) A. Crawford.

No. 20. Requesting to suspend the collection of duties on the transit of grain. (To Captain John Briggs, Collector, Khandeish.)

Sir,

I have the honor to convey the direction of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council that you will suspend temporarily till further orders the collection of duties on the transit of grain in Candeish as a relief to the cultivator under the present low prices.

Poona, 12th August, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 21. Requesting to abolish transit duties on grain, firewood, and vegetables, etc. (Circular to Messrs. Robertson, Pottinger, Thackeray and Briggs.)

Sir,

The Hon'ble the Governor in Council had under consideration the present transit duties system, has come to the decision that it shall be continued, but has directed that from the commencement of the ensuing Fuslee, the following articles shall be exempted from duties, and excluded from contract of the custom farmers, viz.,

Cattle
Cotton and cotton thread
Vegetable and fruits
Timber and firewood
Grain

You are accordingly requested, in disposing of the custom farms for the ensuing Fuslee, to carry into effect this resolution.

You are also requested to immediately strike off all duties on grain, the produce of the Company's territories, allowing such remission to custom renters as may have been stipulated for at the time of bidding in anticipation of the probable abolition of this tax. You will at the same time give utmost publicity to this measure by written Proclamation in every village, and by beat of tom-tom, at all the principal fairs and weekly market for some weeks in succession.

(N. B. The Collectors were also requested to induce the Jageerdars to adopt the same abolition of transit duties within and without their territory.)

Poona, 10th September, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 22. *Regarding Mohturfa in the City of Ahmednuggur. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)*

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 11th December, 1821, regarding the Mohturfa to be levied in the city of Ahmednuggur, I have the honor to forward to you a statement which I have prepared on a census made in the month of April, 1822.

2. My measures on this subject have been unavoidably delayed by my having been summoned to the Presidency, immediately on my return from circuit last year, and by the constant pressing call on my attention ever since I came back from Bombay.

3. I have now to report to you that on the head of different classes showed in the statement being assembled, they earnestly represented that the dealers and artisans of this city had been always exempted from the payment of Mohturfa in virtue of an original promise made by the founder of it, and, they added, as that promise, though only brought down by tradition, had been respected by Government under which it had, from time to time, fallen, they humbly trusted it would not be annulled by us.

4. They however went on to express their perfect readiness to pay such yearly sum as I might judge equitable under the name of "Null" and "Jaonkos" or Puttees (or assessment for the repairs of aqueducts and the city wall), and the statement I now forward will enable you to form an idea of this amount.

5. It is probable that the number of persons who should pay this Puttee is increased within the last year, and I intend to have a new Register made of them, but in the meantime I think it advisable to submit my plan for your notice and instructions.

6. It does not seem to me to be of the least importance whether this assessment is made under the appellation of Puttee or Mohturfa, and as the people who are to discharge it appear to attach a value to the supposed exemption, I hope you will approve of its being collected by the former term.

7. The method by which I propose to levy it is to fix the amount to be paid by each class according to their number and the common estimation of their circumstances and dealings. I shall afterwards send for the heads of those classes, inform them of the sum which is to be

realised through them, and desire them to draw up and submit to me within 10 days a just and detailed statement showing the proportion which each individual is to pay.

8. It is not likely that I shall be able to detect any proposed undue exaction from or particularly towards individuals at first, but if any such should be attempted in the first case, the persons who are agreed will readily come forward to represent the hardships they suffer, and in the other, it is clearly so much the interest of the whole body that fairness should be rigidly adhered to in apportioning out the Puttee, that I have no doubt but any deviation from that principle will be protested against by many of the members of the class.

TABLE NO. 10

STATEMENT OF PERSONS RESIDING WITHIN THE CITY OF AHMEDNUGGUR WHO ARE TO PAY MOHTURFA OR PUTTEE

Professions	No. of Persons	Proposed Amount to Be Levied Annually	
		Rs.	As.
Buneas	142	550	
Marwarry	73	300	
Khistee	43	86	
Chattee	55	200	
Shroff	66	200	
Salee	170	200	
Kassar	50	150	
Tambutgur	36	60	
Zingur Tambut	6	6	
Ghunkuree	23	20	
Huthorawalla	21	20	
Kullaiegur	12	12	
Bagepur	2	1	
Bhungairee	1	0.	2
Bhutearee	3	1.	2
Kachee	1	1	
Monun	9	18	
Chuppur Bund	11	20	
Lohar Zingar	10	5	
Daroo Walla	6	3	
Wunjaree	24	50	
Koashtee	15	30	
Telee	68	100	
Sultangur	9	5	
Sikulgur	4	1	
Bukr Kussae	21	40	
Kataee	21	20	
Ghissaree	16	4	
Rungrez	12	12	
Lonaree	29	30	

(N. B. The list then continued to 88 different professions contributing from Re.1 as. 2 to Rs150 by the Sootars, ending in a total amount of Rs.3,012.2.0 as the Mohturfa or Puttee in the city of Ahmednuggur.)

9. Unless you are pleased to direct to the contrary, I intend the Puttee to take effect from the beginning of the Fusly 1233.

Ahmednuggur, 5th May, 1823.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 23. Giving information on the value of exports and imports of grain. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I regret that it is not in my power to furnish you with a detailed statement drawn up from actual account, but the custom farmers never have been, either since the establishment of our authority in these provinces, or under the late Government, in the habit of keeping any returns of the value of grain, or indeed any other imports and exports. All they have looked to has been the collection of the duties in the cheapest possible terms, and in many hundred Nakahs or custom Chowkies there is no one station, but a common peon who can neither read nor write, and who simply takes the dues of the farmers and allows the goods to pass, or accompanies the convoys to the Carkoon, of which class there is one in each Purgunnah.

Under these circumstances, the utmost I could do was to assemble all the farmers of the present and the three past years and get them to prepare . . . an estimate of the nature you had called for . . .

The accompanying table* shows the falling off in the farm to have been, in three years, 2,24,500 Rupees on grain alone, after an allowance has been made for timber, thread and other articles likewise exempted from the payment of duties.

Of this amount, 70,275 Rupees . . . we may term buying and selling duties, the former being payable on grain (or any goods) when brought in one village to be removed to another, and the latter collectable where it is resold . . .

The Rahdaree, or transit duties were exactly calculated on the same principle, the grand total of the loads being taken at 13,32,933, and as it was evident that one with another not more than one half of them passed through the whole of the district, or paid duties . . . This calculation gives 1,54,222 Rupees as Rahdaree or transit customs for three years.

The value of grain was fixed . . . and this gives 48,96,350 Rupees as the total of three seasons, or 16,32,116 for the price of all the grain bought and sold within this Collectorate, in one year.

* No table was found with the Letter.

The repeal of the duties on grain was, as you are aware, made at a period when our provinces were overstocked and the prices had fallen to a degree unprecedented in the Deckan. I am not prepared to assert that the measure had all the effect which was anticipated from it, for such was the perfect stagnation of trade in grain, that bidders in it could turn to no quarters that could promise even a small profit, and the cultivators were necessitous to sell at any price. The abolition had so far a good effect that it left the market in the whole range of the Deckan opened to competition without any charge or trouble. . . . I safely conclude that had it not taken place, the agricultural distress would have been still more severe in places where there was a large super-abundant produce.

Ahmednuggur, 9th December, 1824.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

CUSTOMS

No. 24. Letter on the subject of farming out the customs for the current year. (To Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner, Poona.)
Sir,

I have, in the meantime, let it be generally understood that the exemption is meant to include all Europe supplies (usually called shop goods), whether actually belonging to private gentlemen for sale, or their use and consumption in the Bazars of the different Cantonments.
Poonah, 19th July, 1819.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

Articles to pass free of duty through the province:

Wines of all sorts in bottle

Beer (cask and bottle)

Brandy and all other spirituous liquors in bottle

Tea

Hats

Boots and shoes

Broad cloth

Europe petty supplies such as pickles and preserves.

N. B. All wines and spirituous liquors in casks should be taxed unless certified to be the absolute property of gentleman.

The terms of sale are:

1st. All Europe shop goods whether the private property of officers or brought up to be sold for their use are to pass free.

2nd. All staple Europe goods such as iron, steel, etc., are to be charged custom as in the old provinces:

3rd. The immunities enjoyed hitherto by our Company buyers and dealers are abolished with the exception alluded to above.

4th. All disputes are to be referred to the District Officers, through the Collector, and their decision is to be final; they know the usual rates better than any other person.

5th. Disputes regarding articles that are to pass free are to be referred to the Collector, and in the interim no interruption is to be offered to the goods passing, and the owner binding to abide by the Collector's award.

6th. No new Nahas or rates to be established on any pretence.

7th. The farmer to furnish Government with copies of his amount monthly.

8th. The instalments to be paid on the 15th of the succeeding month.

No. 25. Letter on the subject of customs in Khandeish (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I regret it has not been in my power ere this to reply to your letter of the 30th August on the subject of the customs in Candeish, but the nature of the information required by you made it necessary for me to go into the most minute detail of the mode of managing this branch of revenue, to satisfy myself of what was available to your purpose, and what was not procurable. My attention had previously been directed to this object by a letter from Mr. Bruce, Secretary to the Committee, for the investigation of this question sitting at Bombay, but I am sorry to be under the necessity of reporting that the further my investigation led me, the more I became convinced of the impossibility of affording the information expected.

It is hardly necessary to acquaint you that the custom had been rented in Candeish annually (at all events) for the last sixty or eighty years, and as the late Government had no further interest in them than the amount which the privilege of laying duties rested with it, was wholly indifferent to the internal arrangement of the contractors themselves. The rent of the customs was a bold speculation that with good

arrangement afforded a profitable return on the outlay of money. The customs were sold by Pergunnas to the highest bidder, and instalments were then fix't by Government for the payment of the contract, and good security was obliged to be given before a person was received as a contractor. The man who became security was in many instances the real contractor, tho' the bargains were made with his agent or partners, and he only appeared in his character of security for the fulfilment of their contract. A wealthy merchant after having taken up farms to the amount of from 50,000 to 1,50,000 Rupees, immediately sub-divided the contract and sold his contract in shares either to Zumeendars, or others who resided on the farms, and who from local circumstances and information were enabled to manage the customs of one or two Pergunnas with comparatively little expense, and who were consequently induced to give a premium to the great contractor for the rent of the small district. The merchant, having then partitioned his bargain into small shares, generally managed some part of the concern himself thro' his agents, who were then bound to divide with him the profit for the consideration of his making good the monthly instalment to Government without reference to their monthly receipt. The under renters now employed their ingenuity to entice traders to pass within the limits of their contract, and an acquaintance with the exporting and importing merchants enabled them to effect this object by allowing their goods to pass at lower rates than if they went a more direct route thro' the contiguous Pergunnas, and this has in the course of time led to a variation in duties on the same articles in different Pergunnas that preclude the possibility of making out any uniform tables. Many of the contractors under the Government of Bajee Rao are now not to be found, and even if they were, it is quite certain that no account could be procured from them which might in any shape be relied on. It is not easy to give a more adequate notion of the confusion and irregularity of the practice in Candesh than is exhibited in the accompanying Document No. 1* . . . showing the rates of the customs in the Pergunna of Lulling, and the variation at the several Chowkies or Nakas according to the present and the former usage. This document points out first, that in the small Pergunna (mostly deserted), there are no less than nine Chowkies; that the rates vary at the Chowkies from each other; and that most articles come under the four general denominations of Bhoassar—grain in general; Nunkubbar—salt and oil, etc., etc.; Kubbar—nuts, dried fruits, drugs, dyes, etc., etc.; Kisana—grocery, spices and metals of all sorts.

* Document No. 1 was not found with the letter.

Lists of the articles as they are classed in the Lulling Pergunna are affixed to the end of this document, because it is to be observed that the same articles are differently classified in different Pergunnas. It will also appear that the inhabitants of the Pergunna are considerably favoured within the precincts of their own district, and lastly, that the duties fall exclusively on the quantity instead of the value of the merchandize.

I have been led into this detail to point out in force the impracticability of Government managing the customs under the present system without imminent danger of heavy losses, while on the other hand again as the farming of the customs has risen progressively from 74,040 Rupees in 1227 under Bajee Rao's Government to 1,70,811 Rupees in 1230 under the British Government in three years, it is fair to conclude that this important branch of revenue under a different system would yield a further very considerable increase, but it is proper to remark that the customs must always depend on the capability of the country to create a demand for the article of trade and manufacture. The neighbouring countries under the native Government are not in a condition to consume much of the produce of the British territory, and therefore the demand must in a great measure depend on the want of our own subjects and their means of satisfying them, or on the demand for exportation.

Having premised that no sort of data remains of former years, that the duties not only vary in each of the 19 Pergunnas but at all of the 275 Nakas or Chowkies in Candeish, at each of which the customs are levied, that the duties are imposed on the bulk of the articles and not on their value, it is clear that I am deprived of the means of filling up the form which has been transmitted to me for that purpose. It has been done, however, as far as lay in my power from the records of the custom contractors of 1229 Fusly as they have chosen to supply me with. The same articles have paid duty over and over again, and have been entered in each of the Pergunnas as often as it has arrived there, it is evident that it becomes impossible to say whether it is the same or any other, and this repetition has raised the number of salt bullocks computed at 1,30,000 to no less than 10,26,494 loads. The same may be said more or less of every article in proportion to the number of Nakas which it has passed. The number of loads has been inserted for the sake of giving some notion of the relative proportion of each produce, but it affords no data for the real quantity. As it is impossible to say where each article has travelled, so it is impossible to know

what is the amount of duty payable by each. All the information, therefore, that can be obtained is the total amount levied on each article and what is the duty at each Naka, and these are stated in the Document No. 2* now forwarded.

By this Document it will appear that the Mahratta terms do not bear the same meaning as those of the original form which probably arises out of some provincial peculiarity. (?) in Candeish signifying "transit duties" of all description, whether from the east, west, north or south (?) exclusively applied to the internal trade of the province signifying literally cross-road trade. Jhulmore is a duty payable only in towns on articles being sold therein. Duties at Chowkies on articles of home consumption come under the head of Ausanay. Thulbunet duties are those paid by merchants carrying off goods of any description for sale from a town, it being quite immaterial whether the article is for home consumption (by which I mean the consumption of the province), or for foreign export. This must be evident from the circumstance of 58,015 loads of salt having paid these duties, as salt is not the produce of the country, and is not likely, therefore, to be exported. The 7,730 loads of salt paying Dawarnag duties are those which were carried from one place to another within the province, and are consequently rated over and over again till they make up that amount. The total value of the trade and percentage on that value is however unattainable.

The result of the examination of the custom account is as follows, that the whole duties were purchased in 1229 (last year) at 1,25,625 Rupees, that the gross collections were 1,62,000, the next balance 1,25,575, thus,

Zemindary Hucks, Wurshashuns, viz.,	19,925
Establishments	16,500
Remissions	1,500
Net Balance	1,24,075
Total	1,62,000

By which it will appear that the profit and loss is counter-balanced with 50 Rupees, a circumstance which could hardly have arisen from accident, but from each of the custom contractors contriving to balance his accounts was to make it appear that no advantage was obtained, and which of itself renders all their accounts, to say least of them (?) and

* Document No. 2 was not found with the Letter.

(?) Could not make out the words at all; they were perhaps Marathi names.

this is rather confirmed by the customs this year having been sold at an advance of nearly 42,000 Rupees beyond that of 1229, part of which has been purchased by the same renters as those of last year, affording a pretty good proof that a considerable advantage must have been derived, instead of any loss sustained.

Although the profit and loss of the concern have been intentionally concealed, it is probable that the rates of collection on each branch of commerce is not erroneous, and the following are the proportions which the above accounts furnish:

Transported thro' Candeish	Salt	57	
	Cloth from Benerse & Bombay	3½	
	Spices & Drug	6	
		<hr/>	66½ per cent
Produced in Candeish and consumed in the Province	Grain	7½	
	Cattle	4	
	Timber	1	
	Tillee	4	
	Dyes, Tobacco, Ghee, Mhowr flowers & Mill produce	12	
		<hr/>	28½ per cent
Levied by petty claimants		5	" "
		<hr/>	100

The ample information in the possession of Government precludes my intruding any suggestion of my own on this subject, and I have already shown that the nature of the case precludes my bringing forward more ample information from records that I have.

I have the honor of submitting to the Hon'ble the sole Commissioner on the 8th June 1819, in detail the value of all articles in merchandize which ever pass thro' Candeish, both in English and Mahratta, containing lists of 581 different articles.

It occurs to me that the duties on grain produced and consumed within the Province are extremely injurious to all classes—that it would be advisable generally to take off all duties on articles produced by the Province and consumed within it, excepting such as it might be thought proper to levy at the manufacture—duties on goor, cloths, indigo, oil, paper, etc., which require a separate process after the raw material is gathered, might consequently be raised on the value of the manufactured produce on the spot, and pay export duties at the frontier Chowkies, but this is a subject at once so important and intricate that it is with great

diffidence I offer any general opinion, on which I am aware partial or local views are not to be admitted.

Dhoolia. 31st October, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

No. 26. Articles exempted from duties in the present and ensuing Fuslee. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your letter of the 10th instant communicating the orders of the Government respecting the articles that are to be exempted from duties in the present and ensuing Fuslies.

2. I lost no time on its receipt in calling on the person who bought the customs, as reported in Mr. Crawford's letter of the 15th June last, to say at what rate they would take the farm with the deductions proposed, to which I also added "Shew Subzee" or vegetables and "Kurbee," being hopeful the Honorable the Governor in Council will sanction those two articles being included in the remission of this year, as they are a source of grievous annoyance to the ryots, although as the result of my inquiry proves of little or no value.

3. I have now received the answers of each of the farmers, and the enclosed statement shews what each of them is willing to give for the farms. [Table No. 11.]

4. I entirely agree with the opinion expressed in your letter to Mr. Crawford of the 21st of June, as to the lowness of the offer for the customs deducting the duties on grain, and I have no doubt, but they would fetch more if they were again put up to sale, which I do not think would be any infraction of our agreement with the present contractors, because those men's offers have never been accepted by Government, and it is our business, I respectfully conceive, to bring the question to the last proof of another sale.

5. I would, however, in thus doing, give the present farmers so far the preference, after the real value of the farms was ascertained by the bidding, as to propose to them to keep them at the highest rate offered, and if they refused I can see no just cause for complaint they will have for, as no formal acceptance of their offers has ever been hinted at and as those offers included grain alone, no compact can be considered to have been made.

6. The farm you will observe without the "Shew Subzee" (vegetables) Kurbee and firewood are exactly valued as high with them after

the grain is deducted, and therefore I trust you will be pleased to sanction the two former being exempted from duties (which will be in real truth forbidding a seizure of a small portion at the pleasure of the Chowkeydars).

7. I think it proper to observe that rice has always been included in the article of "Kerramah" in the districts under me, and that it will be requisite under any decision for Government to expressly exempt it, or otherwise, from duties. I have written to the Jageerdars to whom the customs are assigned, to call on them to conform to the benevolent measure of Government, and as soon as I receive their answers I will communicate their intentions to you. In the meantime, I may observe that with a very few exceptions in Sindiah's villages (or rather Talookas such as Ranjungaon, Sreegoondy, Jamgaon and Shewgaon) the ryots by making a short circuit, will be able to evade the demand of customs on grain, etc., and to assist them to do this, I will turn my attention (if it proves requisite) to opening roads through our villages, and to the repairing any of the unfrequented ghauts which, from not having been travelled much of late, are in a bad state.

I have also written to Sindeah's Vakil, but I expect no disposition on their part to meet our plans.

Ahmednuggur, 21st September, 1822.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

TABLE NO. 11

OFFERS MADE BY THE FARMERS OF CUSTOMS IN THE AHMEDNUGGUR COLLECTORATE FOR FUSLY 1232

Names of the Divisions	Total offer on the terms of Fusly 1231	Offers including the exemption of grain alone as made to Mr. Crawford in June	Offers now made including the exemption of grain, fire-wood, vegetables and Kurbee	Offers now made including grain and fire-wood
Nuggur	39,500	11,100	15,000	15,000
Chandore	30,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Sungumnair	28,200	11,300	11,300	11,000
Nussuck	32,200	17,200	17,100	17,200
Kurmulia	26,500	13,000	13,500	13,500
	1,56,400	65,600	69,900	69,800

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

OPIUM

No. 27. Letter on the subject of opium grown in Candeish. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo on the subject of opium grown in Candeish.

In my letter of the 23rd July, I stated that the opium grown in the new districts of Sowda and Yawul was of a superior quality to that cultivated in Buglan, and upon investigation I find the former bears an increased value of 50 per cent as compared with the latter. The Sowda and Yawul opium fetches from 9 to 11 Rupees per seer of 80 Rupees weight, and the latter is averaged at from 6 to 7½ for the same quantity, during the last year 1229. The actual growth of opium in Candeish was as follows:

	Beegas	Pounds	Quarters
Pergunnah Bhamere	20	14	3
" Sunduss	37	11	2
" Lohnere	325	12	1
" Wakarry	50	6	2
" Otoor	16	5	2
" Korahly	60	10	1
" Zeitapoor	1	1	0
" Tilwun	10	10	3
" Pimpla	33	0	0
" Arrawud	25	0	0
" Sowda	86	13	0
" Jannere	2	9	3
Yawul estimated at	500	0	0
Total Beegas	1,169	5	1

It is calculated that a Beega will produce at an average annually 6 seers, one year with another. This will give upon the whole 175 maunds 15 seers, each maund weighing 80 lbs., of this one-fourth only perhaps is consumed in Candeish. The Sowda and Yawul opium is said to be in great estimation at Hyderabad, and in the vicinity of those Pergunnas to the dominions of H. H. the Nizam, into which it will naturally find its way in spite of every precaution, seems to suggest the necessity of adopting some measures, either to purchase up all that is produced, or to prohibit its cultivation.

The same arguments appear in some degree applicable to the Baglan opium, although of inferior quality. Its proximity to the Dang

Hills inhabited by independent Coley Chiefs and their vicinity to the Port of Damaiin, would if the Portuguese exhibited any degree of enterprise, lead to its passing into their hands without much chance of preventing it. If the Sowda and Yawul opium should upon examination be found sufficiently good to recommend its purchase by Government, it would perhaps be desirable to prohibit the cultivation of the Baglan poppy altogether.

I trust I shall be pardoned for introducing these suggestions unasked, but as they arise out of local information, they may not be wholly irrelevant to the subject.

Dhoolia, 4th September, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

No. 28. Requesting instructions regarding the disposal of opium in Candeish. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

Adverting to the repeated order I have received on account of opium, I beg to be informed if it is meant to limit the sale of that drug by the cultivators to 5 Tolas, and, if not, what restrictions are to be put on its sale of them.

I have received several petitions from the cultivators of Lonier, Sowda and Yawul, begging to know what they are to do with the opium now in hand, and whether they are forbidden to cultivate it altogether.

Previously to the receipt of your letter countermanning all further purchases of opium for Government, the Yawul Mamlutdar had already bought and sent to Dhoolia 104½ Surat seers at 5 Chandooru Rupees for a seer. This opium is of the best quality grown in Candeish. I beg to request your instructions as to its disposal.

Oomrana, 8th November, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

No. 29. Forwarding a Circular regarding opium. (Circular to Captains H. D. Robertson, H. Pottinger, J. Briggs and Mr. Thackeray.)

Sir,

The Hon'ble the Governor understanding that complaints are made of the want of opium for internal consumption at different stations in the Deccan, and especially at Sattara, I have the honor that you will ascertain and communicate to me the quantity that may be annually required at each station, when measures will be adopted for supplying

it. You will also favour me with your opinion as to the best mode of paying for what may be supplied, of which invoices will be furnished by the opium agent.

Poona, 19th September, 1822.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

*No. 30. Remarks on the Draft of Regulations regarding opium.
(To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)*

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 17th instant desiring my opinion on the Draft of a Regulation for permitting and regulating the importation of opium and its retail sale.

The Regulation appears to me to be generally speaking extremely well calculated for the proposed object, but a few points have occurred to me as susceptible of amendment, or requiring further detail so far as the Deccan retail trade is concerned.

To those I propose to briefly advert, but before I do so, I may observe that I would limit the warehouses in the Ahmednuggur Collectorship to two. One at Ahmednuggur and another at Nussuck.

In addition to the custom-house officers (of whom it may be noticed that there are none in the employ of Government in the Deccan), ascertaining agreeable to Section IV Clause second, that the quantity of opium corresponds with that stated in the pass, I would propose that this authority should also be vested in "the Kumavisdars and all such persons as the Collector of the Zillah may think fit to entrust with that authority."

And instead of noting the excess or deficiency on the back of the pass, I would propose "that where such excess or deficiency was discovered, the person so discovering it (if not a Kumavisdar) should send the importer and the opium to the nearest officer of that class, who should report the circumstance forthwith, with the importer's explanation to the Collector, keeping the opium in deposit in a secure place."

The penalty as laid down in Section IV Clause fourth seems very applicable and proper.

The period for restricting the retail sale of opium in the Deccan agreeably to Section VIII Clause first, should not be sooner, in my opinion, than the 1st January 1823, even supposing the regulation is passed immediately.

It appears to me that the quantity of two Surat maunds which is laid down in Section VIII Clause third, as the smallest that can be sold by the importer, is too much for the Deckan, and I would suggest one maund or fourteen pukka seers of the weight of 80 Rupees per seer being substituted.

With regard to the grant of licenses by the Collector as provided for in Section X Clause first, I should wish to be informed on what principle this is to be done. . . . I would . . . suggest that the licenses should be sold by public auction, the Collector of the Zilla having previously determined on and fixed the number of towns and villages in which the drug is to be, and likewise the number of shops in each of them. . . .

The term for which the licenses are to be granted by Section X Clause fifth, seem very limited, and it appears to me to be very desirable that it should be extended to two or three years, but may be some objections to this arrangement which I am not aware of.

Some kind of Clause also appears requisite on the subject of the retailer having opium (above one quarter of a seer) in hand on the expiration of his license in the event of his not obtaining another. This contingency does not appear to be provided for in the XIII Section, and it might be expedient to allow him a short time to get rid of his stock.

No provision has been made in this Regulation for the disposal of opium *made in the territory under Bombay*, and this is indispensably requisite. It would be hard to forbid the manufacture of the drug, from which it may be inferred the cultivators gain a little, and on the other hand without some check to the sale of the home-made drug, the licensed retailers would of course be undersold by the maker.

I would therefore suggest that a Clause should be inserted in the Regulation setting forth "that all persons who made opium within the territories subject to Bombay were, under pain of being dealt with as unlicensed retailers, to bring the produce of their fields to the Kumavisdar of the district in which they reside, and in his presence to weigh and register the quantity placing it in deposit until a purchaser (being a licensed retailer) shall offer" when the fees and duties established by the Regulations of Government should be demanded.

Ahmednuggur, 20th September, 1822.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 31. Regarding supply of opium for internal consumption. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

It is not however in my power to form even a tolerable conjecture of the quantity of opium that may be required annually. . . .

I therefore think it unnecessary to delay my reply for such a step, but beg to recommend that a quantity not exceeding (thirty) 30 Surat maunds should be sent to Ahmednuggur accompanied by invoices of its price, etc., and that I should be informed at what advance, and on the payment of what duties or fees, it is to be sold.

One year's experience will enable me to judge with precision of the annual consumption, and it may then be found practicable to have more stations than one for the sale of the Company's opium. The price of the Surat maund of the best opium is now about 300 Rupees.

Ahmednuggur. 21st September, 1822. (Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 32. Letter on the price of opium and its high value leading to a decrease in sale. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th of March last, desiring me to suggest a retail price for the opium lately forwarded from the Presidency, I have the honor to acquaint you that no offer which I have had for even the smallest portion of it approaches the price at which the drug is estimated in the invoices, and I am therefore unable to propose any rate that will at all ensure Government from loss in its retail.

2. Persons who represented to me the scarcity of opium that had been caused in the country from the heavy duties levied on it, appear to have been influenced by the idea that by procuring a supply from Bombay it would come so cheap that they would make large profits on it, but now that they find the lowest rate at which Government can afford to sell the drug, they say it is too good for this market and decline to speculate in it.

3. The demand for opium throughout the districts has nearly ceased, owing to restrictions imposed on the facility of getting it, and unless it may be what is made in some of the Pergunnahs and which is I understand and of a very inferior description, the article is I am credibly informed, almost become known as an article of the smallest traffic.

4. The use to which the Mahrattas applied it was chiefly to give to their children till they were three to four years old, and as the scarcity of it arose, they were obliged to drop this pernicious practice which was formerly universal, and led to very considerable consumption.

5. Under the circumstances . . . I beg for your instructions, and if the opium cannot be allowed to be disposed of at a rate far lower than is shown in the invoices, I see no other alternative than my returning it to the Presidency.

Ahmednuggur, 18th May, 1823.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

SALT

No. 33. Letter regarding trade in salt. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo regarding trade in salt in Candeish, I beg leave to acquaint you that no record of the customs of any description remains in this province by which authentic information is to be obtained, the accompanying Tables Nos. 1 and 2 [Tables Nos. 12 and 13] are framed from the result of my enquiries here on the subject, and the numbers principally filled up from the accounts of the Carcoons kept up to keep copy of the custom farmer's books for the last year 1229, A.D. 1819-20.

An average taken of the prices of salt for the last ten years admits of a very small variation from the rate given in the tables.

The expenditure in Candeish is shewn by the difference between the exports and imports and according to the census of the population estimated at about 5,00,000 persons. After allowing 40 seers annually for every family of five persons, it leaves a surplus of 10,000 loads of expenditure for wastage, the use of cattle, and employed by the better classes for extraordinary culinary purposes; and this according to the tables gives an expenditure of 1 Rupee annually only in every ryot's family. The calculation has been made on the supposition that 30 seers of meal require 1 seer of salt to savour it for consumption.

Dhoolia, 6th October, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs.

TABLE NO. 12

No. 1

ABSTRACT OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND CONSUMPTION OF SALT IN CANDEISH

Ports from whence Salt is obtained	Imports	No. of Loads of 80 Seers	Exported and how disposed of	
	Ghats by which it enters Candeish			
Oolpee Goree Bundur	Nowapora	90,000	Consumed in Candeish	60,000
Moongybhatta	Warsa	9,000	Exported into Berar by Bodwur	19,500
Punnar	Banglaw by Salere	4,500	Exported into Berar by Rawere	10,500
Damaun			Exported into Berar by Ajunta	10,500
Uttala	Hutgur	90,000	Exported into Berar by Jannere	52,800
Bulsar			Pass't into Gungturry from Hutgurh without entering Candeish	34,500
	Total Loads	1,93,500		1,87,800

Political Agent's Office,
Dhoolia, 6th October, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs,
Pol. Agent, Candeish.

No. 34. New items of Zukaut fixed on salt. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Nizam's Mamlutdar Ræ Chotum Laull fixed a new item of Zukaut on salt coming to this place in the Fusly 1229 at the rate of two annas per bullock load.

2. This tax which was named "Punchotra" is a very grievous one on the poorer classes, not from the amount of it, but because it is only levied in the town of Kurmulla, and consequently prevents dealers from bringing salt (which may be termed an absolute necessity of life) to the place.

3. The whole of the people have accordingly waited on me to entreat that the "Punchotra" may be abolished, and I have therefore inquired into the annual amount realised by it, which appears to have been in the Fuslee 1229 two hundred and forty Rupees and one anna, and in 1230 two hundred and twenty Rupees and two annas and three quarters.

4. The fact is this tax has operated as a prohibition to the importation of salt, and it is one unsanctioned by any sufficient authority. I beg to earnestly recommend that I may be empowered to abolish it ere I quit this town.

Ahmudnuggur, 5th February, 1822.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

LIQUOR

No. 35. Requesting to check the vend of spirituous liquor. (Circular to Captains Robertson, Pottinger, Major Robertson and Mr. Thackeray.)

Sir,

Reverting to that part of the replies of some of the Collectors to my interrogatories, which relate to the sale of spirituous liquors, it is observable that the use of them had in many places increased notwithstanding the exertions that have been made to uphold the strict regulations in force during the time of the late Peshwa. The Hon'ble the Governor in Council, with a view to check the vend as far as practicable, has in consequence entrusted me to direct your attention to the subject at your earliest convenience.

TABLE NO. 13

No. 2

TABLE SHEWING THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF SALT IMPORTED INTO
CANDEISH WITH THE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMS RAISED ON IT DURING
THE YEAR 1229 OR 1819-20

	Number of Loads of 80 Seers	Intrinsic Value at 1 Rupee per Load	Duties at 6.2.66% on the Value	Number of Loads of 80 Seers	Intrinsic Value @ 2 Rs. per Load	Duties at 16.2.66% on the Value	Number of Loads of 80 Seers	Intrinsic Value @ 3 Rs. per Load	Duties at 10 per cent on the Value	Number of Loads	Total Value	Total Duties
Pass't into Gungterry from Hutgur	34,500	34,500	2,300									
Imported & Consumed in Candeish				60,000	1,20,000	20,000						
Transported thro' Candeish							99,000	3,46,500	66,000			
									Total	1,93,500	5,01,000	88,300

The value is fix't according to the actual prices at the Ghauts in Candeish and the permits of Export.

Political Agent's Office,
Dhoolia, 6th October, 1820.

(Sd.) John Briggs,
Political Agent, Candeish.

It would be a hardship to prohibit the sale entirely because in some parts of the country the use of spirits is necessary to the health of the people, particularly those who inhabit the hills and jungles. It is indispensable to Mahratta soldiers most of whom drink publicly. It forms one of the offerings to some of the idols, and is requisite in many medicinal preparations for men and cattle. To keep down the inducement to inebriety and to the indulgence in intoxicating drugs, it is advisable to diminish the temptation by interdicting the sale wherever it has been customary to prohibit it, by raising as much as possible the price of liquors, and of licenses for the vend of it, as well as by punishing drunkards. . . . In proportion as the prices are raised it will be placed beyond the vend of the lower orders who are most given to intemperance.

Some controlling clauses may be introduced into the agreement with the Arrack renters. They must be interdicted from selling within five miles of any Cantonment, or to any soldier, from allowing any persons to take spirits from their shops without a pass signed by the Amildar, from receiving anything but cash in payment for liquor, from allowing drunkenness or quarrelling, from harbouring thieves in their shops, or keeping them open beyond eight o'clock at night. Shops and stills may be limited to a certain number, and to a particular situation, under the eye of the officers of Government. No deterioration in the quality of the Arrack should be permitted, and its price should be fixed at a certain sum per pukka seer.

The attention of your public servants should be particularly excited towards the discovery of any unlicensed stills. Adequate reward might be held out for the purpose, and where strong grounds of suspicion appeared, you might issue search warrants for their detection, care being taken that the officers being entrusted with them do not abuse their authority by entering the houses of the persons of respectability, and trespassing upon the apartments of females.

In addition to the foregoing suggestion, I request you will adopt any other restrictive measures which you may consider politic and tending towards the desired end. . . .

Poona, 27th May. 1823.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

SECTION III

- (1) **Coinage**
- (2) **Exchange**
- (3) **Mints**

No. 36. Reporting the depreciation of copper coin. (To Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you that the copper coin of this place has been so much reduced in value of late that I have found it requisite to adopt some measures to prevent its further debasement and to fix it at one standard. . . . I am so fully aware of the intricacy and delicacy of this subject that I was by no means willing to interfere in it, but the Soukars of large villages belonging to Sindiah, and the Nizam in this neighbourhood have been in the habit of carrying away the good and current coin and having it recoined and then brought back at an enormous profit to themselves and loss to the public. I endeavoured to put a stop to this practice by placing persons at the gates of the city to examine all pice . . . and to seize such as was deficient in weight. The Soukars, however, contrived to allude the people thus stationed, and the original copper currency has been nearly lessened one half in its weight.

I have now settled that the price shall be of the same value as that which is current in the Cantonment at Seeroor and at Poonah.

Ahmednuggur, 23rd July, 1818.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 37. Letter to put a stop to further forgeries on coinage. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Acting Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, giving cover to a duplicate letter to Captain Pottinger, and a copy of one from the Political Agent in Khandeish to your address, in which that gentleman has stated his suspicion of the counterfeit currency of the Chandore Rupees, which have lately been received into the Treasury at Dhoolia, in payment of the revenue, having been struck with the original die of the Chandore mint, if not in the mint itself,—and stating his opinion, of the propriety of putting a stop to all further coinage until the forgerers are discovered. In reply I have the honor to acquaint you, that in pursuance of your instructions to the Collector of Ahmednuggur, I have issued the necessary orders to the Kumavishdar of this place to put an immediate stop to any further coinage, and to take possession of the die, and also to use every endeavour to trace the persons who have been engaged in the forgery.

I beg, however, respectfully to observe that on a close inspection of the present currency of the Chandore mint, with the counterfeit coin, a

difference is at once discernible, and consequently the coin could not possibly have been struck with the die now in use. I have also compared the base coin sent here (and which has been struck from two dies) with old Chandore Rupees, and I find that when very minutely examined, that there is a difference, so that I should conclude that the counterfeit coin has not been struck in Chandore mint. It may be necessary to state that a die does not last above a year, or perhaps less, being able to split with use, or if there be a good deal of business going forward, the letters become obliterated, and it then becomes necessary to renew the die in which case the old one is delivered over to the Kumavisdar to be destroyed. This circumstance renders it difficult to compare the counterfeit coin with the currency of any particular year, and can only be done by comparing them with a great number of old coins to ascertain the fact, or otherwise, of the base coin having been issued from the mint.

Chandore, 2nd March, 1820.

(Sd.) W. Wiering,
Sub-Collector.

EXCHANGE

No. 38. Copy of a letter to General Smith regarding tables of the value of Rupees in circulation. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for your information a copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to Major General Smith regarding the tables which I wish to obtain from the Sowkars of the Serroor Cantonment of the value of different sorts of Rupees in circulation there.

Serroor, 4th March, 1820.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

Circuit Kutcherry,
Serroor, 4th March, 1820.

Sir,

The Commissioner having called on me to obtain tables of the relative current value of all kinds of Rupees in circulation within the Deccan with a view to the establishment of a general standard value by which they should be received from the ryot and paid from the treasury to all persons (not being military who are already provided for), I beg to inform you that I have transmitted a paper of query on the subject to my Kumavisdars of the Pergunnah of Kurdah in which the Serroor Cantonments are situated, and directed him to request the Sowkars to furnish me with their opinions in writing.

The Kumavisdar has now reported to me that the Sowkars have declined to give any statement without expressed instructions from you, and as the object to be attained is a most important and desirable one, I shall feel very greatly obliged by your having the goodness to issue such orders on the subject to the Bazar dealers through the officers under whose immediate superintendence they are placed as you may see fit.

It is almost superfluous to add that Government have no intention of interfering with the exchange on Hoondees and drafts, but simply wish to fix a rate which shall reconcile the various sorts of Rupees to one general scale.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger,
Collector.

No. 39. Copy of his letter to Mr. Crawford regarding the rates issued to troops at Sholapoor. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to you a copy of a letter which I yesterday addressed to Mr. Crawford on the subject of the rate at which various kinds of Rupees are issued to the troops at Sholapoor.

Without the adoption of some measure of the sort I heretofore stated it is impossible to check the fraudulent combination of Shroffs and others interested in keeping the *nominal* value of metallic currency in a state of fluctuation, by which they gain largely at the expense of our ryot as well as troops.

Ahmednuggur, 15th April, 1823.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

Revenue Department,
Ahmednuggur, Collector's Office.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th instant with its enclosures being copies of correspondence between the Commissioner, the Accountant General, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Munro and Major James on the subject of the rates at which the different kinds of Rupees in circulation at Sholapoor are to be issued from your treasury to the troops.

It appears to me highly desirable that this question should be once for all finally settled, and only one method occurs to me of doing so. That method I shall proceed to detail premising that I have adopted it

at this place for two years and I have never had a single complaint or representation from the troops during the period, whilst the ryots seem to be equally satisfied with the arrangement which may therefore be considered to have stood the test of practice and not to be any longer a mere theoretical experiment.

I assume as the basis of my calculation that all the troops at Sholapoor are paid in Bombay Rupees, or others supposed to be made equal to them by a premium being added, and as Government has most liberally ordered the Ankosee Rupee (in which your revenue settlements are formed, and accounts kept) to be considered 4 per cent less than the Bombay one (though in real fact the intrinsic difference is not $3\frac{1}{2}$), it only remains to lay down a general permanent standard for the receipt of Rupees into the treasury (whether from the ryots or soukars) and to issue them to the troops and everyone else, at the same rates.

The Rupee to be adopted as the ground work of the standard will be the Ankosee, and rates at which all other Rupees are to be received and disbursed must be calculated with reference to it, which will obviate a great deal of confusion and trouble in your account as no entries except in that currency will be made in them.

It would not be proper for Government to interfere directly in fixing the Camp Bazar rates of exchange, or those in use amongst the soukars, nor is such a measure called for. The fact is, however, by laying down an invariable standard for our receipts and issues we do impose a very salutary restriction on the fluctuation of the exchange of metallic currency (though none on the paper dealings of the moneyed men) because the ryot, on being made acquainted with our fixed treasury rates, will only sell and buy agreeable to them, and as they are the great circulating medium of the country, their dealings must in some degree guide the whole population.

That this must be the result of our arrangement has been most completely established in the districts under me, where my treasury rates are now universally known and acknowledged, so much so that even when I sell or purchase bills from Shroffs, they never object to receive, or pay, according to them, and though sometimes they may express a wish not to take a proportion of any particular Rupee which has depreciated in the market at the moment, I have not had any difficulty in removing this impediment by mentioning some other kind of Rupee to be paid to them also, and which was selling at an increased premium.

I transmit herewith a table of the rates at which different coins are received and issued by me. It will perhaps be of some use in assisting you to form a similar one for Sholapore, which I request you will do, taking the utmost pains and precautions by assembling and consulting all the Shroffs, to fix it on a fair scale for all parties.

As soon as the table is prepared and you forward it to me I will submit it to the Commissioner and Accountant General (to which gentlemen copies of this letter will be sent) with my recommendation that it may be adopted, and that the paymaster may be instructed to conform to it in all his disbursement, by which means it will be established amongst the commissariat followers and troops, and will become in real fact the standard of the Bazars, both in the Cantonment and the town of Sholapore.

Without some such steps as these, it is clear the public is left entirely at the mercy of the Shroffs who can vary, as they choose, the value of the money in the treasury, and, what is still worse, even after it has been paid to the troops they can by a combination depreciate the currency far below the rate at which it was issued.

The plan I propose I have found attended with the best effect. It has been highly praised by every class, the only mode of preventing everlasting disputes and contention, and it has been placidly adopted by the trading body of this large place, and throughout the districts as equally just towards all.

Ahmednuggur Collector's Office,
25th December, 1822.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

Rates at which various kinds of Rupees are to be received from the ryots agreeable to orders circulated to the Kumavisdars on the 13th of November, 1820.

100 Korah Ankosee		
Rupees equal to	101.0.0	Solakhee Ankosee
	101.0.0	Nirmul Chandore
	102.0.0	Solakhee "
	101.2.0	Nirmul Zurryputka
	102.2.0	Solakhee "
	105.0.0	Nirmul Bareck Bellapooree
	106.2.0	Solakhee or Mota Bellapooree
	101.0.0	Korah Wabgammsee
	102.0.0	Solakhee "
	105.0.0	Korah Chumargoondy
	106.2.0	Chapee "

N. B. In the event of the ryot bringing any other kind of Rupee (which will hardly ever be the case in this Collectorship), they are to be desired to exchange them for one of the above sorts.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 40. Subject of the Sholapoor treasury rates. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 14th and 20th instant I have the honor to forward for your information copies of one which I have received from Mr. Crawford and of my reply.

Should you approve of my arrangements alluded to in the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th paragraph of my reply, you will perhaps be pleased to authorise me to intimate them to the different officers concerned as having received your final sanction. In the meantime I shall address Captain James as to his framing his estimate on the Sholapoor treasury in Ankosee Rupees.

I have not deemed it my province to make any allusion to the manner of paying Madras troops stationed at Sholapoor, as I conclude it is the intention of Government that they and the Bombay Division shall be considered in all respects when serving together on the same footing.

Ahmednuggur, 28th April, 1823.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

To Captain Henry Pottinger.

Collector and Magistrate.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant respecting my treasury rates.

2. I yesterday assembled the principal Shroffs of Sholapoor, and having explained to them the rates adopted in your treasury, I asked them if they conceived the same would be appreciable to Sholapoor. They expressed themselves unanimous in opinion that they appeared to be calculated on just principles, and that they were willing to adopt them if I thought proper. I told them that I did not assemble them for the purpose of inducing them to adopt my treasury rates, but with the view of fixing those rates on just and equitable principles, with reference to the present state of exchange in the Bazar and the sudden influx or diminution of any particular currency. Your treasury rates

appearing to be equally applicable to Sholapoor, I beg to recommend their being adopted in my treasury, but I think the coins receivable into this treasury should not be limited to 12, and have therefore prepared a table No. 1 [Table No. 14] of those that are not common in this part of the country, and which I beg to propose should alone be received into the treasury at the rate therein laid down. The currency most in circulation in this Bazar are the Chapee and Ankosee, and the Bellapooree Rupees. The Eyen Ankosee and Chandoree are seldom to be met with.

If the coins receivable into my treasury are limited in number, some arrangement must be made with the principal Collector of Darwar and his treasury, and that of the Sub-collectorate south of the Bheema being opened to all coins, it will frequently happen under the existing arrangement by which Mr. Munro has been desired to send all his spare cash to Sholapoor for the payment of the troops, that a considerable number of coins will be transmitted to that gentleman, which I shall be unable to receive.

I have the honor to transmit statements of the Bazar rates of exchange from the 15th to the 21st instant No. 2. [Table No. 15.]

Also the treasury rates as fixed by the Principal Collector and Political Agent at Darwar No. 3. [Table No. 16.]

Sholapoor, 22nd April, 1823.

(Sd.) A. Crawford,
Sub-collector.

(N. B. See Table Nos. 14, 15, 16.)

TABLE NO. 14

No. 1

PROPOSED TREASURY RATES OF EXCHANGE

Rupee Coins	Rupees	Kora or Eyen Ankosee Rupees
Kora Ankosee	100.	100.
Nirmul Chapee	101.	100.
Joonay Chapee	101.3.	100.
Zoora Chandoree Kora	101.	100.
Zoora Chapee Kora	102.	100.
Wagaon Kora	101.	100.
Wagaon Chapee	102.	100.
Zariputka Kora	101.2.	100.
Zariputka Chapee	102.2.	100.
Belapooree Kora	105.	100.
Belapooree Chapee	106.2.	100.
Chambargoondee Kora	105.	100.
Chambargoondee Chapee	106.2.	100.
Nanashae Kora	100.	100.
Nanashae Chapee	101.	100.
Company Eyen	92.1.	100.

Names of Coins	Number of Each Kind	Rate in Rupees. Quarters & Reas
Company Chapee	89.3.	100.
Shanpooree Kora	101.2.50	100.
Shree Sicca	101.0.34	100.
Narrayen Pent	105.0.60	100.

(Sd.) A. Crawford,
Sub-collector.

TABLE NO. 15

No. 2

BAZAR RATES OF EXCHANGE IN THE TOWN OF SHOLAPOOR
FROM 15TH TO 21ST APRIL, 1823

Names of Rupee Coins	Number of Each Kind	Chapee Ankosee Rupee
Kora Ankosee		100.
Nirmal Chapee	99.	100.
Joonah Chapee	100.	100.
Toosah Chandore Kora	101.	100.
Toosah Chandore Chapee	101.	100.
Wagaon Kora	101.	100.
Wagaon Chapee	101.	100.
Zurripotka Kora	102.	100.
Zurripotka Chapee	102.	100.
Ballapoorce Kora	104.2.	100.
Ballapoorce Chapee	104.2.	100.
Ballapoorce Bulka	103.2.	100.
Chambargoondee Korah	105.2.	100.
Chambargoondee Chapee	105.2.	100.
Nanashace Korah	99.	100.
Nanashace Chapee	99.	100.
Company Korah	87.2.	100.
Company Chapee	94.2.	100.
Shanpooree	102.2.	100.
Shree Sicca	101.	100.
Narrain Pent Korah	122.	100.
Narrain Pent Joonah	112.	100.
Shemsharry	108.2.	100.
Merjee	109.2.	100.
Joonah Pent Secca	109.2.	100.
Nawa Pent Secca	109.2.	100.
Footca Ankosee	101.	100.
Foolgaon Chapee	101.	100.
Pundeelcherry Chapee	94.2.	100.
Soortee	94.3.	100.
Churchwud Sicca	100.	100.
Shembhoo Sicca	116.	100.
Bhova Mijree Soortee	95.2.	100.
Meetree	95.	100.
Phursee	97.	100.
Najpoor	111.	100.
Quarter Star Pagoda	101.	100.

(Sd.) A. Crawford,
Sub-collector.

TABLE NO. 16

No. 3

TREASURY RATES OF EXCHANGE AS FIXED BY THE COLLECTOR
& POLITICAL AGENT AT DARWAR

Names of Coins	Number of Each Kind	Rate in Rupees, Quarters & Reas
Gold		
Bahadree Pagodas	1	3.3.17
Sooltanee Pagodas	1	3.3.17
Bole Eakary Pagodas	1	3.3.17
Rajaram Pagodas	1	3.2.87
Benglooree Pagodas	1	3.2.87
Darwar Pagodas	1	3.3.
Star Pagodas	1	3.2.
Soortee Mohore	1	14.
Sattara Pagodas	1	3.1.
Soumoor Pagodas	1	3.0.81
Venkutputtee Pagodas	1	3.1.50
Mahomed Shaee Pagoda	1	3.1.50
Doorgee Pagoda	1	3.2.25
Jamsharee Pagoda	1	3.2.25
Herpenhully Pagoda	1	3.1.75
Timma Naidee Pertap	1	4.0.25
Contarnee Fanams	1	1.17
Silver		
Company Rupees	1	1.
Pundicherree Rupees	1	1.
Pundicherree Soolakee Rupees	1	3.90
Company Soolakee Rupees	1	3.90
Eine Sicca Rupees	1	3.69
Soolakee Sicca Rupees	1	3.67
Phoota Ankosee Rupees	1	3.63
Shapooree Rupees	1	3.63
Mudwaroy Rupees	1	3.88
Soortee Rupees	1	3.81
Balapooree Rupees	1	3.44
Eine Ankosee Rupees	1	3.69
Soolakee Rupees	1	3.65
Toorachandoree	1	3.65
Toorachandoree Soolakee	1	3.61
Vobgaon Rupees	1	3.65
Shree Sicca Rupees	1	3.65
Sembho Peerkhanee	1	3.25
Zaimboornee	1	3.25
Quartar Star Pagoda	1	3.50
Narrayen Pent Pagoda	1	3.50
Moodhole Pagoda	1	3.
Govind Baxsh Pagoda	1	3.13
Mirjee Pagoda	1	3.38
Nippanee Pagoda	1	2.81
Half Star Pagoda	1	1.3.
Alamanee Noeraw	1	2.
Punnallee	1	2.50
Neelcuntee	1	2.37
Vauvee Sicca	1	3.56
Madras Fanams	1	31
Copper		
Saie Pice	1	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vassae Pice	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

(Sd.) A. Crawford,
Sub-collector.

Ahmednuggur Collector's Office.
28th April, 1823.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 22nd instant in reply to mine of the 14th on the subject of your treasury rates.

2. Those formerly fixed by the principal Collector and the Political Agent appearing to be calculated with reference to the Company's Rupee, they cannot be any longer applied to your accounts which are to be kept in the Ankosee currency, and I shall accordingly recommend to the Commissioner the adoption of the table you have submitted, and further that the paymaster may be instructed to conform to it in his disbursement to the troops.

3. Should the bills from the Accountant General on you be drawn in Bombay Rupees, it will be requisite to add 4 per cent to them to make up their account in Ankosees, but as it seems even desirable to avoid this, I shall suggest to the paymaster of the Division his having the goodness to frame his estimate of the demands on your treasury in the same way he does on mine, which are in Ankosee Rupees, and the premium authorised by Government will of course be added to the amount of the abstract in the paymaster's office, and his disbursement regulated accordingly.

4. With reference to the 3rd paragraph of your letter now under reply, I am of opinion that it will not be requisite to request the Sub-collector south of the Beemah not to send the different coins he may from time to time collect to your treasury. You might, however, furnish that gentleman with a copy of the table you have proposed, and should it be approved of, suggest his adhering to it as nearly as possible in making remittances to you, and when he transmits coins that are not included in it, you can dispose of them in the Bazar of Sholapore and debit or credit any difference resulting from this measure under the head of "profit and loss by exchange."

5. Mr. Munro will of course take credit in his accounts for the coins sent to you at the rate he receives them from the ryots, and loss or gain will be shown in your accounts.

6. I infer from the treasury rates at Darwar being calculated in the Company's Rupees that the Jummabundy of the districts is supposed to be made in that coin, but I do not think this (if the case) is fair towards the ryots of the country subject to you, whose rents were all es-

minated in Ankosee Rupees by the late Government, and consequently to require them to pay Company's Rupees is to add an advance of at least 8 per cent to the former demands on them. I shall therefore bring this point to the notice of the Commissioner, and request his sanction to your adopting the Ankosee Rupee, should it not have been done already as the standard of your Jummabundy.

Copies of your letter and this reply will be transmitted to the Commissioner and Accountant General.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 41. Copies of a letter regarding the acceptance of Captain Pottinger's rates of exchange at Sholapoor. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for your information copies of a letter dated the 15th instant and its enclosures which I have received from the Accountant General on the subject of the treasury rates to be fixed at Sholapoor.

The table called for in your letter of the 2nd instant is in the course of preparation. . . .

22nd May, 1823.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

To Captain Henry Pottinger,
Collector,
Ahmednuggur.

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 15th ultimo with its accompaniments, I beg leave to transmit the copies of one addressed by me to Government on the subject under date the 1st instant, and of their reply of the 7th instant by which you will perceive that your arrangement has been approved.

2. I take the same opportunity . . . on which I have only to remark that I conclude you have been studious in fixing the rates at which the various local currencies are to be received in payment of the revenues, not to overvalue them as compared with the Ankosee Rupees.

3. With regard to the intrinsic value of the last, however, as stated in the 3rd paragraph of your letter to Mr. Crawford of the 14th ultimo, I apprehend that you must have overlooked the more recent assay of it

as given in the Assay Report of the 4th August, 1821 . . . following by which it appears to be rather more than 4 per cent inferior to the Bombay Rupees.

Bombay Castle. 15th May. 1823.

(Sd.) John Wedderburn,
Accountant General.

To James Farish. Esq.,
Secretary to Government.

Sir,

In laying the enclosed copies of a letter to my address from the Collector of Ahmednuggur . . . and of its enclosures from the Honorable the Governor in Council, I request you will have the goodness to state that provided due caution is observed not to exclude from the collections any coins in extensive use, the measure adopted by Captain Pottinger appears to me to be well calculated to answer the end in view, which is certainly a most desirable one without any attendant inconveniences.

Bombay Castle, 1st May. 1823.

(Sd.) John Wedderburn.

To John Wedderburn. Esq.,
Accountant General.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge . . . communicating the measure adopted by Captain Pottinger for the purpose of checking fraudulent combinations to keep up the nominal valuation of the metallic currency, and am directed to inform you that the Honorable the Governor in Council authorises you to return and answer to Captain Pottinger to the effect of your letter now under reply.

Bombay Castle. 7th May. 1823.

(Sd.) J. Farish,
Secretary to Govt.

MINTS

No. 42. Copy of a despatch from Mr. Wilkins together with translation of the queries regarding the mints of Nussuck and Chandore. (To Mr. Henry Pottinger, Collector, Ahmednuggur.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant . . . calling upon me to report whether the mints of Nasik

and Chandore were under our immediate control, or farmed out for a stated period.

In reply I beg leave to state that the mints of both places are not farmed out, but the business of coinage is entrusted to natives who pay a percentage to Government upon the number of rupees coined, and consequently the operation at both these mints can be suspended whenever it is the pleasure of Government to have recourse to that measure, and I should conceive that there could not be any inconvenience whatever in placing the mints under the control of the Committee in Bombay, provided any benefit is contemplated by that arrangement.

The only control exercised by the mint master is that whenever the operation of coining takes place, one of the Carkoons of the Kumavisdar's establishment with a peon is present to take an account of the number of coins which are struck during the day and who, when the day's work is over, locks up the dies and the keys are deposited with the Kumavisdar.

I have the honor to enclose the replies of Kumavisdars to the Mahratta Yad... and which have this day been received. The mint-master of Nasik has given in copies of two Sanads, one of which was granted to his father, and the other in his own name appointing them Carkoons on the part of the Government to watch over the coinage under the mint-master, and granting them a monthly salary for so doing from the proceeds of the percentage.

Nassuck, 20th January, 1820.

(Sd.) W. Wilkins.

*Translation of questions to and replies from the Kumavisdar
of Chandore*

1st Question: How is the mint at Chandore conducted at present?

1st Answer: The rupees coined in the mint contained 11 Massas of which 6 Ruttees are alloy.

2nd Question: Has the Kumavisdar only a Darogha or overseer over the mint, or is the total conduct of it in his hands as the executive officer of the Government?

2nd Answer: The mint is, and has been long under a special person, and a Carkoon and sepoys on the part of the Government attend the process of coining which is as follows: When people bring bullion, they obtain an order from the Kumavisdar to have it coined. The Carkoon and sepoys are sent with them to the mint, and there silver and

alloy are melted down in the proportion stated above. The dies are then sent to the Kumavisdar's Kutcherry where they are always kept, and the coin struck in the presence of the owner of the bullion. The mint-master and the Government Carkoon and sepoy receive the percentage, and keep a regular account of the sum coined daily.

3rd Question: If the Kumavisdar has only an overseer at the mint and the right of coining is farmed out, how long has the agreement yet to run?

3rd Answer: This query is replied to in the preceding answer. There is no farm of the mint nor ever has been. The Government dues on coinage are as follows:

Government Tax on 1,000 Rupees	5.2
On account of the superintendence of the Government people on each 1,000 Rupees	1.1
	<hr/> 6.3

Out of the latter sum the Carkoon (who has been for many years in the same office) receives the salary of 25 Rupees per month. The whole of the balance arising from both heads is remitted to the treasury, and the mint-master and Zamindars receive a small undefined sum from the persons bringing bullion. The amount is undefined because the mint-master is bound to receive all badly coined rupees from the Sowkars, and when this is settled he and the Zamindar receive their profit.

4th Question: There is a gentleman in Bombay who exercises authority over the mint. The Government have thought of placing the mint at Chandore under him. Will the mint-master at Chandore be able to carry on his duties subject to the said gentleman's order?

4th Answer: The regulations and manner of conducting the mint are detailed in the preceding replies. There will therefore be no difficulty in abiding by all orders that may be received.

Substance of answers received from the Kumavisdar of Nussuck to whom the same queries were transmitted as to the Kumavisdar of Chandore.

Zhuree Putkee Rupees, weighing one Goong less than eleven masses of gold, are coined here. They contained six goonjes of alloy in Bajee Row's time, but Captain Briggs' Kumavisdar Rungoo Punt, with a view to increasing the coinage, altered the quantity of alloy to seven Goonjes,

and this is still in force. Government received five Rupees and a half on every 100 Rupees that are coined and have a carkoon and sepoy to superintend the mint, besides which the executive Coolkurney of the town of Nussuck is bound to be present. The dies were formerly kept by the Carkoon, and he received a salary, but they are now in the hands of the Kumavisdar who allows them to be made use of whenever they are required. The Coolkurney who is to be present receives one quarter of a Rupee on each 1,000 Rupees that are coined. There never has been a farmer of the mint at Nussuck. Fifty Rupees are coined free as bonus in each 1,000. The mint-master is ready to attend to all orders he may get from Bombay.

(N. B. The present mint-master at Nussuck was formerly the Carkoon and had an allowance by Sanad from the Paishwa, but this has been stopped, and if the Government takes the superintendence of coinage... the mint-master agrees to serve for a monthly stipend.)

SECTION IV

- (1) **Communications**
- (2) **Transport**
- (3) **Roads**

COMMUNICATIONS

No. 43. Calling for his opinion on the opening of the Thal or Pimpri Ghaut. (To Captain Henry Pottinger, Collector, Ahmednuggur.)

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Honorable the Governor in Council having had occasion to reconsider the question of the practicability of opening the Tull Ghaut or the Peepry Ghaut for the passage of wheel carriages between the Conkan and the Deckan observes from the opinions given on the subject that the route by those Ghauts is not a desirable one as far as relates to the Conkan, nor even much desirable for the Deckan. But it being of great importance to ascertain if there be no other Ghaut that would answer the purpose better, I request you will favor me with your sentiments as early as possible on the subject, and on the road which may be considered best from Tanna to Nassik, or to any other part west of Copergaon, or the most capable of being rendered an easy communication between Bombay and the northern part of the Ahmednuggur district and the southern part of Khandeish.

Sassore, 2nd February, 1824.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

TRANSPORT

No. 44. Treatment meted out to villagers by the Military when travelling from one part of the country to the other. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to receive your letter dated the 30th ultimo.

The only aid, troops marching and depending for their supplies on the country through which they pass received in this district, is an order to villages at which they halt (should the Commanders of detachments report their intended stages beforehand) to furnish them without delay whatever the place affords at the rates of the village market. Should an officer state his being wholly dependent (which some officers do especially of detachments of Madras troops) on the country, and should there be no sufficient supply at the stages, the local officers are enjoined to collect such articles as are requisite by inviting the shop-dealers of the neighbouring villages to send stalls and to charge something above the

rates of their own village to remunerate them for their trouble and expense, and to encourage them by this prospect of gain to take their things readily.

The greatest grievance to the ryots, however, is the necessity of furnishing forage and wood—neither of which articles is ever willingly paid for.

Brigadier General Smith has had the kindness to issue the most positive orders directing that neither individuals nor troops shall press the inhabitants to carry burdens, nor to give them their property without paying for it. The villagers are always ready if paid to carry a load; and indeed prefer it, excepting in those villages where the thoroughfare is so great that they are in constant requisition. There are always plenty of coolies, tattoos and bullocks procurable for hire at Panwell and at Poona, at both of which places rates are fixed. I enclose the rates of Poona. [Table No. 17.] There is no excuse therefore for individuals or troops setting out from either of these places not being properly provided with carriage. I have the honor to submit the high road regulations which I issued in my district last year. Each village was furnished with a copy of them in English and Mahratta and a separate paper was given specifying the number of available men and castes. There was also a Nerick given for the price of articles which is revised if necessary every six months. This Nerick is made with the view of preventing quarrels, and I have no doubt it is of some effect.

The best regulations will perhaps be found defective until European gentlemen (which I am sorry to remark is not the case) learn to consider an Indian being as much entitled to his own property and to all the rights of (?) as Europeans are. They travel over the land with the most perfect conviction that everybody and everything in it were made for their use, and liable to be used as their servants and property. I should hope that it is not impossible to cause the moral feelings of Englishmen to burn as warmly in favour of their Indian subjects, as no doubt it does in regard to Englishmen, and I conceive that as their conduct does not proceed, but in very few cases, from want of principle, but merely from a too dignified opinion of themselves and their own nation, a strong appeal to their good sense, and which should also excite their compassion in favor of the poor classes who inhabit villages, would have more effect than the most restrictive orders or best regulations. Appeals to good sense of men under Military law may be deemed a relaxation of discipline, in as much as the will of the Com-

mander should be sufficient to regulate the conduct of the soldiers. So far as regards the Military discipline, this is true. But it would be esteemed hard to give an officer a Court Martial for neglect perhaps of his servant in not paying for a fowl; yet, if he should be prosecuted, the order is winked at, it loses its character as a Military law, and dwindles into a dead letter. Positive orders like those of military law should perhaps never be issued but with a fixed determination to admit of no infringement of them.

Poona, 14th May, 1820.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

TABLE NO. 17
EXTRACT FROM THE POONA CITY NERRICK

	To Panwell	To Seroor	To Ahmednuggur	To Sattara
From Poona	70 Miles	40 Miles	80 Miles	65 Miles
	5 Days	3 Days	6 Days	5 Days
	Rs.Qr.Re.	Rs.Qr.Re.	Rs.Qr.Re.	Rs.Qr.Re.
Hamalls & Bangey Men	3.2.0	1.3.0	4.0.0	3.2.0
Coolies	2.2.0	1.1.0	2.2.0	2.0.0
Bullocks	3.4.0	1.3.0	3.2.0	3.0.0
Tattoos	3.2.0	2.0.0	4.0.0	3.2.0

If the number of days marked at the top of the column be exceeded, for each extra day there shall be paid per day,

	Going	Returning
To Hamalls	7 annas each	5 annas each
Coolies	5 " "	5 " "
Bullocks	7 " "	7 " "
Tattoos	½ a Rupee each	½ " "

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

Extract from Division orders by Major General Lionel Smith, C.B.

Head Quarters,
Poona Division of the Army,
Seroor, 19th February, 1820.

The Commanding Officer finds it necessary to apprise all officers that the practice of sending followers into the country with permit or chits authorising the cutting of wood either for public or private purposes is irregular and illegal, and is hereby strictly forbidden.

In cases of public occasions such as want of tent pegs, or cavalry pegs, it can be shewn that the allowances for providing such articles are inadequate to purchase them, and application is to be made through the Commanding Officer personal Brigade Major when permission will be obtained from the Collector to cut what is absolutely necessary for such public purposes in any jungles they may assign.

This order is to be fully made known and acted upon throughout this Command.

(Sd.) Francis Sharpe,
Act. Depty. Adj. General.

Extract from Division orders by Brigadier General Smith
Camp Seroor, 23rd June, 1818.

It is most positively ordered that no Bigarees or Coolies shall be pressed or seized from this village, or anything taken from it by troops or Military passengers without the required prices being paid for the same.

The peon or Patell, in charge of this paper, is required to report the names or description of troops and individuals disregarding this order.

By Order,
(Sd.) S. Hallifax.

Circular to the Officers officiating as Collectors and Magistrates under the orders of the Commissioner

Camp Carla, near Jalna,
March 18th, 1818.

Sir,

The protection of Bajee Row's late districts in the Western Deccan and just treatment of the inhabitants by the strictest discipline of the troops becoming the most important object of my duty, I do myself the honor to inform you that I have issued the most positive orders to all Officers in Command, to pay for all forage taken from villages, as well as for any supplies.

A portion of the Division under my Command being unfortunately habituated in the careful practice of free foraging which is too often the means and a cloak for more unlicensed plundering, I beg you will call upon all native Officers employed in the Collectorate (?) of your

different Pergunnahs to acquaint you from time to time with any instances they may experience of the seizure or plunder of grain, forage or any other village property, or the pressing of Coolies for carriage of individual baggage. Whenever this is done for the public, which is very rare, they are always to be paid.

If you will have the goodness to acquaint me with any oppression or irregularities committed against the inhabitants either in cases herein contemplated, or other instances, and stating the particular Detachment or party and by whom commanded, I shall feel obliged to you, and beg to assure you I should not address you on any subject of your civil duties if I was not well aware of my doing so on this occasion will be acceptable to the Commissioner. While he is at a distance so much employed, I shall send a copy of this despatch.

(Sd.) Lionel Smith,
B.G.

ROADS

No. 45. Regarding a plan for keeping roads in repair. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo calling on me to suggest a plan for keeping the roads in repair by the villagers or at their expense.

I beg to inform you that I have made very minute inquiries on this subject, and I find there were, under the late Government, certain persons bearing various denominations such as Ghaut Pandays, Sir Naiques, Hushum Nuweeses, etc., who performed duties connected with the roads in consideration of receiving a small allowance from merchants above the just dues of the Government, and I am of opinion these people should now be called on to discharge similar services modified as might seem advisable.

The Ghaut Pandays were exclusively intended to see to the Ghauts and roads kept in passable state.

The Sir Naiques were entrusted with guarding the Ghaut, and were subservient to the person who held a Sunnud from Government as Hushum Nuwees.

This latter officer was a Muster Master General of the troops stationed in the Hill Forts, Chowkees on the Ghauts, etc., and on account of the protection he afforded to the dealer he enjoyed a small Wuttun arising from collections made from goods passing through his range.

It is obvious that we neither require the services of the Sir Naiques or Hushum Nuwees on the footing they formerly stood, and I would therefore suggest they should be placed on the same principle with the Ghaut Pandays.

Should Government approve of this recommendation, the whole of this people might be summoned, and fresh agreements formed with them, which should only include the object of keeping the Ghauts and roads in their neighbourhood in repair.

With respect to the general question of keeping roads throughout the country, I do not learn there are any fixed principles for it. but the people of the circumjacent villages were liable to be called out to mend the road when occasion required it, and during my annual circuit I have only had to send on a peon to desire the Patels of the villages near which I passed to see this done, which they have always gladly obeyed, for they all seem sensible of the advantages of an early communication from one district to another, and when the system is made *general* the whole of the population derived the benefit of it.

Under this view of the case, I would advise that the Kumavisdar should be instructed, and Proclamation also issued to the same effect that all roads are to be repaired to the nearest villages so as to be passable by laden carts after the close of every rainy season, and where ghauts or other natural difficulties intervened which required much labour, some assistance might be given by employing a few of the Beldars who are found in every Pergunnah and who are very expert at this duty. . . .

Kurrah, 13th January, 1822.

(Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 46. The new road from Kallian to the Tull Ghaut. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge . . . regarding the new road from Kallian to the Tull Ghaut.

I have made particular inquiry from the persons best versed on the subject, and although it is impossible owing to its fluctuation to form a guess of the value of the merchandize that may pass by that route, yet it is universally declared to be the greatest thoroughfare with per-

haps the exception of the Bore Ghaut into and out of the Deckan, and the road being formed will no doubt increase the trade carried on it.

Ahmednuggur, 5th October, 1822. (Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

No. 47. Authorising the making of roads in the vicinity of Dhoolia. (To Major Robertson, Collector, Khandeish.)

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Hon'ble the Governor in Council has been pleased to authorise an expenditure of (4,000) four thousand Rupees on the roads in the vicinity of Dhoolia.

Orders have been issued for the aid of a few pioneers being afforded.

Poona, 22nd April, 1823. (Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 48. Requesting to carry on the repairing of the road. (To Mr. H. D. Robertson, Collector, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit for your information and guidance a copy of a letter* addressed by me to Mr. Chief Secretary Newnham, and of his reply authorising the employment of one thousand workmen on the road therein mentioned, and to request that you will adopt measures for carrying the orders of Government into execution as soon as possible. Your indents for tools will be complied with by the assisting commissary, or should he not have them at his disposal, I request you will forward the indent to me to be submitted to the Military Board. An officer will be appointed to superintend the work at each road, and I shall have the honor of communicating their names at some future period. In order to forward the beneficial purpose of Government, the people should be entertained, and the work commenced immediately, and I rely upon your exertions in seeing that no unnecessary delay takes place, as the villages of Bopora and Turkoona are situated in Captain Pottinger's Collectorate, you will have the goodness to correspond with him in the execution of these arrangements, so that you may have the benefit of his co-operation, and the aid of his ryot in that neighbourhood.

It is particularly desirable that the persons to be employed should be chiefly of the cultivating classes, by which means many who would otherwise emigrate may be induced to remain at home.

Poona, 4th March, 1824. (Sd.) William Chaplin.

* No letter was found.

SECTION V

(1) Silk

SILK

No. 49. Sanction to expenses incurred due to rearing silk worms. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to request the sanction to the expenses I have incurred according to the enclosed bills amounting to Rupees 65.3.75 and 21.1.93¼ in rearing silk worms. I have about 50,000 of these insects spinning silk; but I fear the attempt to introduce them at present will not pay owing to the scarcity of Mulberry trees, the leaves of which only the worms will eat. As the three kinds of Mulberry thrive very well in this soil and climate, I beg to recommend to your attention whether it might not be worth while for Government to plant portions of the Sherree lands of Government with Mulberry trees with a view to future introduction of the silk worm. It requires more energy and perhaps capital than the ryots possess to venture on an experiment of this sort until they have a practical specimen of its success and profit. I am not sufficiently aware of the qualities of silk to state whether what my worms produce is good or bad.

Poona, 13th January, 1826.

(Sd.) H. D. Robertson.

No. 50. Successful breeding of silk worms, but difficulty in winding off the silk from the cocoons. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint you that I have endeavoured (with some success) to breed silk worms at this place from eggs supplied by Captain Robertson at Poonah, with the view of inducing the inhabitants to engage in the production of silk, but we have been unable to wind off the silk from the cocoons, and unless this difficulty can be overcome, the attempt must be abandoned.

I therefore request that Government will be pleased to procure some persons acquainted with this part of the process in order to instruct the people, or I can send a basket of the dried cocoons as a specimen that their quality may be ascertained, as it is not improbable that our difficulty may arise from some defects in production itself.

Ahmednuggur. 31st March, 1826.

(Sd.) John Dunlop.

SECTION VI

Miscellaneous

- (1) **Instructions to Mamlutdars**
- (2) **Wages**
- (3) **Treatment of Indians**

MISCELLANEOUS

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAMLŪDARS

Satara, 8th May, 1818.

1. The first thing you are to attend to is acquiring possession of every Ghurree, Thanna or walled village where it is possible for your Sebundies to maintain themselves or annoy the enemy.

2. No Mamlutdar is allowed to take Nuzars, but as the inhabitants of the country conceive that the refusal of everything is an act of unkindness if not enmity you are desired to accept small presents of vegetables, but of nothing else whatever, on any pretence.

3. As you get possession of your district, you must tranquilise the minds of the inhabitants, assure them of kindness and protection,—listen to everything they say and assure every person that due attention shall be paid to what he states the moment you have leisure to attend to his request. You will proceed to ascertain the amount of the revenues and the expenses to be deducted from it, in which are included, (1) Enams, (2) Jagheers, (3) Dewastan, (4) Wurshasun, (5) Nemnooks.

4. You will examine all (6) Enams and Wutun Puttes of persons present in their villages and whatever persons enjoy inheritance of this kind you will abstain from molesting them and afford protection to their property. What has been already confiscated you are to retain as Government property, but do not seize Enam until you take my orders, though you will be careful to send me in the names of Enamdars now serving with Bajī Rao.

5. All Jagheer villages excepting those now held by the Prithee Nidhee and the Putwardhans are to be taken possession of until you receive special orders to the contrary.

6. You are to keep up the Dewastan expenses sending lists of particulars.

7. Customs are for the present suspended temporarily but the following Dustoors are to be received as usual, viz., (7) Patdam and Dak and Goondel (8) Bang, drug and spirituous liquors are to be taxed according to present usage.

8. You are to listen to all complaints and to decide trifling causes by arbitration. Crimes or any important cases regarding property you are to refer to me with your detailed opinions.

You are not to levy even the usual fines without first referring the case to me and any unauthorised exactions whatever will bring upon you the most severe displeasure of the Sirkar. You will keep a list of all complaints with a short abstract of their cases, and you will forward to me on the 4th of every month stating such as you have referred, such as you have redressed, and such as remain unadjusted.

9. Agreeably to the enclosed forms you are to send to me monthly muster on the 4th of every month of the Sibundies under your charge, accompanied by an abstract of their pay, a form for which is likewise enclosed, and the amount of which will be passed after the muster rolls and abstract have been compared and examined, and you are to pay the men immediately on receiving the money. The English months are to be the period by which payments to the troops or payments of salary are to be regulated—in other respects you are to conform strictly to the Mahratta usage. Previous to enlisting or discharging a Sebundy you will particularly report the circumstances for my sanction.

10. Persons who have returned from the army are to be welcomed back to the village, and no person is to be molested, or reproached because he served with Badjee Rao—assure them of protection and of consideration every man will meet with from a wise and liberal Government, but they must be distinctly warned of the consequences of their again quitting the village, and I shall give orders to the horse to cut them to pieces if they again venture to take up arms. Patells who do not report all persons quitting their villages shall be held responsible for any acts of impropriety such persons may commit.

Patells are immediately to report all such absentees and send in a list of persons returning from Badjee Row's army according to the Proclamation distributed.

11. You are to collect outstanding balances of revenue, and you are to send in a list of the sums received by the Mamlutdar, or all persons who may have made collections during the current year, noticing the names and present abode of such persons as far as can be ascertained.

12. You are to send me a list of your collections and a list of your expenses on the 4th of every month when I shall either direct you to take what is required from the amount of your collection, or forward money to you from Satara.

13. You will carefully examine into the balances of revenue, you will examine the losses each village has sustained, you will be pre-

pared to give me every information in cases where you conceive remissions ought to be granted. You are directed to assure the ryots that the utmost consideration will be shown in all cases of proved loss and damage.

14. You will prepare and send me a list of all Phootgon or detached villages within your Division and remark to whom they belong.

(A true translation)

(Sd.) James Grant,
Political Agent.

- (1) Enams.
Lands and villages bestowed on individuals and their heirs by deeds of gift.
- (2) Jagheers which are of two kinds:
Surinjamee or land given to Sirdars for the maintenance of troops and such Jagheers are generally hereditary, whilst the other being given as personal maintenance are commonly resumed.
- (3) Dewastan.
Lands or money appropriated for religious purposes.
- (4) Wurshasun.
Annual sums paid to individuals and their heirs, commonly religious characters.
- (5) Nemnooks.
A word in very general use for a variety of significations, but here it means assignments in money or in kind either as gifts to the religious, or in payment for Military service.
- (6) Enams and Wutun Puttes or deeds of gift for villages, or landed inheritance.
- (7) Patdam.
A tax of two Rupees levied on persons who contract marriages with widows.
A custom generally levied by Government on occasions of rejoicing or of fulfilment of a vow to God. At these times application is made to the public authority for a written permit, and on this a duty is paid of 24 pies for the musicians called Dak, and one Rupee on those called Goondlee.
* More precise instructions have subsequently been forwarded on this subject as instructions were received.

WAGES

Sir,

In acknowledging... I have the honor to transmit a statement of wages [Table No. 18] generally paid by natives to different classes of workmen and servants contrasted with those paid by Europeans.

Ahmednuggur, 25th September, 1822. (Sd.) Henry Pottinger.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS

Sir,

The great but almost universal error which young men of little experience in India are apt to fall into, is to think too much of them-

TABLE NO. 18
STATEMENT OF WAGES TO SERVANTS

Classes	Pay per month of those employed to move about	Pay per month of those employed at home	Pay per month of those employed in collecting Revenue	Employed by Europeans	
Mahul Sebundies	6.0.0	4. 0. 0	3.2.0	4 Rupees	
Police Sebundies	6.0.0	5. 0. 0	0.0.0	7. 6. 0.	The Revenue Sebundies in Native employ take provisions from the village according to their skill
Bearers	8.0.0	6. 0. 0	0.0.0	9. 8. 7.	
Horse keeper	6.0.0	5. 0. 0	0.0.0	8. 7. 0.	
Mussalchee	5.0.0	4. 0. 0	0.0.0	8. 7. 6.5	
Gardeners	0.0.0	15d.10d.5	0.0.0	20.15. 10.8	
Farrash	5.0.0	4. 0. 0	0.0.0	6. 5. 4.5	
Peons	as the Mahal Sebundies				
Labourers estimated at the day					
Carpenters		6. 4. and	3 Annas	8. 6. Annas	All these are paid according to their skill and the work on which they are employed
Lohar		6. 4. "	3 "	8. 6. "	
Bricklayer		8. 6. "	" "	10. 8. "	
Stone Cutter		12. 0. "	" "	16.14. 12	
Muzdoor		4. 3. and	2 "	6. 4. Annas	
Bheistee with Bullock		6. 0. "	" "	6. 5½."	
Hand Bheistee		4. 0. "	" "	5. 4. "	

selves, and very little of the natives. This assumption of superiority often leads to a haughty and supercilious demeanour, extremely offensive to all classes and productive of great injury to public service. . . . Of the great majority of well educated men who now come out to this country, enable them very soon to perceive that in many of the most important branches of the services they are extremely helpless without the assistance of intelligent natives. . . .

Besides the personal benefit to be derived. . . nothing perhaps would conduce more to reconcile the higher class of natives to the change of Rulers than an unreserved, personal intercourse with them. . . .

To refuse them these common attentions to ceremonials is to do them a serious injury, because it is equivalent to an expression of contempt and ill-will, and tends to degrade them in the eyes of their own people, although we may attach little importance to their forms, yet we ought to recollect the influence which ceremonies. . . have on the minds of natives. . . . We have only to look back to history to find various instances on which revolutions have been brought about by discontent engendered by less considerable causes. . . .

This toleration is more requisite when we consider the relation that subsists between them as a conquered people and us as foreigners. If it be just to suppose that a Government of strangers, who have come from a distance of half the Globe, notwithstanding every wish to conciliate attachment, must still be felt as irksome if not degrading. Our own interests if not those of humanity, should dictate to us the propriety of contributing all we can towards maintaining that Empire of opinion, which, as far as respects our power, our justice, and our moderation, is acknowledged to be the main support of our administration. . . .

There are many peculiar circumstances of character that may prove an insuperable bar to any cordial interchange of sentiment, and some obvious defect and vicious propensity that will often provoke contempt, but, when the motives are sufficiently strong we know that it is in the power of everyone to govern his temper. . . .

(Sd.) W. Chaplin.

BOMBAY KARNATAK

(1818-1826)

SECTION I

LAND ADMINISTRATION

SEASONS, CROPS AND PRICES

No. 51. Reporting on the failure of crops of lall jowaree. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I am sorry to report the failure of the great khureef crop of lall jowaree which forms about 27 per cent of the whole agricultural produce of the Dooab. The ryuts of many villages who have been questioned as to the cause of this failure ascribe it to excess, or rather untimely supplies of rain, which they say have made the weeds thrive faster than the jowaree and prevented them from eradicating the former. They also say that seasons like the present generally increase the number of caterpillars which prey on the jowaree crop and eat into the heart of the young plant before it has strength to resist them. I have observed the depredations of this insect in several fields of jowaree and they certainly appear to be much more formidable than usual. After many enquiries, it appears that the average proportion of red jowaree crop which has failed this year amounts to nearly one half of the expected produce.

Darwar, 29th October, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 52. Reporting on the present season and crops in the Carnatic. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I should long since have given you an account of the present season and crops, but was anxious in the first instance to ascertain from local inquiries how far the reports of Amildars were well founded. I am just returned from tour to the South, and regret to say that the accounts I have received from the talooks, unfavourable as they were, were by no means exaggerated. The wet crops that depend upon the rain alone have almost entirely failed and many of those supplied by artificial irrigation depended on tanks which were exhausted long before the grain had ripened.

The lal jowaree in the neighbourhood of Darwar has suffered less but in many talooks this hardy crop has also failed, and much of the land reserved for *Rubbee* cultivation owing to drought is not yet sold.

The price of grain which is the great test of the season has not risen so much as might have been expected owing to the large proportion of last year's harvest still in hand. A great rise has, however, oc-

curred since the Dussura, and altho' the present should be the cheapest season in the year, the price of rice has increased 30 per cent, and that of jowaree 25 per cent since the middle of the last month.

My enquiries have not been confined to this District, and from all I can learn it appears that most of the Jagheer villages have suffered as much as our own.

Hoobly, 16th November, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 53. Transmitting copies of Urzees from several Amildars describing the effects of the present drought on cultivation and farming stock in the Taluka near the ghauts. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit copies of urzees from several Amildars describing the effects of the present droughts on cultivation and all farming stock. These communications relate chiefly to the Talooks near the ghauts, but in the eastern villages the distress is still greater.

2. Drovers of cattle which should now be used in ploughing are sent to western jungles for pasture, and in some places I understand the owner gives up half his stock in order to procure forage for the remainder.

3. To alleviate this distress as much as possible, I propose with your permission to exempt all the common pasture and some of the Kooruns from Hoolbunee until a supply of rain shall have produced relief—and I submit translation of an *order** which I am about to circulate on the subject.

4. The loss to be expected from this measure cannot be estimated, but will probably amount to nearly 2/3rds of the Hoolbunee revenue, as, however, the present stock as well as the future resources of the ryuts will be greatly affected by the exemption, I trust you will not deem it objectionable.

5. At it may be expected that many of the Jagheerdar's subjects will take advantage of the exemption and send their cattle to our pastures, I would propose to confine the indulgence to our own ryots; but this would only be done by means of restrictions which would be liable to much abuse, and which would not be enforced without difficulties which would go far to counteract the effects of the measure.

6. I regret to report that the cholera still rages in many parts of the District. Twenty-five deaths have occurred within three days at Nowloor—19 persons were still very sick there, and Dr. Bell has ascertained that the disease is attended by all its usual symptoms.

7. I have, therefore, to solicit sanction for entertaining a native dresser with a supply of medicine in each Talook where the epidemic prevails.

Dharwar, 25th July, 1824.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

* No copies were found.

CIRCULAR

The usual quantity of rain not having fallen this year, many of the ryuts in the dry cultivation Talooks have already consumed the straw which they had provided for the subsistence of their cattle, and are now therefore obliged to take them to those parts of the Mulnad country, where a little rain may have fallen and there may be pasture enough to graze them in such places tho' it be customary to collect the Hoolbunee, yet that the ryuts may not be distressed, and that they may be able to preserve their stock, it is granted to them that until a plentiful rain shall take place in the flat (belevel) Districts of Nowlgoond, Purusgur, Hoobly, Dharwar, Dummul, Roan, Gottul, Raneebednore, Bunkapoor, Bagulkotta, Badamee, Padshapoor, etc., the Sirkar ryuts of the Talook shall graze their cattle in the hilly country without paying any Hoolbunee.

2nd. Conformably to this you are not to collect any Hoolbunee from those Sircar ryuts who have already brought, or may hereafter bring their cattle to graze in your Talook. Should, however, plentiful supply of rain yet fall, this order need not be followed, and you may send whatever offers are made by Izardar for this head according to custom.

3rd. The Hoolbunee for this year not having yet been found out, you will have made some management for the preservation of it; whatever sums may have been collected in so doing need not now be returned, but you will send quickly an account of what has been realised to the Hoozoor, and in all other respects you will act according to this order.

The period for renting out the regular pasture lands (Koorn) has arrived; it will not be necessary to excuse these but on jungles (Bunchera) and occasional pasture land (Hoolbunee) nothing will be levied.

The villages and zumeendars may perhaps endeavour to intercept this benefit granted to the ryuts by collecting the usual rates; this must be prevented and the indulgence reaching the ryuts alone. You must therefore make proper arrangements and be vigilant in preventing any improper conduct for which you will be held responsible.

You will inform the Hoozoor in conformity with this order from what Talooks and how many head of cattle have come to graze in your District from the time this order may be acted on; you will likewise give notice as soon as a sufficient quantity of rain may fall to enable these concessions to be discontinued.

If it should also be necessary to suspend for the present the rent of the Koorn lands in any place, you will explain what reason there may be for so doing, and inform the Huzoor how many rupees may be collected from the Koorn of so many villages.

(Sd.) Walter Elliot.

No. 54. Reporting on the subject of rain. (To William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that since the beginning of this month fine showers of rain have fallen in many parts of this District—that most of the (?) land have been sown, and although the Khureef cultivation in the dry villages has been very much retarded, there is still ground to hope that no serious failure will occur in the later crops.

2. Forage is, however, more scarce than ever, and although so many cattle have died, the difficulty of providing food for those that remain has lowered the price of bullocks from 25 to 50 per cent. The price of grain is in general about 35 per cent higher than it was last year, and but for the late abolition of the grain duties it would probably be much dearer.

3. The returns of death by cholera are by no means satisfactory, and I have opportunities of observing that a larger proportion of deaths are not recorded. The number that have occurred in my division since the season of cultivation commenced is estimated to be 1,500.

I submit the reports of Messrs. Munro and Stevenson on the effects of the season.

Dharwar, 13th August, 1824.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

To the Principal Collector and Political Agent

Sir,

I have the honor to report for your information that serious failure may be anticipated in the Moongaree crops from the drought.

2. The monsoon generally sets in here about the end of May, or the beginning of June, and Moongaree seed is principally sown about the middle of July, and should when first sown have shot up ere this to a height of 3 feet during the present season. Up to this date (the 31st July) there has in no part of the District been beyond a very inconsiderable fall of rain, merely sufficient to induce the ryot to sow in anticipation of a further and more plentiful supply—the very few showers which have fallen since the 20th of the last month have been too scanty to nourish even the dwarf plants (nowhere exceeding one foot) much of this premature vegetation has therefore already been parched up, and much is on the eve of withering, and can only be saved by a speedy supply of rain.

3. Taking the total cultivation of this division at 16 annas, the moongaree is estimated at 7 or $\frac{2}{16}$ less than one half of the total cultivation, $\frac{6}{15}$ of these $\frac{7}{16}$ ought to have been sown and above ground ere this—the remaining $\frac{1}{16}$ reserved for petty crops is sown by the middle of August—at present not even the latter (?) of $\frac{1}{16}$ has been sown, and the farmers state unless rain falls within 8 days that the principal and early moongaree crops—jowaree, bajera, thowar, moongh, composing the $\frac{6}{16}$, must completely fail, and the Moongaree land be devoted to late Moongaree crops—dookuree, jowaree, kungoone, kupass with which the remaining $\frac{1}{16}$ is usually sown.

4. The estimate that $\frac{2}{16}$ of the usual Moongaree crop may yet be raised provided rain falls before the middle of the ensuing month, drought beyond that period will cause a total failure of Moongaree both early and late.

5. I have not received the returns of deaths by cholera nor of the number of the cattle carried off by great mortality which has prevailed amongst them. The cholera has not, however, been very destructive, the deaths amongst cattle have been very numerous in the village of Mungolee where the mortality has been much less than elsewhere, 422 head of cattle are reported to have died out of 3,510, the total amount of the cow and buffalo species appearing in the village return. The mortality is attributed principally to the want of forage and diseases incident to it.

6. A rise in the price of jowaree, the principal article of consumption, is 100 per cent, and in that of kurbree of 900 per cent, and a fall in the price of cattle to the amount of 50 per cent have taken place within this last 6 weeks.

Mungulee, 31st July, 1824.

(Sd.) J. C. Munro, (Sub-Collt.).

Principal Collector and Political Agent, Etc.

Sir,

According to your instruction, I have the honor to report on the effect of this unfavourable season on crops and stock in the Talooks under my charge.

I fear that we must anticipate a very great deficiency in all the moongaree produce, and consequently a considerable falling off in revenue—but I trust that the inhabitants have no great cause to dread a serious scarcity.

Supposing the Talook of Ranebednore to be divided into 10 portions, 63 6/16 is cultivated with moongaree crops, of this 49 shares remained unsown, and crops in the 9 1/2 portions of the sown lands have entirely failed—the seed that has grown is now about a span high instead of being, as it should be, as high as the waist—it is however supposed that this may produce 1/2 or 3/4 of the usual quantity, if rain falls regularly.

Jowaree and chillies are the chief products of the Talook, and being moongaree crops little, if any, will be produced, more particularly the latter, which have almost universally failed. A very small quantity, in one or two villages where the ryuts have been able to water the young plants, are still alive. In the unsown moongaree lands, white jowaree, wheat, grain and other Hingaree crops may be sown, but even should timely rain produce a plentiful harvest, the produce will be considerably of less value than those of jowaree or chillies.

There is but little Turee or Bagayet in this Talook, but no produce is expected from either of these sorts of lands; indeed, the Turee remains unsown.

Almost the whole of the Gootul Talook is cultivated with moongaree crops, and reports up to the eve of July of the state of cultivation is very melancholy. It states that none of the regur land have been touched, that only 1/16 of the Musub and 1/8th of the Hukul lands have been sown, and that all the Turee lands remained unsown until the Poonurvus

Kartik (July), when a few showers induced some of the ryots to sow their seed—about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Turee land were then sown, but most of the seed has not vegetated—and wheat that has grown will not produce, it is supposed, even with the support of the rain we have lately had, more than half crops. Not a stack of sugar-cane or a nug of chillies can be expected in the whole Talook.

The rain that we have lately had will enable the farmers to sow some of the regur lands with jowaree, but they can only expect half the customary produce. They may however sow cotton, wheat and grain, and expect good returns, but not equal in value to jowaree or chillies.

In the unsown Musub and Hukulls—bajree, kungoonee, ramtil and other minor crops must now be sown. The Turee lands that remain fallow will produce the customary second crops of moong and chenna, etc.

The accounts that I have received from Koad do not particularize sufficiently, but it appears that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the lands are devoted to moon-garee crops (chiefly chillies, jowaree and rice) which in almost all the lands in the Talook are sown, but the crops in a great portion of this have died and withered away, the remainder will be saved I hope by the late rain, but it cannot be expected to produce more than half the usual quantity of grain, etc.

Owing to there being no water in the tank, almost all the sugar-cane has entirely failed. $\frac{1}{14}$ th the portion still supposed to be alive has been saved by the ryots, who have been at the expense or labour of carrying water to each plant—if the rain should continue to fall this cane may produce $\frac{3}{4}$ the usual quantity.

With the exception of chillies, there has been inconsiderable rise in the price of produce. Jowaree has risen 4 bags and other grain to 2 bags per Candy, but they are still cheap. Large quantities of jowaree are stored in the granaries of some of the merchants which they have for a long time been unable to dispose of, but they are now commencing to bring it into the market which keeps the price from rising greatly—the farmers do not seem to anticipate any further rise if rain falls. The price of chillies had risen in an extraordinary rate, and a nug which sold last year for 1 Pagoda now sells for 8.

I have not yet received a regular account of the loss of cattle, but it has, I fear, been very great. Some time ago I heard that 2,318 had died in the Talook of Ranebednoor, but since that many more have

perished. They have subsisted for the last 2 months on the leaves of trees and on strips of the branches of the Palmira. Many ryot have left their farms to save their cattle, by driving them into the forest of Mysore where there is little verdure. I am sorry to say that not only the cattle but the inhabitants themselves have greatly suffered from the effects of the season—the returns from the Talooks report the deaths of 584 persons.

In Ranebednoor	150 persons
In Koad	184 "
In Goottull	250 "

Dharwar, 12th August, 1824.

(Sd.) J. A. R. Stevenson.

No. 55. Mr. Munro presenting the prices of different articles of agricultural stock. (To Mr. S. J. Thackeray, Collector.)

Sir,

I have the honor to forward a statement* of prices of different articles of agricultural stock during the first week of September Fuslee 1233 and the same period of the present Fuslee. The rise of price in the different articles of consumption, the continued low price of cattle where a dreadful mortality has taken off one half of them, are symptomatic of a distress which I am afraid there is too much reason to apprehend under the almost unprecedented drought and scorching heat by which every blade of vegetation is drooping. There was a partial fall of rain in many villages of this Division about the 9th inst., which has tended to prolong the existence of the moongaree crops which have been sown to induce the ryots to commit the Hingaree seeds to the ground in the lighter and less fertile soil. The subsequent parching heat will, if not speedily removed, dry up the grain which the enterprising ryot has sown, and leave the country dependent either upon its own supply of former years, or importation for its consumption.

Mungolee, 29th September, 1824.

(Sd.) J. C. Munro, (Sub-Collt.).

No. 56. Replying to letter respecting the fall of rain in Dharwar Collectorate. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commr., Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 11th inst., calling for a report of rain that has fallen, and the general state of the cultivation this season, and in compliance with your request I have great satisfaction in informing you that the rain has been most

* See Table No. 19.

abundant throughout the District, and that though there has been partial failure in the Eastern Taluogs, and the quantity of rain in the Mulnad or country bordering upon the mountains was so great as to cause considerable damage—upon the whole the season may be considered as more favourable than has been known for many years. I submit an abstract of several reports received from the Taluogs under my own immediate superintendence during the month of July, and will forward those of the Taluogs forming the sub-collectorate the moment they reach me.

Dharwar, 16th August, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

Patchapoor

30th June. It has rained the last week, and in Mulnad the rice lands have been sown in many places. . . the grounds, however, are all ready. In Kuncanavady and Patchapoor no rain has yet fallen. The cholera has ceased—no sickness amongst cattle—the rain has set in at Belgam.

4th July. It has been raining the whole of the last week—the Belgam tank is half filled. Land yielding 4 or 500 Rs. to the Sircar within the tank have been inundated, the inhabitants want to have the water in the tank let out. . .

13th July. The rain has been falling in such large quantities as to destroy the grain plants on the lands first sown, which are being re-sown, in consequence of rain having a little subsided. . . Kuncanavady and Patchapoor have had half the requisite quantity of rain—the Koosky lands are in consequence being sown in some places—the grain plants have reached a span in height—no sickness amongst cattle—at Belgam the cholera is again showing itself.

31st July. The rain has been exceedingly heavy, all the rivers, nullahs, etc., are full, the people have not seen so much rain for 10 years—many houses have fallen down. . . In the paddy fields the water is two guz high, and has carried away part of the grain planted—what remains looks bad . . . no sickness.

Beedee

30th June. The rain has been incessant for two days, such parts of the country as have not already been are now being sown.

15th July. The fall of rain has been very great—all the rivers and nullahs are full—such of the crops as are sown 15 or 20 days ago are

doing well, but those sown within the last 10 days are much injured. Should the weather admit of it, these lands will be re-sown.

30th July. The rains have continued incessantly, all the rice lands which have not been sown are perfect swamps... if they are cultivated at all they will have Kadaful (pulse).

Sumpgam

1st July. The rain set in yesterday and has continued without intermission until noon this day—the inhabitants are sowing raghee, jowaree and rice as fast as they can.... The rain has also fallen in the Baguwaddy and Teegeedy Khurreats.

31st July. The rain has been exceedingly heavy, nearly all the jowaree, rice, raghee, etc., have been carried away in consequence—in some places they have rotted—all the rivers and nullahs are full—the tappall has been at a stand for 3 days—upon an average three-fourths of the crops are lost—at Bagavady 20 houses and at Teegeedy about 30 have fallen down.

Kittoor

3rd July. For 4 days the rains have been very heavy—the ground has become quite saturated. When the rain subsides a little the sowing of the rice ground will commence—as far as has been sown the plants look well—the sugar-cane is also very forward—no sickness amongst men or beasts owing to the great quantity of rain—Tun tapa (ague fever) has attacked a few persons.

14th July. All the rice and sugar-cane cultivation is looking well—no sickness except the ague fever....

21st July. Rain still pouring—rice and sugar-cane very promising—when the rains abate a little, the sowing of jowaree will commence—there is no sickness....

26th July. Still raining—tanks are full—all the sugar-cane, rice, etc., plantations doing exceedingly well—no sickness amongst cattle.

Dharwar

From 1st to 10th July. Heavy showers throughout the Talooq—the seedlings very promising—the sowing of khureef, jowaree, etc., commenced upon—no sickness amongst cattle.

TABLE NO. 19

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE AVERAGE PRICES OF CERTAIN ARTICLES
IN THE SUB-DIVISION TO THE SOUTHWARDS OF THE BHEEMA FROM 1ST
TILL 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1824, AND 1ST TO 16TH SEPTEMBER, 1823

	Number	Names of Talooks	Measuring Articles Per Conpy. Rupee				Sundry Articles		Cattle	
			Rice	Jowaree	Chene	Wheat	Kurbee per 4½ lbs.	Grass per bundle	Bullocks Average	She Buffalo
From the 1st to 15th September, 1824	1.	Indee	7. 2¼	27.	16.12	15.	2. 5.3	.7.3	6.	5.
	2.	Moodeball	12.	36.	25.	22.	2.	.4.	4.	—
	3.	Hoongoond	12.	38.	19.	20.	3.	.5.	5.	—
		Average	31. 2¼ 10. 6	101. 33.12	60.12 20. 4	57. 19.	7. 5.3 2. 7.	1.0.3 .5.3	15. 5.	5. 5.
From the 1st to 16th September, 1823	1.	Indee	12.13	73.12	38. 4	29.12	. 4.	.1.	16.	12.
	2.	Moodeball	16.	40.	50.	40.	. 4.	.1.	12.	—
	3.	Hoongoond	18.	74.	50.	43. 8	. 3.	.1.	20.	—
		Average	46.13 15.11	187.12 62. 8	138. 4 46. 1	113. 4 37.12	.11. 3.0	.3. .1.	48. 16.	12. 12.
		Average Decrease in Quantity	5. 5	28.12	25.13	18.12	—	—	11.	7.
		Average Increase in Price	—	—	—	—	2. 3.3	.4.3	—	—

(Sd.) J. C. Munro.

From 11th to the 30th July. Rain almost daily—almost all the lands have been cultivated—tanks are full—no sickness amongst men or beasts.

Misercottah

5th July. Rain has fallen throughout the Mulnaud and seeds sown except in those places where the water is too deep—in some places the seeds have rotted—the sugar-cane looking very good—cattle dying from feeding upon new grass—when the rain subsides the jowaree cultivation will commence.

8th July. If the rain abates a little the whole of the sowing will be completed in 15 days.

19th July. The whole of the rice ground in the old Hoobly sumut has been sown. The whole of the Kullaguttegy sumut is rice cultivation—half however only is sown—the rest of the lands are inundated. If the rains do not subside in 15 days, the season for the sowing will have passed—no sickness amongst men or cattle—the tanks in all the sumuts, excepting Hoobly, are half, others three quarters full.

25th July. Deykope and Chebby tanks excepted, all the rest are filled—four or five persons are dying daily in Chebby Gam of cholera—cattle are dying in great numbers from feeding on green grass.

New Hoobly.

4th July. Rain has been falling for 2 days in Tudus Mahal—all koorkhy land in the Mulnaud has been made ready for sowing... for the last five or six weeks there has been great mortality among the cattle—it has now abated—the cholera is, however, continuing its ravages.

11th July. The rain has been most plentiful for four days in the Hoobly and Tudus Mahal... sufficient rain has not fallen in Bellavull though ready for sowing. There is no sickness amongst the cattle—the cholera has ceased everywhere, excepting at Toralagutt.

18th July. There has been no rain for the last eight days, notwithstanding, the whole of the koosky lands in the Mulnaud have been sown. In Bellavull the rain has not fallen in sufficient quantity—no sickness amongst the cattle—cholera still prevails in the Turalakett and 2 or 3 other villages.

25th July. In the last week the rain has been continued and has penetrated the ground effectually, but without filling the tank—the rice lands

continue swampy and have not in consequence been sown... no sickness amongst cattle, excepting in Cusbah Hoobly—cholera has ceased everywhere.

Purusgurh

4th July. The Mussub and red lands are nearly saturated. In the former cooty, toor, moong, beller are being sown. In the regur lands the rain has penetrated some quarters,—a few cattle are dying for want of forage. The cholera continues at Suwwadhutty, but nowhere else. Few people go to the Ellama Good Oodsawa Jauttra through fear of the cholera.

11th July. No rain has fallen during the last week... the grain has nowhere yet come up—the cholera still continues at Suwwadhutty and Bettgeery.

18th July. Rain has been plentiful during the last week—the seed has all come up but is destroyed by jetty (blight), etc. The bajra crop has suffered from injury by caterpillars which will die however if the rain continues—the tanks do not fill—there is cholera in Oogergole village, but nowhere else.

26th July. Rain during the week—such of bajera and red Torwary lands as were destroyed by blight have been ploughed up and the ground fresh sown. The rest of the crops are very promising.

Nowlgoond

29th June. The lands are all ready for sowing which will be commenced as soon as the rain sets in.

11th July. For want of rain the ground has not yet been sown.

18th July. A few slight showers have fallen but no seeds sown yet.

25th July. Showers continue... the inhabitants have commenced sowing, looking forward to more plentiful supply of rain—no sickness of any kind.

(*Dumbull and Rohne* will be sent with reports of the sub-collectorate.)

Badamy

14th July. All the sumuts have been sown... the Moosub crops of the whole are promising excepting those of Kulladghee which for want of rain are poor... There is no sickness amongst cattle.

Bagalcote

22nd June. A few showers have fallen in 4 or 5 villages... some of the Mussub lands have been sown—the crops look well—rain has fallen nowhere else as yet. No sickness amongst the inhabitants, or their cattle.

27th June. A small quantity of rain has fallen, and so far the lands have been sown—the crops promise well—no sickness.

26th July. No rains since the last report—the Moongery crop is withering in consequence—the crops have been visited by jitty (blight).

Hoongoond

26th June. The rains have penetrated in some places... and is necessary in the Mussum and red land—the seeds have been sown in consequence and the plants are a span high. The regur lands have not yet been sown—no sickness among men or cattle.

4th July. The crops are above a span high—the blight continues to destroy them—in some places they are completely gone, when more rain falls the inhabitants will re-sow these lands—no sickness among cattle.

12th July. The plants still suffering from jitty (blight). No rain has fallen during the last week. The murrain has broken out among the cattle in the village of Shunnamahal Toomba summut.

18th July. No rain—blight still going on—no sickness among the cattle.

25th July. Rain having fallen sufficient to impregnate the lands in some places... the grain is in consequence looking very well—the crops are all withering up in the rest of the country for want of rain and also owing to the blight—there is no sickness of any kind.

Extracted by T. H. Baber.

No. 57. Reporting on the seasons for the bygone months. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my report upon the season for the bygone month.

2. The statement received from the Talooqs...represents the rains as uncommonly heavy throughout all the Talooqs and having done much injury to every kind of cultivation particularly on the level Bellavel and Kooshky lands where the water lodged or settled. In the Mulnad, the quantity of rain had been so great that part of the wet lands could not possibly be sown, which was the more to be regretted, and what has been sown looked most promising—all accounts, however, agree in stating that if the rain ceased shortly there would be a prospect of abundant harvest.

3. The Sub-Collector reports the crops on the whole good in his Talooq, though there also the inhabitants complain of the super-abundant rain.

4. My assistant the Hon'ble Harris, whose report from Rhone and Dhumbull...says the jowaree crops have suffered considerably from rain.

5. Owing to the overflowing of the Mulpurba, several villages have suffered considerably. In the Badamy Talooq some were reported to have been entirely swept away.

6. To ascertain the extent of the losses to the inhabitants and the correctness of the complaint preferred by individuals...I deputed Goolam Hoosein, the Superintendent of tank repairs, three of whose letters I have annexed...you will observe that 263 houses valued at Rs.963-1 had been destroyed in the Badamy Talooq and that both fields and gardens had also suffered—but that the loss would be but trifling I have authorised the Mamlutdar to advance the sufferers sufficient money to rebuild their houses.

7. Goolam Hoosein also reports the losses said by the Bagulcote local authority to have been sustained by an Istavadar cultivator named Morapa as grossly exaggerated....

8. He further reports upon the complaint of losses by inundation of one Panchanwokee Achary of Rhone Talooq, which appears wholly false and unfounded....

Mookatkhan Hoobly,
22nd October, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

ASSESSMENT. ✓

No. 58. Deals with the disposal of deserted villages.

Istawa for Deserted Villages

Article 1st. This Istawa is to be granted to the villages completely deserted, which at present yield no revenue.

Article 2nd. Villages also in which the land is extensive and the former revenue considerable, which are not completely deserted but possess one or two inhabited houses only, and have a few fields cultivated by Puckarees, provided the rent of them does not exceed 200 Rupees, shall if the villages be situated in black land Districts be considered as deserted villages, and shall have the benefit of the Istawa. The same rule shall apply to villages in the red land under the Western Ghauts, provided the land actually cultivated does not yield more than 60 Rupees.

Article 3rd. On application for Istawa in villages of this description, it shall be granted for the term of 7 years to villages in the Western Districts in which the lands agreeably to the established Qoulnama for waste are exempted from all rent for 1st year or two, the period of the Istawa shall be extended to 6 and 7 years according to the quality of the land specified in the 6th Article of the Cowlenama.

Article 4th. The Istawadar shall grant *Cowle to the ryots agreeably to the established Cowlenama*, distinguishing the description of soil, and the number of years during which it has lain waste, and the Cowle shall be continued to the ryot for the particular field that he may have taken from the period at which it may have been granted to the end of the term of the Cowle. No reduction is required for the land actually cultivated which shall pay rent as usual.

The revenue shall be collected agreeably to the condition of these Clauses, and an account of the state of the village exhibiting without concealment the number of ryots, and of fields cultivated shall be faithfully rendered. The remissions herein after specifying in the 6th Article shall then be allowed to the Istawadar, and the balance shall be paid to the Government.

Article 5th. The Istawadar is himself to make all the necessary advances of Tugawee for promoting the cultivation, and is to bear all the expenses and labour requisite for this object. In consideration of these circumstances the advantages, hereafter specified, will be granted for his profit and substance.

First. The Potelee privilege with an Enam free of rent shall be allotted to him according to the following proportions:

For a village yielding a rent of	He shall have an Enam of
Rs. 100	Rs. 10
200	16
300	24
400	32
500	40
600	46
700	52
800	58
900	64
1,000	70
2,000	100
3,000	150
4,000	200

In granting Enam agreeably to this rule, the assessment of the village shall be estimated at the Kumal standard deducting all land incapable of being cultivated, all Enam to Pagodas, Brahmins, Potels, Kurnums, etc. Three fourths of this Kumal shall be assessed as the amount to which the revenue shall be raised under the present Istawa, and the Enam shall be granted in that proportion. After the expiration of the Cowle, if the Enam falls short of the relative proportion which it is proposed that it shall bear to the revenue, the deficiency shall be made good and vice versa.

The Istawadar shall also enjoy the customary fees (denominated Hooggee, Aea. or Meea) or if the amount be not defined by established usage it shall be fixed with reference to the practice observed in the circumjacent villages. Other Potelee privileges enjoyed under the head of "village expenses" for what is called Kunddree tushreef and similar items shall be confined after the expiration of the Istawa according to the practice of the village in the vicinity.

Article 6th. The advantages which the Istawadar will derive from the grant of Potelee Enam and fees, will not however be sufficient to encourage the cultivation of villages that are completely deserted. Istawadar will, therefore, be allowed the following remissions until the period of the expiration of the Istawa, viz., one fifth (or 20 per cent) of the collections from cultivated land paying the full rent, and one half (or 50 per cent) of the collection from regur or black land held upon the fixed 7 years' Cowle until the period when the Cowle expires, and one fourth of the collections of land held on annually increasing Cowle. These advantages shall be confirmed to them as long as the Istawa shall continue. On its expiration they will hold the office of Potel with the Enam and fees annexed to it.

Article 7th. As the name of the fields in the deserted villages are unknown they shall be measured, and a particular account of each field shall be taken and recorded by the curnums in the District Cutcherry.

Article 8th. Should the old Kumal assessment of fields be extended, the entry in the account shall be made in conformity to it. But should there be no record of it, the Patels, Kurnums and inhabitants of 4 of the adjoining villages accompanied by the Amildars and Surishtadar shall inspect and determine the quantity of land with reference to those in the neighbourhood, and having fixed what is to be the Kumal assessment, the Cowle shall be granted and the collections made conformable to the standard.

Article 9th. Should the old Patels be willing to undertake the Istawa of their villages, it may be granted to any who may be qualified for the responsibility, and also the old Potelee Meeras, provided they can prove possession within the last 30 years, may be granted to them along with the other Potelee rights on condition of their paying the usual Joree or quit rent to which such Meeras may be subject. The customary Joree will be collected from only that part of the Enam that may be cultivated, and not from what may be waste, which shall have the benefits of the Qoulnama extended to it, and shall pay the full Joree only when the term of the Qoul expires. If the existence of the old Potelee Enam cannot be established anew, Potelee Enam will be allotted according to the rule above specified for granting Enam to Istawadar.

Article 10th. If the old Potelee Meerasdar be not forthcoming the whole of his Enam field will be annexed to Government lands—but should he appear and establish his claim within two years, it will rest with Government to give up the Meeras land or not as it may think proper. The office of Patel will not, however, be restored to the Meerasdar.

Article 11th. Should the old Patel though present decline the Istawa, half of the old Potelee Enam only now in his possession will be continued to him on his paying the proportion of Joree that may be due upon it. Should there be any doubt as to the length of the possession, the Sirkar will enquire and decide as it may think proper.

Article 12th. A Meerasee property under the terms above detailed being thus obtained by an Istawadar together with the share of the collection, whilst the Istawadar continues, it is expected that he will grant Tukawee and exert himself in promoting improvement, and that the effects of these exertions will be visible in the course of two or three years in the extended cultivation and population of the village. Should these

expectations be disappointed, and no improvements appear to be likely to result, the present Istawa will be annulled and the Enam and other advances stipulated will not be continued.

Article 13th. In the event of the Istawadar really exerting himself, the whole of the Sirkar land of the village is to be placed at his disposal. Supposing the value of this land according to the Kumal to be 1,000 Rupees, and that the Istawadar has extended the cultivation to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole or 750 Rupees, he shall enjoy the remission allowed by the 6th Article of this Istawa, paying to Government the proportion specified in that Article. Should the Istawadar succeed in bringing under cultivation the remaining 250 Rupees' worth of land, he shall enjoy according to Cowlenama the whole of the proceeds for his use and benefit, until the expiration of this Istawa when the rent of it will, of course, devolve to Government.

Article 14th. The Istawadar will not grant Cowle to any ryot belonging to other villages within the Company's limit. In the event of his infringing this engagement, whatever loss may be sustained by the village from which the ryots are drawn, will be collected from the Istawadar.

Article 15th. Should the ancient Kurnums be forthcoming, the old Kurnumee Meeras will be confirmed, provided it has been held within the last 30 years. If cultivated, the usual Joree or quit rent must be paid. If waste, the collection of the Joree will be postponed till the expiration of the period of the Cowle allowed to waste land. If the Kurnum Enam has not been held within the last 30 years, a new Inam upon terms similar to those granted to the Patels will be confirmed, but of an extent inferior to that of Patels by one-fourth. The fees, etc. to be continued according to usage wherever that is fixed—but where it is undefined to be decided according to the custom of the neighbouring villages. The usual charge for stationery (Kaghuz Baba) will besides be admitted, and whatever privileges are enjoyed by other villages under the head of *Khundnee Sushreef*, allowance for festival of Nagur Punchmee and Dusra sacrifices will, moreover, be continued, but not until after the expiration of this Istawa.

Article 16th. Wherever there are no Kurnums of the old family, new ones will be appointed on the same system with the same extent of Enam fees, etc.

Article 17th. The village establishment of the Bara Bullottee consisting of the blacksmith, the carpenter, the tullaree, the punchangee

and the rest, will have their old Enams confirmed, wherever they exist. The Joree to be paid according to custom, for the waste to be held upon Cowle, on the expiration of which the full Joree is to be paid. Where the Bara Bullottee have no old Enams, such portion of these servants as may be required, will have new Enams granted to them.

Article 18th. All Enams to Brahmins, temples, etc., must be continued according to custom.

Article 19th. A separate Cowle is established for persons paying the Mohturfa tax. Cowle will accordingly be granted, and the tax collected and paid to Government when the Cowle shall have expired. No Cowle will be granted to persons belonging to other villages situated within the Company's limits.

Article 20th. Should any revenue from toddy and spirituous liquor be collected within the village, it is to be separately paid to Government.

Article 21st. No custom duties shall be levied within villages granted in Istawa.

Article 22nd. Timber brought from the forest within the Company's limit for the purpose of building houses in Istawa villages, or for making ploughs shall be exempted from custom duties.

Article 23rd. All the rough account connected with the village must be recorded with the Curnama or village accountant, and whatever accounts are required by Government must be forthcoming.

Article 24th. It being the custom of the country in re-establishing a deserted village to kindle a fire with certain ceremonies, the expense of this ceremony shall be defrayed by Government to the extent from 10 to 25 Rupees in proportion to the revenue of the village.

Dharwar, 23rd May, 1819.

(Sd.) William Chaplin,
Principal Collector and Political Agent.

Cowlenama for Waste Land

Article 1. The description of soil called the usual regur, or genuine black land, requires in this part of the country from 8 to 12 bullocks to bring it under tillage. The process of clearing it of the grass and the weed called the *Koondeenuth* with which it is overrun commences at the season called the Deepoolee, about the month of December, and one plough worked from that period till the end of the 1st week in April

will render fit for cultivation from 4 to 6 or 8 Kooregees, or from 20 to 30 or 40 acres. Land of this sort may be given upon Cowle according to the terms hereafter specified:

First. Should the land have lain fallow for one year only, no remission of rent is necessary. It ought to pay the full rent, or what is called Kumal, which includes the Ayeen or original rent with the extra customary assessment denominated the Mammol Puttee. The ryot will, however, demand in many cases a reduction of the rent of fields that have lain fallow for one year only, and where the assessment may appear to be rather too high so as to have interrupted the cultivation, a remission for the 1st year of 2 annas of the Kumal rent may be allowed to fields so circumstanced. Such fields, being already cleared, the remission need not be considered indispensably necessary, but it may be granted wholly or in part where requisite. The amount of the reduction on no occasion exceeds the limit described, viz., for the first year the rent should be 14 annas. For the second 1 Rupee or the full rent. The reduction will of course be made in the assessment of each field according to the established rate prevailing in each village.

Second. Should the land have lain waste for two years, the cowle may be as follows, viz.,

1st year 12 Annas; 2nd year 1 Rupee.

Third. Three years waste lands as follows, viz.,

1st year 8 Annas; 2nd year 10 Annas; 3rd year 12 Annas; 4th year 1 Rupee.

Fourth. Four years waste,

1st year 4 Annas; 2nd year 8 Annas; 3rd year 10 Annas; 4th year 12 Annas; 5th year 1 Rupee.

Fifth. Five years waste,

1st year 4 Annas; 2nd year 4 Annas; 3rd year 8 Annas; 4th year 10 Annas; 5th year 12 Annas; 6th year 1 Rupee.

Sixth. Black land that has lain waste for 6 years and upwards is generally in the same state as the old waste—or land that has not been cultivated for 15 or 20 years. It becomes overrun with long grass, weeds and thorns of the babool tree which can only be eradicated with a yoke of from 8 to 12 bullocks, added to some manual labour required to dig up the roots of the grass which penetrate to some feet below the

surface. This operation being extremely laborious, it is necessary to make the Cowle favourable. One plough of land may, therefore, be left for the term of seven years complete, the whole produce going to the ryot on his paying an annual quit rent of 4 Rupees for that period, but on the 8th year he must pay the full Kumal rent, including the Aeenotee and Mamool Puttee according to the established custom of the village. It must also be stipulated that the land at the end of the term of the Cowle shall be completely cleared and rendered fit for cultivation.

Article 2. The regur or black soil in the country skirting the Western Ghats differs in some degree from the pure black land lying more to the eastwards. It is more intermixed with gravel, and the constancy of the rain during the monsoon promoting the rapid growth of weeds, bush and rank vegetable matter, is experienced and these account to make the cowle still more favourable. This land which is a hard texture, is reclaimable with a fewer number of bullocks, not more than 6 or 8 being required, but the *nutth* or long weed must be dug up chiefly by hand. It is always more or less covered with grass, which it is not considered necessary entirely to extirpate. One plough employed for 5 months commencing from the beginning of December will clear from 20 to 30 acres, or from 4 to 6 Koorgees. The following are the terms of the Cowle proposed for this sort of soil:

First. Land that has lain fallow for one year only.

1st year 12 Annas or proportion of full rent; 2nd year 1 Rupee.

Second. Two Years' waste,

1st year 8 Annas; 2nd year 12 Annas; 3rd year 1 Rupee.

Third. Three years' waste,

1st year 4 Annas; 2nd year 8 Annas; 3rd year 12 Annas; 4th year 1 Rupee.

Fourth. The moisture prevailing under the western hills is so excessive that land that has been left untilled for 4 years is reduced to the condition of old waste by the rapid growth of weed, grass and jungle trees. For this reason it is necessary to grant it the same extended cowle of 7 years as is given to the 6 years' waste of more eastern districts. It may, therefore, after lying 4 years uncultivated, be left for 7 years at an annual quit rent for 4 Rupees, upon condition of its paying on the 8th year the established Kumal rates of the village, and with the proviso that it shall be *bona fide* cleared according to agreement.

Article 3. The cowle to be granted to the field in which there are intermixed patches, or parcels of waste, or *nutth*, is as follows, viz.,

First. Should a field have one fourth of *nutth* (weeds) in it, a reduction of 4 annas or $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the full rent may be allowed for it, but if the ryot will undertake to clear it upon cowle, a further reduction of 2 annas is to be granted to him for a period of five years, on condition of his paying the full rent in the sixth year, and with the usual proviso that the land be really cleared.

Second. If one half of a field be cleared and one half overrun with *nutth*, a reduction of one half of the full rent may be allowed on its being cultivated—but if taken upon cowle on the condition of its being cleared, a further reduction of $\frac{1}{4}$ th or 4 annas is to be granted for 5 years—the ryot engaging to pay the full rent on the 6th year.

Third. If a field contains $\frac{3}{4}$ of *nutth*, one fourth only be cleared, a proportionate reduction of $\frac{3}{4}$ th is to be allowed to the cultivator, but if taken upon cowle on the terms above shewn, he is to get a further abatement of 2 annas, which leaves 2 only to be paid, and such land being nearly in the state of old waste, he is to hold it for 6 years upon agreeing to pay the full rent in the 7th year.

Fourth. On granting cowle to land of the description last mentioned, the extent of *nutth* in each field must be first ascertained in order to determine the proportion of remission—and the cowle may be given at the request of the ryot in all villages, where the extent of un-cultivated waste is not very considerable. Where the general common land is of great extent, cowle must rather be granted to it than to the fields which partially intermixed with patches of waste.*

Fifth. If, however, the ryot will engage to keep up the *present revenue of the village*, cowle for the clearance of the waste in the fields under cultivation may be granted, as well as for the cultivation of the general waste upon the following terms, viz., that a remission in the full rent in proportion to quantity of *nutth* shall be allowed for the space of 5 years, on condition of their paying the Kumal rent on the

* In the villages where there is no general waste, or a small quantity of it, the above cowle may be granted to the cultivated lands that are partially overgrown with *nutth*, by which measure it will become the interest of the ryot to clear them; but in villages where there is such general waste, the profit arising from it under this cowle may occasion the relinquishment of the land already under cultivation upon which the security of the actual collection must mainly depend. The cowl for the waste intermixed in the cultivated land must be given with limitations specified in the Clause 5th.

N. B. Kumal rent meant full rent.

6th year. The extent of the *nuth*, whatever the proportion may be, must of course be ascertained, and care be taken that the measures do not occasion a defalcation in the actual revenue.

Article 4. The following rules are established for the granting of cowle to mixed lands (Cowle Hukkulzumeen) in which there is a mixture of red soil, and to the Mussub lands which have a mixture of sand and gravel in them. Wheat, Bengal grain, cotton and white jowaree are not cultivated in these soils, but all the other articles of produce are raised in them. One plough is worked by four bullocks, and during the ploughing season it can clear from 2 to 4 Koorgees, or from 10 to 20 acres.

First. Lands of these descriptions left uncultivated for one year are to pay as follows:

1st year proportion of full rent 14 Annas; 2nd year 1 Rupee.

Second. Land left fallow for 2 years, viz.,

1st year 8 Annas; 2nd year 12 Annas; 3rd year 1 Rupee.

Third. Land 3 or 4 years waste,

1st year 4 Annas; 2nd year 8 Annas; 3rd year 12 Annas; 4th year 1 Rupee.

Fourth. Land of this sort left waste for five years in bad state as if it had been waste for 20 years near the Western Ghauts, on account of the heaviness of rains it is not sown at all for the 1st year, or if sown, its produce extremely scanty. It is, therefore, exempted from any rent in the 1st year. In the following year the undermentioned rates are established:

2nd year 3 Annas; 3rd year 6 Annas; 4th year 9 Annas; 5th year 12 Annas; 6th year 1 Rupee.

Article 5. Under the description of red land, there is another sort of soil which is denominated Koomree. This land is amongst the hills and ghauts, and being but little productive and difficult to bring under cultivation, pays little or no rent. It is partly cleared by a plough with 2 bullocks, but a good deal of manual labour is first applied to it in felling forest trees and jungle which are afterwards burnt, and digging up the roots of them. The inferior grains, raggee, haruk, saman and wurrea, are cultivated in these situations during one or two years after, which period the land is abandoned for 7 or 8 years, when it is again

cleared by the process described, such land if cultivated at all is always under cowle and no permanent rent can be got from it. The terms of the cowle must be settled according to the usage of the place where it is granted, care being taken to make it so favourable as not to discourage the clearance of the jungle, even though little or no revenue should be derived from the land.

Article 6. The cowle which must be granted for wet or paddy land situated under the Western Ghauts, is as follows, viz.,

First. Land that has been left fallow for one year only, on account of the quantity of rain that falls during the monsoon, becomes overgrown with grass, and the banks which mark the division of the field and retain the water are nearly washed away. Such land is, therefore, to be given at the reduced proportion of 8 annas or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the full rent for the 1st year, and is to pay the full rent in the second year.

Second. Land similarly situated, that has lain waste for 2 or 3 years, is still more overrun with grass and bushes, and the embankments are more or less destroyed. More labour, in consequence, is required to cultivate them, the terms, however, specified are, therefore, to be granted, viz.,

1st year no rent; 2nd year $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of full rent; 3rd year 11 annas; 4th year 1 Rupee.

Third. Should these lands have been left entirely neglected for 4 or 5 years and upwards, the banks will have been quite destroyed, and will require to be entirely renewed. The jungle bushes will have attained some size, and the soil will have been washed away by the rains. The following cowle is, therefore, to be granted:

1st year no rent; 2nd year 4 Annas; 3rd year 8 Annas; 4th year 12 Annas; 5th year 1 Rupee.

Fourth. Waste of this description that has lain for upwards of eleven years, loses every appearance of having been cultivated. Large trees will have grown up, which must be cut down before the land can be cultivated. In consideration of the labour required to reclaim it, the following cowle is to be given, viz.,

1st & 2nd year no rent; 3rd year 3 Annas; 4th year 6 Annas; 5th year 9 Annas; 6th year 12 Annas; 7th year 14 Annas; 8th year 1 Rupee.

In some situations it is customary to give such land one year's exemption only from rent, should this appear to be proper with refer-

ence to the quantity of the soil, cowle should be granted accordingly to the proportion above fixed. Where the labour is great, exemption from any payment in the 2 first years may be confirmed. The cowle is to be granted with the established Kumal rent of similar descriptions of lands in the same village, or to the original rent together with the Mamool Puttee. It may be necessary to explain that in some Talooks no Kumal is known. On these cases the Ayeen, with the addition of the customary Puttee, is to be submitted.

Article 7. Garden or Baghayet land watered by machinery from wells or *nullahs* will receive cowles upon the following conditions:

First. If it be waste for one year it shall pay as follows:

1st year 14 Annas; 2nd year full rent.

Second. Two years waste, viz.,

1st year 12 Annas; 2nd year full rent.

Third. Three years waste, viz.,

1st year 8 Annas; 2nd year 8 Annas; 3rd year 1 Rupee.

Fourth. Should it have lain waste for four years and upwards it shall pay,

1st year 4 Annas; 2nd year 8 Annas; 3rd year 12 Annas; 4th year full rent according to the established rates of the village.

Article 8. There are few plantations here of cocoanut, betel nut and betel leaf, and the imperfect accounts received do not enable me to say with accuracy what ought to be the proper cowle. In some districts the Amildar suggest an Istawa cowle for 12 years, which seems a longer period than is necessary. In the ceded district, these plantations have a cowle of 9 years, after the expiration of which period the rent is payable with the arrears. At present it will be sufficient to grant cowle according to the practice of the country, either for a new plantation, or for the revival of an old one, adverting to the number of years during which the plantation may have been neglected.

Article 9. Cowles agreeably to the conditions above expressed may be granted to the ryots whether they be old or new settlers, provided they agree to occupy their old lands—but should they throw them up, the cowle will not be confirmed, and the loss arising from the relinquishment of their old cultivation will be realised from the cowle land.

Article 10. According to the established practice, the ryots after taking land upon cowle, if it be black land, must root out and clear away the *nutth*, grass, etc., and render the land quite fit for cultivation—or if it be paddy land, red land, or garden land, the same condition must be insisted on. Should they fail to perform it, the following rules are to be observed:

First. Should the land not be cleared at the expiration of the cowle, the cultivator shall pay the full rent annually till he clears it, or

Second. It shall be optional to collect from him the amount required to pay the expense of clearing the land.

Both these Clauses are to be inserted in the body of the cowle granted to the ryot. If these precautions are not observed, the ryot will take cowle land and enjoy the produce of it for a year or two, free of rent. They will then relinquish it and take a fresh parcel, by which means the Government will be defrauded, and the waste lands will remain merely in their original unimproved state.

Article 11. After the cowle land has been brought under cultivation and the full rent paid for it, it shall remain in the occupancy of the cultivator as long as he pleases to retain it, nor shall he on any account be liable to be ousted from it.

Article 12. Ryots from one village within the Company's territory resorting to another village, shall not in general be allowed to hold waste land upon cowle. Should there be just ground, however, for a ryot quitting his former village, he shall be allowed to hold waste upon cowle provided he consents to occupy the same extent of cultivated land as he paid rent for in the village from which he has emigrated.

Article 13. Patels and Kurnums are permitted to grant waste lands upon cowle at the cultivating season upon the terms above specified, which shall afterwards be confirmed by a voucher or cowle putta from the Amildar agreeably to the rules established.

Article 14. Lists of lands thus cultivated upon cowle in every village shall be furnished annually by the Kurnums to the Amildars who will forward a return of the same in abstract to the Hoozoor Cutcherry.

(N. B. The document bears no signature, but appears to be the work of the Principal Collector and Political Agent, Mr. William Chaplin. Dharwar, 19th May, 1819.)

No. 59. Offering information on the subject of cowles for waste lands. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

The information called for in your letter of the 18th December should have been furnished at an earlier period, but as the cowlename for waste lands were published only twelve months ago, I could not have sooner reported with confidence on their operation. During my late Jummabundy tour, I conversed freely with the best informed inhabitants of every Talook respecting the cowle in question, and as I have observed their effect on the cultivation of the present season, I am now able to offer some remarks and suggestions on the subject.

TABLE NO. 20

ABSTRACT STATEMENT OF THE ESTIMATED REVENUE OF THE DARWAR COLLECTORSHIP SHEWING THE REALISATIONS UP TO AND BALANCES UNRECOVERED ON THE 30TH JUNE, 1823

	Estimated 1	Amount realized including excess above the estimate of particular District 2	Balance of Estimate not yet realized 3	Balance on the 30th June, 1823 4
Aeen Jumma or Land Revenue exclusive of Kittoor Peshkush:— Rs.1,53,341.1.44	19,39,621.2.68	18,01,142.0.66	1,38,479.2. 2	1,38,479.2. 2
Sayer or extra Cesses and Taxes including Moturfa, Oodeemputtee, etc., on cultivators and others	2,36,061.2.25	1,91,808.3. 3	44,212.3.22	44,212.3.22
Customs including Khasgee	21,75,643.0.93	19,92,950.3.69	1,82,692.1.24	1,82,692.1.24
Mint	1,24,105.3.43	97,860.2.61	26,245.0.82	26,245.0.82
Abkaree	784.2.12	784.2.12	—	—
	76,365.2. 6	74,879.0.69	1,486.1.37	1,486.1.37
	23,76,899.0.54	21,66,475.1.11	2,10,423.3.43	2,10,423.3.43

The zumeendars and ryots throughout the Dooab seem to be well satisfied with the general terms of the cowle and Istawa, and altho' the population has suffered and is still suffering much from the destructive

effect of the epidemic, a considerable quantity of waste land is now coming under cultivation.

In the eastern talooks where rain is scarce and cultivation more expensive, the ryots propose to break up old waste and petition for an extension of the cowle to 9 years—and remark that as the Jaghirdars in the neighbourhood allow this period, no ryot can be expected to cultivate Cirkar land on less favourable terms. They admit that a *bona fide* cowle of our Government for seven years is better encouragement than a Jaghirdar's nominal cowle for 9 years—but they are unwilling to give up any part of the term which has been established by custom, and which is still observed by those Jaghirdars who fulfil their engagements. The term of seven years is certainly liberal, and in general sufficient, but for the reasons given by the ryots I think it should be discretionary with the Collector to grant cowle for eight, or even for nine years, where the competition of Jaghirdars, or local difficulties, may require a remedy.

As the increase of agriculture even under the best management can only keep pace with the increase of cultivators, the effects of a cowle if confined to the population of the district where it operates, must necessarily be very slow and gradual, particularly in a country that is visited by an epidemic disorder. The Istawa for deserted villages which was circulated together with the cowlamah holds out liberal encouragement for the establishment of entire villages, but perhaps still further indulgence is necessary to recall those ryots who were driven to desert by the oppression of the late Government. Many of these have been absent for many years, as they have got habitations in foreign villages and have become a part of the community there, no ordinary temptation will induce them to return. Most of the Zumindars in the Dooab have been consulted on this subject, and they say nothing would be so well calculated to recall emigrants as a Proclamation inviting all deserters to return—holding out to them protection and liberal treatment, promising them either the house they formerly occupied, or the site of them to build upon—and offering to such as may require it, an advance of cash not exceeding 100 Rupees to assist in building houses. With reference to all these points except the last and to the cowlamah, I have prepared a notice of which No. 1* is a copy, and I hope you will approve of my having published it in order to save time without awaiting your approbation.

* The document which Mr. Thackeray says he had forwarded with the above letter cannot be found, only the statement of cowles mentioned in his last para of the above letter is found in the file.

There is another measure also which promises as good result as the recall of deserters. Les Gens, deserters and Kooshbash inhabitants of some villages have expressed a readiness to undertake the cultivation of land provided they are allowed the usual terms granted in this country to gentleman farmers.

Since the receipt of your letter of the 19th March, I have made my enquiries respecting the terms Pandee pesha and Deolundee, but I have met with no person in this part of the world who is acquainted with their meaning, altho' several native villages of Kokun have been questioned on the subject. During the Mahratta Government, Brahmins, Mohomedans and other Khooshbash inhabitants were allowed to cultivate on terms more favourable than those enjoyed by ryots, but I can discover no term in use here, that is synonymous with Tiazzar, the name by which gentleman farmers are known in some Canarese districts.

As most of the wealth of the Southern Mahratta Country is at present in the hands of soucars, shroffs and merchants, and the ryots are one of the poorest classes in the community, it seems very desirable that every encouragement should be given to individual moneyed men to bestow part of their capital on agriculture, which must benefit by their influence so long as they are kept subordinate to the village authority. The terms held out to Tiagzars seems calculated to draw their stock to agriculture without rendering their influence too formidable in the village debates.

With reference to the 8th Article of your cowlmah, a cowle . . . has been lately prepared and published to encourage the cultivation of gardens and plantations. . . .

Dharwar 14th May, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray

REVENUE, SURVEY AND TUCKAWI

No. 60. Replying to letter directing him that no further collections be made from the people on account of outstanding balances of revenue. (To Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular order under date the 5th instant, directing that no further collection be made from the ryots on account of balances of last year's revenue, and shall particularly attend to your instructions to which every publicity shall be given by means of Proclamation.

A great part, however, of our outstanding balances has I imagine been actually collected from the ryots and remains in the hands of Desoees, Patels, Kurnums, Nargours, etc., and wherever this is ascer-

tained to be the case, I shall with your permission collect the amount. Where an error is really due by a cultivator, it would at this late period of the year be of no use to sue him for it, for any payment that he might now make would be in anticipation of the current revenue.

Hooblee, 14th September, 1818.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 61. Transmitting the statement of Jumabundy for Fuslee 1227. (To Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir.

1. I have the honor to transmit to you the statement of the Jumabundee of the expired Fuslee 1227 which should have been furnished at an earlier period, but the imperfect manner in which the settlement has been formed by the Amildar of the Talooks, and want of details of various items of remission which required examination, obliged me to send for the Serishtadars of all the districts to the Hoozoor, where they have been for some weeks past in order that they might furnish the requisite explanations. As many of them, however, were found to be incapable of completely unravelling the intricacy of accounts involved in the management during the year both of the late and present Government, a delay has arisen in the preparation of the enclosing statement which has been unavoidable.

2. General Munro has already informed you that there was no opportunity during the campaign of acquiring any correct knowledge of the resources of the country, and that it will probably require the whole of the current year before any accurate estimate can be formed of the state of the revenue during the last 8 or 10 years. The present account must, therefore, be considered rather an abstract of the collections than a regular revenue statement. As General Munro states, "The enemy in all the districts, except a small tract south of the Wurda, had collected more or less of the revenue, and in some which were last occupied, the whole." The Moamludars of the late Government, anticipating the change, everywhere strove to collect all that they possibly could for their own benefit. The heads of villages followed the example, and then absconded to avoid payment to the Moamludars. Our own Amildar succeeded, and in some instances partly from their inability to ascertain with precision what had not been collected, and partly from connivance of the malversion of others have, I suspect, included in the payment to the late Government large sums which have been embezzled by Despondees, Desoees, Deskoolkurnees, and a host of other revenue officers, who, unfortunately, I think, for the people swarm in such num-

bers in this quarter and usurp a large share of the management, as well as the produce of the country. In the course of my ensuing circuit I hope to be able to find out some of the abuses. [The rest of the letter was lost.]

Darwar, 30th November, 1818.

No. 62. Reporting Lieut. Perry's intention of commencing survey in the Carnatic. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

Lieutenant Perry, who is now the only officer in the Survey Department in the Dooab, proposes to commence his operation about the 1st of next month in the country between the rivers Wurda and Toombudra. This tract is already much better defined than any other part of the district, and it seems highly desirable that the survey should be commenced in that part of the country which is mixed with foreign land and traversed by disputed boundaries. I take the liberty, therefore, to propose that Lieutenant Perry be directed to begin with the survey of the eastern talooks that border on the territory of His Highness the Nizam.

During my next Jumwabundy, I propose to make a sketch of the disputed boundary in each Talook.

Dharwar, 6th September, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 63. Submitting statement of demand collections and balances called forth. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the statement [Table No. 20] of demand collection and balance called forth in your letter of the 2nd instant.

The estimated land and Sayer bariz of Fusly 1232 is nearly four per cent below the revenue of the preceding year, but as a large balance is still outstanding, I would strongly recommend further remission as far as fifty or sixty thousand Rupees.

The remissions allowed in some of the best managed Jagheers here amount, I understand, to nearly 25 per cent, and as all security in realising the balances during the cultivation season is highly injurious to future revenue, I trust that the amount of remission proposed will not be declined unreasonable.

Darwar, 27th July, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 64. Submitting an estimate of Tuckawee required for cultivation for Fuslee 1230 in the Southern Mahratta Country. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit an estimate of Tuccavy required for cultivation of the ensuing season in the Southern Mahratta Country. The principal advantage which the ryots derive from Tuccavy here is that it renders them in some measure independent of Soucars and money-lenders whose influence has been hitherto so injurious. To secure this advantage, however, it is necessary that Tuccavy should be advanced as soon as the cultivation is commenced, for if it is withheld to a later period, the ryot will have borrowed from the Soucar before he receives assistance from Government. There are, I fear, very few ryots in the Dooab who possess stock and capital sufficient to cultivate their lands without the aid of a loan—this loan must be advanced by soucars if it is not allowed by the Cirkar, and the ryot must pay interest at the rate of from 24 to 30 instead of 12 per cent. Nor is this exorbitant rate of interest the only burthen imposed on the ryot by the money-lender who is generally repaid in kind at the harvest, so that the ryot is obliged to part with his produce at the cheapest season of the year, and all the profits of the grain trade are reaped by the Soucar.

The accompanying statement* shews the proportions of Tuccavy required in the Mulnad or Western, and also in Belwul or Eastern villages, and in the column of remarks I have endeavoured to explain the causes of the difference in their situations.

The amount of Tuccavy estimated for the current Fusly was Rupees 40,000, and the amount required for the ensuing season is Rupees 53,500. Of this sum it is estimated that Rupees 11,500 will be required for the cultivation of sugar and other early crops which are commenced between January and March. The remaining sum of Rs.42,000 is estimated for dry land villages situated to the eastward. Part of this amounting to Rupees 28,000 should be advanced in June and July when the general cultivation of the dry villages commences. The remainder, Rupees 14,000, should be reserved until the Dusserah for the cultivation of the heavy black lands which cannot be broken up without six or seven yoke of bullocks to each plough, the Tuccavy required for the Mulnad, or western villages should be advanced during the present quarter. I trust that I shall receive early sanction of the amount—and I assure you that in making the advances every precaution shall be taken to prevent the tricks and fraud as often practised on similar occasions by the revenue officers as well as by the Patels and Curunms of villages.

Nowlgoond, 21st January, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

TABLE NO. 21

STATEMENT* OF TUCCAVY OR ADVANCES FOR CULTIVATION
ESTIMATED FOR FUSLEE 1230 IN THE SOUTHERN MAHRATTAH
COUNTRY

Divisions	Names of Talooks	Bereez of Fuslee 1228	Estimated Bereez of Fuslee 1229	Tuccavy Estimated for Fusly. 1230	
				For the Mulnaad Villages Near the W. Ghauts	For the Belwul Villages to the Eastwards
Principal Division	Darwar	71,353. 4 3	75,351.	1,100.	1,100.
	Meserrecottah	60,000. 5.11	64,001.	1,350.	450.
	Bettigerrah	77,178. 8.	81,176.	360.	1,140.
	Pursegurh	75,399. 9. 3	84,398.	500.	1,500.
	Nowgoond	1,95,879. 6. 9	2,17,378.	—	4,000.
	Badamee	58,343.	63,341.	—	2,000.
	Bagreekottah	1,40,590. 2.	1,53,588.	—	3,500.
	Hoondgoond	58,300. 5.	62,298.	—	1,000.
	Pachapoor	57,362. 7. 9	64,361.	1,250.	1,250.
	Dumnull	63,160.11.	76,158.	—	2,500.
	Bunkapoor	75,183. 1.	85,181.	500.	1,500.
	Hangull	47,369.13. 3	55,868.	2,000.	—
	Andoor	57,663. 3. 6	66,691.	900.	900.
		10,37,789. 2. 9	11,49,760.	7,960.	20,840.
	Moodaball Rastas resumed villages	53,648. 7.	55,648. 4.	—	1,500.
Kittoor Peshkush	1,58,593.12.	1,58,593.12.	—	—	
	12,50,031. 5. 9	13,64,000.	7,960.	22,340.	
Beejapoor Division	Beejapoor	1,10,983.10. 3	—	—	4,000.
	Kolar Mohomud-poor	47,515. 8. 6	—	—	1,500.
	Guddy Kokutnoor	57,283. 4. 9	—	—	2,000.
	Sholapoor	87,261. 7. 6	—	—	4,000.
		3,03,043. 3. 5	—	—	11,500.
	Vooklee, etc.	1,02,718.14. 6	—	—	1,500.
	Uttunny	28,638.12. 9	—	—	1,000.
	Sowdee	33,818.14.	—	—	1,000.
		1,65,176. 9. 3	—	—	3,500.
		4,68,220. 8. 3	5,34,000.	—	1,500.
Ranee Bednore	Ranee Bednoor	81,243. 4. 9	96,756.	—	2,200.
	Goothull	60,066.14. 9	68,567.	—	1,800.
	Koda	59,561. 1. 9	71,561.	2,200.	—
	Ganguellah	66,815. 8. 3	76,116.	1,340.	660.
		2,67,686.13. 6	3,13,000.	3,540.	4,660.
	19,85,938.11. 6	22,11,000.	11,500.	42,000.	

* Tuccavy for 1230: Principal Division Rs.30,300; Beejapoor Rs.15,000, and under Ranee Badnore Rs.8,200. Total Rs.53,500.

	Rs.As.Ps.C.
Centage of Tuccavy for Fusly 1229 and 1230 on the Beereez of Fuslee 1228	2. 0. 2.72
Centage of Tuccavy for Fusly 1229 on the bereez of Fusly 1229	2.11. 1. 1.12.11.35 2. 6. 8.58

REMARKS: The villages termed Mulnad are those situated near the Western Ghauts where the rains are much earlier and more abundant than they are in the eastern. Much sugar is cultivated in these villages, and the ground for it is prepared in January so that Tuccavy to be useful must be given in this month. The most productive Mulnad crop is paddy. The ground for which is prepared in March and April so that the advances for bullocks, etc., should be made in these months.

The amount of Tuccavy estimated this year for Mulnad alone is Rupees 11,500. The remaining sum of Rs42,000 is estimated for the Belwul or dry villages situated to the eastwards. The rains here are later and less constant so that the cultivation hardly commences till June or July. In this month 28,000 rupees should be advanced to assist the poor ryuts, and to encourage absentees to return and cultivate. This will leave the sum of Rs14,000 which will be required after the rains to assist the ryuts to break up the heavy black soil which cannot be ploughed without 7 yokes of bullocks. The amount of Tuccavy usually estimated in ceded districts bore, I think, a proportion of four per cent to the gross revenue.

No. 65. On the subject of application for the Shettas of different Pettas for advances of Tuccavy. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have lately had several applications from the Shettas of different Pettahs for advances of Tuccavy to enable poor traders and new-comers to set up shops, and I request your permission to grant this indulgence to them as well as to the cultivators. The amount of Tuccavy already sanctioned for the present season will, I think, be sufficient for both purposes, as the cultivators in some Talooks do not seem to be yet sensible how far preferable the new system of Tuccavy is to the old one of Huwala.

In case when it may not be practicable to recover the amount advanced for settling up new shops, in course of the following year, I should wish to exercise a discretion in granting a longer term for the repayment of Tuccavy. The term will of course be fixed with reference to the means of the borrower and the members of his family.

Belgaum, 24th April, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

SECTION II

(1) Duties

(2) Opium

(3) Liquor

(4) Salt

DUTIES

No. 66. Replying to a letter on the subject of custom duty. (To Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th with its enclosure.

As the present price of grain is high, it would certainly be a relief to the Camp and its followers to exempt grain for the present from the payment of custom duty.

No inconvenience would result from the measure because a Clause is inserted in the agreement of the Custom Farmers stipulating that in event of this immunity being granted, a reduction should be allowed in their *rents*, provided the loss they sustain in consequence were substantiated by the production of Commissariat Rahdarees under the Assistant Commissary General's signature.

Darwar, 28th August, 1819.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

No. 67. Transmitting letter from the Commercial Resident in ceded districts, and requesting instructions respecting duties. (To Mountstuart Elphinstone, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from the Commercial Resident in the ceded districts, and request to be favored with your instructions respecting the duties leviable on the Hon'ble Company's investment by the Jagheedars in the Dooab.

Dharwar, 30th October, 1819.

(Sd.) S. Thackeray.

To the Acting Principal Collector and Political Agent of Dharwar.

Sir,

In making my arrangements for getting up a large investment of cotton and establishing a Commercial Depot, I anticipate difficulty which I am persuaded the Board of Trade never contemplated.

I allude to the vast number of independent Jageerdars whose countries are so interspersed with the Company's newly acquired territories that it would be almost impossible to avoid the duties to which the Company's investment is subject by them. The circumstances will doubt-

less give rise to so many difficulties unless steps are taken to exempt the Company from the payment of duties that I very much fear the object in view will be relinquished.

I am authorised by the Board of Trade to give a higher price than they have hitherto paid for cotton, and I really think the advantages the Jageerdars would derive from levying duties on the Company's investment would be trifling compared to those which would generally result from the ready sale of their produce.

I beg the favor of your interference, trusting you will be able to convince the Jageerdars how much their interest is concerned in the establishment of a Commercial Factory, which seems to depend entirely on their affording every facility to the Company and doing away with the obstacles that at present exist from the duties to which we appear liable.

Hoobly, 28th October, 1819.

(Sd.) H. Oakes.

No. 68. On the subject of cotton duty. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

The Commercial Resident has represented to me the inconvenience he experiences in preparing the cotton investment from the manner in which the Sayer duties are collected in the Dooab, and in order to facilitate the transit of the cotton, I have proposed that the duties on it should be adjusted by means of acknowledgments in the same way as duties on Commissariat grains. The cotton contractors, however, represent that as the number of loads depends on the size of the bullocks, and the date of despatch on many unforeseen circumstances, the Rahdarees to be of use should be filled up by his own people on the spot. For this purpose he requests to be furnished with a number of blank Rahdarees to be signed and sealed by me and returned to me after the arrival of the cotton at its destination, when the payment of duties can be adjusted by the Commercial Resident. The number of Sayer stations here, and the difference in the amount of duties at each, will always make it difficult to adjust the Sayer revenue by means of a general permit, but as the arrangement proposed by the contractor does not appear to be more objectionable than the one observed by the Commissariat, and as it promises to be more effectual in preventing delays, I beg leave to submit it for your consideration.

Darwar, 13th August, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 69. Letter on the subject of inconveniences occasioned by the present mode of collecting duties on cotton and grain. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I propose to furnish each Sair station with a number of blank Rahdarees both for grain and cotton transported on account of Government. These Rahdarees can be exchanged for the acknowledgment of the Commercial Resident and Commissary respectively at the Saer station nearest the places whence the cotton and grain are despatched. The Saer Chokedar after giving the regular Rahdaree in exchange for either a commercial, or Commissariat acknowledgment, can send that acknowledgment to my Cutcherry, and the regular Rahdaree can accompany the grain or cotton to its destination—being endorsed at each Saer station on the road. After the arrival of grain or cotton, the Rahdaree should be returned to me for the purpose of being compared and registered, and after this process the amount of duties can be adjusted without difficulty.

I submit a form of Rahdaree for public cotton and other forms of public grain. . . .

I. Rahdaree for Commissariat grain:

No. Goods; Kind of carriage; Whence brought; Wither going; Date of Rawanah; Period; Name of importer; Remark.

II. Rahdaree for the transit of cotton on account of the Commercial Resident in the Darwar division:

No. Goods; Kind of carriage; Whence brought; Wither going; Date of Rawanah; Period; Name of importer; Remark.

III. Statement to be filled up by the Choukedars:

Name of Kutta or Sair station; Number of bullocks or Cooly loads; Date of arrival; Duty; Signature of the Mootsudda.

Dharwar. 21st August, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 70. Replying to a letter respecting Frontier duty. (To the Commissioner in the Deccan.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant and its enclosures respecting Frontier duty.

With reference to the 3rd paragraph of Mr. Campbell's letter of the 16th February, I cannot help expressing my surprise that the levy of Frontier duty on grain passing between two parts of the Hon'ble Company's territory should be considered as consistent either with reason, or with the principle on which the Frontier duty was established. Much grain is imported from the ceded districts into the Dooab—and if the duties here are already so oppressive as Mr. Campbell imagines, the addition of the Frontier duty would surely be prejudicial to the agriculture, as well as the export trade of his own district. This consideration would make it expedient to remit the Frontier duties on grain crossing the Toombudra, even if this river were still a Frontier between Darwar and Bellary.

In the 4th paragraph, Mr. Campbell compares the light uniform duties in his own district with the ancient Saer in the Dooab, which is stated to be "levied at every step at various and unequal rates and many times over." The present system is certainly objectionable in some respects, but I shall endeavour to shew in a separate report that its evils are much overrated, and that it is not unfavourable to the great commerce of the country, and that its irregularities are not more prejudicial to the free course of trade than the restrictions, penalties and abuses of the modern system in the Ceded districts. At present I shall mention only one circumstance in favour of the present mode of conducting Saer here. Being rented and collected by the renter's servants, there are few apprehensions to check complaints, and there is little room for the abuses which must always exist where the Saer officers are the servants of Government. Subaputty Modely is one of the renters here because he is the highest bidder, and gives good security. If his object were to evade the payment of duty, he would hardly bid most for the rent of them, and if his competitors in the grain trade were thwarted by him, they would complain either to Mr. Campbell or to myself. They have not complained to me, and if they have done so to Mr. Campbell, I hope their representations will be forwarded to me, so that I may ascertain whether Mr. Campbell's conjectures are founded on reasons that would make it improper to admit Subaputty Modley as a renter of Saer in future....

With respect to the last para of Mr. Campbell's letter, I have only to remark that the Saer renters in that part of the Dooab which belongs to us are bound by their last agreement to levy no duties on any Europe goods except cloths. This exemption is, however, not observed in the Jagheer villages, so many of which are intermixed with our own. This circumstance, and the difficulty of recognising Europe articles, may

account for the grievance of which Mr. Campbell complains, and which I shall endeavour to remedy in future.

Belgaum, 14th April, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 71. *A statement of the trade duties, etc., of this Collectorate for one year, with some hints on export and imports. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)*

Sir,

With reference to your letter and its enclosure of the 29th ultimo, respecting the rates of duties, I have the honor to submit a statement, exhibiting the estimated value of the trade in this district, the amount of Sair revenue collected in one year under the existing rules, and the probable effects of the proposed change in this branch of revenue.

2. The amount of the annual exports and imports, and of the home trade here, is estimated at Rs.69,26,652 of this Rs.14,23,840 is supposed to be the value of grain, cotton, vegetables, and other articles which are exempt from duties in the Concan, and the remaining sum of Rs.55,02,812 is calculated to be the value of the goods on which it is proposed to levy an *ad valorem* duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

3. The duties, fees and roosooms, derived from the former class of goods, amounted in Fusly 1229 to Rs.88,004, whilst those derived from the latter yielded Rs.1,28,075 making the whole Saer revenue of Fusly 1229, Rs.2,16,089. This revenue has greatly increased during the last two Fuslee, the account of which would be more favourable to the present system than those which I now brought forward, but as much time would be lost in preparing the necessary details of the whole period, I only submit those of one year.

4. The comparison between the present and proposed rates shews that an *ad valorem* duty of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 per cent on articles still taxable would amount to Rs.1,12,761 after making allowances for losses and deductions which the proposed change would involve; so that the alteration of rates alone would occasion a decrease of Rs.13,315, which together with the exemption would amount to an annual loss of about Rs.1,03,319. This, too, supposing that the value of the trade here has been correctly estimated; but as the calculations on which such estimates are founded are generally much too high, the annual decrease caused by introducing the *ad valorem* rate would probably be much greater.

5. As the proposed innovation would thus occasion so considerable a loss annually, I shall endeavour to shew whether the benefit attending the measure would compensate for so large a sacrifice.

6. If this country were unmixed with foreign territory, or the customs all under one management, if no roosooms were chargeable on the Saer, if there was no home trade, and if an *ad valorem* duty would be realised without vexations in question, the Rahdaree system would be a very desirable one for the distant commerce of the country. But as all the Jagheerdars levy duties, as the Roosooms payable at each of the Saer stations are paid by old prescription, as a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent duty would fall very heavily on the trade between one town and another in the same district, and as an *ad valorem* excise cannot be enforced without an odious inspection which is still more prejudicial to trade than the tax itself, I think there is more to apprehend from innovation than to gain from reform.

7. In my report on Fusly 1230, and my letter of the 15th May last, I endeavoured to shew that the mode of collecting the Saer revenue is less prejudicial here than in our own territories, that the grain duty falls chiefly on classes which are lightly taxed in other respects, that cotton, notwithstanding the duty, is as abundant here as in the Ceded districts, that a partial abolition of the duties would force the export trade of the Jagheers at the expense of our own, that Rahdarees would not exempt goods from taxation in the Jagheers and that the fees and roosooms (which amount in general to 24,000 Rupees) chargeable on the Saer, would be adjusted with great loss and difficulty under any other system.

8. I endeavoured to explain that it is at present to the interest of the Saer farmers to conciliate merchants, not to oppress them, that the collection of an *ad valorem* duty would render it necessary to detain and inspect the whole trade of the country in order that the trifling proportion of it which is of superior value might be taxed with reference to its worth, and that the penalties and confiscations without the Rahadaree system cannot be enforced, would give rise to much oppression and disgust.

9. For these and other reasons, I would submit to the expediency of renting the Saer revenue as usual for the ensuing Fusly, after exempting the following articles from duty: sheep, vegetables, firewood and straw of all kinds, materials for building and making ploughs, and all implements of trade and agriculture.

10. Grain here has for some time been as cheap as in the Ceded districts and will probably continue so, unless the season proves unfavourable. It is only worth while to export it to a distance in times

of scarcity, when a temporary remission of the duties is attended with great advantages, and should always be allowed.

Dharwar, 23rd June, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 72. Replying to a letter respecting duties levied on grain. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge . . .

2. Grain and firewood shall be immediately exempted from duty, but I conclude that the other articles mentioned are to be taxed as usual until the end of the current Fusly.

3. I regret that as grain is now cheaper throughout the district than it has been for many years, the exemption will not be attended with the relief that it would have afforded in a season of scarcity. The first effect of the measure will indeed probably be to encrease the difficulties of the ryuts who have grain for sale by lowering its value.

3. I have to solicit your instructions respecting the best mode of adjusting the claims of Roosoomdars who are entitled to fees on the Saer revenue.

4. With respect to the Jagheer villages, the Saer forms part of the Suringamee revenue. I fear the Jagheerdars will not consent to relinquish it without an equivalent, but I shall do all in my power to persuade them, and I submit copy of a letter* which I propose to address to them on the subject.

5. Should it be considered necessary to allow them compensation, the Suringamee Jagheerdars might perhaps be remunerated by means of reductions in the strength of their contingents.

Sholapoor, 17th September, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 73. Replying to a letter respecting duty levied on grain. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 23rd inst. I beg leave to state the reasons which led me to apprehend that the immediate effect of exempting grain from duty would be to encrease the difficulties of the ryuts.

*No accompanying letter was found.

2. At many large villages thro' which I passed in my late journey from Darwar, the ryuts complained that they could not get the usual price for their grain, and the merchants complained that owing to the supply being greater than the demand, the grain trade has nearly ceased. It struck me, therefore, that any measure which, however ultimately beneficial, tended immediately to lower the price of grain, must increase the difficulties of the ryuts.

3. If a ryut at Solapoor has 40 seers of grain for which he can now get one rupee in the Bazar there, it appears that he must in the first instance lose by any measure which reduced the price to 44 or 45 seers for a rupee. It may be said, however, that altho' the ryuts in the vicinity of the great market might lose by exemption, it would do general good by enabling the ryuts of distant villages to bring their grain also to the great market; but the natives themselves do not seem to anticipate this result so long as they continue so abundant, and unless we continue to levy duties on grain from the Nizam's territory as well as the Jagheers, the foreign will have great advantages over the home trade after the abolition of the grain duties.

4. With respect to roosooms on the Saer, I would submit it for consideration whether they are not as completely private property established by prescription as the tithes of the Church in Europe, or as the Enams that have been alienated in this country from the land revenue.

5. On renting the Saer, the bidders made great objections to the separation of so large a portion of it as the grain duty. They said they could not anticipate the amount of it, but that they would agree to give it up at any time on receiving remissions equal to the amount realised last year. This, at the time, appears reasonable and I agreed to it, but as the grain trade has greatly fallen off this year, the Government would lose considerably by such an arrangement. I am not aware, however, of any other that could have been adopted.

Poona, 27th September, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 74. *Transmitting replies of the Southern Jagheerdars respecting the abolition of grain duties. (Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)*
Sir,

With reference to your instructions of the 10th September last, I have the honor to transmit the replies of the Southern Jagheerdars respecting the abolition of grain duties within their respective territories.

2. I have not yet received an answer from the Kolapoor Rajah, but his reply shall follow as soon as it arrives.

3. The Jagheerdars, with the exception of the Chiefs of Meritch, Sanglee, Ramdrooj and Kittoor, will, I hope, be induced immediately to exempt grain from duty, but as it is of the first importance that they should adopt this measure without delay, and that in the meantime our ryuts should suffer as little as possible from the levy of duties on grain going to foreign territories, I submit some papers describing an arrangement which promises to relieve the grain trade from all duties on its way thro' our own country, and only to tax it at the Frontier. This measure will render the continuance of duties so unpopular in the Jagheers and will affect their trade so seriously that I trust the Jagheerdars will all in time be sensible of the expediency of remitting the grain duties.

4. In order that grain on its way to Camp may pass free thro' the Jagheers, I have recommended that the Rahdarees should still be issued by the Commissariat.

5. The Frontier duty now laid appears heavy when compared with the rate formerly observed at any one Saer station, but it is considerably less than the average amount hitherto paid at all the different stations thro' which the grain trade passes on its way to the Frontier, and by collecting the whole at one place we are enabled entirely to abolish the grain duties at all immediate stations within our own territory.

6. As much confusion and loss of revenue would have resulted from any delay in adopting these arrangements; I trust you will approve of my having carried them into effect without awaiting your instructions.

Nowlgoond, 5th December, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Translation of a Proclamation Issued in the Southern Mahratta

Country on the Subject of Grain Duties

The Rahdaree system appearing to create discontent, it has been resolved that the following instructions be made known:

1. A Frontier duty is alone to be taken upon grain exported to or imported from the Mysore, the Nizam or the Goa territories.

2. The same Regulation is to be observed with regard to similar dealings in grain with Sattara, Kolapoor, Saivern Waree the Putwurdhuns, Gurduragurh, Nepanee, Shanoor, Kittoor, Unkulkote, Nurgoond, Ramdroog, Tallekote, Hebbeelee, Moodhole, Jamkotee, and Gugiendragurh.

The non-compliance of the above States with the request that the grain should be exempted from duty has rendered the measure of taxing all grain to and from their territories unavoidable.

3. Petty Jagheerdars and Enamdars will not think of taking duties upon grain when the neighbouring villages are freed from this import; it has therefore been determined to allow the grain imported from and exported to the villages of such persons to pass free from duty.

4. To prevent inconvenience to merchants and at the same time to secure the object for which a Frontier duty has been imposed, the following average rates fixed with reference to Mamool duties have been fixed:

No. 1 in No. 4	Rates on Frontier Duty
1. Chawull	} 15 pice per bullock load
2. Hurbaree	
3. Moongh	
4. Bullur	
5. Toorwurka Dhal	
6. Pootanee	
7. Choormooree	
8. Oodetha	
9. Choodemar	
10. Ninsoor	
1. Gehoon	} 10 pice per bullock load
2. Toowur	
3. Raghee	
4. Buttanee	
5. Sanawee	
6. Nautka	
7. Sanwer	
8. Bajera	
9. Dhan	
10. Kunganee	
1. Burug	} 5 pice per bullock load
2. Taynee	
3. Koolthee	
4. Wurya	
5. Kodera	
6. Makee jowaree	

No. 2 in No. 4

When any of the above articles are brought by men and women, 1 pice for each such load.

No. 3 in No. 4

Grain transported in a bandy drawn by 8 bullocks will pay as if transported on 8 bullocks.

No. 4 in No. 4

The bullocks of lumbadees and also asses if employed as carriage are only to pay half of the rate prescribed above.

No remission (as granted at so many bullocks per 100 on the Mamool duty) will be granted on the Frontier where the bullocks will be taxed in full to the number which may come.

5. Grain smuggled is liable to confiscation to ensure which strict orders have been issued to the Moamludars.

(True Translation)

(Sd.) J. C. Munro.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Translation of a Letter to the Jagheerdars on the Subject of Grain Duty

I have the pleasure of forwarding copy of a Proclamation with that of an order issued in this division respecting the duties on grain on which subject you have already been addressed. The inconvenience suffered by levying duties at every stage on grain exported to or imported from Jagheers has rendered it necessary to adopt the measure which the accompanying papers will fully explain. You ought by no means to fancy that loss is attendant upon the remissions on the grain, but the free, unrestricted trade will, on the contrary, benefit both you and your subjects.

(True Translation)

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Translation of an Order Issued in the Southern Mahratta Country

The difficulty in supplying Rahadarees for exemption and taking duties on grain appearing unsurmountable, it has been deemed fit to issue the following orders:

1. The Rahadarry system to stop from the day on which this Order reaches the Talook, and all Rahadaries already issued to be returned with accounts according to the forms prescribed in a prior order.

2. To obviate the delays necessarily interfering with trade which the Rahadarry system is apt to create, it has been determined to levy a Frontier, instead of the Mamool duties leviable, according to a late Order upon grain imported or exported to or from countries where the produce of the Company's territories meets with this impost. The accompanying Proclamation which you will take care to make public, exhibits the Frontier duties and the average Mamool duty. Grain will be taxable at no place except on the Frontiers of the now content Sov-

ereignities and Jageers, and the date of this Order reaching your Talook is to be considered that on which the points are to be carried into execution.

3. The following are the names of the Principalities, on the export or import from or to which duty is to be levied: Mysoor, Hyderabad, Goa, Sattara, Annegerry, etc., belonging to the Neapanikur, Turgul, etc., to Kolapoor, the Putwurdhun Jagheers, Kittoor, Nurgoond, Ramdroog, Moodhol, Savenoor, Here, Gundurgurh, Sawuntwaree, Uukulkota, Gugendurgurh, Hebbully, Talikota and Jambota. It will be necessary that a Mootsuddy be appointed to collect duty and keep accounts; where the transit is great, this person will be expected to manage the collection of duties in his neighbourhood, as well as that of the Kutta to which he may actually stand appointed; in small, remote and isolated Jageer villages, the village officers will collect an account for the duties to you. Smuggled grain must be made known and will be confiscated. You will avail yourself of the services of any smart peon in your establishment, if the head and hand of a Mootsuddy do not appear necessary. You will keep a box sealed with your seal in each of the places where this duty is leviable.

No. 1 in No. 3. Immediate report is to be made, and the measure you have adopted for the realisation of the duty, and detail made whether villages of your Talook border upon villages of any Powers or States above enumerated; whether the road be thro' large villages, hamlets or merely skirt them without passing thro' them, the Frontier duty is leviable in passage thro' a Jagheer village both on entrance and exit.

No. 2 in No. 3. Some of the Jaghirdars have in compliance with letters written to them promised to remit the grain duty. It has not, however, yet been ascertained whether they have actually done so or not. The remission (if granted to grain) of the duties in the Jagheers will authorise your ceasing to levy the duty payable upon the Frontier on import or export. You will state what has been done by the Jagheerdars whose villages are on your borders.

No. 3 in No. 3. You will send the detailed accounts shewing the quantity of grain exported and imported from the different States as ordered in a former Takeed.

No. 5 in No. 3. The provisions of this Order are not intended to authorise the collection of duty on the retard or return trade where it

has heretofore been exempt from duty, the accounts of the quantity of grain thus exported must be sent monthly.

No. 4. It is not probable that any petty Jagheerders and Enamdars will levy duties on grain, you need not therefore tax the grain exported or imported into their villages.

No. 5. The grain for the Camp will be accompanied by Rahadarries as usual, it is of course subject to no duty, you will however keep accounts of the quantity thus passed.

(True Translation)

(Sd.) J. C. Munro.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 75. Recommending the duties on articles be abolished in consequence of inconvenience occasioned. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 5th (No. 599) instant, I have the honor to inform you that owing to the intermixture of Jagheer with Sirkar villages in the Dooab, the levy of an internal Frontier duty is attended with inconvenience to the trade of this district. I beg leave, therefore, to recommend that all such duties be abolished, and that grain be liable to duty only when imported from the territories of Goa, Mysore and the Nizam.

After the general abolition of the grain duties, the partial collection of them in particular villages will become so odious that all the Jagheerders will, I trust, in time be induced to forego them.

Belgam, 31st December, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 76. Proposing further exemption from duties in the Sair Department. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 10th September last, I beg leave to submit the expediency of exempting the following articles from duty in the ensuing Fusly—the amount produced by them being inconsiderable and the collection vexatious:

1. Mills for grinding different kinds of grain; 2. Leaves used as platters; 3. Spice now liable to duty only at particular places;

4. Kurbee, chaff, cotton seed and fodder of all kinds now taxed in some places; 5. Fresh butter; 6. Chunam; 7. Barks used in dyeing; 8. Charcoal; 9. Earthenware; 10. Wool; 11. Shoes; 12. Earth called soul-muttee, much used in washing and bleaching; 13. Cordage.

The present duties on these articles may amount annually to from 350 to 500 Rupees, but their abolition would be felt as a benefit throughout the country.

I should also recommend the abolition of duties on implements of trade and husbandry, but this would involve a more considerable loss—probably 1,500 Rupees per annum. The advantages to be expected from such a measure I need not enumerate.

Darwar, 27th May, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 77. Suggesting the expediency of abolishing certain items in the farms which are injurious to trade and detrimental to the community. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

This being the season for renting the small farms and licences, I have the honor to submit the expediency of abolishing the following items in places where they have only been lately introduced, or where they act as monopolies injurious to trade and detrimental to the community.

1. Good-dulalee, or the exclusive privilege of weighing goods in the Hangul Talook, and of collecting a tax on sugar-mills in the Talook of Padshapoor yields Rs.710.

2. The monopoly of selling ganja and tobacco at Mootkuwee is contrary to old usage. It yielded Rs.128.

3. The privilege of collecting Fusqee in the towns of New Hoobly, Padshapoor, Badamy and Hangul on vegetables, grocery, etc., Rs.602.

4. Awuth Goota. The exclusive privilege of weighing and measuring grain, gool, tamarinds, etc., in 5 Pettahs, Rs.597.

5. The monopoly of collecting $\frac{1}{4}$ Rupee on each bandy load of wood at Kanapoor, over and above the Saer duties, Rs.210.

6. The exclusive privilege of collecting a tax on turmeric at the rate of 10 seers per gonee at Kanapoor, Rs.16.

7. Narel-Goota. The monopoly of selling cocoanuts at Gudug, Rs.220.

8. Kusai-Goota. Rented by butchers who monopolise the trade in 5 Pettahs, Rs.547.

(Exclusive of fraction) Total Rs.3,030.

2. Thus the total amount derived in Fusly 1232 from exclusive privileges and monopolies, the abolition of which is recommended, is Rupees 3,030. The whole of this amount will not be lost by the abolition as a third of it will probably be still available in the shape of Mohturifa.

Darwar, 9th June, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 78. Reporting that Europe supplies are exempt from duties on account of terms of Saer contract. (To William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

With reference to your instructions of the 7th instant, I have the honor to inform you that Europe supplies are exempt from duties here by the terms of the Saer contracts.

Owing to the distance of this district from both Presidencies, the price of all supplies is greatly enhanced by the expenses of carriage, and as it appears desirable that the inland consumption of European manufactures should be encouraged, I beg to submit the expediency of allowing them still to pass free of duties into the Doob.

Hoobly, 25th November, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

OPIUM

No. 79. Replying to letter on the smuggling of opium. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, and to inform you that measures have been taken to give effect to the monopoly of opium and to prevent the clandestine carriage of it thro' the Southern Mahrattah Country. The quantity of opium consumed here is very trifling, and I understand that the whole of it is brought from Malwa and Khandeish. As the customs are rented at present, it would not be worth while to keep up a separate establishment for the collections of the opium duty.

I have therefore invited proposals for the rent of it until the end of the Fuslee.

Darwar, 5th May, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

TABLE NO. 22

STATEMENT OF THE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE SOUTHERN MAHRATTA COUNTRY

Names of Districts	Quantity of opium produced in this Division and imported				Quantity of opium consumed at the station			Amount of Value of Cutcha Ser		
	Quantity of opium produced in this District	Quantity of opium imported from	Number of weights		Amount of Value	Names of the castes of the purchasers	Number of Weight		Amount of Value	
Dharwar	Nil	New Hoobly	Mds.	Srs.	Rs A.P.	Travellers, Rajpoots, etc.	Mds.	Srs.	Rs A.P.	Rs A.P.
Mesercottah	"	Ditto	1/4		160.	Moosulman & Rajpoots, etc.	1		320.	6.10. 9
Betgerah	"	"		—	—	Rajpoots & Moosulmans	1/4	6	120.	10.
Pursgurh	"	"		—	—	Moosulman & Bhiragee, etc.	1/4	6	261.	14. 8.
Nowlgoond	"	New Hoobly	1/4		96.	Travellers, Rajpoots, Duva, etc.	1/4	1 1/2	3.14.	2. 9. 6
Badamee	"	"		—	—	Moosulman & Duva	1/4	1 1/2	96.	8.
Bagreecottah	"	"		—	—	Moosulman & Duva	1/2		5.13.	3.14.
Hoongoond	"	"		—	—	Moosulman & Duva	1/2		88.	3.10. 8
Patchapoor	"	"		—	—	" " "		—	—	—
Dumnull	"	"		—	—	Travellers, etc.	1	1 1/2	318.	6.10.
Bunkapoor	"	"		—	—	Sundry Duva	1/4		78.	6. 8.
Hangull	"	New Hoobly		1 1/2	—	Selling for medicines		1 1/2	—	—
Andoor	"	Havaree		1 3/4	5.4.	Sundry " " "		1 3/4	5. 4.	3.
New Hoobly	"	"		—	—	Travellers, Rajpoots, Moosulmans, Weavers, etc.	2		581. 4.	6. 10 1/2
			1	3 1/4	381.4.		5 3/4	1/4	1,877. 3.	71. 7. 9 1/2

The Amildars of Hoongoond Talook reported that no opium was consumed within it. The same may be said of the Andoor Talook.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 80. Statement respecting opium consumed in the Dooab. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit a statement* of the quantity of the opium consumed in the Dooab. As the importation of opium is usually conducted in a clandestine manner, and the consumption of it confined to a very few classes who use it in private, it is surely not possible to ascertain with accuracy the quantity imported. It seldom forms a load of itself but is smuggled in with other articles, so that it can hardly be discovered without a vexatious inquisition into every load of goods that enters the district from those countries where opium is produced. As the duties on opium are not to be rented with the rest of the Saer, and it will not be worth while to keep up a separate establishment for the collection of so trifling a revenue, we must rely on the vigilance of the Custom Farmers for the detection of smuggled opium, and I shall endeavour to engage their services by means of rewards held out in Section III, Regulation I of 1818.*

Dharwar, 25th June, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 81. Replying to a letter on the subject of opium. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poonah.)

Sir,

Agreeably to your instructions, I long since fixed a price on the opium that was sent to me for sale, and supplied each Amildar with a quantity, which appeared sufficient to meet the demand in his Talook. It appears, however, from all reports I have received that scarcely a purchase can be found on the present terms, and that in order to ensure the sale of opium it will be necessary to reduce the price much below the prime cost. This measure appears particularly objectionable from the effect which it may be expected to produce, by creating and indulging habits of debauchery, which must be at least as pernicious to society as they are profitable to Government.

Opium-eating is at present confined to certain classes here, but as the habit is now countenanced by the officers of the State, and as all castes can indulge in it without danger of exposure or detection, we may expect to see the number of opium eaters greatly increased, when a reduction in the price shall have placed the drug within the reach of the classes most addicted to debauchery.

* See Table No. 22.

At present, only the more respectable could afford to purchase opium, and these have strong prejudices against its use; but if it were freely introduced by means of low prices, and the continued countenance of Government, I have no doubt that the consumption would annually encrease so as to admit of a return to the original price at an early period.

In case it be thought advisable to lower the price of opium, I would with reference to the experience of Constantinople submit the expediency of erecting an asylum for the lunatics who may be expected to appear when the effect of the drug begins to prevail. The expenses of the building would probably be covered by the profits arising from the encreased consumption to be expected from such a provision for exhausted opium-eaters.

Hoobly, 9th November, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 82. Replying to a letter respecting customs on opium and spirituous liquor. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an authenticated copy by your Assistant, Mr. Warden, of a letter from you to the Collector in Khandeish transmitting for the opinion of local authorities in the Deccan, copy of a proposed Regulation for collecting customs on all opium, except that of Bengal, and managing the supply of that article for home consumption, etc., and also of one for the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors.

2. The numerous avocations I have been engaged in have prevented me from giving these Regulations my consideration sooner.

3. From the enquiries, however, I have occasionally made since my succeeding to my present charge upon the subject of trade carrying on in opium, I am inclined to think it is more extensive than is usually supposed to be the case. A great deal is said to be imported from Marwad, a country to the northwards of Khandeish (supposed to be the same as Malwah), from Ooennabad, Oomravutty and other places in the Nizam's territory it is also brought, but supposed to come originally from Marwad. The plant is also being cultivated at Ramdroog and Toragull, and in small quantities at Nowloor in this Talooq and Raneebednoor.

4. The principal importers are Marawaries who are settled in the Dooab, particularly Hoobly and Havery, and who sell it to Lingait and

Jain shopkeepers who are to be found in every part of the country. Mr. Thackeray seemed to think that the number of opium-eaters was very inconsiderable and confined to particular classes only. These are chiefly foreigners, viz., Scinds, Arabs, Rohillas, Rajpoots and Sikhs, Byragees and Gosaees, a great number however, of the immediate inhabitants both Hindoos and Mussalmans do indulge in the use of this drug, though what the quantity consumed is, it will be impossible to form a conjecture even with possessing some data as to the quantity imported and exported, for which I have looked in vain into Sayer or custom accounts.

5. The retail price is about 8 Rs. per pound, which is considerably less than the prime cost of what was supplied from Poona, and which at once accounts for so small a portion of it being sold here. It will also, I think, be a considerably convincing proof that what is being sold and consumed here must be contraband. Whatever may be the cause of this depreciated price, there can, I think, be no question that it would contribute much to the improvement of the general administration of this branch of the public revenue to introduce the same system here as obtained in other Provinces, and after giving the Regulation all the attention my limited time will admit, I see nothing whatever to object therein with reference to the local circumstances of this district.

6. Upon the subject of the Regulation of the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors, the only part of it that applies at all to this Collectorate is Section I wherein provision is made for farming abkary duties. Instead of, however, allowing farmers to make their own arrangements for collecting duties they may consider most productive, they are here restricted to certain defined rules regarding the retail price, place and time of sale, quantity to be allowed to be disposed of to the same individual, mode of payment and several other ways which tend greatly to prevent the immoderate use of liquor, at the same time as large a revenue to the State is derived therefrom as would be in all probability under the more organised system of abkarry management.

Dharwar, 2nd June, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

LIQUOR

No. 83. Rules for the sale of arrack. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit copy of the terms of agreement to be observed by the arrack renters during the present Fusly in the vicinity

of the Cantonments in the Doab. The new rules and particularly that which prevents any person from taking arrack without a pass from the shops of the renters, will involve a great loss of revenue, but as no other measure would effectually check drunkenness, I trust you will approve of it. I should indeed propose still closer restrictions, but they would probably encrease the evil by tending to encourage the clandestine importation of the Cantonment.

Dharwar, 22nd August, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Copy of Terms

1. Thus you are to pay your rent by monthly instalments to the Amildar or Serishtadar of the Talook, and receive from them a receipt. If you do not pay your instalments within three days of the time, you are to pay a fine of one fifth of a month's rent. If you, delay 15 days in paying it, together with the fine, the Sirkar will take the business from you and put it in trust, the receipts collected during the time it is in trust will be deducted from the rent, and you must pay the balance should there be any, and you will receive whatever sum may be received over and above your rent after paying all expenses.

2. With the exception of pice, you are to pay your instalments according to the exchange of the Sirkar.

3. You become a renter on the 13th July, if you delay taking the charge of the concern, it will remain in the charge of the Government until you take it yourself. The expenses of Sebundees and other necessaries will be deducted from the money received during the concern being in the charge of the Government, the remainder will be deducted from your rent; should there be a balance left in your favour you will receive it. Should less than the month's instalment be received, you must make it good afterwards. You will proceed paying according to the regular instalment.

4. You rent the right of selling arrack in the country within five miles of the Cantonment boundaries. The boundaries will be shown to you by the Amildar, and are known to all people. You are on no account to have anything to do with the interior of these limits, or of the Fort. On the outside of the five miles are other renters, with these also you are not to interfere.

5. You are to have no more than 15 shops, which are to be situated in the three large public streets, 5 in each street; after having been once established, the situations are not to be changed.

6. You are not to allow any arrack to be sold at your stills, which are to be situated in an open spot; and the Amildar is to be informed of their situation.

7. You are to sell none but the best arrack; a pukka seer must weigh 84 Company's Rupees and must be sold for no more than 8 annas.

8. You are not to adulterate arrack, neither are you in order to make it more strong mix it with chunam, cottere or any drug.

9. You must not allow drunkenness, gambling or quarrelling in your shop, nor allow any person to drink sufficient to make him drunk.

10. You are not to allow any person to take liquor away from your shop unless he produces a pass signed by the Amildar.

11. You are not to afford any asylum to thieves, highwaymen, murderers or any person of that sort; should any such person come to your shops, you must instantly inform the Amildar, or any of the Sirkar's servants.

12. You are to receive nothing but money in payment for arrack. Should any person offer gold, silver, clothes, arms, jewels, etc., you are to give instantly information; should you be detected in receiving such articles, you will be considered as a thief and punished as such.

13. Your shops are not to be opened before sunrise; and must be closed at 8 o'clock at night; if you allow persons to remain after that hour you will be fined and punished.

14. You are not to sell arrack to soldiers or to any person they may send.

15. You are not to sell arrack at Jattras, or other festivals where there is a separate renter who rents that licence.

16. Should you allow another person to take the whole or part of your rent, you must bind him down to observe these rules, and you will not fail to give him receipts whenever he pays you an instalment, and should there hereafter be any dispute, you will be held responsible.

17. You are not to sell liquor to those who by the laws of their caste are forbidden to drink; if you do so you will be fined.

18. If you do not act according to the above written rules, your contract will be considered void and you must pay what fine and suffer such punishment as the Sirkar choses to order.

(Sd.) J. A. R. Stevenson.

No. 84. Reporting with respect to the restrictions in force under the late Government to prevent drunkenness. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poonah.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo, and its enclosures.

2. With respect to the restrictions in force under the late Government to prevent drunkenness, it appears from all I can learn that the contempt and abhorrence with which this vice was regarded by the respectable classes, had more effect in checking its prevalence than any positive laws or prohibitions. The manners of the higher orders seem to have had much influence on the habits of the lower, and as drunkenness was regarded as the lowest form of debauchery, a sot would not have been tolerated, except in the worst society. This feeling had great weight under the Peshwah and I think its perversion is chiefly to be ascribed to the effects of our habits and those of our domestic servants. A drunkard is now punished by the Magistrate for disorderly conduct, but his offence is no longer viewed as an abomination.

3. High prices undoubtedly encourage illicit distillation, but I think we may rely on the renters' vigilance to check this evil. If high prices encrease the desire to drink, they at least place the means of gratification farther out of reach. The interdiction of the Mussulman law against drinking may not entirely have prevented secret indulgence among the followers of the Prophet, but it has certainly tended to restrain open debauchery and public exposure, and an interdiction must have a greater effect than a high price in giving a zest to the appetite of the drunkard.

4. The cheapness of wine on the Continent and its high price in England make it an object of comparative indifference in the one country and a luxury in the other. But the introduction of expensive wines has refined rather than encreased the taste for drinking in England. Although the French are said to be less debauched than their neighbours, their ancestors the Gauls were tempted to cross the Alps by the wines of Italy. The ancient Germans were drawn hither by the same tempta-

tion, but they had long before been notorious for the grossest debauchery, and the substitution of expensive wines for the strong beer of Germany probably tended rather to reform than concept them.

5. The prevalence of intoxication appears to depend more on constitution and climate than on excise laws or prices. Excess is, I believe, as common in the highlands of Scotland as in Ireland, although it is not attended with the same effect, and if the French appear to be less debauched . . . may it not be in a great measure owing to the same restrictive system of Police, which renders prostitution so much less offensive in Paris than it is in London?

“Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen,
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face;
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.”

Restrictions like high prices may heighten desires, but it is evident that their practical effect is to lessen the means of enjoyment. Arrack is much cheaper on the coast than at Darwar, and a person going from hence to Goa finds great difficulty in keeping his servants sober there.

6. With respect to the number of shops being limited, if a shop be established at every place where there has hitherto been one, the supply of arrack will probably be equal to the demand, but unless we fix the situation of each shop, we can hardly check abuses, as we know not where to look for them.

Darwar, 20th August, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 85. Suggestions for punishing confirmed drunkards and requesting instructions whether to levy duties on European articles provided by gentlemen. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

As I am about to rent the farms and licences for the ensuing Fusly, I have the honor to solicit instructions whether Europe articles provided by gentlemen for their private use are now subject to duties in the same manner as Europe articles imported by merchants and settlers.

2. As the rules and restrictions hitherto in force for checking excesses and disgraceful drinking do not appear to be efficacious, I propose with your approbation to punish all offenders in future by fine and exposure in the nearest Qusbah town with bottles suspended from their necks. I also propose to pay the amount of fine collected from such

offenders to the persons who may give information against them. Experience has convinced me that no measure less severe will suffice to remedy the evil in question.

Dharwar, 28th June, 1824.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

SALT

No. 86. Information requesting the consumption and export of salt in the Carnatic. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to send you all the information procurable respecting the quantity of salt consumed in the Carnatic, and the quantity exported hence to other districts. The estimated population here is 6,59,822 souls, and as it is supposed that each person on the average consumes daily a quantity of salt weighing about $\frac{1}{4}$ Rupee, the quantity required for the yearly consumption of the district may be 745 $\frac{1}{2}$ Madras grace.

The Sair account and the information from the Talooks such as it is, make it appear that 883 $\frac{1}{4}$ grace are yearly brought into the district, but as 487 $\frac{1}{2}$ grace are again exported to the country of our neighbours the Nizam and the Jagheerdar, only 395 $\frac{1}{2}$ grace remain for home consumption. Hence the estimate would make it appear that we consume 350 grace more than we receive. The difference is thus accounted for: 175 grace are probably smuggled into the district by Lombadies and others who take by road, and by avoiding the Sair stations evade payment of duties; 87 grace may be brought in by return trade (retad) which, if light, is free from duties and does not appear in the Sair account; 10 or 15 grace of earth salt are consumed by those who can afford no better; and the remaining 73 or 78 grace are supposed to be purchased in retail at foreign fairs and at bazars in the Jagheers and other foreign villages, so many of which mix with our territory. The salt brought into the district direct from the coast comes from the Goa territory, about 450 grace from Malwan, Rajapoor, and other ports north of Goa 307 grace, from Koomtee and Unkolee in the Canara district 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ grace. The rest of the salt imported, 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ grace, does not come direct from the coast but from the neighbouring foreign districts.

Statement B [Table No. 23] shews the consumption of salt in a family consisting of father, mother, two children of 16 and 14, and two of 4 and 2 years old. The quantity used daily in a family of full

feeders weighs about Rupee $1\frac{3}{4}$, in a family of moderate appetite Rupees $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Rupees $1\frac{1}{4}$ in a family of poor people.

I also submit a statement [Table No. 24] of the prices of salt for 20 years, the average is a Rupee for 22 seers, 10 annas in the Dooab, and 16 seers 7 annas in the Sholapoor division, which is farther from the coast. With respect to the Dooab, it will be observed that the prices are lower in some of the more distant Talooks—this generally depends on the situation of the Talook with regard to the route of Lombadies who chiefly supply the inland consumption and do it cheaper than any other dealer.

With respect to the materials from which this information is prepared, I must remark that they are by no means satisfactory and that it would be unsafe to found upon them any new measures which affect the salt trade. I have necessarily procured most of my information from the Talooks, and the statement of consumption shews discrepancies which are too great to be explained. Thus the population of Dharwar Talook is less than that of Purusgurh, yet the statement makes it appear that nearly four times as much salt is consumed in the former as in the latter. Darwar is certainly the greater thoroughfare, but this circumstance cannot account for so wide a difference.

As salt is a necessity of health, if not of life, we should be particularly cautious in taxing it, for if we make it too dear we shall place sea-salt beyond the reach of our ryots and put them upon the mud salt of the country which is only fit for cattle and beggars.

Darwar, 25th July, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

TABLE NO. 23
TWENTY YEARS' PRICES OF SALT IN THE CARNATIC*
FUSLY 1210 TO 1229

Talooks	Seers	Rupees
Darwar	528.	26. 6
Purgursh	320. 8	20. 6
Nowigoond	287.	16.14
Badamy	38. 6	12.12
Hoongoond	117.13	19.10
Duminull	179.	17.14
Bankupoor	439. 5	21.15
Hangall	420.10	21. 2
Rancebednore	158. 5	19.12
Kode	400. 1	21.
Beejapoor	335. 8	16.13
Sholapoor	209.	16. 1

N. B. See Table No. 24 for the remaining Tables referred to in the letter.

* I have chosen only some Talooks to show the price of the 20 years from 1210 Fusly to 1229. The 3rd column shows an average number of seers for a Rupee.

TABLE NO. 24

ESTIMATED CONSUMPTION OF SALT IN A FAMILY CONSISTING OF FATHER AND MOTHER, TWO CHILDREN OF 18 AND 16 AND TWO OF 4 AND 2 YEARS OLD

P
T. F.—12

Castes	Quantity required by each person in a day	Full Feeders						Quantity per each person	Moderate Feeders						Quantity per each person requires weight in Rupees	Poor People					
		Quantity consumed in the house of a Ryut containing six persons							Quantity of salt consumed							Quantity of salt consumed					
		Weight in Rupees per day		Per mensem		Per year			Weight in Rupees per day		Per mensem		Per year			Weight in Rupees per day		Per mensem		Per year	
		Seers	Weight in Rupees	Seers	Weight in Rs.	Price in Rupees	Seers		Weight in Rs.	Price in Rs.	Seers	Weight in Rs.	Price in Rs.	Seers		Weight in Rs.	Price in Rs.	Seers	Weight in Rs.	Price in Rs.	
Brahmins	2	12	4	24	51	36	2.1	9	1½	3	18	38	48	1.2.82	1¼	7½	2	57	32	12	1.6.68
Jungund & Lingaet Reddees	1¼	10½	3	63	45	—	1.3.96	1½	9	3	18	38	48	1.2.82	1¼	7½	2	57	32	12	1.6.68
Mahrattas & Jeengurs, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1½	9	3	18	38	48	1.2.82	1¼	7½	2	57	32	12	1.6.68
Comutee, Jain & Juloy, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1½	9	3	18	38	48	1.2.82	1¼	7½	2	57	32	12	1.6.68
Rajpoot & Kuttey, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	¾	4½	1	51	19	24	.3.41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moosulman & Punchaul, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1¼	7½	2	57	32	12	1.1.68	1	6	2	12	25	60	1.0.55
Sundry, viz., Coolies, Dhers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	2	12	60	—	1.0.55	¾	4½	1	51	19	24	.3.41

Remarks: Such a family may consume 3¼ sers of Grain in a day thus:

Father & Mother
2 big children
2 little ones

Sers
1½
1¼
½
—
3¼

and a ser of salt is enough for 30 sers of Grain, 3¼ sers of salt would last them a month—viz, col. 4. The average price of salt in the Doab for 20 years has been sers 22.10 for a Rupee and this is the rate assumed. (Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

SECTION III

(1) Coinage

(2) Exchange

(3) Mints

COINAGE

No. 87. Submitting a number of different coins in circulation in the Southern Mahratta Country for assay. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

Agreeably to your instructions I have the honor to send a number of different coins in circulation in the Southern Mahratta Country for the purpose of being assayed. As the sum of one hundred rupees is hardly sufficient to embrace specimens of all the many coins here, and as it seems desirable that more than one specimen of the coins most in circulation should be assayed, I hope you will approve of my having transmitted the sum of Rs.220.15.6 in the coins noticed in the accompanying statement.*

Darwar, 20th September, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

* No accompanying statement was found with the letter.

No. 88. Submitting list of coins which have been set aside for remittance to Bombay agreeable to the suggestion of the Assay Master, (To Mr. William Chaplin.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter . . . I have the honor to submit a list of coins which have been set aside for remittance to Bombay agreeably to the suggestion of the Assay Master.

Gudug, 31st January, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

GOLD COINS

No. 1.	142 Buhaduree Pagodas in Company's Rupees	538.6.8.
2.	87 Company's Rupees is	87.
3.	218 Soolakhee Sicka is Company's Rupees	190.12.12.
4.	407 Shahpooree Rupees is Company's Rupees	356.2.0.
5.	71 Soolakhee Chandoree Rupees is Company's Rupees	62.2.0.
6.	2 Belapooree Rupees is Company's Rupees	1.10.6.
7.	32 Mirjee Hoockeree Rupees is Company's Rupees	26.0.0.
8.	18 Sembhoo Peerkhanee Rupees is Company's Rupees	14.1.0.
9.	1 Bin Chindoree Rupees is Company's Rupees	0.14.3.
10.	62 Soortee Rupees is Company's Rupees	59.1.6.
11.	2 Soolakhee is Company's Rupees	1.14.6.
	Total Rs799.9.9 + Rs538.6.8 =	Rs1,338.0.5.

EXCHANGE

No. 89. Informing having remitted to the Collector of Poona Hoondies for two Lacs of Ankosee Rupees. (To William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

With reference to your instructions... I have the honor to inform you... that I remitted to the Collector of Poona Hoondies for two Lacs of Ankosee or Chinchoree Rupees payable at 25 days sight.

The terms tendered by the Sowcars and the coins paid to them are shewn in the following memorandum which exhibits also the rate of exchange at which the Bills were negotiated:

2 Lacs of Chinchoree Rs. at 14 annas 9 p. are equal to Company's	Rupees 1,84,375. 0.0
B. Pagodas 47,952 paid to Soucars at Rs.3.12.8 are equal to	1,81,881. 2.0
Gain by exchange	2,566.14.0

Belgaum, 20th March, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 90. Letter respecting the losses to which troops are exposed by the state of currency in the Dooab. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I should have sooner replied to your letter of the 21st ultimo respecting the losses to which the troops are exposed by the state of the currency in the Dooab had I been able to discover any direct and effectual remedy for an evil which it is so easy to point out but so difficult to remove.

2. After much enquiry, it appears that the apparent fluctuations in the value of all the local coins here, and the general superiority of the Madras Rupee and Buhaduree Pagoda are chiefly to be ascribed to three causes which I shall endeavour to explain.

1st. To the great variety of coins in the Dooab.

2nd. To the fluctuations in the value of pice and all bazar articles.

3rd. To the innovation we have produced by making the Madras Rupee one coin of account and standard of value, in a district where it has hitherto been considered as a foreign coin.

3. It would be superfluous to shew the different ways in which the variety of the currency enables the Shroaffs to take advantage of the rest of the community. Even where each kind of rupee that is cur-

rent in the Dooab equally valuable in every part of the district, the variety of coins and the difference in their quality would still afford the Shroffs a wide field for speculation. But the rupees at any particular mint exchange are par only within a certain range, and if taken to a distance where they are not the coin of account, their value immediately falls. Thus the Shahpooree Rupee which passes for its value in the neighbourhood of Shahpoor, in general is $\frac{1}{4}$ anna less at Dharwar which is about 50 miles distant, so that when this coin is issued to the troops, those at Shahpoor may lose nothing, while those at Darwar have just reason to complain. This hardship may be in some degree reduced by paying the troops with reference to the currency of the place where they are stationed. The troops at Belgam should be paid rather in Shahpoor than in Bagreekotta Rupees, which being most current in the neighbourhood of Kulladeggee should be remitted to that station. This measure, however, altho' it may lessen the evil in question, will not entirely remove it, and perhaps the only effectual remedy is the abolition of the present mints and the substitution of one general currency. This measure was adopted in the southern districts of the Madras territory. . . . The situation and the circumstances of those districts are, however, so widely different from those of the Dooab that the same measure would produce very different effects in the two countries.

4. Our distance from the Presidency and our want of commercial intercourse with it must always prevent enough of its currency from reaching the Dooab in the natural course of trade. The Goa merchant who comes to purchase cloth at Shahpoor with his bullion and foreign coins, would find no medium of exchange if the Shahpoor mint were shut up, and meeting with no market for that which a mint only could turn to account, he would often be obliged either to part with his bullion at a very unfavourable rate, or to return with it to the coast.

5. This is one of the many arguments that might be adduced to prove the danger of meddling with the mints which are intimately connected with the trade of the Dooab and its commercial prosperity. Perhaps the only safe method of reforming the present currency would be to establish in the centre of the district a new mint for the Company's Rupees, the general currency of which will make them appear to pass everywhere nearly at par. Such a mint, if worked with European instruments, might, I think, be able by its operation to supersede the two principal mints of Shahpoor and Bagreekotta, which being now under our own authority can at any time be abolished. The superiority and general currency of the new coinage might soon enable it to absorb

the old. but there are two circumstances that would interfere with this operation. The Dooab, almost surrounded by foreign States who exercise the right of coin, and as the local merchants will probably continue their coin of account, we could hardly expect the Madras Rupee to maintain its superiority in the buzar. Thus a merchant taking money into the Nizam's Territory would, perhaps, find a better market there for the Hyderabad than for the Darwar Rupee. but the former having been almost absorbed by the new mint would probably be the scarcer of the two at Darwar, so that the merchant would rather lose than gain by the reformation of the coinage. I am not however certain whether this inconvenience would not be obviated by the natural course of exchange, which generally keeps every buzar supplied with that coin which is in demand.

6. One objection to any innovation would be the unpopularity of the measure with the commercial classes, particularly the soucars whose affairs are connected with the present mint. These people keep their accounts in the old local currency, and this circumstance alone attaches them to it. As stock-jobbers, they derive great profits from the confusion of coins, and thrive like leeches by a corrupt state of the circulating medium, which enables them to bleed the rest of the community in proportion to their superior cunning. Such a class may not seem deserving of much consideration, but as the trade of the country is chiefly in their hands, their welfare is connected with the prosperity of the trade.

7. The only immediate remedy for the evil in question appears to be a reduction of the rates at which the inferior coins are received and paid at the Treasury, and I submit a statement of the reduction which I propose forthwith to introduce. The remarks on each coin which I have inserted in this statement will explain my reasons for altering rates of exchange, and as the Treasury is nearly empty, the Government will not lose much by the reduction if they are adopted before the heavy kists begin to come in.

8. Many of the foreign coins which come into the Treasury will never have found their own way into the district by the natural course of exchange. Some of these are imported for the troops and some are brought in by speculating soucars who deal in coins as in commodities—buying where they are cheap, and selling where they are dear—so that the Treasury rate should never be high enough to attract foreign coin from a distant market. I do not however propose these alterations with much confidence, for it is impossible to fix the value of things

which must from their nature fluctuate and the (?) which is applicable to the buzar of one month may be quite inapplicable to that of another. All we can do at present is to give more for the good coin and less for the bad, this will keep the inferior coin out of the Treasury, and attract the superior ones, and by limiting the variety of the currency will tend to lessen the influence of the shroffs and soucars.

9. The liberality of Government which receives all coins in payment of revenue, is in some measure counteracted by the ignorance of the ryuts, who for the sake of easy circulation sometimes exchange the coins which happen to be in their pockets for Company's Rupees, because the amount of their kists is expressed in this coin. I propose, therefore, in future to insert in every ryut's Koolwar puttah the amount of his kist in the local coin of the district, as well as in the Company's Rupees.

10. Next to the variety of the coins, the fluctuations in the value of the prices, and also of all commodities of purchase in the buzar, seem to account for this apparent change in the value of money. The exchangeable value of few things is more variable than that of a pice, and in the Treasury they pass at the rate of (?) for the Rupee. . . . Pice will, however, generally purchase the same quantity of goods, so that they signify little whether they are scarce or plentiful in the buzar. A sepoy who should get 40 pice for a Rupee in one month, and 50 in another would probably find that the 50 pice purchase no more grain than the 40. . . .

11. The innovation we have produced by making the Madras Rupee one money of account and measure of value in a district which lies beyond the natural range of this coin, may also account for some of the apparent anomalies in the rate of the currency here.

12. The Madras Rupee seldom reached this district before it came here for the troops owing to the distance of Madras and the abundance of other coin in the Doob. But as we have made it our coin of account, as its character is high, and its currency more general than that of any other coin, it is not surprising that it has come so much in request.

13. The coin in which all kists and revenue engagements are calculated must always be most in demand, and as the Madras Rupee is almost the only silver coin in the Doob which exchanges without a loss in the Ceded districts, the merchants who import cloth from the southward are glad to get it. These circumstances render it much more

valuable than any other coin in the buzar, and sometimes perhaps raise its price much too high with reference to the value of other coins. Considering the Madras Rupee as our standard, we calculate the value of other coins with reference to it, without reflecting that as a standard it is probably as false as any other coin would be in the Dooab. If one of the local coins were our measure of value, the mint here would keep the supply nearly equal to the demand, and the current value of the Rupee would continue pretty steady, at least within the range of the mint. But I have already shown that the distance of Madras, and the want of commercial intercourse with that place, must render the supply of Madras Rupees uncertain and precarious here, altho' demand for them will continue as good as ever, so long as we keep our account in them, and consider them as the standard of value.

14. After a careful consideration of the subject, it appears that the losses of which the sepoy complain are partly real and partly imaginary. Real as far as they depend on the depreciation of the currency, imaginary where they arise from the scarcity of pice and of Madras Rupees. The only remedy I can suggest is the one noticed in the 8th para of this letter in supplying the paymaster with funds. I shall consult the interests of the troops as much as the state of the Treasury will permit. It would also be desirable if the Collector of Bellary were directed in making his remittances to the paymaster in the Dooab, to avoid sending those coins which are foreign to the markets here. The Narain Pet and Govind Bukshee Rupee which pass at so unfavorable a rate in the Dooab are generally brought from the Ceded districts.

Dharwar, 7th October, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

N. B. See Tables Nos. 25, 26.

MINTS

No. 91. Copies of orders and notifications respecting mints at Sholapoor and Bagulkotah. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 28th March, I have the honor to submit copies of my orders and notification respecting the mints of Shapoor and Bagulkotah.

2. As the Shapoor Rupee is for the present to be coined at Belgam, I trust that no great inconvenience will be felt by the merchants

TABLE NO. 25

PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES OF EXCHANGE FOR THE GOLD COINS
RECEIVED AND ISSUED AT THE TREASURY OF DARWAR

No.	Names of Coins	Average Bazar Rate from 1st May to 10th July in Four Great Bazars	Rate in Darwar on the 27th August 1820	Former Treasury Rates	Present Treasury Rates	Proposed Rates	Remarks
1.	New Ikere Pagoda	Rs A.P.C. 3.13.3.94	Rs A.P.C. 3.14.	Rs A.P.C. 3.14.	Rs A.P.C. 3.12.8	Rs A.P.C. 3. 4.3	This coin is most common in Mysore. In this Division it is most common in Ransbednore, Hangull, Adore, Kagenelly and the southern Talooks: It is much in request with the traders who require it for purchasing spices and beetlenut, etc., on the West Coast, and is therefore dear at present. If the rate at which these Pagodas are received is not raised, the Shroffs will induce the Ryuts to pay all their kists in the inferior silver coin which they will give in exchange for Pagodas.
2.	Old Ikere Pagoda	3.13.3.94	3.14.	3.14.	3.12.8	3.13.6	This coin is considered more pure than the modern Ikere Pagoda struck by the Raja of Mysore, but the latter being more in fashion passes for more in the bazar.
3.	Bhoolpuddee	—	3.12.6	—	3.12.8	3.13.6	This coin in purity is equal to the old Ikere Pagoda, and it is most current in places noticed in Remark No. 1 and in the Mysore country.
4.	Bole Ikere	3.13.3.94	3.12.6	3.14.	3.12.8	3.13.6	Ditto Ditto Ditto
5.	Bengaloree	3.11.5.71	3.10.6	3.12.	3.11.6	3.12.	Ditto Ditto Ditto
6.	Rajaramce	3. 8.9.43	3.12.	3.13.	3.11.6	3.12.8	Ditto Ditto Ditto
7.	Darwar	3.15.8.51	4.	3. 8.	3.12.	3.14.6	The reduced rate at which this Pagoda has been hitherto received by Government has kept it out of the Treasury. It is in great request in the Talooks of Darwar, Mesercootah, Hoobly and Nowigoond, and exchanges from 3-15-0 to 4 Rupees, so that if we do not raise its value now that we are reducing that of the rupees, the Soucars will still find a profit in buying it up. The Darwar Pagoda is in great demand among weavers in the talooks who receive it as a price of their cloth.

Exd.
A. Lutchmun Row,
Accott.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

TABLE NO. 26

STATEMENT OF THE PAST AND PRESENT RATES OF EXCHANGE AT DARWAR
AND OF THE PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN THE RATES AT WHICH RUPEES
ARE RECEIVED AND ISSUED AT THE TREASURY

No.	Names of Coins	Average Bazar Rates from 1st May 1920 to 30th July 1920	Present Bazar Rates at Darwar	Present Treasury Rates	Present Proposed Rates	Remarks
1.	Soolakee Company	Rs.A.P.C. .15. 24	Rs.A.P.C. .15.	Rs.A.P.C. .15.7	Rs.A.P.C. Document was torn	
2.	Bin Sicka of Bagreecottah	.14. 1.75	.13.9	.14.9	.14. 3	The Bagreecottah mint was not at work and its Rupees were scarce. The mint is now working again and the influx of its coin has made it cheap.
3.	Soolakee Sicka	.13.10.35	.13.6	.14.8	.14.	Same remark.
4.	Shapooree	.13.11.77	.13.9	.14.6	.14.	This coin is scarcely current beyond the Dooab—it is struck at Kittoor as well as Shapooree, and is most in demand when ships come to Goa for cloth purchased near Shapooree. Foreign coins come to sea by Goa and are sent up the Ghat to Shapooree when they are exchanged for the local coins. This trade has lately decreased considerably.
5.	Senboo					This is an inferior coin and should be discountenanced.
	Peerkhanee	.12. 8.95	.12.3	.13.	.12. 6	
6.	Nee Kunttee	. 9. 3.97	. 9.	. 9.6	. 9.	Ditto Ditto Ditto
7.	Narain Pet	.12. 1. 1	.12.6	.14.	.12. 6	This is also an inferior coin. It sometimes comes from Bellary for the troops.
8.	Meerjee					The present rate is too high with reference to the Bazar rate.
	Hookatree	.12.11. 7	.12.9	.13.6	.13.	
9.	Soolakee Chandoree	.13. 9.84	.13.6	.14.7	.14.	The great variety of this coin and the difficulty of distinguishing the different kinds of it give the Shroff great advantages.
10.	Bin Chandoree	.13. 9.94	.13.9	.14.9	.14. 6	
11.	Phootkee Chandoree	.13. 8.26	.13.6	.14.6	.13.12	
12.	Wai Sicka	.13. 6.82	.12.6	.14.3	.13. 6	Not generally current in the Dooab.
13.	Ballapooree	.13. 5. 4	.13.	.13.9	.13. 2	
14.	Goyind					This coin comes sometimes from Bellaree and may be occasionally in request when required for distant remittances, but it is not at home here, and should not be tempted by too high a rate to emigrate.
	Buckshee	.14. 4.42	.12.	.12.6	.12.	
5.	Madavary	.14.11.58	.14.	.15.6	.15.	
16.	Chickoree	.14. 4.42	.14.	.14.9	.14.	(See next page for General Remarks)

GENERAL REMARKS

It is chiefly owing to the variety of coins and the difficulty of ascertaining their relative value that the Shroffs are able to make such profits at the expense of the rest of the community. We should therefore avoid fixing too high a rate on foreign coins which are not brought into the District by the natural course of trade.

Few of the many coins now current in the Doab have any business here. Shroffs and Soucars deal in coins as merchants do in goods; buy them where they are cheap and sell them where they are dear, so that we should take care not to give more for any foreign coin than it is worth at home.

Exd.

A. Lutchmun Row,
Accott.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

who used to carry their bullion to Shapoor and Kittoor. The managers of the late Shahpoor mint are far more respectable than those of any other mints in the Doab. They merely coin the silver that is brought to the mint without having any other concern in it, so that the satisfaction they give to the owners of the silver is the best test of the integrity of the coin. This security and rules which have been laid down will, I hope, under a vigilant superintendence prevent any abuses in the new mint at Belgam.

3. In my letter of the 7th October last, I endeavoured to point out the evils to be apprehended from any sudden innovations with respect to the mints. Further experience has convinced me that it would be inexpedient to stop the coinage of either Bagulkotah or Shahpoor Rupees until a superior currency is ready to supply their places in the markets of the Doab. Much pains have been taken to prevent the depreciation of these coins, and the very favourable rate at which they exchange in remote and foreign Bazars is the best proof of their intrinsic value. In the Bazar of Shahpoor, the local currency is far less acceptable than the Rupees of Shahpoor and Bagulkotah. If, therefore, we also abolish these coins before they are superseded by the natural operation of a superior currency, we shall only make a blank in the circulation which will be filled up by an inferior substitute.

4. I would, therefore, submit the expediency of continuing the coinage of the Shahpoor and Sicca Rupees at Belgam and Bagulkotah.

5. With respect to the expediency of re-establishing a mint at Darwar, altho' Darwar is not itself a place of much trade, its situation is central, it is near the large trading town of New Hoobly, and it is the seat of an ancient mint. The coin originally struck here was the Darwar Pagoda, and as the revenue of the adjacent Talooks as formerly

collected exclusively in this coin, its value was perhaps overrated. In Tippoo's time, the Bahaduree Pagoda was struck at Darwar, and the general currency of this coin here and in Mysore would make it far preferable to Darwar Padoga if it were thought advisable to re-establish a gold coinage.

6. There are indeed several considerations which would make it desirable to coin Bahaduree Pagodas at Darwar. It is the money of account in many parts of the district, it is more acceptable than any other coin in some of the countries that trade with the Dooab, and its parent mint in Mysore is said to be losing its character for integrity. Much of the gold that supplied the mint of Mysore is carried from Goa thro' the Dooab, and if there were a mint to keep it here, a new channel of commerce would be opened between the district and the coast. The situation of Darwar would also be more favourable for a gold than a silver currency, as the former is much more portable.

7. For these and other reasons I think a mint for Bahaduree Pagodas might be set up at Darwar and tried for one year. It could at any time be stopped, it would be attended with little expense and no inconvenience that I am aware of, and until the experiment be tried, it is difficult to judge whether it would be better to adopt the old gold coin of the place, or a new silver one.

8. The integrity of the coin will be best supported by the kind of security noticed in the 2nd para of this letter, and if the coiners are prevented from working on their own account, it will be easy to check abuses in the mint.

9. I have much satisfaction in reporting that the measures suggested in my letter of the 7th October, altho' intended to operate gradually, have already produced good effects. Fewer complaints are made by the troops, and better coins come to the Treasury.

10. I have now one more measure to propose. . . . As most of the evil of the currency arises from the variety of the coins, it is extremely desirable that we should exclude from the Treasury which is the great fountain of circulation, all coins the place of which could be supplied by a better currency without loss to the ryuts or inconvenience to commerce. The Chandoree and Hyderabad Rupees, many of which flow into the district with its return trade, would be foreign coin here if they were not naturalised in the Treasury. They would hardly pass for more than bullion, and in this shape we should let them find their way to the mint and not receive them as revenue. The same rule should be ob-

served with respect to all the other inferior coins which must return to the source if rejected from the great channel of circulation. Nor will the ryuts suffer from the restriction, if timely notice of it be published. The Shroffs may at first monopolize the better coins, but they live by circulating not by hoarding money, and the indiscriminate receipt of all coins at the Treasury probably enables them to speculate more prejudicially than they could do if only the superior currency was admitted as revenue. Under the present system, constant vigilance is necessary to prevent them from getting possession of all the best coins and changing them for the worst on its way to the Treasury.

11. To check this evil I would propose that a Proclamation should be immediately published excluding all coin from the revenues of the ensuing Fusly except the Madras Pagodas and Rupee, the Bahaduree or Ikeree and Darwar Pagoda, the Soortee or Bombay Rupee, the Sicca or Bagulkotah, and the Belgam (Cidevant Shapoor) Rupees.

12. Objections I know may be made to this measure, but all that have struck me are counterbalanced by its advantages.

Darwar, 14th May, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 92. Transmitting for inspection first coin struck at the mint in Belgam. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose for your inspection one of the first coins struck at the mint which was lately transferred from Sholapoor to Belgam. The impression of the new coin differs from that of the old only in bearing the date of the present currency, and the same weight and proportion of alloy are still observed. . . .

Darwar, 22nd May, 1821.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

SECTION IV

(1) **Communications**

(2) **Transport**

(3) **Repairs**

COMMUNICATIONS

No. 93. *Replying to a letter on the subject of constructing a new road. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)*

Sir,

Colonel Pritzler informs me that he has already sent to you a copy of Major Smithwaite's report on the opening to the Ram Ghat. It appears that about half of the road down the Ghat is finished, but that the remainder will not be completed before November next. With the exception of this road and a few repairs under the head of Meramut which will be separately noticed, the only public works in progress here are the buildings at Darwar and the road and avenue extending from Yeddoor on the Kistna to Hurryhar on the Toombuddra.

I have already reported on the public buildings, and should sooner have submitted the accompanying statement regarding the road had it not been necessary in the first instance to measure the extent of them and to estimate the value of lands required to improve them. The statement shows both the lands Sirkar and Jaghire which it will be necessary to appropriate for the purpose of a good thoroughfare. The estimated value of the former is Rs.432.9.9, and of the latter Rs.528.14.3, but as a great part of this land is waste, the value of cultivated land required is only Rupees 308.5.3 in the Sirkar, and Rupees 474.15.3 in the foreign villages.

In the estimate the whole quantity of land required for the new road is inserted, but as the old route has been followed in marking out the new one, the difference between the breadth of the two is the only addition that should appear. The difference cannot, however, be calculated as deductions on account of roads seldom appearing in village accounts. When the road passes over a tract of waste, its course is of no consequence, and where it traverses cultivated land, the ryot generally ploughs it up and sows it with the rest of the field in the hope of getting remission of rent equal at least to the amount of *Paemalee*. Where the public way is undefined, travellers and cattle choose their own path and often go astray when the crops are ripening, so that the extent of trodden ground is often greater than the space required for the broadest thoroughfare. The great advantage of marking out the road will be to confine the breadth track to one space, the breadth of which will enable everybody and everything to pass without encroaching on the cultivated land—this space will be best marked by an avenue,

and the abundance of rain that falls in the whole longitude of the route will, I trust, secure the growth of trees without the expense of watering. The labour of planting and levelling the road being performed by the Dhers of each village, it does not interfere with cultivation, and as each village will benefit by the avenue. It is not unreasonable that its spare hands should be employed for a few months on an undertaking, the advantages of which may continue as long as the village itself. The road indeed requires very little labor. A great part of it runs over cotton ground which it will only be necessary to save from being cut up by the plough, and where the soil is red it only requires levelling. Some drains and bridges would greatly facilitate travelling during the monsoon. These can be made gradually as the resources of the country improve, and I propose next Fusly to submit estimates of such as appear most desirable.

I enclose a copy of my instructions* to Amildar respecting the new road, and have sent copies to the Rajah of Kolapoor and to the Jagheer-dars whose lands are traversed by the route. They promise that their road shall vie with those of the Government, and reports of progress made by their vukeels are favourable.

I trust you will approve of my having commenced on the road and avenue without awaiting your sanction....

I should have remarked that the value of Enam land over which the new road will pass is estimated at Rupees 458.2.9, of which Rupees 414.4.0 worth is cultivated. Most of this land from lying so near the road is very unproductive, and it is proposed that equal quantities of good waste in other directions should be given to the Enamdars.

Dharwar, 20th June, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

P. S. The accompanying statement has already in its importance been referred to in the forwarding letter; the only mention that may be made is of the territories through which the road was to pass. They are the following:

The Honourable Company's territory, i.e., between the Kistna and Wurda and between the Wurda and Toombudra; Kolapoor country; Kittoor Jagheer; Nipanec's Jagheer; Putwurdhun's Jagheer and the territory of the Nawab of Savanoor. The number of villages through which it will touch or pass is 71; the total measurement of cultivated land touched will be 382.23½ (no measurement standard given).

*No copy was found accompanying the letter.

No. 94. Letter respecting the construction of road. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

In replying to your letter of the 25th ultimo., I have the honor to inform you that the immediate opening of the Gunashagoody Ghaut appears to be of great importance in order to facilitate the conveyance of the cotton investment to the coast. As, however, it seems that this work is not a very laborious one, and it is desirable that the Ram Ghaut should not be relinquished, they beg to suggest the expediency of detaching 100 or 150 of the pioneers to Gunashagoody and leaving the rest to complete the work on which they are employed.

Dharwar, 4th August, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Mangalore, September 13th, 1820,
Collector's Cutcherry.

To the Acting Collector and Political Agent,
Dharwar.

Sir,

1st. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Commissioner in the Deckan relating to the opening of the Guneshgoody or Barrabyle Ghat, for which purpose a party of pioneers and prisoners are to proceed to the Ghat, and calling upon me to afford them assistance.

2nd. I have accordingly given such instructions to the Peshkar of Soopah and to the Tassildar of Ankolah as the limited information your letter contains, and would warrant.

3rd. In order that the troops and prisoners may not suffer from a want of prior arrangement, I have the honor to state that time must be given me to establish a bazar that the number of prisoners and followers of prisoners and guards should be separately distinguished, that funds must be advanced, or that I must be authorised to make the necessary advances. The country around the Ghat in question for many miles is utterly destitute of all capability to afford supplies. These must be drawn from Yellapoor lying probably from 10 to 20 miles from the scene of the works. Workmen cannot be procured but with the utmost difficulty and from a great distance.

4th. In representing the foregoing it is very far from my intention to impinge on your authority. . . It is a route almost unrequented and consequently uninhabited but by noxious jungle.

5th. If the detachment has been provided with necessaries to meet the state of the country it will be most fortunate, if not, I beg to submit to your consideration the absolute necessity to halt them until the arrangement contemplated in the 3rd para . . . can be furnished.

(Sd.) J. Harris,
Collector.

Dharwar, 22nd September, 1820.

To the Collector and Magistrate,
Mangalore.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the working party employed in opening the Guneshgoody Ghat consists of a company of pioneers under Lieutenant Dormer and fifty prisoners. The report of the Commercial Resident who lately passed over this Ghat on his way to Saasevaghur induced me to hope that this party will be able to remove the principal obstacles that impede the progress of cattle. As the working party is small, and the distance of the Ghat from Yellopoor not considerable, I trust there will be little difficulty in procuring supplies if you will allow your Amildars to afford assistance.

An advance of cash has been sent with the prisoners, and the pioneers are of course provided with the means of paying for what they require; but as the country is unfrequented and the working party are strangers to it, they may meet with difficulties, which the co-operation of your servants would greatly assist in overcoming.

With reference to the 4th para of your letter, I have the honor to enclose copy* of the instructions which I have received from the Commissioner respecting the opening of the Ghat, and it is a work of public utility. I conclude that no other authority is requisite.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

* No attached copy of instructions was found with the correspondence.

No. 95. Letter respecting Guneshgoody Ghat from Commercial Resident. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from the Commercial Resident, and of my reply respecting Guneshgoody Ghat.

Darwar, 1st October, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

To the Acting Principal Collector and Political Agent of Dharwar.

Sir,

Having just returned from Woodanmekey where I left the pioneers, I have the pleasure to inform you that they have made the road to that place from Yellapoor exceedingly good. They have now got over one third of the distance from Yellapoor to Barbial, the foot of the Ghat on the western side, and I hope in another fortnight the road will be found practicable. I regret to say the prisoners are very sickly and several have died. In consequence of the difficulty I experienced in several parts of the road from hence to Yellapoor, the Bamboo shoots having crossed it, for since the commencement of the monsoon it has been little frequented. I beg leave to suggest the propriety of withdrawing the prisoners. Mr. Doran having declared them to be of no use to him, and as the expense of keeping watch and providing shelter for them must be considerably increased. . . . I take the liberty that . . . twelve good laborers well equipped be sent from Hoobly to remove the obstacle I have described. If you consent to this, I shall despatch with them some of my own people and five bullocks laden with cotton to Shasheghur, and hope soon to report success has attended the adventure.

Hoobly, 29th September, 1820.

(Sd.) H. Oakes,
Commercial Resdt.

Darwar, 1st October, 1820.

To H. Oakes, Esquire,
Commercial Resident.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo.

In consequence of what you mention, I have ordered the prisoners to be withdrawn from the neighbourhood of the Barbial Ghat, and to be employed in repairing that part of the road which lies within the Meserercottah Talook. The only class of laborers who are likely to be useful in opening the Ghat are the wood-cutting Wodurs, whose habits fit them admirably for this kind of work. They are perhaps the most able-bodied race in the country, and living much amongst the jungles, they are less subject to fever than any other laborers. You will not, I believe, find any difficulty in hiring a sufficient number of Wodurs, and as the Ghat can hardly be opened in time without their assistance, even if the number of pioneers be increased, I conclude that the Government

will allow you to charge their hire in the accounts of the Commercial Department. The Wodurs are accustomed to work by the job and would not probably consent to labor on any other terms.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 96. Copies of letters from Colonel Mooler respecting the road from Belgam to Ram Ghaut. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit copies of letters containing the information called for in your letter of the 27th instant respecting the road from Ram Ghaut to Belgam. . . .

Principal Collt.'s Office,
31st March, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.
Head Quarters Field Division.
Belgam, 16th September, 1822.

To Lt. S. Thackeray,
Principal Collector & Political Agent.

Sir,

My opinion formed on Captain Cadogan's report of the present state of the road between this and the Ghaut is that unless the whole of the way be made for wheel carriages from the Ghaut, that most of the advantages that were in contemplation . . . must be relinquished, all certainly of a military nature, . . . for while any part of the road remains impassable for wheel carriages on which only heavy stores can be brought up from the coast where they are laded, the rest of the road in fact is of little or no value. . . . I would recommend that the road should be . . . completed.

The construction of a road across the swamps will be attended, it appears, with such great expense that I have directed Captain Cadogan to inspect the line of road via Marrahall to Darwar, which I think could be made at much less expense, and does not exceed the distance to Darwar by the present road over the swamps, though certainly that road, if made, could be reduced some miles in the total distance I conceive.

I shall be glad to be favoured with your sentiments before I make any report to the Headquarters on this subject.

(Sd.) G. Molle,
Colonel Commanding F. F. D.

To the Assistant Quarter Master General,
Dooab Field Force,
Belgam.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 23rd ultimo, requiring me to examine into and report upon the following points, viz.,

1st. "Whether the road from the top of the Ram Ghaut to Belgam can in its present state be used for military purposes; and also the probable expense which would be incurred by the alterations proposed.

2ndly. "The expense likely to be incurred in making a road over the swamp east of Belgaum, and whether that work, or the completion of the road from the Ghaut to Belgaum, is more important." I have the honor to submit... following observations as the result of my examination:

Since completing the necessary repairs to the Ram Ghaut, the coolies under my orders have made about two miles of new road over the range of the tableland running along the summit; and as two miles and a half more will bring me to the foot of the little Ghaut, I hope in the course of fifteen or sixteen days to report this part of the work as finished. So far, the old road is bad, and much too narrow, and considerable labour will be required in removing jungle wood and rock.

From the bottom of the little Ghaut to the *nullah* at Patna is about 4 miles. The state of the country is well calculated for a military road, and very little labour will be necessary to make it a very good one.

From Patna to Toorkwarry is about 11 miles; the soil over the high ground is in general good, but as you approach the *nullahs*, it gets black and muddy and will require a good deal of making.

From Toorkwarree to Belgaum is about 14 miles; nine of which are very good, and the remaining five are bad as it can well be; at present unpassable even for bullocks, and at the best season of the year guns could not be taken without the assistance of pioneers.

As the materials for improving this road are contiguous, I am of the opinion that although the distance be thirty-three and a half miles, it may be finished in six months with my present means, costing the Government about twenty-seven thousand Rupees.

The road from Vingoarla to the top of the Ram Ghaut having been completed, and supposing the transportation of military stores into the

Dooab to have been the primary object contemplated in a work of such extent, the necessity of continuing that road to Belgaum becomes obvious to a military eye, and needs no comment.

I have examined the swamp and its neighbourhood with considerable attention, and the impression on my mind is that stone is not procurable within a mile and a half of the west side; supposing, therefore, the road across to be raised two feet, constructed with alternate layers of stone and gravel, and the whole confined by large curb stones, the cost will be less than a lac of rupees. Again, if the first layer be formed of the soil from the swamp, the second of gravel, and both confined by curb stones, the cost will be about forty thousand rupees. It may be proper here to observe that the last mentioned description of road is by no means durable; it is at all times liable to be much cut up by the sharp-wheeled country carts, and will require frequent repair.

When last at Belgaum, it was my intention to have ascertained by personal observation whether or not the road could be carried skirting the swamp by Marrahall with advantage in place of crossing it, but the state of the weather was so extremely bad that I was prevented from doing so. Soon as it clears up a little, I will, with Colonel Molle's permission, proceed on this duty, and transmit a sketch of the swamp and proposed road as far as Sangolee with route of reference for further consideration.

Ram Ghaut. 12th September, 1822.

(Sd.) E. Cadogen.

No. 97. Replying in respect of the repair of a new road from Belgam to Vengurla by the Ram Ghaut. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Public Department.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, I have the honor to inform you that a new road from Belgam to Vingorla by the Ram Ghaut was completed in April last, and that the injury done to the road over the Ghaut by the last monsoon has been since repaired by the pioneers.

2. This part of the road will require repairs after every monsoon, and if neglected for two years, it would probably be impossible.

3. The rest of the road is, in general, good, but in some places overgrown with grass and branches of trees which should be removed after every monsoon. These and some other obstacles are described in

a report derived from the information of a person who was lately deputed to examine the road.

4. Having been repaired by pioneers and being chiefly used in conveying arrack and military stores from the coast to Belgam, I have hitherto considered it as a military road, and as such it belongs to the Department of the Quarter Master General.

5. Since 3rd November last, the pioneers have been employed in constructing a road through the swamp on the east side of Belgam.

Nowlgoond, 26th February, 1824. (Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

TRANSPORT

No. 98. Letter respecting the mode of providing carriage and supplies for troops and travellers from one station to another. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to reply to your letter of the 30th April and its enclosure respecting the mode of providing carriage and supplies for troops and travellers during their marches from one station to another.

After much enquiry and frequent conversation with the best informed natives on the subject, I am induced to submit the accompanying rules which seem calculated to facilitate the provision of supplies, and at the same to secure the inhabitants of the country against the oppression to which they have hitherto been subjected by the practice of pressing coolies and putting supplies in requisition.

During my late jumwabundy tour, I conversed freely with the inhabitants of each Talook respecting their condition. Some complain that the assessment was too heavy, others that the crops had failed, and many that the epidemic was destructive, but the great grievance of all was the system of impress and requisition that is permitted by our Government. Nor was it only in the villages near the high road that the inhabitants protested against this grievance. These villages are not sufficient to supply the demand for coolies and provisions, and in remote situations I found the same complaint.

It may be supposed that as travellers and troops very seldom pass thro' the Dooab, the evils caused by the begaree system are only occasional, and temporary, and where such a system is tolerated, its operation can be confined to particular occasions, but it is evident from the

complaints that have been made to me, when neither troops nor European travellers have been passing, that the power of pressing the coolies, supplies, etc., if allowed at all can never be effectually controlled.

The Cutwall who is authorised to press coolies for a Detachment will press them also for himself and his friends, and the inhabitants, supposing their labour is required for the public service, seldom complain of hardships.

When a requisition is made for coolies and carriage, the Amildar sends out a foraging party of peons, and their mode of pressing is somewhat similar to that observed by press gangs at home, except that the laws of England oblige press gangs to seize only sea-faring, new, and unsuspected persons, while the begaree system leaves the inhabitants as well as their property to the consciences of the peons and sepoy of the Government. At home the independent spirit of the people usually prevents a press gang from exceeding its powers, but in this country the natives seldom withhold either their labour or their property when either is demanded in the name of the Government.

There seems no good reason why the troops and travellers should not provide their own carriage in this country as they do almost in every other part of the world, and as the subdued spirit of the inhabitants induces them to submit to every requisition, it is highly desirable that the power of impress should be exercised only on emergent occasions. The great difficulty is to permit this power in any degree, and at the same time to prevent the abuse of it. It might be prevented altogether by a Proclamation which should prohibit the officers of Government from pressing coolies or carriage on any occasion, and encourage the inhabitants to resist such impress. But inconvenience would result from an abrupt measure of this kind, and until an improved state of things shall have facilitated the provision of carriage and supplies in the Doab, we can hardly expect to eradicate the evil in question. We may, however, I trust, greatly lessen it by adopting the rules which I now submit. The main object of these is to fix the rates of carriage and coolie hire, and to oblige every person to advance the amount to the village officer who is expected to provide the carriage. This measure, under proper superintendence, will effectually remove one great evil of the Begaree system, that the coolie seldom or never receives his hire. It will encourage the lower classes to become coolies voluntarily, and it will induce the travellers to find their own carriage which they will seldom do as long as coolies are procurable for little or nothing. In order

to try the effect of this measure previously to recommending its adoption, I lately ordered the Cotwall at Darwar, which is the greatest thoroughfare in the Dooab, to procure no coolies for any person without first receiving the amount for their hire. This order has already been attended with success, and the demand for coolies is greatly decreasing here.

During my late circuit, want of carriage frequently made it necessary to transport all the baggage of the Cutcherry on coolies, so that I had many opportunities of witnessing the oppression occasioned by this mode of carriage. As very few coolies are to be found here, and the class of Dhers and other Pariahs is quite insufficient to supply the demand, the Amildar's peons often press into service men who have never carried loads in their lives until the officers of our Government impressed them. When two or three hundred coolies are required, and only a day's notice is given for procuring them, the peons often seize upon inhabitants (with the exception of Brahmins and soucars), indiscriminately drive them in a herd to the place of rendezvous and pen them like cattle until the arrival of the baggage. The sufferers on these occasions seldom think of being paid, and consider themselves in luck if relieved from their loads at the next stage; indeed, the fear of being pressed still further induces them to throw down their loads and run away before they have completed the first stage.

In order to emancipate the inhabitants from this slavery as far as the movement of the Cutcherry is concerned in producing it, I propose before the next circuit to purchase a number of bandies sufficient for the carriage of office baggage. The cost of these will in the first instance be considerable, but it will soon be made good by the saving of the coolie hire, for altho' very little of this hire reaches the coolies themselves, it is all charged in the accounts and comes to a large amount every year.

With respect to the best mode of procuring supplies for troops and travellers, I thought at one time of proposing that two public stalls should be stationed at every stage on the high road with supplies of sheep, fowls, fuel and forage. On further consideration, however, it appears that this plan would be attended with great expense, and that it would only answer on thoroughfares that are frequented during the whole year. In the Dooab, marching and travelling are generally confined to the dry weather, and even then are not frequent, and it would never be worth while to keep up a supply of provisions during the whole year in order to satisfy the occasional wants of a few passengers.

The scarcity of sheep and fowls and also of fuel in the black land villages renders it impossible to procure these articles for Detachments, unless timely notice be given of their approach. All the egg eaters in one Talook seldom consume as many eggs in a day as a Detachment does at a single meal. Most of the respectable inhabitants being Ling Balzeewars, who eat neither flesh nor fowl cannot be expected to furnish these articles which must generally be procured from a great distance, and cannot be supplied without due notice. As these difficulties are local and we cannot overcome them altogether, we may considerably diminish them by deputing officers of supply to accompany Detachments on their march, to furnish provisions and see them paid for. This measure I can recommend with confidence as I have experienced the good effects of it, but it can only be adopted when timely intimation of the approach of troops is sent to the Collector.

In conclusion, I beg leave to repeat that the only effectual mode of facilitating the provision of carriage and supplies, and of ensuring payment for them, is to fix the rate of hire and of prices by Proclamation, to insist on the amount being paid in advance, to prohibit the revenue servants from pressing either coolies or carriage without a special order, and to send with every Detachment an officer of supply to assist in procuring provisions, and see them paid for according to a fixed rate.

Dharwar, 24th July, 1820.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Copy of the Proclamation

The practice of pressing as coolies persons of all descriptions is found to be so harassing to the natives of the country, so inconsistent with justice and good Government, and so ineffectual even in supplying the wants of individuals, that it is deemed necessary to publish the following Rules which will henceforth be strictly enforced throughout the Southern Mahratta Country:

1. Any person pressing either coolie or carriage shall be subject to apprehension and trial before the Magistrate, and the inhabitants of the country at large are hereby authorized to resist such impress and to bring the offender, whoever he may be, before the Magistrate.

2. Every traveller is expected to provide his own carriage, and the public servants of the district are prohibited from putting either coolies, bandies, or bullocks in requisition except under the following Rules:

3. In case when travellers may be obliged to depend on the village for carriage, they shall procure it only according to the following rates:

4. Rates of Hire	
For each Coolie per coss	2 pice
For each bullock per coss	4 "
For each bandy per coss	12 "
48 of such pice being equal to a Madras Rupee.	

5. One day's previous notice must be given to the Cutwall, Patel, Curnum, Naik or the Headman of each village, the number of coolies or cattle required must be stated, and the amount of hire must be advanced to such Headman who shall be answerable for furnishing such coolies or cattle if they are procurable.

6. The village officer is on no account to press the ryuts or coolies but is to procure them without violence from the lower classes of Bedurs, Dhers, Dhungurs and other similar castes accustomed to carry burthens. Should there be not sufficient number of such persons, the deficiency shall be supplied from the neighbouring villages.

7. One set of coolies shall not be taken farther than one stage.

8. On the arrival of the military Force or of travellers, the headman of the village shall send notice to the next stage so that carriage and provisions may be in readiness there.

9. The headman of each village will shew a copy of these Rules to every traveller, and it shall be the duty of the Magistrate to enforce their observance and to punish the breach of them with fine and imprisonment.

10. Lists of stages where carriage is procurable with less difficulty than at other places have been sent to the principal stations in the district, and a table of the prices of provisions has been sent to the village at each stage.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 99. Replying to a letter respecting the Proclamation against pressing coolies. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

In conformity to the directions conveyed in your letter of the twenty-third ultimo, I have the honor to report that the Proclamation against

pressing coolies has been frequently promulgated in the parts of the country that are, or have been, under my authority; and that most strict directions have been repeatedly issued to the District Officers to enforce obedience to the orders of Government, but that notwithstanding every precaution, the evil still exists altho' by no means to such an extent as formerly.

All the public servants under my authority have been informed that if they should either press coolies for their own services, or countenance the abuse when committed by others, they will be instantly dismissed. The Patels and ryuts are at the time of the Coolwar informed of the orders of Government on this subject, an order of which the enclosed is a copy has been given into the hands of each Patel or Coolkurnee. These are the measures I have been taking to crush as far as possible this evil.

With reference to the last paragraph of the circular from Government, I think that it would be expedient frequently and strongly to explain to the sepoys the orders on this subject, and to let them understand that an infringement of this Regulation will be visited by severe punishment, for when small parties of sepoys either on duty or otherwise traverse the country without the presence of an officer, they seldom carry their own knapsack and muskets.

Beejapore. 1st May, 1825.

(Sd.) J. A. R. Stevenson.

No. 100. Replying to a letter respecting Government orders against pressing coolies. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 23rd April, enclosing a circular letter from Government dated 16th of that month, requesting to be informed how far the orders of Government against pressing coolies have been carried into effect, and if they have not, what means will best contribute to that end.

2. The frequent complaints performed to my predecessor on this head are too fresh to require enumeration, and I should only be misleading Government were I to say anything to lead them to suppose that the practice does not continue, or that I possess means to put an entire stop to it, not possessed by the late Mr. Thackeray.

3. That there are indeed cases where its continuance is unavoidable must be obvious to Government from my letter under date 14th

March, or they never would have sanctioned such a deviation from this repeated order against public officers giving their official aid in procuring coolies, etc., for the purpose of facilitating the march of troops and the progress of individual travellers, as is contained in the concluding para of their letter dated 29th April.

4. It follows, therefore, that great as the evil is, it is a necessary one in some respects, and in this view of the subject, as well as in compliance with the latter para of the Government circular order now acknowledged, it remains for the executive branch of the service to devise means by which the inconvenience to individuals may be diminished, if not averted altogether; I beg accordingly to submit the accompanying draft of a Regulation* that appears to me calculated to put an entire stop to the practice of pressing and coercing the people, and at the same time of providing carriage and supplies to marching regiments, detachments and individual travellers, to the extent of the resources of the country through which they may go, to favourable consideration of Government.

Dharwar, 7th June, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

*No draft of Regulation was found with the letter.

No. 101. Correspondence respecting the abominable practice of travellers seizing the inhabitants and compelling them to serve as coolies. (To William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

To Lieut. Col. Commdt. T. Pollock, C.B.,

Dooab Field Force;

Camp, Belgam.

Sir,

I regret to be under the necessity of bringing to your notice the complaints contained in the accompanying urzees from the Mamlutdars of the Rhone Talooq and their accompaniments, but it is, I am confident, only by means of your co-operation that I can hope to put a stop to this abominable practice which still continues in spite of the repeated orders of Government, and of the exertion of the executive local authorities, of travellers seizing the inhabitants and compelling them to serve as coolies, besides other acts of oppression our native subjects in remote villages in the vicinity of high roads are exposed to. It is not my province to suggest how such conduct should be noticed, but I may be permitted to observe that any mode by which a repetition could be prevented without a formal enquiry would be preferable to calling the suf-

ferers to Belgam, a distance of upwards of 100 miles from their villages....

Savanoor, 17th May, 1826.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

Venkut Row the Mamlutdar of Rhone in his urzee dated 8th May, 1826, stated that one Capt. Cunningham who came from Kulladghee did not pay the Rahdarees and bagarees "the usual hire." Besides there were about 2 or 3 Dhers in the village whose services were constantly demanded "but scarcely received anything for their maintenance." The Lusheer people besides complained of the non-payment for the supplies of pots and chattees, the tent-pegs were also not paid for. Besides this, the travellers send "to the village for 5 or 6 Begarees and when provided compel them to carry baggage without payment."

In a second letter from Venkut Row of Rhone, he writes of an urzee from one Ramiah Ghaul Rukhwalee, a Duffadar, stationed at Moosheegeny, who reported "that an officer named Lieutenant H. A. Briggs arrived there on the 10th instant, en route from Bellary to Kulladghee, and that he had been placed in confinement and threatened to be shot by that officer for refusing to procure Rahdaree and coolies, 6 of whom were afterwards pressed by Lieut. Briggs." Besides this, the officer according to a letter from the Zilladar of Belloor, says Vunkut Row "had brought six coolies from Mooshegerry to Jallihall, when they came and complained that the servants of the officer had dismissed them without paying them their cooly," the officer had agreed to pay them "if they should come with him to Tollégode." "Much distress," says Vunkut Row, "is experienced from the pressing of begarees in some villages."

Head Quarters Field Force Doob,
Camp, Belgam, May 23rd, 1826.

To T. H. Baber, Esq.,
Political Agent, etc.,
Camp, Savanoor.

Sir,

I am duly honored with your communication . . . and in reply thereto have to express my extreme regret that the exertions that have been made by myself in giving publicity to the orders of Government . . . should not have produced the effect I might have anticipated. The orders on this particular subject have been so repeatedly explained to the troops under my command that I conceive no other course can be pursued than by bringing offenders to punishment as an example to deter others, and

to check an evil, the existence of which is not less disgraceful to the conduct of the troops, than it is injurious to the inhabitants. I beg, therefore, to suggest that when an opportunity may admit of this arrangement, that I may be furnished with particulars in regard to period and place and names of the offenders, as will enable me to bring the delinquents to public trial.

I beg to acquaint you that I have called on Lieutenants Cunningham and Briggs for an explanation of that part of your letter in reference to those officers; and I have also directed a communication to be made to all commanding officers of stations, corps, and detachments, giving the substance of your letter as a guidance for such orders and arrangements as may be found practicable to check the future repetition of complaints which are so disgraceful to the conduct of British soldiers.

(Sd.) T. Pollock,

Lieutt. Col. Comdt. F. F. Doob.

REPAIRS

No. 102. Replying to a letter respecting the repair of wells and tanks. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Revenue Department.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo.

2. Owing to the small extent of artificial irrigation in this district, no general rules seem to have been observed with respect to the repair of wells and tanks. When the lands watered by them belong chiefly to Government, repairs are usually considered as public charge, being necessary either to keep up the ordinary cultivation, or to increase the extent of it. When, however, the lands of the Enamdars benefit by the repairs, they are expected to contribute in proportion to the advantages they derive from improvement.

3. Trifling repair of mud work only requiring a few days' labour from the ryuts should be borne by the village, care being taken by the Amildar to prevent neglect and to afford assistance when necessary.

4. All repairs of a more expensive nature must be borne by the Government in poor villages, in rich ones the terms of cowl held out to those who build wells and tanks promised every encouragement. In particular situations even greater liberality may be expedient. Some inhabitants of Gudduk have lately offered to repair and extend a tank in

the village. The expense is estimated at 8,000 Rupees, and they ask a Duswund Enam of one-fourth of the land to be irrigated. Such undertakings should be encouraged, and I propose to accept their terms. In a few villages of the district, lands were formerly assigned to Wodurs and others for the purpose, but after a few years they are usually misappropriated and the office becomes a sinecure.

5. As my replies to your general queries on revenue subjects contained some information regarding repairs of wells and tanks, I subjoin the following to facilitate reference:

Question—What new tanks or water courses have been made?

Answer—No new tanks have been dug, but many old ones have been repaired, and many more require repairs. There are few situations adapted for tanks where they have not once existed, but the country is not favourable to the eastwards, and the monsoon rains to the west, diminish the value of water. Tanks and wells are very much required in Nowlgoond and some other Talooks, the inhabitants of which bring their water from great distances, but the cotton soil which prevails there scarcely admits of tanks.

Q.—What regulations exist about tanks or water courses, that is, the account of any tank or channel stating the rules about repairs, cleaning out channels, distributing the flow of water, and from what funds and under whose superintendence all this is done?

A.—There are no fixed rules respecting repairs of tanks and water courses. Many have been repaired since the conquest, the expense is borne in the first instance by Government, and some part of it afterwards recovered from Enamdars, in proportion to the benefit they derive from the repair. When the village at large benefits by the repair, a general tufrick or subscription takes place, and Enams have in some instances been given by Government to public-spirited individuals who have repaired tanks at their own cost.

The subscribers who formerly repaired the tanks at Kangenelly received from the Sirsoobah some Enam land, the Ruqum of which is Rupees 46¾, and Gopal Bhat who repaired the tank of Konutty was rewarded with an Enam.

In some of the Mulnad or Western Talooks, the land irrigated by new and repaired tanks, has been given on cowl to the builders and improvers. The period of such cowl depended on the expense, from 7 to 21 years.

Cows extending from 9 to 12 years were given for wells by means of which dry land was converted into gardens. The same indulgence was not allowed to those who dug wells in gardens, but they were favoured with liberal remissions in case of failure or misfortune.

The founder of a well after relinquishing his garden for a time, could afterwards recover it, and his rights as a Mirasdar seem to have been recognised by the Sirkar, for after absconding, he was allowed to re-occupy his gardens on making good the expense bestowed on it during his absence.

The following terms of the cowl seem calculated to promote well-digging:

Expense of the well If from	Period for which only the Khooshkee Teerwa of the land under the well should be taken
125 to 250 Rupees	Six years
250 to 350 "	Seven years
350 to 500 "	Nine years
500 to 750 "	Eleven years

When the expense is between 750 and 1,500 Rupees, one fourth of the land under the well should be free Enam, and one third should be allowed when more than 1,500 Rupees is laid out.

Great tanks can only be undertaken in the first instance by the Sirkar, by patriotic individuals, or by communities more wealthy than the villages in the Dooab. Small tanks might be encouraged thus:

Expense of tanks If from	Period for which the lands under them should be taxed as Khooshkee
40 to 80 Rupees	Seven years
80 to 140 "	Nine years
140 to 200 "	Eleven years

Where there are large tanks, an officer called Nmkuttee distributes the water, and receives fees in grain from the produce. Where the tanks are small, the ryuts help themselves, according to Mamool under the control of Patel.

Q.—Are tank repairs assessed upon Meeras or Enam lands which as well as Government-benefit by the repairs? If so in what proportion is the amount regulated?

A.—All who benefit by repairs of tanks contribute proportionately towards the expense.

Q.—Are the Enams of the Barra Bullootee exempted or not?

A.—They are, unless the repair be made by general tufrick when all are expected to contribute either labour or funds.

Q.—Is it usual when the damages are trifling for the ryut themselves to repair them either by their own labour, or by an assessment of grain for the purpose? Is this a part of the condition of tenure on which they hold their land?

A.—Trifling repairs of mud work are made by ryuts under the direction of the Patel and Amildar. When the repairs amount to more than 100 Rupees, a remission is usually made, thus if the repair costs 200 Rupees and the Koolwar Jumma be 1,000, only 800 are paid into the Treasury and the remainder goes to the repairs, through the Patel and the Koolkurnee under the direction of District officers.

Darwar, 8th April, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

SECTION V

(1) **Cotton**

(2) **Silk**

(3) **Indigo**

COTTON

No. 103. Letter submitting proposal of supply of cotton to Government. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Commercial Department.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a letter from Subaputty Modely who proposes to supply the Government with 2,000 Candies of cotton.

As cotton is very cheap here at present owing to the large quantity of it on hand, I think the ryuts would benefit by the proposed speculations, but before I make further enquiry on the subject I request you will inform me if the Government is at present in want of cotton.

Dharwar, 16th February, 1822.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 104. Replying to a letter respecting supply of cotton. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Revenue Department.)

Sir,

With reference to Government advertisement of the 3rd ultimo, inviting tenders for supply of cotton, I beg to submit it for consideration, whether the terms which appear to have been framed with reference to districts situated near the coast might not be extended in favour of inland situation.

The unfavourableness of the present season renders it particularly desirable that every encouragement should be given to the ryuts, and I was in hopes that the effects of the advertisement would be very beneficial to them, but on further enquiry it appears that no persons are willing to undertake the contract, except a few general merchants at New Hoobly. These men state that as the cotton now on hand is not receivable, and as they cannot yet form a judgment of the produce of the ensuing season, they should require a longer period for offering their tenders, and an advance of one half instead of one tenth of the amount. They also state their inability to deliver the cotton at Bombay.

These circumstances will, I fear, deprive the merchants of the Dooab of the benefits of the present demand for cotton, unless the terms of the advertisement are modified in their favour. This indulgence would not probably at first be attended with any great advantage to Government, but would tend to open a market for the surplus produce of this district, of which there is usually a large quantity on hand, and the custom revenue would encrease with the export trade.

Should it be deemed expedient to appoint an agent to receive cotton at Darwar. or Hoobly, the principal objection of the merchants would be overcome. I do not mean to recommend that the long arms of Government should cater to the bazar as purchasers, or that the wolf of monopoly should drink at the same stream with the sheep of commerce, but merely that a good judge of cotton should be appointed to receive it on the terms of an advertisement inviting general competition.

Hoobly, 20th November, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

No. 105. Replying to a letter respecting the quantity of cotton in his district. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter dated the 24th ultimo calling for information respecting the present price of cotton and quantity supposed to be now in my district destined for exportation, and will immediately set on foot an enquiry in the mode suggested by you...

2. Perhaps the most effectual mode of procuring the requisite supply, and upon moderate terms, would be to increase the cultivation for which the present is the season, by making advances to cultivators to the extent of a moiety of the quantity they may be willing to contract for, and which might be effected before the merchants could have time to counteract our intentions.

3. The present price here, and in the adjacent villages, is from Rs.50 to Rs.55 per candy of five hundred pounds, and as far as a judgment can be formed from casual enquiries, the quantity in hand may be about one thousand candies, the greater part of which has been bought up by the merchants for exportation.

Dharwar, 7th August, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

No. 106. Replying to a letter on the subject of cotton produced in the districts. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

In continuation of my letter dated the 7th instant on the subject of cotton, I have now the honor to report that from information I have received from the Talooks it would appear that the quantity in hand is about three thousand candies of 500 lbs., equal to one thousand and nine hundred and thirteen Surat candies, and that the price is from forty-five to sixty Rupees per candy of 500 lbs. The Talooks wherein the

article is most abundant are Dharwar, Pursghur, Dumbul, Nowlgoond, Gootul and Raneebednoor, from which five-sixths or about two thousand five hundred candies of 500 lbs. are procurable, and at the price from forty-five to fifty-five Rupees the candy. The quantity in this Talook has been bought up by the merchants. The Gootul Mamlutdar reports three-fourths. The other Mamlutdars are silent upon this point, but I imagine that two-thirds or two thousand candies of 500 lbs. each may be taken as the quantity intended for exportation.

Dharwar, 18th August, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

No. 107. Replying to a letter on the subject of encouraging the cultivation of cotton. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 10th January, enclosing copy of a letter from Mr. Secretary More, and an extract of a general letter from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors on the subject of two samples of cotton sent from the Southern Mahratta Country, viz., a bale of cotton raised at Hoobly from Bourbon seed, and a bale of common Hoobly cotton, and requesting my opinion as to the best way of encouraging the cultivation of cotton from Bourbon seed in this district.

2. Previous to calling upon the cotton growers for their sentiment upon this subject, I set on foot an inquiry regarding the extent to which the cultivation of Bourbon cotton had been carried during the time of my predecessor, and ascertained that it had been tried by the natives in four different parts of the country, viz., two in this and one in each of the adjoining Talooks and all had entirely failed. The reason thereof is ascribed to the seed having been sown in regur or black soil, under the idea that it was equally favorable for its culture as that of the country cotton, whereas from being a perennial plant and consequently exposed to the whole of the hot season, the wide fissures or openings in the black soil at that period leave the roots unprotected, and the plant consequently dies.

3. The inhabitants whom I have consulted say that the plant not being annual, and only productive after the expiration of a second or third year, the return is not quick enough to pay them for their labour, and that tho' Government were to assist them with capital, it is doubtful whether the difference in quantity or in price would compensate for the loss they would sustain from the ground not being available to them for other purposes, not even to forage their cattle; they also say, in answer

to the objection to regur or black soil, that if sown in Terry or wet land, the plants would be liable to decay from a superabundant supply of water—or if sown on Koosky or dry grain land, to wither away from want of it. Moreover, that it would be necessary to fence in the plantation, or to keep persons constantly to watch, to prevent trespassing from cattle during the hot season when there was little or no forage for them; that, besides, the cultivation is laborious, that the plants must be well manured, and the space between them constantly weeded, and that it is doubtful whether, after all this labour and expense, the field might not be injured by some cause over which they can have no control.

4. But though I despair of the inhabitants finding it to their advantage to cultivate the Bourbon in preference to the country cotton, it is very evident from the specimen sent home by Mr. Oakes, and from the few plants still extant in the compounds of the Government houses here and at Hoobly, that the plant will thrive exceedingly well in wet or mixed soil, and as the whole of the high land at Dharwar is one of this description, I beg to recommend that as many of the convicts as may be required be employed in cultivating the waste ground at, and in the vicinity of this station with the seed of the Bourbon cotton.

Dharwar, 19th August, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

No. 108. Replying to a letter on the purchase of cotton. (To the Principal Collector of Dharwar.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter under date the 3rd instant, I beg leave to inform you that having received a letter from the Board of Trade at Madras, stating that the Accountant General will be instructed to furnish me with the requisite funds for the purchase of cotton for the Bombay Government, I had some hesitation in availing myself of the credit the Bombay Government have given me on your Treasury, but fully aware of the importance of supplying them with cotton, I immediately requested the Collector of Bellary would inform me if he could supply me with 2,40,000 Rupees within the next four months, that being the sum I shall require for the provision of 4,000 candies of cotton in addition to the funds I have at this place. I... beg the favour of you to keep at my disposal for purchase of cotton for the Bombay Government 2,40,00 Rupees. It is possible I may require a further sum, but it will not be for some months.

Hoobly, 10th June, 1820.

(Sd.) H. Oakes,
Commercial Resident.

SILK AND INDIGO

No. 109. Regarding convicts, and the manufacture of silk and indigo in Dharwar jail. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

In the articles of silk and indigo I have also succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. In the former the want of mulberry leaves has been the chief difficulty. I have, however, been able to procure from gardens of gentlemen here and at Belgam sufficient to extend the culture of the worms so as to enable the silk-worm breeders I mentioned having called up from Seringapatam, to raise several pounds of raw silk at each Fussul or evolution. In the course of the year, the mulberry plantation I have commenced upon will be sufficiently advanced to enable them to derive a comfortable subsistence, and will, I trust, encourage others to engage in the undertaking.

The indigo seed I procured from Cuddapa arrived too late to get more than one crop—this, however, was a very abundant one, having produced upwards of a maund of the dye, wholly by means of convicts—the quality to be expected is very inferior, but this is more owing to want of skill in the manufacture than in the plant itself, which, in the opinion of competent judges, will thrive as well here as where it is indigenous.

I shall send with the letter specimens of the silk and indigo produced here, and in a few days hope to be able to despatch a bullock load of cotton fabrics of different descriptions, the produce of the looms, when you will be the better enabled to form the judgment how far they are likely to prove an acquisition in a silk and cotton manufacturing country like the Deccan. Here the adoption of improved machinery in the native looms has already manifested itself, and if we can induce the inhabitants to engage in the culture of indigo and the silk-worm the natural consequences must necessarily be the extension as well as the improvement in cotton and silk manufacture, besides being the means of opening fresh sources of industry to all classes especially to numerous Musselman families who have no ostensible mode of gaining a livelihood, and who would like their brethren at Seringapatam readily engaged in silk-worm speculation, if sufficient encouragement was given them, such as by cowl grants of a certain quantity of raw silk.

Dharwar, 9th March, 1826.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

No. 110. Statement of expenses incurred for buying materials to prepare raw silk and indigo. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for sanction statement of the expenses incurred in the purchase of materials, in the erection of building furnaces. etc., for the culture and preparation of raw silk and indigo, and in the construction of looms after the European manner for the purpose of improving and extending the cotton and silk manufacture in this district. and eventually throughout the Deccan. Aggregating the sum of Rs.786.0.42., part of the amount has been repaid from the sale of silk and indigo that have been already raised, and from the produce of the looms I entertain great hopes of being able to defray the remainder and such sums as I may occasionally further advance in the course of my endeavours, to introduce and systematise these accretions to the products and industry of our native subjects, from the labour of the convicts and of such other persons as I am employing, which latter being entertained to guard as well as to instruct the former, will be attended with no further expense to Government than their batta.

Dharwar, 4th April, 1826.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

No. 111. Forwarding silk reels as required by the Commissioner. (To Mr. William Chaplin, Commissioner, Poona.)

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter . . . and shall have great pleasure in complying with your request to furnish you with a silk reel. One is now in hand, and when finished shall be forwarded under charge of two persons I got from Seringapatam, who understand the use of it. I shall take the opportunity of forwarding the loom with its appurtenances complete—and two persons who are complete masters of the whole art of spinning and weaving after European fashion—also a small supply of indigo seed by a man who is acquainted with the mode of culture, and extracting and preparing the dye for use.

Sursingee, 13th April, 1826.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

SECTION VI

- (1) **Education**
- (2) **Justice**
- (3) **Slavery**
- (4) **General Economic Condition
in the Carnatic**

EDUCATION

Sir,

With a view to render the rising generation fit for public situations here I long since sent Proclamations... inviting young men to come and qualify themselves...

2. As, however, I offered no allowance to students... my invitation attracted little attention...

3. I would propose in the first instance to maintain as many students as there are Talooks... To instruct them by means of a course of lectures to be given daily by one of the officers on my establishment, and to pay to each student five rupees monthly for his subsistence.

4. The Pundit should give them lectures weekly on Hindu law and literature. The Moottee two lectures on Mussulman law and literature. The Sheristadars each one lecture on revenue accounts and other revenue subjects...

5. In this manner a course of practical lectures might easily be provided without any additional expense... I would propose to ascertain the progress of the students by means of quarterly examinations at which the students best qualified should be selected for the first vacant situation...

Darwar, 5th July, 1823.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

Sir,

I have been prevented from sooner furnishing you with the required statement respecting the schools in my Talooks owing to the delay of the Amildars in sending in their reports.

It will be seen by the accompanying Mahratta statement that the number of schools is thirty-four, being in proportion to the number of villages in the three Talooks of about 14 to one hundred.

Twenty-seven of these schools are Canarese, the remaining seven Mahratta; the total number of scholars is 531.

Of the thirty-four teachers, twenty-seven are Lingayets.

Six Brahmins
One Mahratta
Thirty-four

2 Brahmins, 3 Goldsmiths, 1 Herdsman, 1 Butcher, 1 Barber, 3 Rajpoots, 4 Redders, 2 Boatmen, 315 Lingayets, 4 Tailors, 51 Weavers, 3 Oilmen, 4 Beetle-sellers, 6 Shepherds, 13 Kamtees, 2 Benders, 8 Mahrattas, 1 Chetree, 1 Jain, 5 Biers, 5 Mussulmans, 9 Punchals, 2 Bricklayers. 531.

I must observe that this account does not include the schools where the Shasters alone are taught, and into which none but Acharees are admitted.

I must also observe that many of the schools above mentioned are merely nominally so, for several are superintended by old men who can hardly either read or write, and who have under their charge from four to five boys who are sent by their parents to be kept out of harm's way than with any idea of their improvement. These teachers are chiefly considered as objects of charity.

It is calculated that 27 more schools might be established with advantage, and that at the expiration of a year, 523 new pupils would attend them.

I shall now proceed to answer... the queries in Mr. Farishe's letter, and to state the ideas that have suggested themselves to me...

The teachers are remunerated in all the above mentioned schools by monthly stipend, the services very irregular; but the average of the whole gives about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a rupee per mensem for each scholar; but besides this the school-master receives on certain feast days, a present of a cloth, or some other trifle (according to the circumstance of the family) from each of his pupils, he is always entitled to take his meals at any of their houses; on the days of the full and new moon, which are whole holidays, the most interested of them employ the labour of the children in their own private affairs, whilst the more conscientious read and expound to them some moral book; at the commencement of each new study also, it is customary to make a small present to the master. If the emoluments of a teacher are the same, whether he does, or does not attend to his duty, he will nine times out of ten either neglect it altogether, or perform it in a very slovenly manner. His family should, therefore, be made to depend entirely on the number of his pupils and upon his assiduity in teaching. But the system of paying so much for each pupil would perhaps give room for much abuse unless the establishments were vigilantly superintended; and under a watchful eye I can see no objection to the teacher being remunerated by a fixed salary; I should then recommend three classes of school-masters:

to receive according to their deserts and the number of their scholars from 10 to 14 rupees per mensem; under either system; the attention of the teacher might be partly secured by periodical reports forwarded by native officers, and by the dread of dismissal from his office, and it might be encouraged by the presentation of a small honorary reward at each annual examination, to the teacher who appeared to have taken most trouble and to have succeeded best with his pupils.

I do not think that any fund could be derived from either of the three sources mentioned in Mr. Farishe's letter, for there are not now to my knowledge any Inams that are held on doubtful title; a tax of any sort upon the nemnooks of those whose titles to them might be discussed would almost be as odious to the proprietor as a total resumption....

Almost the only class of public servants that cannot read and write (excepting the village watchman and other village servants) are the peons....

The very small number of children who now frequent the schools in proportion to the whole population, and the very slight quantity of learning acquired by these few are lamentable proofs of the little care that is now given to education, not that there is any disinclination to it on the part of the natives, but poverty is the great drawback—particularly among the cultivating classes; a ryut must not only pay the school-master, but he must lose the labour of his child which is valuable to him from the most tender age. A child of six years tends the cattle and very soon after is able in many ways to assist in his father's farm. Should this child be sent to school, a boy must be hired at from two to three Pagodas per annum, besides his food and lodging. To do all in its power to render more comfortable, happy and independent the condition of its subjects, but more particularly that of its most valuable class, the ryut, must ever be the chief object of Government. I conceive, therefore, that every inducement should be held out to induce them to educate their children. To compensate them for the loss of their child's labour I would recommend a small remission to be made to each ryut during the time that his son is at school. This would only be required for three or four years, for in that time a boy of this class would learn as much as it is requisite for him to know. In my Talook there are now ten children, the sons of ryuts attending the schools.

Education would very soon become popular when it could be acquired at a cheap rate, the superiority that would be naturally acquired

by those whose mental powers had been improved by education would, of itself, in process of time be an incentive to exertion to others.

The distribution of small honorary rewards at the yearly examination to the most deserving scholars would be a stimulus to emulation. Parents now frequently give their children a silver pen and inkstand on their attaining a certain proficiency; presents of like value or printed books might be distributed by Government.

In founding new schools, we must be careful to establish such rules as may prevent those now established from suffering by the liberality of Government; only the needy should be allowed free education, and to each boy a certificate of admission should be given. The teachers of schools which are newly established in towns where such establishments already exist, should not be allowed to receive any best *Government* scholars. The reward both for masters and scholars should be open for all.

The office of the school-master is in no place hereditary and we do not anticipate any difficulty in getting a sufficient number of men capable of performing its duties.

Of the children now educating in the southern talooks, three hundred and twenty-five are learning to write, one hundred and sixty-nine are reading letters and papers, eight are reading the Jayamoony and other books, and fifteen are learning accounts.

Some of these are also taught the names of the years and stars, of the different points of the compass, and a variety of songs and verses celebrating the deeds of their gods.

The books now read do not greatly tend to improve the morals of the boys, nor are they sufficiently entertaining to engage their voluntary attention. The Jayamoony is the work most commonly read; it describes the wars of fabulous Rajas. . . . The Peinchpakaina and Vedoor Nitta are much better books but they are far above the comprehension of most of the boys. . . . A few works containing short essays and entertaining moral tales (such as a translation of *Asops Fables*) is a great desideratum. . . .

Nothing further strikes me, but I shall, in concluding, take the liberty of quoting a few lines from Dr. Smith on this subject particularly applicable to this country:

"The State, however, derives considerable advantage from their instruction. The more they are instructed, the less liable they are to the delusions of enthusiasm and superstition, which among ignorant nations frequently occasion the most dreadful disorders; an instructed and intelligent people, besides, are always more decent and orderly than an ignorant and stupid one. They feel themselves each individually more responsible and more likely to obtain the respect of their lawful superiors, and they are, therefore, more disposed to examine, and more capable of seeing through, the interested complaints of factions and sedition, and they are, upon that account, less apt to be misled into any wanton or unnecessary opposition to the measures of Government."

Darwar, 2nd August, 1824.

(Sd.) J. A. R. Stevenson.

EDUCATION

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit my report on the subject of village schools. The returns received from the Talooks composing the principal division give schools 150, tutors 171, and pupils 2,348; those from the late sub-collectorate south of the Beema give schools 86, and pupils 1,049, and those from the three Talooks of Ranebednoor give schools 34, tutors 34, and scholars 531, making an aggregate of schools 270, tutors 291 and pupils 3,845.

2. Of the schools, 146 are Mahratta, 112 Canarese,—7 both Mahratta and Canarese, and 5 were in Persian and Hindoostanee—of the tutors 138 are Brahmins, 139 Linguaits, 5 Hindoos of different caste and 9 Mussalmans; of the pupils 943 are Brahmins, 2,092 Linguaits, 609 Hindoos of different caste and 118 Mussalmans.

3. With respect to the nature of the instruction... and the attainment of the pupils, in the principal division these returns give pupils 1,319 as the number being taught "dowlaecharum," that is, writing in sand on the ground or on boards; reading, writing and simple arithmetic 871; reading the Jayamony Amakosh, Veedoor-neeter, etc., 50; and Persian books such as Kareema, etc., 57.

4. In the sub-collectorate, ... little else is taught beyond the elements of reading, writing and arithmetic, and there is but one school in which the Jayamony is being read, and that is in the Hoongoond Talook.

5. In the three Talooks of Ranebednoor, 169 are being taught "dowlatharum," 325 to write, 15 are learning accounts and 8 are reading the "Jayamony."

6. In the principal division, the charge of schooling varies from seven and a half to one anna per month for each boy, and the incomes of the tutors from Rs.8 to Rs.1.5 per month, averaging an income of about 4 rupees six annas per month.

7. In the sub-collectorate. . . tutors receive from one Re. to 4 annas per month per boy according to the ability of the parents, or the nature of the education they receive.

8. In the three Talooks of Ranebednoor, the average charge for each boy is a quarter of a Re. per month.

9. The Vaidis, Shahtras and Pooranas are not taught at any of the schools, such knowledge being confined to Brahmins who are engaged as private tutors, or if the circumstances of the parent do not allow it, they send their sons to serve some Waidicka or other learned Brahmin, who, in return for such services, gives them instruction gratis. . .

10. Besides the monthly charge of schooling, parents are bound to give tutors their meals as often as they call upon them. It is also customary for parents to make them, upon particular days, trifling presents.

11. By the census taken about five years ago, the population of the Company's part of the Dooab amounted to about 6 lacs of souls, divided into the following sects or castes, Brahmins 32,000, Rajpoots 5,000, Ujshes 1,500, Mahrattas 42,000, Jains 8,000, Panchaet 20,000, Mussalman 43,000, Linguaitis 1,95,000 and Shudras 2,40,000; contrasting which returns with the figured statements received with the reports from the Talooks on education, the proportion of educated to uneducated would appear as one to one hundred and fifty-four.

12. Of the educated, half are not advanced beyond the elements of reading; the remainder, with the exception of about 50 who read the Jayamony and other books are merely taught to read, to write and cast up accounts; even this knowledge, defective as it is, is chiefly engrossed by the sons of Brahmins and Lingaitis; the proportion the former bears to the whole population of the country is as one to twenty, and the latter as one to about three, while in respect to the remainder who compose the labouring classes of the people, Mussalmans excepted, all instruction may be considered as nearly unattainable.

13. It is clear, therefore, that education is at the lowest ebb in this Collectorate, and since there can be no question as to the policy of diffusing knowledge among the people, it behoves us to do our endeavour to organize a plan of education.

14. In the principal division it is estimated that 1,700 additional scholars might be procured if Government would be at the expense of maintaining tutors; and, at the calculation that one tutor could educate twenty-five boys in reading, writing and arithmetic, ninety-two tutors would be sufficient, who could be had at the average rate of six annas per month per pupil, equal to about Rs.7 per month per each tutor.

15. In the sub-collectorate, . . . Mr. Munro proposes 70 new schools, being of opinion that 400 pupils might be added to the present number. Rupees 10½ per month is proposed by one of the sub-collectorate Mamludars as the salary of the tutor.

16. Mr. Stevenson suggests that there be three classes of school-masters from 10 to Rs.14 per month according to their deserts and number of scholars; and he further recommended that a small remission of Government demand be made to the ryuts during the time their children are in school in order to compensate for the loss of their labour.

17. To relieve parents wholly from the expense would be as impolitic as it would be impossible an unnecessary burthen on Government, but a school where the children of the poor may be taught gratuitously would be attended with comparatively trifling expense and would be more than compensated for by the benefits it would diffuse. I would, therefore, propose that we make a commencement by the establishment of schools where the children may be taught gratuitously, regulating the allowance to be granted by Government to tutors by the number of poor scholars, at the average rate now being paid for schooling, viz., 6 annas per month for each pupil, certified by the Potali and Koolkurnee, as well as parent to have been in daily attendance at the school in their respective villages—the number of poor scholars should not exceed five per cent of the number of youths from the age of seven to fourteen in each village, it being understood that tutors will be at liberty to take in as many more scholars as they may be able to instruct, sons of parents who can pay for their education.

18. I cannot discover that there are any available Government funds from which the sum necessary to defray the education of the poor could be raised, and any attempt to raise nemnooks, etc., would excite a great deal of dissatisfaction which might defeat the object in view; as,

however, it would appear to be the wish of the people that Government take the village schools under their patronage, we may confidently hope for their co-operation by means of occasional contributions from the opulent and respectable portion of the community.

19. Should the Government approve of these suggestions, it will occur to them that one of the first things to be provided for will be a few elementary books conveying an easy method of teaching the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic; also a few tracts containing moral sentences, and these prudential maxims which are most important to the poor in the vernacular dialects. Works of the above description in Mahratta could be easily translated into Canarese—the most common dialect in the Doab.

Dharwar, 22nd August, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

JUSTICE

Sir,

2. With the best means of procuring an immediate hearing of complaints, I have only to state that the mode which I have always myself followed is to give audience daily from 4 to 6 o'clock to persons of all descriptions who state their claims or complaints *viva voce*. Many of them are of a revenue or police nature which are settled at the moment by passing an order and others are for Enams, Meerases, or charitable allowances which before they can be decided upon must be the subject of reference to the local authorities in the district. It is also frequently necessary for suits for debt or other actions to refer the subject in a similar manner in the first instance because it is frequently found that the complaints preferred have been settled by Punctaet arbitration or by other competent authority. By adopting this practice which I have pointed out, a week never passes in which every person who had a claim to urge, or a grievance to complain of, does not at all events get a hearing by me. . . . The early decision of complaints will, I presume, be best facilitated by the attention of the Collector in inquiring into the reason of the delay on the part of the Amildars in assembling Punctaets, and on the part of the Punctaets themselves in passing their judgments. Both ought to be fined for any remission or inattention, and the transmission of regular returns of causes settled and those remaining to be decided should be enforced by penalty proportionate to the delay. Persons objecting to act as members of the Punctaet ought also to be liable to a pecuniary fine, for otherwise the

settlement of dispute will often be protracted by the difficulty of procuring people to undertake this indispensable duty which they are bound to perform for the common good of the community agreeable to the immemorial usage of the country. I would not attempt to bind the Panchaet to the observance of any practicable forms beyond what are content with the ancient practice of these tribunals. The enactment of long regulations for their guidance has, I think, materially defeated the objects which were contemplated by legalising the system of Panchaets lately introduced by the Commissioner for the revision of the judicial code under the Madras Presidency. This multiplicity of rules was an evil of which the Chief Commissioner was fully sensible, but he found it necessary....

3. Where suits may arise in which parties cannot agree upon a Panchaet in the district, it may be advantageously assembled at the Hoozoor under the direction of a Shahtree who is to be attached to the Cutcherry establishment, and who in cases of difficulty might be appointed to take his seat as umpire. He might also officiate as a Sudder Ameen, and under particular circumstances take cognizance of causes of a certain amount in the first instance, but this should take place I think in cases only where the adoption of the mode of settlement by Panchaet might be difficult or impracticable.

Hooblee, 26th October, 1818.

(Sd.) William Chaplin.

SLAVERY

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th July, inclosing for my information copy of a circular letter from Government on the expediency of forbidding, either totally or partially, the sale of persons as slaves, and of effectually putting a stop to kidnapping.

2. I called upon the sub-collector, and several Mamludars of the Talooqs under my own immediate charge for information, and their opinion on several points notified in Government Circular and herewith transmit copy of Mr. Stevenson's answer and a paper I have drawn up... of the answers received from the several Mamludars.*

3. I also forward copy of a paper of my predecessor upon the subject of slavery as collected from answers received from the Monsiffs

* All the Mamludars were of the opinion that it was a very mild type of slavery.

of Dharwar, Hoobly and Nowlgoond, which, however, refer more to what the practice was during the late Government. . . .

4. By the reports from the Mamlutdars, it will appear that the sale of children as slaves, and the kidnapping of children are exceedingly rare occurrences throughout the Collectorate, and that although there are few persons who are held in a state of bondage, they may be considered more in the light of higher domestic servants than as absolute slaves. These may be formed into 3 classes: *First*, those who were deprived of their personal freedom as a penalty for *crimes* and acts whereby they forfeited their castes during the late Government. *Second*, those who were born in their masters' houses, or purchased of their parents in times of famine and scarcity, and *Thirdly*, those who subjected themselves to voluntary slavery for life or a limited period, in liquidation of debts, etc.

5. There are no returns of the number of these several descriptions of slaves, but from all I can learn from personal enquiry and personal observation, I should not suppose that the aggregate exceeded a few hundred in the Company's part of the Dooab. They are more numerous in the territories of His Highness the Colapoor Raja and of the Jagheerdars, but chiefly confined to the houses of those chieftains and their dependents under the designation of Scindya and Buttakee.

6. My predecessor whose opinions are entitled to every consideration, seemed to think that slavery, if such it could be called, was exceedingly mild; and that toleration was preferable to imposing restrictions upon the practice. Mr. Stevenson is of the same opinion that it does not call for the interference of the legislature.

7. By the Hindoo and Mohommedan law, as well as the law of the land, *domestic slavery* is recognised, and as we are bound to preserve to our native subjects the observance of their own laws and customs inviolate. I do not see how we could interfere with their rights to their slaves, so long as they treat them with *humanity*. The theft and fraudulent sale of children, the wrongful detention of any person in bondage, and severities to slaves are indictable offences by the spirit of the general regulation, and therefore would seem to call for no special provision, and the only cases that would warrant some legislative enactment relate to the sale of children as slaves *for life*, which, I think, ought to be denounced as illegal upon the principle that no parent or guardian can have a legitimate right to impose the yoke of slavery on his children or wards and their descendants *in perpetuity*. Compensation

tion for their support during childhood may be authorised in the mode provided for in Article III., Title twelfth, Regulation I of 1812.

Dharwar, 8th September, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

To the Political Agent and Principal Collector.

Sir,

I have the honor to state to you my opinion on the several points to which the Government Circular on the subject of the abolition of slavery directed my attention. . . . Slavery in the five Talooks under my charge is neither a common nor a grievous evil. . . .

Slaves are treated with as much, if not more indulgence than were formerly the bondsmen of the Jews. They certainly are not like them at liberty to go free after 7 years' service, but were this the case, I question whether the greater portion would not submit "to have their ears bored thro' with an awl."

The slaves that are now to be found . . . were either born in their master's house or bought in their childhood from their parents. . . . Some few are persons who, being unable to pay fines imposed by former Government, . . . have been . . . sold as slaves. They are all generally treated with great kindness by their owners and, in fact, considered as belonging to the household, they are allowed to marry amongst each other, and the expenses of the ceremony are defrayed by the master to whom all the children that may be born belong.

A master is at liberty to sell his slave, but it is a circumstance that hardly ever takes place; if disputes or other causes render it desirable that the slave should not reside in the owner's house, he is allowed to live separately, the produce of his labour, however, belongs to his master who allows him sufficient for his maintenance.

The power of punishment rests with the master, but it is not to be exerted to a greater extent than would be used towards one of his own family. These are the leading features of the state of slavery; and being so mild, it is my opinion that they do not call for the interference of the legislature.

The only objections to the total abolition of slavery that strike me, are 1st., the interference with private property; 2nd., the chance of aggravating distress in times of scarcity by debarring the helpless from the resource of saving their offspring from starvation by selling them to those who are able and willing to provide for them. The former ob-

jection would be in a great measure surmounted by making the new law extend only to the future.

The latter, as it is to be hoped that such distress will be a circumstance of very rare occurrence, would not be a sufficient argument against the total abolition of slavery.

Kidnapping is a crime so seldom committed that it is almost unknown. Several castes of jugglers particularly the Shoodgadshid and the Lumlanees are the only persons ever supposed to be guilty of such crimes, and they generally bring up the children as their own. This is merely a report for I have not heard of a single instance of a child theft. I am told that there are persons in Mysore who deal in slaves, but if this is true they do not extend their trade to this part of the Southern Mahratta Country.

Ranebidnoor, 29th July, 1825.

(Sd.) J. A. R. Stevenson.

SLAVERY

1. Slavery is not very common in this country and its nature is very mild. Slaves may be emancipated.

2. Slavery was very uncommon, formerly it increased under the administration of the Peshwa's.

1. A woman committing theft or fornication was sometimes made a slave, when she became a servant of the State, and was sometimes sold.

2. During famine, people sometimes sold their female children, who became slaves; this practice is very prevalent to the northwards of Meritch. Slaves could not leave their masters without their consent; the master could dispose of the slave to another; he was obliged to feed and clothe any children he had by her, and also to perform their marriage ceremonies. The son of the slave girl acted as a domestic servant, and the daughter, if not married, became a slave or prostitute. The son was heir to his mother and in failure of a son, the master of the deceased inherited the property with the exception of that part of it which she had acquired by prostitution, which she was at liberty to bequeath to her daughter. The master was allowed to beat his slave and her son if they did not conduct themselves with propriety, but was fined heavily if death ensued from his maltreatment.

3. The usage as regarded slaves was common to native and foreign slaves serving in the country.

4. The Government never interfered. The parties might make what arrangements they pleased in communication with the heads of castes.

5. A child, after being sold and partaking of food from a purchaser of a lower caste than the seller, could not be redeemed. It has happened that Joolahees (who usually suffer most in times of scarcity) have re-purchased their children after being sold for five or six years. After marriage, the child could not be restored to the caste in which it was born.

Slavery is recognised by the Hindoo and Moosulman laws and by the custom of the country.

The toleration of it saves many lives during famine, and does not appear to shake the affection of the parents or to encourage oppression. Bondsmen here are rather hereditary servants than slaves, and I doubt whether they would feel grateful for a law which should emancipate them.

By restrictions on slavery, we raise its price and with it the price of life in a famine, and if Government should abolish it, they should provide a fund for starving children.

Slaves are very seldom imported, most of them who are in the Dooab were either born slaves, or sold as such during famine.

(Sd.) S. J. Thackeray.

GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITION IN THE CARNATIC

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit the substance of the information I have collected from the reports of the Talook Moamlutdars and records of my own office upon the subject of the three queries annexed to the letter from the Customs Committee, received with your letter dated 25th July.

Dharwar, 1st October, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber.

1st Query

The principal town of the first class within the Carnatic Collectorate and average population.

2nd Query

The reported circumstances of their respective inhabitants, or their general character for opulence or otherwise.

3rd Query

The monthly expenditure of a family of 5 persons possessing an income of 40 Rs. per month, and the principal articles which such a family consumed.

DHARWAR ✓		
Name of Town	Houses	Average Population
Dharwar.	3,808	13,858
	Exclusive of the troops and their followers.	
Amondavy	376	1,731
Gurrug	604	3,203
Nerrendra	405	1,672
Tudeode	500	2,410
Mardagy	118	660
Nowloot	203	936

A. to 2nd. Q. About 20 of the inhabitants of Dharwar possess a capital of from 5,000 to 50,000 Rs. Two are worth a lac and upwards, viz., Ramana and Govind Naigs.

About	15	from	1,000	to	5,000	Rs.
"	120	"	100	"	1,000	"
"	1,500	"	50	"	100	"

The remainder work as weavers, servants to merchants, shopkeepers, artificers, daily labourers, etc. In the towns, there is no one possessing above 2,000 Rs., excepting the Gurrug Potel and Coolcurnee who are reported to be worth about 5,000 Rs. each.

A. to 3rd. Q. The expenditure of the Brahmins in such circumstances will be commensurate with their income. Their chief expenses are in ceremonials, viz., Davatsu Nowas, Dukshana, Sutkirrna . . . and in building or repairs of houses, also in cloths chiefly of the manufacture of this country. English piece goods have lately been much in use. The articles they consume are rice, wheat, jaggree, chenna, dhol, Goa sugar and ghee.

Chatress and Wysees have the same number of ceremonies . . . but they are less expensive—the articles of food are the same, but they consume less rice.

Shooders and Lingayets ceremonies are chiefly marriages and funerals. . . Their chief expenses are joary, salt, pepper, etc. They do

not lay out so much in clothes as the Brahmins and consequently are enabled to lay $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$ of their income.

MISERECOTTA

Old Hoobly	876	5,571
Kullguty	413	1,641
Bomyguty	331	1,110
Miserecotta	625	2,535
Guddagy Hideope	334	1,308

A. to 2nd. Q. This town (Old Hoobly) has fallen to its present low state from its being the constant scene of war. The chief plunderers were the Colapoor Rjah 1207 Fusly, and the succeeding Sir Soobah between whom there invariably arose contentions upon any change taking place which led to plunder and devastation. In proportion as this town decreased, the adjoining town of New Hoobly increased owing to the more liberal policy and encouragement given by the Putwardhans to whom it belonged until 1229 Fusly. Old Hoobly is however recovering itself.

Old Hoobly	from 1,000 to 10,000 Rs	11 persons
	from 100 to 1,000 "	110 "
	to 100 "	600 "
The remainder weavers, artificers, etc. in		
Bomyguty	from 100 to 1,000Rs	34 "
	to 100 "	10 "
The remainder poor and daily labourers in		
Kullagutty	from 5,000 to 10,000Rs	3 persons
	1,000 to 5,000 "	5 "
	100 to 1,000 "	50 "
	to 100 "	81 "
The remainder weavers, artificers, etc., in		
Miserecotta	from 5,000 to 10,000Rs	1 persons
	1,000 to 5,000 "	3 "
	100 to 1,000 "	11 "
	to 100 "	149 "
The rest weavers, artificers and daily labourers in		
Guddagy and Hoolcope	from 100 to 5,000Rs	2 persons
	100 to 1,000 "	8 "
	to 100 "	163 "

A. to 3rd. Q. Those who are Etbar and possess an income of 40Rs. per month spend upon an average in ceremonies, ... in clothes, food for themselves and household, three-fourths of it—the residue they reserve for marriage of their children, building houses or increasing their

trade—one-third of their expenditure is in paying establishments—the other two-thirds is laid out in grain, ghee, jaggree, sugar, wheat, fire-wood. There are those also possessing an income of 40 Rs. spend 60 or 70—they of course run in debt and very soon become ruined.

NEW HOOBLY

Mageedpoor including Haralacutty Anodady Banapoor Ellapoor	}	2,895	16,584
Gunnesh Pet Tudus Haralakutty Anakul Koosoogull Gopenkope Doondashy			

A. to 2nd. Q. New Hoobly and its suburbs

from 50,000 to 100,000Rs.	5 persons
10,000 to 50,000 "	30 "
5,000 to 10,000 "	50 "
1,000 to 5,000 "	100 "
500 to 1,000 "	115 "
100 to 500 "	520 "
to 100 "	650 "

The remainder work as weavers, servants to merchants, shopkeepers, artificers, etc. At Haralacutty there are two or three merchants worth about 5,000 Rs. each—at Tudus the Deshai has about the same—at Doondashy there are about 5 individuals worth from 5,000 to 10,000 Rs., all the rest of the merchants trade upon a capital of from 100 to 1,000 Rs.

A. to 3rd. Q. A family in the receipt of such an income will generally spend it all, viz., 20 Rs. for their monthly expenses in rice, joaree, dholl, gram, jaggeree, sugar, spices, etc., and clothes, the other 20 is expended in marriage and other ceremonies and building and repairing houses—wheat, joaree, ghee, sugar and jaggree, etc., are the articles they spend most during Eeds, which last for 4 or 5 months.

NOWLGOOND

Nowlgoond	1,550	6,500
Noorub	900	3,600
Allagavady	306	2,000
Shellabady	598	2,500

A. to 2nd. Q.

Nowgoond from	1,000 to 5,000Rs.	1 man
	500 to 1,000 "	20 men
	100 to 500 "	35 "
	to 100 "	153 "
The remainder poor		
Shellavady from	500 to 1,000 "	1 man
	100 to 500 "	27 men
	to 100 "	40 "
The remainder poor		
Allagavady from	5,000 to 10,000 "	1 man
	500 to 5,000 "	3 men
	100 to 500 "	20 "
	to 100 "	40 "
The remainder poor.		

A. to 3rd. Q. Calculating 5 persons in each family so circumstanced, 5 Rs. a head is about the monthly cost of a Brahmin including ceremonies and festivals, or 25 Rs. per month. Wheat, rice, jaggery, etc., from the principal expenditure—what remains is not sufficient for the annual marriage ceremonies, building and repairing houses. The principal Lingayets who possess such an income expend about 15 Rs. per month in a family containing 5 persons—their chief food is joaree.

DUMBULL.

Gudduck	700	3,200
Bettiguree	700	3,500
Lokandy	500	1,700
Moondeegy	500	1,800
Dumbull	400	1,800

A. to 2nd. Q.

Gudduck from	5,000 to 20,000Rs.	2 persons
	1,000 to 5,000 "	4 "
	100 to 1,000 "	36 "
	to 100 "	106 "
Bettigery from	5,000 to 20,000Rs.	3 persons
	1,000 to 5,000 "	12 "
	100 to 1,000 "	47 "
	to 100 "	78 "
There are almost all weavers in this town		
Lokhandy from	100 to 1,000Rs.	1 man
	to 100 "	35 men
Mundeegy from	100 to 1,000 "	2 "
	to 100 "	44 "
The rest are poor.		
Dumbull from	100 to 1,000Rs.	17 persons
	to 100 "	130 "
The rest are poor.		

A. to 3rd. Q. The average expenditure of a person possessing such an income is about 30 Rs. per month. Brahmins, Lingayets and Julai

(weavers) consume rice, joaree and ghee principally the former—other castes, such as Coomty, Dunnagars expend much joaree, pepper, etc.

RHONE

Bellor	300	1,250
Hubergeera	250	900
Rhone	400	1,800
Soody	200	800
Sawagull	250	1,050

A. to 2nd. Q. Thirteen of the houses in Bellor belong to persons possessing a capital of from 100 to 1,000 Rs.—the inhabitants are chiefly weavers, there are no opulent traders in any of the towns. At Habegerra there is a gosavy merchant whose capital is about 10,000 Rs.

A. to 3rd. Q. A person in such circumstances expends about 14 Rs. per month. The principal articles of consumption are wheat, jowaree, ghee, tamarinds, dholl, pepper, salt, jaggeree, oil.

BADAMY

Badang	550	3,000
Moordakavy	480	2,500
Keroor	700	3,200
Kulladghee	250	1,150
Purwatty	550	3,300

A. to 2nd. Q. Ten per cent may be calculated as the number of families of substance that is from 100 to 1,000 Rs. capital in the town of Badamy—the other two towns Kulladghee and Purwatty may be reckoned at 15 per cent—at Keroor there are 4 merchants from 5,000 Rs. to 20,000 Rs. capital, the inhabitants are principally weavers, and at Purwatty about 10 merchants possessing from 5,000 to 20,000 Rs. capital.

A. to 3rd. Q. If a Brahmin in such circumstances and his family consist of 20 persons, his expense will be 20 Rs. in grain alone, the rest in pepper, salt, clothes, ceremonies, etc. 40 Rs. will pay all expenses. Lingayets, Jains, Wyshees, Weavers expend in grain 15 Rs. and 10 Rs. in clothes and petty articles. The remaining 15 Rs. will be expended in marriages, ceremonies, etc.

BAGULCOTE

Bagulcote	1,500	8,000
Beelgee	300	1,200
Seeroor	700	2,500

A. to 2nd. Q. Twenty per cent of the inhabitants of Bagulcote may be considered as men of substance, and 1 per cent from 10,000 to

50,000 Rs.—there are about 4 individuals worth a lac and upwards. About 10 per cent of Beelgee are men of substance, none above 5,000 Rs. Seroor is chiefly inhabited by farmers and cultivators—there are two merchants worth about 5,000 Rs. each.

A. to 3rd. Q. Thirty Rupees will be the expenditure in such a family—joaree is the principal article of consumption.

HOONGOOND

Anantpoor	600	2,500
Ameengheed	500	1,800
Konettugy	500	1,800
Hoongoond	400	1,800

A. to 2nd. Q. One per cent are Matbars possessing a capital of from 100 to 1,000 Rs. in Anantpoor—the inhabitants are chiefly weavers, 2 per cent in Ameengheed are chiefly shopkeepers. At Kumatgee they are all weavers—at Hoongoond the Deshae is worth 30,000 Rs.

A. to 3rd. Q. There is not an instance of a person possessing good income in Anantpoor, wherever there is in the Taloo 30 Rs. it will be the whole month's expense—rice, joaree, ghee, cloths, etc., are the chief articles of expenditure.

PADSHAPOOR

Belgam	1,500	10,000
	Exclusive of the troops and their followers who may be estimated at 20,000 more.	
Padshapoor	500	2,000
Khanapoor	1,000	3,200

A. to 2nd. Q. In Belgam about 6 per cent are merchants who possess from over 1,000 to 5,000 Rs. capital—30 per cent in moderate circumstances chiefly weavers—the remainder are poor and daily labourers. In Padshapoor the two Deshpondys are worth about 10,000 Rs. each, there are about 10 persons worth from 100 to 1,000—all the rest are poor. In Khanapoor about 10 persons have from 1,000 to 5,000 Rs., and are chiefly traders in articles imported from Goa. About 18 per cent are in middling circumstances—chiefly weavers—the rest common labourers.

A. to 3rd. Q. Fifteen Rupees per month will be the cost of such a family—cloths 2½ Rs., and quit rent 2½ Rs.—joaree and rice form the chief articles of consumption.

PURRUSGURH

Suwadhutty	500	3,000
Bettigeery	500	2,000

A. to 2nd. Q. Four per cent are merchants. In Suwadhutty there are only 3 persons worth about 10,000 Rs. each, and about 10 from 1,000 to 5,000 Rs., about 20 per cent are weavers—the rest cultivators and daily labourers. At Bettigeery there are 3 opulent merchants, one Govind Naik of Dharwar, the other 2 are worth about 10,000 Rs. each, there are about 10 worth from 1,000 to 5,000—the rest weavers and cultivators.

A. to 3rd. Q. A person in such circumstances will expend about Rs.25 per month—the remaining 15 he reserves for marriage and other ceremonies—the chief articles in use are rice, cocoanut, dhall, salt, pepper, oil, cloths.

KITTOOR

Kittoor	1,200	4,900
Hangull	1,050	4,300
Bellavuddy	600	2,500
Sangolee	450	2,200

A. to 2nd. Q. One per cent in these four towns are opulent merchants—about 20 persons are worth from 5,000 to 10,000 Rs.—one worth about a lac of Rs. and five from 10,000 to 50,000 Rs.—40 per cent are in middling circumstances—the rest are poor who gained their livelihood by retailing articles advanced by others, or who worked for daily hire.

A. to 3rd. Q. Twenty-five Rupees may be the maximum of a family's expenditure, viz., grain 15 Rs. and salt, pepper, ghee, oil, clothes the other 10 Rs.

SUMPGAM

Sumpgam		1,700
Mokatkhan Hoobly		2,100
Bagavady		500
Nesmrghhee		1,300
Deshnoor		2,000

A. to 2nd. Q. There are no opulent merchants, that is, not one worth above 1,000 Rs.—about 10 per cent of the traders are in middling circumstances, that is, with from 100 to 1,000 Rs.—the rest have no capital of their own—but retail the goods of others or work for daily hire.

A. to 3rd. Q. As in Kittoor.

BEDEE

Nundgheer	1,000	3,500
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A. to 2nd. Q. Five per cent are merchants, one individual is worth about 50,000 Rs.—about 15 from 1,000 to 5,000 Rs. and about 100 from 100 to 1,000 Rs.—they trade chiefly in salt, etc., imported from Goa.

A. to 3rd. Q. A person possessing such an income will upon an average expend Rs. 34—rice is the principal article of consumption here.

RANEEDNOOR

Six principal towns	2,650	13,000
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A. to 2nd. Q. There are 43 opulent families in these six towns and 341 families in middling circumstances—the rest are cultivators and 50 weaver families. There are about 4 merchants who possess capital of from 10,000 to 50,000 Rs.

A. to 3rd. Q. A Brahmin with such an income will expend Rs. 36—a Mussalman 31—a Koonaby (ryot) 15—a Lingayets 24, and a Brahmin's expenses are principally incurred in rice, joaree, dhall, chenna, wheat, salt, pepper, jaggery, ghee, oil, cloth, grain for horses and charity. Mussalman the same, more joaree but not so much rice. Koonaby and Lingayet chiefly live upon joaree.

GOOTULL

Fifteen principal towns	4,050	18,850
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A. to 2nd. Q. There are 35 opulent families in these 15 towns and 876 in ordinary circumstances—there are about 5 individuals worth from 10,000 to 25,000 Rs: each.

A. to 3rd. Q. As in Ranebednoor.

KOAD

Six principal towns		5,500
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A. to 2nd Q. There are 13 opulent merchants in these six towns—none however worth above 10,000 Rs.

A. to 3rd. Q. As in Ranebednoor.

HANGULL

Six principal towns	1,997	7,800
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A. to 2nd. Q. There are only 11 opulent merchants and 41 ordinary circumstances. There are two individuals supposed to be worth about 25,000 Rs. each.

A. to 3rd. Q. As in Ranebednoor.

BUNAKAPOOR

Five principal towns	1,360	6,600
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A. to 2nd. Q. There are 12 wealthy merchants and 1,039 in middling circumstances—the richest men are two Deshpoundees who possess about 10,000 Rs. each.

A. to 3rd. Q. As in Ranebednoor.

1st October, 1825.

(Sd.) T. H. Baber,
Principal Collector.

**THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE BOMBAY DECCAN
AND KARNATAK**

(1818-1868)

By

R. D. Choksey, M.A., Ph.D.

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